

## EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Project name and acronym:	Negotiating Difficult Past — NeDiPa
Participant:	Stowarzyszenie FestivALT (FestivALT)
PIC number:	895375767

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	WP10
Event name:	Conference 2: Green Commemorations
Type:	public arts event and a conference
In situ/online:	in-situ
Location:	Poland, Krakow
Date(s):	Oct 15-16, 2022 & Nov 6-8, 2022
Website(s) (if any):	Part 1: <a href="https://nedipa.eu/event/zielone-upamietnienia-dzialania-poprzez-sztuke/">https://nedipa.eu/event/zielone-upamietnienia-dzialania-poprzez-sztuke/</a> Part 2: <a href="https://nedipa.eu/event/zielone-upamietnianie-wyzwania-trudnego-dziedzictwa/">https://nedipa.eu/event/zielone-upamietnianie-wyzwania-trudnego-dziedzictwa/</a>
Participants	
Female:	158
Male:	42
Non-binary:	2
From country 1 [Poland]:	198
From country 2 [Greece]:	1
From country 3 [France]:	1
...From country 4 [Germany]:	2
Total number of participants:	202
From total number of countries:	4
Description	
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>	

The event took place as a two-part, in person event in Krakow, Poland. The first event conceptualised as an outdoor showcase of Green Commemoration practices and the second part as an academic conference going deeper into the topic of Green Commemorations.

### **Part 1: Green Commemorations. Action through Art. Oct 15-16, 2022**

A two day outdoor event promoting alternative and artistic strategies for the transmission of memory in green spaces. We demonstrated a practice-based culture of remembrance that harnesses innovative strategies of cooperation and a multidisciplinary approach to heritage and community building; seamlessly integrating Civic Arts, Activism and Urbanism.

The program included the following ideas:

JEW, NEIGBOR AND DOG. A NEIGBORLY WALK AND A PRACTICAL INTRODUCTION TO JEWISH LAW

During the on-site lecture Aleksander Schwarz, expert on Jewish law and a Rabbinic Commission for Jewish Cemeteries advisor, is accompanied by his dog Józia. Together they introduced participants to issues related to the rules of behavior in places where Jewish burials are located - both traditional and war related mass graves. The on-site lecture and discussion was intended as a presentation of principles in practice; the attendees and their dogs navigate the site with a new understanding, appreciation and respect for Jewish law.

MEDICINAL PLANTS OF PLASZOW

Ethnobotanist Karol Szurdak led a unique on site discussion of healing herbs and medicinal plants growing on genocidal land. Under his scholarly tutelage the participants learnt how to distinguish these specific herbs and medicinal plants, as well as their characteristics and best use. Upon completion of the lecture on site, attendees were encouraged to participate in a workshop during which we will make healing mixtures and infusions of the herbs collected earlier at KL Plaszow. In doing so asked question of whether ground, marked by genocide, bears medicinal powers, and what are the moral limits of its usage.

STILL STANDING

Fusing movement, choreography, and story, "Still Standing" evokes the notion of "Care" as a possible stance toward the residue (or specters) of history. Care that directs us not only towards the past, but also towards the present and future. Physical action through bodies in motion provokes questions about how the ephemeral can be used as a strategy of commemoration, especially in sites imbued with difficult pasts? How may transcendent movement extract and fuse and negotiate the difficult history of an amorphous space?

MOVING EARTH

An artistic intervention about marking the unmarked and yet known - at the area of the former KL Plaszów camp and its two Jewish cemeteries (from XXth Century)

Using natural, non-invasive pigments, the artist Anna Schapiro marked the historical boundaries of two Jewish cemeteries located in the post-camp area of KL Plaszow, so as to make their existence visible to visitors and walkers. The gradual disappearance of natural pigments, exposed to the forces of weather and nature: rain, wind and other external factors, deals with the difficult questions of: who is remembering and why? Who is remembered and who is it. To mark is to set, to set is to name.

To name is to remember.

### **Part 2: Green Commemorations. Challenges of Difficult Heritage. Nov 6-8, 2022**

The main topic of the "Green Commemoration. Challenges of Difficult Heritage Conference" was to outline a framework by which to approach the difficult heritage of the former camps and other commemorated and uncommemorated sites of the Holocaust.

The conference aimed to create an open and respectful space for dialogue between the representatives of a variety of groups involved in memory practices related to the difficult past sites, especially those situated in green areas. We wanted to give a voice to organizations, specialists, activists and representatives of different initiatives concerning remembrance and care for Jewish heritage; so as to jointly work out the best solutions that will serve the entire community and all interested parties.

Museums, obelisks and monuments are increasingly replacing living green monuments. Critical reflection is called for by sites and non-sites of memory, on the one hand "embedded with meaning", on the other hand - giving the impression of being difficult to incorporate into local history. The need to take into account different perspectives on the nature and manner of commemoration, due to the complexity of such sites, also creates opportunities for meetings, constructive discussions, education

and development. By utilizing an interdisciplinary method in gathering expertise from a wide range of fields we are creating conditions in which stakeholders can collaboratively engage in and enrich each other.

The involvement of architects, artists, museologists, experts, academics, theoreticians and practitioners of difficult heritage and representatives of the Rabbinical Commission reinforced the interdisciplinary nature of the project. By drawing attention to different perspectives of thinking about Holocaust memorials and green spaces, visions of their management and function in their vicinities, we created a platform for understanding and allowed for the development of the best possible strategies for working with such sites of difficult heritage in the future.

Discussion panels chaired and moderated by expert Academics included the following topics:

- \* non-memorial sites;
- \* green memorials, human and non-human monuments;
- \* commemorating burial places in accordance with Jewish religion and tradition;
- \* architectural activities in the memory space;
- \* creating new museums in places of difficult heritage.

We concluded the first day of the conference with an expert round table discussion referencing the topics discussed during the panels. The program also included workshops conducted by the authors of important architectural commemorations and intended for groups of students of various disciplines. Through such actions we wanted to draw the attention of participants to the need for a multidimensional approach to spaces that can be (simultaneously at times) cemeteries, monuments and memory carriers.

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Among the partners of the events were: The Research Center for Memory Cultures, Faculty of Polish Studies at the Jagiellonian University; The Galicia Jewish Museum; The Institute of Intercultural Studies Jagiellonian University; KL Plaszow Museum and the Association of Polish Architects; Thinking Through the Museum international network.

The event was organized under the official patronage of the Regional Representative of the European Commission in Poland.

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The information about the event as well as the idea of Green Commemorations was covered in several mainstream and local media including TOK FM, Gazeta Krakowska, and Radio 4. The outdoor event was also covered by the national news (TVP) who published this video: <https://krakow.tvp.pl/63951182/znakowanie-granic>. Altogether the information about the event was covered by 26 different media reaching around 6 million recipients.

Information about the event was published in the partners' social media and on the following websites:

<https://zapomniane.org/en/we-do/>

<https://zapomniane.org/dzialamy/>

<http://www.festivalt.com/negotiating-difficult-pasts/>

<http://www.festivalt.com/negotiating-difficult-pasts-2/>

<https://urbanmemoryfoundation.org/nedipa/>

<https://urbanmemoryfoundation.org/en/nedipa-2/>

The deliverable was achieved as planned.