

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

(To be filled in and uploaded as deliverable in the Portal Grant Management System, at the due date foreseen in the system.)

 Please provide one sheet per event (one event = one workpackage = one lump sum).)

PROJECT	
Participant:	Documenta - centre for dealing with the past (Documenta)
PIC number:	942095526
Project name and acronym:	ReMEMBER Europe

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	[1]		
Event name:	Guided tour in Rakov Potok with university students		
Type:	Guided tour		
In situ/online:	<i>In situ</i>		
Location:	Croatia, Zagreb		
Date(s):	02 June 2025		
Website(s) (if any):			
Participants			
Female:	30		
Male:	8		
Non-binary:	-		
From country 1 [Croatia]:	30		
From country 2 [Kosovo]:	8		
Total number of participants:	38	From total number of countries:	2
Description			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
<p>After Documenta's researchers completed their historical research on Rakov Potok, covering its historical background, memorialization, and the biographies of victims, the goal of the event was to present these findings to students. In addition, the event aimed to raise awareness about the site and to support the identification and recognition of its victims.</p> <p>A total of 38 participants took part in the activity, including 30 students from the University of Zagreb (Faculty of Political Science – Political Science and Journalism and the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences – History), as well as 8 students and their professors from the Faculty of Law in Prishtina, Kosovo. While the original plan was to organize the study visit only for Croatian students, we were offered the opportunity to host a group from Kosovo, who expressed strong interest in topics such as</p>			

transitional justice, remembrance culture, and memorialization. We gladly included them in the guided tour. For this reason, the entire event was conducted in English.

The program began with a joint gathering of both groups, starting with an introductory round. Documenta's team asked participants to shortly introduce themselves, saying their name, where do they come from and what they study. Then, to create team spirit of two groups, two icebreakers were included – one truth and one lie, and name game with throwing the ball. Afterwards, Documenta's team presented the historical background of the Second World War in Croatia and the Independent State of Croatia (NDH), as well as the history of the resistance during the War. It lasted for half an hour. This part was done with the presentation, in a more formal way, mostly because of the Kosovo students, of whom we guessed that are not familiar with the context.

The next step was a visit to Rakov Potok. As the location is not in a state for a proper visit, because it is neglected and abandoned, and there is no infrastructure there, not even a place to stop with the bus, the participants stayed there shortly. They visited the monument, that is close to the road, and went a bit deeper into the woods, to see the memorial ostuary. These are only two things that can be seen there. Because of this state, Documenta's team decided to visit also the Dotrščina Memorial Park. Dotrščina was also shooting place during the WWII, so it had the same purpose as Rakov Potok. It is better kept by the city, as it is a public park, used for other purposes than just being a memorial site. There, the participants get the guided tour and learned more about the location and its historical significance. After the tour, the team divided participants in 6 groups, and gave to the participants four biographies created of the victims of Rakov Potok, together with the questions to analyse and discuss the biographies.

The questions they were analysing were the following:

1. What personal, social and political factors motivated the person you were reading about to join the resistance? How did their background shaped that decision?
2. Why was it arrested and shot at Rakov Potok? How do you imagine the positions of the resistance members and atmosphere in Zagreb during WWII?
3. How was the person memorialized during Yugoslav times and how it is remembered today? What can you notice from these facts, how did the politics and culture or remembrance changed from Yugoslav times until today?
4. Do you think people like that should be remembered and commemorated today? How will you commemorate them and memorialized their life and death.

After they read the text and discussed the questions, each group shortly presented their conclusion.

Finally, we held a joint discussion and reflection session, comparing the two memorial sites. Special attention was given to the differing levels of memorialization and preservation at each location, as well as the social and political factors contributing to their current states.

Questions for the discussion were the following:

1. After seeing both memorial sites, what do you think, why did Yugoslav regime decided to make big memorial park in Dotrščina, while Rakov Potok get only smaller memorial? What is this telling us about culture of remembrance of the Yugoslav regime?
2. In the 1990's, both sites were neglected, memorial plaque was removed from Dotrščina, Rakov Potok was completely neglected, monuments were ruined. How did this memorial policies and culture of remembrance changed with Croatian independence, especially with the places connected with WWII and Yugoslavia?
3. Do you think places of mass killing should be remembered? Why or why not? How will you commemorate its victims in inclusive and respective way?

Finally, the day concluded with a group evaluation, during which students shared their impressions and thoughts about the content, site visits, and the discussions that took place.

Link to the website post, including EDS, short report, photos and other materials: [Održan posjet spomen-području Rakov Potok sa studentima - Kultura sjećanja](#)

[Study visit to Rakov Potok Memorial with university students - Kultura sjećanja](#)



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HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01.04.2022	Initial version (new MFF).