

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:	[4.2.1]		
Event name:	Creating and testing the workshops for youth		
Type:	Workshops		
In situ/online:	<i>In situ</i>		
Location:	Croatia, Zagreb		
Date(s):	25 November 2025		
Website(s) (if any):	https://kulturasjecanja.documenta.hr/en/		
Participants			
Female:	14		
Male:	10		
Non-binary:	-		
From country 1 [Croatia]:	24		
Total number of participants:	24	From total number of countries:	1
Description			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
<p>Based on the research and biographies created in the previous period, Documenta's researchers in this working package created two workshops – one based on the historical context of the Independent State of Croatia (NDH) and Rakov Potok mass shooting place, and the other on the biographies of the victims shoot at Rakov Potok. When thinking about the concepts and main focuses within these broader topics, Documenta's team was guided by the current situation in Croatia, where facts from the WWII are being instrumentalized, revisioned and even rehabilitated and crimes denied, by the government and other parties, organizations and individuals from the right political spectrum.</p> <p>We decided to base our workshops on the historical facts and reliable sources, and to put our participants in the position of the researchers, who work on the sources, discuss them with the others and make their own stances and conclusions. For the first workshop, Documenta's team decided to focus on the atmosphere in Zagreb and the life of ordinary people in the city during ustashe regime and their system of terror. The main sources in this workshop are the testimonies of the survivors and time-</p>			

witnesses from different ethnic groups and that had different roles during the war. In the second workshop, the one with biographies, we decided to focus on democratic and antifascist values and discussions what motivated people to stand up during the WWII and what motivates us today to be active citizens and to fight for human rights, democratic and European values which are in danger in many countries. Both workshops are interactive, inclusive, and youth-centered, and include also creative part.

In November, we tested both workshops with two groups of young people, aged 18+.

The first workshop was organized in Zagreb, in Human Rights House (where Documenta's offices are situated) and included 24 young people. The groups was gathered by the open call ([Workshop: Become a Researcher — Explore the History of Zagreb under the Ustaša Regime through the Stories of Eyewitnesses - Kultura sjećanja](#)) promoted on Documenta's web site, Facebook, Instagram and our some media (["Jesi li mlada osoba od 18 do 35 godina?... - Historiografija.hr | Facebook](#)). Documenta promoted the call also through our networks of volunteers, collaborators and young people.

The workshop was opened with an introduction round, where all the participants shared their name, background and motivation to participate in the workshop. Then, they were divided in 5 smaller groups, with the task to read (or listen) the inserts from the audio-visual testimonies, of the selected witnesses who were living in Zagreb during the WWII and share their experiences and impressions of the different aspects of the everyday life and atmosphere in the city. Two testimonies from Documenta's collection of "Personal Memories" were selected, and other three are from USC Shoah Foundation's collection. We selected various witnesses – one Croat – Vera Winter, that was imprisoned for criticizing the regime and couldn't continue her education because of this, Dragica Vajnberger, a Jew whose brother was arrested and killed in one of the first raids in the city, who later joined partisans and survived because of this, another Croat Branko Bauer, who hid one Jewish young woman and save her, but who also witnessed arrestment of Jews, that left a strong impact on him even in his later life, Ljerka Cairn, another Jewish woman, then a girl, who share the experience of everyday things that were forbidden for Jews, like buying food, going out in specific hours and so on, Eva Grlić, Jewish woman and the member of the resistance, who shared stories about the posters of mass shootings and hangings, that were published all over the city to scare the others and warn them not to join the resistance. After reading or listening the excerpts, the participants discussed the following questions in smaller groups:

1. Who is the person speaking in the interview? What can you find out about its background?
2. How do the witnesses describe the life and atmosphere in Zagreb after the foundation of the Independent State of Croatia?
3. Can you notice differences and similarities in the experiences of different people based on their ethnic and social backgrounds? Describe the differences and similarities.
4. Did you hear something in the interviews that surprised you or was contrary to what you know or thought before? How do these personal accounts add to or challenge the "official" history you might already know?

After the discussion, they were invited to share their main conclusions in the big group.

The second part of the workshop was focused on location in Rakov Potok – its historical context, significance of the location and memorialization. First participants were given the text of the monument in Rakov Potok, that they read and answer the following questions:

1. What can you find out from the text on the monument about the location?
2. Can you recognize from the text in which period the monument was built?

Then, they read selected excerpts from the memories of the prominent members of the resistance movement, whose family members, friends and colleagues were among the most common victims shoot in Rakov Potok, where they mentioned the location. The participants get the task to notice how they are describing Rakov Potok in their texts, and as much details about the location they can. After reading, they needed to answer the following questions:

1. What did you find out about Rakov Potok from the texts? What was the purpose of the location during the Second World War?
2. Do you know where Rakov Potok is? If not, look for it on a map. Why was the location important for the killing sites?
3. What were the reasons (that you can get from the texts) why people were deported there?
4. Who were the deported people and the victims, those mentioned in the texts?
5. What is the atmosphere around the location? Can you recognize the emotions of the witnesses from the text?

The main conclusions, doubts and questions were discussed in plenary.

In the third, creative part of the workshop, the participants get the photos of Rakov Potok Memorial Park in the past and today. They discussed about the appropriateness of the memorialization, its inclusiveness and attractiveness for today's visitors. Then, they get the task to create the better, more inclusive and engaging monuments for the location. They were offered different creative techniques, so they were able to choose the one that is the best for them. After creating their monuments, each participant shortly explained their idea to the others.

The workshop was closed by the evaluation round, in which participants were invited to share their impressions and opinions about the event, the methodology and the content of the workshop.



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