

## EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Project name and acronym:	[Negotiating Difficult Pasts] – [NeDiPa]
Participant:	[Stowarzyszenie FestivALT] (FestivALT)
PIC number:	895375767

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	[WP14]
Event name:	[Esther's Willow]
Type:	[Community building: exhibition and public arts]
In situ/online:	[in-situ][online]
Location:	[Poland], [Kraków and Chrzanów]
Date(s):	[29.06 & 3.07]
Website(s) (if any):	<a href="https://zapomniane.org/en/we-do/">https://zapomniane.org/en/we-do/</a> <a href="http://www.festivalt.com/negotiating-difficult-pasts-2/">http://www.festivalt.com/negotiating-difficult-pasts-2/</a> <a href="https://urbanmemoryfoundation.org/en/nedipa-2/">https://urbanmemoryfoundation.org/en/nedipa-2/</a>
Participants	
Female:	53
Male:	40
Non-binary:	1
From country 1 [Poland]:	87
From country 2 [Slovakia]:	3
From country 3 [Germany]:	4
...	
Total number of participants:	94
From total number of countries:	3
Description	
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>	
Esther's Willow is an artist intervention into a fabric of the city of Chrzanów, created by artists Marta and Katarzyna Sala of Chrzanów and Robert Yerachmiel Sniderman from Philadelphia, whose ancestors lived in Jarosław and Warsaw.	
The project concerns the conditions of memory around the former Esther's Square in	

Chrzanów, where the Great Synagogue stood until its demolition in 1973, and thereafter a weeping willow grew sometime later. The willow was unexpectedly cut down in 2018. Before the Nazi genocide, Jews made up half of Chrzanów and their history and memory in the city weakens each year.

The central aim of the artistic intervention/commemoration was to replant the tree at the site of the synagogue and name it Esther's Willow, resurfacing the name of the unnamed square now located beside the Municipal Culture, Sport and Recreation Center in Chrzanów.

The planting of the tree was the central ceremony, accompanied by auxiliary events that comprise this Work Package. They included:

**28/06/2022 at 9 PM,**

meeting point: Central ALT, Józefińska 9

drawing silent water from the Vistula river in Kraków to water the tree after planting

**29/06-31/07/2022**

Central ALT, Józefińska 9 street, 30-529 Kraków

exhibition presenting the project Esther's Willow

**02/07/2022, 8.45 PM**

meeting point: the former Estera Square in Chrzanów

drawing silent water from a river in Chrzanów to water the tree after planting

**03/07/2022, 11 AM - 1 PM,**

meeting place: Chrzanów Główny railway station, ul. Fabryczna

silent procession from the Chrzanów railway station through Aleja Henryka and Rynek to the former Estera Square

**03/07/2022, 4.00 PM**

Concert of Mojse Band inspired by the body of work of Chrzanow's Hazzan of the Great Synagogue Hirsch Leib Bakon

Following a Silent Procession from the Chrzanów railway station through Henryka Boulevard and the Main Square to the former Esther's Square, a symbolic Willow Sapling named Esther was planted. The silence was that much more piercing as the musicians walking along in the march carried instruments, which remained silent throughout the march. The Procession symbolically reversed the course of history, following the opposite route from the death march of Chrzanów Jews, which then took them to Auschwitz. As soon as the tree was planted, music sounded in the square.

This is video recap of the event: <https://youtu.be/l3GcGd4mxy8>

Following the planting the residents of Chrzanów could take part in an outdoor concert of the Slovakian MojšeBand (Michal Palko, František Kubiš, Dolfi Plachetka). Jewish life and memory once again were present in Chrzanów.

This project is created in cooperation with the Irena and Mieczysław Mazaraki Museum in Chrzanów, Municipal Center of Culture, Sports and Recreation (MOKSiR) of Chrzanów, Allianz Kulturstiftung. Co-funded by the Simon Fraser University. The vice-mayor of the city of Chrzanów was present at the ceremony along with the director of the Chrzanów Museum and director of MOKSiR.

The inhabitants of Chrzanów took part in the event. The descendants of Esther (Esther's son with his daughter and wife) came from Israel to attend the ceremony. Before the war, Estera lived in Chrzanów and attended the synagogue in Plac Estera, from where she was taken to Auschwitz

Polish television was also present at the ceremony and published this video:

<https://youtu.be/wPD5pEof-C4>

Other noteworthy media mentions included:

Link to Polish Wyborcza News Article: [https://lnkd.in/d\\_HevqNP](https://lnkd.in/d_HevqNP)

Link to Macau Post Daily Article.: <https://lnkd.in/dhqwV-QB>

Link to Otwarty Kraków Article: <https://lnkd.in/dchZdiKc>

Link to local Chrzanów media: <https://tinyurl.com/7t4tw3ja>

Link to Hoje Macau Article: <https://tinyurl.com/2djky58r>

Link to Ponte Final. Article: <https://tinyurl.com/2vsnsfwf>

Link to Journal Tribuna de Macau: <https://tinyurl.com/uw4rw4f5>

Link to Macau Arts Magazine 瘋刊: <https://tinyurl.com/5n928ek3>