

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Participant:	UNIVERZA NA PRIMORSKEM UNIVERSITA DEL LITORALE - UP
PIC number:	998802793
Project name and acronym:	RE 4 Healing: Crossborder Remembrance, Reconnection, Restoring and Resilience — RE4 Healing

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	WP 4
Event name:	Voicing and Listening each other's memories: Roundtable and discussion with eyewitnesses
Type:	Public roundtable
In situ/online:	[in-situ]
Location:	Slovenia, Koper/Capodistria
Date(s):	08. 05. 2025
Website(s) (if any):	https://fhs.upr.si/re-4-healing-crossborder-remembrance-reconnection-restoring-and-resilience/

Participants	
Female:	34
Male:	13
Non-binary:	/
From country 1 [Italy]:	21 + 1 (one person wrote Italy/Slovenia)
From country 2 [Slovenia]:	21
From country 3 [Serbia]:	1
From country 4 [North Macedonia]	1
From country 5 [Montenegro]	1
Indeterminate	1 (one person wrote indeterminate)
Total number of participants:	47
	From total number of countries: 5

Description		
Provide a short description of the event and its activities.		

On May 8, 2025, the leading partner of the RE4Healing project organised a public roundtable based on deep discussion with eyewitnesses of tragic events on the Italian-Slovenian-Austrian borderland. Invited speakers – eyewitnesses who have experienced fascism, Istrian exodus and Nazism – provided testimonies that opened up the conversation about both intergenerational trauma and reconciliation that is needed for ethnically diverse communities to flourish. Speakers came from various affected groups: (a) Italian migrants of the exodus (Istrian Italians who migrated to Italy, *esuli*), (b) Italians who stayed in Yugoslavia after exodus and became a national minority, (c) people who migrated to emptied towns in Istria from various parts of Yugoslavia, and (d) members of Slovenian minority in Italy who have experienced various layers of fascism and violence. The latter included testimonies of multiple generations of people who experienced the violence of border fascism and Nazism. Affected groups publicly confronted their different memories in order to encourage mutual comprehension, empathy and self-reflection, challenging dominant national narratives of the past and present. Acknowledging both systemic processes of exclusion and personal stories of pain, invited experts (such as ex. dr. Paolo Fonda, an established psychoanalyst from Trieste and member of the International Psychoanalytic Association; and Daniel Wutti, educational scientist and psychotherapist from Klagenfurt) provided their analyses of what they heard from testimonies in order to frame conflicting memories toward reconciliation and peace. The roundtable – that was organised in one of the affected environments – in the bilingual town of Koper/Capodistria in Istria, Slovenia, was recorded by the film production team and served as one of the starting points of the upcoming documentary film.

ACTIVITIES

Task T4.1: Preparation for the public roundtable and discussion: the event was organised by anthropologists Katja Hrobat Virloget, Martina Tonet and Marko Galič (all from University of Primorska). Katja Hrobat Virloget conducted the roundtable, which took place in the Armerija hall of the University of Primorska in Koper on May 8, 2025 at 5.30 p.m..

Roundtable participants Stefano Lusa, Irena Urbič, Antje Gruden, Odinea Zupin, Daniela Paliaga Janković and Silvia Zetto Cassano came from the above-mentioned borderland groups with conflicting memories. They confronted themselves and each other on a burdening and traumatic historical past. The psychoanalyst Paolo Fonda and educational scientist and psychotherapist Daniel Wutti were present to provide their expertise during the discussion.

Task T4.2: Public roundtable and discussion: The purpose of the roundtable was accomplished as participants were able to voice and listen each other's memories of a difficult past.

The questions given to the participants were as follows: What are your memories linked to this border place? How would you see the reconciliation? The speakers with their memories served as stimulus for giving the word to the other attendants who were present at the roundtable.

There were 47 registered participants, along with additional representatives from partner organizations who were not listed on the attendance sheet (see photos and attendance list). They were all keen to partake in broader discussion. An elderly esule/Istrian refugee came all the way from Bologna in Italy with her daughter to participate in the event. For all the participants belonging to various minorities with conflicting memories, the event was an important emotional step that helped them to process parts of a traumatic past in terms of finding reconciliation and a sense of closure with burdening memories.

The event was successful as it voiced the interest to repeat the event in Trieste (Italy). Currently, the organisers are coordinating the preparation of the second event.

The event was taped and video recorded (even for two media, a local TV broadcast in Slovenia - Megafon TV - and a local radio - Radio Rai Trst – media of the Slovenian minority in Italy). Clips of the video recording will be used in the documentary.

All partners involved in the project were present.

Deliverable:

D.4.1 Invitation for the roundtable – UP FHŠ university site, FACEBOOK post, INSTAGRAM post, photos, media news (announced by internet news, article in local newspaper Primorske novice; the event was reported in local newspaper Regional Obala, STA – Slovenian national agency, and through radio interviews on Radio Koper and Radio Capodistria (RTV SLO: Slovenian national radio and television). The event was reported on university's FACEBOOK and INSTAGRAM pages. There was even a FACEBOOK POST by Rai Slovenski program.

Interpreters for Slovenian and Italian languages were provided to translate the testimonies and the event as such. Participants were therefore able to speak in their own language.

MEDIA LINKS:

1. Invitation – UP FHŠ website:

<https://fhs.upr.si/okrogle-miza-ko-spregovorijo-obmejni-spomini-prisluhniti-drug-drugemu/>

2. Invitation – UP FHŠ – FACEBOOK POST

<https://www.facebook.com/up.fhs/posts/pfbid0dAY7b877e2DwNPbvMUwHLArug5nQSamTgFGDyV5YsYvz5N3moHMcDFvFwjmVsNzcl>

3. Invitation – UP FHŠ – INSTAGRAM POST

https://www.instagram.com/p/DI0nczhoYGR/?fbclid=IwY2xjawLbEU5leHRuA2FlbQlxMABicmlkETBldktqNk4waVI0UHJIRnVMAR4qRp8ly-74J_IJr41WS3_z0yNN8tvX32SIEL4EAbSuc2tpe5zb7Uq23atA_aem_jYxnzmOq6jle4kGUe9Lbeg

4. Media news - local newspaper Primorske novice (a larger article about the project with the announcement of the round-table)

<https://primorske.svet24.si/plus/na-valovih-znanja/preseganje-mej-s-poslusanjem-bolecine-drugega>

5. Media news - local newspaper Regional Obala

<https://regionalobala.si/novica/dogodek-s-stevilnim-obcinstvom-ko-spregovorijo-obmejni-spomini-prisluhniti-drug-drugemu>

6. Media news - STA – Slovenian national agency

<https://o-sta.si/37064/okrogle-miza-ko-spregovorijo-obmejni-spomini-prisluhniti-drug-drugemu>

7. Media news – Radio Koper (a one-hour long interview about the project and the borderland problems).

https://radiokoper.rtvslo.si/podcast/odproto-za-sreca/106615882/175140430?fbclid=IwY2xjawLGFMyleHRuA2FlbQlxMQBicmlkETB5aFJTVDrS2NZbkIRb0ZvAR4psq5ZeFCOSv1FPoPytSsX3Xj4lIGdDGxlqaAFpOh-5fbu3egqovaaHQDluQ_aem_8Zrvzl_RMUgUSmP6-Glx5w

8. Media news – Radio Capodistria

<https://radiocapodistria.rtvslo.si/podcasts/calle-degli-orti-grandi/173250859/175128173>

9. Roundtable – UP FHŠ – FACEBOOK POST

<https://www.facebook.com/up.fhs/posts/pfbid0tcAmyCqqCU1BCtbK2EXHcdYQWee4mpHe3XYarVuof8YcDVPsqFkjy26oyDWg9SdI>

10. Roundtable – UP FHŠ – INSTAGRAM POST

https://www.instagram.com/p/DJjF7Bat2fK/?fbclid=IwY2xjawLbDs5leHRuA2FlbQlxMABicmlkETBldktqNk4waVI0UHJIRnVMAR4WkkuiH8Nm_vRXxKrmf7HcmFBF_SBSBMdLihT2XBGsFX8sKR_M-L3yEiptdA_aem_XxWDKclWWwtYToewVxDT9w

11. Roundtable – Rai Slovenski program – FACEBOOK POST

https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=1171269658348668&set=pb.100063969336499.-2207520000&locale=sl_SI