

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Participant:	PAEDAGOGISCHE HOCHSCHULE KAERNTEN - PHK
PIC number:	948535841
Project name and acronym:	RE 4 Healing: Crossborder Remembrance, Reconnection, Restoring and Resilience — RE4 Healing

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	WP5		
Event name:	Program of the excursion on the Austrian/Slovenian and Italian/Slovenian Path of Remembrance		
Type:	Excursion program in English		
In situ/online:	in-situ		
Location:	Austria, Visit of Klagenfurt/Celovec, Ferlach/Borovlje and other bilingual places in Carinthia/Kärnten/Koroška, Slovenia, Visit of Koper/Capodistria, Izola/Isola, Piran/Pirano and Italy, Trieste/Trst and Gorizia/Gorica		
Date(s):	17.10.2025, 18.10.2025, 17.04.2026, 18.04.2026		
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.phk.ac.at/		
Participants			
Female:	41		
Male:	7		
Non-binary:	1		
From country 1 [Austria]:	25		
From country 2 [Luxemburg]:	1		
From country 3 [Ukraine]:	2		
From country 4 [Slovenia]:	19		
From country 5 [Russia]:	1		
From country 6 [Spain]:	1		
Total number of participants:	49	From total number of countries:	6
Description			

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

In this work package (WP), our partner organizations invited each other—and specifically students from the two involved universities—to participate in so-called "Paths of Remembrance" in the three border regions. Additionally, an encounter between students from the University of Primorska (UP) and the University of Teacher Education Carinthia (PHK), representing different border areas, took place.

Alongside our partner organizations—University of Primorska, University of Teacher Education Carinthia, and Quarantasettezeroquattro—local partners were actively involved in the program. These included:

- Arbeitskreis Freiheit-Svoboda Ferlach/Borovlje (www.ferlachborovlje.at)
- Denkamol/Spunij se (www.denkamol-spunijse.com)
- SPD Borovlje (www.borovlje.at)
- Mauthausen Komitee Kärnten/Koroška (www.mkkk.at)
- Verein/Društvo Peršman (www.persman.at)
- Comunità Autogestita Della Nazionalità Italiana Di Isola (www.comunitaitaliana.si)

Their engagement enabled students to address buried and often concealed aspects of contemporary history.

The "Paths of Remembrance" were multi-day excursions in the current border regions of Slovenia, Italy, and Austria. These excursions aimed to familiarize young people—primarily students—with the project's themes in greater depth. Student groups from Austria and Slovenia not only explored the shared history of the Alps-Adriatic region but also developed a deeper understanding of today's border dynamics.

As project outputs, students prepared research diaries or oral and written presentations to analyze how younger generations engage with these sometimes challenging topics, including differences in conflict perception between men and women. In their reflections, students also addressed contested border memories and explored ways to construct reconciliation and peace-building narratives.

Visit of Klagenfurt/Celovec, Ferlach/Borovlje and other bilingual places in Carinthia/Kärnten/Koroška (AUT)

On October 17, 2025, the group of professors and students from Koper/Capodostria arrived early in the morning at the site of the former Loibl/Ljubelj concentration camp. Dr. Daniel Wutti from the University of Teacher Education guided them to both sides of the former "twin concentration camp" of national socialists, which are now located in Slovenia (Ljubelj/Loibl South) and Austria (Loibl/Ljubelj North). The discussion focused on how different nations have dealt with their traumatic legacies: in Austria, as a perpetrator state that has long struggled to come to terms with this history, and in Yugoslavia and Slovenia, where the communist regime declared victory over the Nazi fascists as a defining part of national identity. On both sides of the border, however, the uncomfortable aspects of history were suppressed, a situation that societies are still grappling with today. The excursion continued to the Peršmanhof in Bad Eisenkappel/Železna Kapla. This is where one of the last Nazi war crimes against (Carinthian Slovenian) civilian population in Kärnten/Koroška took place. Today, the site remains the only museum in Kärnten/Koroška that addresses the publicly suppressed history of the Carinthian Slovenian resistance and the deportation of Carinthian Slovenes. This was followed by a bus tour through bilingual towns such as Šmihel/St. Michael Ob Bleiburg and Pliberk/Bleiburg, where the narratives of memory from the majority and minority are slowly converging into more inclusive stories—positive examples. The evening concluded in Klagenfurt/Celovec.

On October 18, 2025, a city walk tracing Slovenian and Jewish remembrance culture took place in Klagenfurt/Celovec. Both minorities are rarely visible today in the Carinthian capital—Jewish culture was literally completely destroyed during the Nazi era, and the Slovenian language is now slowly gaining general acceptance after decades of discrimination. This is rarely discussed publicly in Carinthia/Koroška; so far, it has mainly been up to NGOs and private initiatives to erect commemorative plaques and monuments and to bring this topic to the public's attention through art and culture (literature, theater, art). Much of this is driven by members of minority groups—Carinthian Slovenes—but it is increasingly becoming bilingual; here, too, there are positive trends, albeit slowly. This was followed by a visit to Ferlach/Borovlje, where local bilingual initiatives were presented and Slovenian remembrance culture is also becoming more public, albeit slowly and still highly

controversial in some quarters. Following this, the entire group traveled on to St. Jakob/Šentjakob, where a bilingual feminist group of committed women has been working for years to contextualize a monument—one “ideologically embellished” by the Nazis—that casts a shadow over the townscape. The group has already achieved a great deal here, but there is still resistance from Carinthian German nationalists who are hindering actual progress. After a snack, the visitors slowly made their way home, enriched both professionally and personally.

Visit of Koper/Capodistria, Izola/Isola, Piran/Pirano (SLO), Trieste/Trst and Gorizia/Gorica (ITA)

On April 17th, 2026, the University of Primorska in Koper/Capodistria (Slovenia) welcomed our partner Dr. Daniel Wutti and his students from the University of Education in Klagenfurt/Celovec. The program was as follows: We began with an introductory lecture on the topic “Memories and Silences on the Slovenian-Italian Border” by Prof. Dr. Katja Hrobat Virloget with the purpose to illustrate the students on the convoluted and traumatic history of the communities (Slovenian, Italian, Croatian) inhabiting the region they were visiting. After the presentation, the historian Assoc. Prof. Dr. Petra Kavrečič Božeglav gave a presentation on the history of Koper elaborating even further on the complex ethnic and national identity footprint in terms of its inhabitants. She presented on how the changing of borders in different historical periods has affected the communities living on the territory. We then continued the walking tour of the city of Koper/Capodistria where we visited various memorial contested sites. In addition to the Austrian students, also 1st year students from our anthropology department UP-FHŠ attended the presentation and joined the tour of the city. We had lunch and afterwards we went on a bus ride to Izola/Isola where we visited the association of Italian minority, Comunità Autogestita Della Nazionalità Italiana Di Isola (CAN). Here the Mrs. Martina Gamboz gave a presentation on the history of the community and its current situation. Our excursion continued with a visit to Piran/Pirano, where among others the local cemetery was presented as an Italian heritage site. At the end of the excursion, Dr. Daniel Wutti and his student continued their “Paths of Remembrance” journey to Trieste where our partner dr. Štefan Čok was expecting them.

On April 18th, 2026, Quarantasettezeroquattro organized a guided walk through the cross-border area of Gorizia-Nova Gorica. The participants discovered the history and the different memories of the area through the open-air, cross-border museum *Topographies of Memory*, developed by Quarantasettezeroquattro. The museum consists of 10 totems located in relevant places of remembrance in both cities, where visitors can discover the places through traditional instruments (written explanations in Italian, Slovenian and English) and multimedia contents (through a QR code linked to the website <https://www.topografiedellamemoria.it/>). At the end of the guided tour, the participants also discovered the multimedia exhibition *Lasciapassare-Prepustnica* (<https://www.quarantasettezeroquattro.it/lasciapassare/>), developed by Quarantasettezeroquattro for the municipality of Gorizia, in the building of the old Italian border control point called Rafut. The exhibition consists of a video integrating pieces of the post-WWII Italian and Yugoslav official narratives (visitors can see the same events through the propaganda of both countries) and interviews with inhabitants of the border area, available in the original language and with double subtitles (so all the contents are again available in Italian, Slovenian and English). Through the guided tour to *Topographies of Memory* and *Lasciapassare-Prepustnica*, the participants had the opportunity to deepen their understanding of the border area and of how the different memories of the past are still influencing the present day.

Deliverable:

1. <https://fhs.upr.si/obisk-studentov-iz-celovca/>
2. <https://www.facebook.com/up.fhs/posts/pfbid025n4PLKnmdiQs1fYuFBoTRo9NnzZ7vt1wHLPp4TjbkSjech7LbNVhEYKoibFVgHjYI>
3. https://www.instagram.com/p/DXqg8PMFtow/?fbclid=IwY2xjawRdQKNleHRuA2FlbQlXMAbicmlkETfYM3JKd3FvbGZsS0xtY2psc3J0YwZhcHBfaWQPnTE0NzcXNTY5Mjl4MDYxAAEeLNqXBawRRWObGwC9cWsG71aNahnZMnP3hu85I5gOs-SPDZDK1ABUWgMMjvo_aem_Harh25ciKQETGn0t1BwsMg