

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 10
Event name:	Ethnography of Silence: International Conference
Type:	Conference
In situ/online:	[in-situ]
Location:	Slovenia, Koper/Capodistria
Date(s):	01-03.09.2026
Website(s) (if any):	https://fhs.upr.si/cerv-work-packages/ https://fhs.upr.si/en/international-conference-ethnography-of-silences/
Participants	
Female:	30
Male:	10
Non-binary:	/
From country 1 [Italy]:	6
From country 2 [Slovenia]:	17
From country 3 [Serbia]:	1
From country 4 [France]:	1
From country 5 [Austria]:	4
From country 6 [Croatia]:	5
From country 7 [Poland]:	1

From country 8 [Hungary]	4		
From country 9 [Finland]	1		
Other countries (not counted)	1 Norway, 1 UK, 2 New Zealand		
Indeterminate			
Total number of participants:	40	From total number of countries:	9 (3 non-eligible countries not counted)

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

The three-day interdisciplinary conference featured more than 25 presentations by researchers from eight countries eligible under the CERV programme (from a total of 12 countries around the world). Silence was explored from a wide range of perspectives.

The conference was the result of two ongoing and complementary projects, on one side the anthropological project of the partner leader Ethnography of Silence, financed by the Slovenian National Agency for Research and Innovation (ARIS J6-50198), and the CERV project Re4Healing: Crossborder Remembrance, Reconnection, Restoring and Resilience (European Commission, Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme [CERV]). The support was also from the research and infrastructure programme Heritage as an Object and Reflection of Social Processes (ARIS P6-0460). The first project is focused on the anthropological research of silenced societies (from the borderland to other minoritarian, post-colonial, post-industrial frames), while CERV project presents the applied results of the research focused on the borderland silences. The conference was interdisciplinary, reaching out from anthropology to history, educational sciences, social psychology, law, heritage science, and sociology.

It began with a panel entitled "Memories and Silences in Borderland Regions," which was directly linked to the RE4Healing topic. This was followed by a screening of the film *Shadows of Silence* and a roundtable discussion exploring the meaning and themes of the film. The other panels were entitled "Memory, Conflict and Trauma," "Silence and Structural Violence," "Approaching Silence in the Indigenous World and Beyond," and "From Silence to Resistance." The conference concluded with a Closing Roundtable "Towards Reconciliation" which is the final aim of the Re4Healing project.

A particularly new perspective in our region was the Indigenous perspective, presented by the distinguished Māori scholar Tracey McIntosh from the University of Auckland. She spoke about silence as a form of violence and repression, about indifference, and about how silence becomes violent when those who know remain silent. Silence was also examined as a survival strategy and as a form of protection from pain. In the context of the post-war killings, the discussion focused on the silence of those who had been humiliated. Psychoanalyst Pavel Fonda also pointed out that silence is often necessary, as it is important to wait for the right moment before we can speak. The question of when and who speaks was explored by Kathrin Pabst from Norway, who has observed how the things left unspoken can have profound psychological consequences across several generations within families. Michèle Baussant from France, the third of the above mentioned keynote speakers, also pointed out that recognition of injustices can come too late and can amount to little more than a superficial political gesture, beneath which inequalities and discrimination continue to persist. For the European context, it was particularly valuable to encounter neglected and marginalized Indigenous epistemological frameworks, which Marko Galič brought into the discussion as possible pathways towards reconciliation between different ethnic and other groups. As Kathrin Pabst observed, the conference paved the way for an approach that academia should embrace: towards interdisciplinary

and courageous research, and towards dialogue between established academic traditions and Indigenous knowledge systems.

ACTIVITIES

Task T10.1: Organization of the conference: The event was organised by anthropologists Katja Hrobat Virloget, Martina Tonet, and Marko Galič from the University of Primorska. They issued an open call for the conference on the topic of Silence in Ethnographic Research, which was divided into four themes: Silence in Relation to Memory, Conflict and Trauma; Structural Violence; Silence and Indigenous Peoples; and Silence and Reconciliation. Three distinguished scholars specialising in the ethnography of silence and memory were invited as keynote speakers (Kathrin Pabst, Michèle Baussant, Tracey McIntosh). The call for papers was disseminated via email and social media, including the Facebook pages of the organisers and the Department of Anthropology and Cultural Studies at FH UP. It was also shared through the social media of the scientific journal *Ethnologia Europaea* (Berghahn Journals) and published on the University of Primorska website.

Task T10.2: Conference: The initially planned two-day conference was extended to three days due to the high number of paper applications and the considerable interest in the event. The conference was attended by at least 40 participants from 9 eligible countries by CERV programme. Four additional participants were from non-eligible countries (Norway, the UK, and New Zealand) and were therefore not counted among the eligible participants. Among the eligible participants, there were 30 women and 10 men. A conference programme was published on-line : <https://fhs.upr.si/en/international-conference-ethnography-of-silences/>

The conference attracted considerable public interest. Members of the wider public, as well as researchers, attended the conference, extending the discussions beyond the academic setting. The conference also received significant media attention, including two reports featured in the evening news on the national broadcaster's Italian-language minority programme and several regional daily newspapers. A special attraction was the film *Shadows of Silence*, which has been invited to several film festivals and various universities across Europe (see the reports of other WPs).

DELIVERABLES:

D 10.1 : - On-line conference programme: <https://fhs.upr.si/en/international-conference-ethnography-of-silences/>

MEDIA LINKS:

1. Media coverage – national television, TV Capodistria: Main evening news broadcast on the Italian-language programme, with a report entitled *“Etnografia del silenzio a Capodistria”*:

https://www.rtv slo.si/rtv365/arhiv/175246420?s=tv_ita (6:44–8:51), 1 September 2026.

2. Media coverage – national television, TV Capodistria: Discussion featured in the main evening news programme *Tuttoggi*:

https://www.rtv slo.si/rtv365/arhiv/175247205?s=tv_ita, 4 September 2026.

3. Media coverage – Radio Capodistria, conference announcement:

<https://radiocapodistria.rtv slo.si/podcasts/calle-degli-orti-grandi/173250859/175246287>, 1 September 2026.

4. Media coverage – *Primorski dnevnik*: Article published in the online and print editions of the regional daily newspaper serving the Slovenian minority in Italy.:

<https://www.primorski.eu/trzaska/spregovorili-bodo-o-tisini-v-etnografskem-raziskovanju-AA2255714>.

5. Media coverage – *Regional Obala*: Article published in the online daily regional newspaper:

<https://www.regionalobala.si/novica/od-zamolcanih-spominov-do-sprave-v-kopru-bodo-raziskovali-razlicne-obraze-tisine>, 15 August 2026.

6. Media coverage – *Regional Obala*: Article published in the online daily regional newspaper:

<https://www.regionalobala.si/novica/ko-molk-postane-nasilje-v-kopru-o-tisini-razpravljali-raziskovalci-iz-12-drzav-foto>, 9 September 2026.

7. Media coverage – national television, SLO 1: Presentation of the RE4Healing project on the major national TV programme *Dobro jutro*, organised in collaboration with the CERV National Contact Point and featuring the project's aim and activities:

<https://365.rtvsllo.si/arhiv/dobro-jutro/175250385>, 56:08–1:01:22.

8. University and faculty webpages – University of Primorska (UP) and Faculty of Humanities (FH UP):

<https://fhs.upr.si/mednarodna-konferenca-etnografija-tisine/>

<https://www.upr.si/en/about-the-university/news-and-announcements/the-international-conference-ethnography-of-silences-has-begun>

9. UP FH – Instagram post:

<https://www.instagram.com/p/DbLDMIOqjD/>

10. UP FH – Facebook page:

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

11. Anthropology at UP FH – Facebook page: Several posts were published on the Anthropology at UP FH Facebook page, as well as on the personal Facebook profiles of Katja Hrobat Virloget, Martina Tonet, Marko Galič, and Manca Švara:

<https://www.facebook.com/antropologijaupfhs>

12. Call for papers – University webpage:

<https://fhs.upr.si/en/call-for-papers-international-conference-ethnography-of-silences/>

13. Call for papers – *Ethnologia Europaea: Journal of European Ethnology* Facebook page, published on 3 February 2026:

https://www.facebook.com/ethnologiaeuropaea?locale=sl_SI

14. Cal for papers and conference description – web page Re4Healing:

<https://fhs.upr.si/cerv-work-packages/>