EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Participant:	4 - EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION WORLD-OUR HOME
PIC number:	949588776
Project name and acronym:	SURVIVE: Stories of Women and Children's Resilience in World War II

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	WP4		
Event name:	Commemoration and Cultural Preservation, Latvia		
Type:	Commemoration event		
In situ/online:	*in situ*		
Location:	Latvia, Rezekne		
Date(s):	31.03.2026		
Website(s) (if any):	https://survive-cerv.eu/		
Participants			
Female:	70		
Male:	20		
Non-binary:	0		
From country 1 [Latvia]:	83		
From country 2 [Italy]:	2		
From country 3 [Poland]:	3		
From country 4 [Romania]:	2		
Total number of participants:	90	From the total number of countries:	4

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

The commemoration event was organized and hosted by the European Association World Our Home in Rēzekne, Latvia, on 31 March 2026. The event was implemented as a one-day activity within the framework of the CERV project *SURVIVE: Stories of Women and Children's Resilience in World War II*.

The day was dedicated to the Commemoration Day of the German and Soviet Occupations, bringing together local participants from Latvia and Partners from Italy, Poland and Romania to honour and better understand the tragic experiences of the 1940s.

At the beginning of the event, participants were welcomed and introduced to each other. This was followed by a presentation of the CERV Programme and an overview of the SURVIVE project, its objectives, and its relevance in promoting remembrance, historical awareness, and European shared values.

A keynote speech was delivered focusing on the German and Soviet occupations in the 1940s, highlighting their impact on Latvia and particularly on women and children. The introduction set the framework for the day, linking the event to the broader context of the Commemoration Day and underlining the importance of remembrance, reflection, and collective memory.

The day was structured as a sequence of interconnected commemorative and educational activities, combining historical exploration, site visits, and cultural reflection. Following the introductory session, the programme included a memory tour through Rēzekne, a visit to the “Treasure House of Free Latvia”, and two historical visits to key memorial sites, namely the monument to the victims of the Audriņi tragedy and the Ančupāni memorial. The day concluded with a cultural moment through a Klezmer music concert, contributing to reflection and remembrance within a shared European perspective.

Memory Tour through Rēzekne

The first core activity of the programme was **a memory tour through Rēzekne**, aimed at providing participants with historical context and connecting them with local narratives and testimonies.

During this activity, participants were introduced to the history of the city, including stories, memories, and accounts from the wartime period and its consequences for the local population.

One of the objects was Rēzekne Green Synagogue, one of the few surviving wooden synagogues in Latvia, which stands as a powerful testament to the once-thriving Jewish community and its cultural legacy. Participants also visited memorials dedicated to those deported to Siberia during Soviet repression, reflecting on the suffering and loss endured by countless families.

Throughout the tour, participants gained deeper insight into the complex and often painful history of Rēzekne, shaped by different occupying regimes. Special attention was given to the city’s central symbol, **the Monument United for Latvia** (commonly known as the Māra monument), learning about its history, destruction and reconstruction as a symbol of Latvian resilience, identity and independence.

The programme continued with a visit to the **“Treasure House of Free Latvia”**, representing the values of independence and remembrance. The visit aimed to contextualize the experiences of individuals during the occupations and to highlight elements of resilience, identity, and cultural memory.

The group then travelled beyond the city to visit the memorial site of the Audriņi village residents, a location tied to one of the most tragic episodes of Nazi occupation in Latvia, where an entire village community was destroyed. The visit continued to **the Ančupāni Memorial**, a solemn forest site marking the mass execution of thousands of civilians during World War II. These visits created a space for reflection, learning and collective remembrance, allowing participants to connect emotionally with the historical realities.

An innovative aspect of the event was the inclusion of 3D scanning activities. World War II-related objects were digitally documented, contributing to the preservation of fragile historical artifacts. This effort not only safeguards material heritage but also ensures that future generations can access and learn from these items through modern technology.

Klezmer Music Band Concert at Rēzekne National Societies Culture House

In the evening, participants attended a **Klezmer music band concert** held at the Rēzekne National Societies Culture House.

A special concert by the group Latgales Klezmeri brought participants together in a deeply emotional setting. The timing of the concert was significant, as it coincided with the remembrance of the April 1944 bombing of Rēzekne, when much of the city was destroyed. The performance paid tribute in particular to the Jewish community of Rēzekne, which had once played a vital role in the city's cultural and social life before being devastated during the Holocaust.

Through the expressive and evocative sounds of klezmer music, the concert conveyed stories of grief, survival and enduring hope. The melodies created a powerful emotional connection, uniting the audience in remembrance while also highlighting resilience and the strength of the human spirit.

The event concluded with reflections on the importance of preserving historical memory, fostering awareness of the consequences of totalitarian regimes, and promoting shared European values such as dignity, human rights, and respect for diversity.

The commemoration activities contributed to strengthening participants' understanding of the impact of the German and Soviet occupations, particularly on women and children, while encouraging dialogue and reflection on the relevance of these historical events today.

Following the event, all participants were promptly provided with essential project data and a link to access the EUSurvey platform.

Social media communication about the Commemoration Event in Poland:

Instagram WOH

Facebook WOH

Instagram SURVIVE

Facebook SURVIVE

Website article:

Article from the website SURVIVE

Publication of the EDS:

https://you-net.eu/eu_project_history/prova/

https://survive-cerv.eu/what-we-do/

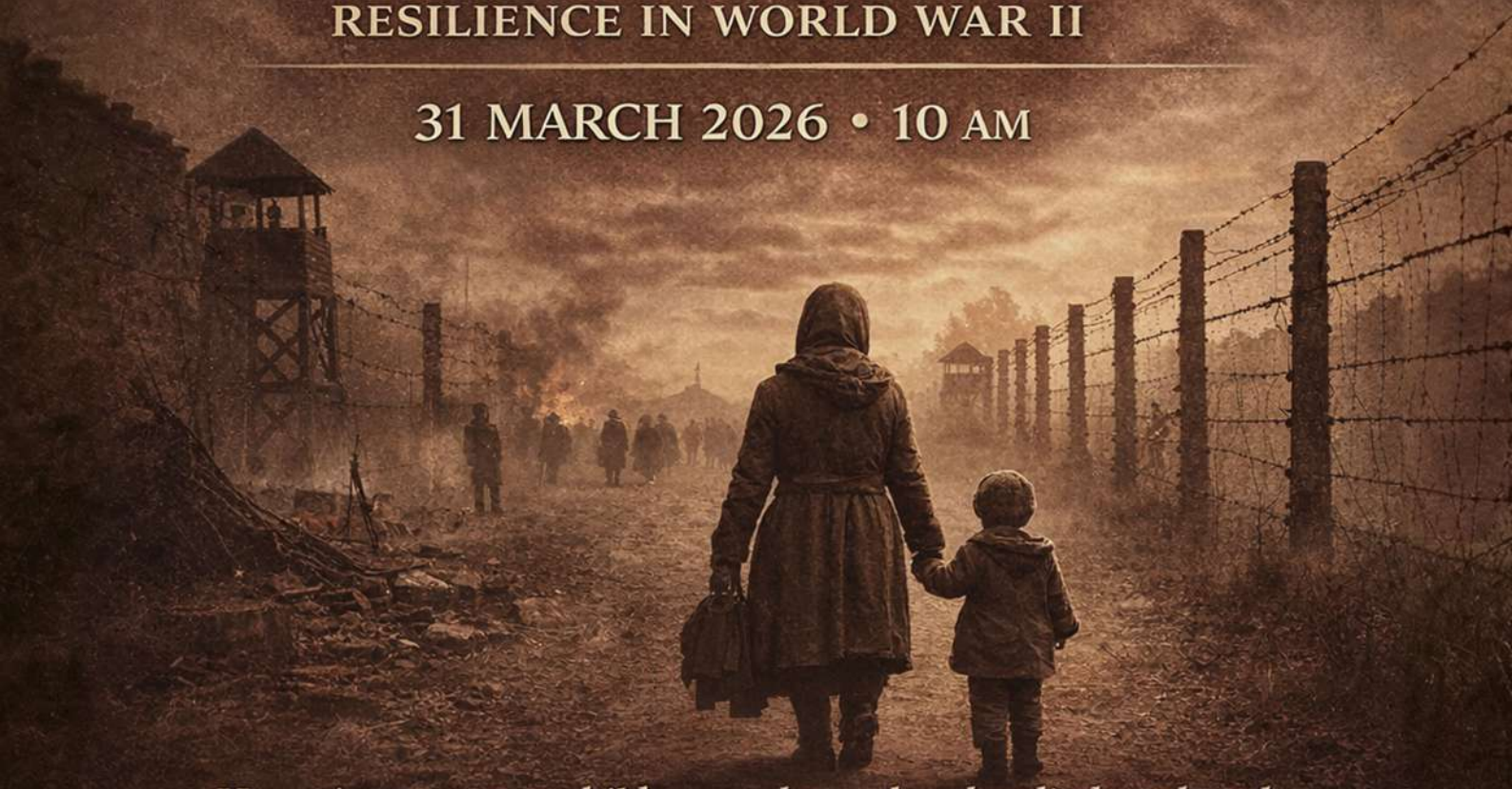
HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01.04.2022	Initial version (new MFF).

COMMEMORATION EVENT IN RĒZEKNE, LATVIA

SURVIVE

STORIES OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN'S RESILIENCE IN WORLD WAR II

31 MARCH 2026 • 10 AM



Honoring women, children and people who died, endured repression, deportation and war during the Nazi and Soviet occupation of Latvia.

Let us remember. Let us reflect. Let us honor.

Venue: Rēzekne, Rēzekne district - Ančupāni, Audriņi

Programme:

- Historical tour
- Historical evidence
- Lying flowers and lighting candles
- Klezmer music band concert at Rēzekne Cultural House of National Societies at 7:00pm

Funded by the European Union
Ministry of Culture Republic of Latvia
Rēzekne
European Association WORLD-OUR HOME
younet
SPARK
Transilvania University of Brasov