

## **Call for applications for participation in the round table**

As part of the *Heritage and depopulation in Europe* conference, which will take place from 27 to 29 August 2025 at the Faculty of Humanities, Charles University in Prague, we plan to organize a **round table *Challenges of depopulation for Europe's regions*** for representatives of local governments, policymakers, representatives of non-profit organizations, memory and cultural institutions and other local actors from the Czech Republic, Lithuania and the Shetland Islands, focused on the practical consequences of depopulation in the regions, especially in relation to cultural heritage.

**Venue:** Faculty of Humanities, Charles University, Pátkova 2137/5, 182 00, Prague 8 - Libeň

**Date:** August 27, 2025 (approx. from 16:00 – to be specified)

**Link:** <https://fhs.cuni.cz/FHSENG-510.html?event=29234&lang=en>

## **Roundtable *Challenges of depopulation for Europe's regions: defining the field***

The roundtable will address the issue of depopulation in Europe, with a particular focus on heritage. By depopulation we mean population decline in certain countries or regions. Depopulation occurs because of economic and political processes (e.g. the outflow of people from Eastern Europe after 1989), conflicts and political upheavals (displacement/expulsion of populations in Central Europe after World War II), or because of urbanization and globalization, when young and educated people leave peripheral areas for urban centres. Consequences of these processes are the population ageing, the deterioration of infrastructure (roads, schools, quality of health care), the changing relationship between man and landscape, but also the threat to cultural heritage.

By heritage we mean in a broader sense everything that local communities consider to be meaningful and "lived", to be a value with historical continuity, and to be something that should be passed on to future generations. Heritage in this sense can be both material (house, church, fortress) and intangible (knowledge, craft, technology), but heritage can also be landscape, or a specific relationship between man and nature. However, "heritage" can also be considered a relationship to a place, the memory of a place or landscape, or the values, knowledge, ways of life of minority or non-dominant groups.

**The aim of the round table** is to bring together actors from regions that are struggling with the impacts of demographic change, to formulate the topics and problems they encounter, and to enable them to share possible solutions and examples of good practice. Maybe they are dealing with similar problems as you are elsewhere. Maybe it's possible to be inspired somewhere, or to inspire someone...



**The round table will take the form of a moderated discussion** on agreed topics. Participants will be given questions and topics in advance so that they can prepare for them. Therefore, we ask you to fill in a short questionnaire that will help us formulate topics and questions for the round table.

**The round table will provide interpreting between Czech and English.**

If you consider taking part in the roundtable, please fill in the questionnaire at this link **no later than 3 March 2025.**

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfI9k\\_ZoJWHSD1M6Dk4MazQ6xWqsATG6HPjk3uPh5Wk-JBv3g/viewform?usp=header](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfI9k_ZoJWHSD1M6Dk4MazQ6xWqsATG6HPjk3uPh5Wk-JBv3g/viewform?usp=header)

Thank you and we look forward to meeting you in Prague!

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Research project *Heritage in Depopulated European Areas*  
<https://herindep.fhs.cuni.cz/FHSH-1.html>