

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE***Ageing, Migration, Depopulation: Challenges and Policy Responses*****November 23rd and 24th 2026, Zagreb**

Organised by: Institute for Migration Research, Zagreb

Dear colleagues,

It is our honour and pleasure to invite you to the international scientific conference “Ageing, Migration, Depopulation: Challenges and Policy Responses”. The conference is organised by the Institute for Migration Research within the framework of the project “How Do People Age in Croatia?” (DOBHR), funded by the European Union – NextGenerationEU.

Population ageing represents a major challenge for the global distribution of resources needed to ensure decent living conditions for all people, regardless of age, employment status or the level of development of their country. Alongside population ageing, migration and population decline are shaping the demographic, economic and social realities of Croatia and most European countries and represent some of the major long-term challenges for public policy. These are interconnected processes, with persistently low fertility rates and increasing life expectancy contributing to population ageing. Longer life expectancy raises questions about quality of life in later life, the preservation of health and independence, social participation, and the possibility of ageing in place. Together with labour market developments, emigration and immigration alter the relationship between the working-age and older populations. Migration is also age-selective: in areas experiencing outmigration, the departure of younger people further accelerates population ageing and deepens depopulation, while at the same time reducing the availability of informal care. All these processes may result in continued depopulation, stagnation or repopulation, with their consequences extending to the economic and social development of particular areas.

The conference will bring together researchers from different academic disciplines to present new theoretical and empirical research on ageing, migration, and depopulation, and to discuss their social, economic, and spatial consequences, as well as possible policy responses. Authors are invited to submit papers employing quantitative, qualitative, comparative, and interdisciplinary approaches. Particular emphasis will be placed on papers focusing on Croatia and the countries of Central, Eastern, and Southeast Europe, as well as on comparative studies that situate the experiences of individual countries within a broader European context.

Proposed conference topics include:

- * population ageing and changes in the age structure of the population
- * depopulation and long-term demographic prospects
- * low fertility and family changes and their consequences for population ageing and the availability of family care
- * mortality, longevity, and healthy life expectancy
- * internal and international migration and their impact on ageing and depopulation
- * emigration, return migration, and immigration
- * regional, urban–rural, and other spatial inequalities in ageing and depopulation processes
- * the labour market and the economic consequences of population ageing

- * the working poor and the pension system
- * quality of life, health, independence, and well-being of older people
- * ageing in place, family care, and long-term care
- * social networks, living arrangements, loneliness, and social isolation in old age
- * migration and the availability of formal and informal care
- * active and healthy ageing and the social participation of older people
- * the sustainability of pension, healthcare, and social welfare systems
- * public policies addressing ageing, migration, depopulation, and demographic revitalisation.

Papers addressing other issues related to the conference themes are also welcome.

We hope you will be able to accept this invitation and participate actively in the conference.

On behalf of the Organising Committee:

Sanja Klempić Bogadi, PhD

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE:

Marijana Bađun, Institute of Public Finance, Zagreb, Croatia

Ulf Brunnbauer, Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies, Regensburg, Germany

Sanja Cukut Krilić, Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Damir Josipović, Institute for Ethnic Studies, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Boris Kazakov, National Institute of Geophysics, Geodesy and Geography, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia, Bulgaria

Vladimir Nikitović, Institute of Social Sciences, Belgrade, Serbia

Sonja Podgorelec, Institute for Migration Research, Zagreb, Croatia

Silvia Rusac, University of Zagreb, Faculty of Law, Zagreb, Croatia

Šime Smolić, University of Zagreb, Faculty of Economics & Business, Zagreb, Croatia

Danica Šantić, University of Belgrade, Faculty of Geography, Belgrade, Serbia

Marko Valenta, Department of Social Work, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, Norway

ORGANISING COMMITTEE:

Sanja Klempić Bogadi, Institute for Migration Research, Zagreb, Croatia

Margareta Gregurović, Institute for Migration Research, Zagreb, Croatia

Sanja Lazanin, Institute for Migration Research, Zagreb, Croatia

Ivan Čipin, University of Zagreb, Faculty of Economics & Business, Zagreb, Croatia

Dubravka Spevec, University of Zagreb, Faculty of Science, Department of Geography, Zagreb, Croatia

Sara Žerić Đulović, Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies, Regensburg, Germany

CONFERENCE LANGUAGES: Croatian and English

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DEADLINE: October 16th, 2026

REGISTRATION:

Please submit your registration, including the full names of all authors, their affiliations, the presentation title, and the abstract, to sanja.klempic@imin.hr. The abstract may contain a maximum of 300 words and up to five keywords.

REGISTRATION FEE: None

CONTACT: sanja.klempic@imin.hr