

The 2025 (eng)aging! Conference & Technology Fair

The eighth edition of the (eng)aging!¹⁾ international conference on population ageing associated with a technology fair, took place in Prague and was streamed online on 5–6 June 2025. The event was attended by 105 participants from 18 countries, bringing together policymakers, researchers, practitioners, civil society leaders, and technology innovators. The conference was held under the auspices of Marian Jurečka, Minister of Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic, and Alexandra Udženija, Councillor of the City of Prague, and was co-organised by the Active Aging Centre and the KEYNOTE company.

The 2025 edition of the conference explored the central theme of *Intergenerational Cohesion* and featured four keynote lectures by leading international experts. Kai Leichsenring (European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, Vienna) opened with “*Aspects of Intergenerational Cohesion in the Context of Longevity – Towards a Caring Society?*”, urging a shift from crisis narratives to constructive agendas centred on fairness and solidarity. “We must move away from crisis narratives and towards a constructive agenda centred on intergenerational fairness and a caring society,” he stated. Ruth Šormová (ŽIVOT 90, CZ) delivered “*Old Age Belongs with Us: Dignity, Autonomy, Fellowship, Support*”, highlighting that ageing should be seen as central to community life rather than marginal. “Old age belongs at the centre of our communities, not at their margins,” she emphasised, outlining four pillars for dignified ageing. Lisa Warth (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Geneva) in her keynote “*Harnessing Intergenerational Solidarity: Regional Perspectives on Ageing Policy*” underlined that solidarity must underpin ageing policy. “Intergenerational solidarity is a cornerstone of ageing policy—demographic change requires cooperation between generations, not competition,” she noted, while presenting best practices across the region. Kristina Barczik (University of Applied Sciences – CBS with EUFH, Gemeinsam Digital e.V.) concluded with “*The Door to the Digital World is Open*

– *A Look at Future Technologies for Successful Ageing and the Importance of Entering the Digital World Together*”. She highlighted that digital participation is now a prerequisite for equitable ageing. “The door to the digital world is open, but many older adults cannot step through it unaided.”

Thematic sessions covered a wide spectrum of topics, from family dynamics and dependency to caregiving, loneliness, and social integration. Merrill Silverstein, Betti Bayer, Mareike Bünning, and Mariana Buciuceanu-Vrabie discussed intergenerational support within families and the role of public services in sustaining care. Tornike Gavasheli, Marcela Petrová Kafková, Lisa Joanne Klasen, and Martin Lakomý examined caregiving practices, online and offline social relations, and the impact of crises such as COVID-19 on loneliness and social integration. Sessions under the title *Redefining Old Age* focused on identity, transitions, discrimination, and social bonds. Leyla Mavi, Mirko Sporket, and Alexandra Husivargová Theofanidis addressed identity and transitions into retirement and health. Lucie Vidovičová, Frederike Gerdes, Marlen Drewitz, and Laura Romeu Gordo explored ageism, loneliness, and the socio-economic implications of late-career caregiving. Finally, three sessions on *Intergenerational Solidarity and Economic Resilience in an Aging Society* gathered contributions from Oleksandr Poliakov, Dmytro Shushpanov, Elena Şoldan, Iryna Kurylo, Joseb Archvadze, Oliver

1) The long-term (eng)aging! project focuses on fostering a society-wide debate about accelerating demographic change and population ageing. The project aims to stimulate a constructive discussion about these trends and to look for ways to make use of them for the benefit of society.

Platt, Olga Gagauz, Artiom Samohvalov, and Izabela Warwas, discussing health, skills, wartime resilience, pension systems, and intergenerational fairness in the context of demographic change.

The associated Technology Fair highlighted how gaming, virtual reality, and communication technologies can enhance quality of life, independence, and social connectedness in later life, while also serving as practical tools for caregivers and health professionals. Among the presenters were Jaroslav Cibulka (Czech Technical University), Markéta Zakurdajeva and Natálie Nevřelová (National Institute of Mental Health, CZ), Ármín Kondor (University of Pannonia, HU), Peter Grajcar (SK), and Vasillii Moigne (CZ). The Fair was opened by Kristina Barczik's keynote and moderated by Professor Olga Štěpánková (Czech Technical University). Like the main programme, it was streamed online, allowing broad international participation.

The event was co-organised by the Active Ageing Centre and the KEYNOTE company.

The partners of the conference were the International Visegrad Fund, Czech-German Future Fund, Liaison Office of the Free State of Saxony and Česká spořitelna.

Detailed outputs from the Conference & Technology Fair, including a report, photo and video gallery, and presentation materials, are available at www.engagingprague.com.

SAVE THE DATE – The 9th edition of the (eng)aging! Conference & Technology Fair will take place in Prague in May 14–15, 2026, and will again be streamed online.

Martin Špáta

Pozvánka na konferenci RELIK 2025

Katedra demografie Fakulty informatiky a statistiky Vysoké školy ekonomické v Praze srdečně zve odbornou i širší veřejnost na **17. ročník mezinárodní vědecké konference Reprodukce lidského kapitálu – vzájemné vazby a souvislosti (RELIK 2025)**, která se uskuteční ve dnech **13.–14. listopadu 2025** v prostorách VŠE v Praze.

Konference RELIK je již řadu let tradiční a oblíbenou událostí, která spojuje akademické pracovníky, studenty, představitele veřejných institucí i neziskových organizací a také zájemce z komerční sféry. Atmosféra setkání bývá přátelská a otevřená diskusi, což umožňuje navazování nových spoluprací i sdílení inspirativních zkušeností.

Jednacími jazyky konference budou čeština, slovenština a angličtina. Součástí programu je i speciální sekce „Mladí vědci“, která dává prostor studentům,

doktorandům a začínajícím badatelům pro prezentaci jejich výzkumu.

Účast na konferenci je bezplatná. Přijaté příspěvky budou publikovány v recenzovaném sborníku s ISBN, jenž bude zaslán k indexaci do databáze Web of Science.

Organizátoři se těší na všechny účastníky a zvou k aktivnímu zapojení do tohoto tradičního setkání, které každoročně potvrzuje, že spojení odbornosti a přátelské atmosféry je tou nejlepší cestou k inspirativní výměně názorů i k rozvoji demografického výzkumu.

Více informací včetně důležitých termínů naleznete na webových stránkách konference relik.vse.cz.

Jana Vrabcová