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Project name: SHIELD-LINK (SUSTAINING HERITAGE IN ISLAND ENVIRONMENTS THROUGH LOCAL DIALOGUE AND KNOWLEDGE LINKAGE) STAGE 1

Applying to: Horizon Europe Programme : HORIZON-CL2-2025-02-HERITAGE-02-two-stage

- Consortium of 6 partner institutions
- UHI Shetland, UK (Coordinator)
- University of Prince Edward Island (UPEI), Canada
- Åbo Akademi University, Finland
- Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada
- Hólar University, Iceland
- University of the Faroe Islands

Project Proposal:

- **3 Year Project:** January 2026 - 2029
- **Aim:** to investigate, safeguard, and strategically leverage diverse forms of intangible cultural heritage (ICH) as dynamic resources for fostering profound societal resilience and sustainable development in European and Northern and Arctic island communities
- **Total project budget:** 2.5 million euro overall (estimate) 645000 euro UHI Shetland (estimate)



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Overview:

The project will use a multi-faceted approach, including:

Enhanced Participatory Action Research (PAR): Researchers will be embedded within communities and work with Community Advisory Panels.

Comparative Analysis: In-depth studies will be conducted across six diverse island case studies. The selected islands are the Shetland Islands, Prince Edward Island, the Finnish Archipelago, Newfoundland, Iceland, and the Faroe Islands.

Advanced Digital Methodologies: The project will use digital tools for documentation and transmission of ICH, including creating a digital archive and developing immersive experiences like 360-degree films.

Anticipated Impact: The project is designed to deliver significant scientific, societal, and economic impacts. Key outcomes will include: 'Island ICH Resilience Framework' and associated Toolkit that is replicable and transferable.

Including: innovative strategies and tools for incorporating ICH into community resilience planning.

Evidence-based policy recommendations for local, regional, national, and international stakeholders.

The enhancement of sustainable use of ICH as a source of inspiration for creative designs, cultural tourism, and craft revival.

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Heritage in Depopulated European Areas

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PEOPLE * PARTNERS * EVENTS * PUBLICATIONS * KULTURNÍ DĚDICTVÍ A DEPOPULACE V ČESKÉM POHRANIČÍ



HERITAGE IN DEPOPULATED EUROPEAN AREAS

Our project deals with the decline of the European periphery resulting in the loss of intangible culture, abandonment and the degradation of buildings and landscapes, and people who struggle to give meaning to their lives in depopulated areas. The primary goal of the project is to explore how fragile local communities resist the consequences of demographic change. The basic theoretical point of departure is that individual and collective remembering of the past is inevitably complex and involves a process of conciliation, remembrance, and oblivion—ghosts of the past inevitably impact present day values. We will explore how depopulated communities and actors make sense of new realities and power structures in terms of policy, regulation and economic resources, and how these influence both actions and interactions. We will also focus on the stimuli of repurposing processes and the ensuing effects, consequences and potential of abandoned heritage.

NORTHERN AND ARCTIC ISLANDS WORKSHOP

SETTING THE AGENDA

DECEMBER 6, 7, 8 2023

SAVE THIS DATE



Memorial University and the University of the Arctic are excited to invite you to attend the Northern and Arctic Islands Workshop: Setting the Agenda in St. John's, Newfoundland & Labrador, Canada, December 6-8, 2023.

NOTE: Travel subsidies can be made available pending funding approval.

UArctic

MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY

Examples of Previous work: the consortium is built upon the established UArctic Thematic Network on Northern and Arctic Island Studies Research, providing a proven framework for effective cooperation.

The proposal also builds upon the research undertaken in the HerinDep: Heritage in Depopulated European Areas project

Human Resource: Centre for Island Creativity staff

Lead Investigator	Dr Andrew Jennings	0.4 FTE
RECRUITMENT		
Post-Doc x 1		1.0FTE (3 years)



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Opportunities for the SHIELD-LINK Project:

Establish a Flagship Initiative for UHI Shetland: The project has the ambition to become a flagship initiative demonstrating the profound role of ICH in fostering holistic societal resilience in vulnerable island contexts.

Grow the Consortium and Network: The project will leverage the existing UArctic network and new consortium partners to create a powerful, pan-Northern and European knowledge hub on island ICH and resilience. This expanded network can serve as a nucleus for future Horizon Europe consortia.

Create a Replicable Framework: A key outcome will be the development of a replicable 'Island ICH Resilience Framework' and associated toolkit that can be applied to other island and peripheral contexts.

Enhance Capacity and Skills: The project will foster community networks and enhance local capacities, creating a lasting legacy. It will also provide opportunities for developing new methodological approaches and tools using digital technologies for documenting and transmitting ICH.

Leverage Knowledge and Innovation: The project will identify and foster new avenues for the sustainable use of ICH as a source of inspiration for creative designs and practices, which can spur sustainable development in areas like high-value cultural tourism and craft revival.

Risks to delivery: 3 -year timescale 0.4 FTE staff time required throughout 3 -year span

