

**Abstract:**

In the Czech Republic little attention has been given to the research of civil society in rural areas. One of the fundamental preconditions for the development of civil society is engagement of citizens. The aim of this work is to explore social engagement, which is an important part of civic engagement, in two villages. The research was conducted in the north of the Czech republic, in the specific area of the former Sudetenland. Promoting social engagement may be one of the factors influencing the development of the Czech countryside, which is struggling with a long-term depopulation. Through in-depth interviews and document analysis the study argues about what are the main factors for social engagement and how social engagement contributes to the development of social capital.