

## **Abstract**

The thesis explores the Ways of the Cross and their functions in the Western Bohemian region. The Ways vary in their degree of preservation, which correlates with people's attitudes. The aim is to discuss functions and meanings of the Ways of the Cross in landscape and society of Western Bohemia in the context of changes that took place in the region during the second half of the 20th century. The analysis focuses on political, social, and religious factors influencing these sacred monuments, including their maintenance, restoration, and perception. Emphasis is placed on Czech-German relations and their impact on the Ways of the Cross in the post-war period. The thesis also examines the role of municipalities, civic associations, and volunteers in revitalizing these monuments and integrating them into community life. The research seeks to better understand the historical and cultural changes in the Western Bohemian region and underscore their significance in the current meanings of the Ways of the Cross. Currently, many Ways of the Cross are being restored, with cross-border relations playing a significant role. Simultaneously, new ones are being built, predominantly artistically representing their creators. A substantial portion of the Ways of the Cross in the region is also disappearing or has already vanished.

**Keywords:** Way of the Cross, Western Bohemia, religious landscape, cultural heritage, cross-border cooperation