

FOREWORD

The collective volume primarily comprises revised versions of presentations delivered at the International Digital Conference “Mapping Settlement Desertion in Southeastern Europe from Antiquity to the Modern Era”, organised by the Institute of Historical Research of the National Hellenic Research Foundation (IHR/NHRF) on 3–4 April 2021. The conference organising-scientific committee included IHR researchers Maria Christina Chatziioannou, then IHR director, along with Vyron Antoniadis, Dimitris Dimitropoulos, Michael Festas, Charikleia Papageorgiadou, Anastasia G. Yangaki and Sophia Zoumbaki.

The conference was held as part of the research programme “Mapping the Deserted Settlements in the Peloponnese, SW Greece, 18th–20th Centuries” (MIS 5048460), conducted between 2020 and 2021. The research was carried out under the programme “Historical Study of Settlements in Greece (15th–20th Centuries)”, within the Section of Neohellenic Research at the IHR. The project was co-financed by Greece and the European Union (European Social Fund–ESF) through the Operational Programme “Human Resources Development, Education and Lifelong Learning 2014–2020”. The research team comprised Michael Festas (project coordinator), PhD in Modern Greek History from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens; Anna Athanasouli, PhD candidate in Modern Greek History at the University of Crete; and Dimitris Dimitropoulos, the project’s scientific supervisor and Research Director at the IHR.

The conference aimed to refine interdisciplinary approaches to settlement desertion by integrating historical, archaeological, environmental and digital methodologies. Discussions emphasised the need to examine abandonment not as an isolated event but as part of broader historical processes influenced by economic, environmental and political changes. A key theme that emerged was the fluidity between settlement desertion and transformation, as many sites later witnessed reoccupation or repurposing.

This volume also marks the launch of a new academic series, the Modern Greek Library, which is published by the Section of Neohellenic Research at the IHR. The series aims to foster scholarly dialogue and advance research on various aspects of Modern Greek history, society and culture.