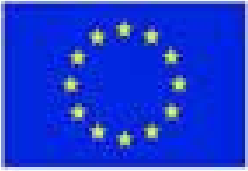




KAUNAS WOMEN EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION CENTRE

Women's employment information centre of Kaunas Savanorių pr.1 LT-3000 Kaunas,
Lithuania

Tel./Fax: +00370 37 200392 Tel.: +00370 37 321662 E-mail: info@muic.lt www.muic.lt



Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme



european women
in older age

PRESENTATION OF THE RESULTS

according the final questionnaire

Questionnaire : part 1

Participants: 15

Age: 68 – 84

Education: the Soviet higher

Country: Kaunas, Lithuania

Place, where you have most memories?

1. *Kaunas;*
2. *Place where person spend the childhood;*
3. *Place where person lived for many years.*

Occupations of participants?

- an engineer,
- a doctor of oncology,
- a booking-clerk;
- teacher of music,
- 2 book-keepers;
- 4 teachers;
- 2 artists;
- the scientist of chemistry

Family situations

- **mainly participants grow up with both parients;**
- **4 lost their fathers during the war**
- **or because of deportations;**

Married/divorced?

- **8 widows;**
- **2 has husbands;**
- **1 unmarried;**
- **4 divorced**

Own children?

- 1 or 2 (only one has 3);
- 3 has no children;
- 1 has not her own children;

Grandmother?

- 50 % yes;
- 50 % not.

1.2

How do you classify your life, your life style?

- 4 - very good, I am satisfied
- 4 - good, even though all my wishes did not come true
- 2 - I am satisfied
- 3 - tolerable
- 0 - I am disappointed
- 0 - I am not satisfied and I intend to change it

1.3

What do you wish for the most when you think about the future?

- the most important is a good health (and a good health-care);
- money for a daily life (to buy more often fruits, some cake);
- hobbies and interesting occupations;
- a peaceful death;
- have something to live for

Questionnaire : part 2

2.1 Which of the above mentioned life periods in your life do you like to remember the most?

The most answered:

- 1. time period: (1930 - 1950) birth, childhood, personal life events (war period)**
- 2. time period: (1950 – 1970) wedding, family, children, profession, important personal life event**

Only one remembers the 3 period and one – 4-th as the best.

2.2 Do you like to think back at your childhood?

- 12 - yes, very much;
- 1 - sometimes;
- 2 - don't like.

Is in your memories from your childhood some strong (positive or negative) experience?

Negative:

war; loss of parent; partisan war; finishing the gymnasium during the war; deportations, the changes of political systems; illness

Positive:

waiting for Christmas;
like remembering the beautiful nature.

2.4. Who had strong influence on you, your choice of career? (Role-model).

- teachers;
- parents;
- school;
- a sister;
- nobody;
- the need to care about others after the war.

2.5 ; 2.6 Did you have the conditions (time and resources) to realize your ideas/wishes (interests, study, hobbies)?

Yes,

- but have had to work hard and study;
- yes, because we could study not paying for it;
- because I have had wonderful colleges;

NO,

- woman's role was to take care for the family;
- time was very difficult;
- my health didn't let;
- because had no husband and had care of kids;
- I was in a Gulag

What does family mean to you?

8 -EVERYTHING;

4 -background, care of the family but also taking care of myself (possibility to educate oneself, to prepare for the time when children leave home);

1-I wanted to help others, to do my work, I did not aspire to have a family;

1 - I do not have good memories of this time period;

1-NOTHING.

2.8 Today, can you hold up your mother-child relationships and close contacts to your children?

A: I can always rely on them

B : If I need help, I ask them and they will come

C: Don't have children

2.9 When you think about the above life period (2nd life period) , does a particular event, experience (positive or negative) come into your mind?

- intensive period - preparing my doctoral thesis;
- wedding, the birth of children;
- establishing the musical school in Zarasai;
- preparation for the profession;
- family troubles;
- the Soviet orders made me sad;

2.10 How did you live through/experience your life period in the age 40 till 60 years?

- For some (3 persons):
- the most interesting life: job, music, giving koncerts, friendship, love.
- For others (12 persons):
- as always – job, family;
- have had grandchildren already, and still was in the active and interesting social activities;
- very creative period;
- all my time was dedicated to patients.

2.11 Do you often think back on the lived years?

- A: YES, I am so tied up with the past, so that I have to make big effort to free myself from it

B: SOMETIMES

C: NO, I don't have time to occupy myself with the past

- D: NO

12. Which life period was the most difficult for you? I.

- the II World War;
- the illness during the period 30-50;
- period of studies (lack of food, lack of clothes);
- I became a mother being the student at the same time;
- - having no husband, when kids have been little;
- children-teenagers;

12. Which life period was the most difficult for you? II.

- deportations;
- the illness of a child;
- a sudden death of a child,
- a death of a husband (I haven't children);
- early childhood – loss of family's house, property,
- the feeling of unsafety;

2.13 What fulfills you currently the most?

Grandchildren, children, our community life, the Third Age University, a musical group I am participating, television, books, excursions, communicating, visiting friends, relatives, travelling, learning computers and internet, the organisation of pensioners - life with a song; I like being alone and thinking; walking and the library; visiting the ill friend; caring of two kids

2.14 What's your meaning about the new media, like using the Internet, mail contacts, Google, Skype, etc.

A: I like it and use all of it	6
B: I use the Internet, Google, mail contacts, Skype	3
C: I have no possibility to use it	2
D: I will learn to handle it	1
E: I don't like it	1
F: It's not important in my life	2

**2.15 Do you think that it makes sense also in
the older age to live for something or
someone?**

A: YES

16 Do you have some plans for the future ?

I.

- My relatives need in me;
- To bring my experience to younger generation;
- I am happy that I am still **self-sufficient**;
- I am planing to ***to settle my affairs*** with relatives;
- To help caring of my grandchildren;

16 Do you have some plans for the future ?

II.

- I dream to publish my biographical book and two books with my drawings for children;
- To organise the concert very well;
- To go to Germany to visit my daughter;
- I enjoy my life – music, beautiful things, books, nice cloths, my cat;
- I want to sing in our folklore group as always,
- the next summer plan to visit friends in Saint-Petersburg

2.17 What is your personal attitude to death?

I.

- it is step to the iternal shine;
- I want to die unexpectedly, in scene;
- I am afraid even to think;
- don't think about it;
- expect to live yet 20 years more;
- think, it will happen naturaly;
- as a doctor I am accostumed to the death, look philosophicaly;

2.17 What is your personal attitude to death?

II.

- it is imminent, it is a beginning and the end;
- I am thinking, but not preparing for it - I am not a practical person;
- I am not afraid of death, but of pain and difficult illness;
- I look at death as triumph of Imortality

2.18 How would you assess your past life?

A: I am happy and thankful for my life **5**

B: I am happy, although some time periods were difficult **7**

C: I am sometimes happy; today I would make other decisions **2**

D: I can't assess my life positively **1**

2.19 Which values do you consider the most important in your life?

1.

Family and health;

2.

friends and communication; social certainty, integrity, self-sacrifice, money, honour; propriety, love, living for something, humanity, responsibility

2.20 How do you imagine the future development of society?

2.21 What would you suggest to the younger generations?

- to live accordingly the conscience;
- to trust in other people;
- to keep independance of Lithuania;
- to work very good;
- be honest;
- to keep the healths of others;
- to respect old people.

THANK YOU

2011 April