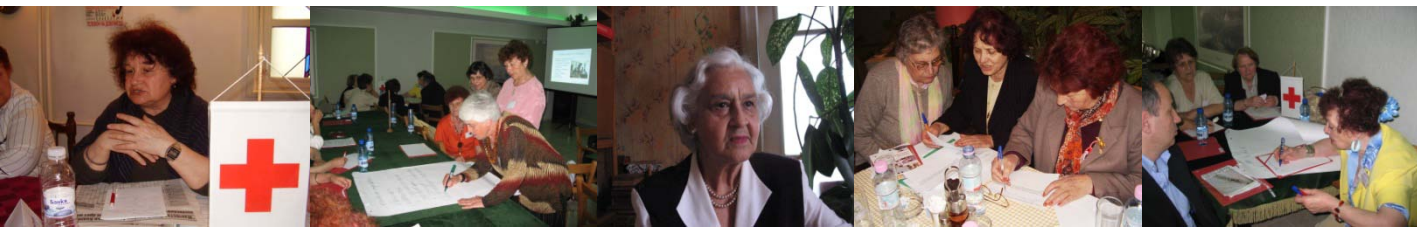




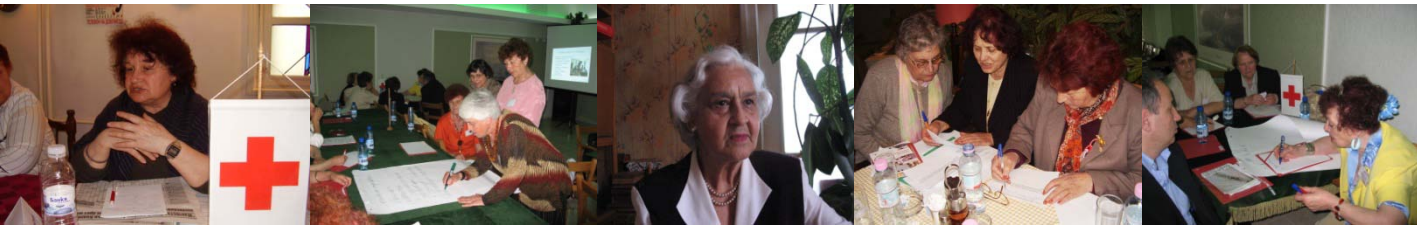
# *Presentation of the results of the Questionnaire*

Second project meeting, Ceske Budejovice,  
11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> April



### Questionnaire : part 1

- 97 older women were interviewed;
- From 10 regions in Bulgaria: Montana, Plovdiv, Blagoevgrad, Smolyan, Tragovishte, Vratsa, Dobrich, Lovech, Russe and Shumen;
- Average age of the interviewed women: 74 years old;

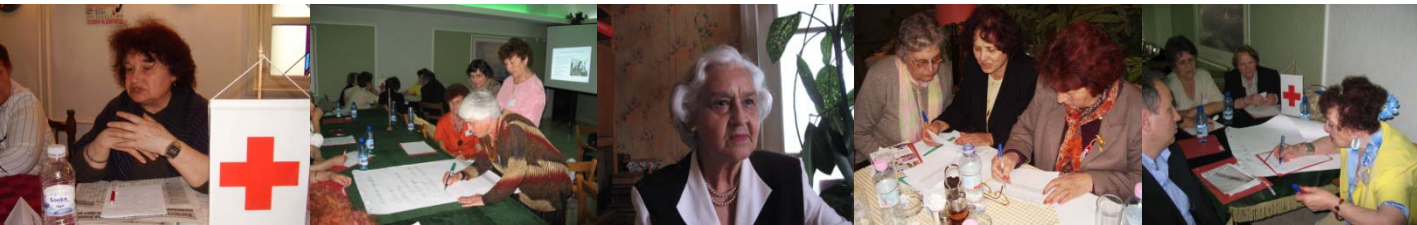




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- The most of the interviewed women were satisfied with their way of life and define it as good, although the dreams and wishes did not come true;
- About the future most of the interviewed women wish for themselves - health because a healthy person has no physical suffering and is not a burden for anyone; to be useful for their families and help vulnerable people who need support



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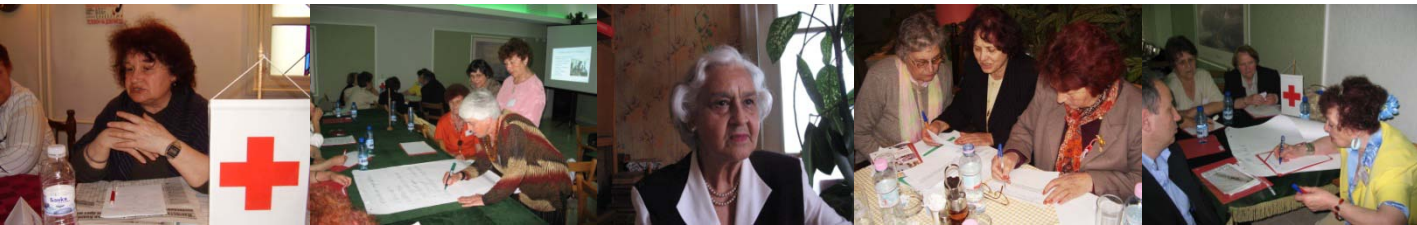
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## Questionnaire : part 2

- Most of the interviewed women will remember the first two mentioned life periods:
- (1930 - 1950) - birth, childhood, personal life events
- (1950 – 1970) - wedding, family, children, profession, important personal life events
- All of them are happy to reminisce about their childhood, time spent in leisure and games, living together with their families, they were young enough to not pay attention to the difficulties in the postwar period

"I remember the first three periods - childhood - poor, coupled with hard work, the second - a difficult career and childbearing, my adult life - satisfied with life" (woman from Plovdiv)

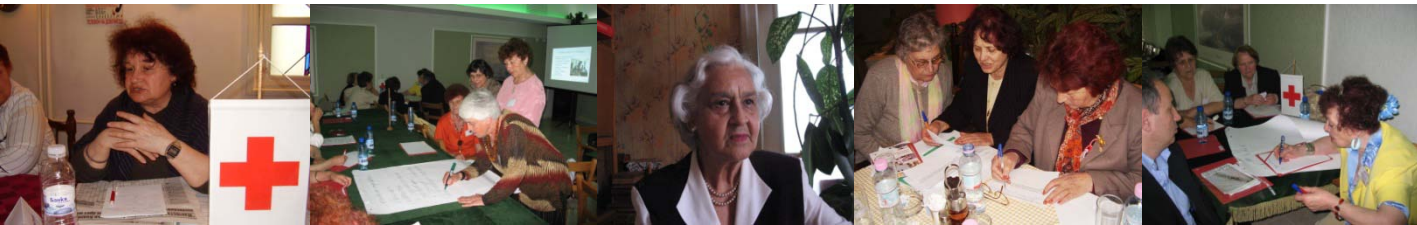




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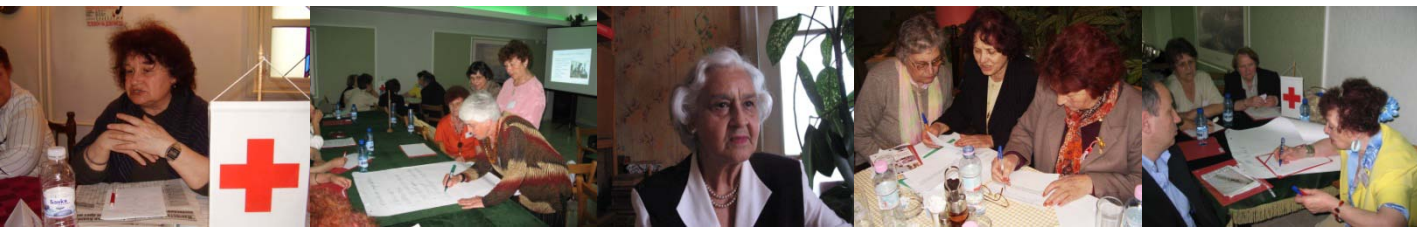


- Their parents had a strong influence on the choice of their profession. "My parents managed to convince me that teaching is best for me. "
- One of the women said that choosing a profession to have helped her become a teacher:
  - "My math teacher - fascinated me with their pedagogical approach, precision and high qualification and my parents who supported the continuous realization of my wishes.
- When asking them whether they remember what they wanted to be professionally, all said they remember and most of them prefer humanitarian disciplines - teacher, doctor, pharmacist



Responding to the question - Did you have sufficient conditions (time and resources) to realize your ideas/wishes (interests, study, hobbies):

- The most of the interviewed women shared that they had enough time and resources to realize their dreams.
- 10% of the interviewed women said that they did not have condition, time and resources to realize their ideas and desires because their families did not have enough money to support them during the study. Moreover, the role of women was to take care of home and family. The right to higher education was reserved for the boys in the family.

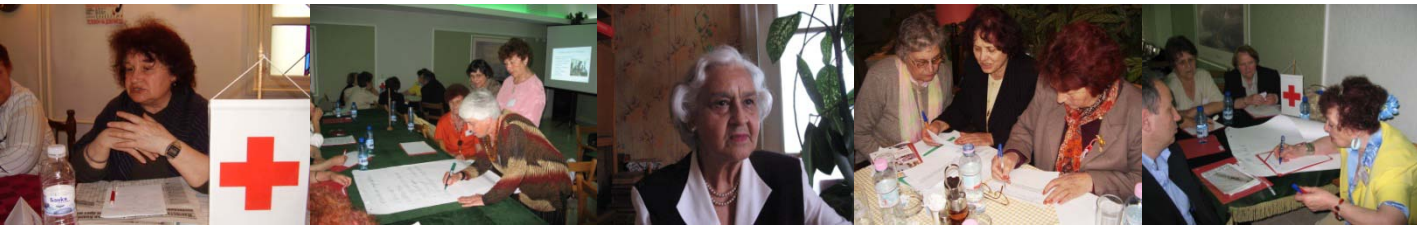




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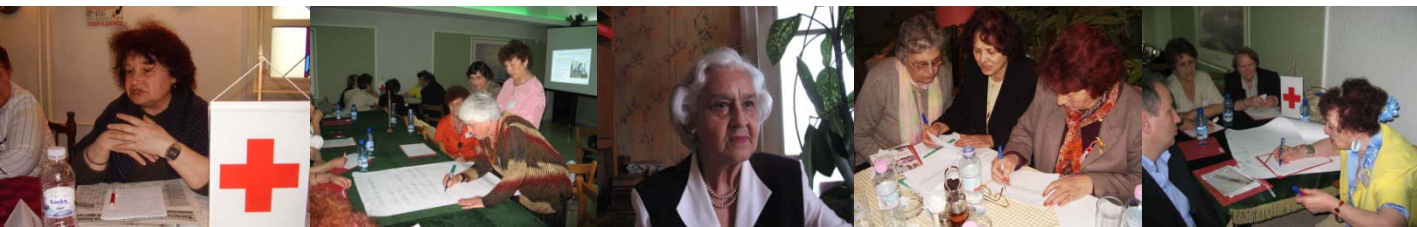
- The family is everything for them. So is the care for the family but also taking care of myself (possibility to educate oneself, to prepare for the time when children leave home);
- Nowadays, all interviewed have contact with their children and can depend on them always and at all times.
- When they think about their 2nd period of life the interviewed women shared that this was the period of receipt of a degree and professional career, a family and home. For almost everyone, the strongest events in their lives were the birth of their children and later their upbringing and professional development. All said they were committed to family and work. Some of them connect this period with the caretaking of sick relatives and the death of members of their families.



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- The period from 40 to 60 years of age proceeded in one common way - work, household, caring for grandchildren, hobbies, traveling;
- The most of the interviewed women are so tied up with the past, that they have to make big efforts to free themselves from it;
- The most difficult periods of their life's are illness and death of relatives / spouse, child, parents / , the years of their professional fulfillment;

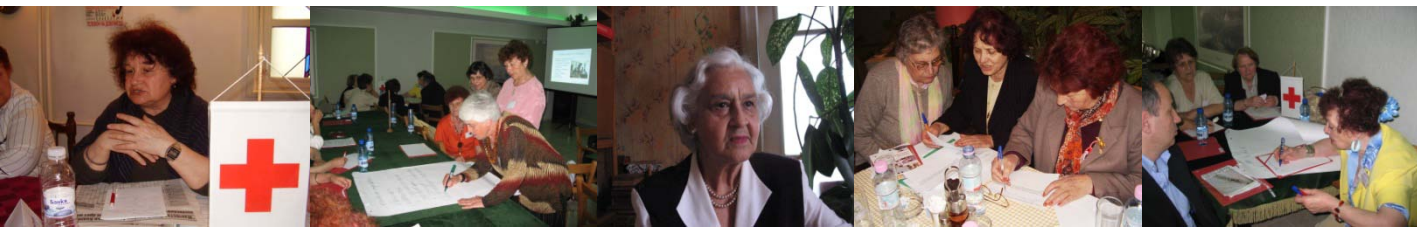
*“I had many difficult periods, but thanks to the strong spirit in which I was brought up in my family, I managed to overcome it and now I am a happy grandmother and mother”*



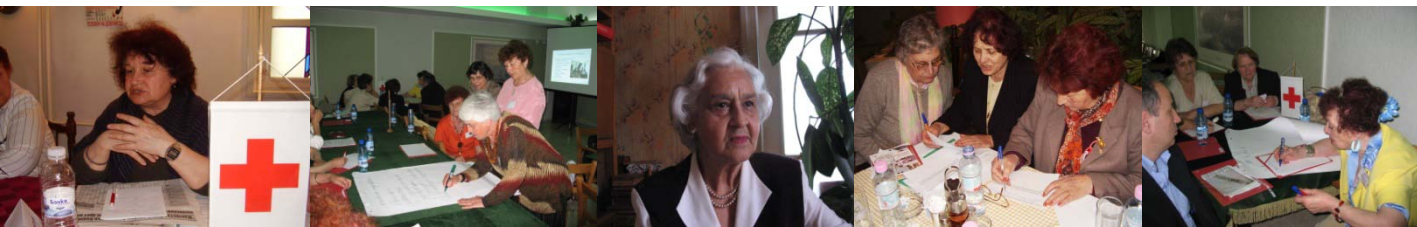


- The interviewed women are most satisfied with and enjoy unity of their families and their successes, communicating with children and grandchildren, travelling;

*"I am very happy and draw joy from communicating with my children and grandchildren, writing poetry, reading, knitting and traveling, to help the sick and lonely people and to teach lonely children to useful skills".*

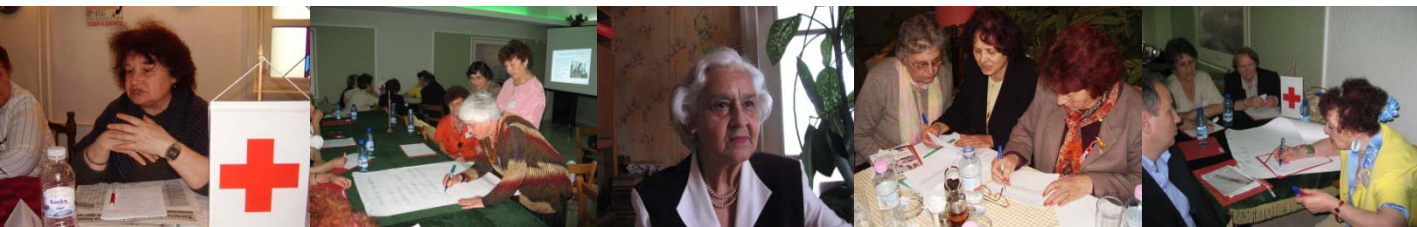


- In regards of new media and electronic communication, respondents gave a wide variety of answers. 40% like and use the Internet, Google, electronic mail and Skype. 30% do not like them and considered them important in their daily lives, and the remaining 30% were not able to handle the Internet, though they would have had the qualification to use it.

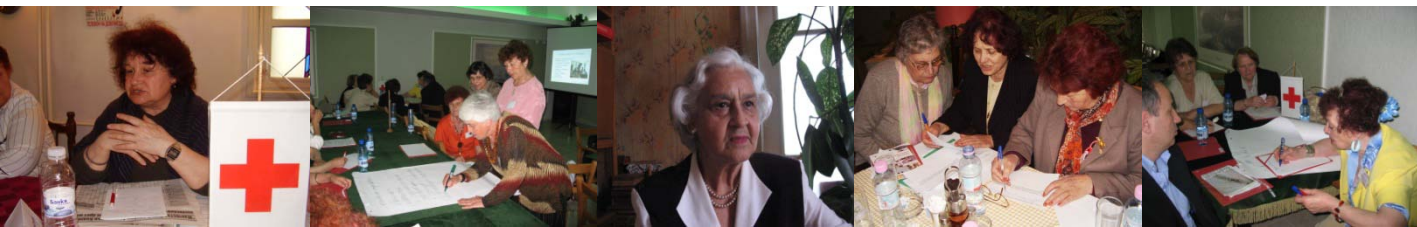


- All believe that despite their advanced age it makes sense to live for something and someone. According to them, every age has its own charm and is enjoyable in its own way.
- All interviewed women have plans for the future: to support vulnerable people, to communicate with more people, to learn many new things, to travel, to take care for their grandchildren.....
- All women have no fear of death. They consider it a normal biological process.

*“I'm afraid, but not for myself – for my children. I want to look at it philosophically and know that even if I'm gone I'll think about them.”*  
*“Death is an inevitable part of normal human development.”*



- Their passed life was happy, although some time periods were difficult;
- The values that the interviewed women consider the most important in their lifes are health, family, friends, social security, respectability amongst and between people;



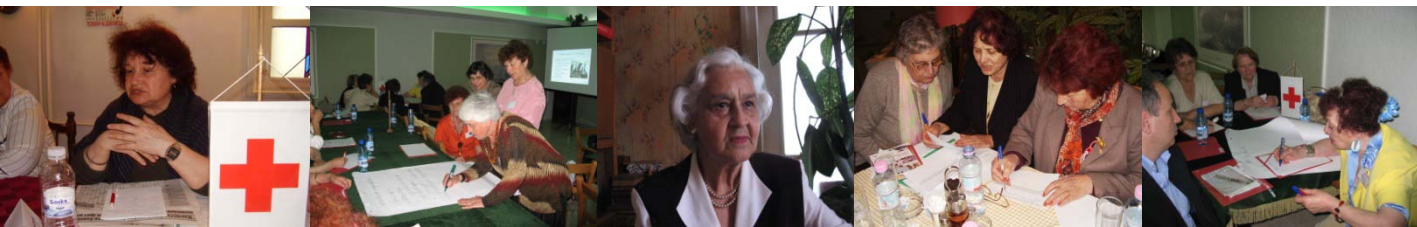


*"Our society will develop in a positive direction when we enjoy the success of others."*

*"I think the future development of society lays within the development of technique and improvement in general. I would like to give priority to moral values. "*

*"Labor and honesty enable the human. It takes a lot of knowledge and skills for modern people. "*

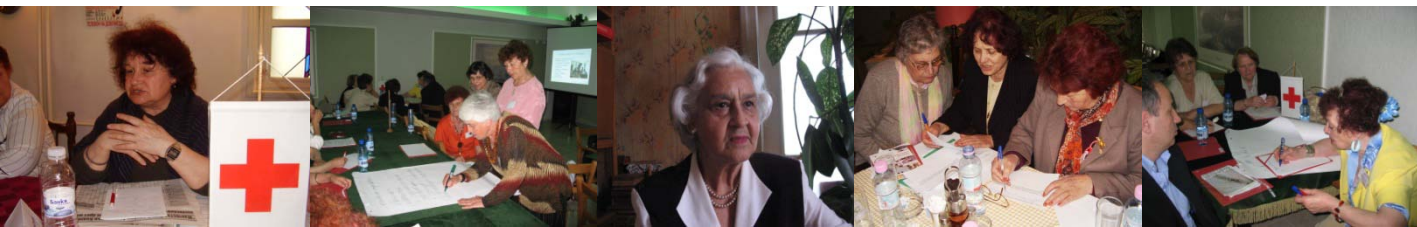
*"Restless and highly divided on ideological, economic and social terms. Understated moral values. The dominant factor will be money. Science and technology will develop rapidly."*



## What would they suggest to the younger generations ?

*"To keep the humanity amongst people. Mainly to appreciate what they have, but never cease to move forward. To educate and improve! Strive to protect the achievements! Do not lose the light and faith, excitement and emotions! To invest in knowledge and skills and to respect their parents. "*

*"Life is a constant struggle! Be involved in fighting for a fair and dignified life. Be good, ambitious and educated and realize your success in life and be happy with it. Be good to yourself and others. Protect the environment, appreciate your work and the work of others on a daily basis to improve and acquire new knowledge and skills. "*

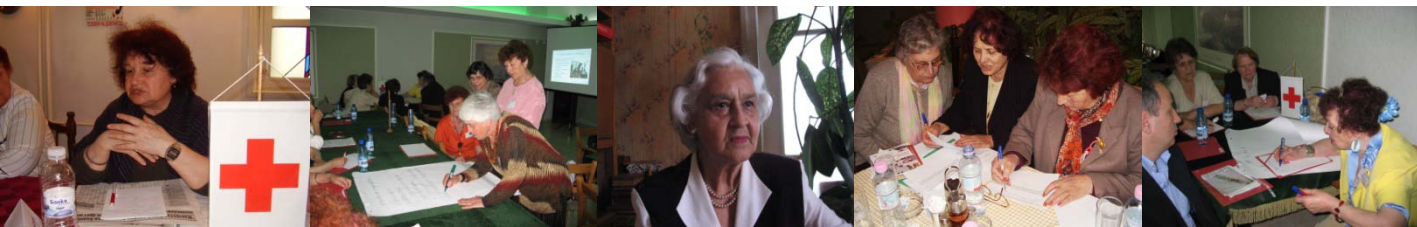




## A story of Dobra Ivanova

Dobra Ivanova is 69 years old, from Plovdiv. Every day of her life she offers to help vulnerable people. She has a dream, which didn't come true – to have children of her own. After a few unsuccessful attempts to be a biological mother, together with her husband she decided to adopt a child – a little girl, who gave meaning to their life. Now, they are one happy family and they have two grandchildren.

When she was 58 years old she left for the USA and lived there for 7 years – with her salary she supported her family in Bulgaria. When she came back to Bulgaria, one of the first things she did was to become a volunteer of the local branch of Bulgarian Red Cross in Plovdiv. She takes part in different activities which support vulnerable people. She's taking care of children from social institutions (orphans). She built up really strong relations with one of the children, whose mother died during the childbirth and his father is unknown. Now she is more than a mother for this boy.





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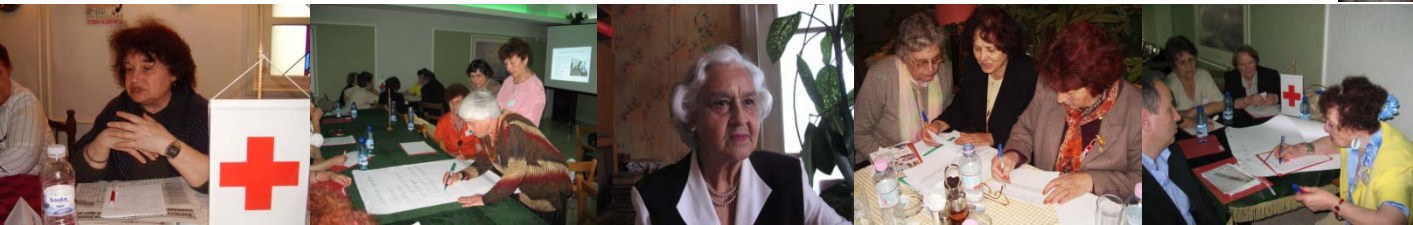


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A few months ago, together with one of her friends – Magdalina Rudova, understood that one women from Plovdiv, who lifes alone has a broken leg – she can't walk. She has no relatives to take care of her. They started to take care of her – every day they went to her home, prepared food for her, took care of her daily life, helped her to prepare the documents to be accommodated in the home for elderly people who have no relatives. Thanks to them, the woman is now feeling much better and able to walk again. Without the help of those two, the woman said, she would not be alive now.

Dobra says:

*“My mother always said to me: The more you give – the more you'll have”*



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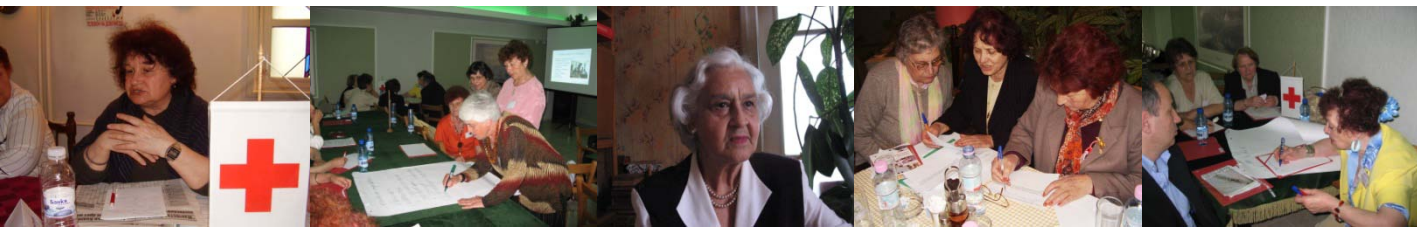
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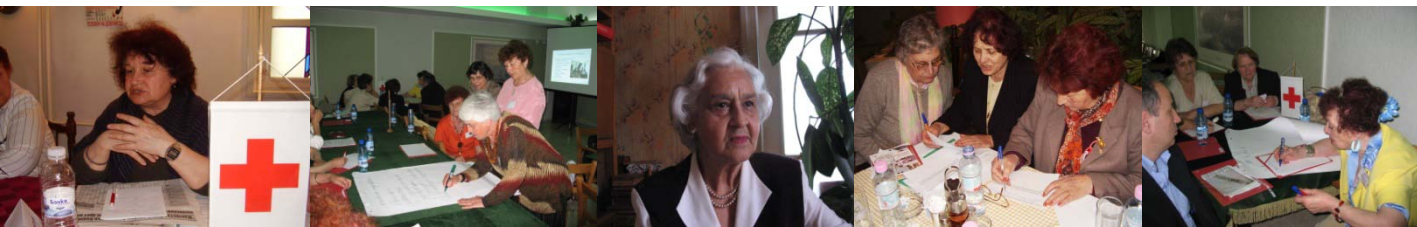
The interviews were conducted in 10 different regions of Bulgaria. The participants were chosen by the branches of the Bulgarian Red Cross. Most of them are volunteers for the BRC in different projects. The interviews were undertaken in small groups of volunteers of the third age.

All woman were very eager to talk about their lives and future. They were interested and supportive. The questionnaires delivered a good base for the interviews. The questions were easy to understand and to answer.





***Thank you for the  
attention!***

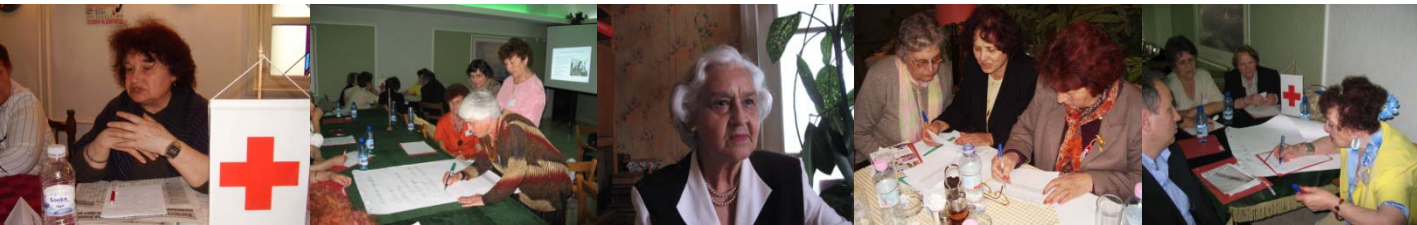




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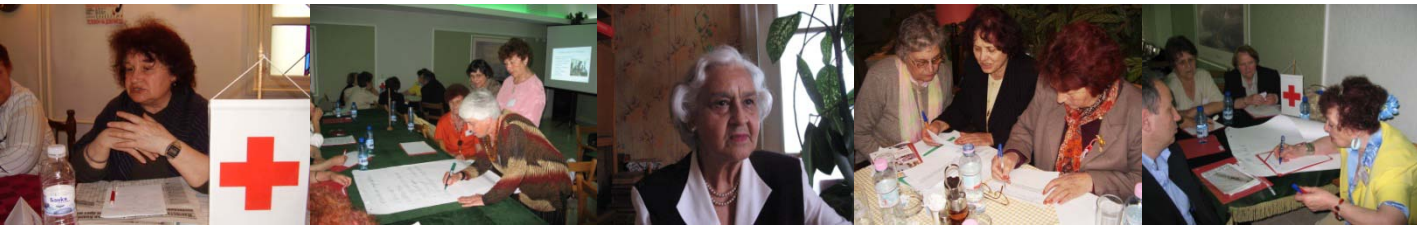
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