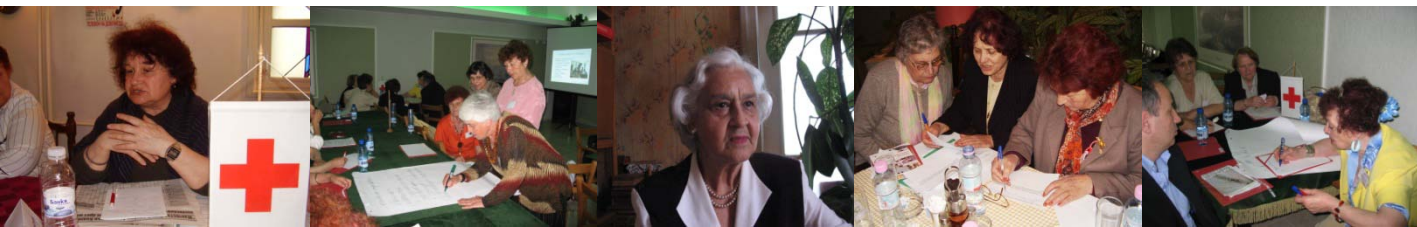


Presentation of the interviews

Third project meeting, Ferrara, Italy
20th – 21st October





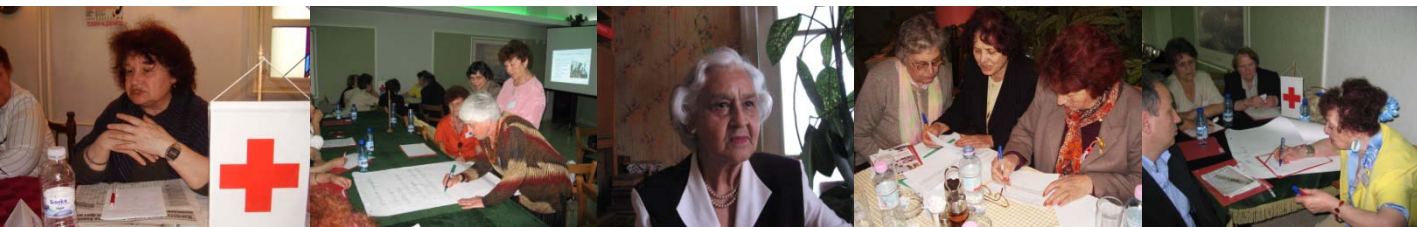
Maria Todorova



Maria is 78 years woman. She has 3 daughters – two of them are living in Spain, the other one died 17 years ago. She went to school only 3 years, because her parents were very poor, but they had a little farm and she had to help them in their work.

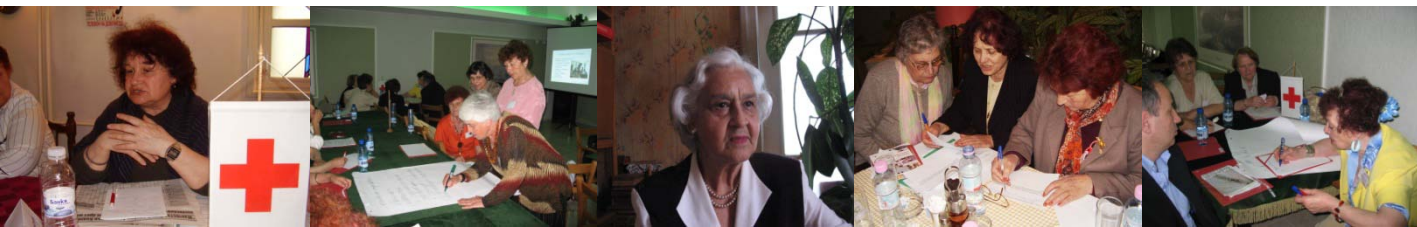
Interview

“I had really difficult life. I was married when I was 17 years old. My husband died 8 years later. This is one of the saddest memories in my life, because I loved him very much, he was the sense of my life. I was alone with three little children. I never married again. I was alone – together with my children – I was a mother and father for them. I worked in one factory, but I ensured their education. I thought that this is the most important thing for them and I hoped that they will have a really good and happy life. “



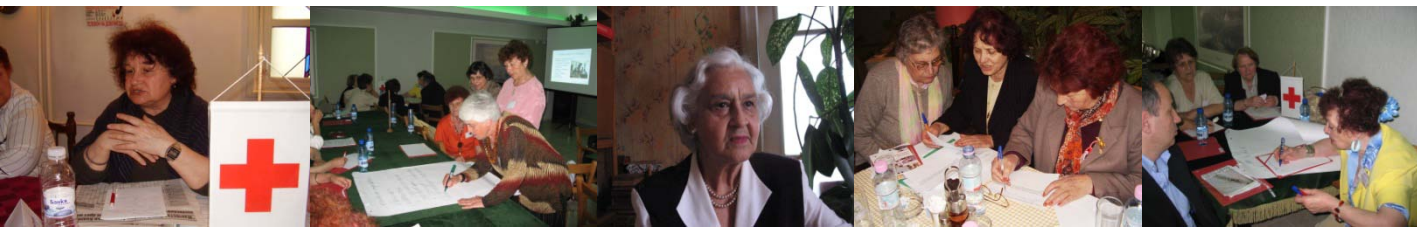
“The pleasant moments were when I gave birth to my daughters, but the real shock for me was 17 years ago, when Vera – my daughter died. You cannot imagine how I felt in this moment – the most difficult moment for every mother- to live more than her children. Now the other two daughters are living in Spain, together with their husbands and my grandchildren – I didn’t see them about 4 years.”

“Now I am living alone, but I am not feeling alone. I am a part of one group of pensioners, who are going in one of the homes for children who have no parents and relatives. Once a week we are going in home – there are really nice, beautiful and smart children, who never felt the love of the parents. My children are living far away from me and I try to help to the orphans to feel the love from grandmother. Now, they are the sense of my life.”





“I have a really bad health problem now. I am not sure how long I will be alive. But I want to say that the most important think of this life is to love each other and to help the people who need a support. Now I need a support and the Red Cross helps me. Thank you very much! If I feel better and go out from the hospital I will continue with the visits to the orphans and to try helping them.”





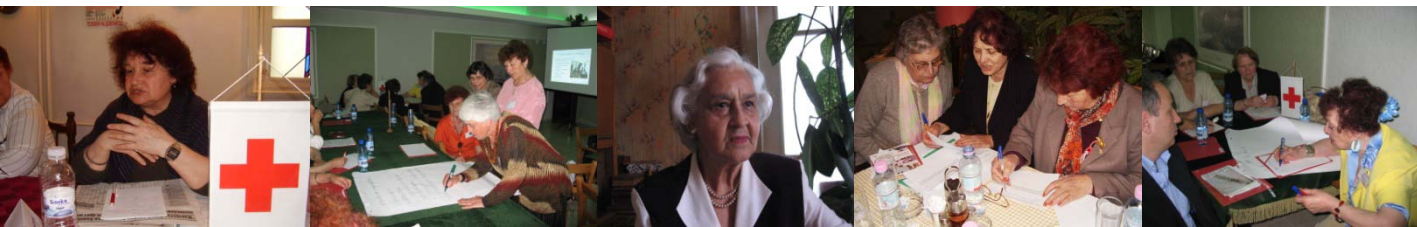
Elena Ivanova



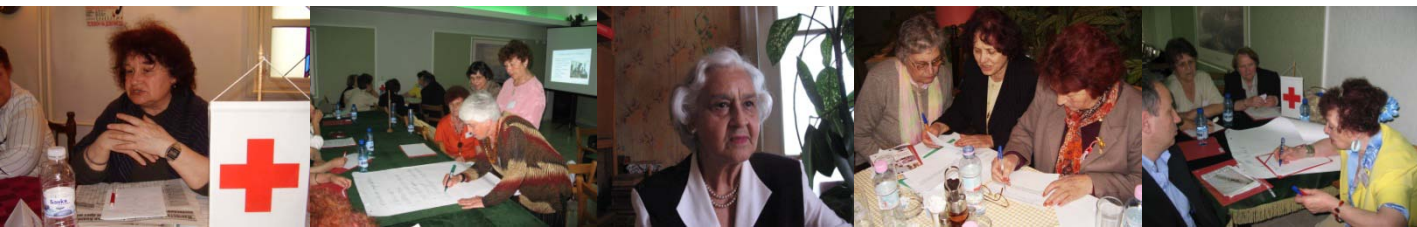
Elena is 81 years old woman. She was born in one of the biggest town in Bulgaria, which is near to the black sea – Bourgas, but now she is living in one small village in the other part of Bulgaria. She has 2 daughters and 4 grandchildren – two girls and two boys. “She has high educational level – she is a teacher.

“I was born in Bourgas. My father was born in Belomorska Trakia. My grandfather was a soldier. He was 4 years old when the Balkan war was. One night the Turkish soldier attacked their home, raped his mother and after that killed her. The neighbors helped him and they become migrants in South Bulgaria. One man and his family adopted him. “

“Sorry, I am not sure that this story is interesting for you, but I think that the history of the family is very important for the individual life. “



“I left in Bourgas together with my family – 2 brothers and one sister. When I was 23 years old I met my future husband. It was a love for first sign. He was a soldier in the town. I saw him 3 times and he left back to his born town. 3 years we wrote letters to each other and when we understood that we love each other – we got married. And this was one of the most difficult periods in my life – because my parents was not agree with this - he was from poor family and they thought that I will have a difficult life with him. But they were not right. “

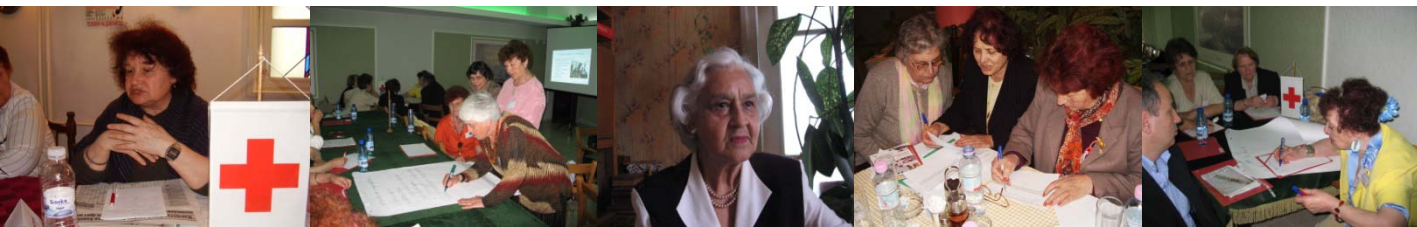




“When I went to the home town of my husband I became a teacher in one of the schools there. 7 years later I become a director of the school and it was till the time when I became a pensioner. But this was a new begging of my life. I started to work with children, from minority groups, who have problems in their mental development and social adaptation. About 20 years I am working with these children and it is a real pleasure for me. I help them for their social inclusion. Nowadays, 7 of them have high education and 5 of them have their own business.”

“Because of my health problems now I ‘m working with only one child, who is 9 years old, but he cannot read and write. I am sure that I will help him and I do all my best.”

“I am very proud with my children and they are the most important thing in my life. Together with my husband – my best friend”.





Atanasa Zgalevska

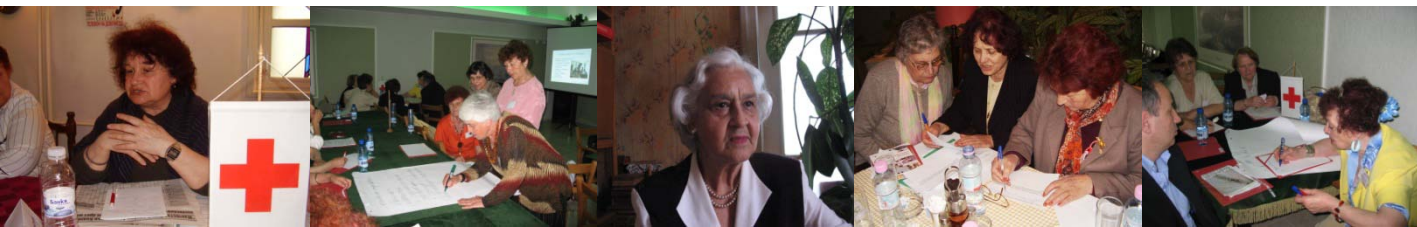


Atanasa is 65 years old woman. She has a son and a daughter. She is living together with them in the family house.

“The most difficult moment in my life is when 11 years ago my husband died. Two years later, on the same date I have had brain stroke. My children took care for me. There were long days, weeks and months of rehabilitation.”

“When I felt better I decided that if I could I would help to the people in need I have to do it. From this moment I am a BRC volunteer, I am a part of different activities to support vulnerable groups, for lobbying and advocacy activities, related to the older people problems in our regions”.

“The greatest feeling for me is when I see happiness in the eyes of the people. And I will do everything to do this to end of my life, because this is way of life”.





Vera Daskalova

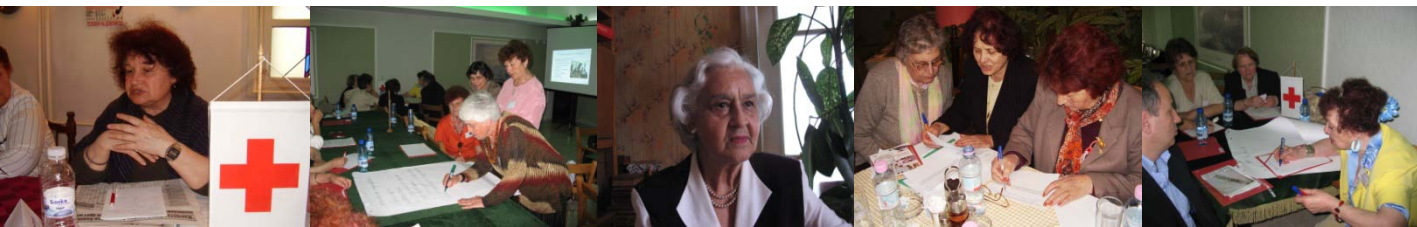


She is a part of Bulgarian Guinness Records Book- as the older volunteer in the country.

“I was born in the village of Sitovo, region of Plovdiv on 23th of March 1920. From 1941 I’m living in the town of Plovdiv. I am married with one daughter.”

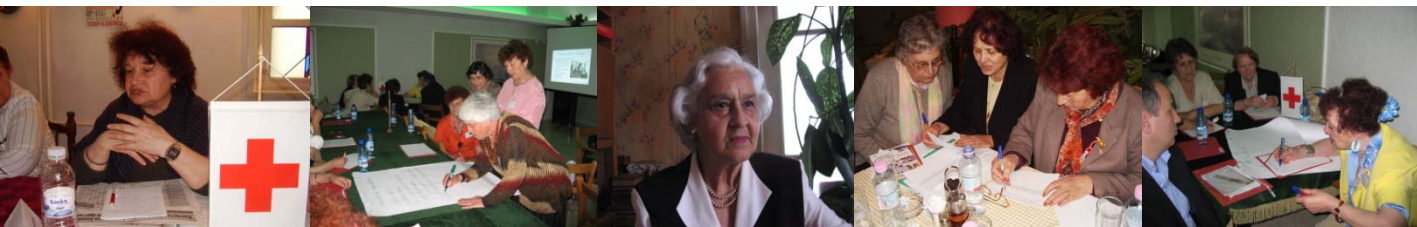
“One of the most difficult moments in my life was when I lost my husband, but this made me stronger and I have the power to meet the calamities of life”

“In the beginning of my working carrier I was a chef in the kitchen of the Medical University, later, after my second educational level in the town of Sofia, I received a certificate as a nutritionist. From 1978 I am a pensioner.”





The pleasant moment in my life was when I became a volunteer of the local branch of BRC in Plovdiv in 1958. I am a part of all organizational activities and I grow up as a person. Now I am one of the “veteran volunteers” of the organization and I am a part of the social programs for little children and it makes me feel a live. The most of the people are talking that the people from the third age are vulnerable group – yes, in many cases this is true. But I think that the most important thing is that we, the older people could help to other vulnerable groups – children, who have no relatives.”





Thank you for the attention !!!!!

