

# **CHAPTER IV**

## **RESULTS OF TRAINING**

### **UNDER THE PROJECT DANET**

#### **§1. PANEL DISCUSSION I:**

#### **ACTIVE AGEING IN EUROPE /**

#### **SOLIDARITY BETWEEN THE GENERATIONS**

##### **1.1. Content of the Panel Discussion I**

On 4 February 2011, in the building of “Angel Kanchev” University of Rousse was conducted the first panel discussion under the subject “Active Ageing in Europe/Solidarity between the Generations”, organized in the frames of the program “Europe for Citizens” as part of the project DANET. Participants in the discussion were over 50 adults from the Union of Pensioners from Rousse, the municipalities of Dve Mogili, Tsenovo, Slivo pole, Vyatovo and Byala, and also active and retired teachers from the University. The panel discussion was opened by the coordinator Prof. N.Mihailov.

The main questions of Panel Discussion I were.

Two levels: structural and personal to sharpen awareness of who can act on which level: self-determined life – how long can I keep up self-determined life (isolation, small families, mobility):

- ✓ Demographic development.
- ✓ Social security insurance and how to finance it.
- ✓ Pension systems and sustainability.
- ✓ Flexible security.
- ✓ Diversity of ageing – the meaning of „third age“.
- ✓ Dare to become older (some never grow up or get old).
- ✓ How are seniors seen in different countries and how can we change the image, if it is negative. How are seniors seen in their own country? Self-perception.
- ✓ Active ageing – possibilities for staying active.
- ✓ Necessity of learning in later life.
- ✓ Empowering older people.
- ✓ New technologies – how these can be used to bridge the generations.
- ✓ Is ageing society a benefit or a threat in social developments? The subject matter needs to be addressed from the viewpoint of all generations.
- ✓ Solidarity between generations – the importance of intergenerational learning – how this can be done, possibilities for meetings of generations, understanding younger generations (they are less and less as there are fewer children, etc.)?
- ✓ Social exclusion vs. Social inclusion (public places, opportunities).

Mrs. Lidya Naydenova, Head of Department “Pensions” in the Regional Department for Social Security from the National Social Security Institute gave a lecture on the problems of the demographic development, retirement systems and insurances.

Assoc. Prof. Petar Petrov from the department of “Pedagogy, Psychology and

History” of the Faculty of Natural Science and Education at the University of Rousse gave a lecture on the problems of the rights of pensioners, solidarity between generations, active ageing and the use of new technology by adults as well as and the need for life-long learning [2, 3].

The discussion was broadcast live on the Internet and widely publicized in the national and regional media [61].

## 1.2. Survey on Active Ageing

The representatives of the UP’2004-Rousse created a test for of the participants in the Panel I “Active Ageing in Europe / Solidarity between the Generations” which was ac a result of spontaneous discussing of the problems of adults.

The main aim of the test was to survey the opinion of participants about the items discussed and to apply the test results in the planning of future activities of the union members.

The results from the survey conducted have been analysed and discussed at a meeting between the project team and representatives of UP’2004 – Rousse, as well as at a session of the Union of Pensioners’ Management with the aim of defining future activities in compliance with the needs of the senior citizens in the Danube region.

### T E S T

1. Are you satisfied with the flexibility in solving the demographic development problems, the reform of the retirement system in Bulgaria in accordance with the requirements of European legislation?

YES

NO

2. Is there fear of ageing in the people of the “third age”?

YES

NO

3. Do the pensioners have a positive or a negative attitude to their country with respect to the changes that are taking place?

YES

NO

4. Is it necessary to expand or improve the rights of pensioners in Bulgaria through new legislation?

YES NO

5. Can we counteract fast ageing if we stay active longer, through studying and participation in social life?

YES NO

6. Can using the new communication technologies to some extent create a bridge between generations?

YES NO

7. Is “ageing society” useful for the social development of all generations in our country and in the European Union?

YES NO

8. Can solidarity between generations be achieved based on the economic interests of the young through communication, understanding and studying the needs of the young generation?

YES NO

9. Has enough consideration been given to the role of senior citizens for the development of a society of general welfare?

YES NO

10. Will the goals for changing the environment and the civic society, related to the future development of the Danube region and solving the problems of the European Union be achieved?

YES NO

11. Do you have a computer at home?

YES NO

12. Write down your opinion about the other problems of seniors in Bulgaria which need to be addressed and solved.

.....  
.....

The results have been disseminated among the members of the Union.



### 1.3. Analysis of the Results

The results of the training in the demographic development, retirement systems, etc. (problems and solutions) are presented in Fig. 1.

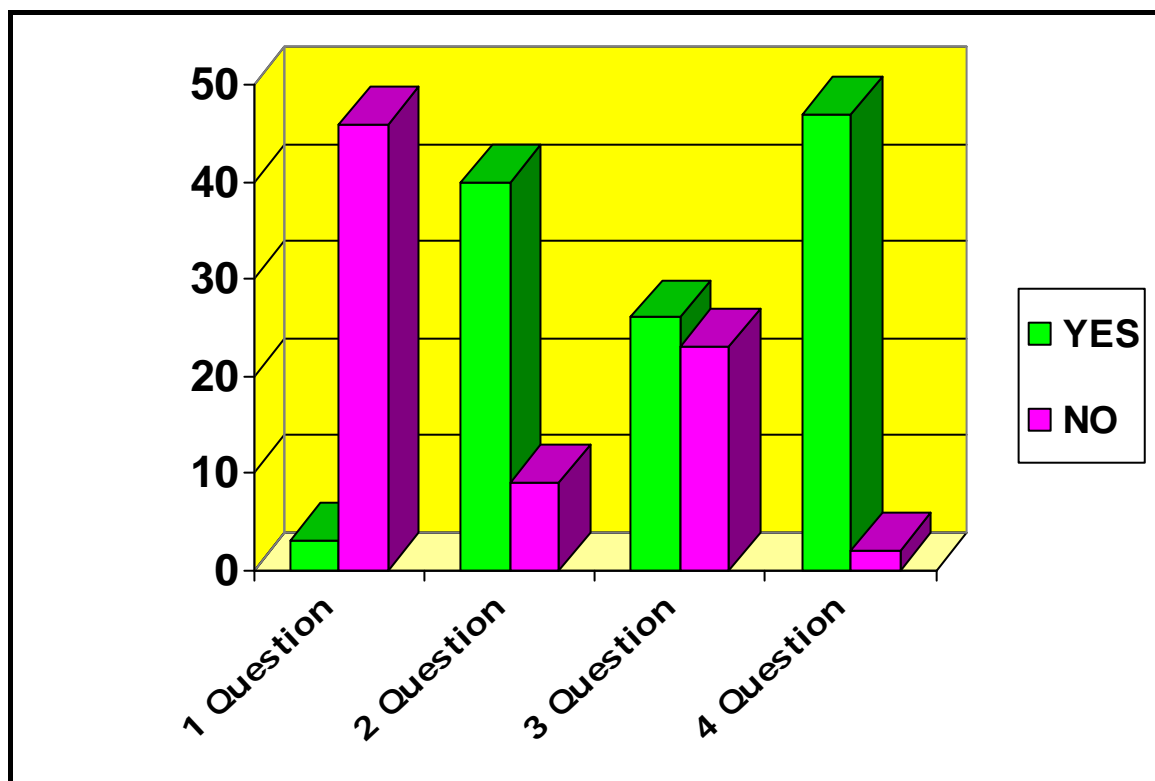


Figure 1

### CONCLUSIONS

**The pensioners are afraid of ageing.**

**They are not satisfied by the structure and functions of the retirement system.**

**There exists a necessity of increasing the rights of pensioners in Bulgaria through new legislation**

The results of the training in the solidarity between generations, the conditions for active ageing, the role of adults for society changing and development, etc. are presented in Fig. 2

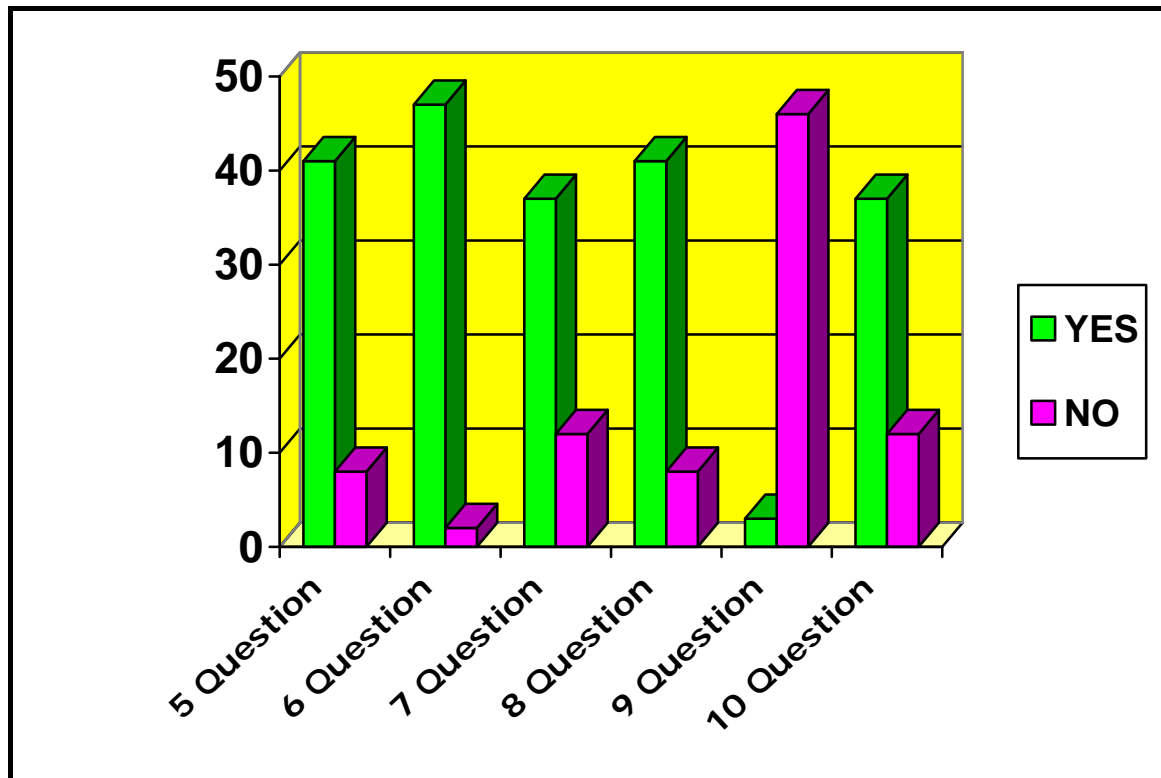


Figure 2

## CONCLUSIONS

The pensioners are convinced that they are useful for the society in which they live and they believe that through education and active inclusion they can resist rapid ageing.

They adopt new technologies in communications, and see them, combined with learning about the needs of the young, as an opportunity to create a bridge between generations.

They believe that civic society in Bulgaria will be changed with respect to the Danube region and the EU.

Almost all pensioners think that little account is taken of their role in achieving social welfare

## 1.4. Summary of Conclusions from the Panel Discussion I

The participants in the discussion were not satisfied by the way demographic problems have been tackled and suggested participation of pensioners in the preparation of a long-term strategy.

Politicians should put in the centre of public concern the demographic state of the Bulgarian nation, which is the foundation of efficient social policy.

There exists fear of ageing among pensioners.

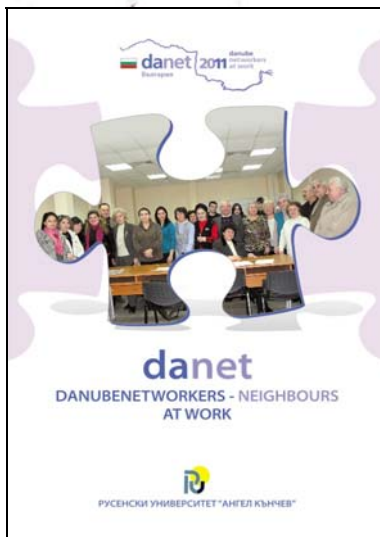
Active ageing is justified by the public need for pensioners' knowledge and experience, by their individual activity and positive attitude, by the use of advanced information and communication technologies, by their participation in various forms of education, encouraging amateur creativity and preservation of cultural and historical values, by the love of the people around us.

The pensioners' clubs are the centres which create conditions for active communication and overcoming the social disintegration (exclusion)

On one hand, solidarity is an important psychological pre-requisite for active ageing; on the other hand, it is a valuable foundation for passing experience and traditions down to the younger generation. An important aim to achieve in the communication between the generations is support and ignoring of conflicts through adopting of new attitudes and rationalizing the old status from new perspectives. This can be achieved through exchange of knowledge and experience in specific areas and breathing respect and trust in the state institutions.

Pensioners think that healthcare should support not medical treatment but a healthy way of living.

**Panel Discussion I, 4 February, 2011**





CHAPTER IV: Results of Training under the Project DANET



*Results of Training under the Project DANET, Emiliya Velikova*



CHAPTER IV: Results of Training under the Project DANET



## **§2. PANEL DISCUSSION II:**

### **SUSTAINABILITY OF CULTURAL HERITAGE / NATIONAL AND EUROPEAN IDENTITY**

#### **2.1. Content of the Panel Discussion II**

The Panel Discussion II was held on 19 March, 2011 at the University of Rousse with 42 participants. It was opened by the coordinator Prof. Nikolay Mihailov.

The main questions of the Panel Discussion II were.

Culture: as an issue in connection with entry in EU-membership

- ✓ Two half identities are less than one, but one can have more than one identity.
- ✓ Value of languages in Europe, language as an expression of culture.
- ✓ Language diversity as a chance.
- ✓ Developed national cultural identity as pre-condition.
- ✓ Multiculturalism on individual level.
- ✓ What are the shared values of European seniors (what is to be a national senior and a European senior, common human aspects)?
- ✓ How to protect our cultural identity towards power of multicultural concerns?
- ✓ Intergenerational views on the topics of culture and identity.

Professor Vassil Doykov gave a lecture on the panel topic. To illustrate the problems of the Bulgarian identity the lecturer presented characteristics of other nations that define their identity. He pointed out some national values of Bulgarians: rich and ancient culture, achievements in the field of literature, art, sport, social development. Some dramatic demographic trends were emphasized too such as a large number of pensioners, a small number of children, and emigration of young people. These trends are characteristic of all European states and even of countries like China and Japan.

It is expected that on joining the European Union, Bulgaria will preserve its identity, but it will adopt the European norms of civilized development,

tolerance, mutual penetration of cultures, foreign language acquisition for facilitating the communication between people, acquiring the new information and communication technologies, as well as continuous education (life-long learning).

The retirees expressed their desire to be actively involved in the social life in our country.

The participants in the discussion are confident that the DANET project is just the beginning in Rouse region but it will contribute towards the realization of those expectations to a great extent.

## **2.2. Summary of conclusions from the Panel Discussion II**

Meetings with elderly people from other countries are extremely necessary for the exchange of information and experience, for open acceptance of new ideas and good practices. The current project DANET is just a promising beginning.

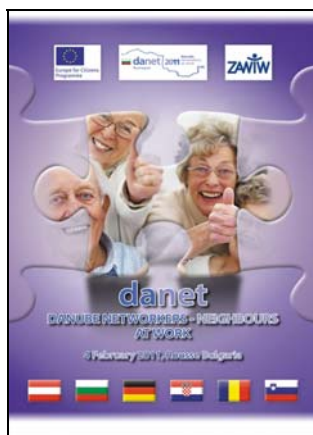
The Union of Pensioners'2004 – Rouse is instrumental in the preservation of cultural and historical heritage, the customs and traditions and their successful passing to the younger generation.

UP'2004 – Rouse is the organizer of the annual events “Colourful Horo Dance” (with over 150 participants) and “No Age for Talent” (with over 450) in Rouse. Both events are in full accordance with the ideas of the project panel about sustainability of cultural heritage and national identity.

Hatred, opposition, mistrust and aggression, which ‘soared during the transition period’ should be replaced by European tolerance, goodwill and mutual aid.

Our Bulgarian identity should be supporting our European individuality, not opposing it.

**Panel Discussion II, 19 March, 2011**



CHAPTER IV: Results of Training under the Project DANET



### **§3. PANEL DISCUSSION III: MIGRATION AS A CHALLENGE / INTEGRATION AS A CHANCE**

#### **3.1. Content of the Panel Discussion III**

The Panel Discussion III was held on 29 April, 2011 in the town of Vyatovo with 33 participant. It was opened by the President of the UP'2004-Rousse, eng. Y.Kazakov.

The main questions of the Panel Discussion III were.

- ✓ Concentration on medium scale migration (Danube region).
- ✓ Making conscious that migration is an opportunity to heal wounds.
- ✓ Seniors (from minorities) as a bridge between minorities.
- ✓ Religion as a barrier between minorities.
- ✓ Issues concerning old migrants, integrating new migrants (Chinese, Africans).
- ✓ How can good intercultural community, relations, could be build?
- ✓ What activities would be good for good living together?
- ✓ Benefits of mixtures of experience & knowledge.
- ✓ Migration in own country rural/urban (in Croatia, etc.).
- ✓ Terminology of “minderheit “/ “minority”, etc.
- ✓ Economic migration – inside the country and out.

Assoc. Prof. Lyubomir Zlatev from the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Education, the University of Rousse, gave a lecture on the topic of “Migration and Integration of Minorities”.

Mrs. Vyara Koseva, an ethnographer, commented on the ethnographic aspects of migration and the minorities in the region.

Dr. Reihan Kabil, Mayor of Vyatovo, commented on the issue of migration in his municipality as a sustainable process, influenced by the uniqueness of the multi-ethnic environment and the characteristic life signs – preserving the traditions, keeping an open mind for science, demonstrating religious and



ethnic tolerance.

Mr. Stancho Stanchev from the UP'2004–Rousse conducted a survey “Migration, family and names” or “Who was the child named after?”. The main purpose of the survey was to survey the trends for naming of children and grandchildren of the participants, a great part of whom had migrated. The main conclusion from the survey was that migration did not affect the choice of personal names in the surveyed group of children from various ethnic groups.

On the territory of Vetovo municipality there live several ethnoses – Bulgarian, Turkish, Tatars and Roma. The discussion brought out the ethnic tolerance in the relationship between those ethnic groups through a multimedia presentation. Father Elija and Hodga Ismail, representing Christianity and Islam, expressed their opinions about the existing religious tolerance with the slogan “Diverse but united”.

Representatives from the local school and library expressed their willingness to aid the education of adults on the issues of migration and integration of diverse ethnic minorities.

Michail Angelov, a poet of Roma origin, supported the ideas of the discussion through some impressive verses.

A survey on the issues of migration, its causes and its influence on the young and the old, as well as on the preservation of ethnic and religious traditions has been developed and conducted at the end of the discussion.

### 3.2. Survey on Migration

The representatives of the UP'2004-Rousse created a test for of the participants in the Panel III “Migration as a Challenge / Integration as a Chance” which was created in a discussion of the life of adults without migrated children.

The main aim of the test was to survey the opinion of participants about the items discussed and to apply the test results in the life of the union members.

The results from the survey conducted have been analysed and discussed at a

meeting between the project team and representatives of UP'2004 – Rousse, as well as at a session of the Union of Pensioners' Management. The results have been disseminated among the members of the Union.

### **T E S T**

1. Does the economic situation in the country affect the migration of the population?

YES NO PARTIALLY

2. The internal migration is due to lack of work places.

YES NO PARTIALLY

3. The external migration is due to:

a/ looking for jobs

b/ desire to learn about the world

c/ other

4. Does migration affect other forms of life of the people?

YES NO PARTIALLY

5. Is there a danger of folk traditions and customs to be forgotten by the emigrants?

YES NO PARTIALLY

6. Do relationships between parents and children change as a result of migration?

YES NO PARTIALLY

7. Do relationships in the families of young emigrants change?

YES NO PARTIALLY

8. Is it right for the seniors to take the duties and responsibilities of young parents in emigration concerning the upbringing of their children?

YES NO PARTIALLY

9. Do good neighbourly relations help seniors to overcome loneliness and missing their children?

CHAPTER IV: Results of Training under the Project DANET

- |  | YES | NO | PARTIALLY |
|--|-----|----|-----------|
| 10. Are ethnic and religious differences an obstacle for overcoming loneliness?  |     |    |           |
|  | YES | NO | PARTIALLY |
| 11. Is there any danger for foreign language practice to replace Bulgarian language in some spheres of communication?                              |     |    |           |
|  | YES | NO | PARTIALLY |
| 12. Is the Bulgarian national tradition in emigrant families affected when they choose the first names of their children ?                         |     |    |           |
|  | YES | NO | PARTIALLY |
| 13. Can the local government and the Union of Pensioners 2004 cooperate to some extent in overcoming the consequences of migration for pensioners? |     |    |           |
|  | YES | NO | PARTIALLY |
| 14. Do you have relatives who have emigrated abroad?   |     |    |           |
|  | YES | NO | PARTIALLY |
| 15. Do your relatives abroad help you financially?   |     |    |           |
|  | YES | NO | PARTIALLY |
| 16. Which country do you have relatives in?  |     |    |           |
|  | YES | NO | PARTIALLY |
| 17. Do your relatives have a desire or intention to return to Bulgaria?  |     |    |           |
|  | YES | NO | PARTIALLY |
| 18. Other opinions.....  |     |    |           |
| .....  |     |    |           |

### 3.3. Analysis of the Results

97% of the respondents reported that the economic situation in the country affects the migration of the population (Fig. 3).

Most of the respondents (91%) defined that internal migration as due to lack of work places and only 3% of the respondents didn't agree (Fig. 4).

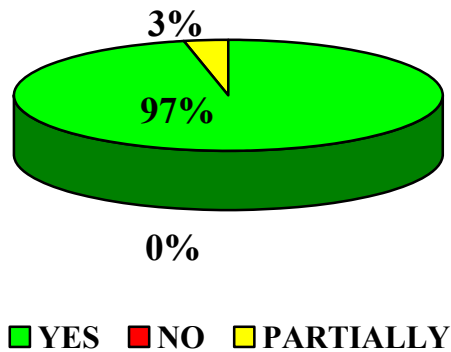


Figure 3

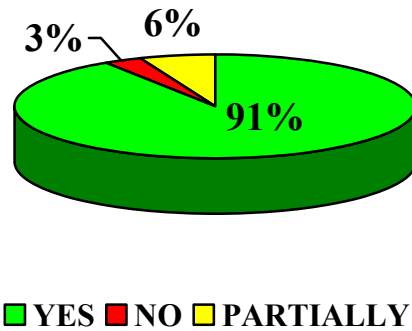


Figure 4

According to the opinion of the pensioners external migration was due to:

- a/ looking for jobs - 84%;
- b/ desire to learn about the world - 6%;
- c/ other – 10%.

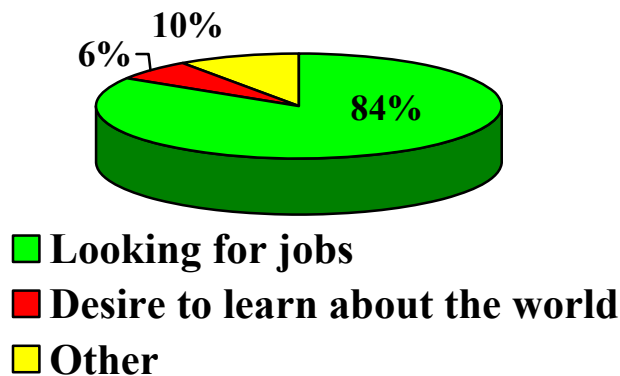


Figure 5

CHAPTER IV: Results of Training under the Project DANET

71% of the respondents agreed that migration affects other forms of life of the people, 10 % did not agree and 19% reported that the effect was partial (Fig. 6).

With respect to migration as a base for forgetting folk traditions and customs by the emigrants the respondents' answers could be divided into three approximately equal parts (Fig. 7).

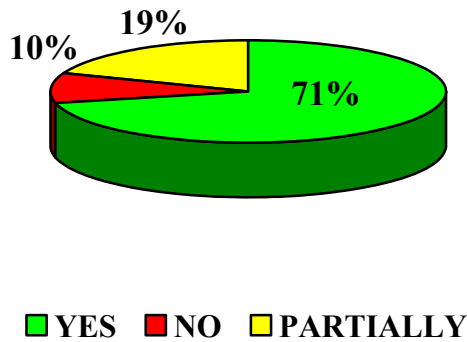


Figure 6

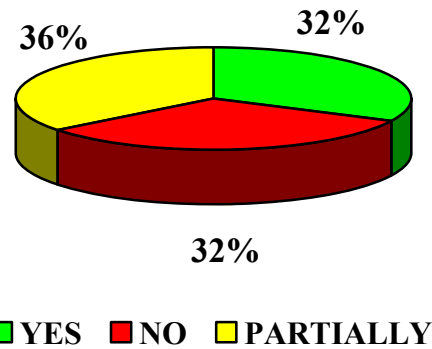


Figure 7

According to the pensioners, the migration changed much more the relations between parents and children (74%, Fig. 8), than the relationships in the families of young emigrants (65%, Fig. 9).

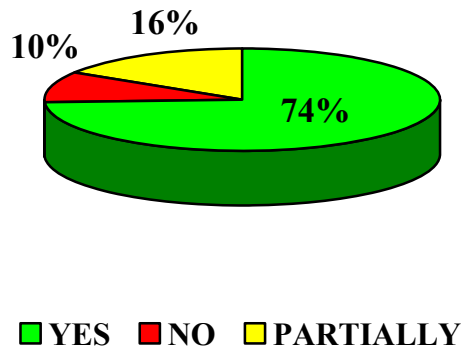


Figure 8

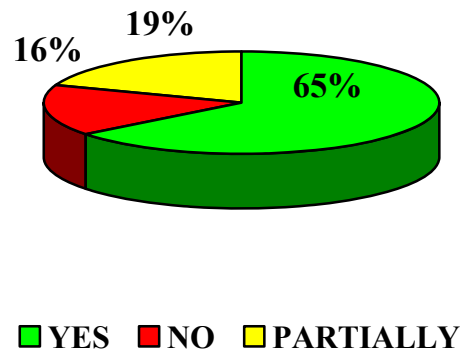


Figure 9

48% of the tested seniors (Fig. 10) did not agree to take the duties and responsibilities of young parents in emigration concerning the upbringing of their children.

The seniors who had children abroad reported that good neighbourly relations helped them to overcome loneliness and missing their children (97%) (Fig. 11).

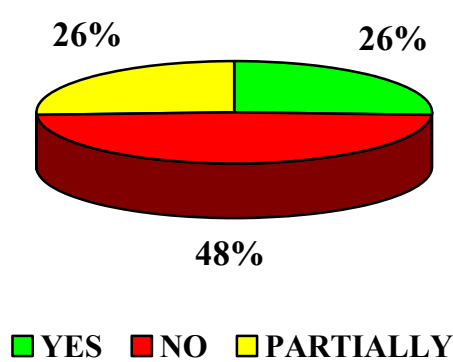


Figure 10

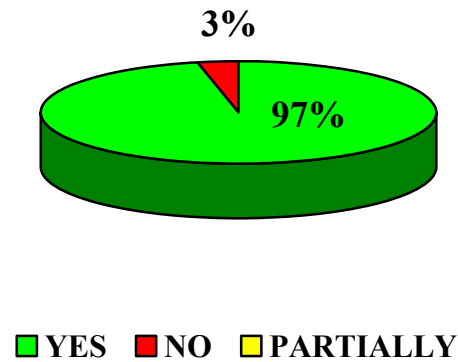


Figure 11

There are many respondents (65%) who did not definite the ethnic and religious differences as an obstacle for overcoming loneliness (Fig. 12).

There were only 39% of seniors who reported that there existed danger for replacing the Bulgarian language in some spheres of communication with the foreign language practice (Fig. 13)

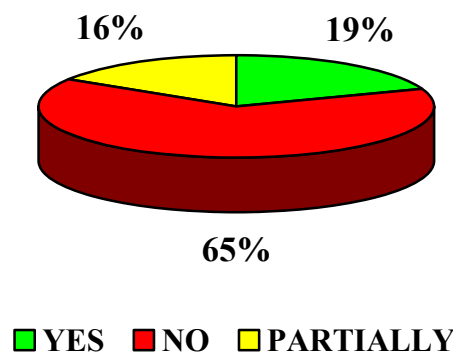


Figure 12

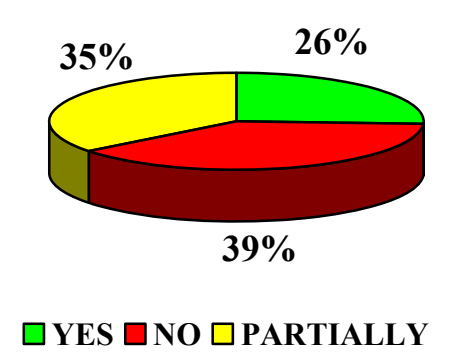


Figure 13

CHAPTER IV: Results of Training under the Project DANET

The opinion of over half of the tested seniors (52%) was that the Bulgarian national tradition in emigrant families had been affected when they had to choose the first names of their children (Fig. 14).

39% of the respondents reported that the local government and the Union of Pensioners'2004 could cooperate to some extent in overcoming the consequences of migration for pensioner (Fig. 15).

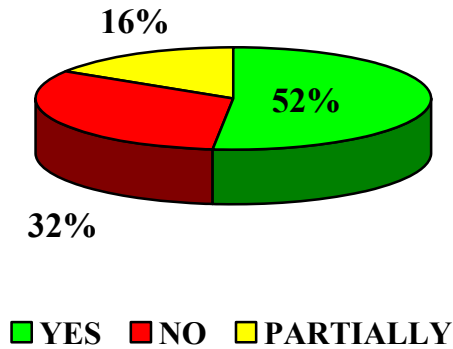


Figure 14

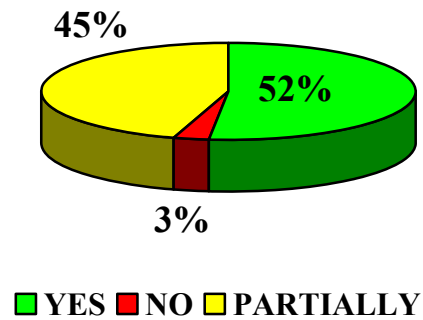


Figure 15

Over half of the respondents (52%) had relatives who had emigrated abroad (Fig. 16). Only 16% of the seniors had full and 16% had partial financial help by the relatives abroad (Fig. 17).

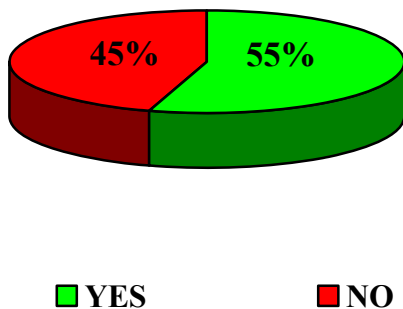


Figure 16

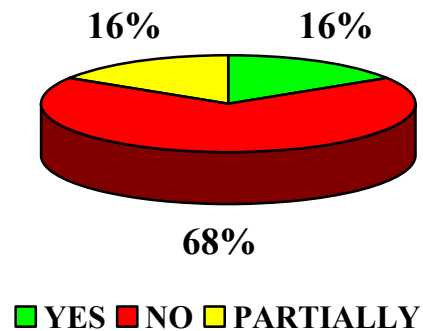


Figure 17

The seniors had relatives in the following countries (Fig. 18).

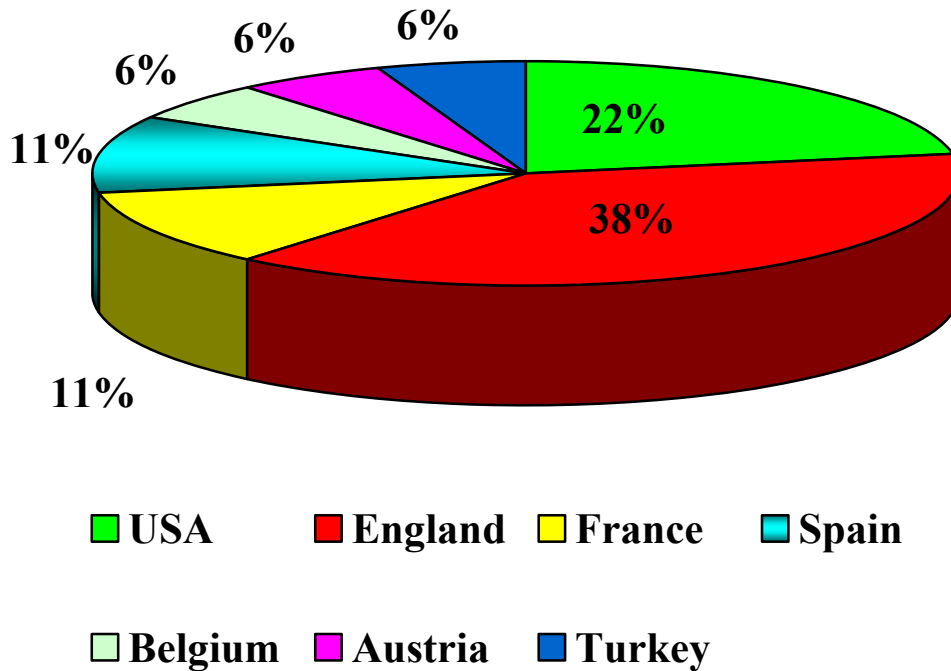


Figure 18

71% of the seniors' relatives had a desire or intention to return to Bulgaria.

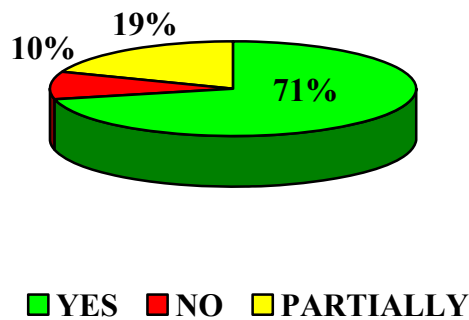


Figure 19



### 3.4. Scientific Survey on Migration, Family and Names

As most children of the participants in the Panel Discussion III are migrants, there is scientific interest in the influence of migration and ethnos on the names of children and grandchildren.

Mr. Stancho Stanchev conducted a scientific survey “Migration, family and names” or “Who was the child named after?” as part of the panel.

The goal of the survey was to determine the characteristics of personal names children’s names, parent naming practices, etc.

#### T E S T

1. Name of the child?.....
2. Full name (three names) of the father?.....
3. Full names of the father’s mother?.....
4. Full name of the mother?.....
5. Full names of the mother’s mother ?.....
6. Ful names of the godfather?.....
7. Who was the child named after?.....

The survey results are presented on the project web site:

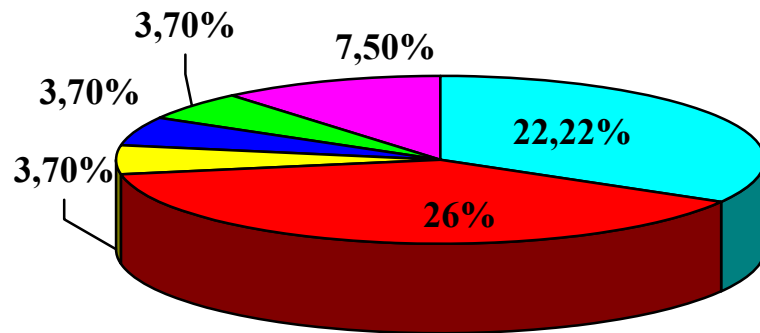
<http://www.danet-at-work.eu/bg/category/paneli-bg/migracija/>

The choice of the children’s names (for boys and for girls) according to different factors is presented in the Fig. 20 and Fig. 21, respectively.

#### CONCLUSIONS

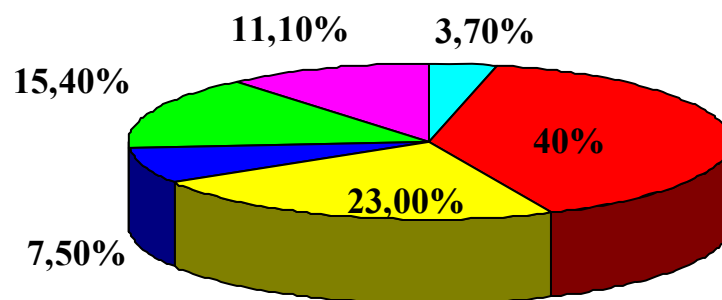
**The main conclusion of the results was that migration hadn’t affected the characteristics of the personal children’s names significantly.**

**The innovation is that the choice of personal children’s names was not significant.**



- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <span style="color: cyan;">■</span> Name of relative         | <span style="color: red;">■</span> First letter      |
| <span style="color: yellow;">■</span> Short form of the name | <span style="color: blue;">■</span> Root of the name |
| <span style="color: green;">■</span> Nick name               | <span style="color: magenta;">■</span> Nobody        |

Figure 20



- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <span style="color: cyan;">■</span> Name of relative         | <span style="color: red;">■</span> First letter      |
| <span style="color: yellow;">■</span> Short form of the name | <span style="color: blue;">■</span> Root of the name |
| <span style="color: green;">■</span> Nick name               | <span style="color: magenta;">■</span> Nobody        |

Figure 21



### 3.5. Summary of conclusions from the Panel Discussion III

The ethnic groups Bulgarian, Turkish, Tatars and Roma in Vyatovo live in the conditions of ethnic and religious tolerance.

The emigration and developing of small settlements will continue in the future. All countries experience a similar trend.

The problem of integration of minorities is social, not political.

Communication between the people, irrespective of their ethnic and religious diversity, is a value of civic society.

Both internal and external migration is due to the lack of work places, caused by the economic crisis.

Migration does not affect significantly the choice of personal names for children.

The slogan of the diverse religious groups will be “Diverse but united”.

It is necessary to have more discussions on similar topics in the region.

#### Panel Discussion III, 29 April, 2011



*Results of Training under the Project DANET, Emiliya Velikova*



## §4. PANEL DISCUSSION IV:

### ECOLOGY / ENVIRONMENT

#### 4.1. Content of the Panel Discussion IV

The Panel Discussion IV was held on 24 June, 2011 in the village of Tabachka, Region of Ivanovo in the nature park “Roussenski Lom”. More than 100 children, youth and participants from the pensioners clubs in Tabachka, Rousse, Slivo pole, Borovo, Ivanovo, Dve mogili, Byala, Vetovo, Tsenovo, from the University of Rousse and from the University of Eskisehir, Turkey took part in the discussion. The building was small for all youth and adults who wanted to discuss the topic “Ecology / Environment”.

The main questions of the Panel Discussion IV were.

- ✓ Transnational cooperation of organisations:
- ✓ Ecological catastrophes are a matter of cooperation between the neighboring countries (Hungarian disaster).
- ✓ Practical measures for species protection (e.g. frogs and traffic), preserving natural spots.
- ✓ National heritage and sustainable local development on local level (villages, etc.).
- ✓ Energy levels (European/African Desertec program) , destruction of resources, energy export, should be addressed in some depth.
- ✓ What concrete actions should be taken by young and old to improve this situation.

Mr. Lyubomir Atanasov and Mrs. Svetla Ivanova, experts from the Regional Inspectorate for Water and Environmental Protection gave lectures on the topic of “Environmental protection”. They presented the current legislature related to protection of the flora and fauna in Bulgaria, waste disposal, information systems developed, and the activities of the state for conservation of the biodiversity in the “Roussenski Lom” Nature park and “Sreburna” Nature reserve. The role of adults in educating the young generation and encouraging them to preserve the parks and other natural sights and take care of the protected plant and animal species was pointed out.

The participants expressed their concern about the deterioration of the environment and made proposals for aiding the state by active involvement on the information system of the Regional Inspectorate for Water and Environmental Protection.

The need for obtaining energy from renewable energy sources and using the nuclear power was emphasized.

The participants gathered herbs from the Nature park to commemorate the custom “Enjov den”. The active participants were granted special awards. Lively folk dances marked the end of the holiday.

A decision was made to inform the members of regional pensioners’ clubs about the content of the discussion and to encourage the organization of similar discussions with the aim of aiding the state in its struggle to preserve the environment clean.

#### **4.2. Summary of conclusions from the Panel Discussion IV**

It is advisable to obtain energy from renewable energy sources, including biomass as a source of energy.

It is necessary to support the use of nuclear power and the development of nuclear power plants in Bulgaria.

The elderly can aid the efforts of the state institutions for conservation by getting actively involved in the state information system.

It is advisable to produce and use organic foods (to develop organic agriculture).

The possibility for applying for a project with the purpose of improving the entrance-exit border points around the Danube Bridge should be investigated in cooperation with the pensioners’ syndicate in Giurgiu, Romania.

The energy potential of the river Danube should be used on the basis of innovative power technologies, which are not harmful for the environment and the climate.

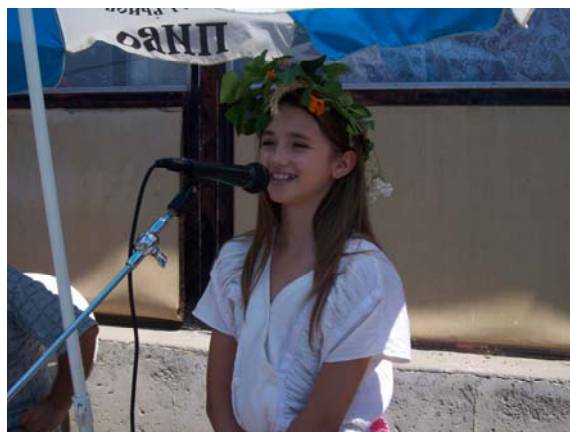


CHAPTER IV: Results of Training under the Project DANET

Panel Discussion IV, 24 June, 2011



*Results of Training under the Project DANET, Emiliya Velikova*





## **§5. TRAINING FOR NEW INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES USAGE**

The decision to organize a training course in New Information Technology Usage was taken on 11 January, 2010 at the organizational meeting of the Bulgarian project team from the University of Rouse and the council of the UP'2004-Rouse. The decision was relevant to the project aim to create international network for communication by Internet, e-mail, skype between adults on matters related to EU policies that affect their daily life and on some key European challenges for the future.

The training was organized by Assoc. Prof. Dr Emilia Velikova. The course was open on 31 January, 2011 and it was closed on 15 April, 2011 by Prof. Dr Nikolay Mihailov, Vice Rector of RU and Bulgarian project coordinator. The course started with 26 seniors

The instructors were university students from the course “Teachers in Mathematics and Informatics” and pensioners of RU.

It was held on 5, 12 and 19 February, 12, 19 and 26 March, 9, 10 and 15 April, 2011.

### **CONCLUSIONS**

**One of the main results was a new society created by seniors for exchanging organizational information, interesting presentations, music, etc. Such kind of society did not exist in Rouse region.**

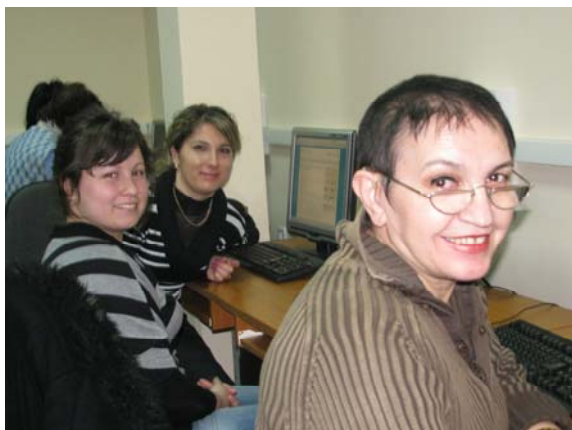
**One of the insufficient outcomes of the project in Bulgaria, which will be a problem for further work, is that in spite of the cooperation on the part of students and lecturers from Ruse University, the training in computer literacy and the use of Internet was marked by;**

- ✓ **the small number of pensioners (20) who participated in it;**
- ✓ **a very small number of pensioners were willing to send a written input on the discussion topics.**

**Training of seniors for New Information Technology Usage,  
Instructors - university students  
in the course “Mathematics and Informatics”**



CHAPTER IV: Results of Training under the Project DANET



## **§6. OTHER RESULTS OF TRAINING UNDER THE PROJECT DANET**

Three surveys, 2 protocols, 5 essays, 2 scientific papers and many reports and presentations were developed by the participants in the training and in the international conferences which were organized under the project DANET.

1) Summary of Panel Discussion II (Protocol) [62]

Author: Yordanka Peneva

2) Summary of Panel Discussion III (Protocol) [63]

Author: Ginka Krumova

3) Impressed and elated! (Essay) 63, 64]

Author: Mihail Mitkov / artistic name Sevim Palauzov

4) Conclusions and Thoughts after the First International Conference under the Project DANET with Bulgarian Participation, 2011, Shibenik, Croatia (Essay)

Author: Tsvetaka Petrova

The author cited Mrs. Carmen Stadelhofer, Germany: Seniors should be considered a valuable human capital [65].

5) Croatia – one unforgettable experience (Essay) [65, 66]

Author: Reni Koleva

6) Conclusions and Evaluation of the Results of the Project DANET (Danube Networkers – Neighbours at Work with participation RU and UP'2004-Rousse, programme „Europe for Citizens” (Report).

Author: Yordan Kazakov, Presidents of UP'2004-Rousse

The report was included in the final report of the project.

7) Thoughts (Essay) [67]

Author: Rumyan Damyanov

8) Research on the employment of relatives of UP'2004-Rousse, who have emigrated abroad

## CHAPTER IV: Results of Training under the Project DANET

Author: Rumyan Damyanov

9) Announcements for media

Author: Prof. Dr Nikolay Mihailov

10) Announcements for media

Author: Eng. Yordan Kazakov

11) Scientific paper: Danube Networkers – Neighbours at Work: Aims, Activities and Results of the Project „DANET”

Author: Assoc. Prof. Emiliya Velikova, PhD

Event: Scientific Conference of the University of Rousse and the Union of Bulgarian Scientists, Rousse, Bulgaria, 28-29.10.2011 [68].

Abstract. The paper presents the aims, the activities and the results of the project „DANET”, program “Europe for citizens”. This was one of the first projects in Bulgaria for education of adults, for stimulating their active participation in society and in actively shaping the environment they live in. The participants were members of the Union of Pensioners’2004 – Rousse, pensioners from the Region of Rousse. Their main result is changing the attitude

- ✓ of the pensioners to the continuing education and developing as active civil society;
- ✓ of the University of Rousse to the idea of creating a new Center for adult education;
- ✓ of the local government to support the center creation and other international activities of adults.

The project was managed by the Centre for General Scientific Continuing Education (ZAWiW) of the University of Ulm, Germany. Other partners of the project were from Austria, Slovenia, Romania and Croatia ([www.danet-at-work.eu/bg](http://www.danet-at-work.eu/bg)).

## **§7. DISSEMINATION OF THE PROJECT RESULTS**

### **7.1. Dissemination of the Results to Institutions and Representatives of the Local Government**

The results were disseminated as follows:

- ✓ Participating of representatives of the University of Rousse (RU) in the project activities and in the events for presenting the project – Prof. DSc. Hristo Beloev, Rector of RU, Prof. Dr Nikolay Mihailov, Vice Rector of RU, Assoc. Prof. Dr Borislav Angelov, Vice Rector of RU, Assoc. Prof. Dr Emiliya Velikova, Vice Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Education of RU and researcher of the project, Assoc. Prof. Dr Ivaylo Stoyanov, RU and a team member of the project, Eng. Yordanka Peneva, RU and a team member of the project, Assoc. Prof. Dr, lecturer of the project, Dept. of Pedagogy, Psychology and History of RU, Assoc. Prof. Dr Miroslav Mihailov, Director of the Information Center of RU, etc.
- ✓ Participating of representatives of the local government, who are responsible for making decision about the pensioners and seniors as: Eng. Orlin Lazarov, Vice Mayer of Rousse, Dr Rejhat Kabil, Mayer of Vetovo, Dr Rudenko Yordanov, President of the Bulgarian Red Cross (BRC), Dr Konstantin Kolev, member of BRC, Mrs. Lidya Naydenova, Head of Department “Pensions” in the Regional Department for Social Security from the National Social Security Institute, Mr. Lyubomir Atanasov and Mrs. Svetla Ivanova, experts from the Regional Inspectorate for Water and Environmental Protection gave lectures on the topic of “Environmental protection”, etc.
- ✓ Participating of representatives of some institutions which were important for the project as: board of the UP’2004-Rousse, Assoc. Prof. Dr Deyan Dragoev, Dr A. Nenov, Regional Historical Museum, Mrs D.Dimitrova, Ethnographic Museum of Rousse, Assoc. Prof. Dr Eyup Artvinli, Eskisehir Osmangazi University, Turkey, Pensioners from the clubs in Tabachka, Rousse, Slivo pole, Brovo, Ivanovo, Dve mogili, Byala, Vetovo, Tsenovo, club “Druzhba”, club “Nadezhda”, Sport club, Tourist club, etc.

## 7.2. Dissemination of the Results through Media

The Dissemination of the Results was also organized through media as follows:

- ✓ broadcast live on the Internet of the Panel Discussions I and II [61,63]
- ✓ Broadcast on TV Sever [61].
- ✓ Broadcast on Radio Shumen;
- ✓ Advertisements materials.
- ✓ Interviews.
- ✓ Pressconferences.
- ✓ Information in the newspapers [41-56]:

<http://www.akcent.bg/site/news.php?item=829>

<http://www.ruse.eu/index.php/ro/ruse>

<http://diploma.bg/?p=view&aid=4574>

<http://www.rusenews.eu/news/33589>

[http://www.ruseinfo.net/news\\_85132.html](http://www.ruseinfo.net/news_85132.html)

<http://news.ruse24.bg//227045.html>

<http://novini.dir.bg/news.php?id=7924886>

<http://aninikolova72.blog.bg/regionalni/2011/02/03/obsyjdats-tareneto-v-ruse.679390>

[http://rss-bg.info/search.html?search\\_phrase=%D1%80%D1%83%D1%81%D0%B5&categories\\_id=0&skip=14&order=popular&limit=5](http://rss-bg.info/search.html?search_phrase=%D1%80%D1%83%D1%81%D0%B5&categories_id=0&skip=14&order=popular&limit=5)

[http://dariknews.bg/view\\_article.php?article\\_id=663266](http://dariknews.bg/view_article.php?article_id=663266)

<http://radioshumen.bnr.bg/News/Ruse/Pages/Aktivnoto-tareene-v-Evropa-obsajdat-v-Ruse.aspx>

<http://www.dunavmost.bg/novini-ruse/novini-obshtestvo-ruse/1775-active-aging-in-the-countries-of-europe.html>

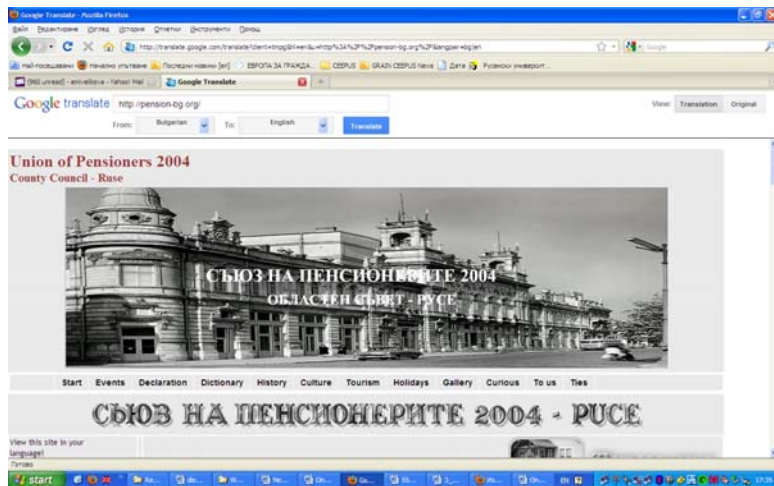
<http://dobrinite-news.com/40947>

<http://www.ruse.eu/index.php/ro/ruse/390-2011-02-03-12-45-47>

<http://www.ruse-news.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=35223>

<http://www.newbusiness.bg/articles/view/1030/pet-biznes-idei-koito-lipsvat-u-nas>

## Dissemination of the Project Results

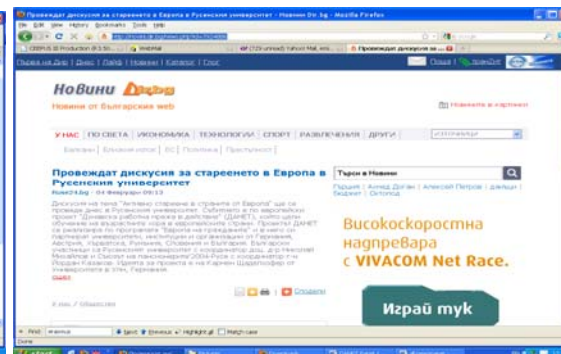
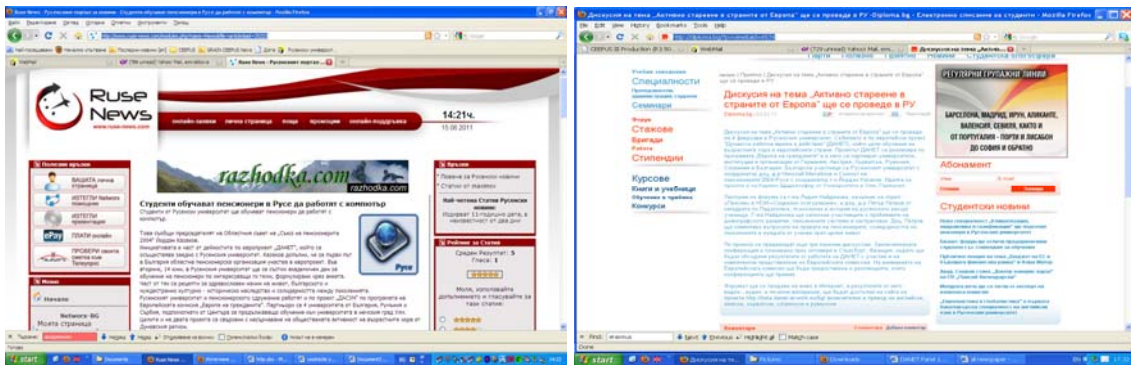




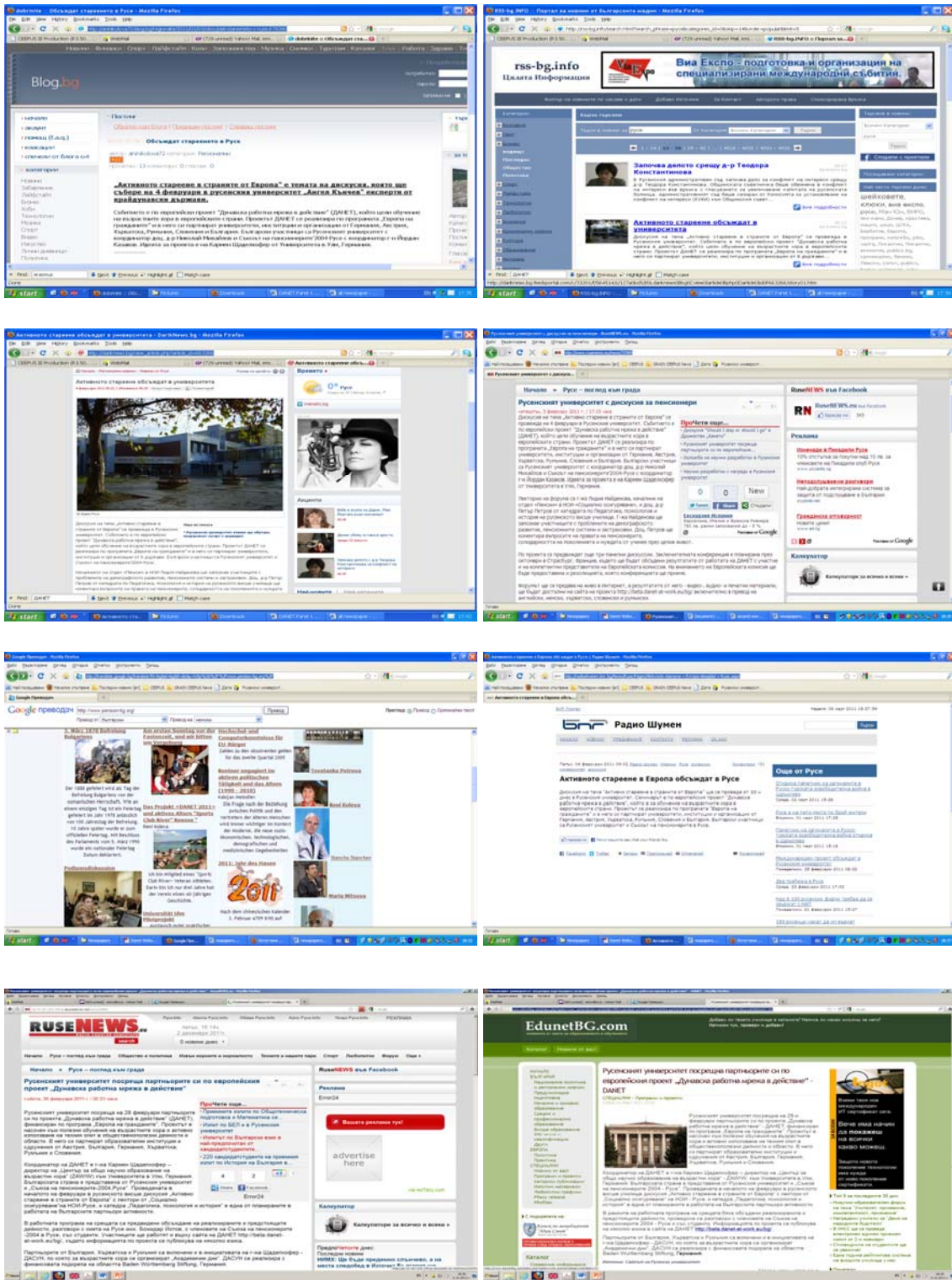
CHAPTER IV: Results of Training under the Project DANET



Results of Training under the Project DANET, Emiliya Velikova



# CHAPTER IV: Results of Training under the Project DANET



## §8. EVALUATION OF THE PANEL DISCUSSIONS

### 8.1. Test for Evaluation of the Panel Discussions

#### TEST

Answering with YES or NO

or rate your answers using:

1 for the lowest degree, ..., 5 for the highest degree

1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---

#### PART I

1. Is this your first participation in Europe for the Citizens project?

YES NO

2. What are your main expectations from Europe for the Citizens project?

a) expectations as a representative of a pensioners organization:.....

b) your personal expectations: .....

3. What are your main expectations from the DANET project?

a) expectations as a representative of a pensioners organisation:

- Activities with other organisations

1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---

- Knowledge exchange

1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---

- Development of materials for the pensioners

1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---

- Distribution of information in Europe about your organisation

1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---

- Distribution of information in Bulgaria about your organisation

1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---

- Others:.....

CHAPTER IV: Results of Training under the Project DANET

**b) your personal expectations:**

- Meetings with pensioners from Europe and discussions on specific topics of common interest

1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---

- Cooperation with the partners for finding correct solutions of the pensioners' problems

1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---

- Interest in developing materials for the pensioners

1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---

- Interest in the results from the discussions of pensioners from other countries

1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---

- Opportunities for traveling in Europe

1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---

- Others:.....

**4. To what extent has your participation in the DANET project been useful for you?**

1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---

**PART II**

**5. Do you think that the DANET project reviews problems that are significant for the pensioners?**

1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---

**6. To what extent are the issues discussed significant for the pensioners from the region?**

1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---

**7. How do you evaluate the organization of the panel discussion?**

- The materials for the discussion were sent on time

1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---

*Results of Training under the Project DANET, Emiliya Velikova*

- Uploading the materials for the discussion to the website was useful

1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---

- The aims, objectives and issues of the panel discussions are clear

1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---

- The programme of the discussion is elaborate

1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---

- You are satisfied with the discussion in general

1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---

- You had the opportunity to express your opinion

1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---

- You had the opportunity to meet people who think like you

1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---

- Did you like the materials you received – pen, notebook, poster, etc.

1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---

- Did you like the coffee break

1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---

- Others:.....

**8. How do you evaluate the preliminary organization of the panel discussion?**

- The preliminary meeting presenting the project was useful

1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---

- The training fore working with the project website was useful

1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---

- The help of the students was useful

1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---

- Others:.....



## 8.2. Evaluation of the Expectations from the Project DANET of the Representatives of Non-government Pensioners Organisations

The surveys were organized as follows:

- ✓ Panel Discussion I – 52 participants;
- ✓ Panel Discussion II – 42 participants;

The results are presented here in percentages and in rated scheme from 1 for the lowest degree to 5 for the highest degree

**Question: What are your main expectations from the DANET project as a representative of a pensioners organisation?**

a) Activities with other organisations (Fig. 22);

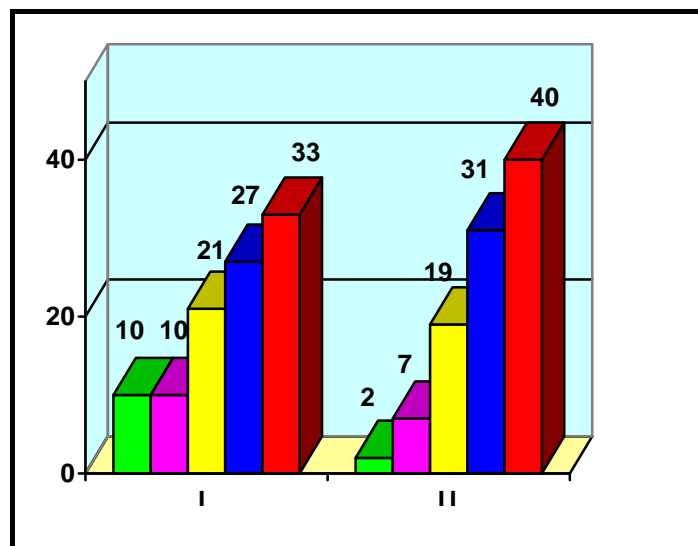


Figure 22

b) Knowledge exchange (Fig. 23);

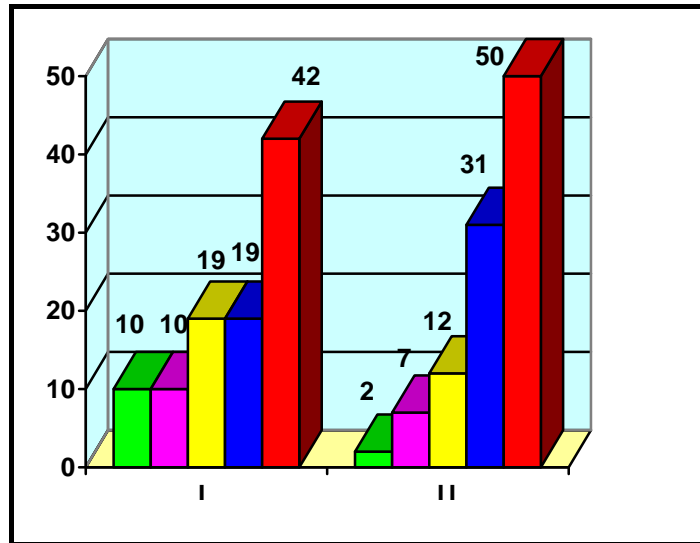


Figure 23

c) Development of materials for the pensioners (Fig. 24);

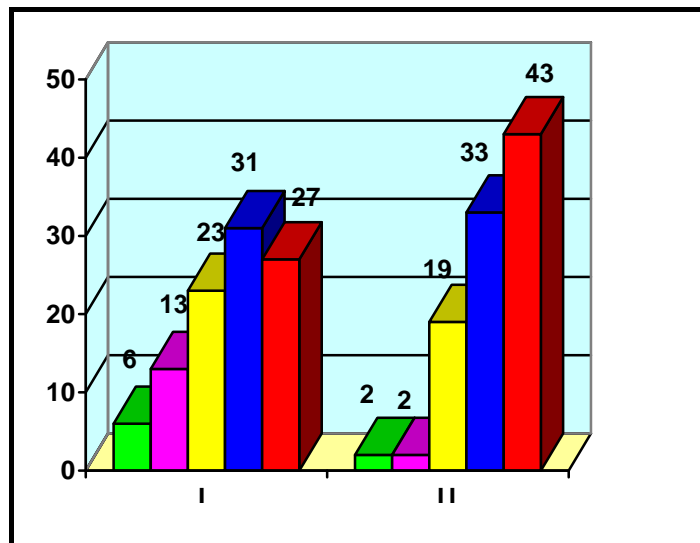


Figure 24



d) Distribution of information in Europe about your organization (Fig. 25);

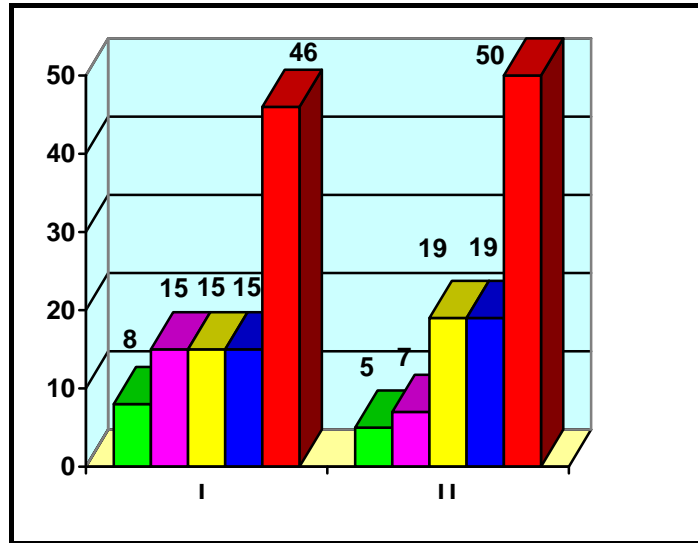


Figure 25

e) Distribution of information in Bulgaria about your organization (Fig. 26).

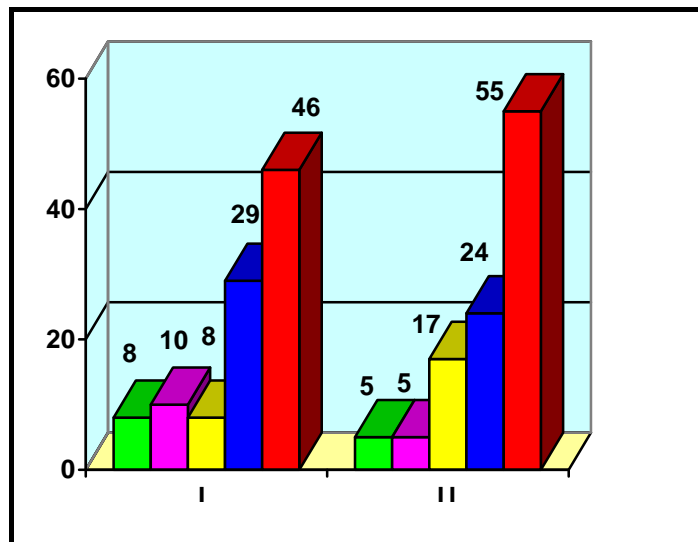


Figure 26

## CONCLUSIONS

The fact that there are answers with a low degree of expectation can be attributed to situations when some participants are involved in the

project activities for the first time.

Even before the start of the training under the project DANET the expectations of the pensioners for participation in the various activities in cooperation with other organizations of pensioners in our country and abroad, for exchange of knowledge, development of materials and distribution of information about the activities of their organization have been extremely high.

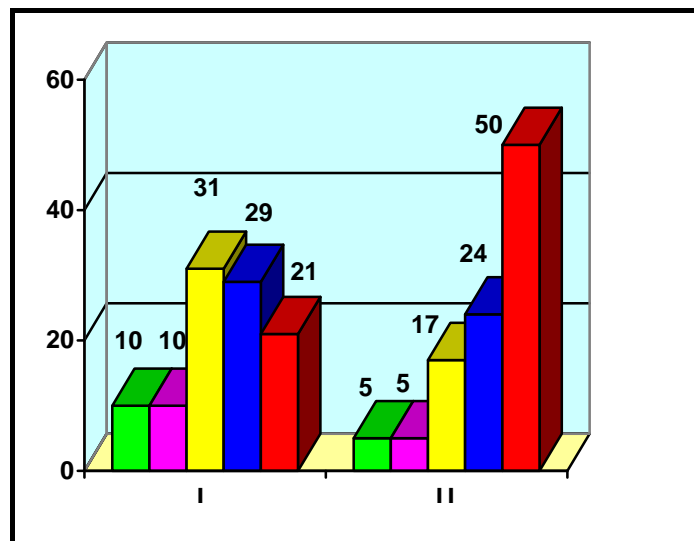
After the two discussions the degree of expectations has risen even higher.

Therefore, in the process of training the people surveyed see new opportunities for achieving different goals related to the NGO of pensioners whose members they are.

### **8.3. Evaluation of the Personal Expectations from the Project DANET**

**Question: What are your personal expectations from the project?**

a) Meetings with pensioners from Europe and discussions on specific topics of common interest (Fig. 27);



**Figure 27**

b) Cooperation with the partners for finding correct solutions of the pensioners' problems (Fig. 28);

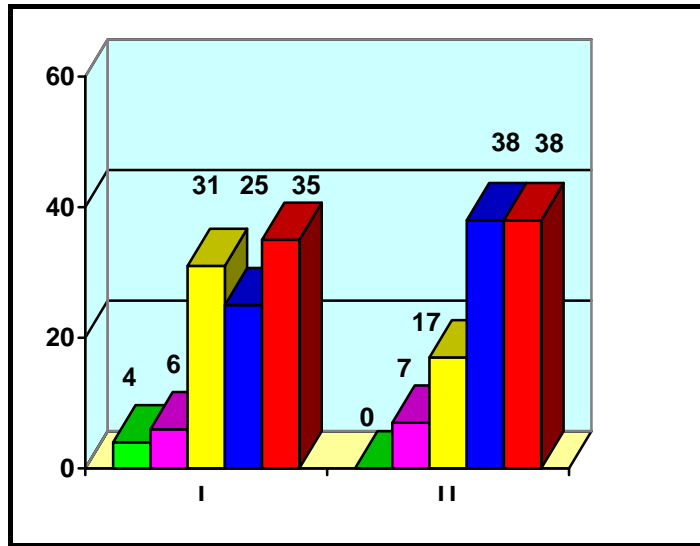


Figure 28

c) Interest in developing materials for the pensioners (Fig. 29);

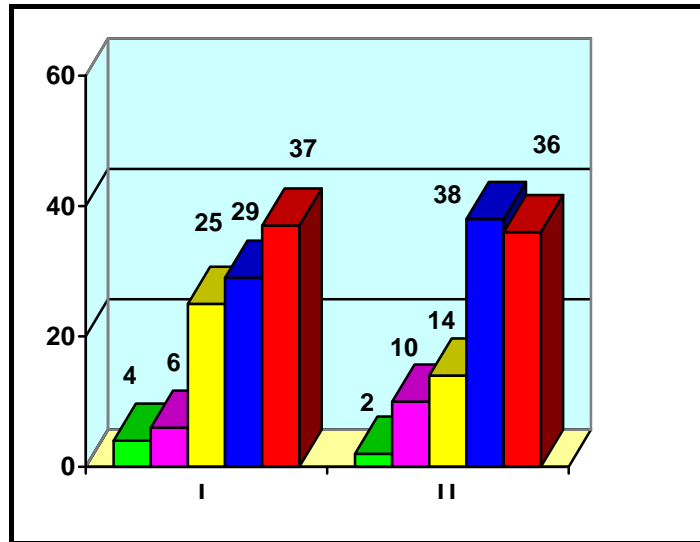


Figure 29

d) Interest in the results from the discussions of pensioners from other countries (Fig. 30);

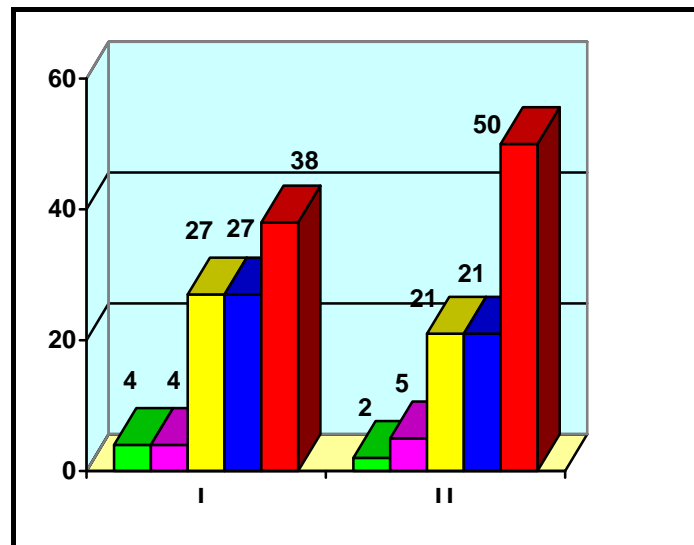


Figure 30

e) Opportunities for traveling in Europe (Fig. 31).

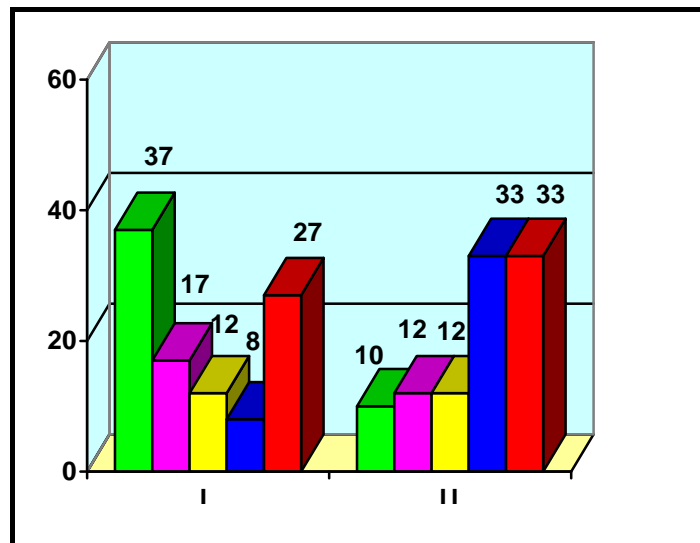


Figure 31

**Question: To what extent has your participation in the DANET project been useful for you? (Fig. 32)**

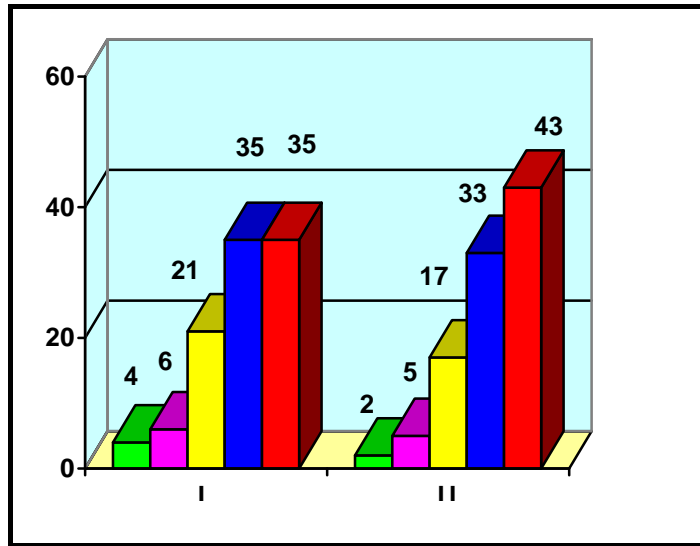


Figure 32

**Question: Do you think that the DANET project reviews problems that are significant for the pensioners? (Fig. 33)**

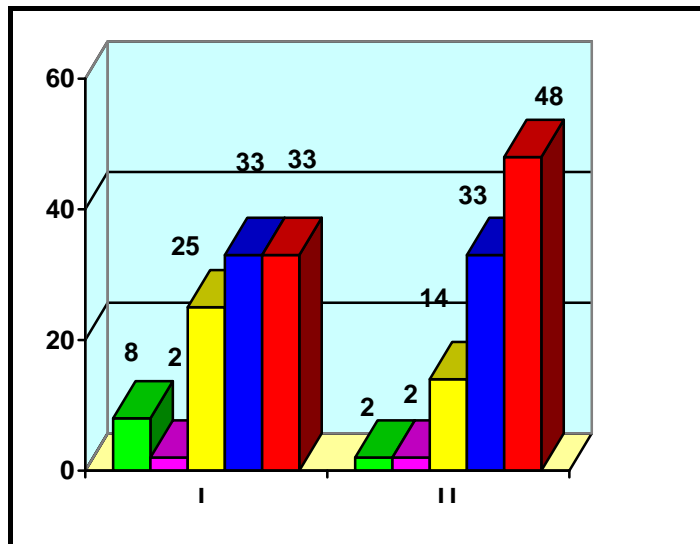
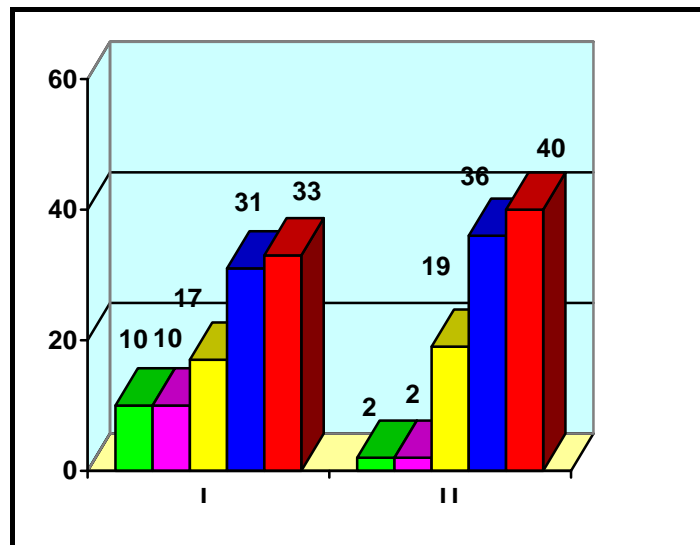


Figure 33

**Question: To what extent are the issues discussed significant for the pensioners from the region? (Fig. 34)**



**Figure 34**

## **CONCLUSIONS**

The people surveyed have high expectations about meeting pensioners from other countries, discussing common issues with the purpose of reaching appropriate solutions, developing materials of mutual benefit and interesting panel discussions in the partner-countries. In the course of work expectations rise as a result of the quality training under the project.

Over 60% of the participants are convinced that DANET deals with issues that are significant for the pensioners and the project has been beneficial both from a personal and from a social perspective for the seniors from the region.

The only low rate can be seen in connection with the expectations of the people surveyed about their participation in trips abroad. It is also growing in the process of training since the latter provides numerous opportunities for communication and cooperative activities without the need to travel abroad.

### 8.4. Evaluation of the Training under the Project DANET

**Question: How do you evaluate the organisation of the panel discussion?**

a) The materials for the discussion were sent on time (Fig. 35).

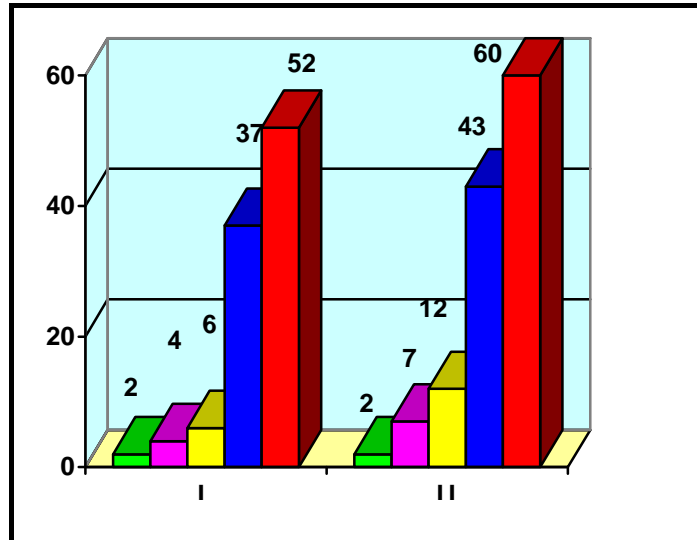


Figure 35

b) Uploading the materials for the discussion to the website was useful (Fig. 36)

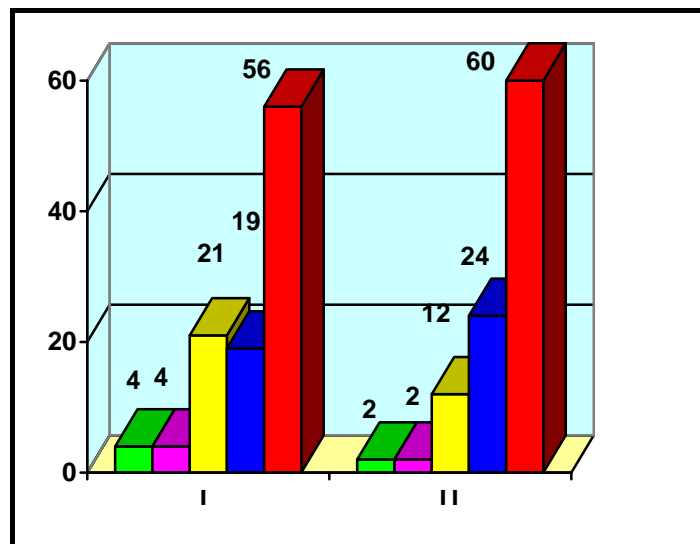


Figure 36

c) The aims, objectives and issues of the panel discussions are clear (Fig. 37)

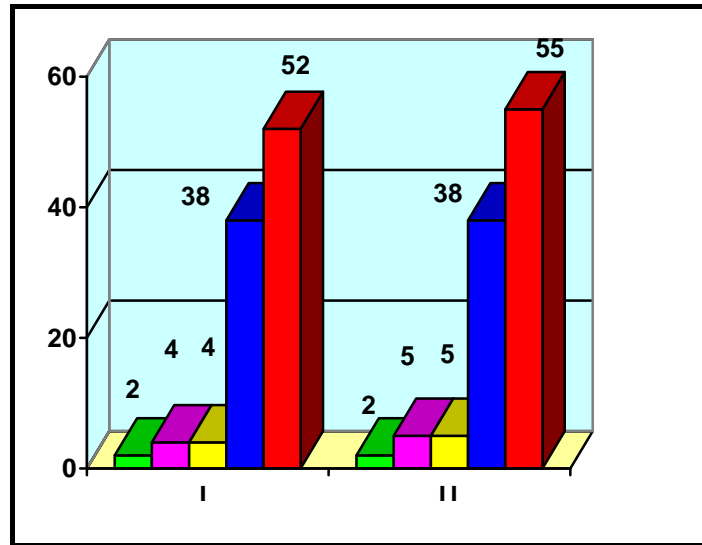


Figure 37

d) The programme of the discussion is elaborate (Fig. 38).

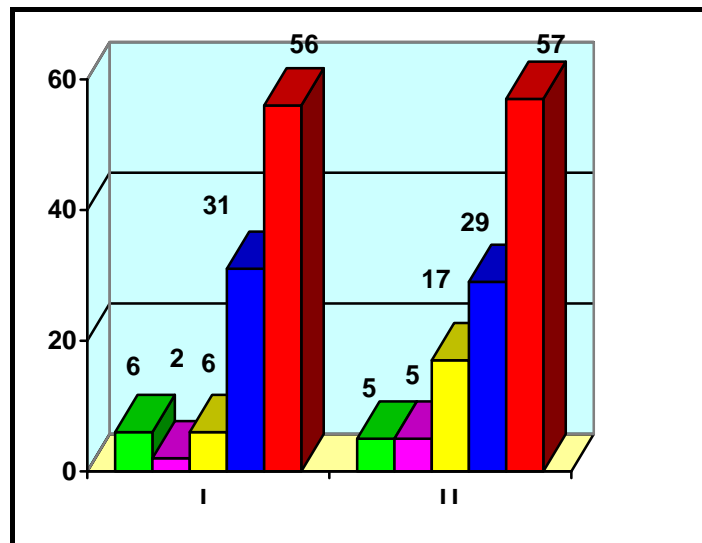


Figure 38



e) You are satisfied with the discussion in general (Fig. 39).

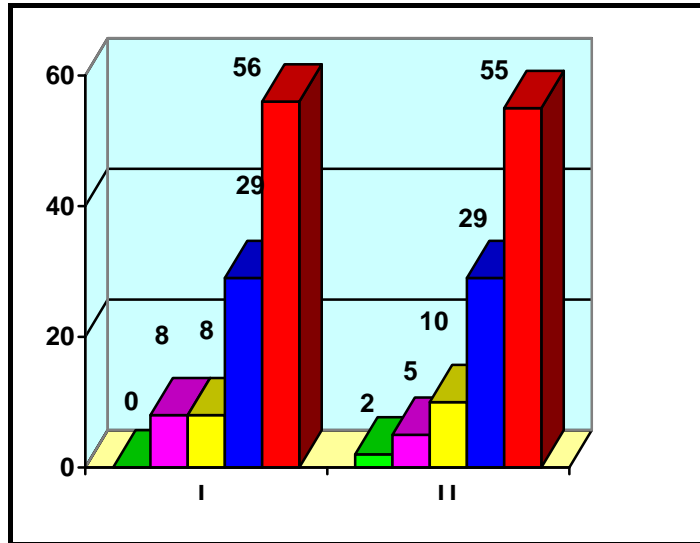


Figure 39

f) You had the opportunity to express your opinion (Fig. 40).

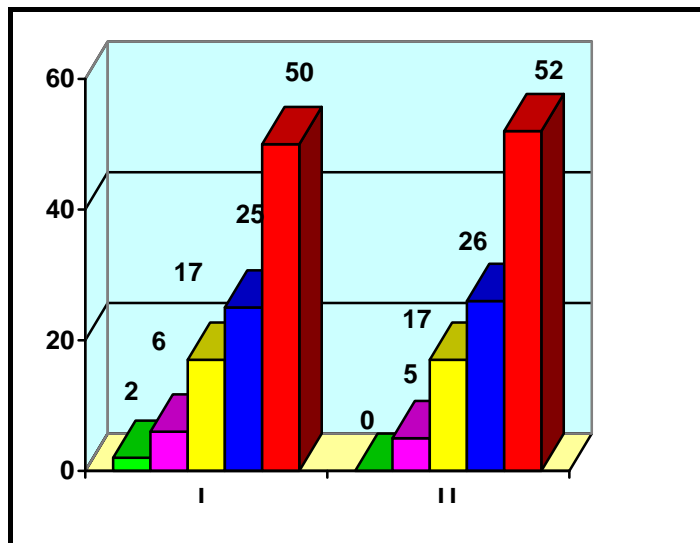


Figure 40

g) You had the opportunity to meet people who think like you (Fig. 41).

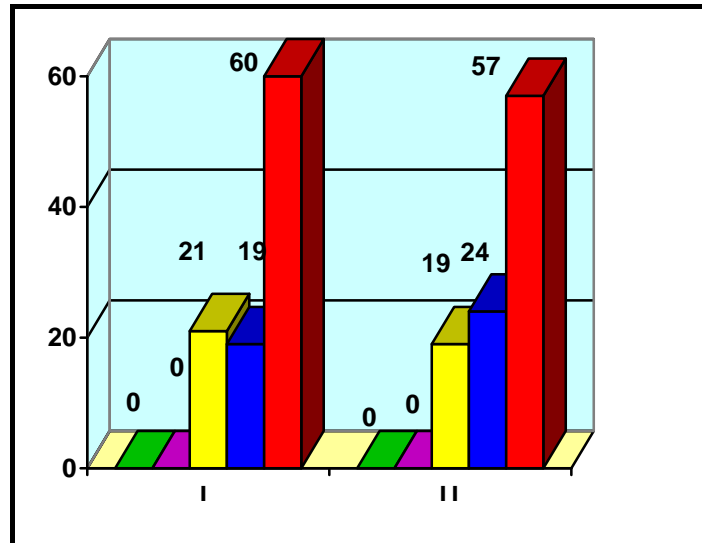


Figure 41

h) Did you like the materials you received – pen, notebook, poster, etc.? (Fig. 42).

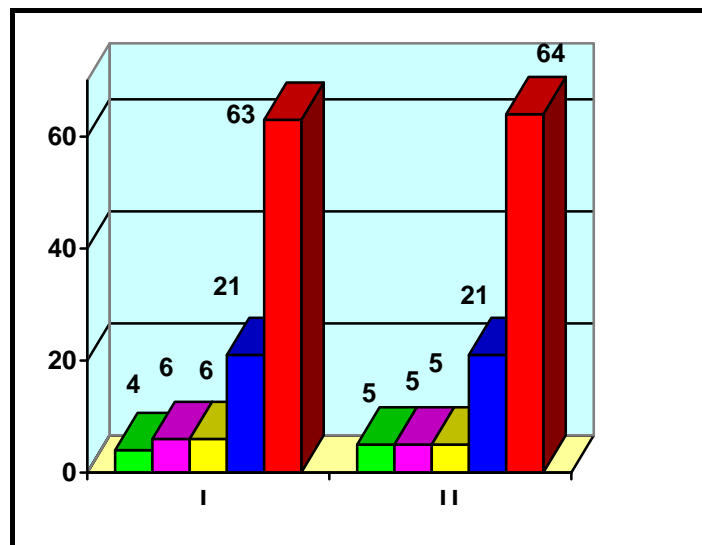


Figure 42

i) Did you like the coffee break (Fig. 43).

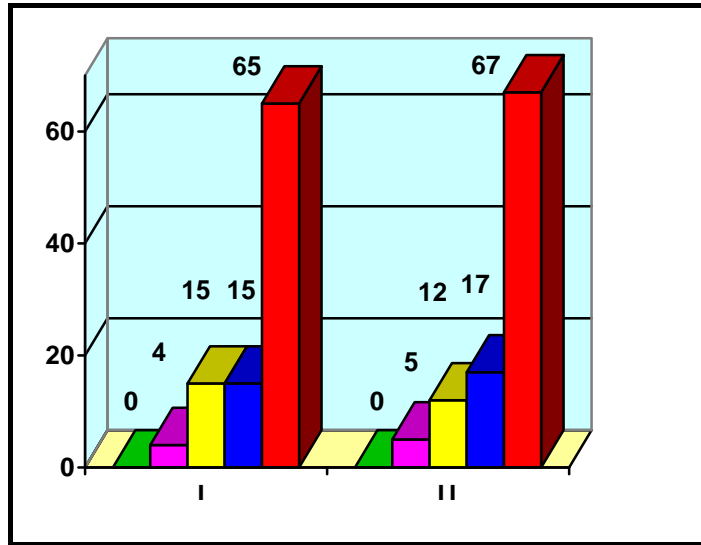


Figure 43

**Question: How do you evaluate the preliminary organization of the panel discussion?**

a) The preliminary meeting presenting the project was useful (Fig. 44);

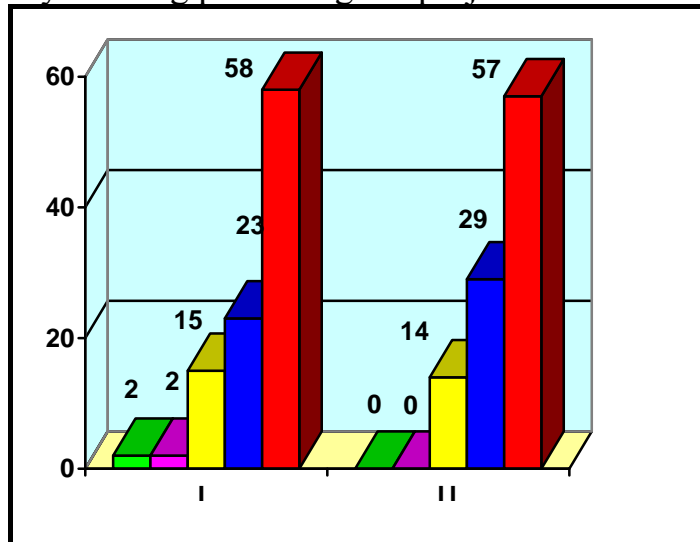


Figure 44

b) The training fore working with the project website was useful (Fig.45);

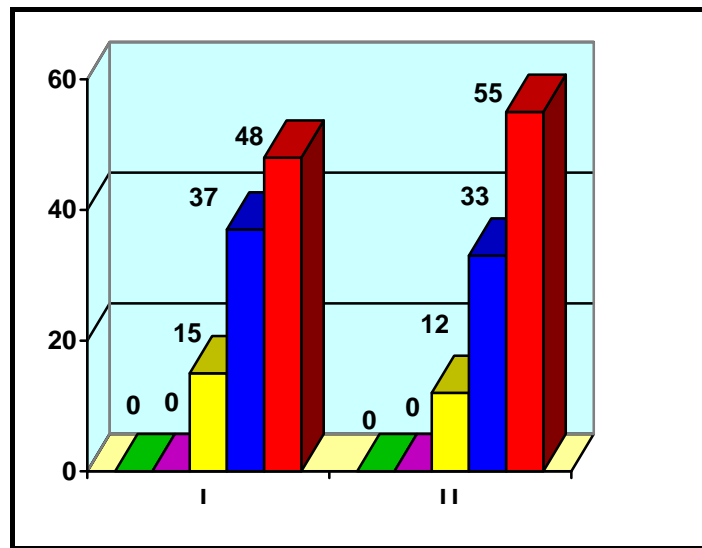


Figure 45

c) The help of the students was useful (Fig. 46).

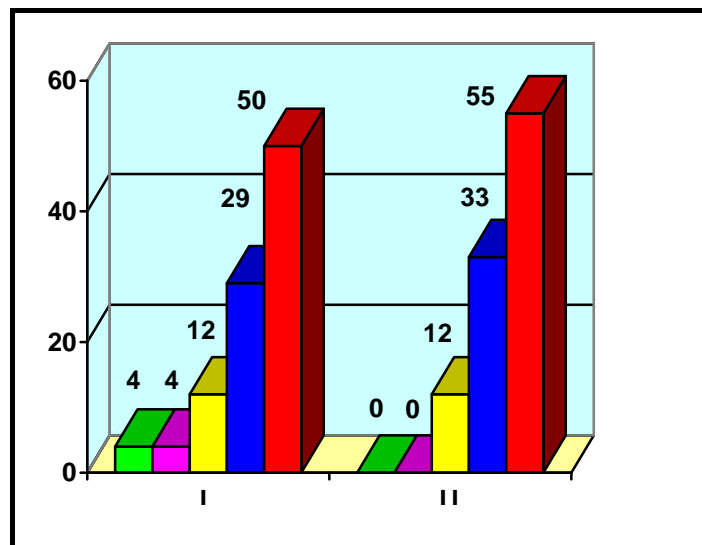


Figure 46

## CONCLUSIONS

The people surveyed rank highly the organization and implementation of the panel discussions, in particular, the development of programmes which include clear goals, objectives, issues and other important details, the timely distribution of the materials for the discussions through the websites and the structures of UP'2004 – Rouse, the University of Rouse and the media.

The level of satisfaction from participation in the discussions and sharing ideas and opinions is extremely high. People are satisfied with the opportunity to communicate with peers, with the materials developed for the discussions (notebooks, pens, badges, invitations, posters, etc.) and with the ample coffee breaks.

The high rates of the characteristics surveyed are preserved throughout the whole process of training.

Although only the management of the UP'2004 and a small group of active members participated in the preliminary meetings for the organization of the discussions, it becomes clear from the survey that all the members of the Union were well aware of the activities, namely, the organizational meetings, the training for using the website and the help provided by the students from RU and they rate the benefit from them very highly.

## §9. EVALUATION OF THE ONLINE TOOLS USAGE FOR THE PROJECT DANET

### 1. Internet use by the Institutions

How was the Internet used in the DANET-project?

The Internet was used widely for reading information about the project

activities, dates, participants, results, evaluation, media information, for finding pictures, etc.

How do the project workers use it?

The seniors used the Internet for finding information about DANET and its activities, results, for searching in e-media information about Bulgarian events under DANET, for uploading their papers about DANET.

Who used the Internet and who built the materials in the DANET-website?

Every senior who took part in the project DANET used the Internet. Eight seniors prepared papers about DANET events. The papers are on the web site of pensioners [12].

The materials for the project web site were built especially by E. Velikova

How does the partner institution use the Internet?

The University of Rouse as a partner used the Internet to inform the media and the pensioners about DANET activities through e-mails and its web site: [www.uni-ruse.bg](http://www.uni-ruse.bg)

## **2. Inclusion of seniors in the virtual discussion**

How was the Internet utilized in the panel discussions?

There was live broadcasting of the panel discussions “Active Ageing in Europe / Solidarity between the Generations” (4 February, 2011, 52 participants) and “Sustainability of Cultural Heritage / National and European Identity” (19 March, 2011, 42 participants) on the Internet.

Who participated in the discussions?

The participants were especially pensioners from the Union of Pensioners’2004 – Rouse who are leaving in the town of Rouse and in the towns and villages of the region of Rouse as Dve mogili, Vetovo, Tabachka, Byala, Slivo pole, Borovo, Ivanovo, Tsenovo, etc. There were also many pensioners from the University of Rouse and from the town of Rouse who are not member of UP’2004-Rouse.

Which seniors participated in it?

The participants were seniors of the University of Rouse.

What is the attitude of the seniors to the Internet? (technology-fan versus technology-distant).

The seniors were excited to use the Internet for searching information. There was a course for training seniors to use new information technologies. As a result there was created a community for exchanging information. But a very small number of seniors, 12, wanted and sent to the project web site a written input on the discussion topics.

Do you have other projects in which Internet is included?

The University of Rouse has many other projects in which the Internet is included.

### 3. Activating measures for Internet use

Which measures were tested to bring the Internet nearer to the seniors, respectively to include them in the virtual discussion?

Long-term training course in information technology usage with university students and teachers as instructors.

Individual work with seniors to show them how to use the Internet to present their thoughts about the DANET.

Working in small groups - searching for information about the DANET events on the Internet.

Joint creating e-mail accounts for all participants.

Exchanging information through e-mails.

How can new target groups be reached?

There has to be regular information in the media. It is also necessary to connect and to inform the councils of the pensioners' unions or any kind of organisations.

Where could new ways successfully be demonstrated to activate seniors for the online discussions?

The training in computer technology usage has to be for a long period of time. It has to include much more individual work. There have to be a trainer and many supporters (demonstrators) in the training classes. The organization of meetings through Skype is very motivating for the seniors and very attractive for the media.

Which measures/methods have proved to be ineffective?

The training period has to be not 3 but 9 months because this kind of training was for the first time for seniors.

The trainers have to be only young. In our case the main trainer was very old. It is necessary to organise training in writing essays.

#### **4. Difficulties and barriers**

What problems and inhibitions have played a role in the Internet use, respectively in the participation in the online discussions?

Most of the seniors have not got any habit to write. They speak a lot, but they are afraid to write because they don't believe in themselves, they think that people will not like their writing materials. There are only a few seniors who wrote papers and presented their feelings and thoughts about the project activities but they have such kind of skills and experience.

How was the DANET Internet platform accepted?

Excellently. The possibility to read in Bulgarian language was very comfortable for the seniors. They read all materials on the project web site.

Which problems have come up in the use of the platform?

Not any.





Which language issues/problems have come up?

Not any.

Could translation machines help?

Yes. The translation is clear and sometimes “funny”.

What should be improved in the Internet platform?

It is very good now.

### **5. Ideas and hints for future activities**

Where do you see the need for improvement?

The activities as the project activities were very useful for starting the process of changing the attitude of the Bulgarian society to the pensioners. They have to continue.

What advice, hints do you have for future projects?

We need projects with many meetings (through Skype or real) with common activities for reaching educational and social goals.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

**The topics of the four panel discussions were of interest for the pensioners from Rousse Region.**

**The organization and attendance of the discussion were at a very high level.**

**The media demonstrated interest in the project activities to a great extent.**

**The local communities and the local government, the religious centres and the pensioners appreciated greatly transferring two of the discussions to smaller local communities – Vetovo and Tabachaka.**

**The project activities found their place in the mass media and the electronic sites of Rouse University, the UP'2004–Rouse and the Project website.**

