

## HEARTS 2012 – SOCIOCULTURAL BACKGROUND

Aim of this work was to observe the socio-cultural background and the target groups of the Hearts2012 Project partners, in order to better define objectives and initiatives of the project. The partners (Tripolis, Greece, Ferrara, Italy, Suceava, Romania and Bolu, Turkey) chose to use a dedicated Questionnaire, that they have built all together.

The semi-structured schedule includes two sections:

- First section: personal data (age, gender, living condition) and open questions about topics as: values, competences, needs, hopes and opinion about intergenerational communication. The interviewed must also evaluate their personal self-sufficiency, on a scale from 0 – minimum to 10 - maximum:
- Second section: we decided to use the World Health Organization scale of Quality of Life, in the brief form: WHOQoL- brief, composed of 26 items on a 5-point scale. In this context we all decided to cancel the item 21, concerning the satisfaction about sexual life, potentially embarrassing some interviewed; therefore the items 22-26 were re-numbered 21-25 , maintaining order and value in the scoring.

All partners collected 50 questionnaires of Aged people and 50 of Young people: in total, we have 400 questionnaires: 200 in Aged people, 200 in Young people.

The present report analyzes the entire sample, maintaining the characteristics of language and style of the national questionnaire reports. The partners are always listed in the nation's alphabetic order.

### Sample

#### Greece

Elderly: 68% females, 32 % males; 40 % between 61 and 70 years, 60 % > 70 years; living alone 36%, with spouse/partner 50%, with sons/daughters 10%, with relatives 4%

Young people: 40 % females, 60% males; 2% <20 years, 98% aged 21-30; 30 % living alone, 10 % with a spouse/partner, 0 % with sons/daughters, 40% with relatives, 20% with other people

#### Italy

The Elderly Group is made up of 19 females and 31 males: 42 people aged between 60 and 70 years, the others > 70 years. 5 people are living alone, 6 living with son/daughters, 39 are living with a spouse or partner. The Youth Group is made up of 30 females and 20 males, aged between 17 and 30 years: 10 of them are less than 20 years, the other 40 between 21 and 30 years.; 4 cases are living alone, 6 living with a partner, 10 living with other people, the remaining 30 are living with one or both parents.

#### Romania

Elderly Group: 46% woman and 54% men; 52% with age between 71-80 years and 48% with age between 61-70 years; 20% living alone, 28% living with a spouse/partner, 20% living with sons/daughters, 20% living with relatives, 12% living with other people.

Youth Group: 42% woman and 58% man. The age of respondents was till 30 years: 72% under 20 years and 28% with age between 21-30 years. 56 % live with relatives, 20 % with a spouse/partner, 16% with sons/daughters, 8% with other people.

#### Turkey

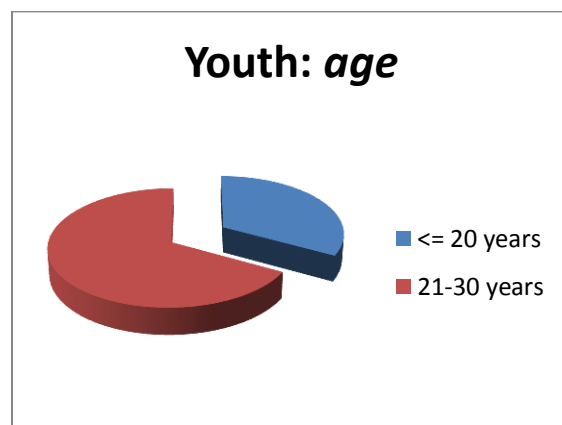
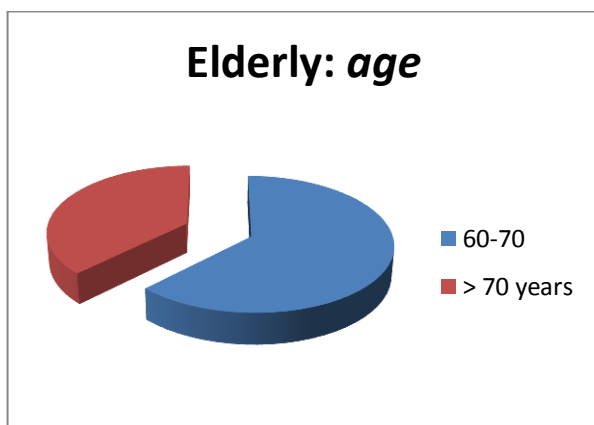
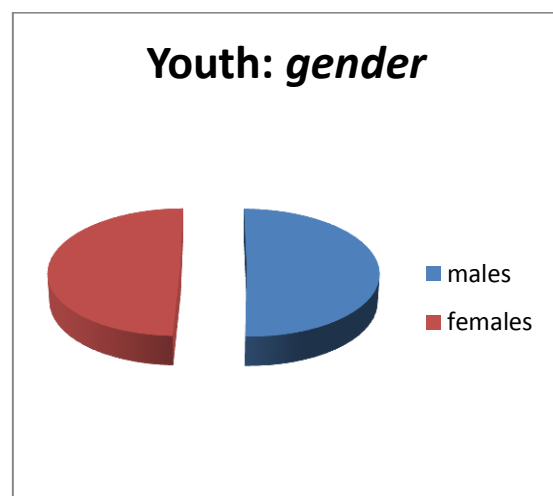
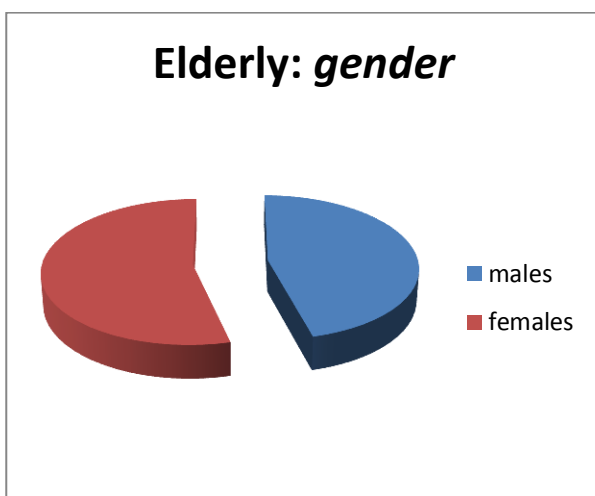
The Elderly Group is made up of 32 females and 18 males: 39 people aged between 60 and 70 years, the others > 70 years. 2 people are living alone, 3 living with son/daughters, 42 are living with a spouse or partner, 3 people are living with their relatives.

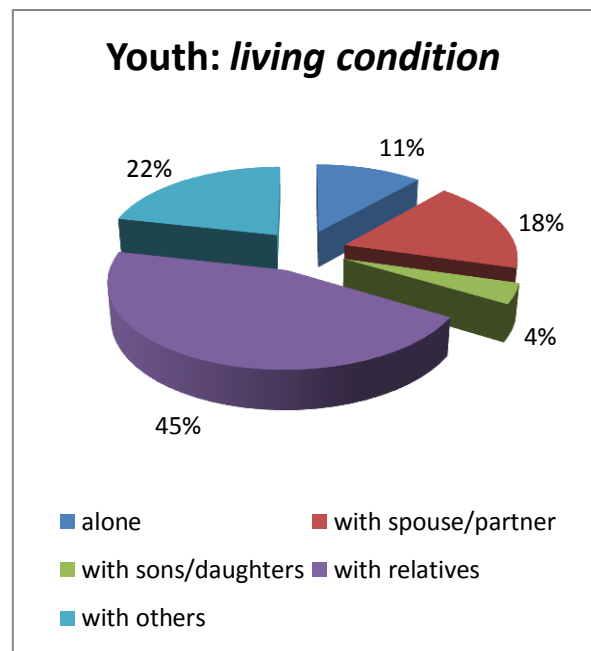
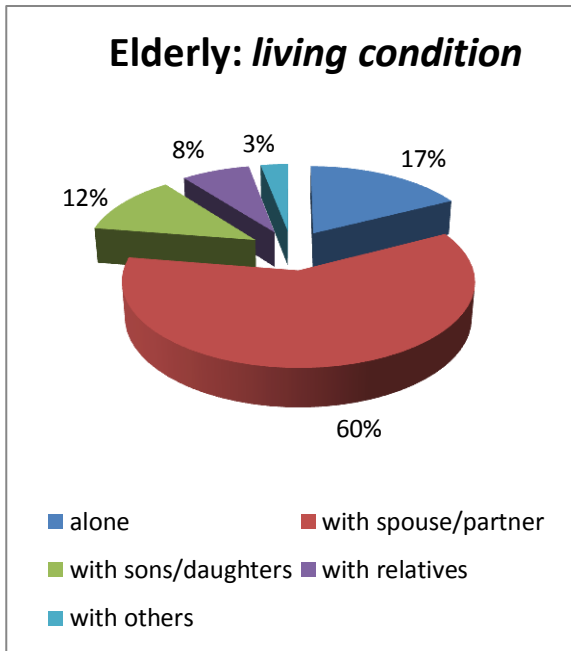
The Youth Group is made up of 28 females and 22 males, aged between 17 and 30 years: 19 of them are less than 20 years, the other 31 between 21 and 30 years.; 15 cases are living with spouse, 5 living with a relative, 19 living with other people, 4 living alone and 7 are living with one or both parents.

**Total sample**

The elderly total sample is composed by 108 females and 92 males; 125 of them are between 60 and 70 years, 75 are over 70 years; 35 cases live alone, 120 live with a spouse/partner, 24 with sons/daughters, 15 with relatives, 6 with other people.

The youth total sample is composed by 99 females and 101 males, 66 of them aged ≤ 20 years and 134 aged between 21 and 30 years. 23 cases live alone, 36 with a spouse/partner, 8 with sons/daughters, 90 with relatives, 43 with other people.





## Analysis of single items

**First question:** *“Do you have any interesting experiences to share with young/elderly people? If so, what are they?”* (open question, multiple answers allowed)

### Greece

**Aged people:** no experiences 26%, working experiences 28%, travel experiences 8%, home activities 8%, life experiences 6%, others 20%

**Young people:** No experience 46%; working experiences 14%; life experiences 6%; travel experiences 24 %; home activities 8 %; other 2 %

### Italy

**Aged people:** No experience 3%; Ethical general values (as integrity, honesty, dignity, philosophy, respect...) 38%; work 6 %, family 4%, life-style 15%, tips and courtesies 36%

**Young people:** No experience 20%; ethical general values (es: love for culture, environment, art) 18%; travel experiences 8%, personal experiences in art, music, sport 22%, talk together 22%, tips 10 %

### Romania

**Aged people:** The experience life – 36%; The marriage – 24%; Traveling – 10% ; Transmissions of traditional ritual – 8%; Village life – 8%; Communism period– 6%; No experience – 6%; Others – 4%

**Young people:** No experience – 28%; Traveling – 14%; Activities in nature – 12%; Games – 10% ; Traditional things – 8%; Others experiences – 8% ; Volunteer project – 6%; School project – 4%

### Turkey

**Aged people:** Young people are very interested in the books in the bookfair; Fights between the young people in the stadium

**Young people:** Teaching the benefits of technology (computer, smart phones); Teaching reading and writing to illiterate old people.

*Second question: "Would you like to talk about some of these experiences?"* Answer YES/NO

Greece: Aged People: Yes 60%, No 40% Young People: Yes 60%, No 40%

Italy: Aged people: Yes 60%, No 40%; Young People Yes 46%, No 54%

Romania: Aged People: Yes: 86%, No 14% Young People: Yes: 74%, No: 26%

Turkey: % 70 of aged people say YES and % 30 say NO; % 60 of young people say YES and % 40 say NO

*Third question: "Are there any things that you can do very well or in which you have experience? What, for example?"* (Open question, multiple answer allowed)

### Greece

**Aged people:** crafts 32%, cooking 12%, gardening 10%, sports 10%, first aid 6%; lack of skills 30%

**Young people:** gardening 22%, sports 22%, first aid 18%, crafts 12%, cooking 4%; lack of skills 22%

### Italy

**Elderly:** crafts/fix thing/do-it-yourself (10), cooking (8), their own work (6), to face disability and discomfort (4), administration and accounting (3), recitation (2), ecological activities (2) political activities (2), to talk with people (2), to organize groups (2), sport, writing, teaching. Only 6% declare a lack of skills.

**Youth:** to listen/encourage/ build relations/stay with people (7), to play an instrument/to make music (6); cooking (5); their own work/study/training (5); sports (4); computer and informatics (4); to dance (4), photography (4), drawing (3), entertainment (3), to sewing/make dresses (3), mediation/help activities (2), painting(2), performing art, to write on newspaper; to organize travels (2) or events; to sing (2); housekeeping, baby-sitting (2); English (2), theater, archeology. 10 % expresses a lack of skills.

### Romania

**Aged people:** Handmade things– 36%; Cooking (traditional foods)– 28%; To work with people – 14%; Medicine veterinary – 10%; Sails – 6%; Wood articles – 2%; Others -2%.

**Young people:** PC/ICT skills – 28%; Different sports – 20%; Cooking – 20%; Mind games – 8%; Painting – 6%; Writing poem/essays – 6%; To sing at guitar – 4%

### Turkey

**Aged people:** Drawing; Communicating with people easily; Making friends; Cooking; Reading news.

**Young people:** Driving car, Using computer, Fashion design, Playing musical instrument,

*4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> questions "Could you demonstrate or teach any of them?" "Would you like to do so?"*

**Italy:** 86 % of aged people and 68 % of young people would like to show and share their skills.

**Greece:** 44% of aged people would like to share and 36% would like to show their competences; 62% of young people would like to show and share their skills.

**Romania:** 72% of elderly and 88% of young people could demonstrate or teach their skill; 70 % of old people and 86% of young would like to do it.

**Turkey:** --84% of the old people say they could demonstrate or teach them; 72 % of the young people say they could demonstrate or teach them

*6<sup>th</sup> question: "Is there anything in particular that you would like to learn how to do?"* (open question, multiple answers allowed)

### Greece

**Elderly:** crafts 20%, languages 12%, music 12%, new technologies 8%, sports 6%, history 2%; nothing 40%

**Youth:** crafts 20%, languages 12%, sports 6%, new technologies 6%, music 4 %, dancing 2%. 50% of young people would like to learn nothing.

## Italy

**Elderly:** to learn a language (5 cases, always English), to play a musical instrument (5), to better know/ to fix computer(5) (compatibly with vision problems), to paint, to swim, to know astronomy, to fix a bicycle, to farm.

**Young:** to play a musical instrument (14 cases), cooking (9), to well know many languages (6), singing and dancing (4), to learn craft (clay, pottering, metals, jewels) (7), to work/restore wood (3), photography (3), sewing (2), gardening, to write a novel, to learn a real work (3), to better cope with the life (3)

## Romania

**Aged people:** Foreign languages: 26%, Medicine 20%, To play the piano : 16%, Painting: 16%, Psychotherapy: 12%, School driving – 4%, ICT: 4% Others: 2%

**Youth:** Different sports : 26% , To drive: 16%, Foreign languages: 16%, ICT: 12%, No, I don't want: 8%, To be a good doctor: 6%, History: 4%, Guitar: 4%, Arts: 4% , Astronomy: 2% , Philosophy: 2%.

## Turkey

**Aged people:** Oil painting; Computer; Playing musical instruments; Needlecraft and wood handcraft.

**Young people:** Learning new languages; Learning web design and office programs; Learning to play an instrument; Becoming aware of technological developments

*7<sup>th</sup> question: "Do you have you any hobbies? If so, what are they?"* (open question, multiple answers allowed)

## Greece

**Elderly:** music 34%, sport and travelling 24%, handcrafting 22%, friends 14%; 2% of cases do not have hobbies.

**Youth:** sports and travelling 46%, friends/cinema 28%, handcrafting 6%, music 4%. 16% of cases do not have hobbies

## Italy

**Elderly:** reading (9 cases), bicycle (7), do it yourself (5), sewing/knitting (6), travelling (6), photography (6) , fishing (5), music (5), gardening (4), sport (4), as well as theater, cinema, cooking, painting, chess, billiard, cards, crosswords and Sudoku. 2 cases do not have hobbies.

**Youth:** sport (28 cases), music (9), playing an instrument (9), theater/cinema (9), reading (8), travelling (7), drawing or painting (7) crafts (7), cooking (4), photography (3), cars/motors (3), singing (2), local folklore/palio (2), dancing (2) and collecting (2). 2 cases do not have hobbies.

## Romania

**Aged people:** Reading: 24%, Gardening/Nature: 18%, Arts(music, painting, dancing) - 16%, , Collecting old things – 16%, Sports and traveling: 8%, Traditional aspects: 8%, To say jokes 6%, No, I don't have: 4%

**Young people:** Music – 30%, Sports and traveling: 18%, Nature: 12%, No, I don't have: 12%, ICT: 8%, Traditional aspects: 8%, Dance: 4%, Animals: 4%, Archeology: 4% .

## Turkey

**Elderly:** Reading book, Travelling, Trekking, Taking photographs.

**Youth:** Swimming, Travelling, Dancing, Doing sport (football, volleyball, basketball).

*8<sup>th</sup> question : "Are you involved in any voluntary activities? If so, what kind? "*

**Greece:** 28% of elderly (philanthropic institutions and red cross) and 50% of youth (philanthropic institutions, red cross, cleaning beaches) carry out volunteers activities.

**Italy:** 75 % of Elderly and 45 % of Youth carry out voluntary activities, old people mainly in social and cultural area, young people mainly in health, ecology and children entertainment.

**Romania:** 4% of aged people ( "The credit union pensioners") and 30% of young people ( "Young Wings" - 13,33%, "The explorer" 6,66%, "International Alliance against drugs" – 6,66%, "We give from the heart" , 33,33%, "Red Cross" 33,33%, "Bring home Basarabia" 6,66%) carry out volunteers activities.

**Turkey:** 86% of the old people say they are involved into voluntary activities. (mainly in social-cultural centers, religious centers, care-homes, fund raising for the poor and the lonely people).60% of the young people say they are involved in these activities (mainly in education, camping for the boarding students, health and care for the old people, preventing smoking and drug using seminars, campaigns for the environment)

*9<sup>th</sup> question: " Which values from your traditions or from your generation do you consider to be the most important ?" (Open question, multiple answers allowed)*

### **Greece**

Elderly: honesty 34%, the importance of family 22%, respect 18%, love 12%, religion/culture 10%, patriotism 4%

Youth: the importance of family (56%), respect (22%), honesty (22%)

### **Italy**

Elderly: respect (14 cases), solidarity (9), honesty (9), family (5), work (4), friendship (4), accuracy/diligence (3) , openness (3), perseverance (2), education (2), welcome (2), human relationships (2)

Youth: respect (14), honesty(11), family (10), friendship (8), solidarity (8), sincerity (6), confidence (5), faith (3), love (3), technology/communication (2), work (2), humility (2), marriage (2).

### **Romania**

Elderly: Common sense: 26%, Modesty: 18%, The respecting religious holidays: 14%, Respect other people: 12%, Honesty: 12%, Sincerity: 8%, The faith in God: 8%, Traditional art: 6%, Culture: 6%.

Youth: The importance of family: 18%, The respecting religious holidays:14%, Respect other people: 12%, Honesty: 12%, Sincerity: 8%,The faith in God: 8%, Trust: 4%, Optimism: 4%, Dignity: 4%, Virtue: 4%

### **Turkey**

Elderly: The importance of family and loyalty; Respect to people; Loving all people; Being against discriminations

Youth: Respect to old people, Loyalty to friends, Helping each other, Personal freedom.

*10<sup>th</sup> question: " What do you think about intergenerational communication?"*

### **Greece**

Elderly: neither easy nor difficult 54%, easy 20%, difficult 20%, non-existent 4%

“ : frequent 38%, continuous 28%, occasional 24%, rare 10%

Youth: neither easy nor difficult 32%, easy 28%, difficult 20%, non-existent 20%

“ : frequent 32%, rare 28%, continuous 20%, rare 20%

### **Italy**

Elderly: 20 % don't answer, because, for them, the question is too generic; in 30 % of cases the communication is easy, in 30% it is neither easy nor difficult; in 10 % it is difficult, in 30 % it is absent

About the frequency: intergenerational communication is rare in 10% of cases, occasional in 15% of cases, frequent in 20%, continuous in 20%. 35 % of cases don't answer.

Youth: 80 % of cases answer that communication is frequent but difficult

### **Romania**

Elderly: Easy : 24%, difficult 34%, neither easy nor difficult 32%, non-existing 10%

“ : Rare: 22%, occasional 36%, frequent 22%, continuous 30%

Youth: Easy 20%, difficult 14%, neither easy nor difficult 56%, non-existing 10%

“ : Rare 20%, occasional 36%, frequent 18%, continuous 26%

### **Turkey**

Aged people: Easy 9 %, difficult 67%, neither easy nor difficult 8%, not existent 16%

“ : Rare 28%, occasional 45 %, frequent 13%, continuous 14%  
Young people: Easy 2%, difficult 75%, neither easy nor difficult 14%, not existent 9%  
“ : rare 65%, occasional 15%, frequent 8%, continuous 12 %

*11<sup>th</sup> question: **Factors/ activities hindering the intergenerational communication:***

**Greece**

Elderly: lack of time 32%, different interests 30%, age difference 28%, lack of respect 10%

Youth: lack of time 32%, different interests 30%, age difference 28%, lack of respect 10%

**Italy**

Elderly: age, different experiences, television, lack of sharing, lack of listening, indifference, ignorance, educational level, lack of social activities, different routine, arrogance

Youth: different experiences, different values, social networks, lack of communication, apathy, suspect

**Romania**

Elderly Education: 24%, The modernism/technology influence: 16%, The mentality: 16%, No tolerance/respect: 14%, Age difference: 8%, Difference concepts and principles: 8%, Lack of common activities: 6%, Pride: 6%, Others: 2%

Youth: Age difference: 20%, The internet: 18%, Education: 16%, The mentality: 12%, Lack of common activities: 10%, Difference priority and principles: 8%, The modernism and globalization: 6%, Different interest: 4%, Superiority:4%, Others: 2%

**Turkey**

Seniors think that they have nothing in common with young people and vice versa; there is a lack of respect and love for each other.

Young people think that old people live in the past and they have old customs; old people can't follow the modern life.

*12<sup>th</sup> question: **Factors/activities facilitating the intergenerational communication***

**Greece**

Elderly: conversation 44%, respect 30%, celebrations 26%

Youth: conversation 44%, respect 30%, celebrations 26%

**Italy**

Elderly and Youth: social activities, to travel together, to make together, to share experiences, respect, to work together, culture, education, values, sharing centers

**Romania**

Elderly : Family/Celebrating in family: 20%, Education: 18%, Patience: 16%, Tolerance: 14%, Communication: 10% , Common interests: 10%, To organize more activities together: 8% , Work: 2%, Others: 2%

Youth: To organize more activities together: 20%, Patience: 16%, Respect: 16%, Cultural games: 14%, Tolerance: 12%, Communication: 12%, The internet: 6%, Tips: 2%, Others: 2%

**Turkey**

Aged people: Empathy (Trying to find a common interest); Avoiding criticism.

Young people: Old people try to understand the world of young people; They need to show respect to thoughts and decisions of young people.

*13<sup>th</sup> question : **“ Do you have dreams or aspirations? Which?”***

**Greece**

Elderly: health 40%, happy family 22%, to travel 18%, a better world 16%, to have money 4%

Youth: a better world 40%, happiness in the family 28%, to travel 18%, health 10%, to have money 4%

**Italy**



Elderly : No dreams: "I realized my dreams": 9 cases; To travel, see the world (8); Health (3); a work or a different work(3); A peaceful life (2); to be a good grandma/grandpa(2)  
10 cases dreams a different society, a better world for all.

Youth: Dreams about work (12), a family (5), a peaceful life (4), graduation (3), self-realization (3), to see the world (3), to live out of Italy (3)

### **Romania**

Aged people: Happiness for my own children -24%; To be healthy – 20 %, A perfect world – 16% , To help people– 20%, No, I don't have - 10%, To leave at the village -6%, Others: 4%

Young people: To have a better job/my own business – 30% , A happy family -24%, To travel in the whole world – 20%, To save lives – 16 %, No, I don't have 6%, to cross the Carpathian Mountains 4%

### **Turkey**

Aged people: Travelling the world, Having a healthy and wealthy life, Living with their children and their loved ones, Learning new hobbies, Having helpful friends,

Young people: Travelling the world, Having wealthy life, Having a university degree, Having a promising job, Earning a lot of money, Having a happy family.

*14<sup>th</sup> question: "If you had a magic wand, what would you change?"*

### **Greece**

Elderly: 36% would change the political system of their country, 28% would change the world, 22% would change their economic situation, 14% would change the society.

Youth: 36% would change society, 30% would change the world, 22% would change the economic situation of their life, 12% would change the political system of their country

### **Italy**

Elderly: 13 cases would change all/the world/so many things; 7 cases wish that everyone had a job and were better. 7 express general concepts: less ignorance/selfishness/indifference, more solidarity/equity/understanding.

All other wishes are related to politics and economy: to eliminate racism, war and weapons, drugs, eliminate waste and pollution, eliminate hunger, injustice, the contrasts between the religions; to change politics, mentality and indifference. 10 cases would change the whole Italian politics .

About economy: jobs for all, the work at the center of society, fairness in the distribution of money; to limit the financial powers, to evaluate economy based on real wealth, to change the concept of money, to redistribute the resources.

Youth Group: 5 cases would to change themselves, 4 would travel, 4 would like to go to university, 4 would change so many things.

All other wishes are related to politics and economy: to change society/values of society (4), to change the work world (3), to fight against crisis and unemployment; to change people/mentality/ruling class (6), to change politics, mainly Italian politics (7), to change Italians (3)

### **Romania**

Aged people: the country – 34%, the mentality/behavior of some people – 30 %, the age/time – 24%, nothing -12%

Youth: the country – 18%, the financial/politic system – 30%, the mentality/behavior of some people – 36 %, eco things – 10%, nothing -4%

### **Turkey**

Aged people: Their health and their physical appearance; They would return to the teenage years; Their living conditions and places; The unfair delivery of the wealth

Young people: The political system and the politicians; The economical status of the middle class; They would stop the wars or clashes in the world; They would make the world more peaceful; They would prevent the hunger in the world,; They would help the poor in the country.



15<sup>th</sup> question: **“Are you interested in learning or improving your skills with computers or electronic equipment?”**

**Greece:** Aged people: 72% no, 28% yes; Youth: 80% yes, 20% no

**Italy** Aged people: 55 % yes, 45 % no; Youth 62% Yes, 38 % No.

**Romania** Aged people 38% Yes, 62 % no. Youth: 88% Yes, 12 % No

**Turkey** % 46 of the old people are interested in computing skills (mainly Office Programs, social media, sharing videos and photos), % 54 of the old people say they have NO INTEREST in computers and such. % 84 of the young people have interest in computer technology (mainly web design, office programs, software and hardware knowledge, internet usage and social media tools), % 16 of the young people say they have no interest in computing skills and some say they have no time for computer skills.

16<sup>th</sup> question : **“Are you interested in learning craft or traditional skills?”**

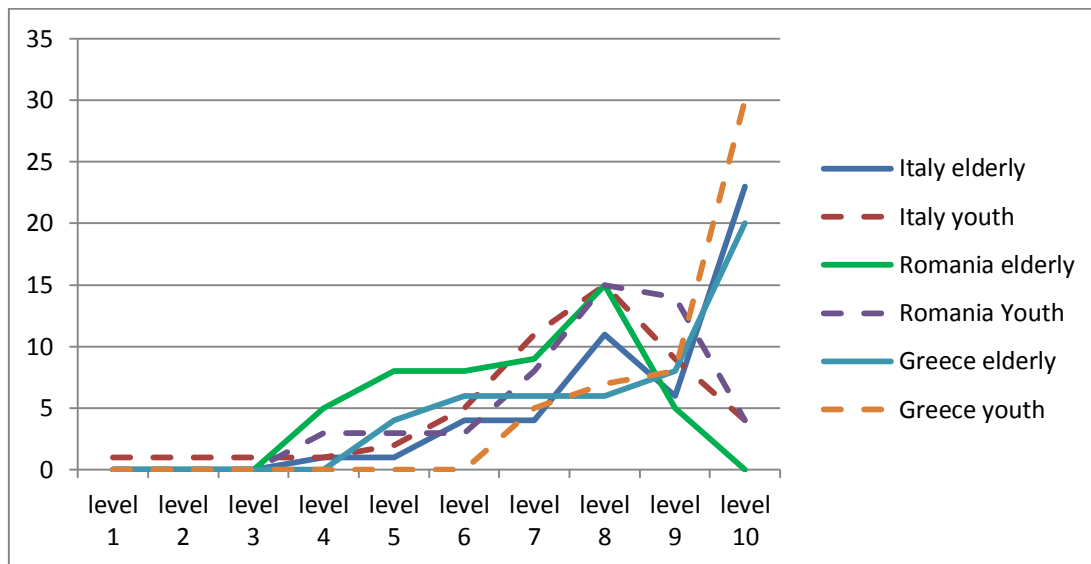
**Greece:** Aged people : 64% no, 36% yes; Young people: 50% yes, 50% no

**Italy:** Aged people: 66% Yes, 34 % No; young people: 78% Yes, 22 % No.

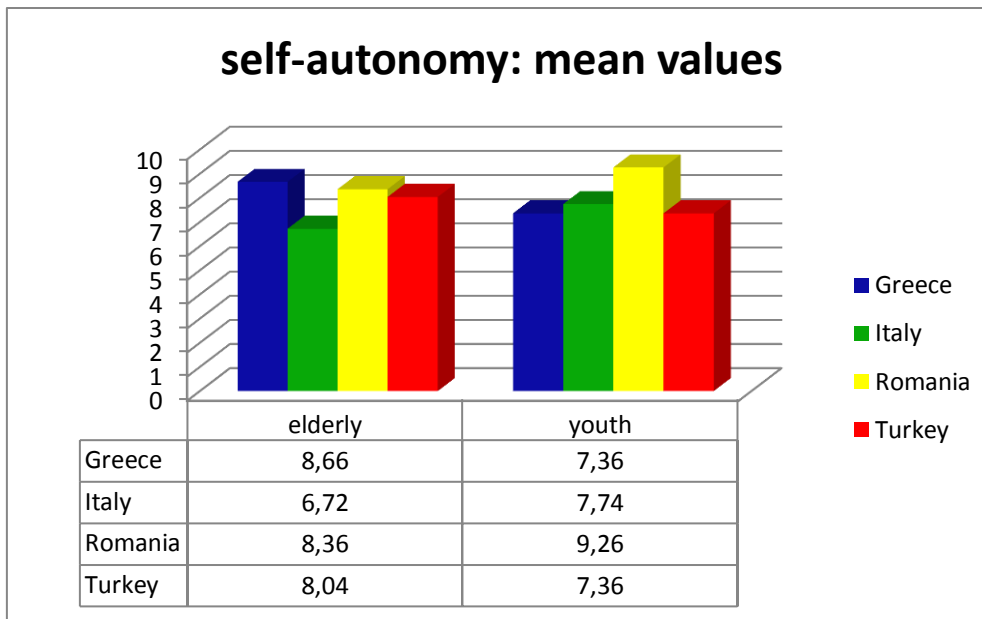
**Romania** Aged people: 54 % Yes, 46 % No; young people 72% Yes, 28% No

**Turkey** : --% 72 of the old people say they are interested in them and % 28 say they are not.  
% 78 of the young people say they are interested. And % 22 say they are not.

**Evaluated self-autonomy**



Turkey: The average point of the old people’s self-autonomy is 8,04 out of 10 points and the average point of the young people’s self-autonomy is 7,36 out of 10 points.



## CONSIDERATIONS

Elderly and youth have common experiences about ethical general value and travelling in Italy, Greece and Romania but they do not have common topics in Turkey. The majority, in all groups, would like to talk about their experience, elderly more than youth.

In elderly, skills are namely in practice activities as crafts or fix things, or in the work; in young people, music and arts prevail. Cooking is a common skill in all the groups. The majority had like to show, teach and share the skills.

Common Desires for learning: foreign languages, playing musical instruments, crafts, technologies.

“Intergenerational” hobbies: reading, travelling, photography, music. Peculiarity of youth groups is to have a sport as hobby.

Volunteer activity is common in Italy and Turkey, in elderly and –with a lower percentage – in youth; in Greece, volunteers activities are prevalent in young people; the Romanian sample shows a lower incidence of these activities.

The list of generational values is very interesting and reflects, in all groups, the presence of deep- non superficial values and of a high level of social cohesion: respect, solidarity, honesty, loyalty, helping, common sense are the most represented values. Family is an important value, namely in Greece, Turkey and in Romanian youth. The most important information from this item, in our opinion, is the coincidence between elderly and youth value: a hopeful result!

Great variability in the answers about the intergenerational communication, mostly (except Greece) considered rare and difficult. Factors hindering the communication: different age (obvious), different experiences and a variety of pre-concepts about the other age group. In the list of factors facilitating the communication, the most important word is “together”: make/talk/travel/organize/work... together: the majority thinks that to share experiences can facilitate the communication.

Great variability in the interest for ICT learning, with youth more interested than elderly, but youth declare also a great –unexpected- interest in learning crafts and traditional skills.

The sections “Dreams” and “Magic wand” are rich of ideas and interesting for further study

In general, elderly declare absence of dreams, or they dream health for themselves and a peaceful life for youth, or a better world; young people dream their future: work, family, self-realization . Unexpectedly, money is not a prevalent dream, in accord to the absence of wealth from the scale of values.

If they had a magic wand, almost all cases of our sample would change the world: politics, economy, to eliminate wars, injustice, indifference.

We can conclude that our sample represents, with very little difference among groups and countries, a society full of ideals, centered on social well-being, open to “the others”: this is strongly encouraging for our project.