Differences and similarities in cultural perception of elderly needs.

Laura Remaschi*
Patrizia Meringolo*
Ovidiu Gavriloici**
Christophe Loubat***
Dept of Psychology Universita of Florence, Italy*
University of Iasi Iasi, Romania**
Fondazione Istituto A. Dottoro, Florence, Italy***

Participants have been involved in three focus groups (1 for elderly people, 1 for families, 1 for social workers) in each country, carried out in different areas (towns and rural areas). Method was qualitative analysis founded on Grounded theory. In this contribution we will show findings about differences and similarities in elderly needs expressed by people coming from different countries and from migrants.

Results showed that Netherlands services seem more efficient, in Romania there are less possibilities of social benefits but higher family and neighborhoods support, in Italy there are more NGO and Voluntary organizations in managing services.

Eldey people equally pointed out the importance of interpersonal relationships, particularly as regard being listened by relatives and care workers and having possibilities of socialization. Other important issue was independence in every day life, that seems a protective factor against risk of disempowerment and depression.

Migrants underlined a specific need of an intercultural approach, that may allow to partially overcome the mistrust and the difficulties in social inclusion. In health care it is important for them to pay attention to activities as preparing and taking meals, receiving bodily care, and to gender or cultural lifestyle differences.

Lack of carefulness may become an important weakness in services' effectiveness.