In today's society it is no longer unusual for women to become over 80 years old. Which turning-points and challenges did they have to master in their life? These questions were asked by groups of women in seven European countries: Austria, Bulgaria, Germany, Italy, Lithuania and Czech Republic, reflecting at the same time on their own life experiences. After 35 interviews were conducted with women 70+ in each country, selected life stories are compared on an international basis. The outcomes will provide insight into the lives of older women in Europe and their aging process and serve as a source of inspiration for the participants themselves and for others.

Why is it considered a good practice and lessons learnt:
The project is intended to make the use of new media applications like Skype, online translation or forums tools available to the target group and foster their utilization. The participants will be introduced to creative writing and interview techniques which the women 50+ will apply when dealing with the aging experiences of the women 70+. At the end of the project a selection of vitae of interesting and inspiring women from all over Europe will be published in a book. It will be in English and parallel, all contents will be published in the respective national language of each partner.

Timeline/duration of the project 2010 – 2012
Relevance for the UNECE region: Through fostering exchanges between women from various European countries, the project also contributed to a better understanding on the respective specific social, political and historical situations in the UNECE region. Further aims were the initiation of a network within adult education in Europe and the development of friendship. We see this project as a valuable contribution fort the „European Year for Active Ageing“. Done by women 50plus with women 70plus.

Location of the project: Vienna, VHS-Hernals, Zawiw Ulm, University of South Bohemia, Tre ete Ferrara and Macomer, Red Cross Sofia, Kaunas/Lithauen Womens Information Center.
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