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**QUESTIONS FOR FOCUS GROUPS**

OLDER MEN as COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Name of the local community:

Village/town:

Municipality:

The size of the village/town (number of inhabitants):

Number of participants on focus group:

Municipality members:

NGOs members:

Other members of community:

Starting time of the focus group discussion:

**Participants**: Municipality (1-2), Leaders from local associations (5-15, optimal 12). Flexible composition according to the specifics of the community.

**Objectives**: To discuss older citizens’ main problems in the community, to have a diagnosis of the activities already existent in the community; to discuss priorities and the conditions necessary to make those priorities come true.

**Staff from the project**:

* 1 moderator: tries to foster discussion among the participants; promotes free dialogue and the diversity of opinions; explores the different points of view on issues; assures the transitions between discussion themes, etc.
* 1-2 students (makes a map of the room; places the tape records – at least 3; writes down the first 4/5 words of each sentence of everybody, so that transcriptions can be made without confounding who said what)

**Script for discussion**

- Time management reference: this script contains 4 themes for discussion; the moderator should try to have no more than 20 minutes before transition questions.

- In the end of each theme discussion, the moderator should: 1) make a brief summary of the main positions discussed (2 minutes); 2) pose one transition question; 3) If people want to add some more elements to the debate, give 5 more minutes to do this (usually they do want…)

**0.1- Brief presentation round (5 minutes)**

**0.2- Brief explanation on the objectives of the project and the present session (5 minutes)**

1. **How would you describe your neighbourhood/village/community?**

...and according to suggestions down; if possible, get examples.

Community is:

- **inclusive/exclusive** (for different citizens – groups and individuals: multicultural/ intergenerational/young/old)?

- **poor/wealthy** (according to which indicators)? Do people get and give help to each other in your community? Who helps in community most (when needed) - individuals, groups, organizations? Can you list them?

- **fosters participation, gathering, learning** (name activities) **/ foster isolation, individualization**?

- **suited / unsuited to the needs of the elderly** (in what sense)?

*- Brief summary; transition question: Do you want to add some other aspect to the debate that has not been referred yet?*

1. **According to your experience and knowledge of the territory, what are the most important problems and challenges faced by older citizens in the community?**

* Discussion about the position/role of older people in your community;
* Identify examples of opportunities older people have;
* Are there special community places or community spaces, where older people gather?
* What kind of problems do older people face in your community? What is in your community particularly well organized for older adults?
* If you would try to assess the well-being of older citizens, in which aspect they are most disadvantaged (health; education; housing; provision of finance; accessibility; care; involvement in social activities; would you add something else) in your community?
* Are there gender differences among older adults regarding their well-being? What about their roles and position in your community? How do you see these differences? Can you give some examples?

*- Brief summary; transition question: Do you want to add some other aspect to the debate that has not been referred yet?*

1. **According to your experience and knowledge of the territory, what are the existing opportunities in terms of activities in the community** (e.g., cultural, sports, leisure, formal/non-formal and informal) **specific to older citizens? Do some of these activities target especially men or have mainly men participants?**

* Do older men from your community connect, socialize and spend time together? How, in what way and where? What is the purpose and goal of their gatherings?
* Can you please give some examples, where and why are (older) men particularly important in your community?
* Do you know any voluntary associations/organizations in your community that are particularly interesting for older men? ( list them, name them). Why are they particularly interesting for older men?
* Do you know any association/organisation founded by older men?

*- Brief summary; transition question: Do you want to add some other aspect to the debate that has not been referred yet?*

1. **What would be needed in your community to make things better for all generations, and particularly for older people (and what for older men)? Please, give suggestions!**

* In your opinion, which activities for older citizens should be the priority in this community? Does it make sense to develop activities specific for men or women?
* Where (in which aspects/area of life) should be necessary to develop and organise such activities? Please, explain, in which aspects your community could/should improve? Who could contribute to the change most?
* What is the role of local authorities in fostering the social inclusion of older people in community?
* **What is the role of local authorities in coordination and fostering of cooperation among different providers of social/free time activities for older people in your community**? Are there any good practices? Can you give an example?
* **Is there a coordination among different NGOs and VAs in your community? Would it be good to have more coordination in activities of community organizations?**

*- Brief summary; transition question: Do you want to add some other aspect to the debate that has not been referred yet?*

*/use this approach or more structured approach (additional questions, if needed)/*

[ONLY if necessary some aid from the moderator: Local political measures? Resources? Funding programmes? Better forms of organisation? Other?]

Brief summary and final question: do you want to add something to the discussion?

**Final Note:** It might happen that a new discussion round is needed to proceed the work, with a new agenda. Suggestion: talk informally with the participants once the interview is formally closed.

Thank you very much for your time and effort!

Time at the end of interviewing: