



## Fund “Nauka” Project № 19032 Resume

“Socio-medical problems related to the institutionalization of people aged 65 and over”

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Population aging is a global demographic trend that places the care of the population aged 65 and over among the serious health challenges worldwide. Bulgaria is among the leading countries in the world in terms of the relative share of people aged 65 and over (over 20% of the population). Ensuring a dignified existence for the elderly concerns not only them but also social functioning itself. Placement in a specialized social institution is a last resort, unwanted by the elderly, but in the absence of other care options, it remains the only alternative.

The aim of the project is to study the socio-medical problems related to the institutionalization of people aged 65 and over. For this purpose, the international experience in providing institutional care for people of this age will be analyzed. The provision of institutional services in Bulgaria and the alternative provision of home care will be systematized and analyzed. Special attention will be paid to the reasons for accommodation, as well as to the adaptation of people aged 65 and over in specialized social institutions, through a study in retirement homes for elderly people with different capacity and funding. The conditions of the institutional environment will be analyzed – material base, staffing, medical care, organization of life, etc. The readiness of students in health professions from the Medical University of Varna to support those placed in an institutional environment on a voluntary basis will be studied.

Based on the information obtained from the documentary and empirical research, opportunities for prevention of institutionalization, improvement of the lives of those placed in retirement homes for the elderly, overcoming social isolation, and opportunities for deinstitutionalization will be considered.