

0572

## **Older women who have migrated from Western Balkan and inborn Swedish older women's everyday occupations**

Ann Johansson, Sofi Fristedt

*Jönköping University, School of Health and Welfare, Jönköping, Sweden*

**Introduction:** Older immigrants are a group with high risk for health problems. Health promotion in the group of older immigrants has been low prioritized in research and there is great need for knowledge development. Mapping the older immigrant's everyday occupations and compare this with inborn older persons can be a beginning for developing knowledge in the area

**Objectives:** Identify and describe the everyday occupations in older immigrated women from Western Balkan and compare with everyday occupations of older women born in Sweden. The aim is also to examine and describe, if so, how the women's occupations have changed when immigrated to Sweden, as well as how they master these changes.

**Method:** Fifty women over 60 years from Western Balkans region, living in Sweden from 11 to 25 years, have participated in a structured interview. The data will be compared with an data that included 50 older women born in Sweden. The interviews were conducted in Serbo-Croatian.

**Results:** The preliminary results showed that the participants from Balkan missed the social community from their native country and were more inactive and lonely in Sweden. The participants avoided social activities as they experience their skills in Swedish were insufficient which in turn had a negative impact on social participation. They had adapted to these changes by trying to hold out but also trying to keep control over the everyday life activities.

**Conclusion:** The results may support occupational therapy practice to design occupation-based health promotion for the group of older immigrants.