assumed responsibilities associated with community governance, and engaged in protest aimed at defending the rights of rural people. However, conflict with traditional codes of conduct was observed in relation to both how active citizenship was enacted, and motivations for engagement. Additionally, rural retirement migrants highlighted barriers that had precluded their involvement as active citizens. These findings are discussed in relation to their implications for both the capacity of rural settings to meet the needs and expectations of older in-migrants, and the experience of ageing in place for resident older adults.

POLICIES FOR PRESERVING THE WORK ACTIVITY OF PEOPLE IN RETIREMENT AGE IN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN BULGARIA

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Demographically, aging of the world's population is a fact that requires the implementation and development of integrated, active policies for the inclusion of older people in economic and social life. In response to this challenge, an international UN plan for active aging was adopted in Madrid in 2002. By adopting this plan, all EU member states are committed to contribute to active aging by integrating the rights and needs of older people into national economic and social policies. The European Commission formulates the concept of active aging as adopting a healthy lifestyle, longer labor market participation, later retirement, and retention after retirement. In recent years managers of higher education institutions in Bulgaria have been pursuing a policy of preserving the labor and intellectual potential of retired research and teaching staff. There are different practices and activities aimed at preserving this valuable resource built for decades. This paper outlines the main activities and evaluation of the effectiveness of the Mentoring Program for Shared Experience and Knowledge. This pilot program was implemented over a five-year period from 2012 to 2017. It involved teachers in pre-retirement and retirement age working in higher education institutions. Monitoring and evaluation of the different forms of activities included in the program were made. The benefits for all participants have been derived. The results and the analysis made support the initial suggestion that the program is an opportunity for gradual withdrawal from work activity, preserving social well-being and successful adaptation to retirement from active labor activity.

SESSION 3290 (POSTER)

COGNITION

AGE-RELATED DIFFERENCES IN INHIBITION INVESTIGATION OF SIMON AND FLANKER CONFLICTS IN ERPS

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It is unclear whether or not older adults experience more difficulty managing cognitive conflict by inhibiting distracting stimuli and/or ignoring irrelevant information than younger adults. A common procedure used to measure inhibitory function is through the use of congruent and incongruent stimuli. Specifically, past literature that used tasks like the Simon and flanker have found differing effects on reaction times and various event-related potential (ERP) amplitudes and latencies, suggesting that either inhibitory function is a unitary mechanism or multifaceted. Moreover, research exhibits uncertainty for whether or not age influences deficits to inhibitory function. Therefore, the present study sought to investigate these research questions by combining the Simon and flanker tasks into one unique task. The study's behavioral results indicate that older adults have greater difficulty with cognitive conflict in both Simon and flanker tasks due to significantly prolonged reaction times during incongruent trials. Furthermore, reaction time data posits that there are no significant age-related differences between the Simon and flanker task. This finding indicates that through the use of these tasks, inhibitory function is a unitary mechanism. In addition, preliminary electroencephalogram data shows that younger and older adults process the task's information similarly. These initial findings can further inhibition research through its use as benchmarks for the measurement of cognitive change and deficit identification in older adults.

DO PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL FACTORS MODERATE LINKS BETWEEN CARDIOVASCULAR HEALTH AND COGNITION IN LATER LIFE?

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Cardiovascular health is related to cognition in later life (Samieri, 2018). Psychological factors, such as depressive symptoms, have been linked with cardiovascular health (Thomas, Kalaria, & O'Brien, 2004). Marital quality, an important indicator of social connection, has been linked with cardiovascular response (Seider et al., 2009), and both depression and marital satisfaction are linked with a quicker recovery from heart attacks (Keller, 1998). Depressive symptoms and marital quality may buffer links between cardiovascular health and cognitive functioning. The purpose of this study was to examine cardiovascular links with cognition, in connection with depressive symptoms and marital quality. Using data from 864 participants of the Life and Family Legacy study (Mean age = 61.78), we examined predictors from 2010 in relation to cognition measured in 2017/2018. Word recall and computation subscales of the Minnesota Cognitive Acuity Screen (MCAS) were used to assess cognitive functioning. Results from multiple regression models indicated that after controlling for age, gender, education, income, and marital status, having hypertension and higher depressive symptoms were predictive of word recall. Lower depressive symptoms were also predictive of higher computation scores. Depression did not moderate links between cardiovascular health and cognitive functioning. Among married participants (n=632), positive marital quality had no main effect nor moderating association with cardiovascular health predicting cognitive functioning. Further research is needed to better understand how biological, psychological, and social factors interact to affect cognition in later life. Longitudinal work should track these associations in context of cognitive changes with aging.