

**Institute of Population and Human Research  
at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences**

Dear young fellows, dear guests,

I convey the welcome greetings of the President of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS), akad. Nikola Sabotinov and his wishes for successful work of all participants in this great event in Varna – Summer School of the program FLARE of the project ERA-AGE 2. By the name of the Institute of Population and Human research at the BAS and of the Bulgarian executive team of the Project and of my name as well, I welcome all of you – lecturers and young participants gathered today to learn more and to say more about the great challenge of 21st century – ageing of population.

Let me express my gratefulness of the Coordination Team of the Project ERA-AGE 2 and FUTURAGE and their Director Prof. A. Walker for the help in organization of this event here in our country. We highly appreciate his confidence in our effort and feeling of responsibility to contribute to achievements of the projects objectives and sustainable results.

The participation of our institute in the two projects as representative of Bulgaria is due not only on the fact that it takes a place among the fifth oldest countries in the world. Bulgaria offers reliable evidence about its recognition of needs to study ageing and to act for building up a society of all generations. The priorities of healthy ageing and wellbeing of ageing generations are a part of the National Strategy of Ageing. Bulgarian researchers are more and more actively involved in research on ageing and in policy oriented formulation accounting for the great demographic challenge of the new century.

The world and the European research area need new young and ambitious researchers. They have to be convinced that their contribution to resolving the older people problems is significant.

Their criticism and attitude towards modern theories and methodology are main determinants of the societal meaning of their participation in research on ageing. The young scholars have the advantage of deeper study of ageing process and its further development. This is a expression of freedom of thoughts discharged of traditional prejudices.

Welcome to Bulgaria, young scholars! The town of Varna is happy to offer you its hospitable coasts, warm autumn and Black Sea's smile.

Feel yourself welcome guests coming here by your honorable and responsible mission.

Ass. Prof. G. Mihova  
Director