Academic literature has shown the positive impact of activity participation on older person’s quality of life. Participation in social activities predicts decline in depressive symptoms (Croesen et al. 2013). Activities are strong individual predictors for well-being if the individuals experience a reciprocity in social productive activities (Siegrist & Wahrendorf, 2009). Learning in later life can boost intellectual power, assists in maintaining mental functions and helps to reverse memory decline (Cohen, 2006), at the same time learning occurs not through being taught but through active participation and personal agency (Golding, 2011). On the other hand there are evidences that such an inevitable life event as retirement has the potential to affect person’s cognitive functioning (Bonsang, Adam & Perelman, 2012). There is no broad-line analysis about activity participation and self-realization practices among older citizens in Estonia and other countries in Europe.

Research questions:
1. How SHARE wave 4 countries differ in solitary and social type of activities and which structural factors indicate the risk of passivity.
2. Are men with partner more passive in social activities than female.
3. How to describe the situation of older people activities on the bases of principles of criticism of critical educational gerontology which states that people with lower educational level and representatives of fourth age tend to drop out of active participation.

Data and methodology
Social activities (SHARE module AC): 1. Voluntary or charity work. 2. Attendance of training course. 3. Participation in a sport or social club. 4. Taken part in church. 5. Taken part in a political or community organization. 6. Playing games such as cards or chess.
Solitar activities (SHARE module AC): 1. Reading books or newspapers. 2. Doing crossword, sudoku etc.

Logistic regression is implemented as a research method which adjusts category variables.

Descriptive statistics
More than 55% of Estonians have only solitar type of activities and no social activities. This is the leading position among SHARE w4 countries. (Countries in the Figure are listed in the sequence of total sum of no and solitar activities only.)

In EE pensioners have higher probability to be passive both in social activities and in solitar activities comparing with employed people. CZ, PL and DE indicate the same tendency regarding to social activities but in CZ pensioners have lower probability to have irregular solitar activities than employed people at working age. In EE, CZ and SI the same “pattern” of passivity appears – the less the person has working responsibilities the less active (s)he is in both type of free time activities. This pattern has followed only by half of countries.

A very big difference between countries appears on irregularity in solitar activities, whereby people from countries like DE, AT, CH, NL and SE tend to be many times more engaged in solitary activities than people from PT, PL, IT, ES and SI. The difference between countries on engagement in social activities has a moderate fluctuation, whereby EE is followed only by PT which indicates the highest passivity in social activities.

Men with partner are not more passive in social activities than female, except PL. In four countries the opposite tendency appears.

In half of countries, including EE, severely limited people tend to be more passive in social activities than people with no limitations. In 14 countries (but not in PT and PL) people with low educational level have a higher probability to be passive in social activities and in 10 countries out of 16 the same appears also for people with medium level of education.

Pensioners in EE tend to be much more passive than similar groups in other countries. Country patterns of passivity related to life status need to be investigated in further research.