A comparative study of the Greek and Bulgarian elderly people perceptions of psychological well-being and psychological distress one year after the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic

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South-West University "Neofit Rilski", Faculty of Philosophy, Blagoevgrad, BULGARIA Psychological well-being is considered a protective factor when facing adverse life events. The COVID-19 pandemic is one of the most dangerous challenges that humanity has faced recently.

In this context, we aimed to investigate the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on Greek and Bulgarian elderly people perceptons of psychological well-being and psychological distress.

A total of 180 elders, 90 Greeks and 90 Bulgarian, aged 60-89 years, were studied by means of the Heubeck and Neill's Mental Health Inventory (2000).

The results revealed insignificantly higher levels of psychological well-being and distress among the Bulgarian sample in comparison to the Greek sample, with the differences between Greek and Bulgarian women regarding psychological wellbeing being more pronounced and statistically significant.

The findings support the suggestion that the negative changes in the Greek and Bulgarian senior adults' perceptions of psychological distress and well-being related to the COVID-19 pandemic may be determined by different factors.