From Sveta, Alina and Wapke

Things that can cross your mind when talking about textiles in Zburazh.

In general we agreed to let people tell their own stories – and in the home-visits you make them of course feel comfortable and talk in their own tempo and about what they wish - my experience is that people mostly do not know what rich stories they have. We (and women in textiles) tend to talk too general about what is or was made - like it is nothing. When people can demonstrate how they work and/or show an object/textile and have things in the hands - it tends to make the stories more alive and some people feel comfortable not to be the speaker and like it more just to do things. And as it is also always about having a good time together, every meeting is a surprise with unexpected encounters. I am looking forward to your harvest and would love to be in your company.

A list of possible things that can pop-up – most I mention here may be obvious but let’s see what can I list when thinking about a textile 😊 in Zburazh.

WHAT IS IT - About the textile materials: what kind of materials / how do they get this materials? / is/was it very easy or hard to find the materials in Brest Area - in the village - or in internet?

HOW DOES IT LOOK LIKE - About the design: what do they like about the shape, the colours / the style / the figures on the textile / the size … (And when they did the design themselves): is the design a own drawing, a copy of an example, or? Where did they see the example? Did they make own contributions to the design or is it 100% a copy of an example. How do they make/start a design?

WHERE DOES IT COME FROM - About the origin of the textile: is it a traditional textile, did they took it with you from elsewhere, did they buy it / where did they buy it? Is it made by them / made by somebody they know / is it a gift / who gave it to them / who made it for them / is the textile part of an exchange or ritual in your family or a local tradition?

WHO MADE IT AND HOW WAS IT MADE? When made by themselves: how long did it take to make this textile / did they have to learn the technic especial for this / who teaches the making of this type of textile to her/him? Would they make a new one when this is broken? What is a good place in their house to sit and work and create textiles?

WHAT IS THE FUNCTION - How is/was the textile used?: where in the house they store the textile or show it or use it / and what was the use – is it connected to tradition – religion – kitchen-use – clothes – bed or bath? How is it used? And is the textile made to be useful? Or is it from the beginning a “showpiece”.