Scenario 4

Takis and his asthma

Takis is a very polite 60 year old teacher. He lives in the capital of Greece and every morning for the last 25 years he uses the metro to get to his job. He uses this means of transport during rush hours and although he doesn't want to be in overcrowded places due to an asthma problem he has, he has no choice since he doesn't drive. Sometimes, when he is in indoor places where the air is sultry, he has a cough attack because of his asthma. One day while being in an overcrowded metro train wagon he started coughing heavily! In the first place, everybody started looking at him angrily...Some minutes later and since Takis continued to cough incessantly, a lot of people got off the train...Besides that, someone started yelling at him "Get off the train now!!! You want to kill us all!!!". Takis tried in vain to explain that this was an asthma crisis. Actually two or three persons pushed him out of the wagon at the next station! Takis was shocked and did not want to use the metro again from fear of having a crisis again! Therefore, for the pandemic period he is forced to take a taxi to go to work although this is something he can hardly afford.

Q1: Is this a bullying situation?

Q2: How did Takis feel?

Q3: How would you feel if you were in Takis situation?

Q4: Would you react in a different way?

Q5: Would you react in a different way in the long run?

Q6: How would you feel if you were a metro passenger?

Q7: How would you react if you were a metro passenger?

Q8: Why do you think that we overreact in situations like the one described above?