

side in the EU by 2050 (a European Commission estimate). The clear referencing of the sources, however, offers a way out for curious readers, who can check the original sources themselves for additional information.

One of the virtues of the report is that the authors are honest about the implications of their outcomes: in particular, they do not claim a causal explanation where only a correlation is presented, and they advise caution where necessary. This rigour is also found in much of the analytical work. The authors' data analyses often include the confidence intervals of the estimates rather than just simple point estimates. This approach allows the reader to assess whether differences across countries or social groups are likely to occur in 'reality' or whether they are just simple artefacts of the survey-based estimates. The empirical analyses are embedded in literature reviews, which by academic standards may seem somewhat brief, but which nonetheless provide a context and a base from which to explore empirical hypotheses.

The readers of this publication will most likely be policy-makers, civil servants, graduate students, people who are not social scientists, or social scientists aiming to brush up their knowledge of facts or facts outside their own area of research. One might regard this volume as a kind of crash course in the social reality of Europe. According to the intentions of the editors, this is the first issue in a new series of volumes to come, so it is well worth keeping an eye on forthcoming issues.

Orsolya Lelkes
European Centre for Social
Welfare Policy and Research
lelkes@euro.centre.org

**Jenny Billings – Kai Leichsenring (eds.):
*Integrating Health and Social Care
Services for Older Persons: Evidence
from Nine European Countries***

Aldershot and Vienna 2005: Ashgate and
European Centre for Social Welfare Policy
and Research, 345 pp.

Long-term care is a crucial component of health and social services provided today for older adults. This has become a major challenge in light of recent demographic changes resulting from the rapid ageing of the population and the increasing incidence of chronic needs, disability and illnesses. A new paradigm in this field, rooted in the social protection perspective, calls for the provision of integrated health and social care services so as to continuously meet the complex needs of older individuals. According to this notion, integration and coordination at the interface between the health system and the social care system result in a better service delivery standard and consequently improve the quality of life of the elderly.

Integrating Health and Social Care Services for Older Persons provides an intensive description of qualitative findings merged from a research project named Providing Integrated Health and Social Care for Older Persons (PROCARE). PROCARE is part of the 5th framework programme of the European Commission, which was carried out in 2004 and the beginning of 2005 among nine EU member states: Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. Its main goal was to explore the tendency towards integrated care in Europe and develop insights into integrated services from various perspectives. A total of 18 integrated care models, two in each of the nine partner countries, were examined to obtain a better understanding of the unique themes related to services incorporating integrated health and social care. This includes definitions of integrated care from different per-

spectives, the process of accessing integrated care, the role of the family in integrated care, and the quality of the service from the client's viewpoint. A qualitative method was employed with a case-study design, in which integrated care service served as the unit of analysis. Interviews and focus groups with staff, users and care-givers were the main data sources.

The book is generally well organised and structured. The introduction underscores the importance of the topic, giving a broad overview of the models and a clear description of the legal and financing conditions in the nine PROCARE countries. The practical and theoretical rationale behind the chosen research method, research design, and the collection and analysis of data are given in the next methodological chapter. This chapter also highlights the multiple challenges facing a cross-national investigation and the solutions employed in this project in light of previous experience. However, a significant concern became apparent in the section on the selection of sites. In the very short and somewhat insufficient description of the criteria according to which the 18 models were selected, four criteria are noted. One of them outlines the period for the establishment of the integrated care service. It was determined that the model had to be established for longer than six months, but no justification is given for this choice. As the PROCARE project's aim is to gain insight into integrated practices and learn about the obstacles these services are confronted with, it would be useful and interesting to investigate services in the starting phase, too. It was also noted that the care service had to offer integrated care in practice. However, studying organisations that do not employ integrated health and social services as a control group would have furthered the understanding of the benefits and the shortcomings of the integrated practices. Moreover, investigating services that have tried to employ this practice

in the provision of long-term care and then subsequently discontinued it may have helped extend our knowledge of what areas of integrated care are sensitive or problematic. We need to remember that integrated care is a time- and resource-consuming process, as Strumpel, Andersson, and Teperoglou show in Chapter 7, so in certain circumstances this approach might not be considered the best alternative from the perspective of both organisations and older clients. Another concern is based on the cross-sectional nature of this study. The interviews and focus groups were carried out at one period of time. Certain topics may have been raised in relation to contemporary events that influenced the subjects. A longitudinal qualitative study would benefit from wider insight into the changes occurring in integrated services, and that would mean learning more about the development of the processes and procedures aimed at overcoming difficulties.

Despite these data limitations, the findings presented in this book are highly important, as they usefully reflect on various aspects of integrated care for older persons in nine European countries from different viewpoints. Each of the seven content chapters describes the results according to the general themes, while focusing on one arena, providing a theoretical and policy overview, and outlining practical implications. Chapter 6, by Haverinen and Tabibian, stands out especially, as it provides a broad theoretical framework for interpreting data on the outcomes and benefits of integrated care from the perspectives of users and carers. Chapter 5, by Reichert, Teperoglou, Teperoglou and Villez, is in turn notable for its comprehensive overview of national policies relating to the central role of families in the provision of care to older, frail adults.

A major strong point of this book is that it goes beyond the sphere of research into the practical sphere. In each chapter,

after the findings are presented, there are detailed practical conclusions relating to the themes discussed in the chapter. For example, Chapter 3, by Coxon, Clausen, and Argoud, is about professionals working in integrated care organisations, and it offers some key practical points on how to establish successful integrated health and care services. The authors go even further and suggest factors that may have facilitated or inhibited effective joint work based on PROCARE findings. In this case these included holding regular multi-professional staff meetings and ensuring active management support for joint work. On the other hand, uncertainty, job insecurity and low self-esteem in relation to other professions involved potentially impede collaboration.

The book ends with a summary chapter, which goes over some implications of practical significance. Most noteworthy among them is the need to create a shared understanding about the aim of integrated care provision among all the stakeholders, the need for information technology that can gather, use, share and store information, and the need to facilitate the information flows essential for effective communication between different care services. The findings also substantiate the central role of integrated service management. Successful integration and collaboration depends remarkably on the ability of management to recruit staff members for the shared goal. A practical way of doing this, suggested by Billings, Leichsenring and Tabibian, is to allow enough time for the integration process, while investing in team development. In some ways this book can thus be considered a practical manual for key people in the systems of health and social care seeking to improve their service delivery and establish a quality integrated service based on applied empirical knowledge.

In sum, *Integrating Health and Social Care Services for Older Persons* addresses the important contemporary issues relevant

most to the quality of the services that older individuals receive when they become chronically ill and in need of long-term care. The editors did a good job in structuring the book, with a well-organised introduction, a presentation of methodology, and summary chapters. The seven other chapters also have a clear structure that helps readers to obtain a quick grasp of the issues raised. In addition to academics, professionals such as social workers, nurses, therapists and doctors engaged in the provision of health and social care services for older persons will benefit greatly from the theoretical, empirical and practical insights this book offers in its comprehensive treatment of integrated care services.

Sharon Shiovitz-Ezra
Paul Baerwald School of Social
Work and Social Welfare
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
sharonshi@mscc.huji.ac.il

Nina Bandelj: *From Communists to Foreign Capitalists: The Social Foundations of Foreign Direct Investment in Postsocialist Europe*

Princeton 2007: Princeton University Press, xviii and 303 pp.

Foreign direct investment (FDI) has played a major economic and social role in Eastern Europe. This book offers an original analysis of FDI in the time of transition from the perspective of economic sociology. Apart from providing a number of insights into the sociology of FDI, the book is very revealing about the state of the art of economic sociology in the US. Bandelj's careful analytical strategy, combining qualitative as well as quantitative methods, can be taken as an example of best practice in the field. The author asks three sets of questions. What accounts for the differences in country-level FDI trajectories since 1989 and how do states, international organisations, and do-