Providing Integrated Health and Social Care for Older Persons – Issues, Problems and Solutions (PROCARE)” is a project in the EU Fifth Framework Programme (Quality of Life and Management of Living Resources, Area “The Ageing Population and Disabilities”) that aims to help in defining the new concept of an integrated health and social care for older persons in need of care by comparing and evaluating different modes of care delivery. The project will identify structural, organisational, economic and social-cultural factors and actors that constitute an integrated and sustainable care system with enhanced outcomes for all actors involved.

This book gathers the achievements of the first project phase (2002) that consisted in a literature overview focusing on the question which of the variety of innovations in modes of organisation, finance and professional collaboration observed in Europe over the last decade have been the most successful and long-lasting ones. Thus, national reports from nine EU Member States (Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, the UK) will be presented by scholars from leading research and consulting agencies in these countries. The national reports follow a mutually agreed structure. The publication is introduced by a general overview and a more theoretic article defining the issues at stake.

The book gives a unique general overview on European approaches towards integrated social and health care services and policies that are to be developed to face the growing need of care in ageing societies; furthermore, it provides indicators for successful approaches and models of good practice to overcome the “social-health-divide” and a better understanding of the meaning of integrated services and coordination of social and health systems in the different countries. Finally, facts and figures about coordination at the interface between health and social care for older persons as well as problems and solutions (“lessons to learn”) concerning regulation and coordination are exhibited by well-known scholars in social and health policy research.

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Contents

INTRODUCTION ..................................................................................................7

Chapter 1
Providing Integrated Health and Social Care
for Older Persons – A European Overview ............................................................9
Kai Leichsenring

Chapter 2
Integrated Health and Social Care for Older Persons:
Theoretical and Conceptual Issues.....................................................................53
Andy Alaszewski, Jenny Billings, Kirstie Coxon

NATIONAL REPORTS .......................................................................................95

Chapter 3
Providing Integrated Health and Social Care
for Older Persons in Austria ...........................................................................97
Margit Grilz-Wolf, Charlotte Strümpel, Kai Leichsenring, Kathrin Komp

Chapter 4
Providing Integrated Health and Social Care
for Older Persons in Denmark .....................................................................139
Ellinor Colmorton, Thomas Clausen, Steen Bengtsson

Chapter 5
Providing Integrated Health and Social Care
for Older Persons in Finland ..........................................................................181
Paula Salonen, Riitta Haverinen
Chapter 6
Providing Integrated Health and Social Care for Older Persons in France – An Old Idea with a Great Future .............................................229
Michel Frossard †, Nathalie Genin, Marie-Jo Guisset, Alain Villez

Chapter 7
Providing Integrated Health and Social Care for Older Persons in Germany ..........................................................................................269
Günter Roth, Monika Reichert

Chapter 8
Providing Integrated Health and Social Care for Older Persons in Greece .............................................................................................329
Aris Sissouras, Maria Ketsetzopoulou, Nikos Bouzas,
Evi Fagadaki, Olga Papaliou, Aliki Fakoura

Chapter 9
Providing Integrated Health and Social Care for Older Persons in Italy .................................................................................................371
Giorgia Nesti, Stefano Campostrini, Stefano Garbin,
Paola Piva, Patrizia Di Santo, Filomena Tunzi

Chapter 10
Providing Integrated Health and Social Care for Older Persons in the Netherlands ..........................................................415
Carine Ex, Klaas Gorter, Uschi Janssen

Chapter 11
Providing Integrated Health and Social Care for Older Persons in the United Kingdom ..........................................................455
Kirstie Coxon, Jenny Billings, Andy Alaszewski

List of Contributors .................................................................................................................................497