

Acknowledgment

In 1992, I carried out my first small research as a student in sociology in Bucharest. I chose as subject health care services. I came in an amazing world of researchers, scientists, and congresses that fascinated me. Seven years later of studying, teaching all branches of sociology and doing research on demography, mass-media, migration, motivation theory, rural sociology, I had the opportunity to come back to research in the field of health care services. An even more amazing world opened to me and asked me to contribute with my knowledge, my commitment and my hard work to health care research. I am grateful for this opportunity to Wim, Jitse, Mirna, Miro and Marinela, the soul of Central European Network and to Prof.dr. Ion Ceapraz.

In summer 2000 I carried out the fieldwork for this study in the Dolj district. My grateful thanks to the interviewers (my students), who did a wonderful job despite the very hot weather, to the Director of Dolj Health Insurance House and the President of Dolj College of Physician in their support of getting the GP' s lists for sampling.

I am grateful also to the respondents without whose participation this research would have been impossible.

In May 2001, I came in Maastricht to analyse data, to review literature and to write scientific papers. I have written six papers for my thesis and submitted these to international journals in 19 months. I had the privilege to be supervised by great people, who offered me their trust, opportunity and assistance in my PhD studies. Especially, I am really grateful to Prof. Wim van den Heuvel, who believed that I could do my PhD studies in such a short period. Beste Wim, I am very proud of our great joint efforts to achieve this goal. Also, I gratefully acknowledge the assistance of Professor Hans Maarse of beneficial appointments and his support of my willingness to learn and improve foreign languages. Many thanks to Dr. Jitse van Dijk for the start of the project and dealing with my administrative business during my PhD studies.

For 21 months I have been working both at BEOZ in Maastricht University and iRv Hoensbroek. Working in these two places had great advantages: each celebration, i.e., Christmas, Easter, day out, Carnival, birthday parties were done two times. And I had the opportunity to meet twice as much wonderful Dutch people. But there was also a great disadvantage. Many days I woke up thinking that I would like to be in both places at the same time in that day. I tried, but I have never succeeded to do it! For all these I would like to thank to all my colleagues from iRv and BEOZ. They all created a wonderful working environment, very appealing to me. My grateful thanks are for the hospitality of four leaders: Prof.dr. Wim van den Heuvel, Prof.dr. Hans Maarse, Prof.dr. Wim Groot and Prof.dr. Frits van Merode. I am also grateful to people which assisted me in everyday business: Hedwig, Robert, Susanne, Jenny from iRv and Jan, Will, Astrid, Grietje, Marianne from BEOZ.

I gratefully thank to Prof. dr. Peter Groenewegen for his valuable comments on my papers and his great influence to my work. He has reminded me to stop running and first to think. I also thank for their useful comments on some papers to Prof. dr. Ruud Kempen and Dr. Luc de Witte.

During my PhD studies I was able to attend several CaRe/NIHES courses. I had great professors and I am very grateful to all of them!

I would like to acknowledge the members of the evaluation commission, Prof. dr. J. Groothoff, Prof. dr. P Groenewegen and Prof. dr. E. Zamfir, for their beneficial comments.

I want also to acknowledge the support of the Northern Centre for Health care research, the University of Groningen, Dr. Berry Middel and Mr. Roman, which made the publishing of this thesis possible. I am very grateful for the scholarship from University of Groningen, without which writing this thesis might not be possible.

I lived in Maastricht during 21 months. During this period I met many wonderful Dutch and foreign people. I would like to thank to all staff of Hostel Randwijk for their hospitality and, especially a friend family, Anja and Arthur Kissels.

I am very happy and proud of making wonderful friends in Netherlands. Especially I am thinking to my best friends: Karin and Patrick, who made me feel the Netherlands as the second home. I will always cherish the wonderful time spent together with them, especially our early Christmas celebration 2003. Dearest Karin, I will always remember our daily walks and discussions out in the lunch break. With you and Mustaq as office-mates, I spent wonderful days in BEOZ.

For 30 years I lived, studied and worked in Romania. My grateful thanks to my parents who supported me in all I have done in my life. My mother is a model for me of a successful woman in her work and life. My father advised me to a career in sociology. He published several books and has encouraged me to write scientific papers.

My skills as a researcher have been well trained by my professors during my studies in sociology in Bucharest and also, by Violeta Florian. Many thanks to all of them.

Almost two years, day after day I worked having only one thought and one love: my PhD thesis. But I have found real pleasure and happiness in my work. Now I thank to all Dutch people that I met, for their openness, friendship and hospitality.

Above all, this thesis is dedicated to two people: Adela and Robert. Their love and support in all that I have done till now are the keys of all my achievements.