Acknowledgments

The contributions to this book are based on a three-year research project which was funded under the Fourth Framework Programme by the European Commission (Target Socio-Economic Research TSER, Contract number SOE2-CT95-3007, Project Number: CT 953007 PL 953442). The project made it possible to collaborate with our colleagues in the research network for a much longer time than was officially financed. We are happy to say that we have moved on to new projects which involve largely the same partners and some additional ones in various contexts and research collaborations. The amount of own resources in terms of time and effort contributed to this endeavour by the authors has been well beyond initial commitments. We hope the readers will find this worthwhile.

Special thanks are due to Jacqueline O’Reilly, Christoph Albrecht and Hannelore Minzla at the WZB who handled the financial management and coordination of the project with the European Commission and the individual partner institutes in a very pleasant and friendly manner. Karin Reinsch organized the workshops and conferences as well as providing excellent secretarial support for the book production and supported the editors in her efficient, reliable and joyful manner. Thanks are due to Andrew Wilson who accompanied the manuscript as an excellent copy editor and improved the clarity of our arguments and English style. We would also like to thank Bernard Gazier (Paris) and Luis Toharia Cortés (Alcalá de Henares) for hosting interim meetings and providing additional support for the training module of this project.

The editors and authors of this volume would also like to express their gratitude to Günther Schmid for both his intellectual inspiration and continuous feedback on the topics dealt with in this volume.

Klaus Schömann, Berlin
Philip O’Connell, Dublin
February 2001