

Preface

The research for this project was done during 2008–2009. Professor Kresl was able to spend some time at the Department of Economic Geography at the University of Turin, Italy, which was made possible with a research fellowship from the International Center for Economic Research, in Turin. For these excellent facilities and support he is deeply grateful to Professor Enrico Colombatto, Director of the International Center, and to Director, Professor Agata Spaziante and the (former) vice-director, Professor Giuseppe Dematteis of the Department of Economic Geography. Daniele Ietri was given generous support from Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Cuneo, with a grant for 2008–2009. During this period he has been working at the Inter-university Department of Territorial Studies and Planning of the University and the Politecnico of Turin, Italy. He is very grateful to all the staff in the Department for this support, in particular to the Director, Agata Spaziante, to Carlo Salone, who took over formal responsibility for the project, and to Elena Gatto and Marcella Guy for their patient administrative assistance.

In each of the 40 cities in this study we interviewed individuals from government social and aging offices, and entities such as cultural and educational institutions. Our conversations with them and the access they gave us to documents and to data provided the informational basis on which this research was based. We are grateful to each of them for the gracious cooperation they gave to us. We can only hope that this book will be of interest to them as they and their colleagues in other cities confront the challenges and opportunities that relate to the aging of the population, and that they may gain some insight into best practices in this important area of public policy.

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