

Acknowledgments

The three-year project on which the contributions to this book are based has benefited from the support and help of a number of persons and institutions. We would like to thank, first of all, Jacqueline O'Reilly for her enthusiastic and energetic partnership in coordinating the 'TRANSLAM-project'. Her function included not only a key role in the project application and moderation but also a continuous stimulation of often frustrated or confused collaborators with their many diverse European idiosyncrasies. Jackie's language capabilities, her intellectual inspiration and Irish humour were indispensable in keeping the crowd together and chasing their members to perform what they promised, even when the result sometimes turned out to be a bit distant from the objective or at least different from what was expected, the present authors not being entirely guiltless.

We would like to thank Anders Hingel, Nicole Dewandre and Fadila Boughanemi at DGXII of the European Commission who managed the Fourth Framework of the Targeted Socio-Economic Research Programme (TSER) through which this project was funded. We are extremely grateful to Karin Reinsch, Christoph Albrecht and Hannelore Minzlaff at WZB who have provided excellent administrative support for the financial management and coordination of the project, as always. Special thanks go to Silke Kull for her able assistance in the final phase of editing, and, last but not least, to Andrew Wilson, who as an excellent copy editor greatly improved our English and style. However, we as editors and all the authors of course remain responsible for any errors and weaknesses.

Finally, we would like to thank our publisher Edward Elgar as well as his friendly and most effective crew for continuous support and interest in publishing our research. A number of authors have received feedback on their work from outside the research network and they have personally expressed their thanks in the individual chapters.

This book represents a collection of chapters which bring together economists, sociologists, political scientists and lawyers who use both quantitative and qualitative methods from a comparative perspective to develop and apply the concept of transitional labour markets and to derive their implications for social integration in different societies. In many ways we as authors and researchers have benefited immensely from this period of collaboration, and we hope that some of these benefits will be passed on to our readers.