

Acknowledgements

The material for this book is drawn from the work of an international group of researchers involved in a three-year project funded by the European Union under its Targeted Socio-economic Research Programme. The authors are grateful for the support of the European Commission and Eurostat in assisting us with the project.

The authors also wish to thank in particular our partners in the project who provided, amongst other things, policy papers about the four risk groups in their countries. In addition to the project co-ordinators, the leaders of these teams of researchers were Christoph Badelt, Abteilung Sozialpolitik, Institut fuer Volkswirtschaftstheorie und Politik, Vienna, Austria; Wolfgang Vosges, Zentrum fur Sozialpolitik, Bremen, Germany; Ivar Lødemel, Institute for Applied Social Science (FAFO), Oslo, Norway; Isabel Baptista, Centro de Estudos para a Intervenção Social, (CESIS) Lisbon, Portugal. Many other researchers, too numerous to mention, have taken part in the project at various points and we are grateful for their contribution.

Finally, grateful thanks to Angela Waite and Julie Birch in the Centre for Research in Social Policy who prepared the manuscript for publication.