Preface

This book is the result of a conference organised jointly by Ifo Institute for Economic Research and Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy. The workshop took place in Munich at Ifo Institute on 11 and 12 May 1998 and was the tenth in a series of international conferences of the European Research Network on Market Based Instruments for Sustainable Development, a project supported by Directorate-General Research (DG XII) of the European Commission. One of the objectives of this research network and the related workshops was to provide a forum to share knowledge and experience of ongoing research and to introduce it to a wider community of decision makers, researchers and stakeholders.

The conference 'Greening the Budget' focused on a particular aspect of sustainable development: the question of how to achieve a transformation process towards a greener governmental budget. This question implied first an emphasis on showing the state-of-the art, that is, which elements of the public budgets affect the environment and in what way. The second implication was a need to explore the scope for greening both the revenue and expenditure side of the budget. The more specific themes derived from this general focus.

The promotion of the conference, and the selection of authors contributing thereto, was undertaken by Kai Schlegelmilch (Wuppertal Institute, Germany), Rolf-Ulrich Sprenger and Ursula Triebswetter (Ifo, Germany). The team at Ifo provided the logistical support for the workshop and Kai Schlegelmilch and Ursula Triebswetter undertook preliminary editing. The final selection of papers was based on relevance and content, using an anonymous refereeing process organised by Peter Clinch, who also undertook the final editing.

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J. Peter Clinch
Kai Schlegelmilch
Rolf-Ulrich Sprenger
Ursula Triebswetter