

Preface and acknowledgements

The idea for this book started to take form in the mid-1990s, when I was completing my PhD dissertation and I realized the need for a more encompassing work about the EU's innovation policy. Yet, this book has taken a long time to come to fruition. The reason being that different projects have requested my most immediate attention, the most important of them being the birth of my two children – two lovely reasons. Writing this book has truly been a learning process. I have enjoyed exploring new areas that were relatively unknown for me, like for example the world of standards, and I have become fascinated by the political and social implications of the 'risk society' and the intellectual property rights regime. This learning and fascination is, I hope, reflected in the wording of the different chapters.

Most of the chapters of this book have been presented at international workshops. Chapter 2, 'Research and knowledge production' was presented at the workshop organized by Klaus Nielsen, 'Knowledge, Learning and Institutions', at Sofienberg Slot, Denmark, May 2001. Chapter 3, 'The changing regime of intellectual property rights', was presented at the 4th EUNIP Conference, Tilburg University, The Netherlands, November 2000. Chapter 6, 'Risk and the social sustainability of innovation', was presented in a second workshop organized by Klaus Nielsen 'Cognitive Processes, Values and Institutional Change', Rungsted, Denmark, January 2002. The concluding chapter was presented at the 5th EUNIP Conference in Vienna, December 2001. Furthermore, I presented Chapter 3, about intellectual property rights, at Linköping University, Sweden, where I was invited by Charles Edquist. Last but not least, I have discussed Chapters 3, 4 and 6 with colleagues of the innovation research group at Roskilde University in our periodical internal meetings, which have been a source of inspiration and encouragement.

Therefore, I am truly grateful to all the colleagues and friends in Denmark and elsewhere that have invested their time and energy providing rich comments, criticisms and remarks for the work in this book. I am particularly thankful to Sjoerd Beugelsdijk, Peter Biegelbauer, Jerome Davis, Charles Edquist, Marie-Louise Eriksson, Christian Friis, Lars Fuglsang, Birgitte Gregersen, Jaume Guia, Bjørn Johnson, Bengt-Åke Lundvall, Klaus Nielsen, Paul Nightingale, Bart Nooteboom, Ramon Ricard, Jacob Rendtorff, Margaret Sharp, Marianne van der Steen, and Jon Sundbo.

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A final word to my family. For particularly tragic reasons, my family has collectively known that science, culture and politics are unavoidably linked to each other. My great grandfather, Antonio García Banús was professor of organic chemistry at the University of Barcelona in the 1910s, 1920s and 1930s, until he was forced into exile by the dictatorship that ruled Spain for too many decades. Difficulties were also known by Miguel Batllori, my uncle, who has dedicated his life to Catalonia's cultural history in the context of Spain and Europe. They have stimulated my belief and hope that science and culture are the active building blocks of a united and peaceful Europe, based on the values of pluralism, freedom and democracy.

However, the ones I am mostly indebted to are my parents, Miguel and Nuria, my father-in-law, Jason (who recently passed away), and my husband Finn. Their invaluable support has been a constant stimulus in my work. My most sincere gratitude and love are for them.

The following remarks are important before reading this book. First, note that the data was last updated in December 2002. Second, since the numbering of EU Treaty articles changed after the enforcement of the Amsterdam Treaty, this book consistently uses the latest numbering system, but indicates in brackets the old article number. Third, for the sake of clarity, this book only refers to the European Union, and not to the 'European Communities' or 'European Community', as it was termed historically. And last, but not least, when the sources of the tables and figures are not indicated, they are my own creation.

The usual disclaimer applies. Any possible mistakes in this book are my sole responsibility.