

Preface and acknowledgments

This volume's ten country studies, which are mostly based on collaborative work by in-country and external researchers, were prepared within the context of a comparative project on 'Understanding Growth' organized by the Global Development Network (GDN).¹ A major goal of the project was to bring out domestic research capabilities, as well as tapping into their access to country-specific information. Lyn Squire, Director of the GDN, and Gary McMahon, Principal Economist for the GDN, played an important role in promoting and managing the overall project. The Economics Education and Research Consortium (EERC) in Moscow – GDN's regional network hub in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) – designed the analytical framework and implemented the country study stage of this project. At the EERC in Moscow, Eric Livny was responsible for the terms of reference and research process design. In the many tasks of coordinating the project, he was ably assisted by Alexis Belyanin (recruitment of country study authors), Olga Lavrentieva (general project coordination), and Ludmila Semenova (preparing the book for publication).

Four thematic papers prepared in the summer of 2000 provided a background against which proposals were assessed and competitively selected at a meeting in Moscow in February 2001.² Unfortunately, teams on Azerbaijan and Georgia could not be assembled, and the Turkmenistan in-country participant subsequently withdrew from the project. First drafts of the papers were discussed at a workshop in Kyiv in July 2001, and the full papers were presented at the GDN Conference in Rio de Janeiro in December 2001. During 2002 the authors revised their papers to focus more succinctly on the CIS countries' post-independence growth experience rather than on the 30 to 50 years growth experience, which was the time-frame of the GDN project. The full-length papers are available on the EERC website at <http://www.eerc.ru> and shorter versions, focusing on more specific topics, are collected in this volume.

At the Moscow meeting, the proposals were refereed by Micael Castanheira, Gary Fields, Erich Gundlach, Sergey Guriev, Dennis Mueller, Gur Ofer and Richard Pomfret, and Stanislav Kolenikov acted as data advisor. At the Kyiv workshop, Micael Castanheira, Michael Kaser, Gur Ofer and Richard Pomfret commented on the drafts. In Rio the CIS papers

were presented in sessions which also included papers from other regions, and the discussants included Bill Easterly, Noha El-Mikawy, Hadi Esfahany, Thorvaldur Gylfasson, Gary McMahon and Lant Pritchett, as well as ourselves. We thank all of these people for their comments.

Finally, thanks to Cathrin Vaughan, Jackie Mcdermott, Alison Stone and also to Alexandra Minton at Edward Elgar, who was an excellent editor.

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NOTES

1. The GDN was launched in 1998 by a number of national and international development institutions, and operates through a series of regional networks. The first global research project aims to explain the growth experience of the seven regions, and in collaboration with the OECD which is undertaking a similar project for its member countries, will yield a global account of economic growth.
2. The four background papers were: 1) Nauro Campos and Fabrizio Coricelli, 'Growth in Transition: What we Know, What we Don't, and What we Should', 2) Micael Castanheira and Vladimir Popov, 'Framework Paper on the Political Economics of Growth in Transition Countries', 3) Randall Filer, Thorvaldur Gylfason, Štěpán Jurajda and Janet Mitchell, 'Markets and Growth in the Post-Communist World', and 4) Sergei Guriev and Barry Ickes, 'Microeconomic Aspects of Economic Growth in Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union, 1950–2000'.