

Preface

This volume is composed of studies from two sources. First, it is the fruit of an interfaculty research programme at Delft University of Technology, Delft, the Netherlands, carried out by the Delft Centre for Sustainable Urban Areas. Typical for this research is the integrated approach to cities and city policies. Accordingly, sustainability in the context of the creative knowledge city goes beyond the environmental dimension. It connects economic, social and institutional aspects, with a focus on a balanced situation between competitiveness of the local economy and quality of life/place for all urban population groups. The first chapters in this book reflect this approach.

A second source is the annual meetings of the Regional Science Association (both European and North American) where the editors selected papers of interest covering themes like human capital and entrepreneurial networks connecting the urban-local with the national and global dimension, and transferability of the creative knowledge city concept from North America and Europe to emerging economies in other continents.

A different type of source on which this volume rests is inspiration, derived from the creative knowledge city itself. That traditional and backward urban economies can be converted into new science- and culture-based urban economies seems a miracle in itself. We have already understood some of its regularities and identified irregularities, among others reported in this volume. What remains missing, however, is insight derived from careful modelling of the main enabling factors of urban performance underpinned by adequate statistics; as well as insight into appropriate models of urban governance given the new circumstances.

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