Preface

The *Handbook of Political Change in Eastern Europe* provides the reader with standard handbook information on voting behaviour, cabinet formation, electoral and constitutional arrangements in 19 Central and East European countries. But it is not just a handbook in the conventional sense of that term. The country-specific chapters have cleavages as their common theme, and the handbook thus offers in-depth analyses of the changing cleavage structures in Central and Eastern Europe since the breakdown of communist rule. In Chapters 1–3, the four editors make an attempt to apply a macro-level perspective to political competition in the region; and in the concluding chapter they set out to synthesise the findings of the contributing authors.

The third edition of the *Handbook of Political Change in Eastern Europe* is based on the same concept as its two predecessors (1998; 2004), and many of the contributing authors are familiar from the previous editions. Six countries – Bosnia, Montenegro, Macedonia, Albania, Ukraine and Georgia – have now been added to the 13 countries covered in the 2004 volume; and the new edition thus provides a comprehensive picture of the political development in the region from the early 1990s and on. Information on election results and government composition over time is also available in excel format at: <http://easterneuropehandbook.info> along with supplementary data explicitly referred to in the text.

The successful completion of this book project must be attributed to the contributing authors. The editors want to avail themselves of this opportunity to thank all the contributing authors for their dedication and perseverance. The editors are also indebted to the Tercentenary Fund of the Swedish National Bank and the Foundation for Baltic and East European Studies (Sweden) for providing infrastructural support.

Sten Berglund Joakim Ekman Kevin Deegan-Krause Terje Knutsen