About the authors

Robert Tijssen is professor emeritus of Science and Innovation Studies at Leiden University in the Netherlands and professor at Stellenbosch University in South Africa. He is affiliated to the Centre for Global Higher Education (Oxford University, United Kingdom) and the InSySPo research network on innovation policies and strategies (Campinas University, Brazil). He has published extensively in the academic literature over the last three decades on a range of topics including innovation-related performance of research-intensive universities worldwide.

His interest in this topic evolved from contributing to the European Commission's Regional Innovation Scoreboard in 2012 and a growing interest in performance indicators on the regional impact of universities (Tijssen, 2015). He co-authored this book's precursor report "A Regional Innovation Impact Assessment Framework for Universities" that was published in 2018 (Jonkers et al., 2018). His recent academic studies focus on methods to study and monitor research cooperation between universities and business enterprises that are located in each other's close vicinity (Tijssen et al., 2020). His performance indicator on university-business cooperation was launched in the 2019 edition of U-Multirank (Tijssen, 2019). The methodology was also applied across all research-intensive universities in the United Kingdom (Tijssen et al., 2020).

He has been the lead researcher in a number of European Commission sponsored studies, and has served on several expert panels dealing with monitoring and evaluation of science and innovation programmes.

John Edwards worked at the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) from 2011 to 2020, helping to set up and manage the Smart Specialisation Platform (S3P). A joint initiative of the JRC and DG Regional and Urban Policy, the S3P provides advice to national and regional authorities on the design and implementation of smart specialisation strategies, a key approach of the European Union to promote knowledge and place based economic development. From 2016 he led the project on Higher Education for Smart Specialisation in cooperation with DG Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, which supports the development of partnerships between higher education institutions and regional authorities.

John has a PhD in regional governance from Newcastle University and degrees from the College of Europe and the University of St Andrews. John has worked as a public policy, government relations and research consultant and was a trainee at the European Central Bank. Since leaving the JRC, John has been a Senior Researcher at the New University of Lisbon and is Vice-President of the Policy Evaluation and Experimentation Platform, a Portuguese NGO.

Koen Jonkers is the Editor-in-Chief of the European Commission's Joint Research Centre. He holds a PhD from the European University Institute and master's degrees in both the social sciences and engineering from several universities in Europe. Prior to joining the European Commission he was a Ramon y Cajal Fellow at the CSIC in Madrid. During the course of this project he was a Science for Policy fellow at Cambridge University in the UK and he is an associate editor of *Frontiers Research policy and strategic management*.

Prior to taking up the role of JRC Editor-in-Chief, Koen was deputy head of the knowledge for growth, finance and innovation unit of the JRC. In this post he was, among others, responsible for coordinating JRC work on higher education and universities. This included the project on which this book is based. He has published extensively on science, innovation and higher education studies in Europe, Asia and Latin America, including recent work on the performance-based funding of universities (Jonkers and Zacharewicz, 2017). He was also a co-author of the report that formed the initial basis of this project (Jonkers et al., 2018).