

# Preface

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This book is the outcome of a comparative study of ten small country national systems of innovation (NSI) in Europe and Asia, conducted from 2002 to 2007 under the auspices of the European Science Foundation (ESF, website: [www.esf.org](http://www.esf.org)) and financed by participating national research councils. The funding source for each of the separate national case studies was one or more national research councils in the country concerned, as will be detailed in each case study. For Ireland, the Nordic countries and the Netherlands, the funding was coordinated by the ESF. The coordination of the whole project and the writing of this introductory chapter as well as the concluding chapter were financed by the Swedish Agency for Innovation Systems (VINNOVA) and the Swedish Institute for Growth Policy Studies (ITPS). We wish to thank all of these organizations for their generous support.

Contributors to the project included national research teams in Denmark, Finland, Hong Kong, Ireland, (South) Korea, the Netherlands, Norway, Singapore, Sweden and Taiwan. NSI in these countries were the objects of study, and participants in the research project eventually came to refer to it as the ‘ten countries project’. The total number of researchers involved was about 35. Within the project, several workshops were held in Copenhagen, Oslo, Taipei, Lund and Seoul, and organized by the relevant national research teams. These events not only marked progress in the research process but were also very important for driving the project forward. In this and other respects, the ‘ten countries project’ proceeded in a truly evolutionary manner – theoretically, methodologically and empirically (as described in the introductory chapter to this book). We are therefore very grateful to the hosts for the workshops, whose efforts and achievements made these meetings so successful. Finally, we want to express our deep gratitude to all the participants in the project. (They are too many to name here, but please see the list of participants!) This project owes its coherence and successful completion to their knowledge, abilities and willingness to collaborate.

In preparing this book for publication we have also incurred several additional debts of gratitude. In particular, we wish to thank the management and staff of Edward Elgar Publishing Ltd, not only for having agreed to publish the work but also for their patience, understanding, and kind

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