Preface

This book contributes fresh theoretical and empirical evidence on competitiveness and growth in the context of the commitment made in Lisbon in March 2000 by the heads of state and government to ‘make the European Union the most competitive and dynamic knowledge based economy in the world by 2010, capable of sustainable economic growth, with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion’. This commitment, known as the ‘Lisbon strategy’, is clearly a very ambitious one. The progress up to now is slow and a lot remains to be done to meet the targets.

The Lisbon Strategy started as a political initiative with no coherent economic framework or intellectual underpinning. There has been very little in-depth economic analysis of the objectives and policy implementations of the Lisbon strategy. This book aims at filling this gap by contributing to a better and deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities of the Lisbon Strategy.

The contributions in this book are the results of a workshop organized jointly by the Center for European Integration Studies (ZEI) of the University of Bonn and the International Network for Economic Research (INFER). This workshop, held in Bonn at ZEI in September 2004, brought together researchers and policy makers to discuss the growth potential of the Lisbon strategy and how to achieve better progress.

The focus of this book is on revealing patterns of growth and cohesion, productivity and competitiveness as well as innovation and knowledge spillovers. The novelty of this book consists of presenting, in a coherent framework, policy relevant research on: determinants of growth, cohesion strategies and the role of institutions, education, R&D and technological progress in economic performance.

This book will be of particular interest to researchers and policy makers working in the fields of competitiveness and growth in the context of economic and monetary integration.

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NOTE

- * Opinions expressed here are exclusively those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Commission, DG Economic and Financial Affairs.