

Editors' preface

In 2002 and 2003, the Vienna University for Economics and Business Administration, Ursula Kopp, Andre Martinuzzi and Uwe Schubert hosted two European conferences on 'Evaluation of Sustainability' (EASY-ECO 1 and 2) in Vienna. They were supported by the European Commission, Research DG, Human Potential Programme. More than 200 leading scientists, young researchers, evaluators and contractors from 25 European countries, the US and Canada participated. For the first time, the conferences provided a Europe-wide overview of various approaches and methodologies of evaluations in the context of sustainable development. By describing the state of the art of sustainability evaluation in Europe, the conferences have not only disseminated knowledge but moreover have enhanced market transparency. Overall, EASY-ECO was perceived very positively, both among participating academics and among practitioners. The contributions in this volume are selected and updated results chosen of this conference series to provide a further dissemination of these ideas and to open the book series on evaluation of sustainable development.

We owe sincere thanks to André Martinuzzi, who was the leading initiator of the EASY-ECO series and who, together with Peter Hardi, opened the possibility to publish this book. Our thanks are due to the team of the Research Institute for Managing Sustainability at Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration for their assistance, especially to Markus Hametner. We are deeply grateful to the team of Edward Elgar Publishing – Catherine Elgar, Felicity Plester, Alexandra O'Connell and Emma Walker – for their support and help in all steps of the publishing process of this book.

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