Acknowledgements

We are grateful to colleagues who provided us with valuable support material and critique at various stages: Louis Brennan, Peter Docherty, Rami Shani and Jim Stewart. Our thanks also go to the Trinity MBA class of 2010 which put our core constructs to the test and challenged us to sharpen our thinking.

The empirical work carried out in Chapter 7, was conducted as part of NALP, EU Contract Number DG EMPL C96 3627. We acknowledge the cooperation of Tony Dromgoole of the Irish Management Institute and of the managers who participated in the non-contractual network learning groups. The empirical work presented in Chapter 8 was carried out as part of CO-IMPROVE, EU Contract Number G1RD CT2000 00299. We acknowledge and value the collaboration with our academic partners in Aalborg University, Politecnico di Milano, University of Twente and Trinity College Dublin, and with our industrial partners in the contractual network learning groups.

We are deeply appreciative of the encouragement of the Edward Elgar team, Francine Sullivan and Jenny Wilcox, who waited patiently beyond many promised deadlines. Our thanks also go to Marie McGrath and David Walsh of Huguenot, Dublin who brought our graphics to life!

Finally, behind each of us is a set of family and friends, all of whom expected and supported our commitments to action and to learning that have resulted in this book.