Preface

The genesis of this book lies in one of the work programmes of the South East European Research Centre (SEERC), a joint enterprise involving the University of Sheffield and City College, Thessaloniki, that we were involved in shaping in 2002. This enabled us to bring together a network of social policy scholars from across the region to a series of workshops funded by SEERC and, later, by the Friedrich Ebert stiftung (FES) office for Croatia and Slovenia in Zagreb. The idea for this book was born at one of these workshops in Stubičke toplice, Croatia in September 2005. Draft chapters from all the countries were prepared for a subsequent workshop held at the same location in September 2006. This workshop generated an outline of the book's conclusions. In this sense the book and its messages regarding the extent to which, and the means by which, international interventions in the region have shaped its social policies is very much a collective project.

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