Foreword

This book is the fruit of two congresses held in Munich (2008) and Vilnius (2009) under the common theme ‘Can One Size Fit All?’ Whereas the first year focused on the commonalities in the structure of intellectual property (IP) throughout the various disciplines, the second year addressed specific topics which were analysed in the same horizontal manner. Selected contributions from both years are joined together in this volume, in a deepened and expanded form.

The congresses were arranged by the International Association for the Advancement of Teaching and Research in Intellectual Property (ATRIP, www.atrip.org), which is a unique community of IP scholars from all parts of the world, congregating annually so as to exchange ideas, receive inspiration, and gather information in a truly academic atmosphere and environment. The editors were involved in the organisation of the congresses as president of ATRIP and as local host. It is their wish to express their sincere gratitude to those persons and institutions without whose support a successful arrangement of the meetings would not have been possible, among them the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), the International Association for the Protection of International Property (AIPPI), and the International Federation of Patent Agents (FICPI). Generous support was further provided by the Academy of the European Patent Office (EPO) and by a number of sponsors from private practice. Special thanks also go to the academic institutions acting as co-organisers of the meetings, namely the Max Planck Institute for Intellectual Property and Competition Law in Munich and the Faculty of Law at the University of Vilnius. Last but not least, we are deeply indebted to the many persons who dedicated time and effort, with much enthusiasm, to the plethora of tasks behind the scenes, so as to ensure that the events took place smoothly and efficiently.

It has always been a crucial part of ATRIP’s work to distribute the harvest gathered at the annual congresses to its members in the form of publications. Nevertheless, this book marks a new phase in those activities, as it is the first volume in an ATRIP series edited under the auspices of Edward Elgar Publishing. It is our hope that the series will find its place in the market, so as to attract a new and broader array of persons interested in topical issues of contemporary IP. In full awareness of this
ambitious goal, the book has been given a concise structure and theme, so as to resemble a handbook rather than a mere compilation of congress papers. Our ultimate thanks go to the contributors who have understood and acted according to those ambitions. The last word on this, of course, needs to be spoken by the reader.

Munich and Vilnius, July 2010

Annette Kur and Vytautas Mizaras