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## Acknowledgements

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My involvement in international economic integration began when I was studying European integration at the University of Amsterdam (1980–81). That was the period when integration seemed to be a dead academic and research issue in economics and I had serious doubts as to whether the choice of my specialisation was correct. None the less, subsequent developments, in particular following 1985 (the Single European Market Programme from 1993, the European Monetary Union from 1999 and enlargements of the European Union) proved the contrary. A new boost of my involvement in international economic integration came when I succeeded my distinguished teacher and colleague Professor Victoria Curzon Price as a lecturer at the European Institute of the University of Geneva, following her retirement in 2008. The Institute provided a stimulating and fully supportive academic environment for teaching and research. This Handbook was written under the auspices and with the full backing of the Institute.

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