

Preface

Every book has its own history of authors, structure and contents. The story of this book began back in January 2009, when three of the editors (Edquist, Vonortas and Zabala-Iturriagoitia) met in Milan, Italy at the kick-off meeting of the AEGIS project (Advancing Knowledge-Intensive Entrepreneurship and Innovation for Economic Growth and Social Well-being in Europe). It was a 7th Framework Programme in which the three were involved as project partners.

One of the work packages of that project was called 'The Relations between Demand and Public Innovative Procurement and between Knowledge Intensive Entrepreneurship and Innovation'. As a result of this work, Edquist, Vonortas and Zabala-Iturriagoitia developed a robust relationship and a common understanding of the role that public procurement could play as a demand-side instrument in relation to innovation. When the project was about to end, the three researchers met again in one of the final AEGIS meetings and discussed ways and means of developing this research avenue. The idea of writing a joint book on public procurement for innovation popped up, and 'the book project' was born.

The goal was to reach out to a wider set of scholars who could contribute to such a book. Edquist and Zabala-Iturriagoitia then organized a Special Session dealing with Public Procurement for Innovation at the 2012 Annual Conference organized by the EU-SPRI (European Forum for Studies of Policies for Research and Innovation) network, which took place in Karlsruhe (June 2012). The authors included in this book contributed papers to that Special Session.

The group interested in contributing to the book then had discussions addressing such issues as the title, contents, possible weaknesses, and so on. When the work entered a more intense stage, Vonortas was invited to spend a couple of months at CIRCLE (Centre for Innovation, Research and Competence in the Learning Economy) in Lund in early spring 2013, and the three of us (Edquist, Vonortas and Zabala-Iturriagoitia) wrote

the Introduction to the book. Jakob Edler, who had had a leading role in the discussions since Karlsruhe, was also invited to participate as an editor in late spring 2013. He very kindly accepted the invitation. Also Jaya Reddy has greatly contributed to the clarity of the result, thanks to his precise improvement of our English.

This little history helps to explain why only three of the editors are credited with the Introduction, while the concluding chapter is attributed to all four. It also explains the order in which the editors of the book are listed.

Several reviews of the submitted manuscripts were undertaken between June 2012 and December 2013, leading to substantial work by the editors and the respective authors. Now, all the chapters have been reviewed, all the contents have been edited and we are in a position to write these few lines that hopefully provide the reader with a clearer view of the journey we embarked upon back in 2009.

*Charles Edquist, Nicholas S. Vonortas, Jon Mikel Zabala-Iturriagoitia and Jakob Edler
Lund, Sweden; Washington, DC, USA; Donostia-San Sebastian,
Spain; Manchester, UK
April 2014*