

# Preface

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The significant growth of cross-border mobility and migration in recent decades has been contributing to the growing cultural diversity of populations, which is changing communities throughout the world. Clearly, there is a need for an informed discourse and debate on the socio-economic implications of cultural diversity, not only from a qualitative perspective, but also from a solid statistical and econometric perspective. This volume brings together a series of original and quantitative contributions on the economics of cultural diversity, based on studies in Europe and North America.

The impetus for this volume was a workshop held at the Tinbergen Institute in Amsterdam, 15–17 April 2013. We gratefully acknowledge funding for this workshop from the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) and the provision of the workshop facilities by the Tinbergen Institute. All papers included in this volume were selected after anonymous peer review by two referees for each paper. We thank the referees for the constructive feedback, which has been helpful for the revision and editing of the chapters of this volume.

Several of the papers presented at the workshop evolved from a very productive and pleasant four-year collaboration of a team of economists from Estonia, Finland, Germany, the Netherlands and United Kingdom, who were jointly carrying out a large-scale project entitled Migrant Diversity and Regional Disparity in Europe (MIDI-REDIE). This project was funded by the New Opportunities for Research Funding Co-operation Agency in Europe (NORFACE), a network of 15 national research funding organisations.

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Last, but certainly not least, we would like to thank all of the authors of the chapters of this book for their insightful contributions. Given that the cultural diversity of countries, and particularly cities, around the world

may be expected to further intensify, it is certain that much more will be written on the socio-economic impacts of this trend in the years to come. If the contributions of the present volume inspire authors to respond to the significant remaining research challenges in this field, the book has served its purpose well.

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