

## Preface and acknowledgements

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This book set on European Family Law was a massive undertaking, with 35 chapters by 37 contributors and was fraught with many practical difficulties, including joyful family events and also differing interpretations of the term 'final deadline'. Therefore it took much longer than expected, and I am very, very grateful to the publisher (and especially the Commissioning Editor John-Paul McDonald and Deputy Managing Editor Jane Bayliss as well as Sally Philip and Gillian Pickering) and the contributors for their patience and understanding. This applies especially to those colleagues who contributed the national reports in Volume II of the series and who therefore not only had to put up with my rigid ideas regarding the basic structure of horizontal, vertical and individual family law and the equally rigid ideas about the contents of these reports, but in many cases also had to update their chapters (even several times) when the finalisation of the book took longer than expected.

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Jens M. Scherpe, St. Nicholas' Day 2015.