

Preface

This book aims to introduce the area of elder law in a European setting and, more specifically, how it has been understood and developed within the Norma Elder Law Research Environment since the programme's start. The Norma Elder Law Research Environment was founded at the Law Faculty of Lund University, Sweden, in response to the increased presence of 'ageing concerns' detected in EU policies and EU law at the turn of the millennium – developments that reflected growing concern about demographical ageing and its consequences. Given the magnitude of these concerns and their character of a long-term global challenge, elder law as a notion – and even more so as a legal discipline – so far has occupied a surprisingly modest position in the European context. In the context of the Norma Elder Law Research Environment the studies cover 'everyday life' legal structures in terms of work, family, housing and complementary welfare structures, factors which are all intrinsically interrelated with each other and also with general societal developments. The programme has focused on the structural implications of certain legal and societal solutions related to ageing at the macro or institutional level, and is characterized by its understanding of the elderly as a contextualized concept, ultimately determined by the specific area and problems concerned.

The contributors to this book include members of the Norma Elder Law Research Environment as well as invited guests – well-known and prestigious scholars as well as upcoming and promising young researchers. They have all worked together to amalgamate the results and consequences of their studies in an attempt to deepen our understanding of legal and other conditions affecting ageing individuals in our society. The analysis has been further developed by means of continuous internal seminars in the winter of 2015/16, culminating with the Norma Research Programme Twentieth Anniversary Workshop 'Researching Legal Development within the Social Dimension', held in Lund from 10 to 11 March 2016. As editor I am deeply indebted to all the authors and grateful for the effort and enthusiasm that they have put into the project. I also want to thank the funders of the Norma Elder Law Research Environment – Ragnar Söderberg's Foundation, the Marianne and Marcus Wallenberg

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