Preface

This book brings together recent interdisciplinary research of young and aspiring scholars from the developing and transition countries who are a part of the Global Network for Economics of Learning, Innovation and Competence Building Systems (Globelics). It is the first book of its kind but hopefully not the last. This particular volume seeks to answer the overall question of how National Innovation Systems (NIS) in developing and transition countries shape the activities of firms and industries and how firms and industries, in turn, influence the innovative systems of their host countries.

The reality of developing and transition nations calls for a stronger emphasis on mixed research methods in an attempt to understand innovation processes in these contexts. A highly heterogeneous and interdisciplinary body of the Globelics scholars is well positioned to offer a cutting-edge comprehensive perspective on the issue. Along those lines, the book presents a variety of methods including historical analysis, participatory action research, case studies, document analysis and survey-based quantitative research, as well as triangulation to study innovation and adaptation strategies in developing and transition countries. Based on these, we go beyond the question of whether the NIS concept is applicable to the context of developing and transition countries and try to answer a range of questions:

- What are the challenges for innovation at the system and firm levels, according to the experiences of developing and transition countries?
- What is the role of public policies in the transformation of national innovation systems?
- What innovation practices successfully overcome challenges to innovation?
- What is the role of collaboration and learning strategies in fostering innovation?

All in all, the edited volume offers fine-grained and nuanced insights into the innovation processes and innovative practices in the context of developing and transition nations. It is hoped that the material in the book will be instrumental in promoting engaged and well-informed dialogue on the issue of innovation systems consolidation in this group of countries.