

Preface

This book is based on the doctoral thesis of the same title, which was completed in April 2009. The study was inspired by the emphasis the European Union puts on its various regions in general, and on the issues of regional development and convergence in particular. Despite growing interest regarding regional economies, theoretical approaches to modelling regional growth appeared unsatisfactory and have motivated the approach adopted in the study. The work could not have been done without encouragement and support from first advisor Manfred M. Fischer, as well as constructive suggestions and valuable advice from second advisor Ingrid Kubin, to both of whom the author owes a debt of gratitude. Technical assistance throughout the time of developing was provided by Monika Bartkowska, Judith Kast-Aigner, Aleksandra Riedl, Petra Staufer-Steinnocher and Anita Wolfartsberger, whose help is greatly appreciated by the author. Special thanks for valuable comments go out to Roger Bivand, Gerlinde Fellner, Wolfgang Fellner, Alexia Fürnkranz-Prskawetz, James LeSage, Thomas Scherngell and Achim Zeileis. Furthermore, the author would like to thank Meaghan Burke for proofreading, and Barbara Feß for editing.

<http://www.springer.com/978-3-7908-2636-4>

Economic Growth in the Regions of Europe
Theory and Empirical Evidence from a Spatial Growth
Model

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2011, XII, 140 p., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-3-7908-2636-4

A product of Physica-Verlag Heidelberg