

Preface

As representatives of the foundation that has provided the financial means enabling much of the research work included in this collection, we have had the pleasure of observing the evolution of this work right from the very beginning. The research contained here seeks to systematically compare the impact of international migration and migration policies on the future shapes of demographic and labour force structures in Europe. This publication is based on the first research phase that has resulted from the founding of the Central European Forum for Migration and Population Research (CEFMR) nearly 10 years ago.

Further, in regard to the quality of the contributions contained in this work, some readers could be forgiven for assuming that an entire group of senior researchers has been involved. This is only partly the case: the rapid increase in migration at the turn of the millennium and the consequent growing demand for migration research resulted in a deficiency of well-trained demographers and social scientists, especially those with a mathematical and statistical background. Owing to this dearth of qualified researchers, Marek Kupiszewski had to begin by finding junior researchers whose professional training he could either hone or, indeed, take charge of. This, too, is a remarkable accomplishment that is readily appreciated when reading the individual chapters. The small, yet dynamic CEFMR was used in an exemplary fashion to influence a young generation of social scientists and demographers that has by now had an impact far beyond the Polish science community.

This book, on the one hand, connects themes such as migration, demographic development and the labour market and, on the other hand, fills a gap in science by plumbing the possibilities of extrapolating empirical data in order to generate migration forecasts. In this regard, the present work will be of considerable interest not only to academia but also within the domain of political practice, especially because here the problematic fields that European states and their political economies will increasingly be forced to deal with are illuminated and, therefore, better tackled today rather than at some later point in time.

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