

PREFACE

The International Conference on Integration Processes in the European Union organised by the Chair of Economic and Social Statistics, University of Łódź, was held in Łódź, June 6–8, 2003.

This Conference was mainly dedicated to the methodological and comparative aspects of integrating economies in Europe. The aim of the conference was the exchange of experience in the field of development and application of quantitative methods used for analysis of economic integration in Europe and its comparative approaches. For obvious reasons the conference prevailed papers referring mainly to the problems connected with Poland's future participation in the European Union.

This monography is a result of discussion and improvement of papers presented during the Conference entitled: TOWARD A NEW EUROPE. METHODOLOGICAL AND COMPARATIVE APPROACH. The book, having exactly the same title, is divided into five parts, i.e.:

- Methodological aspects of the competitiveness of economy, according to the micro and macroeconomic approach,
- Sectoral analysis of the Polish economy and selected European Union countries,
- Investments, capital market, and the European integration,
- Methodological and empirical aspects of the European Union enlargement,
- Problems of social and regional inequalities in the process of the European integration.

In Part I authors present different theoretical and empirical approaches to micro and macroeconomic competitiveness with a special emphasis on the labour market in Poland.

Part II considers chosen economic aspects in a power industry, agriculture, input – output analysis, public procurement, and SME sectors in Poland and in the EU.

In Part III different approaches to methodology and analysis of FDI, capital markets, and technological progress are presented.

Authors of papers included into part IV concentrate on possible international comparisons within the EU enlargement with special attention to living standards, consumption, and health protection.

The last Part is dedicated to social and regional inequalities and possible structural founds of the EU which may be used for economic improvement. As an example of such an European policy the case of Canary Islands of Spain is presented.

Wacława Starzyńska
Maria Magdalena Grzelak