

Preface

This project is the first in a series of new initiatives developed by the Board of Editors of the *European Economic Review (EER)*. This project fits into the new Board's aim of publishing quality research while adding an additional element of stimulating excellent research in newly developing areas in economics. Projects that are focussed on exposing the foundations of new research programs are offered the possibility to organize a workshop on this topic. The workshop's proceedings are published in this series, a long line of influential books published since the early 1950s (under the initial editorial auspices of Jan Tinbergen). A small number of papers were selected for publication as a group in the *EER*.

This project benefited enormously from the ability of the authors to exchange ideas face-to-face on two occasions. On the first, in May 2002 in Bonn, Germany, very preliminary and in some cases incomplete drafts were read and discussed. On the second, in May 2003 in Chateau Sint Gerlach, the Netherlands, complete papers were received well ahead of the conference and discussed among the authors. Clearly, these conferences would not have been possible without expenditures on both goods and time – support of both a financial and a personal nature. The financial support was shared by the Forschungsinstitut zur Zukunft der Arbeit (IZA) of Bonn, Germany, the Business Investment Research Center (BIRC), the graduate school of business and economic research (METEOR) of the University of Maastricht, the Netherlands, and Elsevier/North Holland Science Publishers. The time of Adela Butolo, Eva Nelissen and Kitty van Straten of the organization and strategy section of Maastricht University's Faculty of Economics and Business Administration helped make the second conference possible. Ticke Maurer of the IZA facilitated both conferences and, more generally, helped shepherd the project through from its start to completion. To all these institutions and people we are deeply grateful.

Daniel S. Hamermesh
Associate Editor of the *European Economic Review*

Gerard A. Pfann
Managing Editor of the *European Economic Review*