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FOREWORD

The articles collected in this book are based on projects that have been financially supported by the *German Science Foundation* (DFG) in the framework of the priority program "Interdisciplinary Entrepreneurship Research" in the years from 1998 to 2004 Although not all of the projects had initially planned to focus on regions, the various discussions of the research results in the different phases of the priority program clearly showed that regional factors did indeed play an important role. This gave rise to the idea of organizing this collection of articles based on the priority program that in one way or another deal with the regional dimension in entrepreneurship.

This book would not have been possible without the vital support of a number of persons and institutions. We are particularly indebted to the German Science Foundation for the funding of the priority program. Rachelle R. Rinke was of invaluable help in the editing of the English language in the articles written by non-native speakers. Sandra Mueller did a great job in carefully preparing the camera-ready manuscript. Last but not least, the authors deserve gratitude for their work. We hope that this book will provide inspiration for further research in the field of entrepreneurship, particularly the investigations of regional factors that effect entrepreneurship and its impact on development.

Freiberg and Regensburg, August 2005

Michael Fritsch Jürgen Schmude