

Preface

This book focuses on the rapid development of the automotive industry in East-Central Europe (ECE) since the early 1990s, which has been driven by large inflows of foreign direct investment. It summarizes a substantial part of my work on the ECE automotive industry during the period between 2011 and 2015. Field research, in the form of company questionnaires and interviews, for the topics presented in this book started in 2009. I am also drawing on my previous work on the ECE automotive industry that goes back to 1995. Since the beginning of my academic career, I have always been interested in understanding how particular social and economic processes operate on the ground in the concrete conditions of particular firms, places and regions. This grounded approach is reflected and presented in my work on the ECE automotive industry.

The chapters in this book draw on my previously published research articles and one book chapter. All of them have been edited, updated and in some cases expanded for this book. In particular, Chap. 1 is based on Pavlínek, P. (2015) Foreign direct investment and the development of the automotive industry in central and eastern Europe. In: Béla Galgóczi, Jan Drahokoupil, Magdalena Bernaciak (eds) Foreign investment in eastern and southern Europe after 2008: Still a lever of growth? ETUI, Brussels, pp. 209–255. Chapter 2 draws on Pavlínek, P. (2015) The impact of the 2008–2009 crisis on the automotive industry: Global trends and firm-level effects in Central Europe. *European Urban and Regional Studies*, 22(1):20–40, doi: 10.1177/0969776412460534, published by SAGE Publications. Chapter 3 was originally published by Oxford University Press as Pavlínek, P. and J. Ženka (2011) Upgrading in the automotive industry: Firm-level evidence from Central Europe, *Journal of Economic Geography* 11(3):559–586, doi:10.1093/jeg/lbq023. Chapter 4 was originally published as Pavlínek, P. (2012) The Internationalization of Corporate R&D and the Automotive Industry R&D of East-Central Europe. *Economic Geography* 88(3):279–310, doi: 10.1111/j.1944-8287.2012.01155.x. It is being reprinted by permission of Taylor & Francis Ltd. Chapter 5 originally appeared as Pavlínek, P. and P. Žížalová (2016) Linkages and spillovers in global production networks: Firm-level analysis of the Czech automotive industry. *Journal of Economic Geography* 16(2):331–363, doi: 10.1093/jeg/lbu041, published by

Oxford University Press. Finally, Chap. 6 is based on Pavlínek, P. (2016) Whose success? The state-foreign capital nexus and the development of the automotive industry in Slovakia. *European Urban and Regional Studies* 23(4):571–593, doi: 10.1177/0969776414557965, published by SAGE Publications. I want to express my gratitude to these publishers for their permission to use my previous work here. I also want to thank Jan Ženka and Pavla Žížalová for their permission to use the articles they have originally coauthored (Chap. 3 in the case of Jan Ženka and Chap. 5 in the case of Pavla Žížalová).

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I am most grateful to my wife Gabriela and children Adam and Sára for their continuing love, support and encouragement during the preparation of this book. This book is dedicated to the memory of my parents Ilona Pavlínková and Josef Pavlínek.

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