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.

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