Acknowledgements

The editors would like to thank all EuroDRG project partners and related authors who contributed their knowledge and broad experiences to this book; their great patience with the editors ensured that countless reviews and revisions did not threaten its realization. We would like to give special thanks to Dana Forgione and Frank Hartmann, who reviewed some of the chapters in Part One, encouraging the authors to improve these chapters. Furthermore, we would like to thank Nicole Russell for the extensive editing work and Jonathan North for coordinating the production process.

As the EuroDRG workshops were fundamental for collaboration among project partners in order to develop this book, the editors would like to thank Alexandra Starke, Carola Haring, Esther Martinez Amor and Reelika Ermel, who organized the EuroDRG workshops in Potsdam (2009), Berlin (2009), Paris (2010), Barcelona (2010), Tallinn (2011) and Berlin (again, in 2011). We would also like to thank Pascal Garel, Bernhard Gibis, Luca Lorenzoni, Predrag Djukic and Predrag Stojicic, who participated in EuroDRG workshops and provided insight into related fields in different countries, which clearly contributed to the development of the project as a whole.

Earlier versions of various chapters were presented and discussed at numerous national and international conferences and workshops, such as the EHMA conference 'Hospital Financing: Diagnosis Related Groups – Leading the Debate' in Brussels (2009), the 4th Nordic Casemix Conference in Helsinki (2010), the EHMA Annual Conference in Lahti (2010), the 8th European Conference on Health Economics (ECHE) in Helsinki (2010), the 'Polish DRG System Directions of Future Developments' conference in Warsaw

xxviii Acknowledgements

(2010), the 'Funding Models to Support Quality and Sustainability – A Pan-Canadian Dialogue' conference in Edmonton/Canada (2010), the Patient Classification Systems International (PCSI) Winter School in Dublin (2011), the 3rd German Association of Health Economics Conference in Bayreuth (2011), the World Bank Workshop on 'Health Financing Reforms to Improve Efficiency and Quality of Care' in Moscow (2011), the 12th European Federation of National Associations of Orthopaedics and Traumatology (EFORT) congress in Copenhagen (2011), the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies' policy dialogue 'Changing the Payment System for Hospital Care in Bulgaria to Improve Equity and Efficiency' in Sofia (2011) and the 8th World Congress on Health Economics in Toronto (2011). The editors would like to thank the auditorium of all these presentations for their inspiring thoughts, which have influenced the final versions presented in this volume.

European projects with multilateral relationships are subject to considerable financial administration efforts. The editors would therefore like to thank Anette Schade, Silke Hönert and Katrin Ludwig from the European liaison office at the Berlin University of Technology for their thoughts to clarify budget-related queries.

In addition, without funding from the European Commission (within the Seventh Framework Programme, research area HEALTH-2007-3.2-8, reference: 223300) the Diagnosis-Related Groups in Europe: towards efficiency and quality research project in this highly relevant area would never have begun.

Finally, the authors would like to thank the numerous supporters of the project, such as Philipp Seibert, Claudia Brendler, Claudia Reiche and Julia Röttger.

Reinhard Busse Alexander Geissler Wilm Quentin Miriam Wiley