At the end of the 20th century many research and cultural institutions, as well as particular intellectuals, tried to assess the past century and predict either the "local" or "global" future. Analogous to these efforts, scholars at the Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar decided to organize an International Symposium on European Integration at the end of 1999. Invitations were given to a number of scholars in Croatia, Western Europe, and the U.S. who have incorporated various aspects of the "globalization perspective" into their professional work. Most of the Croatian and North American invitees, as well as a smaller number of European scholars accepted our invitation. Altogether, twenty speakers participated at this Symposium entitled "European Integration for the 21st Century" that was held in Dubrovnik from 1-3 December 1999. It also included a round-table discussion on "The Stability Pact" chaired by the former Croatian Ambassador in USA, Miomir Žužul. In addition to the plenary sessions, the Symposium featured three thematic units under the theme "European Integration": "Foundations and Perspective", "Aspects of Security and Stability", and "A Croatian Perspective."

Given the current importance of the topic, the enviable professional level of the participants, and public interest, we have decided to publish the proceedings of the Symposium as a volume in the Institute's series of Proceedings. In this publication, we have retained the thematic structure of the Symposium, as well as the order of papers. The opening speeches by the former Minister of European Integration and Vice President of the Croatian Government, as well as a representative from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs appear at the end of the volume.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the participants for allowing us to publish their papers. The Ministry of Science and Technology of the Republic of Croatia, and the Croatian Catholic Charities, Hodart, USA financially supported the Symposium that was organized in cooperation with the International Center of Croatian Universities in Dubrovnik. The exceptional efforts of colleagues at the Ivo Pilar Institute with regard to the preparation and organization of the Symposium are also noted here with gratitude.

Editors