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## FOREWORD

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This publication is the result of a mini-symposium organised in connection with the meeting of the COST Action A15, Working Group 4. Founded in 1971, COST is an intergovernmental framework for European co-operation in the field of scientific and technical research, allowing the co-ordination of nationally funded research at the European level. The main objective of the COST A15 Action is “to obtain increased knowledge and a common European understanding of the reforms and transformation of social protection systems in Europe in the context of globalisation and European construction”. Working Group 4 is particularly interested in interaction between employment policy, labour market reform and changes in the welfare state.

This mini-symposium entitled “Employment Policies and Welfare Reform” was organised by the “Ivo Pilar” Institute of Social Sciences and held on October 26, 2001 in Zagreb, Croatia. The Symposium gathered together European experts in the field from Belgium, Finland, France, Great Britain, Hungary, Norway, Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland and Croatia. Given the current importance of the topic, the enviable professional level of the participants, and public interest, we have decided to publish the papers as a volume in the Institute's series of Proceedings.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Davorko Vidović, the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare of the Republic of Croatia for opening the Symposium, the participants for allowing us to publish their papers, as well as the Ministry of Science and Technology for financial support. The exceptional efforts of the staff at the “Ivo Pilar” Institute with regard to the preparation and organisation of the Symposium are also noted here with gratitude.

Editors