

Preface and Acknowledgments

The intellectual origin of this book goes back to Włodzimierz Wesołowski's early engagement in the international, European-funded, project IntUne (Integrated and United? A Quest for Citizenship in "Ever Closer Europe") in 2006. At that time he was interested in the functioning of the Polish political elite after Poland's accession to the European Union. Two co-editors, Kazimierz M. Słomczyński and Joshua Kjerulf Dubrow, joined Wesołowski in planning the book in early 2009, proposing a diversification of topics and an extension of the list of collaborators. In the following months, the editors collected all of the chapters and worked with the authors on consecutive drafts. The three co-editors equally share responsibility for the entire volume.

The IntUne project delivers a massive volume of data, including separate data sets on national elites and the general public in several countries, in the Western, Southern, Eastern, and Central parts of Europe. These data sets are extensively used in this book. We feel obliged to thank the leadership of the IntUne project for their effort and perseverance in achieving the best product and sharing it. Our thanks go, first of all, to Maurizio Cotta (project coordinator), Pierangelo Isernia (project deputy coordinator), and Elisabetta De Giorgi (project manager). Heinrich Best was essential for the elite part of the project, and Paulo Bellucci—for the general public part. We thank them and also György Lengyel, Wolfgang C. Müller, David Sanders, Paulo Segatti, and Luca Verzichelli for fruitful discussions. Special thanks go to Radosław Markowski who participated in all stages of the IntUne project and was responsible for gathering data on the general public in Poland. Krzysztof Kasianiuk prepared a description and typology of the Polish political parties that was useful for several scholars in the IntUne project.

Interviewing members of national elites has been a particularly difficult task. Zofia Ładygina coordinated the interviewers involved in studying elites in Poland. Her efforts in arranging meetings with elite members and constant monitoring of

the interviewers' work resulted in high-quality data. However, the data quality also depended on the respondents. Thus, in this context we thank our respondents who, in spite of their extremely busy schedules, were able to spare time for the interviews as well as to thoroughly answer more or less intrusive questions.

Most of the contributors to this volume are members of the Cross-National Studies: Interdisciplinary Research and Training Program (CONSIRT), a joint endeavor of the Polish Academy of Sciences and The Ohio State University. We would like to thank the leadership of the main supporting institutions of this international program, the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology (IFiS) of the Polish Academy of Sciences and the Department of Sociology of The Ohio State University, for committing resources for the research included in this book.

The production of our edited volume involved several people. Grażyna Drażyk was responsible for various tasks within the IntUne project, from the management of Polish data, to bookkeeping of the project, to maintaining the necessary contact with all our contributors. Jerzyna Słomczyńska served as a consultant in shaping this volume and helped by translating several chapters into English. Therese Malhame assisted with editing this volume; her insightful questions led us to clarify a number of substantive issues. Andrzej Zabrowarny solved many technical problems involved in the book's timely publication. Finally, we need to mention Barbara Gruszka, head of IFiS Publishers, whose advice was helpful from the beginning to the end of the production of this volume.

The Editors