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## The President's Preface

The creation of a journal of the European Association of Comparative Economic Studies has been in our minds for years; it was amply debated at several of our meetings and was deemed a well justified and meritorious aim. This is why its actual appearance now is more than welcome; it is a momentous event in the life of our scientific community. I am certain that its intellectual mission would be adequately supported by the members of the Association and other economists who share our interest in the investigation of comparative economics issues.

There is so much going on in the world and in the realm of ideas which begs answers from economists, us included. Therefore, the Journal can play a role in enhancing a dialogue among economists in our field and other social scientists, in promoting and disseminating new insights and ideas. Clearly, one has to be humble in the sense of being realistic as to what can be achieved. After all, economics is, yet, a soft science. But, to the extent scientific demarches are being driven by intellectual honesty, candid debate and open mindedness we cannot fail in moving forward with our work.

It is my duty, as President of the Association, to congratulate Michael Keren and Vittorio Valli, the two editors of the Journal; they made it happen in the end. With energy, enthusiasm, intellectual power and dedication they have turned a wish into something real. I feel bound to thank all of our colleagues from LIUC University and, in particular, Giovanbattista Ramello and Piero Cavaleri, who have believed unswervingly in their ability to help do it. I am also grateful to all current and former members of the Executive Committee of EACES and and of the Scientific Committee of EJCE, who have supported this endeavor with hearts and minds; other members of EACES, who assisted in this endeavor, are also thanked. Let us hope that this beginning will come to lasting fruition, that it will bring about numerous moments of intellectual satisfaction to all of us.

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