Absorption of immigrants in European labour markets. The Netherlands, United Kingdom and Norway

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Citation for published version (APA):

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Foreword

Over the last decade, I have been increasingly fascinated by both the mechanism behind the individual decision to migrate and consequences of migration for host countries and immigrants themselves. It is hard to identify whether my interest in this topic is determined by a simple random process or by the comparative advantage related to my own personal experiences as a “persistent” immigrant. This book satisfies part of this curiosity and is the outcome of my PhD research conducted in the last four years.

I am indebted to the Institute for Migration and Ethnic Studies for providing a fellowship, to Tinbergen Institute for their well-designed PhD courses and for financially supporting visits to many international conferences, and to the Faculty of Economics and Econometrics (FEE) at University of Amsterdam for providing excellent research facilities. I have had the great pleasure in knowing and working together with Joop Hartog, who has been an ideal promoter, from his constructive and inspiring comments to supporting and financing the acquisition of Dutch data. In addition, Joop has taught me the value of hard work and efficiency. I would like to thank to Rinus Penninx, my co-promoter, who gave me significant freedom during the course of this PhD but guided the process carefully.

The EU program of Training and Mobility of Researchers generated the opportunity to conduct studies on the UK and Norway. I enjoyed my visits to the ISER, University of Essex and NSD in Bergen, Norway, and would like to give thanks to the many friends and colleagues I made at these places: Elena Bardasi, Rene Bohem, Marcia Taylor, John Brice, Kate Tucker and many others in Essex, Kristine Enger, Bjørn Henrichsen and other NSD’ers in Bergen. In addition, I would like to extend my thanks to Bert Balk and Phillip de Wolff from the CBS, Bernard van Praag and Walter Manshadi from the SEO, and Jan Groen from the O+S for their support for getting Dutch data sets.

FEE has been a fantastic working environment where I enjoyed various types of technical and not technical support: Paul Frijters introduced me to applied microeconometrics. Arno Riedl has always been very patient to help me in managing Latex files. Edvin Leuven and Hans van Ophem were always available to answer my questions on econometrics. Ada Ferrer-i-Carbonell has helped me with converting data formats, ever equipped with helpful software and good humour. Jesse Levin did a
wonderful job proofreading my English. And, the 'Economics of Dinner' with Ib Waterhuis always had a surprisingly refreshing effect on mind. Many thanks to all of you!

Sharing a room with Hettie Pott-Butter was simply a pleasure regularly accompanied by fruit and flowers. My days working on the eighth floor were enriched by the practical, enterprising and steadfast mind of Kea Tijdens, the ever smiling and sunny disposition of Froukje Mebius, the regular lunch, anti-RSI breaks, dart games and the occasional organic fig with Ruta Aidis, Klarita Gërshani, Naomi Leefmans, Casper Kaandorp and Eiko Kenjoh. Also, I would like to thank Loes Lotze and Robert Helmink for their indispensable role. Cecile Wetzels support in many fields is unforgettable. Finally, thanks to my housemates Gerdien, Jamie, Judith, Mara Flora, Sigrid, Thomas, Wassilis, and Marijke, my paranormal Demi and Boris, and other friends for all their effort, patience and unending support.