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

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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.

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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 Gërxtani, 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 paranims Demi and Boris, and other friends for all their effort, patience and unending support.