This highly topical book addresses the challenge of economic convergence within Europe, beginning with a thorough review of the theory of growth and related empirical research. Historical and more recent economic developments within the present EU and current accession countries are discussed, along with the design for the process of further integration of accession countries into the EU and the Euro area. Moreover, the potential to achieve a sustainable catch-up process in Western Balkan countries, the Ukraine and Russia is explored, focusing on the task facing the EU in designing proper policies vis-à-vis these countries. The contributors’ varied perspectives ensure that the theories and policies postulated are linked closely with the actual situation in accession countries and offer up-to-date insights.

“This book comprehensively addresses current trends in economic growth in Europe and emphasises theoretical perspectives. . . the book is topical, provides with better understanding of the issues, and will certainly attract, and is useful for academics, as well as students and practitioners of European issues, economists and economic geographers.’
- Nino Javakhishvili, Regions

‘. . . essential reading for analysts interested in the evolution of convergence trends in Europe and provides a fascinating insight into the enlargement venture.’
- Konstantinos A. Melachroinos, Progress in Human Geography

‘Set in the context of the launch of the euro and eastward enlargement of the EU, the ambitious scope of the book includes economic convergence with respect to theory, historical trends, recent national and regional disparities, factors such as monetary and exchange policy and the role of the financial sector, issues for accession and nonaccession countries and the role of policy. . . The editors have produced a readable, informative, and interesting book, which should promote better understanding of convergence in an enlarged EU and closer cooperation between regional and monetary policymakers and researchers.’
- John Bachtler, Journal of Regional Science