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Financial Integration

A Focus on the Mediterranean Region

 Springer

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Acknowledgement

This book has as theme the topical issue of financial integration with a focus on the Mediterranean region. It is composed of contributions by authors who participated in the workshop of the 13th annual meeting of the Mediterranean Research Meeting in Montecatini (Italy) in March 2012 that was organised by the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies of the European University Institute in Florence. At that occasion, a great and diverse number of experts from the region gathered to analyse the pros and cons of further international financial integration in view of the recent global financial crisis for this growing but vulnerable region, also taking into account the political events after and during the Arab upheavals.

This book provides an overview of our main findings. Starting with the general concept of financial integration, it discusses new ideas and developments in monetary and fiscal policymaking, banking in some North African countries, cutting-edge research on financial markets and risk management and then moves towards social aspects, including international trade analyses. This book does not only highlight the South Mediterranean region that covers the Northern African and Middle Eastern economies, but it also provides special attention to the Gulf countries, the Western Balkans, the European Union and other main international financial or trading partners of the Mediterranean region.

The approach of discussing this topic of financial integration is thus broad, as is the geographical coverage, and the number of countries of origin and the backgrounds of the authors. The broadness provides the added value of this book, as a contribution to the literature on financial integration.

We thank the organisers of the Mediterranean Research Meeting as well as all those colleagues from the various institutions for stimulating the discussion on financial integration, reading our research and policy work and providing us with helpful comments. We furthermore thank *Springer Verlag* for publishing this book.

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