

About the Authors

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Beñat Bilbao-Osorio is Associate Director and Economist with the Centre for Global Competitiveness and Performance at the World Economic Forum. In this capacity, he carries out research on national competitiveness issues with a special focus on Latin America and Iberia. In addition, he analyzes the role of innovation and information and communication technologies in fostering competitiveness, and is co-editor of *The Global Information Technology Report*. Prior to joining the Forum, Dr Bilbao-Osorio worked at the Directorate-General for Research & Innovation of the European Commission, where he was responsible for economic analysis on European Innovation Policy; at the Directorates of Science, Technology and Industry, and Education of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) on innovation-related topics; and at the International Trade Centre (UNCTAD/WTO) on international trade competitiveness analysis. His main research fields are innovation, skills, ICT, and economic development, where he has published extensively. Dr Bilbao-Osorio holds a degree in Economics from the Universidad Comercial de Deusto (Spain), a Master in European Studies from the Université Catholique de Louvain (Belgium), and a PhD in Economic Geography from the London School of Economic and Political Science (UK).

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Jennifer Blanke is Senior Director, Lead Economist, and Head of the Centre for Global Competitiveness and Performance at the World Economic Forum. Since joining the team in 2002, she has written and lectured extensively on issues related to national competitiveness and has edited a number of competitiveness reports, with a particular regional focus on Western Europe and sub-Saharan Africa. From 1998 to 2002, she was Senior Programme Manager responsible for developing the business, management, and technology sections of the World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting in Davos. Before joining the Forum, Dr Blanke worked for a number of years as a management consultant for Eurogroup, Mazars Group in Paris, France, where she specialized in banking and financial market organizations. Dr Blanke obtained a Master of International Affairs from Columbia University and an MA and a PhD in International Economics from the Graduate Institute of International Studies (Geneva).

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Ciara Browne is Associate Director with the Centre for Global Competitiveness and Performance at the World Economic Forum, where her responsibilities include managing the network of Partner Institutes worldwide and coordinating the Executive Opinion Survey process. Ms Browne is also involved in the production of the *The Global Competitiveness Report* and the Centre's other benchmarking studies. She works closely with the Forum's media team in conveying the findings of the various competitiveness reports to the media and the public. Before joining the Forum, she served for several years with the International Organization for Migration, where she worked for a mass claims processing program. She has a BA (Hons) degree from the University of Manchester (UK).

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