

Economic Effects of Social Protection

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Preface

When I started writing this dissertation almost four years ago, I did not expect that the time would go so fast. Have I been in a kind of trance imposed by a high degree of concentration, the regularity of the days and the structured approach of science? The time might have gone, which also becomes clear when I notice a changed hairline in the mirror, but my mind is peaceful and I am proud of the result.

This dissertation would not have existed without the support of many people. First of all, I am grateful for all the support I have received from my supervisors Kees Goudswaard, Pierre Koning and Egbert Jongen. Kees, I have benefited greatly from the confidence that you have always expressed in me and for helping me to keep on-track and on-schedule. Pierre and Egbert, I am very happy to have had you as co-authors of two chapters, the meetings with the three of us were often the highlight of the week. I would not have been the researcher I am now without your training. Additionally, I would like to thank the CPB and the OECD for giving me the chance to conduct research at these organizations. I would also like to thank the members of the committee for reading and assessing my thesis. Jan van Ours, Willem Adema, Marike Knoef and Wim Voermans, it is an honor to have you in my PhD committee.

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