

Table of Contents

Acknowledgements	vii
List of Tables	ix
List of Figures	xi
List of Boxes	xiii
List of Abbreviations	xiv
List of Contributors	xvi
 Introduction: Political Economy and Public Finances <i>István Benczes</i>	 1
 I. Cross-Country Analysis of Public Finances in Central and Eastern Europe	 13
1. Economic Freedom and Public Debt in Central and Eastern Europe – <i>Oliver Treidler</i>	15
2. Political Business Cycles: Theory and Empirical Findings for the CEE Region – <i>András Olivér Németh</i>	35
3. The Strategic Use of Public Debt in Central and Eastern Europe – <i>Vera Takács</i> and <i>István Benczes</i>	59
4. Varieties of Capitalism and Public Finances in Central and Eastern Europe – <i>Zsolt Szabó</i>	87

II. Case Studies in the Public Finances of Central and Eastern Europe	105
5. Passive Macroeconomic Populism in the Baltics – <i>Gábor Kutasi</i>	107
6. Values, Norms, and Beliefs: The Case of Poland – <i>Judit Kozenkow</i>	133
7. Critical Junctures and Unintended Consequences: The Case of Hungary – <i>István Benczes</i>	153
8. Structural Reforms in a Low-Trust Environment: The Case of Slovakia – <i>Dóra Györffy</i>	175
9. Europeanization with a Detour: The Case of Croatia – <i>Fruzsina Sigér</i>	197
Index	219