

Acknowledgements

The papers in this volume were prepared as background materials for the workshop on *The Role of Local Governments in Reducing the Risk of Disasters* held in Istanbul, Turkey from April 28-May 2, 2003. More than 80 central and local government officials, academics, researchers, NGOs and civil society representatives from six countries attended the workshop.

We would like to thank the rector of Marmara University, Professor Tunc Erem, and all university staff for hosting the event.

We are grateful for the generous support and hospitality of the city of Istanbul. We would like to thank the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality for their kind contribution to the workshop.

We are grateful to the Mayor of Degirmendere, Ertugrul Akalin, and his staff for taking the workshop participants on a fieldtrip to learn first hand about the city's role in earthquake reconstruction.

We would like to thank workshop speakers and participants for their contributions and support to make the workshop a success.

We would like to acknowledge the guidance and financial support of the World Bank Hazard Management Unit: Alcira Kreimer, Margaret Arnold and Zoe Elena Trohanis.

We are grateful to the authors of this volume for submitting the edited versions of their papers and granting copyrights for this publication.

We would like to thank to Open Society Institute's Local Government and Public Service Reform Initiative for funding this publication and specifically for the support of Adrian Ionescu and Gabor Peteri.