

Dr Ioannis Kaplanis

Economist · Executive leader · Public Policy Advisor

Athens, Greece | +30 6974 758 913 | i_kaplanis@yahoo.co.uk | linkedin.com/in/ioannis-kaplanis | www.ioanniskaplanis.org

EXECUTIVE PROFILE

Economist, policy analyst and senior executive (PhD, LSE) with over 20 years of experience across international organisations, academia, government and major public institutions. Applied policy and advisory work spans economic development, productivity, innovation policy, labour markets, urban and regional economics, public governance and evidence-based evaluation. Former economist at the OECD and the Mayor of London’s Economic Team, with experience in economic analysis, country reviews and policy advice for national and sub-national governments. Subsequent Director General roles in Greece — at the Hellenic Industrial Property Organisation, while seconded from the OECD, and the Athens Epidauros Festival — strengthened my capacity to lead teams, manage complex EU-funded programmes (RRF, Horizon Europe, Erasmus+ and NSRF), deliver institutional reform and work with senior public and international stakeholders. I have also held representative and committee roles in European and international organisations. I combine a strong empirical research background and peer-reviewed publications with practical delivery experience across public institutions.

KEY COMPETENCIES

▶ Strategic Leadership & Organisational Transformation ▶ Executive & Financial Management ▶ Applied Economic Analysis, Policy Evaluation & Reviews	▶ Innovation, IP Policy & Smart Specialisation ▶ Productivity, Labour Markets & Skills ▶ Urban & Regional Development	▶ Public Sector Advisory & Government Liaison ▶ Stakeholder, fundraising & International Partnerships ▶ EU Funding & Programme Management
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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

03/2020 – 03/2026	Director General Athens Epidauros Festival (Hellenic Festival S.A.) – Ministry of Culture Greece's flagship international performing arts festival; 60 permanent staff, 600 seasonal employees; annual budget grew from €10m to €15m over the period. ▶ Maintained full operational continuity through COVID-19 and drove post-pandemic recovery: audience growth >30% and revenue growth >50% (2019–2025); record corporate sponsorship portfolio in 2025. ▶ Delivered sustained fiscal surpluses; strengthened own-revenue base and expanded the corporate sponsorship portfolio. Led institutional modernization/restructuring; digital transformation and circular economy/sustainability initiatives. ▶ Secured and managed €3.5m from the EU Recovery and Resilience Facility for infrastructure upgrades, technical equipment and digital transformation. ▶ Sourced and managed various EU funding streams (Horizon Europe, Erasmus+, ESPA/NSRF); developed international consortia and multi-stakeholder projects. ▶ Initiated audience / customer survey and developed database for statistics analysis. ▶ Led impact assessment & economic evaluation studies to support evidence-based policy design.
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Parallel Research, Teaching & Advisory Activities

Research Associate (2026–present) | National Technical University of Athens, Laboratory of Industrial and Energy Economics

Project Coordinator & Principal Researcher (2019–2023) | Athens University of Economics and Business / LSE

LSE-funded research project: “Crisis and Entrepreneurship: business dynamics, firm-level, sectoral and regional determinants.”

Expert (2020–2022) | Danish Patent & Trademark Office

EU Twinning project: “Protection and Enforcement of IP Rights in Serbia” — developed methodology to estimate the scope and economic impact of counterfeiting and piracy.

Research Associate (2020–2021) | University of Piraeus, Department of Economics

EU-funded (ESPA) project: “Regional diversification, smart specialisation and their role in regional development.”

Lecturer (2022–2026) | European Law and Governance School (EPLO – European Public Law Organisation, International Organisation), Athens

Postgraduate course: “Research Methods for Governance” (MSc level).

Lecturer (2017–2018) | Dept. of Economic & Regional Development, Panteion University, Athens

Undergraduate course: “Urban Governance” (designed and delivered course).

07/2015 – 08/2019

Director General | Hellenic Industrial Property Organisation (HIPO) – Ministry of Economy (*seconded from OECD*)

Greece's national patents and industrial designs office; 80 staff; annual budget €8m.

- ▶ Modernised Greece's industrial property system: liberalised the closed profession of patent attorneys; founded the Hellenic IP Academy.
- ▶ Digitised core services: introduced electronic filing for patents and industrial designs.
- ▶ Strengthened financial governance, generating sustained budget surpluses; introduced public procurement and unified salary-scale procedures.
- ▶ Established six regional offices to improve territorial access to innovation support.
- ▶ Developed IP database and stats analysis unit for evidence-based innovation policy.
- ▶ Represented Greece at the EPO Administrative Council; elected to the EPO Reserve Funds Supervisory Board (€8.2bn); elected to the Bureau of the OECD Working Party on Industry Analysis (STI); represented Greece at the WIPO General Assembly and EUIPO.

09/2012 – 10/2019

Economist | OECD, Paris

Sep 2012 – Dec 2014 Directorate for Public Governance & Regional Development (GOV)
Policy analysis and advisory work on urban and regional development, regional productivity, innovation and smart specialisation across OECD member and partner countries.

Co-Drafted major OECD country reviews:

Urban Policy Review of Chile; Urban Policy Review of China; Territorial Review of Chile (Antofagasta); Territorial Review of Mexico (Puebla-Tlaxcala); Metropolitan case study on Athens-Attica (Greece).

Jan 2015 – Jun 2015 Directorate for Employment, Labour & Social Affairs (ELS)

Economic analysis and policy advice on labour markets, productivity and the regional impact of migration.

Contributed to the labour markets chapter of the International Migration Outlook 2015.

Jul 2015 – Aug 2019 seconded as Director General to the Hellenic Industrial Property Organisation (OBI)

05/2011 – 08/2012	Research Fellow (Post-doctoral) Universitat Rovira i Virgili, Catalonia, Spain Member of the Quantitative Urban & Regional Economics Research Group; lecturing Applied Econometrics (MSc/PhD); research on regional development, innovation economics and labour markets.
11/2008 – 04/2011	Research Economist (Post-doctoral) Spatial Economics Research Centre (SERC/CEP), London School of Economics Research on urban and regional economics, labour economics, productivity and innovation; organised the SERC seminar series; taught undergraduate courses.
04/2007 – 08/2008	Economist Mayor of London / London Development Agency (LDA) Economic adviser to the Mayor of London, the London Development Agency and the London Skills and Employment Board. ▸ Policy advice and economic analysis on innovation, business support, labour markets, migration, skills and regional economic development. ▸ Budget allocation analysis for the London Development Agency (annual budget £400m), advising on prioritisation and investment strategy across programmes. ▸ Co-authored the GLA Economics flagship report Globalisation, Skills and Employment: The London Story.
02/2004 – 03/2007	Lecturer, Course Organiser & Research Assistant London School of Economics Teaching: Research Methods in Planning (MSc); Research Techniques: Regression Analysis (UG); Applied Location & Spatial Analysis (UG); Economics B (UG).

EDUCATION

2003 – 2009	PhD in Urban & Regional Economics London School of Economics Thesis: 'Spatial occupational structure and local human capital spillover effects in Britain.' Passed with no corrections. Supervisors: Prof Steve Gibbons; Prof Diane Perrons. Examiners: Prof Alan Manning (LSE), Prof Philip McCann (Manchester).
2000 – 2002	MSc Economics (Distinction) University of Manchester
1996 – 1999	BSc Mathematics and Economics London School of Economics

BOARD & COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

- Member of the Administrative Council, European Patent Office (EPO) – representing Greece (2015–2019)
- Elected Member, Supervisory Board of EPO Reserve Funds for Pensions & Social Security (RFPSS) – managing €8.2bn (2017–2019)
- Elected Member, Bureau of the OECD Working Party on Industry Analysis (WPIA) – Directorate for Science, Technology and Innovation (2018–2019)
- Member, Committee of Independent Experts for the National Minimum Wage of Greece (2018–2021)

- ▶ Representative of Greece, General Assembly of the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), Geneva (2015–2019)
- ▶ Member, Industry Forum of Greece – Ministry of Economy and Development (2016–2019)
- ▶ Representative of Greece, European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO), Alicante (2015–2019)
- ▶ Participant, OECD/WIPO Network of IP Offices Chief Economists (2016–2019)

Scientific & Academic Committees

- ▶ Member, Scientific Committee, 64th European Regional Science Association (ERSA) Congress – “Regional Science in Turbulent Times”, Panteion University, Athens (Aug 2025)
- ▶ Organiser, Special Session “Regional Development and Cultural & Creative Industries”, 64th ERSA Congress, Athens (Aug 2025)
- ▶ Member, Scientific Committee, ERSA Joint French & Greek Sections Conference – “Cities and regions in a changing Europe”, Panteion University, Athens (July 2017)
- ▶ Organiser, Special Sessions on “Intellectual Property, Economic Geography and Regional Development”: 4th Geography of Innovation Conference, Barcelona (Feb 2018); ERSA Joint French & Greek Sections, Athens (July 2017)

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Academic peer-reviewed journals & policy papers:

- ▶ Kaplanis, I. & Radin, I. (2025). Cultural Festivals as Drivers of Local Development. 64th ERSA Congress, Athens.
- ▶ Drivas, K., Economidou, C., Kaplanis, I. and Tagaraki, M.T. (2023) Examination of Related Diversification in Laggard Regions, *Papers in Regional Science*, Vol.102, Issue 4, pp.851-870.
- ▶ Genakos, C., Kaplanis, I., Tagaraki, M.T. and Tsakanikas, A. (2023), ‘Firm Resilience and Growth during the Economic Crisis: lessons from the Greek depression’, *GreeSE Discussion Paper No186*, July 2023, LSE.
- ▶ Drivas, K., Economidou, C., Kaplanis, I. and Tagaraki, M.T. (2021) Smart Specialization in a Subnational Context: Evidence From Greece, *SPOUDAI Journal of Economics & Business*, Vol.71(2021), Issue 3-4, pp.3-12.
- ▶ Georgiadis, A., Kaplanis, I. and Monastiriotis, V. (2020), Minimum Wages and Firm Employment: Evidence from a Minimum Wage Reduction in Greece, *Economics Letters*, vol.113
- ▶ Drivas, K. and Kaplanis, I. (2020) “The Role of International Collaborations in Securing the Patent Grant”, *Journal of Informetrics*, Vol.14(4), November 2020.
- ▶ Georgiadis, A., Kaplanis, I. and Monastiriotis, V. (2018), ‘The Impact of Minimum Wages on Wages and Employment: Evidence from Greece’, *GreeSE Discussion Paper No131*, December 2018, LSE.
- ▶ Ahrend, R., Farchy, E., Kaplanis, I. and Lembcke, A. (2017) ‘What Makes Cities More Productive? Evidence from 5 OECD Countries on the Role of Urban Governance’, *Journal of Regional Science*, 57(3), pp.385-410.
- ▶ Cheshire, P., Hilber, C. and Kaplanis, I. (2014) ‘Land use regulation and productivity—land matters: evidence from a UK supermarket chain’, *Journal of Economic Geography*, pp.1-31
- ▶ Gordon, I.R. and Kaplanis, I. (2014) ‘Accounting for Big City Growth in Low Paid Occupations: Immigration and/or Service Class Consumption’, *Economic Geography*, 90(1), pp.67-90, January 2014.
- ▶ Monastiriotis, V. and Kaplanis, I. (2012), ‘Flexible employment and cross-regional adjustment’, *SERC Discussion Paper 100*, London School of Economics
- ▶ Kaplanis, I. (2010) ‘Wage effects from changes in local human capital in Britain’, *SERC Discussion Paper 39*, London School of Economics
- ▶ Kaplanis, I. (2007) ‘The Geography of Employment Polarisation in Britain’, *Institute for Public Policy Research , IPPR*, London

OECD Reviews:

- ▶ OECD (2015), “Athens-Attica, Greece”, in OECD (2015) *Governing the City* (Chapter 5), OECD Publishing, Paris.
- ▶ OECD (2015) *OECD Urban Policy Reviews: China 2015*, OECD Publishing
- ▶ OECD (2015), *International Migration Outlook 2015*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

- ▶ Ahrend, R., Farchy, E., Kaplanis, I. and Lembcke, A. (2014) 'What makes cities more productive? Evidence on the role of urban governance from five OECD countries', OECD Regional Development Working Papers, 2014/05, OECD Publishing.
- ▶ OECD (2013) OECD Urban Policy Reviews: Chile, OECD Publishing
- ▶ OECD (2013) OECD Territorial Reviews: Antofagasta, Chile, OECD Publishing
- ▶ OECD (2013) OECD Territorial Reviews: Puebla-Tlaxcala, Mexico, OECD Publishing

Selected policy & consulting reports:

- ▶ Genakos, C., Kaplanis, I., Tagaraki, M.T. and Tsakanikas, A. (2022), 'Firm Resilience and Growth during the Economic Crisis: lessons from the Greek depression', Policy Brief, November 2022, London School of Economics.
- ▶ Goulas, D., Kaplanis, I. et al. (2018). Report of the Committee of Independent Experts for the Minimum Wage Rate of Greece. KEPE.
- ▶ Cheshire, P., Hilber, C. and Kaplanis, I. (2011) 'Land use planning: the impact on retail productivity', CEP CentrePiece 16 (1), Summer 2011, pp.25-28
- ▶ Kaplanis, I. (2007). 'The highs and lows of working in London.' Capgemini Consulting Review, 11, p.4.

SELECTED CONFERENCE & INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- ▶ ERSAs 64th Congress on Regional Science in Turbulent Times, Panteion University, Athens (28-08-2025)
- ▶ China Shanghai International Arts Festival, Invited Speaker at the Opening Day of the 5th Annual Conference of the Network of Silk Road Arts Festivals, Shanghai, China (17-10-2025)
- ▶ Central Greece Forum – Thessaly 2025, Association of Industries of Thessaly & Central Greece, Invited Speaker on: "Promoting Tourism and Cultural Heritage", Trikala, Greece (15-03-2025)
- ▶ ERSAs 62nd Congress on Urban Challenges and Sustainable Technological Revolution, Online, Alicante, Spain (28-08-2023)
- ▶ Ermoupolis Seminar on the Information Society and Knowledge Economy, Syros, Greece (14-07-2023)
- ▶ LSE Hellenic Observatory Research Seminar, Invited Speaker on: "Entrepreneurship and Firm Resilience in Times of Crisis", London (25-10-2022)
- ▶ Regional Quantitative Analysis Group, Universitat de Barcelona, invited speaker; Barcelona (21-02-2020)
- ▶ 17th Greek Section of the European Regional Science Association, Invited Keynote Speaker, 21-6-2019, Athens, Greece
- ▶ Patras IQ, Technology Expo, Invited Keynote Speaker, Patras, Greece (14-04-2019)
- ▶ 5th Technology Forum, Keynote Speaker, Thessaloniki, GR (16-05-2018)
- ▶ Athens Science Festival, Keynote Speaker, Athens, GR (26-04-2018)
- ▶ EU Workshop on RIS3 Cross-regional learning, Invited Speaker, Chania, GR (21-02-2018)
- ▶ Workshop, IP Statistics for Decision Makers & IP Task Force, WIPO/OECD, Mexico City (13-11-2017)
- ▶ Regional Science Association International (RSAI) – North American Congress, Washington DC (15-11-2014)
- ▶ 12th European Week of Cities and Regions- Open Days (Brussels):
"The international dimension of European urban policy" (9-10-2014); Keynote speaker
"The role of small and medium sized urban areas" (8-10-2014); Keynote speaker
- ▶ INTERREG IVC Capitalisation Event – "Policy sharing, policy learning", Brussels (22-5-2014); Keynote speaker
- ▶ European Association of Labour Economists/Society of Labor Economists Conference, 18-6-2010, London
- ▶ TASKS International Workshop, Institute for Employment Research, 17-5-2010, Nuremberg
- ▶ CEP Labour Market Workshop, 9-3-2010, London
- ▶ European Association of Labour Economists Conference, 12-9-2009, Tallinn
- ▶ Regional Science Association International World Congress, 17-3-2008, Sao Paulo, Brazil

LANGUAGES & SKILLS

Greek (native) · English (bilingual) · Spanish (intermediate) · French (basic)

Quantitative methods: Stata, SPSS, MapInfo · MS Office (word, excel, ppt) · EU funding & project management

REFERENCES

(Available upon request.)

Dr Joaquim Oliveira Martins

Special Advisor to the EU Commissioner for Cohesion & Reforms

joaquim.oliveira@cepii.fr

Prof Vassilis Monastiriotis

Director, LSE Hellenic Observatory Centre; Professor, European Institute, London School of Economics

v.monastiriotis@lse.ac.uk

Dr Rudiger Ahrend

Head of Division, OECD / Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities

rudiger.ahrend@oecd.org

Dr William Tompson

Head of Division, OECD / Global Relations and Cooperation Directorate

william.tompson@oecd.org

Mr Dimitris Passas

Lawyer; Former President of the Board, Athens Epidaurus Festival

dimitris.passas@morpas.gr

Dr Prodromos Tsiavos

Former President, Hellenic Industrial Property Organisation (HIPO)

prodromos.tsiavos@gmail.com