

Saturday May 25th

1st Section: 10:00 – 10:50

Topic: “Transition – Development prospects of areas in decarbonization”

Speakers' CVs:

Pelopidas Kalliris

Governor of the Just Transition Special Authority. Mr. Kalliris is an Economist with many years of experience. From 1989 to 2004 he worked at Olympic Airways and later served as Managing Director of the Institute of Vocational Training and Education of the Economic Chamber of Greece and as Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Organization of Labour Centre. In 2004 he was appointed President and CEO of the Organisation for the Conduct of Horse Racing in Greece (O.D.I.E.). Since 2005 he has been a member of the Central Administration of the Economic Chamber of Greece and in May 2008 he was elected Chairman of the Board of Directors and was re-elected in 2011. In 2006 he became Head of the General Directorate of Economic Planning and Support of the Ministry of National Defence. In July 2012 he was appointed Secretary General of the Ministry of Health. In 2014 he served the local government from the position of Deputy Governor of Corinthia Prefecture. In 2019, he was appointed Secretary General of Industry of the Ministry of Development and Investment. As of January 2022, he was appointed as Commander of the Special Service for Fair Development Transition by a Joint Decision of the Prime Minister Mr. Kyriakos Mitsotakis and the Deputy Minister of Development and Investment Mr. Nikos Papathanasis.



Giorgos Amanatidis

Giorgos Amanatidis was born in Messiani, Kozani and comes from a farming family. He studied agronomy at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and did postgraduate studies in strategic management and business administration (MBA). Since 1986 he worked at the Development Company of Western Macedonia S.A. – ANKO,



first as an agronomist and from 1993 onwards in the role of General Manager. For more than 30 years he actively participated in the design and implementation of numerous co-financed programmes from National and Community funds, with emphasis on the protection and enhancement of the Environment, the revitalization of the countryside, the support of Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Extroversion and the modernization of Public Administration. He was President of the Greek LEADER Network (Network of Rural Development Agencies) from 1991 to 2018.

He was a member of many associations and organisations, some of which he was also a member of their boards of directors. He contributed decisively to all the important infrastructure projects designed, implemented or planned in the region (district heating of cities and smaller settlements, University of Western Macedonia, relocation of settlements affected by the activity of PPC, Ski Centres of Western Macedonia, Environmental Protection Projects, water supply, sewerage, biological treatment, etc.) as well as to a multitude of programmes designed and implemented in Western Macedonia for the benefit of the local economy.

He participated for the first time in elections in July 2019 and was elected as a member of parliament in the Kozani region with New Democracy, while from 1 January 2024 he is the Regional Governor of Western Macedonia.

Despina Garani

Mrs. Despina Garani, CEO at the Hellenic Company for Just Development Transition S.A. (METAVASI S.A.), was born in Athens and is a Mechanical Engineer MSc (NTUA).

He has over thirty years (30) of professional experience, both in the private sector and in Public Administration. She has participated in the supervision and monitoring of the construction project of the Athens Metro and she was a senior executive in the operation of Athens Metro Lines 2 & 3 company (AMEL S.A.)

She was involved in the development of operational and training procedures and in the development of organizational structures and staffing procedures. She has participated in the merging process of the former transport operators of the Athens–Piraeus Electric Railways (ISAP), the Attiko Metro Operation Company (AMEL), and Tram S.A and in the establishment of Urban Rail Transport S.A. (STASY SA) with the aim of saving resources by creating economies of scale and, as regards transports, enabling the complementarity of track-based modes of transport, so as to become the first choice of transport.

She has held senior management positions in areas related to administrative and financial management, procurement and contract management as well as commercial exploitation to identify business opportunities in relation to the allocation of advertising space and real estate development.



In recent years, she has been held the position of General Manager of Operations at Urban Rail Transport S.A. (STASY SA), with main responsibility the supporting the Company's strategy formulation and contribution to the determination of strategic goals and initiatives related to the operation.

Vassilis Giannakis

Vassilis N. Giannakis was born in Florina and has graduated from the Pedagogical Academy of Florina. He continued his studies at the Pedagogical Department of Primary Education of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and worked as a teacher from 1989 until 2019. He has participated in the writing of primary school textbooks and teaching models at the Department of Primary Education of Florina, as well as in research projects with presentations at workshops and conferences.



In 2003 he was elected as councilor in the Municipality of Florina and served as Deputy Mayor from 2003 to 2006. In 2010 he was elected Regional Councilor in the Regional Unit of Florina and took the position of Vice-Chairman of the Economic Committee of the Region of Western Macedonia from 2010 to 2014. In 2019 he was elected Mayor of the Municipality of Florina, an office he still holds today, after his re-election in the 2023 local elections. During his term as Mayor he has served as President of the "Network of Energy Municipalities" (2019-present), member of the Board of Directors of PED Western Macedonia (2019-present), member of the Monitoring Committee of the "JDT 2021-2027" Programme, member of the Board of the "Sustainable Cities Network" (2024) and member of the Board of the "River Cities Network" (2021-2024).