

## Message from the Director of IEDL

**Athens, 10 November 2025**

The International Economics and Development Laboratory (IEDL) at the University of Athens is a new research initiative focused on growth dynamics, economic integration, and structural transformation. Our work highlights the erosion of global public goods and the role of financial markets in driving innovation.

This launch comes at a pivotal time. Global funding structures for sustainability are evolving, and there is growing demand for insights into innovation trends. As the UN revisits the SDGs and Europe debates its financial architecture, policy-relevant research at the intersection of finance, innovation, and sustainability is gaining prominence.

The motivation for founding IEDL stems from 35 years of experience in academia and international financial institutions, where I engaged in investment decision-making and policy dialogue. I have worked extensively on financial systems and corporate investment in developing countries, collaborating with IFIs, the EU, and UN agencies. These experiences have shaped my understanding of capital market dynamics, innovation trajectories, and the importance of integrating research with practice.

My professional convictions are that: (a) the role of development scholars is to identify key issues for a comprehensive research agenda—cutting through anecdotal detail to address core analytical and policy challenges; and (b) the value added of policy-relevant innovation studies must never come at the expense of clarity, rigour, and intellectual honesty.

IEDL's current projects include development finance, financial innovation for sustainable development, post-crisis innovation policy, and growth diagnostics for Greece. These reflect our commitment to academic excellence and policy relevance. We also publish the IEDL Working Paper Series, which showcases ongoing research and invites scholarly dialogue on pressing development issues.

We invite you to explore our work and collaborate with us in advancing inclusive and sustainable development.

Warm regards,

**Prof. Anthony Bartzokas**

Director, International Economics and Development Laboratory  
Department of Economics, University of Athens