

IOBE



FOUNDATION FOR ECONOMIC
& INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH



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Aims & Functions

The Foundation for Economic & Industrial Research (IOBE) is a private, non-profit, public-benefit research organisation. It was established in 1975 with the dual purpose of promoting research on current problems and prospects of the Greek economy and its sectors and of generating reliable information, analysis and proposals for action that are not produced elsewhere and can thus be of high value to policy makers in the context of economic policy making.

In that sense, **IOBE** holds a unique position in Greek society: it is the only politically independent, non-partisan body dealing with major issues of the economy, and it aspires to being pro-active, that is, it seeks to identify, at an early stage, economic issues that can become crucial in the future and to propose timely solutions for these.

IOBE is enjoined by its statutes to perform the following functions:

- To carry out applied research on basic structural and sectoral problems of the Greek economy as well as on various aspects of economic policy making.

- To monitor and analyse short-term economic trends, to record the business climate, and to prepare forecasts and evaluate prospects of the Greek economy.

- To provide reliable and continuously updated economic information about particular sectors of the Greek economy.

- To cooperate with foreign research institutions and international organisations on matters of common interest and to conduct multi-country research projects on economic issues and policies.

- To contribute to the public debate on economic issues.

- To undertake sponsored and commissioned research projects that fall within its aims and purposes.

In carrying out its research work, **the Foundation** maintains a position of academic freedom and neutrality. The judgements expressed and the proposals contained in **IOBE's** publications are solely the responsibility of the researcher/writer and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of **IOBE's** members, governing bodies or financial supporters.

Management

As a non-profit, public-benefit institution, **the Foundation** is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of sixty members representing the business, banking and academic communities, as well as representatives of various ministries and the public sector.

The Board elects from, among its members, a smaller, more flexible body of fifteen members (Executive Committee) to direct and guide the activities and management of **the Foundation**. The Board also appoints the General Director.

The position of the Chairman of the Board of **IOBE** is held by Dr. Michael Cortessis, C.E.O of Cortessis Group.

Prof. Yannis Stournaras is the Director General of **the Foundation**.



Research activities

The Foundation for Economic & Industrial Research (IOBE), focuses its research activities on issues and topics relating to the Greek economy at both the macro- and micro- levels. Particular emphasis is placed on problems reflecting upon the private sector and, since 1989, on various aspects of the European Single Market directly affecting the Greek economy.

In order to carry out its tasks, the Foundation employs a total of twenty-seven persons on a full-time basis, including nineteen professional economists most of whom hold doctoral or graduate degrees in economics. In addition, **IOBE** maintains continuous access to a wide pool of outside experts to whom it assigns specific projects on an ad hoc basis.

The Foundation is internally structured in the following departments:

1. Macroeconomic Analysis and Policy Department
 - Business Trends Unit
 - The Greek Economy
2. Microeconomic Analysis and Policy Department
 - Sectoral Research Unit
 - Data and Econometric Analysis Unit
3. Health Economics Observatory
4. Entrepreneurship Observatory
5. Public Sector Observatory
6. Automotive Market Observatory

Publications

Most results of IOBE's research activity are published in books, monographs, papers and periodicals. IOBE produces two periodic publications: The Tri-annual bulletin The Greek Economy containing the Foundation's evaluation concerning the course of the Greek economy (also available in English) and the monthly business Trends which contains the results of the Business Surveys. All IOBE's publications are available in Greek.

Events

In the belief that the promotion of public debate on current economic issues is an indispensable prerequisite for efficient decision –making, IOBE launched in 1994 a series of debates under the general heading “Dialogue on the Economy”. The debates are organized around conferences or seminars. Policy makers, academics, businessmen, trade unionists and politicians are invited in these debates to exchange views on critical current issues and to propose solutions. IOBE takes an active part in these debates by preparing, in advance, position papers on the issues involved, by participating with its staff in the debate and by publishing the proceedings together with a final evaluation and concrete proposals for policy action. These debates have become a permanent and basic feature of IOBE's activities.

More information on IOBE's activities you can find at www.iobe.gr

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