

Elena Panaritis



“SAIS has played a major role [in my career]. The solid international economics program with a focus on studying how economics and policy affect politics government and market behavior is one thing. The incomparable international student body, the caliber of the teaching community, and the ability of the school to attract speakers from important government agencies, international organizations, and numerous firms and institutions contribute significantly to help prepare graduates to face real world scenarios. And then, after graduation the network of alumni is so wide that at crucial moments there is always a SAISer to look up for advice, because either he/she has been involved in a similar project in the past, or because he/she has spent time in the country in question, or finally because he/she works or worked for the organization on the opposite side of the negotiation table.”

Elena Panaritis B'90, '91, a SAIS graduate from Bologna and Washington D.C., is a property rights reform expert, action leader and social entrepreneur. In more than a decade as an economist at the World Bank, she spearheaded several institutional reforms including property rights reform in Peru that was awarded International Best Practice and Innovation. Elena is one of the pioneers of 'triple-bottom-line' social entrepreneurship. She founded Panel Group, a specialized advisory group that provides counsel and technical expertise in applying property reform techniques funded entirely through private investment. She now serves as a Special Advisor to the Greek government, where she leads the effort for public sector reform and reduction in informality. Elena's methodology, Reality Check Analysis, is considered one of the best practical applications of institutional economics. Her book *Prosperity Unbound: Building Property Markets with Trust* (Palgrave Macmillan) expounds on her method and offers concrete advice to policy makers, government officials, private investors, and entrepreneurs who want to create or strengthen property markets through sound institutional reforms. She blogs at: www.prosperityunbound.com/blog.