John Panaretos is a leading Greek educator who has been intimately involved in higher education reform movements both in his native Greece and for the European Union. A statistician and professor of probability and statistic at the Athens University of Economics and Business since 1991, Panaretos was Greece’s deputy minister of Education, Lifelong Learning and Religious Affairs from October 2009 to June 2011. He has also taught in the United States, at the University of Iowa and the University of Missouri, as well as at Trinity College, Dublin in Ireland. He has been a visiting professor at the University of California, Berkeley and at Stanford University. Panaretos has also served as the education adviser to former Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou and as Greece’s representative to the Open Government Partnership. The multilateral initiative was created by its eight founding governments of Brazil, Indonesia, Mexico, Norway, Philippines, South Africa, United Kingdom and the United States to promote transparency and integrity in government.

Panaretos has also served as vice president of the Network of National Councils of Education of the European Union, president of the National Council of Education and the National Council of Higher Education in Greece. Additionally, he was national co-coordinator of a review of the Greek educational system for the 50-year-old international Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, and national co-coordinator of the European Center for Higher Education of UNESCO. He was born in Kythera, Greece and received his first degree in mathematics from the University of Athens and advanced degrees from the University of Sheffield and the University of Bradford, both in England.