



Orsalia Kalantzopoulos, a Greek national, assumed her position as Senior Advisor to the World Bank's Vice President for Financial and Private Sector Development in June 2009, during a critical period of the global financial and economic crisis. In her current role, she is supporting the Bank's overall strategy for responding to the financial crisis with a special focus on Middle Income Countries and the EU member states.

From January 2008 to May 2009, Orsalia served as Director for Central, Europe and the Baltic Countries where she spearheaded lending and technical cooperation programs for eleven advanced middle income economies—ten EU member countries and Croatia. During this period, she revived dialogue with countries with declining portfolios, delivered large reform-linked budget support operations in countries hit by the global financial crisis and strengthened the World Bank's partnership with European institutions. Most recently, she developed a multi-donor trust fund to finance technical cooperation activities for EU member countries.

Prior to that, Orsalia was the Country Director and Regional Coordinator for Southeast Europe for five years, where she was in charge of the Bank's country relations and policy dialogue, programs and projects in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Kosovo and coordinated the Bank's Southeast Europe regional agenda with the European Commission. During Orsalia's five year tenure in Southeast Europe, the Bank developed effective programs across countries and sectors and implemented regional programs in environment, energy, communicable diseases, education, secondary roads, railroads and climate adaptation.

Orsalia started her career at the World Bank in 1984 as an Economist in the Trade Policy Division of the Development Research Department and in 1985 was selected as a member of the 1986 World Development Report core team on Trade and Pricing in Agriculture. Between 1986 and 1993, Orsalia had successive assignments as Sector Economist and Senior Country Economist for countries in Francophone Africa and South Asia Regions. In May 1993, Orsalia was selected as Assistant to the Managing Directors in the Executive Offices and following the 1995 Presidential transition she was promoted to Advisor to the Managing Director for Operations and Strategy. In 1997, Orsalia was selected as Country Director for the Caribbean, in the Latin America and Caribbean Region. During her five year tenure in the Caribbean, Orsalia re-established the country dialogue and lending with all Caribbean client countries and initiated the Caribbean Regional Disaster Mitigation Program supported by an innovative multi-country lending instrument -- the horizontal Adjustable Program Loan, now used across the Bank.

Orsalia holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Pennsylvania, where under Nobel Laureate Professor Lawrence R. Klein she wrote a Dissertation on International Trade and Econometrics applied to the multi-country Project Link. She also holds two masters degrees in Regional Development as well as Economic Theory from the University of Pennsylvania. She graduated magna cum laude in Economics from the Athens School of Economics. Prior to joining the Bank, Orsalia was a fellow in the Economics Research Unit at the University of Pennsylvania, an economist at the United Nations Secretariat and a Senior Economist with General Motors Corporation. Orsalia is fluent in English, French, Greek and Spanish.

Orsalia is married to Christos Mastroiannis MD, and they have two sons -- Alexander and Philippe -- both students at Yale University.