



Viviana Rizzuto

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ABOUT ME

Innovation, collaboration and sustainable transformation lie at the heart of my work. As an **Innovation Manager, Senior EU Program Manager and Social Entrepreneur**, I navigate the intersection of participatory governance, community-based tourism, and multi-capital resource optimization to create lasting local impact.

With over 20 years of experience, I have led multi-stakeholder networks, developed award-winning initiatives, and transformed collective visions into tangible actions. Guided by the principles of Connection, Consciousness, and Capability, I embrace imperfection and complexity as catalysts for new opportunities.

What drives me every day? Uncovering the hidden bonds between people and places, empowering people to reclaim their *capabilities* and shaping a fair, sustainable future—where everyone belongs, and no one is left behind.

WHERE I CONTRIBUTE MOST

- **Innovation Management & Process Optimization**
Over 20 years of experience leading cross-functional teams of up to 20 members across 3 continents, consistently improving on-time, on-quality, and on-cost performance. Pioneered **multi-capital approaches**—integrating social, cultural, environmental, and economic dimensions—to optimize available resources and drive sustainable organizational growth.
- **Community Management & Participatory Governance**
Specialist in collective intelligence processes, engaging 5,000+ stakeholders and 150+ member networks to foster fair, sustainable local economies. Recognized as a pioneering community cooperative model in Sicily, employing **process innovation** to help communities effectively manage their resources and co-create impactful development strategies.
- **Sustainable Tourism Development & Community-Based Initiatives**
Founder and CEO of the *Museo Diffuso dei 5 Sensi* in Sciacca, a multi-award-winning model recognized at the European level. This initiative brought together volunteers and stakeholders from cultural, social, economic, and environmental sectors, reopening public spaces that had been closed for years and symbolically entrusting the keys to the community. Over 5,000 people have taken part in developing more than 50 tourist experiences, promoting environmental stewardship and collective well-being.

- **Social Entrepreneurship**
Founded and launched two active social enterprises focused on **sustainable development** and **inclusive well-being**, leveraging **innovation in resource management** to generate tangible local impact and long-term community resilience.
 - **Strategic Thinking & Problem-Solving**
Strong background in orchestrating complex initiatives, leading diverse teams, and delivering impactful results under tight deadlines. Skilled at applying **multi-capital resource management** and **process optimization** techniques to navigate challenges, secure multi-million-euro funding, and achieve measurable outcomes.
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RECENT AWARDS & RECOGNITION

- **Award “Business IS Woman 2023”** – 1st prize as Best Businesswoman of the Year (Confcommercio Enterprises Catania), recognizing my leadership and entrepreneurial achievements.
- **Award “Active Woman 2023”** – Honored for distinguished accomplishments in culture, entrepreneurship, art and society.
- **Award “European Cultural Tourism Network” 2022** – 1st place for Destination of Sustainable Cultural Tourism, highlighting my role in creating sustainable, culturally rich visitor experiences.
- **Award “GreenHeroes” 2022** – National recognition for sustainable initiatives, highlighting the significant outcomes achieved under my guidance. This award is part of the #GreenHeroes project, promoted by actor Alessandro Gassmann and featured in the national newspaper *La Stampa*, aiming to showcase and support green innovators across Italy.
- **Award “Bravo Innovation Hub” 2021** – 1st place among the most innovative companies in Southern Italy, recognizing my commitment to developing sustainable and transformative processes that drive social and economic impact.
- **Award “Towards a Circular Economy” 2021** – Special mention for sustainable tourism development, awarded for the circular, community-driven model I developed with the first community cooperative officially recognized by the Sicilian Region. This recognition falls within the framework of the **Council of Europe Landscape Award**, further validating the project’s impact on sustainable territorial regeneration at the European level.
- **Award “Welfare, What an Enterprise!” 2021** – 1st place in Italy for high-potential social, economic, and environmental impact, awarded to the *Museo Diffuso dei 5 Sensi*, the first community cooperative in Sicily, which I founded and led for five years. This recognition highlights the community-driven model I developed, fostering identity and citizen participation to improve the well-being of Sciacca’s 38,000 residents. My approach focused on innovating processes rather than occupying

spaces, guiding the initiative's growth before stepping back to ensure its long-term sustainability and collective ownership.

- **Award Cambia-Menti CNA Sicilia 2021** – 1st place for best Sicilian startup, celebrating my approach to generating tangible local impact through social entrepreneurship.
- **Award “Woman of the Year” 2020** – Acknowledged for “courage, perseverance and creativity, serving as a role model for new generations”.
- **European Best Practice Recognition 2020** – Through my leadership, the *Museo Diffuso dei 5 Sensi* spearheaded the transformation of Sciacca, a town of approximately 40,000 residents, into an open-air living museum, demonstrating how local identity and community participation can drive sustainable, culture-based development. This approach was recognized at the European level as a replicable model for long-term territorial regeneration and was selected as a European best practice within the Be.CULTOUR project under the Horizon 2020 program, for the innovative community-driven development model I created.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Deputy Director

FCAT Community Foundation of Agrigento and Trapani | www.fcagrigentotrapani.it
December 2024 - Today

As the Deputy Director of the Community Foundation of Agrigento and Trapani (*Fondazione di Comunità di Agrigento e Trapani*), I play a pivotal role in driving the foundation's mission to foster local development, social innovation and community empowerment. My responsibilities include:

- **Strategic Leadership:** Supporting the General Director in defining and implementing the foundation's strategic vision, ensuring alignment with the needs of the communities we serve.
- **Program and Project Management:** Overseeing the development and execution of philanthropic and social impact projects, ensuring effective resource allocation and sustainable outcomes.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Strengthening relationships with local institutions, civil society organizations and private sector partners to build a collaborative ecosystem for social change.
- **Fundraising and Grant Management:** Identifying funding opportunities, coordinating grant applications and ensuring the efficient and transparent management of financial resources.
- **Governance and Compliance:** Ensuring adherence to regulatory frameworks and best practices in nonprofit management, supporting the foundation's governance bodies in decision-making processes.

- **Community Outreach and Advocacy:** Promoting participatory approaches to philanthropy and social innovation, engaging local actors in co-designing impactful initiatives.

In this role, I apply strategic, managerial and relational competencies to enhance the foundation's impact, fostering inclusive growth and resilience across the territories of Agrigento and Trapani.

Head of Systemic Impact & Changemaking Process Unit

**PRISM Social Enterprise (Not-for-profit) | Palermo | www.prisonline.eu
November 2023 – Present**

- **Team Coordination:** Led a team of +5 EU Project Managers, overseeing 10–15 concurrent projects, ensuring timely delivery, adherence to quality standards, and effective budget management.
- **Strategic Development:** Developed and aligned EU-funded project strategies in collaboration with the CEO and the organization, ensuring coherence between project objectives, funding priorities, and the long-term mission.
- **International Partnership Management:** Managed international partnerships, fostering cross-border collaborations and strengthening strategic alliances with diverse organizations.
- **Regulatory Compliance & Funds Optimization:** Ensured compliance with EU regulations, providing oversight on quality control and financial resource management to optimize fund utilization and maximize impact.
- **Process Innovation:** Implemented process innovations to enhance internal workflows, prioritizing workforce well-being and ensuring that operational success aligns with a healthy and sustainable work environment.

Co-Founder & President

**IMPACTA Social Enterprise (Non-Profit) | Sciacca
2022 – Present**

- **Third-Sector and Public Administration Support:** Empowered organizations and local governments to turn shared visions into funded projects, securing access to European, national, and regional resources.
- **Grant Proposal Management:** Designed and managed PNRR, direct, and indirect funding proposals across all stages, from opportunity research to reporting and partnership coordination.
- **Cultural Heritage and Local Development:** Assisted 20+ municipalities in leveraging cultural heritage as a driver of social cohesion and economic growth, implementing sustainable development strategies.
- **Sustainable Tourism & Community Engagement:** Developed and implemented community-driven sustainable tourism models in 14 Sicilian municipalities, strengthening local engagement in territorial governance.

- **Social Innovation and Ecosystem Growth:** Supported organizations and regional networks in launching high-impact social, cultural, and economic initiatives, fostering the growth of collaborative ecosystems.
- **Training & Consultancy:** Delivered tailored training and consultancy in Destination Marketing & Management, EU project development, and territorial planning, supporting both public and private entities.

Co-Founder & Executive Manager

IDENTITÀ & BELLEZZA Community Cooperative | Sciacca | www.sciacca5sensi.it
2019 – Present

- **Community Cooperative Leadership:** Founded and led for 5 years the first community cooperative officially recognized by the Sicilian Region, pioneering an innovative governance model for territorial development that gained national and international recognition.
- **Network Coordination:** Coordinated a broad network of 48 social associations, 100+ entrepreneurs, and over 5,000 engaged stakeholders, fostering the creation of new local economies and professions.
- **Impact-Driven Development:** Designed and monitored initiatives focused on social, cultural, economic, and environmental impact, ensuring long-term sustainability.
- **Strategic Transition & Social Generativity:** Led the cooperative to organizational and economic stability, then stepped back to create space for new leadership and skills, embracing the principle of social generativity—initiating transformative processes rather than occupying roles indefinitely.

Senior Program Manager

KAZ Europe SA | Lausanne
2012 – 2014

- **Process Innovation & Program Management:** Redesigned and optimized internal workflows, introducing Program Management procedures for the first time in the EMEA region, significantly improving on-time, on-quality, and on-cost product delivery on a global scale.
- **Multidisciplinary & International Team Leadership:** Managed cross-functional teams across the US, China and EMEA, overseeing budgeting, risk analysis and quality control to ensure operational efficiency and financial sustainability.
- **Strategic Communication & Cross-Cultural Collaboration:** Led cross-cultural workshops, high-level conference calls and strategic meetings to align visions, optimize resources, and drive stakeholder engagement across different markets.
- **Operational Efficiency & Product Development:** Enhanced coordination between R&D, supply chain, customer service, quality, regulatory and marketing teams, facilitating faster product launches and improved market adaptability.

Global Program Manager

HID Global Switzerland SA | Palézieux
2010 – 2012

- **Program Management & Process Optimization:** Implemented Program Management procedures to streamline global product launches, ensuring on-time, on-quality, and on-cost delivery.
- **Multidisciplinary Team Leadership:** Oversaw cross-functional teams across the US, Malaysia, and EMEA, managing R&D operations in Switzerland and facilitating seamless collaboration between engineering, production, and business units.
- **Technical Sales & Customer Requirements Management:** Provided expert technical sales support, translating customer needs into product innovations and ensuring market-driven development strategies.
- **Risk Management & Quality Assurance:** Monitored potential risks and enforced quality control measures, optimizing production efficiency and minimizing time-to-market for new product lines.

R&D Manager

SEDIA SA – Innovative Partner of Medicine | Givisiez
2008 – 2010

- Led R&D for medical devices, supervising full product lifecycle (concept to validation).
- Managed communication flows, risk analyses, CE regulation compliance, budgets and project planning.

Procurement & Failure Analysis Engineer

IBM | Budapest
2007 – 2008

- Oversaw strategic suppliers for IBM Data Storage Systems.
- Led failure analyses to guide test engineers toward optimal solutions.
- Negotiated cost reductions and product performance improvements.

R&D Engineer

STMicroelectronics | Palermo
2003 – 2005

- Analyzed and designed electronic circuits with innovative STM technologies.
 - Developed a new Built-In Self Test (BIST) methodology for multilevel Flash memory.
 - Received the **STMicroelectronics 2005 award** for the “innovative and industrially significant” nature of the work.
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EDUCATION

- **Master in EU Project Management | Milan (2018)**
Intensive program focused on the full life cycle of European funding including advanced project proposal development, budgeting methodologies, strategic partnership building, and stakeholder communication. Acquired a comprehensive understanding of EU operational programs and regulatory frameworks for effectively securing and managing grants.
 - **Specialized Degree in Microelectronic Engineering | Milan (2005–2008)**
Focus on analog/digital microelectronics, economics, business management and project management.
 - **University of Technology and Economics, Budapest (2007)**
Erasmus student in a multicultural context, which enabled me to study Economics and Management Engineering in English, broadening my international perspective and cross-cultural communication skills.
 - **Bachelor's in Electronic Engineering | University of Palermo (2001–2005)**
Physics, mathematics, analog/digital electronics; graduated **110/110 cum laude** with special mention.
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LANGUAGE SKILLS

Language	Understanding	Speaking	Writing
Italian (Mother Tongue)	–	–	–
English	C2 (Listening/Reading)	C1 (Interaction/Oral Production)	C2
French	C2 (Listening/Reading)	C2 (Interaction/Oral Production)	C2

(CEFR Levels: A1/A2 = Basic User, B1/B2 = Independent User, C1/C2 = Proficient User)

DRIVING LICENSE

Category **B**

SOFT SKILLS

- **Effective Communication:** Ability to convey ideas and information clearly and engagingly in both formal and informal settings.

- **Collaborative Leadership:** Talent for inspiring and guiding teams toward shared goals, encouraging active participation from all members.
- **Creative Problem-Solving:** Aptitude for identifying innovative solutions to complex scenarios, quickly assessing risks and opportunities.
- **Teamwork & Collective Intelligence:** Strong inclination toward co-creation and valuing each member's strengths in a collaborative environment.
- **Adaptability & Flexibility:** Capability to respond quickly to changes, redefining strategies and priorities as needed.
- **Empathy & Active Listening:** Sensitivity in understanding others' needs and perspectives, building trust and enhancing collaboration.
- **Strategic Thinking:** Vision-oriented approach focused on long-term goals, balancing operational details with future objectives.

"I authorize the use of my personal data according to the GDPR 679/16 – 'European regulation on the protection of personal data' and the current national legislation."

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Viviana Lizuola". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.