



Dr Ernesto Sirolli

Dr Ernesto Sirolli is a global authority on community development and entrepreneurship. With over 40 years of experience, he equips leaders and organisations to unlock local talent, drive sustainable economic impact, and build resilient, person-centred systems of growth and innovation.

KEY TOPICS

- Shut Up and Listen: The Power of Entrepreneurial Response
- Enterprise Facilitation: Unleashing Local Potential for Economic Growth
- Trinity of Management: Rethinking How We Lead, Support and Innovate
- Community-Led Development: From Aid to Empowerment
- Building Resilient Systems of Entrepreneurship

BIOGRAPHY

Introduction

Dr Ernesto Sirolli is an internationally respected leader in the fields of community development, sustainability and entrepreneurship. Known for pioneering the *Enterprise Facilitation*® model, he transforms how organisations, communities and governments foster economic resilience by responding to – rather than directing – local passion and talent.

Professional Background & Credentials

Dr Sirolli's career began in 1971 in international aid across multiple African countries. The limitations of traditional development approaches led him to create a radically new model - Enterprise Facilitation® - designed to help communities harness their own energy, creativity and self-determination. In 1995, he founded the Sirolli Institute, a global social enterprise that has since supported over 400 communities and facilitated the creation of more than 55,000 jobs. His work is guided by the principle: *Never initiate, never motivate – always respond*. The Institute trains civic leaders, NGOs, and corporations to empower grassroots entrepreneurship through human-centred support systems. A political science graduate of Rome University, Dr Sirolli also holds a PhD in Philosophy and Sustainable Development from Murdoch University in Australia. He is currently an Adjunct Professor at Curtin University's Sustainability Policy Institute (CUSP), Chief Innovation Officer at Cross-ING Engineering (Switzerland), and a trusted advisor to the World Indigenous Business Forum.

Speaking Style & Audience Value

Ernesto's presentations are passionate, thought-provoking and deeply human. Drawing from decades of global experience, he challenges conventional wisdom with humour, humility and storytelling. His TEDx talk *"Shut Up*

and Listen” has reached over 4 million views and continues to resonate with audiences worldwide. He is an ideal keynote speaker for leadership teams, civic institutions, NGOs, and forward-thinking organisations aiming to foster inclusive innovation, intrapreneurship, or sustainable growth. Audiences leave inspired to trust in local intelligence and act as facilitators—not gatekeepers—of change.

Awards & Recognition

- TEDx talk “Shut Up and Listen” translated into 35+ languages, with over 4 million views
- Recognised advisor and programme leader in over 400 communities worldwide
- 26+ years of global social enterprise leadership with the Sirolli Institute

Books & Publications

Dr Sirolli is the author of two widely respected books, *Ripples from the Zambezi: Passion, Entrepreneurship, and the Rebirth of Local Economies* and *How to Start a Business and Ignite Your Life*. His upcoming book *The Boundary Riders - Intrapreneurship* explores innovation from within organisations and is currently in development.

Teaching & Advisory Roles

- Adjunct Professor, Curtin University Sustainability Policy Institute (CUSP)
- Advisor to the World Indigenous Business Forum
- Chief Innovation Officer, Cross-ING Engineering, Switzerland

Global Reach & Impact

- Enterprise Facilitation has created 55,000+ jobs in over 400 communities
- Trained facilitators operate across North America, Europe, Australia and Africa
- Programmes are active in government, corporate and non-profit sectors

[Contact us now](#) for more information on how Dr Sirolli can elevate your next team meeting!