



FEDERICA RUSSO

COO & Program Manager · Startups & Communities

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I turn early-stage ideas into things that run. COO and program manager with 6 years across startups, accelerators and global communities: I build the processes, teams and partnerships that take a project from launch to scale. Based in Italy, working in Italian, English and Spanish.

EDUCATION

- **MSc in Applied Social Sciences & Global Processes - Sapienza (110 cum laude)**
- **Bachelor's Degree in International Cooperation & Development - Sapienza**
- **Social Impact - SDA Bocconi (online course)**
- **Project Management - Politecnico di Milano (online course)**

CORE EXPERTISE

- Startup operations
- Process design
- Program leadership
- Cross-functional teams
- Community & ecosystems
- Partnerships & events

LANGUAGES

- **Italian - native**
- **English - advanced**
- Spanish - fluent
- French - beginner

RECOGNITION & GIVE BACK

- NY Business Fellowship · 2026 ↗
- SIM Social Impact Manager · 2025 ↗
- Officina 1.0 · MUR · 2022 ↗
- TEDx Sapienza speaker · 2022
- D20 Leader · 2020 ↗
- Founder & President, Malegaleco ↗
- Founder, Break the Swipe ↗
- Ex Global Shaper ↗

EXPERIENCE

COO

PiazzaTi - Rome | Mar 2026 - present

Leading operations and strategy of an early-stage HR Tech startup, from pre-launch to market launch. Leading brand, go-to-market and investor relations, and building scalable systems and processes alongside the founding team led by Fru Hazlitt (former CEO of Yahoo UK and Virgin Radio UK).

Program Manager

ChangemakerXchange.AI - Remote | Dec 2025 - Apr 2026 | Freelance

Led an AI-focused program for young changemakers working on social and environmental challenges, coordinating three cohorts with tailored support. Oversaw delivery across operations, methodology and online activities, keeping innovation objectives and participant experience aligned.

Program Manager & Startup Acceleration Expert

SocialFare - Turin | Jun 2025 - Jan 2026 | Freelance

Led the 17th edition of Planet Fundamentals, SocialFare's flagship social impact acceleration program, across the full cycle: startup scouting, program design, business tutorship, mentor and advisor coordination, and the final showcase event.

Program Manager

Bridge for Billions - Remote | May - Oct 2025 | Freelance

Co-managed the Italian edition of Conecta Migrants & Refugees, an incubation program for 60 migrant and refugee entrepreneurs with 3 partner ESOs (Lombardy, Lazio, Campania). Ran cohort activities, trained the ESOs and coached the 10 finalists for the Pitch Competition.

Project Manager & Fan Engagement Coordinator

lab-go (Metallica Tour) - USA, Canada & Europe | May - Sep 2024

Coordinated Fancards × Metallica across 10 cities in the USA, Canada and Europe: 240K fans engaged through Fancards and nearly 2x the band's KPI targets. Led 2 on-site operators plus 8 local staff per stop; main liaison with the band's management.

Community & Ecosystem Manager

Startupbootcamp Italy - Milan & Florence | Dec 2022 - Apr 2024

Joined the Styleit accelerator at pre-launch, supporting curriculum, operations and mentorship; later promoted to Ecosystem Manager for Styleit, WeSportUp and Fin+Tech. Grew the investor & mentor network by 40% in six months and organized Selection Day and Demo Day (200+ attendees).

Community & Partnerships Manager

UNITE 2030 - New York | hybrid | Aug 2020 - Sep 2022

Joined through the leadership program, then hired. Managed a 15,000+ member global community, designed the Ambassador Program (120 ambassadors) and built partnerships incl. Obama Foundation and UNDP. Co-organized Camp 2030, a 7-day SDG Innovation Lab in New York State (600+ participants).