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## SUMMARY

Nicola brings more than 25 years' experience in translating innovations into the market through venture capital investments and corporate R&D. He is currently managing **VV3TT**, the first Italian technology transfer fund launched under the ItaTech (EIF-CDP) platform, and **Galaxia**, the National Tech Transfer Hub for Aerospace jointly launched with the Italian Development Bank (CDP). His venture capital past appointments include: Chief Investment & Technology Officer of **TTVenture**, member of the investment committees of the French lifescience fund Technologie et Santé I (**Sofimac Partners**), **Atmos II** renewable energy fund, and **Sefea Impact** venture fund. Nicola also created and was appointed CEO of SeedLab, the first accelerator program for research-based projects and companies.

Nicola is also **member of the board of LEF**, the **global largest integrated digital manufacturing environment** and McKinsey's flagship Digital Capability Centre, where he runs deep-tech related operations.

Before entering the venture capital industry, he served leading multinational industrial corporates with Global and EMEA leadership positions in R&D and new product development. He also managed a manufacturing and service unit of automated and robotic machineries.

Nicola is also actively involved in policy related activities: he is Italian representative among the **High Level Group for Systems Innovation** and is author of various national and international publications on innovation policies. His diversified education includes: PhD in Management - Aston University in Birmingham, MBA with greatest honours - SDA Bocconi and MSc in Aerospace Engineering - Politecnico di Milano. Furthermore, Nicola holds a YMP from INSEAD, he is a Certified Process Kaizen Engineer and holds a certificate in Machine Learning from Stanford University.

## VENTURE CAPITAL EXPERIENCE

**Obloo | Venture Factory**  
*Director and Partner, Galaxia*  
Milan, Italy – Since Aug 2022

Partner and board member of Galaxia, **the first Italian aerospace technology transfer investment vehicle** created by Cassa Depositi e Prestiti Venture Capital S.G.R., in charge of creating and investing in deep-tech new businesses out of universities and research centres in upstream, downstream and aerospace enabling technologies.

**Managing Partner, VV3TT Fund**  
Milan, Italy – Since Sept 2017

Partner and keyman of VV3TT (**€40M**), the **first technology transfer created under the ItaTech platform**, joint initiative between Cassa Depositi e Prestiti and European Investment Fund. **23 investments** closed in spin-off companies and proof of concept projects of leading Italian research institutions.

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## EDUCATION

- Aston University (Birmingham, UK) – **PhD** in Management – 2014 | Thesis: Econometric Model on Regional Innovation Systems
- Bocconi School of Management – **MBA** with greatest honours – 2003
- Politecnico di Milano – **MSc Aerospace Engineering** – 1995

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## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Book Chapter: *Funding and Financing – Fresh Thinking Required* in K.Gretschmann & S.Shepers, *Revolutionising EU Innovation Policy: Pioneering the Future*, Palgrave-MacMillan, London, 2016

## **Sefea Impact SGR**

### *Member of the investment committee*

Padua, Italy – Since Dec 2021

Sefea is the first European venture operator fully controlled by not-for-profit organisations and investing in ESG projects only. Advisory committee for the “Fondo Si” impact venture capital fund (**€40M**).

## **Vertis SGR**

### *Investment Director*

Milan, Italy – May 2014 – Aug 2017

Responsible for venture capital operations, managing Vertis Venture fund (**€25M**) with its **20 portfolio companies**

## **Sofimac Partners**

### *Investment Committee Member*

Lyon, France — 2008-2014

Sofimac is a French asset manager with a diversified portfolio of innovation related funds. Member of the investment committee of the Technologié et Santé I Fund.

## **TTVenture**

### *Chief Investment & Technology Officer*

Milan, Italy — 2008-2014

The first Italian technology transfer fund with **€64M** of assets under management and **15 investments**. Responsible for fund's operations and team. Co-founder and first investor of D-Orbit, space logistics startup and **first Italian Deep-Tech unicorn**.

### *Atmos II Investment Committee*

Milan, Italy — 2010-2014

Atmos II, renewable energy fund, investing in powerplants, tech and engineering companies related to alternative energy production.

### *SeedLab Founder and CEO*

Milan, Italy — 2011-2014

SeedLab, operated by TTadvisor s.r.l. a special purpose vehicle of TTVenture, was the first Italian accelerator for research-based companies, sold to M31 incubator.

## **CORPORATE EXPERIENCE**

## **Lean Experience Factory**

### *Non-Executive Director*

S.Vito al Tagliamento, Italy — since 2017

A **joint venture between McKinsey & Co and Unindustria Alto Adriatico (Industrial Association for North-East Italy)**, the **largest digital model company in the world** and innovation centre for deep tech and digital startups.

## **Ideal Standard International**

### *Project Managers Leader EMEA*

Bruxelles, Belgium-Milan, Italy — 2004-2008

Responsible for R&D and innovation projects for Europe, Middle East and Africa.

## **Pirelli Tires**

### ***Target Cost Management***

Milan, Italy — 2001-2002

Cost reduction project sponsored by CEO and managed by senior VPs steering committee. Leading two mainstreams. 30 Mil Eu saving identified in 2002. On 2007 the project accumulated 100Mil Eu bottom line savings.

### ***Project Portfolio Manager***

Milan, Italy — 2000-2001

Global project portfolio management (R&D, operations), reporting to Senior VPs.

### ***Machinery Manager***

Milan, Italy — 1997-2000

Leading manufacturing and service activities of the automation and robotics global unit.

## **Eurofly**

### ***Technical Coordinator***

Bergamo Airport, Italy — 1997

In charge of maintenance planning and control of a commercial airline.

## **ARMED FORCES EXPERIENCE**

### **Italian Army**

#### ***Second Lieutenant***

Italy — 1995-1996

1<sup>st</sup> classified over 100+ cadets, 158<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Artillery cadet course.

Mobile Operations Commander, joint Army/Police counter-crime operations in Sicily and Calabria

## **ACADEMIC POSITIONS**

### ***Visiting Professor, Central European University***

Wien, Austria/Budapest, Hungary —2021 – 2022

Executive MBA: New Product Development

### ***Adjunct Professor, MIB School of Management***

Trieste, Italy — since 2008

International and Executive MBA: New Product Development, Business Planning,for New Ventures courses.

### ***Adjunct Professor, University of Trieste***

Trieste, Italy — AY 2018/2019

New Product Forecasting, School of Engineering

### ***Adjunct Professor, Bologna Business School, University of Bologna***

Bologna, Italy —2016 to 2019

Global MBA: Finance of Innovation

### ***Adjunct Professor, University of Pisa***

Pisa, Italy —2015 to 2017

International MBA: Venture Capital

## APPOINTMENTS

### ***Italian Representative, High Level Group for Systems Innovation***

Brussels — 2013 – 2016 / back since 2020

A tripartite initiative advising the European Council and the European Commission on innovation policies.

### ***Technical Advisory Board Member, Italian Representation at the European Innovation Council***

Rome, Italy — since 2021

Supporting the Italian representative (Prof. Andrea Fosfuri, Bocconi University) in the management of the EIC funding program.

### ***Commissioner, Italian Ministry of Economic Development, Intellectual Property Award 2021, Evaluation Committee***

Rome, Italy — 2021

Selection of best patents from Italian research institutions, to represent Italian research at the Dubai Expo

### ***Commissioner, Polytechnic of Turin, Proof of Concept Committee***

Turin, Italy — 2017, 2018

### ***Commissioner, University of Bologna, Proof of Concept Committee***

Bologna, Italy — 2019, 2020

### ***Advisory Board, PACINNO - Platform for trans-Academic Cooperation in INNOvation***

Trieste, Italy — 2016

Advisor of the trans-academic initiative among Adriatic Countries (Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia, Montenegro, Albania and Greece), coordinator of the related Italian based accelerator and keynote speaker.

### ***Expert Committee Member, University-Industry Observatory, Fondazione CRUI***

Rome, Italy — 2015, 2019

Fondazione CRUI is the operative arm of the Italian Conference of University Rectors.

### ***Commissioner, Spinner Program, Emilia-Romagna Region***

Bologna, Italy — 2010, 2013

Grant program for high tech entrepreneurial development

## BOARD POSITIONS IN HIGH TECH COMPANIES

### ***Kurs Orbital, Rendezvous and docking systems for space in-orbit services***

Turin, since 2024

### ***Zerynth, AI enabled internet of things platform – Spin Off of University of Pisa***

Pisa, since 2020

### ***QuicklyPro, wearable electronics for rehabilitation – University of Bergamo Startup***

Pisa, since 2022

### ***VRMedia, augmented reality for industrial applications – Spin Off of Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna***

Pisa, 2018 - 2021

### ***Health Pixels, bio-robotics – Spin Off of Campus Biomedico University***

Rome, 2019 – 2022

### ***D-Orbit, space logistics – co-founder investor***

Fino Mornasco (CO), 2011 – 2015

**Personal Factory**, *cloud manufacturing for dry mix building materials*

Simbario (VV), 2009 – 2016

**IPAD Lab**, *molecular diagnostics for agriculture – Spin Off of University of Milan*

Lodi, 2010 – 2014

**Bionsil**, *oncology – Spin Off of University of Milan Bicocca*

Milan, 2011 – 2013

**Glomeria Therapeutics**, *advanced peritoneal dialysis*

Chieti, 2010 – 2016

**Promoqui**, *B2C digital technologies*

Naples, 2014 – 2017

**Nettuno Power (shareholders' SPV of Pelamis)**, *wave conversion energy system*

Milan, Aberdeen, 2011-2013

## **CERTIFICATES**

**Stanford University**, *Machine Learning, 2021*

**INSEAD**, *Young Managers Program, 2001*

**Efeso**, *Process Kaizen Engineer, 1999*

## **ATHLETICS (rowing)**

**European Cup** (junior), *Bern, 1986 – Member of the Italian National Team, 1<sup>st</sup> classified*

**World Cup** (junior), *Koln, 1987 – Member of the Italian National Team*

**Italian Champion** (junior), *Milan, 1987*

## **OTHER**

**AMBA Student of the Year Award**, *London, 2003 – selected among the top 4 global MBA students.*