



Vasili Sofiadellis

Chartered Accountant

Sofiadellis is a Chartered Accountant, who transitioned from a professional footballer and a career at PwC to a humanitarian and creative networker. Vasili is purpose driven and has a passion for inspiring systemic change. As the founder of Changemakers Lab, he thrives at connecting people, designing programs, building and advocating for inclusive tech ecosystems that can help accelerate social tech entrepreneurs, the changemakers. #culture #art #tech #convergence #humanity #AI #ethics #SDGs

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WORK EXPERIENCE

Founder Changemakers Lab [↗](#)

2015 – Present Lesvos, Greece

Changemakers Lab is a civil society movement & tech ecosystem builder, enabling key stakeholders to co-create solutions that solve social challenges

Achievements/Tasks

- Changemakers Summit: Convening and moderating our Global Annual Summit attracting thought leaders and key ecosystem players in the humanitarian tech ecosystem [↗](#)
- Created the Vision of Changemakers Lab. The vision is to position Lesvos as a Global Humanitarian Tech Hub, a living lab, where we can test, pilot, implement and accelerate social impactful tech solutions. [↗](#)
- Created the mission of Changemakers Lab, namely to advocate and raise awareness about impact technologies, establish a network of coworking spaces and create an enabling environment where social entrepreneurs & key stakeholders can co-create impactful solutions that solve social and economic challenges. [↗](#)
- Attract, convene and bring together local and foreign investors, the brightest technical talent and the most promising entrepreneurs / students to foster the creation and growth of world-class global startup companies.
- Brand and position the region as a competitor to other similar hubs around the world as a gateway to Europe and as one of the most beautiful Islands to live, work and play.
- Motivated and launched Refugee Code Week on Lesvos & in Athens, in partnership with SAP, UNHCR & universities. Introduced over 600 locals and refugees to Scratch & Web Programming, including unaccompanied minors. [↗](#)
- Launched an incubator program in partnership with the University of the Aegean, taking the best startup to CERN in Geneva. Hope to launch a world leading impact tech accelerator program that will focus on edtech and mhealth solutions.
- Co-organised and launched a StartupWeekend on Lesvos in 2016, bringing locals and refugees together! 5 Projects were presented at the Lesvos Chamber of Commerce. [↗](#)
- Co-organised an inclusive "Building Bridges" Dialogues workshop in Moria Village, Lesvos [↗](#)
- Co-organised an Edtech Design Thinking workshop [↗](#)

SKILLS

- Business Strategy
- Financial Analysis
- Ecosystem Development
- Project Design
- Acceleration Program Design
- Scaling Startups
- Curiosity
- Strategic Thinking
- Critical Thinking
- Collaboration
- Convening
- Strategic Partnerships
- Teamwork
- Problem Solving
- Communication
- SocialMedia
- Lateral Thinking
- Business Models
- Empathy
- Leadership
- Ethics
- Human Rights
- Integrity
- Honesty
- Dedication
- Perseverance
- Flexibility
- Business Development
- Creativity
- Accounting
- Corporate Finance
- Auditing
- Tax
- Financial Analysis
- Visionary
- Social Tech Entrepreneurship
- edtech
- mhealth
- Investing
- SDGs
- Venture Capital
- Due Diligence
- Entrepreneurship
- Creativity
- Emotional Intelligence
- Public Speaking
- Trust
- Enthusiastic
- Networking
- Events

PERSONAL PROJECTS

The Birds of Freedom (2017 – Present) [↗](#)

RiseRainbowNation (2015 – Present) [↗](#)

HumanLesvos (2020 – Present)

WORK EXPERIENCE

Founder & CEO

Visions2Ventures [↗](#)

2015 – Present

South Africa

Visions2Ventures is an African-centred venture capital & bespoke advisory firm, focused on investments & market access for social tech entrepreneurs.

Achievements/Tasks

- Launched an mhealth accelerator program, Enterprise Elevator, a five month programme which takes on 10 tech-enabled entrepreneurs focused on bringing more affordable healthcare to marginalised communities. Our two key focus areas is on the startups' investment readiness and their business model, as well as identifying potential clients and partners for them to scale their solutions. [↗](#)

Auditor, Advisor & Innovation Manager

PwC

2008 – 2015

Cape Town, South Africa

Achievements/Tasks

- Winner of the PwC African Innovation Award (2014)
- Winner of the African PwC Experience Award (2014)
- As the PwC Innovation Manager, developed and implemented innovative key strategic areas for PwC Africa in the innovation tech ecosystem (as per below) [↗](#)
- Identifying leading tech companies in South Africa and creating a platform for these companies to expand from local to global. Initiated, co-designed and launched the PwC Vision to Reality Awards [↗](#)
- Identifying leading tech companies in South Africa and creating a platform for these companies to expand from local to global. Initiated, co-designed and launched PwC's African Accelerator. [↗](#)
- Creating an African network of co-working spaces and interacting with international PwC Offices [↗](#)
- Motivating, establishing and manning a PwC satellite office at a leading tech coworking space(Bandwidth Barn), 1 of 2 such PwC offices in the world in 2013.
- Forming mutually beneficial relationships with key multiple stakeholders such as tech founders, government agencies and academia
- Performed Due Diligence, Mergers & Acquisitions and Valuations on multinational business.
- Publication on the investment attractiveness of South Africa's Digital Tech Ecosystem: "Digital gateway to Africa Cape Town's Creative Software Design and Development sector" [↗](#)

Professional Footballer

Bloemfontein Celtic FC, Amazulu FC and Cape Town Spurs (now Ajax Cape Town) [↗](#)

1995 – 2008

Bloemfontein, Cape Town and Durban, South Africa

Top Division Clubs in South African Football

Professional Footballer

Workplace/Company

01/1997 – 08/1998

Kalamata, Greece

Top Division in Greece

EDUCATION

Business Advisory

PwC Business School

2008 – 2015

Cape Town, South Africa

Certificate of Theory in Accounting

South Africa Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA)

2010

South Africa

Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting Honors (Postgraduate) - Financial Accounting, Auditing, Finance and Tax

Free State University

2004

South Africa

School

Grey College

1994

Bloemfontein, South Africa

PUBLICATIONS / POLICY ADVISOR

Inter Agency (UNCTAD / UNHCR / IOM) Policy Guide on Entrepreneurship for Migrants and Refugees (2018) [↗](#)

Was invited to Geneva as part of the selected expert group to review the early draft of the policy document and make recommendations thereon. Facilitated Policy Area 4 "Facilitating Technology Exchange and Innovation" & contributed to Areas 3, 5 & 6.

Investment attractiveness of South Africa's Digital Tech Ecosystem: "Digital gateway to Africa Cape Town's Creative Software Design and Development sector" (2013)

Initiated and compiled this publication whilst at PwC. It was a significant catalyst for the tech ecosystem in Cape Town, which included the launch of the PwC Office at a coworking space, the PwC Vision to Reality Awards and the PwC Accelerator.

Made in Africa: Western Cape Metals and Engineering Invest in future growth opportunities (2013) [↗](#)

Assisted in the compilation of this publication whilst at PwC, which was done in collaboration with WEGRO (economic development agency) and the City of Cape Town Municipality.

CONFERENCES

Changemakers Summit (2016 – Present) [↗](#)

Changemakers Lab

- Annual Global Summit on Europe Day, 9 May, attracting entrepreneurs, thought leaders, investors and key ecosystem players in the humanitarian tech ecosystem

Invited to a meeting with Commissioner Ylva Johansson (03/2020)

Conference/Issuer of the certificate

- Invited to meet with the Commissioner for Migration and Home Affairs Ms Ylva Johansson and the Director General of DG HOME Ms Monique Parlat and 1 of 10 Civil Society Representatives in order to exchange views on current migration issues.

Cowork Buzz (2019) [↗](#)

Porto I/o

- Was invited as a speaker to Cowork Buzz. Cowork Buzz was born in 2016 as an event dedicated to cowork and coliving, curated with a special touch, bringing the coworking ecosystem forward.

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Founder
Changemakers Lab

Executive Committee: Investor Relations
Silicon Cape [↗](#)

2015 – 2017 Cape Town, South Africa
Silicon Cape is an ecosystem enabler for tech-enabled startups in the boarder Cape Region of South Africa.

Investment Committee
European Business Angel Network (EBAN)
Impact [↗](#)

Committee Member
Hellenic Community of Cape Town [↗](#)

2010 – 2015 Cape Town, South Africa
The mission is to preserve and enhance a vibrant community that embraces and nurtures the religious, cultural and educational needs of all Greek South Africans of greater Cape Town.

Co-organiser
Startup Boat

2015 – 2016 Greece
Cross-border collaboration that explored how entrepreneurs, innovators, artists & investing communities could develop tech solutions to migrant crisis

Tasks/Achievements

- We initiated a Hackathon on Samos and Lesvos in August and October of 2015, respectively, with leading entrepreneurs and investors from across Europe to help build tech solutions for asylum seekers. We helped raise awareness and were catalysts to several initiatives that were launched as result of our initiative. [↗](#)

HONOR AWARDS

Winner of the African PwC Innovation Award (2014)
PwC

- Was the winner of African PwC Innovation Award for initiating and implementing the PwC Vision to Reality Awards

Winner of the African PwC Experience Award (2014)
PwC

- Was 1 of 50 winner of the African PwC Experience Awards

Nominated for Sportsman of the Year (2004)
Free State University

Selected and Represented the South African National Under 23 Soccer Team
South African Football Association

Selected and Represented the South African National Soccer Student Team
South African Student Sports Union (SASSU)

Honors Awards (1994)
Grey College

CONFERENCES

European Social Economy of Regions (ESER) concluding event, Brussels (10/2019)

Conference/Issuer of the certificate

- Initiated the inclusion of Lesvos as an ESER observer status in 2019. Was therefore invited by the Directorate General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs to attend the ESER 2019 concluding event held in Brussels.

Stavros Niarchos Foundation Bioethics Academy (SNFBA) (2019) [↗](#)

John Hopkins Berman Institute of Bioethics (JHU) and Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH)

- JHU in conjunction with the ETH launched a new initiative, called the SNFBA. It is exclusively supported by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF) and was created with the intent to support and enhance knowledge and awareness for bioethics in Greece.

Trust Conference Changemaker (11/2019) [↗](#)

Thomson Reuters Foundation

- The Trust Conference Changemakers Programme funds frontline activists and human rights defenders from around the world to attend the annual conference. Was selected as a Changemaker.

Global Refugee Entrepreneurship Summit (2018 – 2019) [↗](#)

Conference/Issuer of the certificate

- The summit brings together members of the Refugee Entrepreneurship Network, practitioners running refugee entrepreneurship programmes, philanthropists, international organisations, researchers, etc. Was invited to participate for 2 consecutive years.

The Private Sector and WHO/ITU's Development of Digital Health Initiatives for NCDs. A One-Day Workshop with the Cambridge Judge Business School (04/2019)

Conference/Issuer of the certificate

- Two objectives were set for this conference:: to better understand the main motivating factors for the private sector to partner with WHO/ITU, and to begin generating ideas for new models of "profound" partnerships. We coined the term "SacaleAthon".

Hacking the Future for a better world with the power of the game, in Ayvalık Küçükköy (07/2019) [↗](#)

Conference/Issuer of the certificate

- Was invited as a speaker. Game developers, scientists, artists and social entrepreneurs met for an unusual Ideathon in Kırcaarthane, a joint work space for creative industries in Ayvalık Küçükköy.

ITU-WHO Workshop on Artificial intelligence for health (09/2018) [↗](#)

Conference/Issuer of the certificate

- Was invited to present at the "Regional and funding perspectives of AI for Health" session. We highlighted how to assess the business case for AI for health solutions in order to raise awareness and attract interest from funders.

INTERESTS

Human Rights

Travel

Civil Society

Culture

Politics

Art

Dialogues

Debating

Diversity

Philosophy

EdTech

Lesvos

Networking

Startups

Entrepreneurship

Technology

Economics

Sports

Soccer

Backgammon