Dr Ernesto Sirolli  
Founder  
The Sirolli Institute

Italian-born, Dr. Ernesto Sirolli received a Laurea di Dottore in Political Science from Rome University in 1976 and a Ph.D. from Murdoch University in Perth, Western Australia in 2004. He has worked in Europe, Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Asia, South America, the U.S.A. and the United Kingdom in the field in local Economic Development.

In 1985, he pioneered in Esperance, a small rural community in Western Australia, a unique economic development approach based on harnessing the passion, determination, intelligence, and resourcefulness of the local people.

The striking results of “The Esperance Experience” have prompted more than 350 communities around the world to adopt responsive, person-centered approaches to local economic development modeled on the Enterprise Facilitation® model pioneered in Esperance.

Enterprise Facilitation has been documented in Dr. Sirolli’s book: “Ripples from the Zambezi - Passion, Entrepreneurship and the Rebirth of the Local Economy.” Adopted as a textbook in many academic courses in Community and Economic Development, the book has helped to introduce Enterprise Facilitation to a new generation of economic development practitioners, mining companies and civic leaders interested in growing their communities from within, one passionate person at the time.

Dr. Sirolli is a noted authority in the field of sustainable economic development, a TED speaker, and an Industry Fellow at the Centre for Social Responsibility in Mining, at University of Queensland.

Dr. Ernesto Sirolli is the Founder of the Sirolli Institute, established in 1996, a social enterprise that teaches governments and community leaders how to capture the passion of their communities, using the intelligence of local people.