

Matteo Rizzi

Entrepreneur
Investor
Author

Short Bio

Matteo Rizzi is an unconventional entrepreneur with two decades of experience in Financial Services, constantly referred amongst the top executives in the industry. He spent 13 years at SWIFT - where he co-founded Innotribe, the innovation arm of the cooperative, launching the first global startup challenge. Since 2013, he has had a FinTech Investor and/or Venture Partner role with global VCs and CVCs (20+ deals, 5 exits). In 2015, he co-founded FinTechStage (FTSGroup.eu) - a platform for Investors and Innovators to boost FinTech innovation globally. In 2019, Matteo founded Timepledge a global initiative to foster financial inclusion and entrepreneurship. In 2025, Matteo aligned FTS and Timepledge's into a single mission and founded the African Talent Academy. In 2019, he also launched Breaking Banks Europe (as the Executive Producer) and in 2025 the spin-off Breaking Banks Africa. In 2023, he was appointed Senior Advisor for Elevandi (MAS) now GFTN.com. He is the author of "The FinTech Revolution" and "Talents & Rebels" and is fluent in 5 languages.

Long Bio

Matteo Rizzi is an unconventional entrepreneur, author, and seasoned executive with over 20 years of experience in the FinTech space.
Recognized as one of the most influential figures in financial services innovation, he is consistently named among the top executives in the industry (Financial News, Forbes, Refinitiv, Financial Brand).
With deep connections across global banks, startups, investors, Matteo is uniquely positioned to bridge the gap between traditional banking and disruptive technologies.
Fluent in Italian, English, French, Spanish, and Portuguese, he is a true multicultural European leader.

Matteo began his career with a 13-year tenure at SWIFT, where he played a key role in sales and global account relationship management.
In 2008, he co-founded Innotribe, the innovation arm of SWIFT, where he launched the Innotribe Startup Challenge, the first global FinTech startup competition.
He also created the Enablers group, a cross-industry think tank advising on strategy and financial trends.
After leaving SWIFT in 2013, Matteo became a Partner at SBT Venture Capital, one of the first venture funds ($100M) dedicated solely to FinTech investments, building a portfolio of 12 startups and achieving 5 successful exits.

In 2014, Matteo co-founded FinTechStage, which has since evolved into FTSGroup.eu, a global platform fostering FinTech innovation.
FTS Group's consultancy services include industry research, deal flow matchmaking, corporate innovation, talent development, content curation, event production, podcast production, media creation, and startup coaching.
By 2015, Matteo had joined Omidyar Network as an advisor for financial inclusion and later became involved with Bamboo Capital Partners, focusing on impact investing in Africa. He also served as a Venture Partner at NEVA SGR, the venture arm of Intesa SanPaolo, contributing to various innovation initiatives.

In addition to his core roles, Matteo is actively involved in entrepreneurial ventures. He serves as an Entrepreneur in Residence for Side B Group (since February 2025) and has contributed to various venture initiatives as a Venture Partner at NEVA Finventures, Bamboo Capital Partners, and SG Ventures, and as a Strategic Advisor at Finnovating (September 2022 – January 2023).

In 2019, Matteo became the Executive Producer of Breaking Banks Europe, a leading FinTech podcast on Provoke.fm, a spin-off from Breaking Banks US.
That same year, he founded Timepledge.org, a global initiative focused on fostering financial inclusion and supporting entrepreneurship in Africa.
The initiative marks its five-year milestone in 2024.

In 2025, Matteo aligned FTSGroup and Timepledge into a single mission and founded the African Talent Academy, which focuses on developing young African talent and empowering future entrepreneurs.
That same year, Matteo launched Breaking Banks Africa, further expanding the Breaking Banks podcast franchise.

As an author, Matteo has written "The FinTech Revolution" (2016) and "Talents & Rebels" (2019).
With over 20 years of experience, he continues to shape the future of financial services. Matteo holds a degree in Computer Science from the University of Genova and a postgraduate degree in Financial Transactions from Solvay Business School.
He currently resides in Portugal.

SPEAKING TOPICS

UPSKILLING FOR THE GLOBAL DIGITAL ECONOMY
How to build capacity at scale for a rapidly evolving workforce.
With 650 million workers requiring digital training by 2030, the challenge is clear: how do we equip the workforce at a global scale? Traditional models may no longer be sufficient to meet the demands of the digital economy. It's time to rethink capacity building—focusing on scalable, innovative solutions that empower people and bridge the global skills gap

What's in it for you?
Discover fresh insights into how to scale upskilling initiatives effectively in a fast-evolving world.How to build capacity at scale for a rapidly evolving workforce

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INNOVATING THROUGH UNCERTAINTY: FROM INCREMENTAL TO DISRUPTIVE
How an unconventional approach to innovation can save your business from disruption.
Idea management, talent integration, and company culture are all parts of a recipe where incremental innovation is one of the outcomes—but often not enough. By embracing a more fundamental and disruptive approach, businesses can better apprehend the unknown and navigate what's next.

What's in it for you?
Get inspired by a perspective on innovation you might not have expected, but needed.

TECH FOR GOOD: PURPOSE-DRIVEN INNOVATION
Technology with a purpose—sustainability, financial inclusion, and impact investing are becoming key factors in the way we do business, regardless of the part of the world we are looking at.
What can we learn from the evolution of the emerging markets in terms of technology adoption, financial literacy, and entrepreneurship culture?

What's in it for you?
Understand the dynamics of emerging markets and how to apply some of the lessons learned into your business, witnessing amazing stories of resilience and tech enablement.

RESILIENCE & ANTIFRAGILITY IN THE AGE OF REINVENTION
The world will adapt. The challenge of reinvention, dealing with uncertainty, and the speed of time.
Most of the business is facing an unprecedented market disruption, and no one can predict the speed of its recovery. Resilient businesses will survive, anti-fragile ones will thrive.

What's in it for you?
Through groundbreaking stories of successful and failed business reinventions, find your own source of strength, as a company, to move forward.

BOOKS

TALENTS & REBELS

Dealing with Corporate Misfits



This book explores how unconventional thinkers drive innovation and help businesses thrive. It offers strategies to identify and harness these "rebels" within your organization, turning disruption into opportunity.

FINTECH REVOLUTION



This book highlights how fintech is transforming finance by replacing traditional systems like credit cards with mobile and app-based solutions. It emphasizes trust, simplicity, and user-centered design as the keys to fintech success and startup growth.

Nordic Fintech Week 2025

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