

Rafael A. Vela

Citizenship: European - Italian

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EXECUTIVE ADVISOR | SUPPLY CHAIN, OPERATIONS & DECISION ARCHITECTURE

Designing Systems That Align Strategy, Execution, and Performance

Executive Profile

Executive advisor with over 30 years of international experience across more than 25 countries, specializing in supply chain, procurement, operations, and logistics. I support organizations in aligning strategy with execution, strengthening decision frameworks, and improving performance across complex, multi-regional environments.

My work focuses on designing and optimizing operating models, enabling disciplined trade-off management, and improving visibility across end-to-end supply chain systems. I engage at executive level to support transformation initiatives, operational stabilization, and performance improvement in dynamic and high-pressure contexts.

Experience spans manufacturing, telecommunications, fintech, retail, and consulting.

Core Competencies

Supply Chain Management
Procurement & Strategic Sourcing
Operations Management
Logistics & Distribution
Inventory Management
3PL / 4PL Management
Supply Chain Transformation
Operational Excellence (Lean, Six Sigma)
KPI Development & Performance Management
Cost Optimization & Spend Management
Risk Management & Supply Chain Resilience
ERP Systems & Process Integration

Professional Experience

Managing Director & Chief Consulting Officer

[Pathway Consulting](#) | Jan 2019 – Present

- Lead executive advisory engagements in supply chain, procurement, and operations across multiple industries
- Design and optimize supply chain networks, logistics systems, and procurement operating models

- Improve operational performance, cost efficiency, and decision visibility across complex supply chain environments
- Implement performance management systems, KPIs, and governance frameworks to improve visibility and control
- Support transformation initiatives, cost optimization programs, and operational stabilization in complex environments
- Advise on 3PL and 4PL structures, distribution networks, warehousing, and inventory management systems

Founder

[Insight Publishing](#) | Apr 2018 – Present

- Develop executive frameworks, decision architectures, and institutional knowledge systems
- Author publications on supply chain, operations, and executive decision-making
- Support advisory work through structured methodologies, including [Streamline 360](#)
- Build intellectual assets focused on trade-off management, risk visibility, and operational coherence

Global Leadership Experience

Led supply chain, procurement, and logistics operations across 20+ countries, managing multicultural teams of more than 400 professionals and complex multi-site environments.

Oversaw procurement portfolios exceeding USD 1 billion and large-scale logistics flows, driving cost discipline, supplier performance, and operational reliability.

Designed and executed transformation initiatives that aligned operational execution with enterprise priorities, improving efficiency, visibility, and cross-functional coordination.

Advisory Approach

My work combines structured analysis with operational judgment developed in live environments. The focus is not only on identifying what should change, but on designing systems that remain stable under pressure.

I prioritize clarity in decision-making, alignment across functions, and the removal of structural ambiguity that weakens execution over time.

Education & Professional Development

Bachelor's in Business Administration

Six Sigma Black Belt – Project Management Institute

Additional certifications and specializations available at: <https://rafaelvela.com/specializations-1>

Publications

Founder of [Insight Publishing](#), a platform dedicated to the development of executive frameworks, decision architectures, and institutional knowledge systems.

Author of multiple works covering executive decision-making, supply chain strategy, and operational performance.

Information about all publications available at: <https://rafaelvela.com> (Knowledge Assets)

Languages

English: C2 | **Spanish:** C2 | **Italian:** C1 | **French:** B1

Engagement Model

Engaged in executive advisory mandates, including fractional CSCO, COO, CPO, and CEO roles. Work focuses on transformation, performance stabilization, and the restoration of execution discipline across complex operational environments.