



# SAMI PALONEN

Lean Implementation Coach

## Languages:

- English (Fluent)
- Finnish (Fluent)
- Swedish (Limited working proficiency)
- German (Limited working proficiency)

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## Professional experience:

### **2024 – present, The Lean Lab, CEO and Founder**

United Arab Emirates | Global

Manages a small business focused on solving impactful problems using lean methodologies.

### **2019–2024 – APM Terminals Management, Africa Regional Lean Leader, Global Lean Academy Leader, Senior Lean Trainer**

United Arab Emirates | Global

Led lean transformations across Africa, coaching terminal leaders in Lean systems like Daily Management and Strategy Deployment. Facilitated 20–25 Kaizen events annually, driving \$2–4M in business impact and reducing vessel port stays by over 20%. Revamped Lean Academy materials (e.g., Problem Solving, 5S, VSM, TPI), created SMED and Kaizen Event Basics content, and trained leaders in these methods. Introduced Kaikaku Kaizen Events and led Strategy Deployment rollout. Founded Lean for All Academies in Salalah, Lagos, and Pipavav.

### **2008–2018 – Radiometer Turku Oy, Finland (Danaher Corporation), DBS Leader, Production Manager, Production Chemist**

Finland | Local

Led Lean initiatives to improve SQDC metrics and fostered a culture shift from Kaizen push to pull. Managed production teams and processes, achieving >96% OTD and >70% gap closure in Kaizen targets. Developed planning tools and Heijunka-based production models.

### **2005–2008 – Teollisuuden Voima Oy, Chemist**

Finland | Local

Managed nuclear chemistry lab operations and developed ISO 17025-compliant analysis methods and procedures.

### **1999–2005 – University of Helsinki, Research Scientist**

Finland | Local

Scientific research on Non-Aqueous Capillary Zone Electrophoresis method development, five international scientific publications and PhD thesis.

## Summary:

Seasoned lean leader and coach with a strong track record of delivering measurable business value through Kaizen Events, Lean education, and management system implementation. Known for creating enthusiasm around Lean, with a process-focused, analytical, and problem-solving mindset.

- Brings 16 years of international leadership experience across medical device manufacturing and port industries, driving transformation and cultural change
- 6 years of Lean leadership in the terminal industry at both regional and site levels.
- 8 years of chemistry and management experience in scientific research and the nuclear power sector.

## Profile:

- Lived and worked in Finland and United Arab Emirates
- 6 years of experience traveling and working internationally and across cultures in Africa, Europe and Asia
- Founded the Lean Lab company Dec 2024
- PhD in Analytical Chemistry, University of Helsinki
- Master Black Belt in SW, 5S, DM/VM, VSM, SMED and TPI Kaizens
- Certified Trainer in Problem Solving Process
- Experienced trainer and practitioner of Strategy Deployment, Lean Product Development, Visual Project Management, KanBan, Lean Materials Systems and Quality System Basics and Training Within Industry (TWI)

