

A CIMBA Spotlight with Andrea Pederiva

➤ *Please, tell us more about you, about your current and past jobs.*

It was the summer of '69... I was born in the municipality of Valdobbiadene, the town surrounded by the Unesco heritage wine hills. After graduating in computer science at the University of Udine, I moved to Treviso where, apart from a short period in Padova, I still live.

At present I'm the Head of Internal Audit in SAVE Group, that manages the airports of Venezia, Treviso, Verona and Brescia. My job responsibilities include internal audit, corporate compliance, and enterprise risk management.

At the very beginning of my career, I was a software developer. I worked mostly in the financial and IT auditing, then I became a risk consultant and manager first at Arthur Andersen and then Deloitte. Before joining SAVE, I also worked as a compliance officer in the banking sector for a couple of years.

➤ *How did you choose CIMBA? What led you to choose an MBA?*

I knew about CIMBA from a call for a scholarship in 2004. At that time, I was doing Sarbanes-Oxley Act controls for many Italian companies controlled by USA listed companies. I had the opportunity to work with many colleagues from the USA and Europe.

I felt the need to enlarge my perspectives with fresh new approaches and an international learning experience; CIMBA was perfect because it was an international MBA program, with all the professors coming from different USA Universities. The part-time MBA classes were held during the weekend in Asolo, so they were compatible with both being a working student and living in Treviso.

Moreover, it was a very interesting networking opportunity, with the ability to get to know people from different countries and industries. To be honest, also the eventuality of having fun attending the lessons in Asolo with friends coming from such diverse and interesting backgrounds was a major factor.

➤ *Reminiscences of your experience in the CIMBA program. What are some of the things that changed your way of thinking?*

At CIMBA I learned a lot in terms of business knowledge. However, the most important things I experienced were the strength of the team-work and be-your-best mindset. I was inspired in so many ways by my MBA colleagues who brought their specific experiences both to the classroom and to our many social gathering where we had the opportunity to get know each other better.

I think the most transforming experiences were the feeling of accomplishment after succeeding in such a challenging MBA program while also being compelled to perform at a very high level in my job. It was an amazing experience being part of a big and diverse professional family, something I felt very strongly during



the month of the final exam at the University of Kansas, in Lawrence, KS, where the graduation ceremony also took place.

Another major experience was in the office of professor Ringleb (don't tell him...); seeing his library was revealing of what an "always learning" mindset actually means.

➤ ***What was your favorite moment in the CIMBA MBA Program? Favorite class? Difficult moment?***

There are many moments I remember as special, both enjoying the free time with my class colleagues and in the classroom; I think especially the arrival in the morning in Asolo, just in time for a coffee at the Caffè Centrale with the Botter brothers, and after for a lunch at the Pizzeria ristorante Cornaro, where we laughed and discussed a lot.

A very special experience was the final class in Lawrence, where I experienced life on a real campus. It gave me the opportunity to know better my colleagues, and I also met some interesting nice new people.

My favorite classes were Statistics and Operations; they helped me to better understand my work as an auditor and led me to define and teach a very interesting course in Project Management to other organizations after the MBA.

➤ ***What was the impact of the program on your life and career?***

It's not an easy question; I do not have a simple answer, since I do not have a "smoking gun" that links completing the program with change in my life or my career. But there are interesting clues... The year I completed the program I met my wife and only a year later I was married. I also became the head of the internal audit of a listed company.

➤ ***Looking back at your professional career, is there something you regret?***

My main regret has been not planning my career development better; I always seized the opportunities I had, but I didn't plan my career development in a structured manner.

Moreover, I've somehow been unfocused in terms of priorities, so that I spent a lot of effort on side projects, including volunteering, which served my quest for meaning but was probably not so helpful in terms of professional development.

➤ ***What advice would you give current or prospective students?***

I like a lot the motto of CIMBA: be your best; this motto summarizes so much advice and wisdom.

I'd say that this means a lot to me, and the advice I'd give to the students would be to be self-conscious, know their strengths and limits, work hard, improve to bring a better "you" into their lives, work and relationships; be curious, never give up, never stop learning, be open to the unknown, without ruling out the possibility of a transcendent dimension, and be ready to celebrate success and joy, and to give meaning to failure and suffering.



➤ ***Can you share a dream/future goal?***

At present I'm working hard to complete the restructuring of a house I bought with my wife a few years ago; the completion of this project will lead to new possibilities in other dimensions too, including the professional one.

I prefer not to be too much detailed; however, the idea is to continue working on the issue of the adequacy of the organizations with respect to the fiduciary duties of its directors.

➤ ***What is your favorite movie? Favorite book?***

I'm not a movie expert, nor a systematic reader; If I think of a movie that touched me, I would say it is *What Dreams May Come* with Robin Williams. It is inspirational in showing that love has no limits and is really more powerful than death.

Also, I do not have a favorite book, but there are many I would suggest; for example in the biography category I would suggest *The Spirit of St. Louis*, where Lindbergh narrates the ideation, preparation, and execution of his solo trans-Atlantic flight in 1927.

There are other books I would suggest in the history and essay categories. To have a glimpse of what we are experiencing, for example, I would suggest the writing of Thomas Picketty and Yuval Noah Harari, and I would certainly recommend *Animal Farm* and *1984* by George Orwell, as well as *Lord of the World* by Robert Hugh Benson, and the short novel "*The Test*" by Richard Matheson.

But most of all, I would recommend not missing the classics for teenagers, such as *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea* and *Journey to the Center of Earth* by Jules Verne, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain, and *Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson; all food for the imagination.

➤ ***What inspires you?***

I think the nature and the history of us, as human beings, is what most inspires me. This very unique mixture of greatness and misery, of opportunity and misfortune, immersed in a path which, until now, is a complex history of achievements and progress intertwined with immense disasters. I think curiosity and the quest for truth, beauty, and goodness is a never-ending trip, which we go through both as individuals and as communities.

➤ ***Is there something else you would like to add?***

I already said a lot more than I usually do... Thank you for asking me to talk a little about myself and my experience with CIMBA and beyond.

Thank you for your time!