



A CIMBA Spotlight with Arianna Colombari, Part-time MBA Class of 2008

Hi Arianna! Please, tell us more about you and your professional experience.

I'm from Treviso but I had the chance to study abroad between US and Asia and spent a lot of time travelling the world. I'm actually Corporate Communication and Sustainability director at Tecnica Group, located in the Northeast of Italy but operating Internationally. I attended CIMBA as a part-time MBA student in 2006-2008.

Can you share with us one of your experiences that made you worried about the position women have in the companies/leadership world?

Being inserted in a typical Italian Family-owned Company, mainly managed by man till few years ago, the moment that worried me the most was for sure my maternity leave.

I can share a quick anecdote, probably the most evident sign that things were changing.

Around 2012, during an organizational change, a colleague from Austria stated loudly that he couldn't report to me, an Italian Women in the (masculine) ski industry and the former CEO simply told him we didn't have any position for him anymore if that was his point of view.

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

It was very important for me personally as I could finally fill the gap in all the areas that weren't the focus during my educational path. It was absolutely crucial to approach this experience after a few years of working experience as I could immediately find the connection to my daily life in the Company. It has been an added value to achieve my actual position in the organization. With the entrance of a new modern management team, it was easier to be recognized.

You are also part of the CIMBA faculty now, how has teaching evolved? In what way do you adjust to it?

I'm honored to have the chance to be at the other side of the "desk" and transferring my knowledge and experiences to the younger students. Education and real professional life are too far away sometime, and I do my best to fill this gap focusing on many real-life examples and cases.



As a successful leader yourself, what is a key piece of advice that you would tell your younger self just starting out in their career?

What I would definitely recommend is to be courageous, and jump spontaneously on each possible activity, project or research whenever there is the chance. It will open opportunities and even if it isn't the case, it will anyway improve your knowledge.

What inspires you?

My main inspiration is learning how the world is evolving and adapting to this change.