



CATERINA MANZI

WORK EXPERIENCE

ALMA CUBE (Design & Innovation)

BOLOGNA, ITALY

SERVICE DESIGNER

01/2024 – 04/2024

- Conducted research into user needs for a multinational food company, included facilitating over 50 interviews and 3 focus groups;
- Reported research data and actionable insights directly to company's senior management;
- Supported management in the development of launching strategies.

FORNO BRISA (Food production and service)

BOLOGNA, ITALY

SUSTAINABILITY ANALYST

06/2023 – 10/2023

- Benchmarked against 50 competitors' sustainability reports and developed a database of around 120 KPIs to support the drafting of the impact report;
- Analysed 3 agri-food supply chains (coffee, bread, chocolate) to create an evaluation tool for over 50 suppliers ensuring compliance with ESG criterias;
- Designed and tested new D&I and onboarding systems, for an expected staff growth of 30% over the following year .

JOIN ANGOLA (Tourism & Culture)

BENGUELA, ANGOLA

CO-FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

04/2018 – 10/2022

- Led stakeholder engagement strategies with artists, event organisers and local authorities, facilitating the participation of 10 local artists in over 100 events internationally in Southern Africa;
- Recruited, managed and tutored a team of 6, fostering an inclusive environment that prioritised personal growth through access to counselling services, professional courses and monthly informative sessions facilitated by industry experts;
- Secured funding of ~3.000.000 Kwanzas from the Portuguese Cooperation institute for a project on training and sensitization of 200 young people on HIV;
- Coordinated a ground-up market analysis in Southern Africa to identify strategic opportunities and develop a marketing plan, leading to a YouTube channel with over 3.000 subscribers and a unique website with regular visitors from 40 countries around the world.

COSPE (NGO - women's rights project)

BENGUELA, ANGOLA

PROJECT MANAGER

03/2017 – 06/2018

- Managed a budget of ~500.000 euros, a staff of 10 people and the overall planning of the EU-funded project, resulting in the training on advocacy strategies of 10 civil society organisations and over 200 women in 4 rural communities;
- Built favourable partnerships with gender equality stakeholders to establish the "Mulheres no Centro" project as a key ally for events and activities;
- Produced regular work plans, drafted grant proposals and M&E reports, and conducted staff meetings to evaluate ideas, challenges, and financials, ensuring alignment with the EU funding requirements.

COSPE Swaziland (NGO - human rights)

MBABANE, ESWATINI

ASSISTANT TO COUNTRY DIRECTOR

06/2015 – 02/2017

- Organised and implemented, within the first month on the job, a highly sensitive training on negotiation skills for Swazi civil society. Involved securing facilitators, organising logistics, and managing aspects of diplomacy;
- Led the creation of NGO's first, formal communication strategy. Resulted in increased funding and growing social media presence by 250% in one year;
- Secured and managed new funds to support project activities (e.g. USAID support for the instalment of solar panels in two Women Centres);
- Empowered and supported the first advocacy group of rural women to ever speak at the Swazi Parliament on the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence (SODV) Bill.

VOLUNTEERING

AIA (NGO - LGBTQIA+ advocacy)

BENGUELA, ANGOLA

TRANSLATOR

06/2023 – ongoing

- Translation of documents on gender issues from English to Portuguese.

FM4 Paso Libre (NGO - migrant rights)

GUADALAJARA, MEXICO

INTERN

04/2014 – 06/2014

- Translated Spanish to English and assisted in interviewing migrants to collect data for advocacy of human rights to relevant local institutions.

CONTACT

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EDUCATION

Global Master in Business Administration (MBA)

2022 – 2024

Bologna Business School
Italy

MSc International Relations and Diplomacy

2013 – 2015

University of Leiden
The Netherlands

BA Politics

2010 – 2013

University of Sussex
United Kingdom

LANGUAGES

Italian: mother tongue

English: fluent

Portuguese: fluent

Spanish: upper-intermediate

siSwati/Zulu: pre-intermediate

TRAININGS

Recently completed trainings on:

- Service design, design thinking, design-driven innovation;
- Emerging technologies (AI & ML);
- Sustainability in the business sector (ESG criteria & BCorp certification);
- Project communication.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- I kick-started and I am leading a project on mentorship for the BBS Alumni Association;
- I host a cultural podcast called "Life Around the World", where I regularly interview people from different cultures. The podcast is 6 months old and has over 100 subscribers.