

Career Sheet: Project manager



Federica Arenare

Federica Arenare, who graduated in semiotics with a thesis on the design of ed-tech tools for students * DSA and BES, is currently carrying out a doctorate in philosophy of science analyzing digital tools for the dissemination of knowledge. He works as a consultant and media educator for Dataninja and Open the Box, spreading the culture of information and data in Italian secondary schools.



OVERVIEW OF THE JOB

My job for Open the Box is that of project manager, who is in charge of organizing and managing educational platforms, tutoring, and customer care. As a media educator, I am also responsible for holding workshops live off and online for various users and organizing the contents and didactic structure of the online training courses on media and data literacy, offered to teachers and educators * of secondary schools.

My relationship with STEM is related to the type of training content we deal with Open the Box: not only information literacy but also content related to culture and information based on data, algorithms, and artificial intelligence.



WHAT INSPIRED YOU

I was inspired by the dissemination work done by * the founder * of Dataninja, who is committed to spreading the culture of data at all levels. For my personal interest, I want to devote myself to informative and didactic communication.



TYPICAL WORKING DAY

I work in smart working for Open the Box, so I mainly manage work, workshops, and live broadcasts from home. It happens that there are formations or events in attendance, which are however out of the ordinary. As for the PhD, on the other hand, I have an office, where I go to study and do research. My days then alternate between home and university according to the commitments set.



STUDY & CAREER PATH

My path, rather atypical, started with the three-year course in Psychology at the University of Milan-Bicocca, after which I thought the master's degree in Clinical Psychology would follow. During the last year, however, I carried out a workshop in Advertising, which made me discover the role of accounts and project managers in communication agencies. I then found an agency to do my curricular internship, and that same agency hired me even before I graduated. From there I worked for 3 years and then chose to move abroad to further study the English language. After 6 months in Oxford (UK), however, I chose to leave my job on break and go back to studying: I moved to Bologna and started my master's degree in semiotics. Among various voluntary activities and organization of in-depth workshops on digital issues, here in Bologna, I carried out a curricular internship at an association that specialized in training and education for DSA and BES, following which I wrote the thesis of Graduation.



KEY SKILLS

The work I do does not have a real "name", like many of the jobs that people who deal with digital and who have mixed backgrounds do, are woven into us. In general, I think that for today's world of work a lot of mental flexibility and flexibility is needed. Digital skills are fundamental, but they depend a lot on the reference sectors. Knowing the English language and the computer language allows you to interact more easily with broad-spectrum fields; being able to be empathetic and transparent with people can be the figure that makes the difference, especially in the educational field.



CAREER PROSPECT

Out of attitude, I don't set any limits. I think that consultancy linked to areas such as training, information, and digital literacy can open me to different areas of application and different target audiences.



CHALLENGES

COORDINATOR

PREMIUM PARTNERS

GENERAL PARTNERS

Being able to orient yourself and structure your role is not taken for granted, precisely because much of what you do is "new" and you do not have models of reference. Another challenge I think is to find the right balance between keeping up with the times and sector updates and the so-called FOMO (fear of missing out), that is the idea of constantly losing something, very present in environments related to digital and content creation.



YOUR ADVICE TO STUDENTS

I think that, with the risk of going a little against the tide, my advice maybe not so much to be far-sighted and point in a specific direction, but rather be guided by one's interests, at least in the university choice, without thinking about what those stimuli can materialize. Thinking less about "what work do I want to do?" and more about "what interests me, what would I like to take care of?": then you create the work;)



YOUR ADVICE TO TEACHERS AND PARENTS

I think the fundamental thing is listening: they can find many tips, recipes, and "ways of", what no one else can do, if not the adult people who are close to them, is to listen to them, understand what they feel and towards what they are brought. From there it's all downhill.



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