

Padova, July 27th, 2025

Dear Colleagues of CIMUSET,

My name is Elena and I am writing this letter to express my interest in joining the CIMUSET Board as a regular member.

I have a background in archaeology, and throughout my studies I have always been fascinated by the idea of being part of one long story through time and space, where the similarities and differences between people and cultures have driven research and knowledge development.

Since 2009, I have worked at the University of Padua in administration and secretarial roles, coordinating the Rector's secretarial staff and organising meetings and institutional events at a national and international level.

In 2021, I joined the University Museum Centre (CAM), the body responsible for organising activities in university museums. Here, I am currently coordinating and promoting activities and projects that aim to disseminate the culture of accessibility and inclusion in our university museums.

The University of Padua has 11 museums and 18 collections covering all fields of science. Our collections originated from professors' and students' need for samples and models for teaching and research. In these last years, our Museum Centre has promoted access to these collections towards the widest public, strongly believing that such a vast and multidisciplinary heritage could and should benefit everyone, regardless of their educational level, cultural background, cognitive or sensory abilities.

To enhance my expertise in these areas and to provide informed and professional support to my Museum Center, I recently completed an MA in Accessibility to Media, Arts and Culture-AMAC at the University of Macerata (Italy).

I am currently coordinating a dedicated working group comprising museum curators and experts from other university's offices, as well as professionals from local institutions and associations who are partners in our accessibility and inclusion projects. Through the "Everybody WellCAM" project, we collaborate with people with sensory disabilities to ensure their access to knowledge of anatomical, zoological, palaeontological, and mineralogical samples, engineering and mathematical models, geographical tables, artworks and archaeological findings.

With “More Than Words”, we work together with people with Autism Spectrum Disorders to make our sources of information accessible to them.

With “Museum in a Luggage”, we reverse the normal flow of visitors going to the museum, and make the collections move and meet people who are experiencing restrictions on their liberty or independence, particularly those in detention and those with dementia.

In this way, the academic knowledge, displayed and preserved in our museums, becomes a shared heritage that enhances cultural growth and promotes critical thinking on actual and meaningful topics.

Since we first met in Seoul in 2023, I have felt a sense of belonging to a community that embodies all the values I consider fundamental: the universality of our cultural heritage; caring for everyone's needs; the importance of accessibility; and paying attention to making everyone feel welcome.

The opportunity to share experiences and challenges, learn from each other, rejoice in each other's successes and support each other in difficult times has been invaluable to me as a museum professional.

My commitment to my work has grown stronger, and I have developed the awareness and skills to support my colleagues and my own institution in making our museums places where the right to participate in and enjoy cultural life is preserved, promoted and fulfilled.

This is my main motivation for presenting my candidacy for the CIMUSET Board: to support the CIMUSET community in becoming even more welcoming and committed, and to play an active role in promoting the pivotal societal role of museums in shaping an equal and inclusive society.

Thanks for your attention!

Best,

Elena
