

# Dual Career Newsletter

DECEMBER 2024

INTERNATIONAL STAFF MOBILITY



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Study in Denmark: Exploring international education options and pathways

9 December 9—12:30

[Free—sign up here!](#)

### Saint Lucia Parade

13 December

[Read more here!](#)

Welcome

- Bettina Schuhmann  
Germany
- Daniela Mutwil-Anderwald  
Austria
- João da Fonseca  
Portugal
- Kristina Temirkanova  
Russia
- Mirela-Andreea Piciu  
Romania
- Stefanie Kieninger  
Germany

## Dear Members of the Dual Career ~ Spouse Network

Welcome to Christmas time in Copenhagen! Despite the fact that Christmas starts early in Denmark, considering that decorations appear and Christmas markets starts from mid-November, it is not truly Christmas before the 1st of December.

Every year in December, Danish TV broadcasts a Christmas calendar tv-series for children starting December 1st. This is a special way for kids to count down to Christmas eve on the 24th together. Another Danish count down tradition is the Christmas candle, where you burn down a number each day leading up to the 24th to mark the days of December.

However, there are also some special days during the month of December that are celebrated a little more than others. Every year on the 13<sup>th</sup> of December, we celebrate Saint Lucy's Day with parades all over the country. Back in the day, the 13<sup>th</sup> of

December was considered the shortest day of the year and Saint Lucy (Santa Lucia) is the saint of light. Therefore, you will find parades of young boys and girls dressed in white all around town singing the traditional Saint Lucy song while holding a candlelight in their hands. These parades usually take place early in the morning, while it is still dark outside. The parades can both be performed by big choirs or by local schools or kindergartens. However, here in Copenhagen you can get the chance to experience a very special version of the traditional parade. Local kayakers have created their own parade, where they sail around the city harbor. This is quite the sight and definitely worth a visit. Be aware, you might want to turn up a bit early, as it tends to be crowded. We wish you a wonderful Christmas time here in the city!

Kind regards,

**Mary K. Kobia & Diana Lund Nordstrøm**  
[ISM Dual Career Team – University of Copenhagen](#)

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Winter is not a season, it's a celebration

— *Anamika Mishra*

## Spotlight: IDCN has been a game-changer!



### Sharavan Murugan

**From:** India

HR Business Partner at

### Novo Nordisk

#### **How long did it take for you to find a job in DK?**

When I arrived in Copenhagen in October 2022, my first priority was to ensure the smooth settlement of my family. It took around 3-4 months to find permanent accommodation, enroll my child in school, and create a comfortable environment for them. Once my family was settled, I embarked on my job search journey in January 2022. It took me five months to secure my first job in DK.

#### **What has been most challenging about your job search?**

One of the most challenging aspects of my job search was

maintaining a positive mindset despite facing multiple rejections. Coming from a job market where my skills were in high demand, it was disheartening to face setbacks.

In DK, I noticed that many job postings were in Danish, which limited my options as an English speaker. Additionally, the recruitment process differed greatly from what I was accustomed to in India. Most applications required a detailed covering letter, which meant investing a significant amount of time researching and understanding each organization's values, strategies, and more. It was frustrating to receive automated rejection emails without any feedback on how to improve my application. However, I persevered and experimented with different strategies to increase my visibility in this job market.

#### **What is your best advice to someone who is not living in DK, but looking for a job there?**

My strongest recommendation to anyone seeking a job in DK from outside the country is to focus on networking and

creating visibility for yourself. Take every opportunity to connect with professionals in your desired organizations, attend events and workshops, be active on LinkedIn, and consider publishing articles or sharing insights.

It's important to acknowledge that rejections are a part of the process and it may take time, but maintaining a structured approach and keeping your spirits high is crucial. Remember, in every international relocation, there comes a day when you and your family truly feel settled. Hold onto that vision and stay motivated

#### **How has IDCN helped you?**

IDCN has been a game-changer for me during this relocation. It provided a supportive community of like-minded individuals with similar needs, keeping me engaged through various activities. The workshops and events organized by IDCN were always uplifting, offering diverse perspectives and innovative ideas.

One invaluable practice I learned from IDCN is "Wins for the Week," encouraged by Diana. Incorporating this into my

routine helped me stay positive during the toughest days and shifted my focus to the bright side of things. The leadership team, including Mary, Mark, and Diana, served as exceptional sounding boards, offering their advice and support whenever I needed it.

### **What surprised you the most about the Danish job interview?**

One of the most pleasant surprises during the Danish job interviews was the willingness of hiring managers to accept candidates who had experienced setbacks in their careers. This allowed me to be my authentic self during interviews, without the constant worry of past failures overshadowing my potential.

### **What is your best advice to someone going for a job interview?**

Invest ample time in researching the organization where you have an interview scheduled. Understand their values, culture, and goals. Equally important is self-reflection. Identify your strengths and areas for development, and practice articulating your achievements effectively. Remember, it's not just about the impressive work you've done; it's about confidently conveying your experiences

within the time frame of the interview.

### **What kept you going – your motivation, when things didn't always turn out the way you expected?**

During the ups and downs of my job search, my greatest motivation came from my wife and my son. Their unwavering belief in me and my abilities gave me the strength to persevere. Additionally, I immersed myself in self-development activities, attending workshops and engaging in linkedin learning

### **What are you most excited about doing in your new job?**

The opportunity to contribute my skills and passion to a purpose-driven organization that is making a significant impact on the lives of millions of people around the world is truly exhilarating. I can't wait to dive into meaningful projects, collaborate with inspiring colleagues, and be part of a team that is driving positive change. It's a remarkable feeling to know that my work will have a real and tangible impact on society

### **Reflecting back on your job seeking process and experiences in DK, what advice do you have to give to other spouses?**

My advice to you is to never lose hope and maintain an unwavering sense of optimism. Remember, you have made a bold decision to pack your entire life into a suitcase and venture into a new country, leaving behind friends and family. Not everyone possesses the courage to embark on such an adventure.

When it comes to your job search, invest valuable time in creating visibility for yourself. Attend workshops, events, and seize every opportunity to connect with professionals in your desired field. Engage in coffee meets, where you can establish valuable connections. Remember, networking is key, and these interactions can open doors you never knew existed.

