Welcome to the new year in Copenhagen!

The Winters here can be cold and long, as you have already experienced this December. But during these long Winter days, it is also time to reflect back on the past year. 2023 has been a whirlwind year all over the world. We truly hope that you have spent the year with people you love.

A new year also means that many new things are starting — this includes all of the new events we have planned for you this year! In the end of January, we will visit the Old Scene at the Royal Danish Theatre together, where you will get a guided tour behind the scenes. If this sounds interesting, you can still sign up on our website.

We will also continue the Job Seeker Network this year. Starting this month, we already have two events planned: A Job Café on the 9th and an event with the topic: “Competencies – how to find them and communicate them to a potential employer” on the 16th. If you would like to join the Job Seekers Network, you can sign up for each event on our website.

In the upcoming year, we will also continue with our Dual Career events. We already have the first event this Thursday, where Kathy Siddiqui will return with her workshop “The Winter Blues Buster - How to thrive during Winter months in Denmark”. Here we will we will focus on tools and strategies that can increase energy levels and productivity. We will also discuss the importance of self-care and well-being, and prepare an individual Thrive in Winter Toolbox. Even if you did not have the chance to participate in this event, these are important points to remember during these cold Winter days.

We will make sure to always keep you updated on the newest events and happenings, both at ISM and in Copenhagen, during the upcoming year. For now, we hope that January treats you well and that we will see you to some of the events this year!

Kind regards,
Mary K. Kobia, Diana Lund Nordstrøm & Katrine Sandahl Mortensen
ISM Dual Career Team – University of Copenhagen

“January is the month for dreaming
— Jean Hersey
How long have you been looking for a job in DK?
3 years

What has been most challenging about your job search?
Keeping myself motivated in the initial stage of my job search as I was trying to get back to work after almost 8 years. After the initial stages, it was definitely self-doubt, if I can genuinely get back into the workforce.

What is your best advice to someone who is not living in DK, but looking for a job there?
Network with people from your own field to understand the job scene. It is important to understand and adapt to the recruitment process of Denmark - this would include a few of the following:

A. Customization of your CV and Cover letter for each position
B. How a call or email to the hiring manager makes a difference

How has IDCN helped you?
IDCN has helped me in so many ways but if I had to be specific then I would say it has helped me in finding myself as a person, to begin with. In terms of skills, I would say networking, presentation skills, and communication skills.

What surprised you the most about the Danish job interview?
About how easygoing it can be :) I honestly would get worked up about the interview process but then I started going in with the approach that I am just talking to an IDCN Corporate and I found I was much more confident about how I spoke and presented myself.

What is your best advice to someone going for a job interview?
I think it is very important to relax during the interview. You can be nervous but do not let it show. Always remember that you know yourself and your own experience the best, and you need to be confident about what you say and things you can do.

What kept you going - your motivation, when things didn’t always turn out the way you expected?
Things almost never turn out the way you expect and it is important to find your motivation. Networking at various events really helped me keep my motivation up. Recruiter or HR people would see my CV and say I did have a good profile, I just needed to connect with the right people at the right time. That would happen through Networking.

In terms of support: My family has been extremely supportive but the biggest strength and constant motivation has come from my IDCN tribe - Volunteers and mentors included. They have guided me, pushed me, cried with me, and laughed with me through this journey.

What are you most excited about doing in your new job?
Doing what I enjoy the most - recruitment. I get to drive the recruitment process for various positions. This means coordinating with Hiring managers on their needs and processing candidates accordingly so we can close the position with the right candidate.

Reflecting back on your job-seeking process and experiences in DK, what advice do you have to give to other spouses?
I would say it is important to put yourself out in the world and meet people. IDCN is a great platform that allows you to start a network- whether professional or personal. I think it is also important to take some time off to reflect and think of our next steps. Be sure of what it is you want and do everything you need to achieve it.