Welcome to October in Denmark! If you desire windy days and rainy weather—you are in for a treat. October in Copenhagen is where you truly start to feel that fall is around us. The crispy air and the orange colours are all around at this time of year. Fall is also the time of the year that the term ‘hygge’ is often associated with. In September we made sure to recommend bakeries and cafés around Copenhagen in our Facebook Group, where you can ‘hygge’ with friends and family. There are also so many ‘hyggelige’ things to do throughout the month to feel the cosy spirit this fall.

If you are longing for a true feeling of fall and Halloween, you should consider visiting Tivoli Gardens in the centre of Copenhagen. Every year they decorate the park in the most extraordinary way and arrange many special events surrounding Halloween. This is always a very successful place to bring children, as you are surrounded of pure magic. The Halloween celebrations take place from the 13th of October to the 6th of November this year. We also have some exciting events planned for you here at ISM throughout the month. Firstly, we have a workshop about Memorable Presentations next week on the 7th of October. Remember to check this out, if you haven’t already! Secondly, we have arranged a guided tour to the National Gallery of Denmark on the 30th of October, where we will see their new exhibition about the French painter Henri Matisse. We are all very excited about this event, and we hope to see as many of as possible. The registration is now open!

Another ‘hyggelig’ thing to do in Copenhagen this October could be to go to some of the fall markets around Copenhagen. There are many places where you can cut pumpkins, create your own apple juice or make a ‘snobřed’ over an open fire. This is also a very family friendly activity! One of the places to do this is at Aarstiderne in Humlebæk, which arranges fall activities throughout the fall holiday in week 42. A trip here could also be combined with a visit to the beautiful museum of Louisiana!

We wish you all a very ‘hyggelig’ fall!

Mary K. Kobia, Mark de Vos & Katrine Sandahl Mortensen
ISM Dual Career Team – University of Copenhagen

“\textquote“I wish that every day was Saturday and every month was October”\textquote
– Charmaine J. Forde
How long did it take for you to find a job in DK?

I started my job search after the new year of 2022. It then took me approximately 4 months to find a job.

What has been most challenging about your job search?

The most challenging part was to take the first step to get connected to the network. It is not easy to get in touch with new people in industry. It’s not difficult to take action, but to set up the mental state to reach out and talk.

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

Give yourself more chances to reach out, try again and change the way one more time. It’s OK to receive unexpected responds or no responds.

How has IDCN helped you?

IDCN helped me a lot. I learned many practical skills through courses and events, meeting with other IDCN members and practicing with them. I was more prepared through the whole process of getting the job by using some of the many tools provided. It was more like dots and details I learned that became part of my professional performance.

What surprised you the most about the Danish job interview?

The Danish job interview includes more talk on the personality of a candidate. There is a saying that job skills can be trained but personality can’t. It is important that the company’s culture and one’s own personality match.

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

Be prepared and learn as much as possible about the employer and the requirement of the position. Be clear on what they need for the position and what you can provide.

What kept you going – your motivation, when things didn’t always turn out the way you expected? Where did you find support?

Understand that it takes time to get a job in Denmark. Try the best and wait for a little luck in the job market. Sometimes it is just about the right timing, the right person and the right chance. I found support from Mary, other members of IDCN and my family, when things didn’t go well. My biggest luck is to have such beautiful people in my life, so I can carry on with a thankful heart. Thank you so much for the IDCN family.

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

I’m quite satisfied with my new position since it is the team that I wanted to be a part of. I knew the team before we settled in Denmark, I can learn intensive knowledge about my field and expand my professional network through the position. It is a good way to start my career in Denmark.

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

What I learned from IDCN is that it is important to step forward and talk to someone you are interested in. It can be a request of connection on Linkedin with a message, an email or a phone call. Information can be shared by them and there will be more new people to meet and more opportunities.

Spotlight: Understand that it takes time to get a job in Denmark!

Duman Kamalebieke
From China
Research assistant for LCA on additive manufacturing at DTU Sustain

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 Spotlight: Everything good takes time!

Charanya Venkatesh
From India
Disability Consultant at UNICEF Supply division; Product Innovation center

How long did it take for you to find a job in DK?
1.5 years. Volunteering helped with assimilating into a new work environment and increase my network in Denmark.

What has been most challenging about your job search?
The responses from companies I applied to were too few. The anxiety of not hearing back, even though I had the experience to match the job requirements, was the most challenging for me.

What is your best advice to someone who is not living in DK, but looking for a job there?
Don’t stop applying consistently. Even if you don’t hear back from companies, you should know they store your CV. If your job matches an opening they wish to fill, they may contact you. So the more applications you send out the higher the likelihood of you matching a need of a company.

How has IDCN helped you?
It has absolutely helped me with understanding the working ways in Denmark. I have met some of the most talented and experienced members through IDCN. It creates a safe support system to fall back on, when you are looking for work.

What surprised you the most about the Danish job interview?
The preference for open-ended questions. They love to explore more about your experience in depth, to give you the opportunity to share more than just your CV.

What is your best advice to someone going for a job interview?
It helped me to note down all my strengths, weaknesses and work activities I wished to highlight. They appreciate directness, so be clear on your needs from the workplace.

What kept you going – your motivation, when things didn’t always turn out the way you expected? Where did you find support?
My spouse has been a wonderful support and having someone believe in you helps. Please be mindful of your needs and take a break when it becomes overwhelming. Everything good takes time.

What are you most excited about doing in your new job?
The amount of learning and opportunities for development is exciting.

Reflecting back on your job seeking process and experiences in DK, what advice do you have to give to other spouses?
Try not to limit your work search to only previously held posts. I based my job search on the skills I have to offer. Being open to other positions different from your previous post will increase your chances of getting a job.