

# Dual Career Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2024

INTERNATIONAL STAFF MOBILITY



## Dear Members of the Dual Career ~ Spouse Network

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### CPH Half Marathon

15 September

[Read more here!](#)

#### Guided tour of Christian

##### VII's Palace

22 September 10.45-12.30

[Free—sign up here!](#)

#### Career guidance and the use of AI

23 September 9-12:30

[Free-sign up here!](#)

Welcome

- Anna Elizarova  
Russia
- Daniel Antonio Di Liscia  
Argentina & Germany
- Lillian Wilde  
Germany
- Sabita Acharya  
Nepal
- Suzanne Mangani  
France
- Valeri Loukianovets  
US

Welcome to September—a month filled with warmth and rain, sun and wind. Fall in Copenhagen is always beautiful, and we hope that this year is no different.

September also means that it is time for the annual [Copenhagen Half Marathon](#), which will take place on September 15th this year. Thousands of Copenhageners, Danes from other parts of the country as well as internationals will run around the streets of Copenhagen this Sunday. It is always fun to experience the race from the sideline and cheer for all the runners. It is a good idea to check [the route](#) for the day, as some routes are closed for parts of the day.

Other things happening this month is the Dual Career event [“Career guidance and the use of AI”](#) on September 23rd. This workshop is your key to harnessing the full potential of AI. By combining advanced technology with personal insight, you will gain the tools to navigate effectively in a competitive job market.

We offer a unique opportunity to learn how AI can become an integral part of your career development and help you achieve your professional goals.

On September 22nd, we will visit the Royal Family's representative and guest palace, Christian VII's Palace. The guided tour allows you to follow in the footsteps of the royal guests in previous eras, and to experience some of the most spectacular interiors in Denmark.

Lastly, this newsletter will be my (Katrine) last newsletter, as I am leaving my lovely colleagues at ISM to pursue new adventures. I would like to thank all of you, our lovely spouses. It has been a pleasure getting to know many of you and here your stories over the years. I wish you all the very best in the future!

Kind regards,

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

” We know that in September, we will wander through the warm winds of summer's wreckage. We will welcome summer's ghost.

— Henry Rollins

## Spotlight: Believe in the process!



### Abhinav Sen Gupta

**From:** India

Treasury Specialist & Business Partner, Group Treasury, at

Vestas Wind Systems A/S

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

2 years, though I had been sporadic in my job search in the first year .

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

I faced 2 main issues - I was looking to change my profile from Corporate Banking to Corporate Finance, and of course, it takes more convincing to do, in any transition. Secondly, most of my positive pre-application calls were not converting into interviewing opportunities, and that was quite frustrating

as there was no feedback on why this was. Subsequently, I gathered, I was being perceived as being over-qualified for the job I was applying for, both because of the designation differences between Banking / Corporates, and the difference in the number of years of experience that similar roles tend to have across Banking and Corporates. Even though I started addressing this in subsequent covering letters/ calls, it continued to be a challenge.

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

This market does well with personal connect. If you think you are a good fit for the role you are applying for, I would strongly advise to pick up the phone and have a short chat with the recruiter, both to gauge their willingness to take the process through for someone who doesn't immediately have a work visa,

and also to drive home your story and your fit for the role.

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

For one, IDCN provided a safe space and multiple opportunities to develop many of the conversations I would later have in my interviews. Which story would appeal, in what order, in what level of detail...these are important considerations when one is pitching. Second, the various events and the exposure it provided, not only to Corporate participants and their feedback, but also to networking within the IDCN teams of volunteers and members. Last, and equally important, the social network and support I received on this journey has been incredible. Knowing that there are others in the same boat, to lift each other's spirits up when one meets a temporary setback, celebrating festivals and the changing seasons together, finding personal friends along the way in a completely new country - IDCN has been a memorable experience for me.

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

It was quite a two way process, even in the interactions with senior leaders during the process. In my case, I also had a Hogan readback, which was extensive and quite an investment in terms of time and effort, for HR and the recruiting manager to do for a candidate that they were still evaluating. So, it was a very significant investment from the recruiting team, unlike I have been used to.

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

Approach it as a conversation and not a test. It helps to get the tone of conversation more balanced, and you are also more open and able to pick up on subtle clues and points for opening up the discussion to your strengths.

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

I have been in Sales for many years and also been a Derivatives trader for a couple. Both have taught me to believe

in 'the process'. If the process is sound, results will eventually follow, even though the interim set backs can be demotivating. To see me through those grey days, I turned to my team in IDCN for collective work and socializing, to the IDCN success stories (people that found jobs and showed that 'the process' works), I learnt (and am still learning) danish, continued with my Trading, worked on my health goals, essentially kept myself busy with the other things I wanted to achieve while this sorted itself out.

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

Difficult to pick one, so here are a few:

A) The Sustainability space I would get to work in has been a long term goal for me.

B) I would get to see the same products I pitched to my clients from the Bank's side, I would now get to experience from the other end, I look forward to see how I can put my skills to use.

C) I am driven by learning and new experiences, and I am expecting to pick up new skills relevant for my transition to Corporate Finance!

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

The same I had for myself. Believe in the process (which ideally involves networking/ calling/ coffee meets/ essentially some opportunity for personal pitching), and to keep at it! It really works!

