

New country, new career

If you had the courage to move to a country where you do not know anyone and where you can hardly understand a word or two of what the locals are saying, why is it so difficult to find the courage to change career? Why are we all so afraid to do something we have not done before?

If you have similar problems, you should not have missed the latest IDCN career event, which provided answers to these questions, as well as some useful tips on how to make this transition a bit less scary.



Pursuing a career at the university:
Academia and administration
24 November 2017

When moving to Denmark many of us are challenged with having to adapt to a new work culture, with finding a new professional niche, or to increase our network. Knowing how to best present yourself and your specific skills can be the key to facing these challenges.

The IDCN event on the 24th of November, Pursuing a career at the university: Academia and administration, was all about finding out and deepening your understanding of transferable skills, and how to use them while actively networking or during job interviews.

Mark de Vos introduced Susanne de Boer for her presentation on potential career paths at the university. Do you remember the difference between VIP and TAP? Susanne explained the different job profiles at the university in research (VIP, videnskabeligt instruktivt personale) as well as in administration (TAP, teknisk-administrativt personale), and shared her own career path and

her successful transition from working as a researcher at KU to working in administration.

Former IDCN members and DTU employees Darko Kjiroski and Ursula Windhab shared their success stories, including what role their involvement in IDCN played in their job search and eventually in finding a job.

After a short coffee break Mary Kobia hosted a short an energetic workshop on how to identify your transferable skills and ways to present them drawing from examples from your professional history, and in conclusion how to include them when you reach out to someone to get advice on job opportunities or when you write a cover letter.

Finally, the participants had the opportunity to use this knowledge in a structured networking session with representatives from the six universities in and around Copenhagen, before having lunch and coffee in an informal setting.

From Sydney to Copenhagen

IDCN Success Story



Ursula Windhab

Ursula Windhab is currently working as an International Officer at DTU. At the latest IDCN event, Ursula shared her experience with other IDCN members and we used the occasion to find out more about her life before and after moving to Denmark and to get useful advice from someone who has accomplished what all IDCN members work towards—finding a job!

“Network, network, network! Be active and get yourself out there, get involved in IDCN, be open to meeting new people, learn Danish. “

IDCN: Hi Ursula, thank you for your presentation and for taking the time to talk to us. Could you tell us more about your experience with IDCN and how it helped you in your job search?

Ursula: I am a KU partner and I heard about IDCN from Mary Kobia and Mark de Vos at ISM. It has been great to be part of a group of highly professional, talented, and lovely people, who were all working together towards the same goals—making IDCN and its events a success, finding a good job, and having fun along the way. Remaining professionally involved with a great cause increased my confidence and expanded my skills. It allowed me to network with HR professionals, I wouldn't otherwise have met. Last but not least, my work for IDCN was actually discussed in my interview at DTU and I believe, it was definitely regarded as a positive feature in my skill set.

IDCN: What is the most important piece of advice you would give to a person who has just arrived in Denmark?

Ursula: Network, network, network! Be active and get yourself out there, get involved in IDCN, be open to meeting new people, learn Danish, write/update your skill-based CV and work on your LinkedIn profile, polish up your elevator pitch, focus on activities and search for roles that give you energy and connect you to other relevant people. Last but not least, make sure that you are very well prepared when you approach professionals and go to coffee meetings.

IDCN: During your presentation you said you lived in Australia before moving to Denmark. How different are Australia and Denmark in your experience?

Ursula: Networking and building lasting relationships are so important. This is done in quite different ways in Denmark from the places where I have previously lived in and I felt it is was quite daunting at first. It was really helpful to attend workshops and have exchanges with other IDCN partners to get an idea of what networking in the Danish context actually means and how to approach it. It does get much easier over time and the more professionals you engage with. I have found that while professionals are very busy, they are also really willing to engage and give meaningful advice.

In terms of workplace culture, I appreciate the flatter hierarchies and the open door culture in Denmark. Being able to work in teams, curiosity, and personal motivation are highly valued in the workplace.

We wish a warm welcome to our latest corporate member:



At the latest IDCN career event our spouses had the chance to meet representatives from Roskilde University for the first time. One of them was **Sarah Christiansen**, HR specialist at RUC.

After the event we talked about the event itself, about IDCN and their reasons for joining us.

IDCN: Hi Sarah and thank you for your time. This is the first IDCN event for you as a representative and for Roskilde University as a corporate member. Can you give us your first-hand impressions about the event? We also accept constructive criticism.

Sarah: I thought, the event was really great. It was very professional and I myself learned something, about transferable skills for instance. It was really nice to meet the spouses and to see how much they benefit from these events.

As you said, this was our first event, so we had some problems during the structured networking session. When the session began, my colleagues and I did not know where we should be. We also did not know that the spouses could book time slots to talk to every single representative. We thought we would all represent RUC together.

I also think that it might have been an advantage for the spouses to know what kind of questions we could answer. For instance here at RUC, Human Resources are not a part of the hiring process. Therefore it was hard for me to answer some very specific questions regarding interviews and the selection of candidates.

But overall I really enjoyed the event and I look forward to participating in more IDCN events.

IDCN: Roskilde University is the latest addition to the IDCN Copenhagen's corporate members. Tell us more about your reasons for joining IDCN and your expectations from this collaboration.

Sarah: We decided to join IDCN because we wanted to do something for our international researchers. We are aware that in order to attract them we need to think about their families as well. They must feel welcome otherwise they will not stay.

Unlike most of the other universities RUC does not have an international faculty service. Therefore our resources are limited. IDCN is however a great concept that does not require a lot of resources from our side, but it is professional and the partners can really benefit from the membership. And so can RUC as an organization. We became aware of the challenges the partners experience and we hope our potential international employees will recognize that.



SHARE YOUR
SUCCESS STORY:

Found a job?
Started an internship? Relocated?

Please let us know by email at:
membership.copenhagen@idcn.info

SAVE THE DATE!

23
FEBRUARY
2018



Don't miss IDCN
Copenhagen's next
career event on
23 February 2018!

*Find out how to
stand out: CV &
personality
assessment*

IDCN COPENHAGEN CORPORATE MEMBERS



Technical
University of
Denmark



IT UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN

L'ORÉAL



nne pharmaplan®
Focused pharma engineering



Ørsted



Vestas®