Dear Members of the Dual Career ~ Spouse Network,

July is kicked off by one of the biggest events to be held in Denmark; Roskilde Festival!

Roskilde Festival is the largest music and arts festival in Northern Europe. It is also one of the oldest, dating back to 1971. There will be 180 concerts in 5 days and over 130,000 participants. Tickets are more or less sold out, but even if you are not going, you will probably hear about it from your coworkers or in the media.

The months of July and August make up the holiday period in Denmark, and here at ISM it will be rather quiet as well.

So, here are some ideas on how you can spend the warm summer days and long, soft evenings in Copenhagen.

During the summer, the beautiful Tivoli garden hosts Friday rock, which mostly consists of Danish acts but with a few exceptions.

5th: Legendary Tom Jones takes the stage.
12th: Benal and Jada with a mix of rap and soulish pop
19th: Danish singer songwriter Tina Dickow
26th: Danish rock group GNAGS that has existed since 1966

If we get lucky with the weather this summer, the coast of Copenhagen is the place to be. In Denmark, we are surrounded by water and there has been a great development of the beaches in the Copenhagen area in recent years.

One amazing spot is Amager Beach Park with its beautiful sandy beach and amazing view to Sweden. It also has a shallow lagoon, which is great for small children. When you have had enough of sandy toes, you can play all sorts of games such as miniature golf, and get an ice cream.

Another great spot is Islands Brygge Harbour Bath located just outside the city center in the beginning of Amager. This is also a great place to bring your children as the shallowest pool is only 30 cm deep, and there are diving towers at respectively one, three and five meters for the older children and grown-ups.

If you feel like getting out of the city for a bit, we have a few ideas for day trips:

Faxe Limestone Quarry and Geomuseum is a very interesting place. You can see all kinds of fossils in the geological exhibition, take a walk in the enormous Quarry and enjoy the beautiful view of the light blue lakes. It is only about an hour drive from Copenhagen.

In Helsingør, you can walk in the footsteps of Hamlet at Kronborg Castle. Throughout the summer, there will be interactive plays around the lovely castle, making it a great place to visit for the whole family! The castle is actually on the UNESCO World Heritage List and is with its ocean view and exciting history one of the most interesting castles in Denmark.

We hope you have a great summer

Mary K. Kobia & Mark de Vos
How long did it take for you to find a job in Denmark?

13 months.

What has been most challenging about your job search?

Once I was able to cope with the elements of job seeking in Denmark that usually puzzle foreigners (networking events, cold calling people at companies, crafting a narrative in your cover letter, including personal information in your CV), my main challenge was to be honest with myself and acknowledge that what I really wanted to do professionally was to teach Computer Science, which is what I have been doing in Spain for the last 13 years and I really love and enjoy. There are not many jobs of this kind out there, especially for non-Danish speakers, but focusing my job search on that professional area made everything make sense for me. Crafting my application documents was easier, since they matched my experience and professional profile to the highest degree.

How long did it take for you to find a job in Denmark? 13 months.

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What is your best advice to someone going for a job interview? Take the initiative, do not be passive. You are not meeting a tribunal that is going to judge you, as it happens in other countries, but potential colleagues that want to know about you, and expect you to be interested in them and the company as well.

What kept you going when things didn’t turn out the way you expected? My wife has been the strongest pillar in the process, always encouraging and supportive. Besides her, the workshops organised by the Dual Career Spouse Network at the University of Copenhagen have fed me with excellent food for the mind, kept me active, and given me the opportunity to share common concerns with other spouses in the same situation.

Reflecting back on your job seeking process and experiences in Denmark, what advice do you have to give to other spouses? Be active, do not think twice about calling someone from a company, or attending a networking event: just do it! You have nothing to loose and a lot to win. And, of course, get counselling from Mary Kobia and Mark de Vos. They are amazing and will help you immensely!

What are you most excited about doing in your new job? Contributing to the education of the upcoming generation of IT specialists is so exciting and fulfilling. I will also have the chance to learn much about current technological trends. And I will get to practice Danish every day!