The summer holiday is over, and we hope you had a fantastic time. We will not use energy on talking about how hard it is to go back to “every day life” again, because you can be part of making it more exciting. We will give you some good ideas.

But first, we would like to congratulate everybody who found a job during the summer period. We can see, especially with the IDCN members that a lot of you are going to start exciting new careers in September. Congratulations! For the jobseekers among you, this means there are some vacancies left within IDCN and also remember that your professional network became bigger: just reach out to the spouses who got jobs. Here is one of our many IDCN job success stories.

Now some tips for those who would like to use their summer energy to something positive and different. You can consider joining the obstacle run Nordic Race the 1st of September on Refshaleøen. Reading their slogan “embrace the pain”, feels that watching is maybe exciting enough, while others make their way through a tire run, cliff-hangers, barbed wire, monkey bars and hurdles. You can also decide to join the 23,500 runners when they take on the 21.1 kilometres course at Copenhagen Half Marathon on the 16th of September.

When you are still in the holiday mode, it could be good to explore some of the Danish Islands. On 7 –9 September, you can experience thousands of colourful kites when the Rømø Kite Festival on the scenic island of Rømø in South West Jutland takes place for the 29th time. The festival is known to attract kite enthusiasts from the whole world with up to 40,000-50,000 visitors each day.

For something completely different, the peculiar Fanø International Knit Festival on the island of Fanø could be an option for you. As you get off the ferry in charming Nordby, it only takes a couple of minutes until you are at “The Knitting Village”, where you will find workshops, exhibitions, talks, fashion shows, unique boutique stands, live music, good food and great atmosphere all in the name of knitting!

Hopefully you got some good ideas to keep the positive holiday vibes. We are definitely ready to continue organising events for you and assisting you in your job search. Just reach out to us if you have any good ideas for events or need career counselling.

See you soon in International House!

Mary K. Kobia and Mark de Vos

By all these lovely tokens September days are here, with summer's best of weather and autumn's best of cheer.

Helen Hunt Jackson
How long did it take for you to find a job in DK?

I have been living in Copenhagen since the end of 2016. It took me about half a year to get a job. When I came to Denmark I was 4 months pregnant. After the birth of my son I took a year of maternity leave. My job search only started half a year ago.

What has been most challenging about your job search?

Denmark is all about networking and creating your own chances. The chances of getting a job through a job ad were pretty slim for me, as most of the ads have up to 200 people applying. The challenge was to really put myself out there and to go talk to people in order to find a job.

What surprised you the most about the Danish job interview?

My interview did not feel like an interview at all. We just had a really good conversation. I guess here in Denmark coffee meetings can be interviews and interviews can feel like coffee meetings. One thing I did learn that in both cases you need to prepare like it is an interview and you need to be able to have stories ready to illustrate your capabilities.

How has volunteering for the International Dual Career Network (IDCN) helped you?

When I arrived, I started directly using ISM’s Dual Career Services and a few weeks later I became an IDCN volunteer. The most valuable part of both is that you get to know people and can start on building your network. IDCN is a business network which provided many opportunities to connect with recruiters, but also with other spouses who may have partners with a job in your field. Besides creating your business network, it helped me as well to not feel lonely and to feel useful.

What kept you going when things didn’t turn out the way you expected?

My motivation has always been to get a job that I like. I was lucky to have the possibility to really search for my perfect job. What kept me going was the people around me. My mentors (Mark and Mary), my fellow volunteers (now friends), but also recruiters, fellow Danish language students and even my neighbours and people at day care. One other very important factor was that I kept myself busy. Learning Danish, volunteering, keeping up to date in my field, integrate in Danish society!

What is your best advice to someone new how is job seeking?

Get off your couch and start doing something! Anything. The key is to get out there and meet new people. Either by joining a network or by learning Danish. Try to set yourself really small goals. I want to call one person today. I want to learn more about this company today. If you keep the goals simple in the beginning you will feel better because you are accomplishing things. It is the best way to stay motivated. And lastly, just believe in yourself and in your capabilities. Things will work out, one way or another!

UPCOMING EVENTS

INTERNATIONAL SPOUSE CAREER LUNCHES

26 September
10:00 - 13:00
Unsolicited job search. How do you personalise your unsolicited application? Dos & Don’ts!

In Denmark, it’s said that a large percent 60-70% of jobs are never listed and usually filled through networking and unsolicited job search. Whether you are looking for an internship, salary subsidy, your first job, or changing career paths, the unsolicited job search method is important to know more about.

Facilitator
Mary K. Kobia

Registration

24 October
10:00 - 13:00
What to expect the first 100 days in your job? Dos and don’ts.

Starting a new job can be overwhelming! To help alleviate some of that stress, we’ve put together a workshop to help you avoid rookie mistakes and inspire you with input on how you can make the most of the first 100 days in a new job!

Facilitators
Mark de Vos
Mary K. Kobia

Registration

Find out more about other upcoming events using this link.