As many of you probably already know, the Dual Career Spouse Network has gone online due to COVID-19. It’s about seeing possibilities and not restraints. In these strange weeks we have finally found the time for creating something we have been planning for a long time - and could there be any better timing? Some of you may have seen we have created a Dual Career Spouse Network Facebook group. The Facebook group is for all spouses of international UCPH staff and our IDCN network. We already have 60 members and the group is constantly growing.

The group will be a natural extension of our activities in the spouse network. The group will be a platform where we can share, discuss and inspire each other. The group is already up and running, so there is loads of content to dig into. In the group we share stuff such as hidden nature gems in Denmark, thoughts and reflections, food inspiration and much more. Mark and Mary will be providing tips and insights to inspire you in your job searching. We also aim for the group to be interactive, therefore encouraging you to post and share. The group will also be a platform where we share info about upcoming events, so when we (hopefully soon) can organize events, this Facebook group will keep you updated.

We hope to see more of you joining, and to the people who are already a part of this community; thank you so much for supporting, commenting and sharing. We hope you are all safe and healthy and we hope to see you very soon!

All the best,

Mary K. Kobia, Mark de Vos and Daniell Gamliely

"Life is no different than the weather. Not only is it unpredictable, but it shows us a new perspective of the world every day. ”
- Suzy Kassem
Spotlight: Be patient, motivated and be open for a new path!

Rien van Wijk
Dutch
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Bankernes EDB Centrale (BEC), Roskilde

How long did it take for you to find a job? I arrived in Denmark back in January 2017 and have been looking for a more permanent job since. I have had several odd jobs varying from mailman to waiter to most recently tour guide providing cycling tours in Copenhagen, meanwhile investing a lot in getting to know the Danish language, culture and how I could use my skillset in a broader context. During these years I ran my own consultancy company providing help with things like data analyses and scientific writing, but my first ‘real’, permanent job I only got 1st of August this year, so after about 2.5 years of applying.

What is your best advice to someone who is not living in Denmark, but looking for a job there? To get a job in Denmark, you almost certainly need to have a network, someone that can vouch for you, introduce you to someone or simply gives you a heads up along the way. If you are abroad and thinking of coming to Denmark, check your contacts in for instance your LinkedIn, your family, friends, and see if there might be someone that could help you out getting started but also many Danes that did not want me to give up and kept helping out wherever they could to get me settled.

Reflecting back on your job seeking process and experiences in Denmark, what advice do you have to give to other spouses? Looking back over these past few years, I can only repeat what I already mentioned a few times before: build a network, throw yourself out there, explore your skillset and find fellow ‘searchers’ that can give you that moral boost whenever you need it and above all – don’t give up. Once you got that chance you deserve, you’ll most likely not regret it, since there is a lot to Denmark that is absolutely fantastic! Ow, and on that note, one final tip: the CV that got me this job mentioned in the introduction that I liked ‘gammeldags modnede sild med hyggeligt’ – I don’t know if that did it but if there is something in particular that you like about the Danish culture, don’t be afraid to mention it, if anything, it will at least make a great conversation starter! ;-)

What has been most challenging about your job search? There were three things that were most challenging during this time: 1) looking beyond my usual field of interest within the scientific community and finding out what skillset I had and where else I could use that, 2) building a network outside of my ‘regular’ community and 3) maybe above all – to stay motivated no matter what and not give up.

How has IDCN helped you? Once you are in Denmark, sign up with IDCN, try to get a volunteer position and actively partake in their activities. It is a great way to build up your network, but also to blow of some steam of the frustrations you are likely going to have while trying to settle in Denmark. I have definitely made full use of this during my years at IDCN ;-) 

What surprised you the most about the Danish job interview and what is your best advice? There has not been that many surprises around the Danish job interviews that I have been at, but then again, my Dutch roots might have helped – interviews could be quite frank and to the point, but also brydekast – do ask and check out the company’s coffee facilities, we aren’t in Sweden but it still is something most people are very keen on. Other than that, it is a cliché, but just be yourself and don’t try to oversell yourself, just be honest also if you have to admit that you might not possess all the skills that they have listed – if you got invited for an interview, you already have the upperhand that they are interested in getting to know you better, not to have somebody that is pretending to be flawless and 200% perfect according to the job description.

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What kept you going when things didn’t turn out the way you expected? I got a lot of support from people in similar situation, expats within IDCN, family and friends back home

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