

A new job means a new start in a safe life

by Federica Ferracini

Ali S.* risked his life in Afghanistan. In Germany he works at INTEL and he feels well integrated. He told SIR's Federica Ferracini that "work give him his identity back".

Read our chat with Ali S.!

Dear Ali, when did you arrive in Germany?

I arrived two years ago. I travelled by car and bus all the way from Afghanistan.

What did you know about Germany before coming here and how did you imagine it?

I didn't know anything about Germany. In fact, I was not planning to stay, but I had to. My life was not safe back in my county because I was working for the United Nations. I was fighting for the freedom of my country and finally I wasn't safe.

Are you currently studying German?

Yes and I'm an autodidact (self-taught). I didn't speak any German when I arrived. Now I can understand pretty well. I started from the basics like "Danke", "Bitte" "Entschuldigung". I like German a lot, but I still mainly work in English.

Where do you live at the moment?

I initially lived in a camp. Then I was sent to Donauwörth and

luckily I could come back to Munich. I currently live in a private apartment in Munich. My working colleagues helped me finding my current accommodation.

Tell us something more about you, your interests, your family ...

I work a lot, so in the evening I often like to stay home. However, I have many German friends and we meet regularly for dinner or at parties.

Although I miss home a lot, I do not wish to go back. My family has hopes of me building a new safe life here and I do not wish to disappoint them.

Can you tell us something about your job and how your working day looks like?

I work in the assets management department. My tasks consist of checking the status of PCs, managing stocks and inventory, vending machines and fixing hardware problems. I have very many different tasks, so I never get bored! I feel like "*the guy who is fighting for everything*" and I like it!

I usually get up at 6 am and work from 8 am to 4:30 pm. I'm happy with my work life balance here!

The main difference between the working culture back home

and here in Germany is that here you need to be fast – it's like a race, you need to be fast. Additionally, you have to be proactive. If you do not search for something you won't get it.

How was your first day? Were you nervous?

For me, my first day was like the beginning of a new life. I liked it a lot. The colleagues seemed happy and there was a very good atmosphere from the beginning.

How did you hear about SIR?

I attended SIR's CV Workshop with a friend. SIR helped me find myself again. The team has been like a guide who supported me in getting my identity back. In fact when refugees arrive in Germany, they are completely lost. Finding a job helps them find their identity and their mission again. In my opinion SIR is much more than a job agency!

Tell us something about your new life and friends in Germany

My friends are mainly my work colleagues. I like the lifestyle in Germany, but I still miss my family and friends back home.

What are your dreams for the future?

Now that my asylum application process is successful, I have many new dreams... I dream to have a



safe life, live in peace and to make use of my knowledge in this country. Germany is my new home; it gave me a job, a shelter, and my personality back.

What do you wish for other newcomers who are looking for a job?

Don't lose hope, fight for your life, work hard, appreciate what you have, respect people, respect yourself and love your job.

**Name and personal details of the candidate have been changed to preserve his personal privacy*

