

SUPRIYA SODHI

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# Don’t call me a trailing spouse!

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TRAILING SPOUSES ARE THE UNSUNG HEROES OF INTERNATIONAL RELOCATIONS, PLAYING AN ESSENTIAL ROLE IN THE SUCCESS OF FOREIGN ASSIGNMENTS. WE MEET FOUR INSPIRING EXPAT WOMEN WHO FOLLOWED THEIR HUSBANDS TO LUXEMBOURG AND TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE DYNAMIC WORKING ENVIRONMENT TO BRANCH OUT INTO A NEW CAREER OR START A NEW BUSINESS.

*“I’m not a trailing spouse... I’m a marketing professional who discovered the entrepreneur within,”* says Indian born businesswomen Supriya Sodhi who has lived in Luxembourg for the last two and a half years.

Uprooting from India involved leaving behind her career, family, friends, and life as she knew it. *“It wasn’t easy at first, as my career has always been significant to me, but I was ready for something new,”* she says. *“For third-country nationals like us, it’s not*



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### FINDING SUPPORT TO SET UP YOUR BUSINESS

Supriya was looking to do something different to what she was doing in India – setting up a food truck, or turning her passion for dogs into a business. She contacted the Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce to work out her options. *“They were very supportive and pointed me in the direction of the House of Entrepreneurship, a one-stop-shop for business creation. The advisors I met there were very helpful in giving me suggestions, information, documentation in English and telling me what steps I needed to take.”*

Supriya has now successfully set up her limited liability company - DogStays SARL-S. The Sarl-s format, also known as the “one-euro company” allows entrepreneurs in Luxembourg to set up a business in the Grand-Duchy with capital from as little as one euro. When she was still developing her business idea, Supriya was also invited to take part in the Luxembourg Poland Chamber of Commerce’s Entrepreneurial Woman Project for 2018 which was attended by thirty women representing twenty nationalities.

*“It’s an annual training program which helps women who are in any stage of setting up a business. It’s a weekend commitment over six weeks, so it’s easily accessible to working women and those with families. The workshops offer to coach and mentor on a range of issues from idea generation, taxation, effective communica-*

*At the end of the project, the participants present their projects and are voted for. Supriya’s project won the first prize, which included a €3,000 cheque to help her develop Dogstays.lu, a platform which helps dog parents find a safe home for their dogs when they have to travel for work or a holiday.*

### YOUR DOG’S HOME WHEN YOU TRAVEL

*“People in Luxembourg love to travel because the country is perfectly situated in the heart of Europe. Since so many people live here for work, there are many dog parents that regularly have to travel out of the city for business trips. The idea is to help people who have*

*dogs in Luxembourg to find somebody to look after their dogs when they travel. I think all dogs need and deserve love, affection and one-on-one attention. That’s what I want to do through DogStays. It is not a dog boarding. It’s a home away from home.”*

As the business goes from strength to strength, Supriya is also learning the local languages which is enabling her to work with the diverse international community. *“We are constantly meeting people coming from different parts of the world who have relocated to Luxembourg and it is super to connect with them over our common love for dogs! Overall, my husband and I both love Luxembourg, and we hope to stick around!”*



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