

ELBA

# A Day in the life of...

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### MY ALARM GOES OFF...

Snooze. Snooze. Snooze. I wake up around 8am, shower and get dressed. Then I jump on the underground, arrive at work, say hello to everyone, grab a coffee with my favourite colleagues and can finally start my day. Or if I'm working from home, I have a coffee listening to radio and open my laptop to start the day.

### I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR...

I am a project manager, implementing European regulations on financial markets. As an example, if Europe would ask Coca Cola to add a "calories stamp" to all of its bottles, I would be the one reading the law, confirming the European requirements, designing the "calories stamp", contacting the factories, asking them to print the stamps on each bottle, checking the quality and finalising the project by sending the new bottles to shops.

### I JOINED THE PRIDE & ALLIES NETWORK BECAUSE...

As soon as I discovered that the network existed in the company, I joined. It has now been two years that I have been in London and part of the network. Before that, I used to work in SocGen Hong Kong where I was part of the women network too. The reason for me being here is mainly to support the initiative. There is no reason to have different chances based on sexual orientation, gender, origin or religion.... If the person is smart and has a good spirit, it doesn't matter where he/she comes from or their personal beliefs. It is an aberration for me to think the contrary. Therefore, I am there to support the fight for people to have equal chances.

### BEING PART OF THE NETWORK INVOLVES...

I am mainly a supportive member of the network. I come to events, listen and then discuss and promote the ideas with my other colleagues. I also try to apply what I learn in my day to day job and adapt my behaviour. I am also trying to inspire younger colleagues to follow this path.

### THE NETWORK PROMOTES INCLUSIVITY BY...

This network allows us to listen to the experience of other personalities and to get inspired by their profiles, opinions and visions.



Financial  
Services



Project Manager

I have seen senior managers promoting equality, and some of them have a strong belief in equal opportunities. I remember we had a talk in Hong Kong from our regional (female) manager. At the question "Have you ever faced a situation where you felt disadvantaged by being a woman?", she answered: "I want to believe that I am here today because I did a good job. And I want people in my team to believe that they can be promoted for their performance and not their background. I want to keep my team diverse because we are stronger and open more opportunities when we have divergent opinions".

### THE BEST THING ABOUT BEING IN THE NETWORK IS...

I like the talks explaining how to fight discrimination. Without consciousness, we may have some stereotyped thinking/mental barriers that we need to fight. Even if we all have the right to access equal opportunities, years and years of society may have added some extra unconscious layers. The network

talks teach us how to identify them, understand the situation and fight ambiguous situations by reacting properly.

### WHEN I WAS YOUNGER, I WANTED TO BE...

Archaeologist, history teacher, art curator and then an employee of the European Union. But I loved mathematics so much that I chose a scientific path. I ended up in a bank because among all my experiences, corporate and market banking was the sector with the most meritocratic system. If you have a good spirit and work hard, you are recognized. If you are pushing back or being unfair, it is harder for you to be trusted. It doesn't matter where you come from, as long as you bring something positive to the company.

### MY ROLE MODEL GROWING UP WAS...

Frida Kahlo, Simone De Beauvoir, Jean-Paul Sartre, Albert Camus, Antigone...a bunch of feminists and existentialists fighting for what they believed was right. I can't deny the influence of Disney in my education too, especially Belle (from Beauty & the Beast) and Mulan; I like women who are smart and emancipated from men.

### AFTER WORK I...

Before Covid-19, I joined my colleagues for a drink to debrief the day. After Covid-19, I now take evening classes: theatre and history of art. I try to keep nourishing my brain with artistic ideas and to go outside my comfort zone. I keep having drinks and debating with passion about political topics too.

### TO YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE PART OF THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY.....

People create their own path. Believe in what you are, study, work to obtain what you want, try to meet new people, discover new ideas, and travel as much as possible to keep an open mind. Do not be afraid of doing what you want and work for it. I am pretty sure that the world is changing for more equalities at work. And some great readings:

- *The stranger*, or *Caligula* by Camus - How to see itself as a stranger in an absurd life?
- *Existentialism Is a Humanism* by Sarte - How to empower your choices and define yourself with your actions?
- *The Second Sex* by de Beauvoir - How to understand the position of women in the society?
- *I Spit on Your Graves* by Boris Vian - How to see the racism issues in the world?
- *Antigone*, by Sophocles or Jean Anouilh - How to make a choice between your personal and civils duties?