

Zehra made a career by moving to Vårgårda

– an offer from autotech company Veoneer made all the difference

After nine years as an Electro-optical Systems Engineer in the defense industry, Zehra had reached as far as she could go in her field from a career perspective. Doing research and development for one of the most advanced companies in Turkey she had no plans changing work.

– The working conditions at my previous employer were very good for engineers. It was my goal to work there after I graduated. If I wanted to have a better job, I had to move abroad.

Unexpected turn

One day in February 2018 she unexpectedly got a message from LinkedIn, from a Swedish headhunting company saying “We have a position open at Veoneer in Vårgårda, and we think you are the person we are looking for”.

– At first I declined the job offer as I had a family to consider, but then the manager of the headhunting company contacted me a second time to clear up some of the finer details.

She began to rethink the offer and if it

several perspectives. Not only changing work but also moving to a new country and place.

– I had lived the past nine years in Ankara, a city of six million people and accepting the job offer at Veoneer would mean moving not only to a new country but also to a smaller community.

The contact proceeded with Skype meetings. The manager from the headhunting company was very helpful and empathetic, introducing his own family to Zehra on Skype. He was convinced that she had the qualities and expertise that Veoneer was looking for. After much discussion, they finally came to an agreement and Zehra accepted the offer.

New direction

The move to Vårgårda went quite easily.

– Veoneer hired service from a company for relocation assistance, taking care of all the arrangements like work permit applications, accommodation and daycare for our daughter. This enabled me to concentrate on work.

Zehra and her family arrived in Vårgårda on a Saturday and she started work on Monday, two days later.

– From the first day it was very busy, but I got a lot of support. Veoneer gave me the chance to produce my own ideas, explaining the problems and I found the solutions.

As a Technical Coordinator at Veoneer, Zehra is responsible for a team of nine including herself. The team develop solutions for safety cameras for autonomous driving; in short a technical or digital eye which observes the traffic outside just like a human driver does.

– It was a new team, so it took some time for commun-

THIS IS VEONEER

Veoneer is a world wide company in autotech industry. In Vårgårda Veoneer designs and produce advanced technical preventive safety systems for autonomous driving, such as cameras, radar and vision systems.

ication to adjust as none of us had English as a native language. But we built trust, and now communication is direct which enables us to concentrate on the tasks.

Surprisingly good match

The contrast of working in a global company and living in a small community turned out to make a surprisingly suitable combination. Work needs a lot of attention and time, and the lifestyle. In a smaller community simplifies the daily routines, not having to spend more than five minutes going to work or daycare and the safety of social support.

– I think it is easier to get to know people and their families in a small place than in a larger city where people generally are more individually orientated. People have been very helpful, also outside work. I was very happy for instance to get help with a contact person for daycare for my daughter as I didn't know anybody here.

Now, Zehra has worked at Veoneer for one year and are getting used to her new work and lifestyle. Her husband also found a job in the automobile industry in Gothenburg, using his time working while he commutes.

The family had plans moving to a larger city, maybe buying a house. But as time has passed on, they may instead buy a house in the area, mainly because they enjoy their social life here and she finds it easy to concentrate on work with the lifestyle.

Text: Maria Danielsson

Foto: Johanna Heleander

WHO IS ZEHRA

Name: Zehra Adil.

Occupation: Technical Coordinator.

Home: Apartment in center of Vårgårda.

Family: Husband and a daughter, relatives in Turkey.