

Aude Badran-Delpech

Senior Associate
Michael Page Africa



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Did you always know where you wanted to be professionally?

I always wanted to work at an international level in a role that would be people-and-sales-oriented; so I can say I managed to get where I wanted to be. When I joined Michael Page Africa almost 7 years ago, it somehow felt like I found the place where I belonged.

In fact, I had the chance to spend my childhood abroad including north Africa hence, I really wanted to make use of my personal experience at a professional level, and here I am convincing and advising clients and candidates all over the world to trust Michael Page Africa when it comes to finding the right talent or take the next career step across 54 countries in Africa, diverse industries, roles and profiles.

We are professional “match-makers” so nothing makes me prouder than finding out that a candidate and a client are still growing together over a period of time, especially when it involves a candidate who had never before stepped foot into Africa before: what a sense of achievement mixed with the feeling of being a magician sometimes! Don’t you agree that finding three

Maintenance Manager expat profiles with experience in the wood industry and getting them to fly to Gabon in the middle of a pandemic feels like magic?

What’s the best professional advice you have received?

“Aude, be patient – great things come out of patience”, a wise man once told me. I used to be everything but patient until I started working at Page and became a mother.

Patience is key if you want to work with some peace of mind and succeed, but especially so when it comes to Africa because placements in the continent generally take 3 to 6 months - our assignments could be cancelled for a wide array of factors (such as political unrest, pandemic, etc.) and processes can go back to square one in a heartbeat because candidates get cold feet!

We know the merits of seeking a mentor or support to helping one find success in their career journey. Did you ever receive any form

of support or mentoring as you moved along?

I wouldn’t be where I am today without the support of my management team.

In fact, I was lucky enough to have Managers who still believed in me even though I hadn’t make my first placement after my first year with Page! I was working really hard, completing my KPI’s on a weekly basis, bringing business to other divisions but rarely for myself and I couldn’t close the jobs. Back then, I reached a point where I started doubting myself but my line managers were there to remind me that they trusted me and that with patience, I would become successful. Their trust in me had an empowering effect on my resilience, and then placements came one after – in 2018 I even got the opportunity to be part of the Annual High Flyers trip.

What are some strategies that can help women achieve a more prominent role in their organizations?

I think interpretation is important here, what do

we mean by “prominent”? Is it the possibility to keep growing @ Page in conjunction with a family, an international move or in the middle of a hitting pandemic without being slowed down in our career path? Let’s assume it is a combination of developing your career and building your family at the same time.

In my opinion, giving women the flexibility they need when it comes to maternity could be a path to further explore. It could be supporting women at Page to create more space for family and/or more space for work, depending on the needs and circumstances.

For example, having a company nursery could be of great support to reduce office commuting time. Maybe even having in place an allowance aiming at giving women more nursery options could also be a useful benefit. These two ideas could enable women to come back to work more smoothly and as early as they wish without feeling that they may have to choose between family and work.