

Portrait

of HP



Mila Smith

**PageWide Industrial Installed Base Manager, NWE
Co-Chair Multicultural Impact Network**

Editor's introduction

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I was about to finish setting up a mini photo studio in a cubicle in HP offices in Reading, when all of a sudden, she arrived, like an exemplary sales person, in haste, while telling an everyday story. Mila Smith, my first interviewee for the 'Portrait of HP' project.

We discussed a range of topics, from the history of her career, her relationship with technology, a few personal tales, and of course, diversity, equity and inclusion.

Mila's role in HP is twofold. First, she is an Installed Base Manager responsible for industrial printers in North West Europe (NWE). Second, Mila is an active Co-Chair of the UK & Ireland Multicultural Impact Network.

Originally from Russia, she would rather call herself a citizen of the world, though she quickly clarifies that following 17 years in the UK, she feels more British than anything else. We share the experience of arriving as an immigrant to the United Kingdom, the country where multiculturalism is widely accepted and endorsed, where diversity is appreciated, and where many people work towards the UK becoming even more inclusive.

I was also delighted to learn that Mila studied Art History and modern art is among her various passions, at the same time being an adventurous traveller, choosing the best scuba diving destinations, Mexico among others.

Regarding respect towards diversity, equity and inclusion in the IT sector, it is interesting to get to know the intersectional perspective of a woman and a migrant. Her initial memories back in the days when she started working focus on almost exclusively male environment, yet she admits vast transformations the industry has overcome, with more diversity, where colleagues are more conscious, respectful and inclusive.

Finally, we spoke about the relationship humanity vs. technology. For Mila, technology remains a tool which, used correctly, may allow individuals and societies to achieve their long-term goals.

Rodrigo Moctezuma
Chair, UK&I Multicultural Impact Network



Mila, as an incurable traveller, has lived in Russia, Canada, Belgium and over the last 17 years, in the United Kingdom.

In her cross-cultural trajectory, she has accepted the most recent challenge in her professional career, to become a co-chair of the UK&I Multicultural Impact Network. This is her most recent way to make a tangible difference in creating a more tolerant and inclusive community.



Some time ago she received a DNA test as a Christmas gift, thanks to which she has learnt that her ancestors used to live in over a dozen regions around the world. Since that moment of bliss, as she has always intuitively felt, she has opted for not endorsing any flag, and she considers herself a citizen of the world.



It was a great honour to take this picture, given the pendant watch belonged to Mila's great-great grand-aunt from the Baltic German clan.



Text translated from Spanish, reviewed and copy-edited by Gosia Polanska (Mojek).

Sop Rodchenvko is the artistic name of Rodrigo Moctezuma (Roddy).