



**EMWOSE**  
Women from ethnic minorities in social enterprise

Interview form

# Overview

Name: Gabriela Valencia

Company: Fiore all'Occhiello

Website: <https://www.fiori-occhiello.org/>



When I came here, everything was different. I was younger, at 24 I had three daughters...At the beginning, I didn't leave the house out of fear, but then gradually, since the girls who had to go to kindergarten, I started to meet the mothers, to talk...

I even took them to the park, I started to integrate with others, make friends. This also helped me a lot because that's how I learned to speak the language.

I'm there, at Fiore all'occhiello, thanks to a friend of mine, who opened a little shop called the shop where she sold clothes.

She asked me to work with her, I had to do some clothes repairs, sometimes I sewed clothes for my daughters, I made everything myself... because I liked it. My friend told me I was good, "you're able to do such things." she made me want to working with her, doing the repairs, people got to know me and gave me a chance to get in here, when they thought about opening the tailor's shop.

They gave me a chance to try, they told me at the beginning, that if I agreed, to try sewing for them. But in the beginning, we weren't paid, they wouldn't give us anything. I said to myself: Let's give it a try.

# Interview transcript

## Keywords:

Fear, daughters, integrate, clothes repairs, tailor's shop, vocational training courses.

I went there, we were many mothers, from many different countries, some didn't speak Italian well.

They started us making tablecloths, housewares...

From there, however, we began to grow, we attended a fashion school, where we attended courses, vocational training courses ... it was very nice because we had some nice experiences and slowly we became bigger.

We learned a lot, for example someone said "pass me a scissors" and the other one didn't understand, because she didn't know what the scissors were... doing these courses we also learned all these things. Yes, I struggled like everyone else I think, with the language, a little at the beginning. But then, maybe it's me who settles down easily, but I didn't have so many problems...

Full video [here](#)

