



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

Interview form

# Overview

Name: Fatima Chahin-Dörflinger

Company: Circle of Friends  
Freiburg-Isfahan

Website: [http://www.freiburg-isfahan.de/neue\\_hp/index.php](http://www.freiburg-isfahan.de/neue_hp/index.php)



My name is Fatima Chahin-Dörflinger, I was born in Iran and grew up most of the time in Germany and my organization is the "Freundeskreis Freiburg-Isfahan". This is a partnership and cultural association that organizes or initiates or accompanies cultural exchange on different levels, mainly between Freiburg and Isfahan.

And my role is - I am the chairwoman since 2004 of the " Circle of Friends of Freiburg-Isfahan" association. Yes, that is my role. Bit the motor and the mentor and from time to time also the idea giver and the team worker. So, we have a lot of members in Germany, but also some in Iran and we have about so over 100 members. We have paying members and a small fan club, so to speak.

So, members who are in Iran and they can pay badly, because that is organizationally difficult. And then we have maybe another 80 people who are our interested parties and our "fan club" in quotes, so to speak. In other words, we have a total of 200 people who work very closely together, but we also have a circle of interested parties, and this circle of interested parties will be about 300 people.

Active, so in the board we are once in the narrower board four people and then but with the committee members we are about nine, ten people and they are also active. We meet regularly, prepare things, and we also have various other people, let's say 20 people, who can lend a hand whenever there are projects. Most of our members, however, are rather just those who accompany us, who come and also support us ideally.

## Interview transcript

### Keywords:

Germany, Iran, Freiburg, Isfahan, cultural exchange, working together with people on culture and civic level, on the level of science, on the level of sports

I was born in Iran and grew up in Germany, so I know both cultures, of course, because I studied in Germany and now also work in Germany, so of course I can - my Farsi is not as good as my German, but I actually know Iranian culture quite well. And because we practiced a lot at home, and it was important to my father that we get closer to the culture. And I also worked and lived in Iran for eight years and thus had a connection to the country, except for the visits we always made during the summer vacations when I was a child. And therefore, my heart is in both cultures, my head also mainly in Germany, of course, but in both cultures at home and then it is important to me that you can make a connection. And when there was this partnership, I thought to myself that this is a wonderful thing, that we are working together with people on the cultural level, on the civic level, on the level of science, on the level of sports, in all these different areas, and that appealed to me and that also gives me great pleasure and that is also very very nice to work together with the different people who are active in this same area. Here and in Iran.

