



# LEARN

## Spain - Case study 1

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# Threads of Resilience: D.D's Inspiring Journey of Tailoring and Immigration

D.D's story highlights his journey from Senegal to Spain, overcoming barriers with his passion for sewing. His resilience underscores the importance of support systems in immigrant integration.



## Introduction

DD's story is a testimony of perseverance and self-improvement. Originally from Senegal, D.D. arrived in Spain in 2012 with the dream of prospering and providing a better life for his family.

Despite facing language and employment barriers, his passion for sewing and resilience has allowed him to settle in Benalmádena, Málaga. This interview delves into D's life before emigrating, his challenges upon arriving in Spain, and his hopes for the future.

## D.D's Story

Before immigrating, D.D lived in Senegal, where he worked as a dressmaker in his workshop, creating African and European clothes. His decision to leave Senegal was motivated by a desire to improve the quality of life for his family.

Following in the footsteps of his younger brother, who was already in Spain, D.D. immigrated in the hope of finding better opportunities. Upon arriving in Spain, D.D. faced numerous challenges, including the language barrier, which made it difficult to find employment in his field. Initially, he had to resort to street vending.

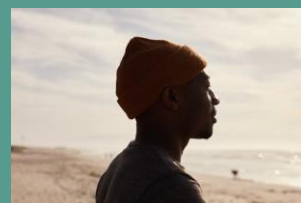
However, thanks to his determination and the support of a Spanish friend, D.D. found work in a sewing workshop, which allowed him to regularize his status and bring his family to Spain. Eventually, he was able to open his own workshop, marking a significant milestone in his journey.

## Main Challenges

- Language Barriers
- Cultural Misconceptions
- Economic Hardships
- Professional Obstacles
- Pandemic Impact workshop due to the COVID-19 pandemic, forcing him to find alternative

## Main Opportunities

- Community support
- Support from locals



## D.D.

D.D. is a 44-year-old Senegalese and family man, who has shown remarkable resilience motivated by the desire to provide a better life for his loved ones. With a background rooted in sewing, D.D. is a passionate and skilled couturier who has worked in both African and European clothing.



During the pandemic, D.D. was forced to close his workshop and returned to working in the hotel business to support his family. However, his skill and dedication enabled him to win the ‘Benalmoda’ competition, an achievement that gave him hope of reopening his workshop. D.D. dreams of continuing his sewing career, teaching others and establishing a workshop school.

## Conclusions

DD's story illustrates the resilience and adaptability of immigrants in overcoming significant challenges. His journey from Senegal to Spain, marked by initial language barriers and employment struggles, ultimately led to success as a fashion designer.

This case study highlights the importance of targeted support systems, including language education and vocational training, to help immigrants integrate and thrive. It also emphasizes the need to combat societal prejudices and recognize immigrants' diverse skills. DD's achievements underscore the potential within immigrant communities and the mutual benefits of fostering an inclusive and supportive society.

## Annexes

This case study emphasizes the importance of targeted support systems, such as language education, job training, and recognition of foreign qualifications, to facilitate smoother integration for immigrants. It also highlights the need for public awareness campaigns to dispel misconceptions and promote a more inclusive society. By implementing these recommendations, we can assist immigrants like D.D. in achieving their dreams and making significant contributions to their communities.



### “Cree-e” employment

The multichannel guidance program by the Red Cross offers personalized employment counselling and training, both in-person and online, to improve the employability of vulnerable individuals, including immigrants.



### Program “Incorporate”

The La Caixa Foundation supports immigrant integration with job training, employment guidance, and business training for entrepreneurs, including access to microloans..

<https://fundacionlacaixa.org/es/programa-incorpora-descripcion>

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### IntelACMarket Program

IntelACMarket is an Erasmus+ program designed to assist Latin American and Caribbean migrants in integrating into the European labor market for better inclusion in the EU.

<https://www.intelac.eu/>



### Red Acoge

Red Acoge is a federation of organizations offering training and support programs aimed at the labour market integration of immigrants.

<https://redacoge.org/>

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