



PRESS RELEASE

## **GRUPPO FLORENCE: THE “DIFFUSE ACADEMY” PROJECT CONTINUES TO TRAIN THE ARTISANS OF THE FUTURE, A STRATEGIC VALUE FOR THE LUXURY MARKET.**

### **THE FIRST ACADEMY EDITION DEDICATED TO FOOTWEAR IS LAUNCHED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH TACCETTI AND POLIMODA PROFESSIONAL TRAINING**

Milan, 29 January 2024 - Gruppo Florence, the first integrated manufacturing pole in Italy serving luxury brands at global level and the leading reference model in terms of best practice for the development and production of prêt-à-porter, leather goods and footwear collections, pushes ahead with its “Diffuse Academy” project with [Shoemaking](#), a new funded professional training course providing attendees with a “Leather/Fabric Bonding, Stitching and Cutting Specialist” qualification for the shoemaking sector.

The course will be delivered in collaboration with Taccetti, a family-run business based in Montelupo Fiorentino which has been producing women’s footwear of exceptionally high quality since 1954 and is today one of the most important manufacturing companies of the Made in Italy label, and Polimoda Professional Training, the dedicated professional training division of the leading school offering advanced training in the fashion industry, with strong roots in the city of Florence. The project, the first of its kind launched by a footwear company in Italy, will be co-funded by Regione Toscana as part of a public call for bids dedicated to just-in-time training.

The course, scheduled to start in the second half of February 2024, is open to 15 individuals resident or domiciled in the region of Tuscany, who will benefit from high-quality theoretical and practical training (sewing, edging, finishing, application of accessories), on completion of which they will have the opportunity to join the Taccetti workforce and pursue a professional career in the luxury footwear sector. Completely free thanks to funding by Regione Toscana as part of a public call for bids dedicated to just-in-time training, the course allows successful applicants to obtain a professional qualification which is recognized at European level in the footwear sector. The course duration is 900 hours (attendance compulsory), comprised of 420 hours in the classroom and workshop, 450 hours of work placement and 30 hours of collective and individual orientation. The lessons will take place at Polimoda in Florence and at the Taccetti company headquarters in Montelupo Fiorentino (FI).

**Attila Kiss, CEO of Gruppo Florence**, said: “Investment in training for the fashion sector is crucial in order to encourage young people to pursue a career in craftsmanship and to elevate the role of the manufacturing sector within the Italian production landscape. Not only do these educational pathways teach practical know-how, they also instill a love of creativity,

attention to detail, and respect for traditional craftsmanship. That is why we continue to promote targeted training programs that are an essential pillar for preserving and innovating the luxury sector, creating a bridge between the past and the future and providing young people with the tools they need to excel in a sector with such great history and potential”.

Through [Academia](#), the Gruppo Florence central hub for learning and talent development initiatives, the aim is to elevate the workforce and professional skills that are an integral part of Italy’s cultural and production heritage, promoting careers in fashion to new generations through training projects held in its own ateliers and at other sites. This responds to the need to train the technical professionals that manufacturing companies are increasingly struggling to recruit today.

To participate, write to [jobs@gruppoflorence.com](mailto:jobs@gruppoflorence.com). Applications collected by Job Centers throughout Tuscany will be sent to the company, which will proceed to carry out applicant selection. To enroll in the course, selected applicants must first request the Just In Time voucher from Regione Toscana.

## **Gruppo Florence**

The first integrated manufacturing pole in Italy serving luxury brands at global level, Gruppo Florence is majority-owned by the international investment firm Permira, with a significant stake also held by the entrepreneurs, the management team and VAM Investments. Fondo Italiano d’Investimento also holds a minority stake. Founded in October 2020 by a consortium of investors led by VAM Investments, Fondo Italiano d’Investimento (through the Italian Fund for Consolidation and Growth – FICC) and Italmobiliare, the Group today boasts a solid governance structure based on close collaboration between financial partners, the entrepreneurial expertise of the management, and the high-quality manufacturing know-how of the 28 Group companies.

This distinctive business model has allowed Gruppo Florence to quickly establish itself as a manufacturing hub that embraces the entire supply chain of the international luxury sector, and has the capability to develop industrial and creative synergies between companies in order to provide customized solutions and innovative services to brands. Gruppo Florence aims to promote an integrated and sustainable supply chain.

Headed by President Francesco Trapani and led by CEO Attila Kiss, in 2022 Gruppo Florence achieved a turnover of in excess of 500 million euros. It now employs more than 3000 employees in twelve Italian regions and collaborates with over 70 international brands.

For more information, visit our website [www.gruppoflorence.it](http://www.gruppoflorence.it) or follow us on [LinkedIn](#)

## **[Polimoda Professional Training](#)**

Polimoda Professional Training is the Polimoda division dedicated to training companies and individuals, offering courses designed for sector professionals and companies, plus tailor-made courses in collaboration with companies themselves.

Thanks to accreditation from Regione Toscana and UNI ISO 9001:2015 certification, Polimoda Professional Training also offers [free courses](#) for private individuals and companies, thanks to funding from the European Social Fund, delivered by Regional authorities or the European Union.

Polimoda is recognized as one of the best fashion schools in the world thanks to its independent approach and its innovative vision of fashion education applied to the business and design sectors. It offers courses and masters designed to train the main professional figures required by the sector, integrating the know-how of

Made in Italy design and production with an international vision. Prestigious partnerships, and teachers and mentors from the fashion industry combine to guarantee teaching based on experience and training that is always up to date. With 70% of students coming from abroad, Polimoda represents an international cultural force in the heart of Florence.

Funded Shoemaking Course: <https://professionaltraining.polimoda.com/funded-course/shoemaking/>

For further information, visit [professionaltraining.polimoda.com](https://professionaltraining.polimoda.com)

**For further information, please contact:**

Image Building

Cristina Fossati, Luisella Murtas, Laura Filosi

+39 02 89011300

florence@imagebuilding.it