

Regione Toscana

Youth Entrepreneurial Spirit Specialists E+ Project

Financial support to Coworking: the case of Tuscany

What is a Coworking Space?

Generally speaking, the definition of coworking is when people assemble in a neutral space to work independently on different projects, or in groups on the same projects.

It's different than a typical office workspace because the people in a coworking environment generally aren't working for the same company.





They offer the same amenities we would find in a traditional office, along with a lot more.

A major differentiator is flexibility, since we don't need to sign a long-term lease in a coworking space.

Every coworking space will always have basics like WiFi, printers, usually some type of conference room... and some will have tea, coffee, and snacks available.

For Tuscany Region coworking is...

an innovative and "smart" way to share a work environment:

- It supports self-entrepreneurship and self-employment
- It improves access to the labor market
- It supports social inclusion

Regional financial support to coworking



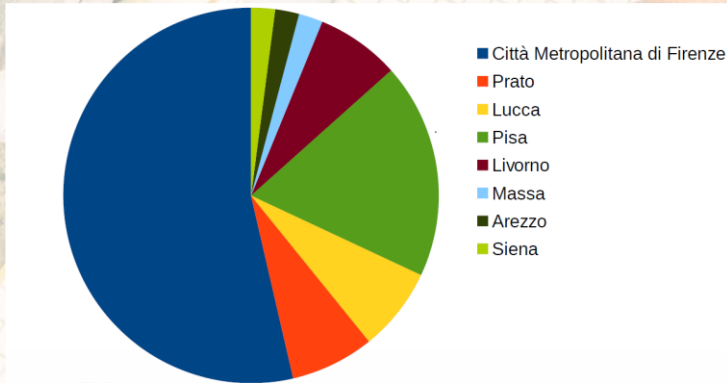
Starting from 2014, within the framework of Giovanisì Initiative, two calls for proposals were launched:

- **Call A:** aimed at accrediting qualified coworking spaces across Tuscany territory;
- **Call B:** aimed at providing individual financial support by means of a voucher that could be used within accredited coworking spaces selected by Call A

Financial support was by ESF ROP

Coworking spaces accredited within Call A

N. 44 Coworking space accredited across Tuscany



Call B: the coworking voucher

Individual vouchers for freelancers to access accredited coworking spaces

- **Total budget Call B: 400.000,00 euros**
- **Financial support for coworking 3.500 euros**
 - Up to 3.000 euros for space renting (for a maximum of 12 months) →
 - Up to 500 euros for travel and hotel expenses in case of temporary use of coworking spaces located in another region or abroad (EU).
- **170 freelancers supported**



Call B: Applicants

Freelancers can apply for the voucher if:

- New holders of VAT number f (for no longer than 12 months before the date of submission of the application)
- Resident in Tuscany.

Key findings from Call B

A research based on interviews to freelancers supported by Call B was carried out for the 1st edition of the Call

The survey was aimed at:

- **Know more about the coworker type of activity/profession**
- **Analyze their experience within the chosen coworking space**
- **Highlight the impacts of the coworking experience on their career pathway**
- **Identify possible improvements to re-design the policy measure financial support to coworking**

Key findings from Call B

The research revealed coworkers perceive as strengths:

- The working environment itself
- Sense of community, chance to set up networks and build connections with fellow workers
- Sharing and exchange of skills, knowledge and experiences

Coworkers who received financial support found they have increased:

- **Business relationships (97%)**
- **Skills (89%)**
- **Customers (79%)**
- **Income (74%)**

Key findings from Call B

Other results from the survey:

- Quality of services offered by the chosen coworking space in a range from 1 to 5 is **4**
- Impact of regional financial support for the coworker career path in a range from 1 to 5 is **4**

Moreover, at the time of the interview:

- **67% of the interviewed freelancers were continuing or were planning to continue the experience in a coworking space**
- **61% of the interviewers did not find any aspects to be improved in the regional policy measure on coworking**



Thank you!

Contacts

Miriana Bucalossi

Head of Apprenticeship and WBL Activities, EU Projects UNIT

Regione Toscana

Direzione Istruzione e Formazione

Tel. +39 055 4382433

miriana.bucalossi@regione.toscana.it



<http://it.linkedin.com/in/mirianabucalossi/>