



European Network for  
Rural Development

## Smart Villages Seminar

22 May 2018, Brussels Belgium  
'Revitalising Rural Services through Social and Digital Innovation'  
Albert Borschette Congress Center



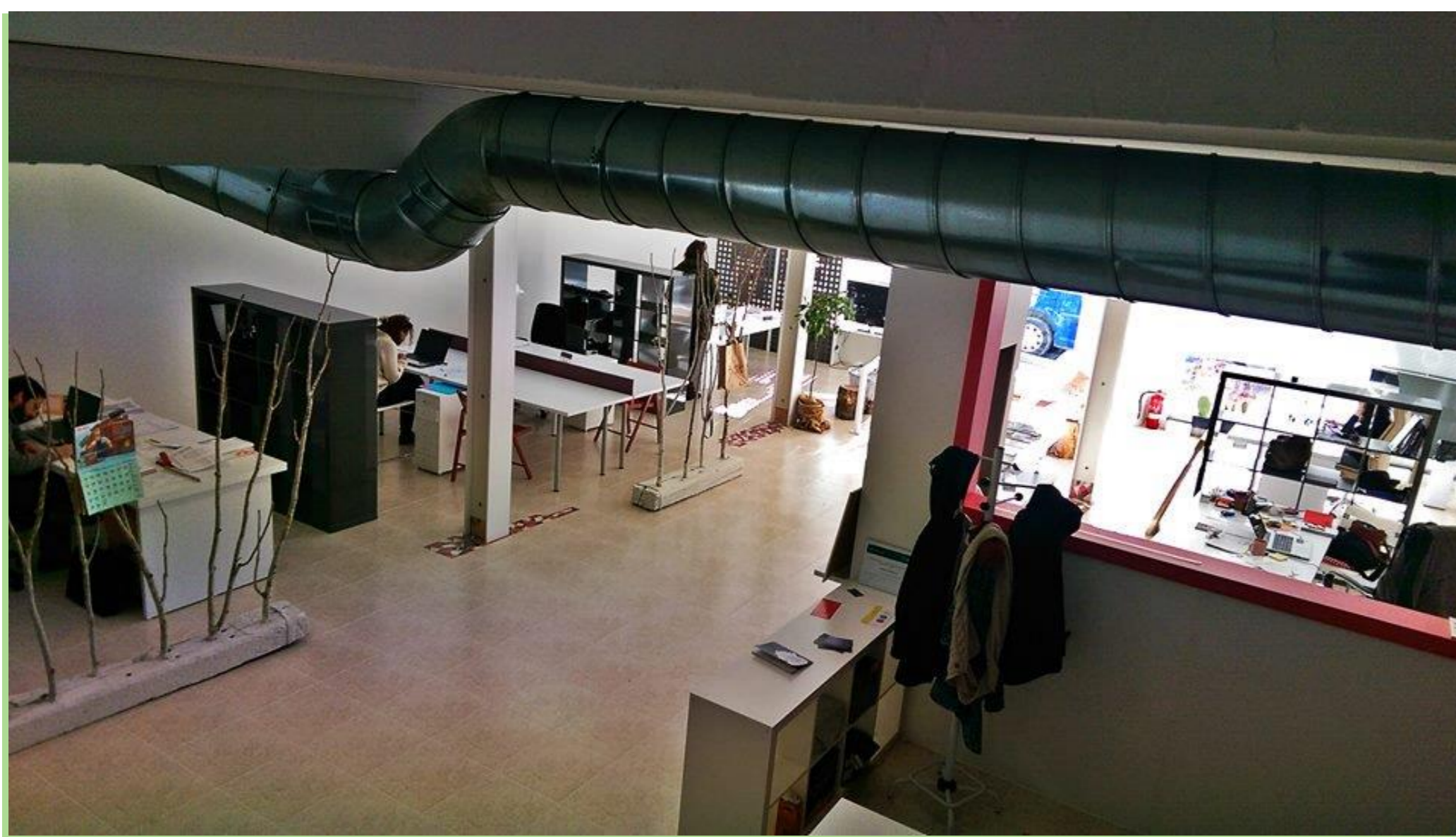
**COWOCAT**  
associació coworking de catalunya



Cowocat\_Rural

**ASSISTÈNCIA  
TÈCNICA** ✓

A regional network of co-working spaces to attract and retain entrepreneurs in rural Catalonia



**Ten LEADER groups in Catalonia, Spain** have engaged in a strategic cooperation project to **build a network of 16 co-working spaces in rural areas.**

Their aim is to provide professionals with a **means to begin their working lives locally, to encourage collaborative ways of working, and to attract or retain other professionals** for longer periods through teleworking.

Most of the physical spaces were funded locally through LEADER and/or other sources. The **COWOCAT cooperation project** brought these spaces together into a regional network, trained project promoters, created a common digital platform and built links with urban co-working spaces.

The network has now expanded through a new **transnational cooperation project** with partners involved in co-working from Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland and the UK.

### Main results

1. **16 co-working spaces** have been created from 2014 to 2018 .
2. **More than 130 professionals** are linked to the co-working spaces.
3. **Evidence of families prolonging their stays in rural areas** as a result of being able to connect to work via a co-working space
4. **Mutual learning and peer exchange** between the local centres.
5. **Joint promotion of the potential of co-working to urban areas** – and a further round of transnational cooperation

For more information visit:

[www.cowocatrural.cat](http://www.cowocatrural.cat)

Funded by the

