


nomadland

# NOMAZINE

WWW





# **INTRODUCTION**

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## Imagine choosing where you work, and customizing your daily life, without being bound to the office. Imagine the life of digital nomads.

Millions of young (and also older) people have already chosen a lifestyle where they can freely travel from place to place with only a laptop and reliable internet connection.

Rural areas in Europe face both challenges of the outmigration of young people and the increase in the ageing of the population. Day by day, there are fewer job opportunities, and challenges are growing. Although the trend started already before, the COVID-19 pandemic showed us that the countryside is a place for creativity. Due to the digitalisation of jobs and the emergence of new industries, a new trend has begun – an increase in remote work. Many employees began to understand that they could be as successful working from their home garden as in the office.

The Nomazine is a magazine about the people who chose to live the life of nomads. Like our ancestors once did, but in a different and digital way. Our magazine was prepared by 4 organisations, active in specific European rural areas – Idrija (Slovenija), Cuenca (Spain), Odenwald (Germany) and Iž (Croatia). The organisations who understand what it means to live in the countryside know its benefits and challenges. The magazine is a part of the project Nomadland which was inspired by the same-name movie about hope, freedom and creativity in the countryside; and nomads.

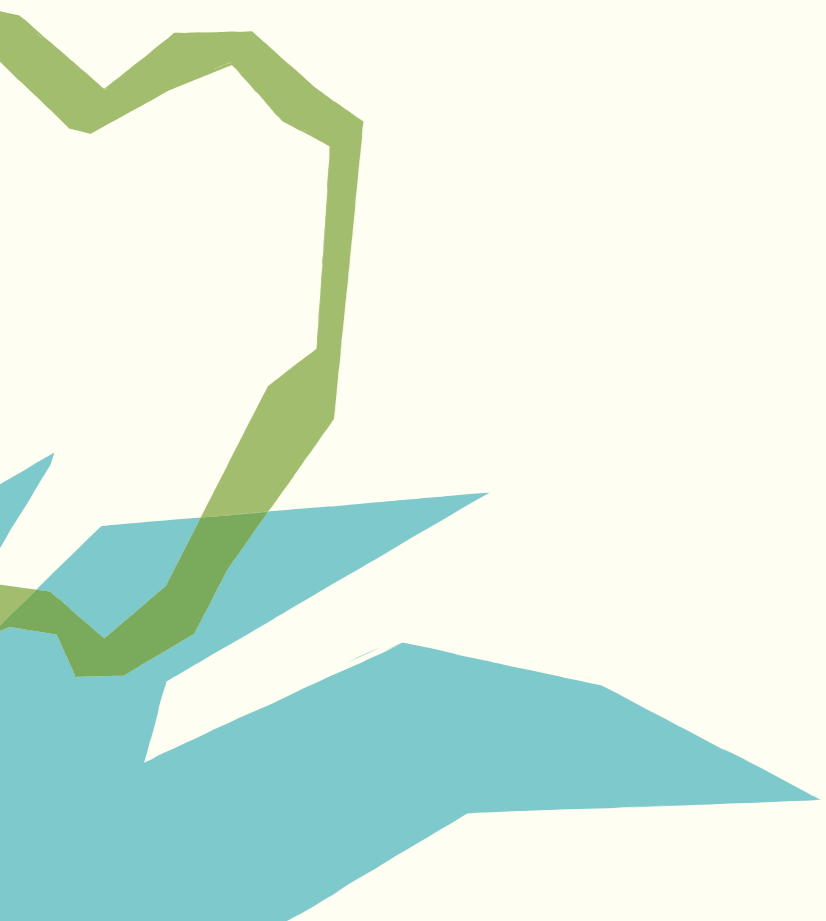
The magazine is composed of 3 parts – in the first, Who are digital nomads, it explores the needs and wishes of the digital nomads. A special article also explains what kind of places digital nomads seek in the countryside.

The second part of Nomazine presents several stories of digital nomads who have been interviewed in recent months. 11 digital nomads told their own stories, the specific challenges and unique experiences lived in the countryside.

The third part is about the places where digital nomads spend their time in the countryside. Each place has its story again.

An eccentric American writer, Henry Miller, once said: "One's destination is never a place, but a new way of seeing things." This magazine is dedicated to all youth workers, decision-makers, and activists who believe in the countryside and understand its creativity and regenerative capacity. It will be followed by a special guide for attracting digital nomads to the countryside, which will be published in the Autumn of 2023.

**Welcome to the land of digital nomads!**





# **WHO ARE THE DIGITAL NOMADS?**



# HOW TO RECOGNIZE A DIGITAL NOMAD?

Who exactly are the digital nomads? Are they travellers, remote workers or both at the same time? Digital nomads' lifestyle goes beyond the mere fact of having a good Wi-Fi connection. They are dynamic people who need a favourable environment to carry out their activities freely. That is the reason why they often choose to share working spaces, which provide them with the possibility of organising networking events.

Unlike remote workers who spend most of their time in an office, digital nomads take advantage of not being tied to a desk and use that freedom to travel and explore the world. They are workers who adopt a lifestyle based on technology, independent of a fixed location, and stay connected to their colleagues and clients anywhere in the world, as long as there is Internet access.

The COVID-19 pandemic showed enterprises and their employees that going to the office may not always be necessary or, in many cases, not at all.



## AN IMPORTANT WORLDWIDE TREND

This trend has become so popular that many companies have started to capitalise on it. For instance, the leading accommodation portal Blueground has created a programme called Blueground Nomads, which offers 4000 fully-furnished apartments for corporations in 15 countries worldwide. Likewise, Airbnb started to propose longer-stay plans for some guests to meet the increasing demand. There are some motorhome clubs whose members work on the road.

Some countries also have noticed this global trend and have developed programmes to attract digital nomads to their areas. Some of the most destinations for digital nomads, or those who would like to become one, are also in Europe.

## 5 FEATURES THAT DEFINE DIGITAL NOMADS' LIFESTYLE

Digital nomads' lifestyles vary greatly according to their personal situations and preferences. However, they share five common features:

### Travelling style

Digital nomads tend to lead a more relaxed lifestyle compared to other forms of nomadism. This tendency derives from the fact that digital entrepreneurs require certain infrastructure to keep their nomad lifestyle. As a result, digital nomads stay some months in each place before changing their reference, known as "slow travel".

### Destination choice

Digital nomads have generally chosen metropolises, namely capital cities, as their headquarters because they already offer business coworking infrastructures, a fast Internet connection and a pleasant atmosphere for leisure time. Nevertheless, there is an increasingly distinct trend among digital nomads to go to rural areas, or even developing countries, to get the best value for money. These places are usually cheaper and more affordable than living in their home country or in a bigger city.

### Workplace

Digital nomads pick their workplaces according to their needs. Most prefer coworking space, some prefer working in coffee shops. Others would instead work from their rented apartment or their hotel room. Wherever they decide to work, they all agree that a fast and secure Internet connection is a must.

### Flexible routines

Generally speaking, digital nomads need to establish a routine because of their online job, compared to other nomad lifestyles. Most digital nomads have a full working week, but they spend time travelling or going on day trips and excursions on the weekend. Although their Monday-to-Friday routine may look standard, it is not so. Their flexibility and the fact that they travel frequently must not be underestimated. They get to reset and change the environment every time they move from one country of residence to another.

### Meeting the local community

Due to the duration of their stay, digital nomads adapt well to the local environment. Their group of friends includes more locals than tourists or passing travellers. As digital nomads usually work during the day and have their afternoons and nights free to socialise, they complete their circle of friends with the local community.

In conclusion, leading a digital nomad lifestyle can be very rewarding, as it allows work and sustainable travel at the same time. New technologies make digital nomads' lifestyles easier and more efficient since there is a wide range of apps and resources that cater for every need of a digital nomad in action: flat-hunting, transport networks, health and insurance, and of course, finding new plans to meet new people.

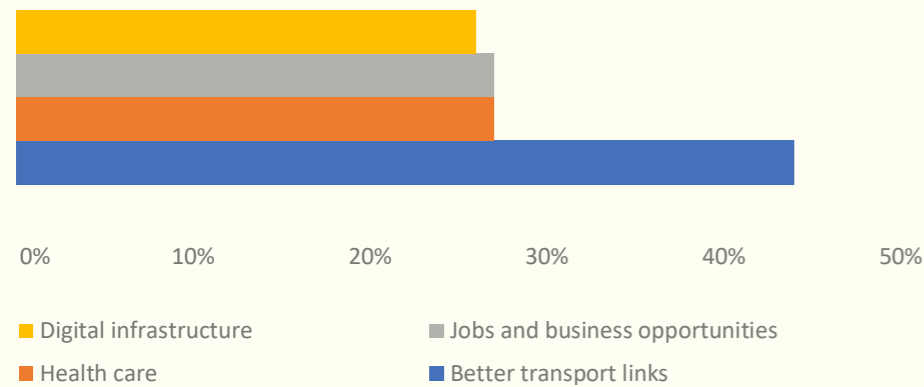


# WHY SHOULD WE ATTRACT DIGITAL NOMADS TO THE COUNTRYSIDE?

Many countries worldwide have begun to understand the philosophy of digital nomads and want to attract them to their areas. Recently, an increasing number of digital nomads are discovering places in the countryside. In this article, we will look at digital nomads and discover different ways how to attract them to the countryside!

## Most frequently mentioned needs of rural areas

Source: Pan-European Eurobarometer survey (2021)



The latest pan-European Eurobarometer survey (2021) of public opinion on rural areas shows that the availability of jobs and business opportunities (27%) is one of the most frequently mentioned needs of rural areas. At the same time, our survey shows that local people would like to be more involved in decisions affecting their local areas, for example, by attending events, meetings, seminars, etc., organised in the area or by getting involved in community-led projects.

Digital nomads can stimulate new thinking and create innovative projects and products to bring resources to rural areas.

## DIGITAL NOMADS? WELL, WHAT CAN THEY DO FOR US?

This is probably the first question locals may ask themselves. The first likely answer is additional income from their consumption, increased local trade and tourism. And that's a real benefit, but digital nomads aren't just tourists.

Digital nomads can stay in one place for different periods of time – weeks, months or 2-3 years. In this way, they can stimulate new connections, new collaborations and new ventures in local communities. Most digital nomads are marketers, business developers, programmers, high-level professionals in their digital skills or other fields, or are entrepreneurs or sports and health coaches. They have the flexibility to travel, learn new things and work remotely from different locations around the world, so they could act as catalysts for knowledge flows to the host region. With their knowledge and skills, they can really stimulate a new way of thinking and create innovative projects and products that can bring resources to rural areas.

In recent years, the number of digital nomads has grown dramatically, and it is predicted that their number will exceed 1 billion globally by 2035. They can be a real boon to the economy and especially to young people in any rural area where they choose to live and work.



## 3 PROVEN WIN-WIN MODELS OF COLLABORATION

Let's look at three proven win-win models of collaboration and work in rural areas between digital nomads and the locals.

### COWORKING

A coworking space is a work base for most digital nomads in a particular location and is, therefore, important to them. Coworking spaces can be targeted to the different needs of digital nomads. Typically, digital nomads pay for their stay and the use of a coworking space, for this reason various offers are available - weekly, monthly or combined. Coworking spaces are especially useful in small towns, where digital nomads and local users will jointly use them. It may also attract remote workers or business teams for a short-term retreat.

One of the distinctive aspects of coworking is flexibility. Coworkers can often decide when they work, when they take breaks or when they choose to stay in longer to meet a deadline. Likewise, they have the freedom to stay home, if need be, for health issues (for themselves or to take care of others) or to meet a repair person. Flexitime allows you to have a very rewarding work-life balance.

Another essential feature that they offer is leisure-time facilities. Not only have coworking spaces been designed to be comfortable, functional and trendy, but they also offer some extra amenities for rest breaks. They comprise a kitchen or free snacks and drinks. Every workplace has its own particular charm: some have sofas, pouffes, a TV screen, and quiet library

corners for bookworms. Others can have display ping-pong or futsal tables, some even have an indoor climbing wall or special room for yoga activities. In the countryside, users can always step outside and go for a walk in nature.

Usually, an investor in creating a coworking space is a private owner of a local property, a local organization, a group of investors or even a local municipality. Thus, various business models can be tried.

It can be assumed that if this niche of creating coworking spaces in rural areas is successfully developed, the demand for properties in rural areas will increase, thereby increasing the demand and prices of the real estate market in the region. In the end, we can say that creating a co-working space supports the development and creation of an economic climate in rural areas that brings a creative and innovative spirit to the local community.

## COLIVING SPACES

Compared to coworking, coliving is much harder to define. Coliving is a modern form of shared housing with other like-minded people. A strong community is a key to this concept, as it's not just about sleeping and working but also enjoying free time together, discussing interesting things and social belonging.

Coliving is a very suitable model for digital nomads as it doesn't only provide housing but also a community and a coworking space. The price for the stay is affordable and offers flexibility.

It's very much associated with the generation of millennials, who want to live a different lifestyle from their parents – more relaxed, combined with a lot of travelling. Many residents in coliving spaces are normally between 19 and 40 years old and often work as start-up employees or are entrepreneurs themselves, freelancers, and sometimes

# Coliving spaces are often located in areas which are not so expensive to work and live in, for example, in the countryside.

students. It's also related to the common trend of relative reluctance to get married or start a family. For these reasons, coliving is perfect for those relocating to a new job, studying for a degree, working remotely, starting a new company or simply exploring a new area.

### Benefits of coliving

There are many benefits of coliving. Many residents normally like the community-driven experience typical for all coliving places. It's a modern answer to the "loneliness epidemics" when people feel lonely, especially in big cities. There are also other benefits compared to normal housing: the rent is sometimes lower, and the minimum stay can also be of only one month (unlike the average housing contracts). An owner of the coliving facility normally keeps the space in order, so there's no need for any furniture or maintenance work, the roommates are already there, and in the end, it is just necessary to pay the rent without any separate utility bills.

The main benefit of coliving is that it can be cost-savvy. Coliving spaces are often located in areas which are not so expensive to work and live in, for example, in the countryside.

### Coliving in a countryside

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought many changes. Recently,

an interesting and also much-pronounced trend has developed. Due to many regulations during the pandemic, many people started to work from home and felt they were trapped in the city. A new hype emerged – escaping/moving to the countryside where life is much more peaceful. The ones who could work remotely

started to combine working with travelling and vacations, so-called workation. Although this trend was recognised already before the COVID-19 pandemic, it has grown very quickly since 2020.

The European countryside already has many coliving centres in the countryside. Each of them has its specifics and rules, but there are two common approaches – the return back to nature and the focus on a strong community. Digital nomads normally stay at least one month, which brings to these destinations sustainable tourists, who value the ideal of a strong community, want to live a village life and represent a trend contrary to problematic massive tourism. Typically, renovating old houses in rural areas to create coliving spaces is a commonly used way to launch such an initiative to attract digital nomads to the countryside. We found many good examples, e.g. Zellin House (Bulgaria), Rec.On Project (Spain). You will find them in the third part of our magazine.



## JOINT COMMUNITY SPACES

Attracting digital nomads to a region and enabling them to develop their own projects or participate in joint community initiatives and projects can play a key role in creating new jobs and fostering local entrepreneurship.

For example, an initiative at the local level could be launched to hold workshops or startup competitions to benefit local development. Business incubators can be started to attract young entrepreneurs. In these initiatives, various digital nomads can actively participate as co-organizers, lecturers or as participants. In case that a rural region wants to develop cultural tourism, there are no better consultants and advisors than digital nomads with a wealth of knowledge and impressions from different parts of the world. Bloggers are especially valuable in disseminating the local culture, cultural heritage and facilities.

# If a rural region wants to develop cultural tourism, there are no better consultants and advisors than digital nomads with a wealth of knowledge and impressions from different parts of the world.

Moreover, through the exchange of knowledge in a cultural and economic context, a joint cooperation between digital nomads and local workers can stimulate the development of innovative projects, services and products that have a serious potential to create new jobs in the area.

Digital nomads who are entrepreneurs can regularly gather during these events and stimulate new connections and new ventures that benefit the local communities and stimulate the young people to be inspired and to stay in the rural area.

Also, most digital nomads are highly skilled in digitalisation and can undoubtedly provide rural

areas with technical expertise and support local infrastructure development.

There are many other sectors in which the local community can initiate joint projects with digital nomads: green energy, digitisation of administration, nature conservation, social development, culture, sport and health, i.e. sectors that need development and support with new knowledge, skills and resources.

Some good examples of organisations and projects with a huge benefit for the local areas are Kino (Italy) and ab Summer of Pioneers (Germany), which are presented in the third part of this magazine.



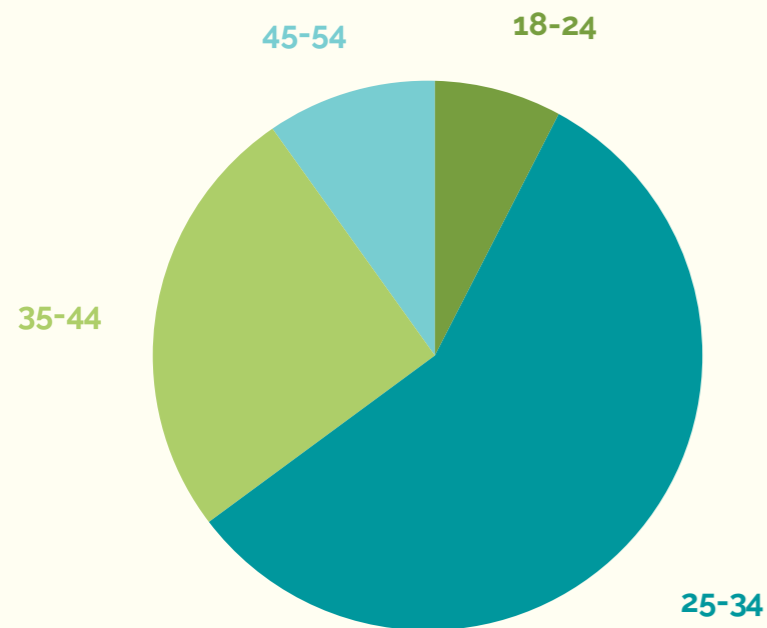
# DO DIGITAL NOMADS WANT TO STAY IN THE COUNTRYSIDE?

Digital nomads are increasingly discovering the countryside. But who are they? What kind of lifestyle do they have?

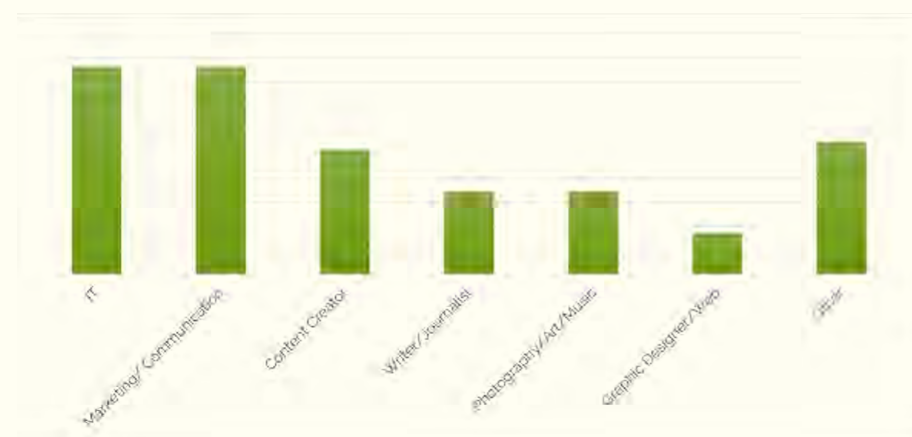
As a part of our project Nomadland, we want to explore their needs and wishes. We've prepared a survey and contacted digital nomads. By now, we have collected 33 responses, but we expect much more throughout the project.

## Basic

### AGE



### WHAT DO YOU DO FOR A LIVING?



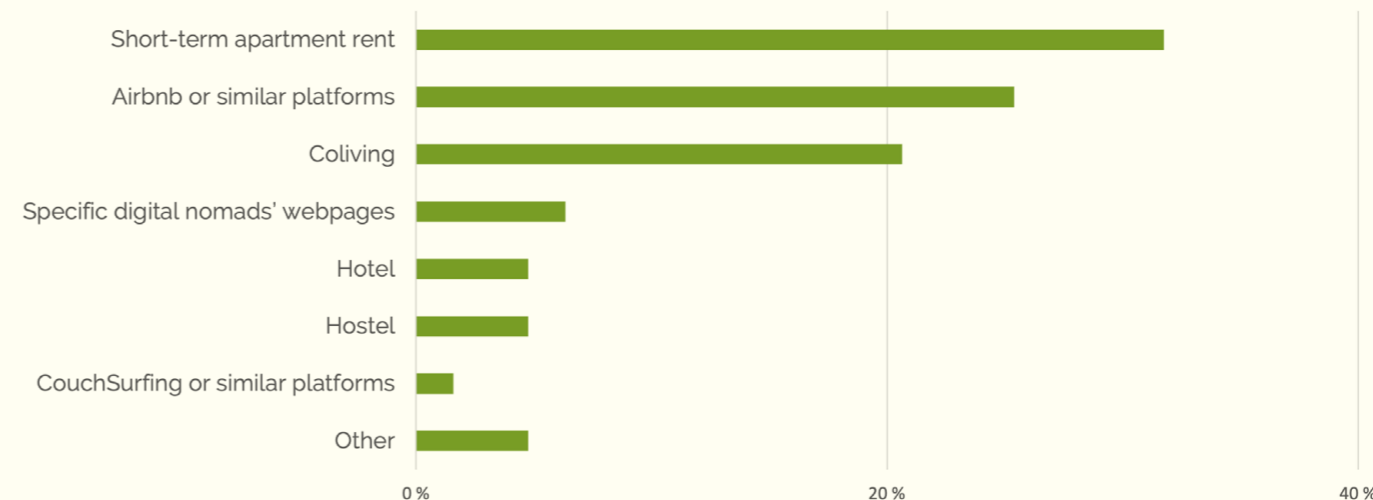
THE COST OF LIVING IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT FOR DIGITAL NOMADS WHEN CHOOSING A PLACE TO LIVE, FOLLOWED BY A RELIABLE INTERNET CONNECTION AND A STRONG COMMUNITY.

94 % OF RESPONDENTS WOULD LIKE TO LIVE AS A DIGITAL NOMAD IN THE COUNTRYSIDE.

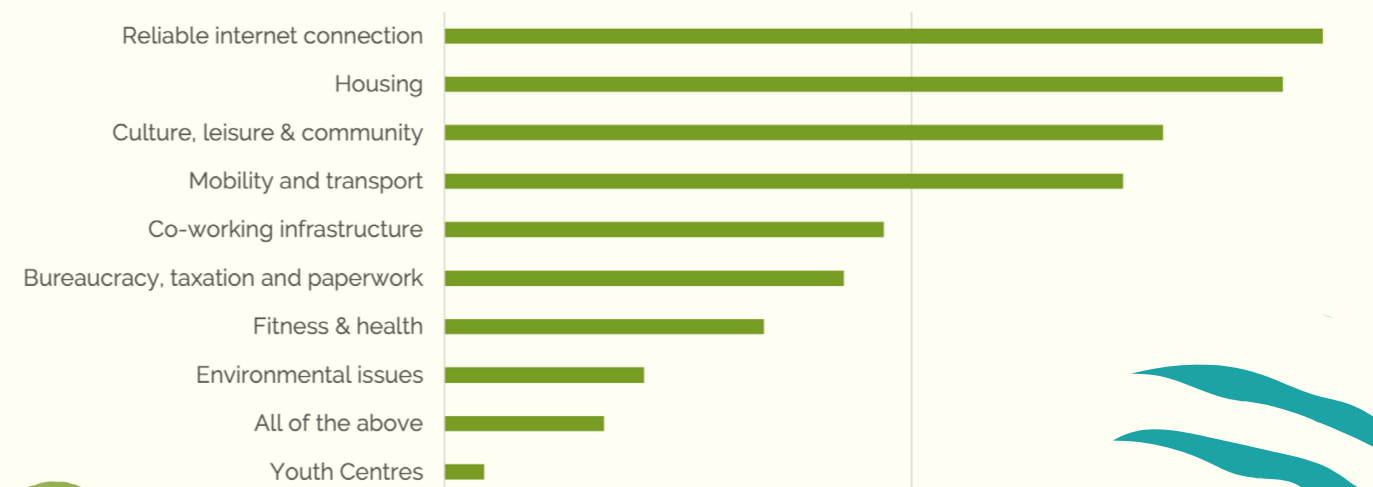
90 % WOULD PREFER TO HAVE A LOCAL FACILITATOR TO HELP THEM SETTLE DOWN IN THE AREA.

## Living

### WHEN STAYING SOMEWHERE, WHAT KIND OF ACCOMMODATION DO YOU PREFER?

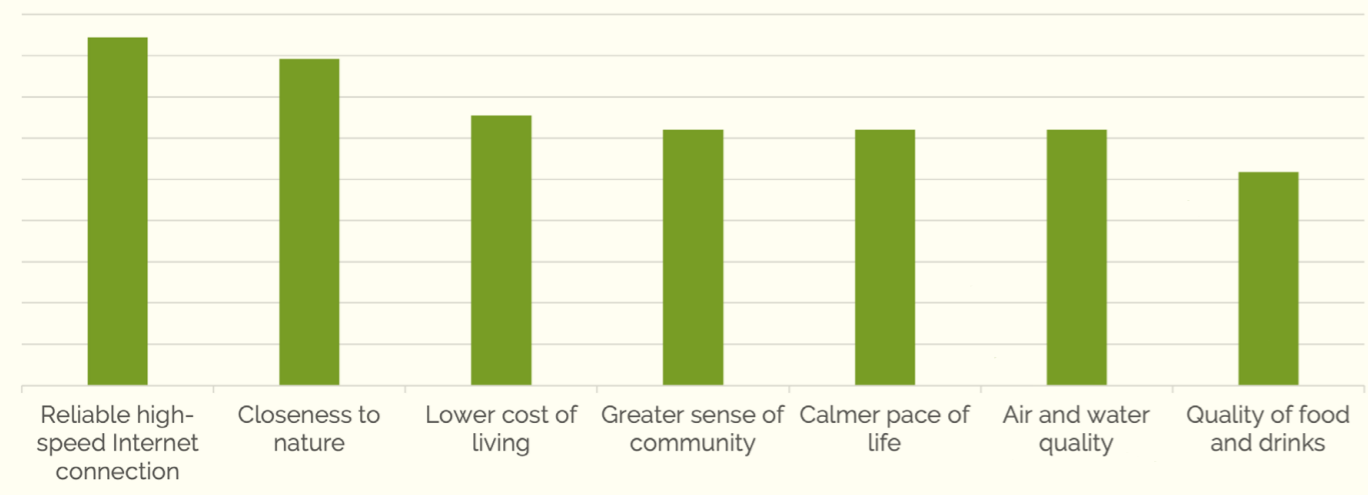


### WHICH FACTORS ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT WHEN MOVING TO A NEW COUNTRY/NEW PLACE?

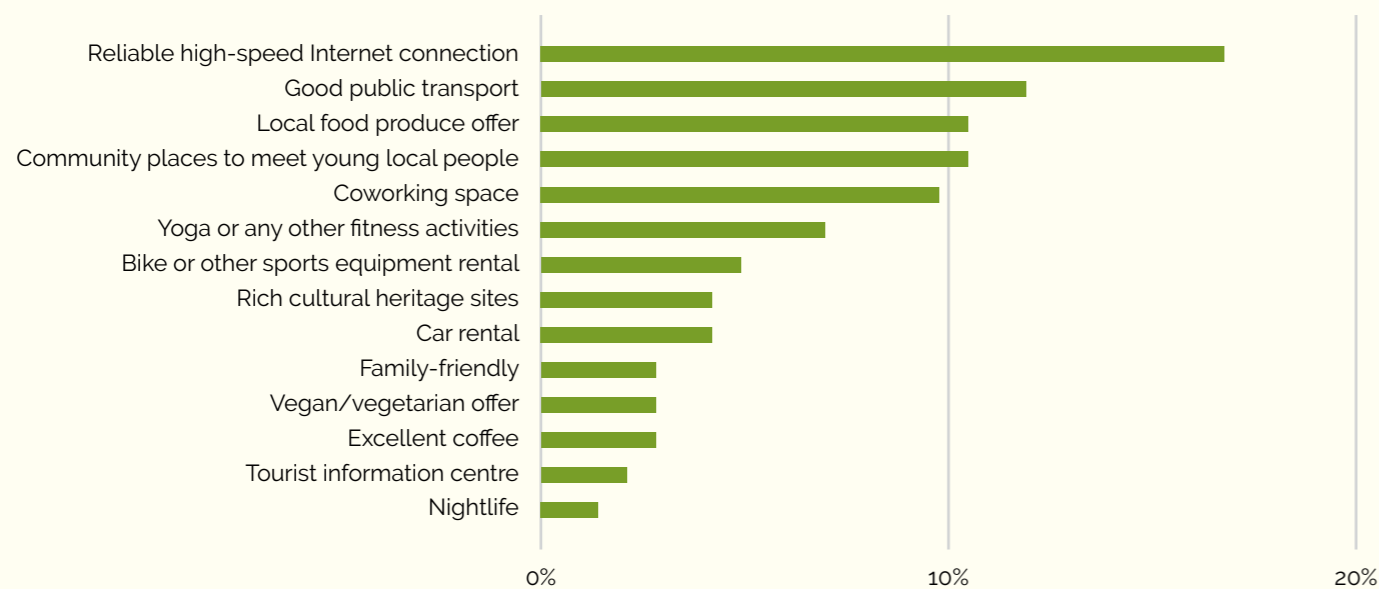


## Countryside

WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT FOR YOU WHEN MOVING TO THE COUNTRYSIDE?



IF YOU DECIDE TO STAY IN THE COUNTRYSIDE AS A DIGITAL NOMAD, WHAT SERVICES ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT FOR YOU?



## Youth Work

HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED YOUTH INFRASTRUCTURE (I.E. YOUTH CLUBS, YOUTH CENTRES, ASSOCIATIONS) BEFORE MOVING TO THE COUNTRYSIDE? (WHY?/WHY NOT?)

“I don’t even know what these are for.”

“We need that in our small community for youngsters interested in spending time on good things.”

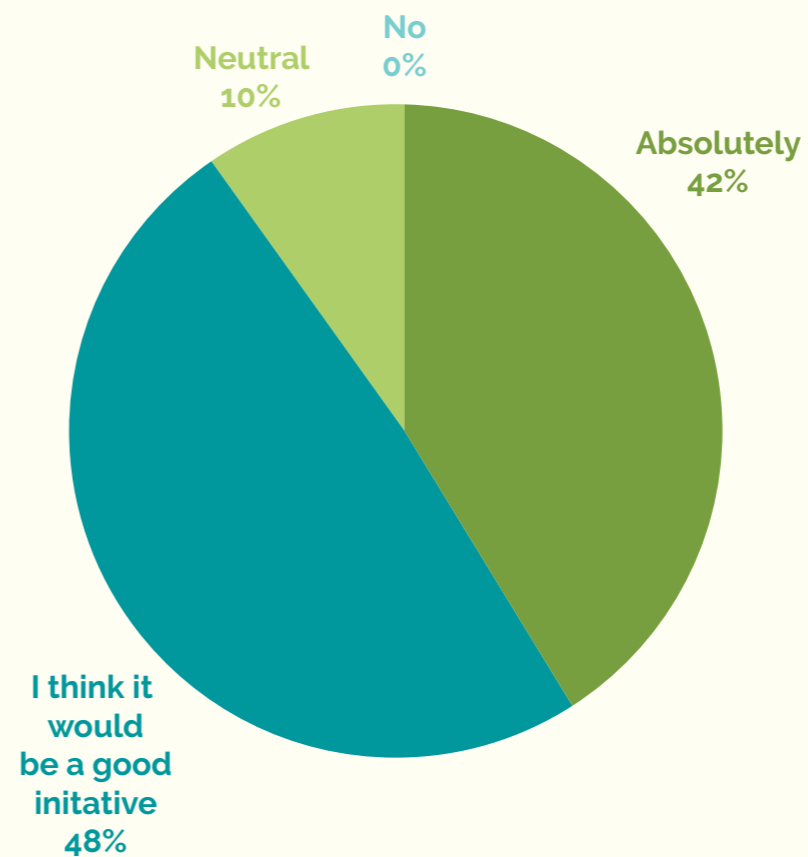
“I don’t know what that is, really.”

“No. Not all countries have such facilities or initiatives, and I realised most people in the countryside prefer to keep it that way as they have other priorities.”

“The only places in the countryside I moved to didn’t have any.”

“It is a sign of a good community; if kids have something to do, they’re less likely to be causing trouble.”

AS A DIGITAL NOMAD, WOULD YOU APPRECIATE IT IF THERE WAS A LOCAL FACILITATOR TO HELP YOU SETTLE DOWN IN YOUR NEW AREA?







# **STORIES OF DIGITAL NOMADS**



# YAIR – THE LOCAL CULTURE IS KEY TO UNDERSTANDING A NEW DESTINATION

## #IMMERSION #COMMUNITY

Yair Sterman is a software developer and web designer born in Israel. For our online interview, I found him in his home, just back from an inspirational trip to a rural area in Hawaii for a couple of months. He is a very interesting person with a broad view of many topics. We talked about digital nomadism, preferred places to visit and what raises his interest in staying there.

Author: Angela Ivanova

### WHAT ARE YOUR FAVOURITE DESTINATIONS?

I like nature. I love seeing anything from huge mountains to beautiful beaches. I really try to avoid big cities, although I have been to a few great ones, which was an amazing experience, and I really enjoyed it. But what I especially like and prefer are trips to rural areas, staying in small huts in the mountains, or in bungalows on the beach, somewhere you could feel and breathe nature – those are my top destinations.

### DO YOU LIKE TO CONNECT WITH SOME LOCALS? DO YOU WANT TO KNOW HOW THEY LIVE?

Yes, yes, of course! By meeting new people, I mostly mean meeting the locals. First, they have the best recommendations for the place (laughing). They can tell you exactly where to go and where not to go, where the tourists are circling and where the locals usually go. Things like that..

I'm very interested in the local culture. It's the best way to immerse yourself in a new destination – to see and feel how people actually live there. I think it gives you a very interesting perspective on your own lifestyle. You are used to living one way, and suddenly here in the new place, you experience a new way of life. You can learn a lot from the locals by talking to them and experiencing new places through them.



### HAVE YOU HAD ANY CHALLENGES IN RURAL AREAS? SOMETIMES, PEOPLE HAVE ISSUES WITH THE WIFI OR WITH THE TRANSPORT...

I've been to many remote areas. The most remote I can imagine was an island in the Philippines. We were kind of between two villages in a developing community, and there, the electricity would cut off during the day - it would go out at random hours during the day, then it would come back on, but somehow, I was able to work from there (laughing). I just figured out how to schedule my time around the blackout. It's not ideal, and it's not a perfect situation, but nevertheless, I really don't remember having problems with the WiFi connection other than that.

The bigger challenge was actually finding these places and finding a place to stay there. They are usually very small and do not have many accommodation options. Once you get there, once you find the place, the job is very easy. But finding and getting there is the challenge.

For example, there are also many nice villages all over Europe, but no one knows about them, and no one knows how to get to them. But they are absolutely beautiful, with beautiful mountain views and great, interesting people.

To find out more about Yair, his travel inspiration and perspective and on different cultures, you can [read the full interview](#).

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# ABDUL – LIVING ON THE SUNNY SIDE OF LIFE

## #SUN #SMILE

The digital nomad experience is not just about making money online and travelling while closed in your thoughts but telling others about your personal experience through social channels and making those stories lively as if you were present in the first person.

Abdul Mannan has been sharing his experiences living as a digital nomad for more than ten years and living between England, Croatia, and many other countries. His computer never leaves him, nor does his smile when meeting other people, and his dedication to living life with joy and presence.

Author: Luana Matosevic

### ABDUL, CAN YOU INTRODUCE YOURSELF?

I am Abdul Mannan, and on the island Ugljan, I am known as Abbi. I was born and raised in Leicester – England. However, my parents originate from Bangladesh. I am a graduate of Product Design & Architecture; hence I work as a freelance Designer & Architectural Consultant. I mainly split my time and work between England and Croatia, but I travel a lot (ten countries in 2022), so my laptop gets to see the world. The sun and the sea make me smile. Seeing a smile on other faces wherever I go also makes me smile!

I am not a young person. I'm 52 years old and have been a digital nomad for over ten years.

### WHY DID YOU MOVE TO THE COUNTRYSIDE?

Leicester is in the middle of England. It's far from the sea, and when the sun shines in the UK, it is a blessing. Leicester is a busy city, a nice city and a great multicultural place to live, but it has a fast pace of life, is always congested with traffic and seems to be getting more populated. It would be pointless for me to relocate to somewhere the same, so I went for the opposite of what I'm used to, and I arrived on the island of Ugljan, in the archipelago of Zadar.



### HOW DID YOU DECIDE TO GO TO A SPECIFIC COUNTRY? WHAT WERE THE KEY CRITERIA?

I went on holiday to Croatia in 2011. Fell in love with the coastal towns, the sea, the mountains and the weather. I felt there were many possibilities in Croatia as it was still finding its feet where tourism was concerned. After a few visits to the country, I devised a plan to create a yoga retreat business on an island in Croatia because of the nature, weather, clean sea and healthier lifestyle. And it was only a two-hour flight away from London.

### HOW IS SOCIAL LIFE? DO YOU FIND PEOPLE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE OPEN-MINDED AND WELCOMING? SHARE WITH US SOME VALUABLE EXPERIENCES YOU HAD WITH LOCALS WHILE WORKING IN THE COUNTRYSIDE.

My social life with the locals is pretty limited – language differences and personal interests differ greatly. Also, because I am of different ethnicity, this can create division due to their views and lack of intelligence. I have two local friends on Ugljan with whom I socialise and work in the garden, house or boat. Most of my other friends are, therefore, Expats.

**The sun and the sea make me smile. Seeing a smile on others' faces wherever I go also makes me smile.**



# AMY – ENJOYING FAMILY LIFE IN SPAIN

## #FAMILY #VIEW

Amy Narewski is a British-German digital nomad who left north Germany to settle in a small village near Cuenca in the rural hinterland of Spain. She works as an administrative assistant, as well as a teacher of foreign languages (German and English) and translator. Recently, she became a happy mum, sharing her nomad lifestyle with her life partner and their lovely daughter Lua.

Author: Elena Gascón

### WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO LIVE AS A DIGITAL NOMAD?

It just happened - life decisions, curiosity and opportunities, open doors - and I decided to go through them. After my degree, this led me to walk the "Camino de Santiago", and from then on, I went back to Spain, but this time to the South and now the centre. Who knows where the next place will be...

### DID YOU FACE ANY BUREAUCRATIC CHALLENGES AS A DIGITAL NOMAD?

Well, not really, but the Social Security Office here did not really know how to deal with a foreigner working for a client abroad. That seemed complicated initially, but with some friendly smiles and determination, we found a solution.

### WOULD YOU SAY YOUNG PEOPLE CAN LEAD A FULFILLING LIFE IN RURAL AREAS?

Absolutely! I believe it is the healthiest and most beautiful place you can live in. But don't get me wrong: You always need people around. We are social beings! It is all about creating a "real web" between those who share this rural area with you and enjoying the simple things in life.



### WHAT WERE THE HARDEST OBSTACLES IN SETTLING IN A COUNTRY? (ESPECIALLY WHEN CHOOSING MORE COUNTRYSIDE DESTINATIONS)

I believe that generally speaking, the hardest is to learn the language and to adapt to the local culture. Some people also find it hard to be the "odd one out" because you do things differently, look different etc. Now that I am thinking of it, the worst situations are when you wish to be close to family or friends in need who are far away and unfortunately, you cannot see them. Even modern media is no substitute, although it helps!

### WHAT ARE THE 5 MOST REWARDING SITUATIONS YOU HAD TO DEAL WITH WHEN LIVING IN A RURAL AREA AS A DIGITAL NOMAD?

1. The everyday view from my window and being surprised by wild goats outside my house.
2. The proximity to beautiful natural surroundings.
3. Visits and comments from family and friends who are in awe when you show them your adopted home.
4. Delicious veg from my garden/orchard.
5. The smell of autumn leaves and summer rain rather than wet city concrete.

### WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO IN THE FUTURE?

I would like to continue enjoying life...How? No idea, depending on what there is to come!

# CRISTINA – PEOPLE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE ARE LESS TRAPPED BY THE SOCIAL MEDIA LIFESTYLE

## #SURFING #NATURE

Meeting Cristina Colmenero was an interesting experience. She's a curious traveller living her best life and creating her personal story. Her father loves travelling, so since she was a kid, her parents took her and her brother on all their holiday trips.

Five years ago, she travelled to Indonesia. When she was in Bali, she met a few people who called themselves "digital Nomads". She was so impressed by them that she wanted the same lifestyle for herself! Since then, she has worked in companies that allow her this kind of life. She just loves it!

Author: Elena Gascón

### WHERE DID I CATCH YOU?

I am currently living and teleworking in Tarifa. Last July, I decided to come to Tarifa for one week, and I am still here. I love this place so much! Last week, I was in London for work reasons as well.

### WHAT WERE THE MOST CHALLENGING SITUATIONS YOU HAD TO DEAL WITH WHEN LIVING/MOVING TO A RURAL AREA AS A DIGITAL NOMAD?

There are some challenges you can find when moving to a rural area as a digital nomad, especially if you have lived all your life in big cities. However, the overall balance is positive.

I COULD SAY THAT THE FIRST CHALLENGE FOR ME WOULD BE NOT HAVING MY FAMILY CLOSE. AND ANOTHER ONE WOULD BE NOT TO HAVE A RANGE OF CULTURAL ACTIVITIES LIKE THEATRE OR CINEMAS NEARBY. NEVERTHELESS, IF YOU ARE NOT TOO MUCH INTO IT, THIS FACTOR MAY NOT BE VERY IMPORTANT.

On the other hand, I would like to stay in places near the beach so that I can practise my favourite water sports like kitesurfing, wing foil or surfing. I also prefer areas where you have a lot of nature around to enjoy. Wild nature makes you forget about the rest!

### HOW DO YOU FIND COLIVING/ COWORKING SPACES?

I like to read about people's experiences and different blogs - search around the Internet. So, when I need to find a place to stay for a longer period of time, I try to look for the best option that both covers my needs and has good price-quality relation.

### WOULD YOU SAY YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE DIFFER FROM THEIR URBAN PEERS? IF SO, HOW?

Yes, definitely, they are! I would say that, even though they all are connected to digital life, urban people have easier access to this digital world. I do not like to generalise, but I would say that people in the countryside enjoy nature more and feel less trapped by the social media lifestyle, living healthier, more in the present and seizing the day.





# ALBERT – AMONG OLIVE TREES & THE SEA

## #ROOTS #HISTORY

**Albert Anthony Bozulic grew up in New York. He decided to go and live on the island of his ancestors in the archipelago of Zadar, Croatia, where he could combine his career with discovering his roots from the island of Dugi Otok.**

**Author: Luana Matosevic**

### WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THE LIFE OF A DIGITAL NOMAD?

When new working conditions emerged in the US during the outbreak of Covid-19, many of our offices were closed, and we quickly learned how to work from home. It was a new way of adapting and doing things. So, I thought about how a rural island like Dugi Otok could also become a destination for the next generation of work-from-home professionals and businesses.

Because I have family roots in the Zadar region of Dalmatia, I have travelled here many times and have become a dual citizen, it was only natural that in recent years I have also been able to get things done remotely also from the village of Savar on Dugi Otok, the ancestral home of my paternal grandparents.

### DID YOU RECEIVE ANY SUPPORT FROM THE LOCAL ORGANISATIONS WHEN SETTLING IN THE AREA (MUNICIPALITY, DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES, YOUTH CENTRE ...)

Because I was already familiar with the area due to my family roots, I did not need a lot of support. However, I did dive into various digital nomad and ex-pat groups quickly. I attended events where I learned from other people who have spent time here remotely,



and from their experiences, you really can learn a lot from that. I was surprised at just how many ex-pats and nomads I met and how many call this area home now. One main development in Croatia in recent years is the increased digitization of the public sector: now you can get some documents online without waiting in line to ask for support at the local tax office or courthouse. This is one way to increase productivity because the time spent by digital nomads waiting in those lines can be time spent more productively.

### HOW DID YOU MEET PEOPLE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE?

Most island people I have met are eager to meet you and are hospitable, often urging you to try their wine or olive oil. You also will likely be asked to sit for coffee since coffee is a major part of socialising here.

In a rural area like Dugi Otok, you will meet more people during the peak tourist season in the summer since that is when it is most populated, and less so in the off-season. A lot of the routine of local folks living on Dugi Otok revolves around caring for their farmland, particularly olives & vineyards,

along with some fishing for those who still do that. In the summer, many island residents focus on renting out apartments since the demand is high, and it can be a lucrative business, much more so than raising olives.

### WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN? HOW CAN LIVING IN THE COUNTRYSIDE HELP YOU WITH IT?

One personal research endeavour I launched last year was learning about my own family roots and their ties to rural Dalmatia. I learned, for instance, that Dugi Otok and Zadar were, for many centuries, part of the Republic of Venice, a very successful and influential commercial power of that era. In fact, our last names used to be written in Venetian, and there is evidence of this that I found. So, I learned that my Dalmatian culture is very diverse and has always been so. The agrarian and seafaring economy of the rural areas around Zadar was, for centuries, a way of life for many people. In fact, in the small town of Nin, home of the Nin saltworks, the production of salt dates back to Roman times!

I would like to, and would like other young folks to, learn more about this history, which is centuries long, and one only needs to take a hike around parts of Dugi Otok to see handmade stone walls that possibly date back to Illyrian times. The countryside can reveal many other such remnants, in their original and natural state as when they were built many centuries ago without the help of computers.

When one takes time to learn this history from objective and reliable sources, one learns that this region of Dalmatia was a centre of trade and that southern Europe was a cultural, architectural, and commercial centre of the world. We can tap into our roots as traders and farmers to reawaken our rural areas once again and adapt them to the needs of 2023. By not concentrating everything on the city itself but spreading it out across the region, we can grow the regional economy too as more and more young professionals get used to a work-life situation on our local islands and rural areas, and the local infrastructure becomes adapted to support that growth.

*If you want to find out other interesting experiences of Albert Anthony in the countryside and what he would recommend to young digital nomads before coming to rural areas on islands, you can [read the complete interview at the following link.](#)*

**It would make me smile to see the island of my ancestors becoming a sought-after destination by young professionals, not just seasonal tourists.**





# GOKULNATH – MY HEART WILL BE FOREVER IN THE COUNTRYSIDE

## #MINDSET #NATURE

Talking with Gokulnath Ramu was not just about travelling and living as a digital nomad. It was also about experiencing the countryside. During his trip from India to Europe, he discovered many interesting places, but the most precious memories come from the coliving Coconat Space in Germany.

### GOKULNATH, WHAT KIND OF PATH LED YOU TO EUROPE?

My first time in Europe was right after I finished my master's degree in India. I got an opportunity to come to France for six months as an Erasmus student. I just wanted to travel, as many people do, but as far as everything else goes, I didn't have any other plans at the time.

### WHEN DID YOU MAKE THE TRANSITION TO LIFE AS A DIGITAL NOMAD?

While travelling, I met different people who were also travelling and working remotely. When I was in Rovaniemi in Lapland, I met a fellow digital nomad. She was staying in Rovaniemi for more than a month. At that time, I was really shocked. I thought to myself, "This would be my dream!" I really loved Rovaniemi, but I couldn't stay there for more than two days due to my other obligations. Knowing her made me realise I could do the same thing, work and

travel simultaneously. Before the pandemic, that wasn't possible, but now I can work remotely. I realised that if I could find an affordable place to rent for a month, I could work from anywhere in the world. So, I started applying for volunteering positions to lower my living costs by helping in European communities. I'm not going to lie; I was very sceptical initially and had many reservations about going to other countries. But that decision led to the best part of my life.



### DID YOU HAVE ANY MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES WITH THE LOCALS IN THE COUNTRYSIDE? DID YOU TALK TO ANY YOUNG PEOPLE FROM THE VILLAGE?

Yes, there is a village nearby where locals often celebrate different festivals. The first time I visited one of these events, I initially felt a bit awkward. Being the only Indian there, I didn't know what to expect from the local people, but they were really welcoming. I was planning on staying there only for a few hours, but I made new friends, and they invited me into their home. We prepared some food together, and I ended up staying the night. It totally changed my mindset about people; I really enjoyed it. What I love most about the countryside is that there are fewer people, and once you interact with someone, they will remember you, unlike in the city where you wouldn't be recognised again. I remember walking from the bus station in the town of Bad Belzig to Coconat. It's about 5 km away, so you must either walk or take the bus, but unfortunately, it does not operate after 5 pm. Once, about a month into my stay at Coconat, while walking to the residence, I got recognised by one of my new friends from the village, and I hitched a ride with them. I love it when simple things like that happen. You only get that in the countryside.

### SO, YOUR FIRST EXPERIENCE AS A DIGITAL NOMAD WAS AT COCONAT. COULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR EXPERIENCE THERE?

Coconat is a coliving and coworking retreat close to Bad Belzig in the German countryside, just over an hour outside Berlin. I love Coconat because it's a place designed with digital nomads in mind. Everyone staying there is a digital nomad, making it a very creative place. Before Coconat, I worked all day and went home to sleep. I led a very dull life compared to life as a digital nomad. Now I keep myself excited by always meeting new people. Everyone has a different story, and I love sharing my life with other people. The location in the countryside is another pulse. Walking in nature daily is a great inspiration and makes me more productive. I even noticed that I achieve better results at work now.

Walking in nature daily is a great inspiration and makes me more productive. I even noticed that I achieve better results at work now.

### DID YOU EXPERIENCE ANY OBSTACLES MOVING FROM NEW DELHI, A BIG CITY IN INDIA, TO THE EUROPEAN COUNTRYSIDE? IN YOUR EXPERIENCE, WHAT ARE THE DOWNSIDES TO LIVING IN THE COUNTRYSIDE?

Previously I only lived in the countryside during my education, and there used to be bad internet service, less access to activities, inadequate medical facilities, and overall, not much happening. But nowadays, this has changed. Here at Coconat, we used to go to Berlin on the weekends to experience some new things and to party a bit. But I prefer being in the countryside; it's peaceful. In cities, people are always rushing. For me, things changed during my stay in Germany. Before, I was planning to go only to cities, but now, I want to travel to the countryside.

[Read the whole interview on the link](#) to learn about his experience as a volunteer at the Coconat Space, his upbringing in India and his problems with bureaucracy when moving to Europe.



# ŽIVA – A NOMAD WHO SEEKS WARMTH IN THE COUNTRYSIDE

## #WAVE #FIRE

Živa Kovačević (Gia) is a storyteller. Not just in her professional life but also in the interviews. She sees herself like a creative wave, constantly changing direction - moving up and down from one journey to another. She started to live as a digital nomad because of her love for nature and warmth.

Author: Drejc Kokošar

### ŽIVA, WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO LIVE AS A DIGITAL NOMAD? WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

I define myself as a wave. I'm constantly waving in all parts of my life, from introverted to extroverted, from working to resting, and from creating to doing something else. And it's the same with traveling and returning to the cocoon. This is how my life goes. I like to experience life to the fullest and use those experiences to create something new.

So, what about my story? Whoa. It sounds like a cliché, but I know I am not a person who could be happy and satisfied living in one place. The world has always been calling me; I have always been a creative dreamer. Even when I was little, I traveled, saw new places, explored new things, and met new people. As a student, I was traveling bit by bit when it's normal to be broke and not travel that much as a result. Later, when I was financially stable, a fire started to burn inside me, and it was getting louder and stronger with every short trip. I realized that moving around the globe was crucial for me. I knew I couldn't fit into any system to work every day from 9 to 5. My goal was to be independent, although this meant no safe, regular job. I realized that it's possible to work and travel at the same time. And this is how I

### started to work as a digital nomad. HOW DID THE FIRE DEVELOP? WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN BY NOW?

The first solo travel was supposed to happen right when the first wave of COVID kicked in, so it was very much delayed. 2 years ago, I went to the Canary Islands for four months. I decided to buy only a one-way ticket and see how it went. In the end, I was there for four months, and my best friend had to fly herself there to get me back and told me that I needed to come home. The second destination was Madeira. I also wanted to extend it to the Azores, but sadly, I got severely injured. So, I had to return home to recover.

Recently, I made a month-long journey to Guatemala. And I still have a lot of plans. If a person has this fire inside, it doesn't matter how big a challenge or fear is. Fear is my old companion when I travel alone - he is welcome on board yet forbidden to make decisions. You can still follow your dream or impulse, no matter the external circumstances. I believe that solo travel is the most prominent school of life, at least from my experience. Nothing changes you so much and gives you many opportunities to truly meet and transform yourself.

### YOU'VE ALREADY MENTIONED THE COMMUNITY. WHAT DOES A GOOD COMMUNITY MEAN FOR YOU IN THOSE PLACES?

That is an interesting question. Let me give you some background so it's gonna be easier to understand what I'm about to say. Some people might pretty much relate to it. I'm definitely an introvert and an artist who needs plenty of space and time for herself. On the other hand, there are always 2 sides to the coin, right? Of course, I need company, but I don't need company just to drink coffee with. I need to do something meaningful with people. We need to have a common goal, do a project, create something or have a similar hobby. I must admit that most of the time in Ljubljana, in my hometown, I feel way lonelier than when I'm traveling alone. Everybody has their own life. They have jobs or kids, and you just hang around with them.

While I travel, I usually look for two types of communities. The first is a local community. As a tourist and visitor, I try to blend in with the place. I try to learn something about their culture, their way of living, and even their politics. But in reality, those connections are primarily superficial. They accept you, but they still have their own separate lives. Living in the international community is much more different, as we have a similar story. Everything is new when you arrive in the unknown land; we search for community, new connections, and experiences. Connecting, building projects together, and having fun with like-minded travelers is much easier. But in the long term, my heart longs for a real community. Of course, we always try to seek like-minded people. To me, a creative community is essential.

### IF I UNDERSTAND YOU, YOUR PERFECT PLACE WOULD BE NEAR NATURE AND HAVE A COMMUNITY OF INSPIRING AND CREATIVE PEOPLE. WHAT WOULD YOU STILL EXPECT FROM THAT KIND OF PLACE?

So, what would be the La La Land of my dreams (laughing)? Let's start with people. I like open-minded people who are a little bit of an entrepreneur type, outdoor people, or spiritual junkies. If I'm talking about locations, nature is the number one thing. I like hiking, climbing, swimming, and doing acro yoga if there are parks or outdoor gyms. Instead of working on a computer, I sometimes grab my notes, sit by the river, and create. I would also need a perfect mix of Western and Eastern societies. I like some Western things, like the availability

of medical treatments. But I also like a more open mindset and less strict rules, which is more typical for Eastern or Third World Countries.

[Read the whole interview on the link](#) to learn more about her experiences in the countryside, how it was for her to hike for the whole day without a mobile signal and her thoughts about colivings!



Photo: Rubén Plasencia



# GLORIA — YOU CAN BETTER CONNECT WITH LOCALS IN THE COUNTRYSIDE

## #COMMUNITY #SUN

Gloria Borisova was born and raised in Bulgaria and spent a few years living in Scotland. She is now sharing her time between Bulgaria and sunny locations. We talked with her in November when she was enjoying sunny weather in Gran Canaria. We talked with Gloria about living in the countryside, bureaucratic challenges and the reasons why she became a digital nomad.

Author: Elena Gascón



### WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO BECOME A DIGITAL NOMAD?

Working remotely has allowed me to try travelling and working from different locations. Slowly the time and length of my travels increased, so not sure if I am a "real" digital nomad or a travelling remote worker. I enjoy this freedom as I can be in sunny locations, not just in the usual summer months.

### WHICH COLIVINGS HAVE YOU VISITED? IN WHICH COUNTRIES?

Not many, actually just one official, I stayed in the "Banana House" coliving while I was in Madeira, Portugal. I have shared housing with other digital nomads also in Italy and Spain.

### IS LIVING IN RURAL AREAS DIFFERENT FROM LIVING IN THE CITY? IF SO, HOW? WHAT ARE THE MAIN DIFFERENCES?

Both rural areas and cities have their charms (and burdens). The rural and smaller places allow you to connect better with the community of digital nomads and the locals. With digital nomads, you likely share most of your time together, breakfast, lunch, dinner, hiking or chilling on the weekend. Regarding the local people - you see them daily, in the coffee shop, supermarket, or simply as neighbours. In most cases, they enjoy having you around, as we are not tourists coming just for a day or two. We spend time with them, sharing stories and having a good time.

### DO YOU USE ANY SPECIFIC DIGITAL TOOLS WHEN LOOKING FOR WHERE TO LIVE NEXT? HOW DO YOU RESEARCH INTERESTING LOCATIONS FOR DIGITAL NOMADS IN RURAL AREAS?

Depending on the location, I would usually try to see if they have a dedicated website, social media, slack channels, and Facebook groups. I believe it gets easier once you build a reasonable network, as it can often happen that someone has already been to a certain location and can give you recommendations. Of course, everyone has their own experience, and it is not necessary that you will have the same experience, but most of the time, you can get an accurate understanding of the place.

*If you want to know where Gloria is now, how Gloria has overcome challenges as a digital nomad, her experiences with rural youth and her plans for the future, [check out the full interview!](#)*

# RÉMY — A FRENCH WHO FOUND A BETTER WORK-LIFE BALANCE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE

## #BALANCE #AUTHENTICITY

Rémy Lasset is a freelance web content writer originally coming from France. He's keen on exploring the European countryside and always looks for new ways towards work-life integration.

Author: Elena Gascón

### WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO LIVE AS A DIGITAL NOMAD?

I've always loved travelling, discovering new places and cultures, meeting new people, learning from them, sharing experiences... Location independence gives me more freedom!

### WOULD YOU SAY YOUNG PEOPLE CAN LEAD A FULFILLING LIFE IN RURAL AREAS?

Definitely. Although it may depend on the personal expectations of each individual. If the local community is active, then the impact derived from innovation, creativity and cultural exchanges can help young people thrive in rural areas.

### WHAT WERE THE HARDEST OBSTACLES IN SETTLING IN THE COUNTRY? (ESPECIALLY WHEN CHOOSING COUNTRYSIDE DESTINATIONS)

The main obstacle for me was the transport infrastructure - arriving at the destination and finding connections within the province or around the town itself.

### DID YOU FACE ANY BUREAUCRATIC CHALLENGES AS A DIGITAL NOMAD?

Not really. As a French citizen, nomading within the EU / Schengen area has been hassle-free until now.

### CAN YOU NAME THE FIVE MOST REWARDING ADVANTAGES FOR YOU, LIVING AS A DIGITAL NOMAD IN THE COUNTRYSIDE?

Personally, as a digital nomad in rural areas, I have self-developed greatly because:

1. I have found a better work-life balance and discovered that spending more time in nature makes me more creative and productive.
2. I have established connections with fewer people but on a deeper level.
3. I have lived and worked in pretty remote coliving spaces, including the green slopes of a volcano in the Azores, in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean.
4. I stayed out on cold nights, learnt how to adapt to natural weather conditions, and even watched the northern lights for the first time (and a few other times in the following weeks) when I was in Norway.
5. I explored and enjoyed the most authentic Greek way of life when road-tripping in the countryside, out of the most touristic destinations.

### WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO IN THE FUTURE?

I would like to help local communities in rural areas develop small-sized coworking spaces and build communities to work near home together with others rather than work from home (alone or with family around), thus avoiding commuting every day.

I'm also currently working to publish a guidebook dedicated to the concept of "Work Near Home" and will open a website later this month ([www.proxitravail.fr](http://www.proxitravail.fr)). So excited about new things coming up!





# SERENA – RETURNING LIFE TO THE ITALIAN COUNTRYSIDE

## #MINDSET #PASSION

Can you return life to small villages in Italy? Serena Chironna, who lived for seven years in one of the biggest cities in the world, London, believes in it. Together with Andrea Mammoliti, she started to work on the KINO, communities of remote workers to the hidden rural gems in Italy. The project gives digital nomads an experience in tiny but beautiful villages in the Italian countryside. When you talk with her, you feel her passion for the homeland and her belief in the strong local community, where young people stay and get inspired by digital nomads.

**SERENA, YOU LIVED IN LONDON FOR SEVEN YEARS, AND NOW YOU'RE BACK IN ITALY, EXPLORING THE COUNTRYSIDE.**

It's true. I lived in London for seven years, working for an NGO in the sustainability field. I had a regular 9 to 5 job. Like many people, the COVID pandemic made me reconsider things in life. I started to develop a project in my mind targeted at people who would like to reconnect with the countryside. The idea was to provide them with opportunities where they wouldn't have to give up entirely what they had in the cities and where they would be able to find inspiring connections and people with the same vision and goals. However, in Italy right now, it's hard to find this kind of environment if you want

to move to a more rural place. At the same time, rural areas have a declining population. Even beautiful villages are dying off. But where should we start? We are both from big cities – I'm from the north of Milano, and Andrea is from Florence. We both have origins and links in smaller towns and villages. We thought that the excellent place to start is the south of Italy because, in terms of development, it has always been a part of Italy that was left behind. There were many initiatives targeting remote workers but not any concrete solution. So we said, let's give it a try, let's try to build a pilot project and see if we can really attract people to places in Italy. Along with that, I left London and moved to Madeira island, which was a remote destination with many digital nomads. I've tried to understand if this life really suits me and what these people are looking for. I met many people and invited them to come with me to a small Italian village. And this is how we started.



## WERE THERE ANY YOUNG LOCAL PEOPLE WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE PROGRAMME?

In the first place, where we went, yes. It was rural, but it was easy to reach bigger towns, so there were more young people. There were few schools. But people there didn't have very qualified jobs, as there were not many opportunities, especially for the ones with university careers. The founder of the association himself was living in Naples for most of the year, and he would go back and forth from his hometown. Young people told us they really loved participating in the project as we brought fresh air and perspective. Some started to reconsider what they wanted to do about their life.

The second place was more remote, in the mountains. There were not so many young people. Many were already in their 30s and had families. There was also an incentive by the municipality to start a family there, with a free kindergarten.

## THERE IS A COMMON PERCEPTION THAT MOST DIGITAL NOMADS ARE SINGLE. IS IT POSSIBLE TO LIVE A DIGITAL NOMAD LIFE AND HAVE A FAMILY?

Yeah. I think it's certainly possible because I've spoken to people who travel and live as a normal family. We were actually contacted by some people who wanted to stay with their families. Rural places are not bad for family life, but at the same time, they might need some services, like hospitals or schools, when staying longer. I think most of them stay in at least a medium-sized city because they know they can find everything there.

## IS IT CRUCIAL THAT YOU LIVE AS A DIGITAL NOMAD BEFORE YOU START WORKING ON THE COLIVING HUB?

I treat our service as anything else in the business. If you don't understand your user, you won't know what the user is looking for. You need to understand their mindset.

Andrea and I started it because we didn't want to give up the idea of returning to Italy. We didn't want to lose our international connections, but we knew we couldn't find it back home. So we decided to build something new in Italy.

[Read the whole interview on the link](#) to learn why young people like to stay in the countryside, how COVID influenced their decision about coliving, and why you need community managers.

**The local community should be first in mind when thinking about the project. Not everyone will buy the idea, but at least you need someone, whether the local municipality or association, which would provide authentic experiences in the area.**



# NAT – IT'S IMPORTANT TO FEEL THE ENERGY OF A PLACE

#ENERGY #PEOPLE

Nat Riley has been an entrepreneur, business coach and digital nomad since 2020. She was born in Ohio, USA. I spoke with her in November 2022 when she was in Amsterdam. We talked about her travel preferences, the places she's visited, the reasons why she became a digital nomad, the bureaucratic hassles of travel and the challenges she faces.

Author: Angela Ivanova

## WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO BECOME A DIGITAL NOMAD?

I have been travelling the world since I was a little kid and have always been fascinated by other cultures. But I think I really had the idea of travelling as a digital nomad 12 years ago when I was 20 and still in college. I really had no idea what it would actually be like. In 2015, I started travelling with my best friends. The plan was to travel for only about a month, but that month turned into five months, but in the end, I could see that the money was running out, and I had to go back. I promised myself I would return to travelling again in 5 years, but I needed to start making money. I began to build my own business that is 100% mine so I could move freely, and slowly over time, everything fell into place. So now, I've been a digital nomad for about a year and a half. As a digital nomad, I wanted to start with Australia, but that didn't really



happen (laughing), so I started with South America. Costs in South America are much lower than in the USA.

## HOW DO YOU CHOOSE WHERE YOU WANT TO GO?

In many cases, I visit places that I already know and that I really love. I started with Colombia because I really like this country since my first trip in 2015. Then I meet people who recommend me different places, saying, "Oh, you have to go there! It's so cool!" Then, I look at where it is, plan my trip, and go there, especially if it's on my way and nearby. Usually, I take other people's advice when they say I should go here or there.

## ARE YOU INTERESTED IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES WHEN YOU ARE IN A CERTAIN PLACE?

I definitely like to connect with local people as much as I can. When I travel, I like to feel the energy of a place. As soon as you get off the plane, you can feel the

energy. Then I like to know people – are they warm or are they more distant? I like to be surprised. For example, when I was in Greece, I realised that people there were so friendly, but when I was in the Czech Republic, they were not so friendly (laughing). I love having conversations with people and having different experiences. I try to stay in a place for at least 3-4 weeks to feel its true energy.

## WHAT IS THE MOST REWARDING SITUATION YOU HAVE HAD IN A RURAL AREA?

It's definitely nature! When I was in Germany, I stayed in a very rural area in the Alps. And the Alps are so beautiful! At the same time, it was very cold. But since it was so beautiful, I didn't mind that it was cold (laughing). It's really rewarding to be somewhere in such a beautiful place.

To find out more about Nat's experience as a digital nomad and entrepreneur, you can [read the full interview](#).

# ANDREEA - WHEN YOU LIVE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE, YOU CONNECT TO YOUR ROOTS

#SUPPORT #COMMUNITY

When I met Andreea Rusu for the first time, I was surprised by her simplicity and open-mindedness. She left her home in a remote Romanian village to pursue her career in the city. After studying and working 9 to 5, she realised this was not for her. The peace and tranquillity of the countryside brought her back towards nature but in a different way. She found her paradise in coliving spaces and fell in love with the Galician nature. This is the story of her return to her roots.

Author: Drejč Kokošar



## ANDREEA, WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO LIVE AS A DIGITAL NOMAD?

I love travelling. I think everyone does! My dream about exploring the world started when I was 20 years old. When I was in college and travelled on a cultural exchange programme in the United States for the first time. I come from Romania, where society still teaches you to do things in a specific order - you finish high school and college, then you work in the field that you've studied, you get married and get credit from the bank to buy a house, you have kids, and then you pass away. It's very straightforward and very fixed in mentality. I wanted to break out of this social norm, this way of living. My experience in the United States was so different from that in Romania. It showed me that it's possible to travel around the world. I realised that lifestyle could be much different from the one I knew in Romania. I realised that life and the world are much bigger and that you can live different ways of life.

I finished college and started

to work in a company where I helped other students to go to the United States. I promoted the idea that you should go out of the box, explore, and travel. It's not so easy. You have to face not only logistical and financial difficulties but also personal barriers. What could happen if I'm there all alone in the world?

At the same time, I started thinking – how can I travel? I visited my "best friends" – Google and YouTube – and started watching and documenting other people travelling worldwide while still working. And this idea stuck in my mind. It took me about five years to make the shift towards working and travelling at the same time. These five years were a whole process, like internal work. I worked as a regular employee from 9 to 5 at an office, but then I learned about digital nomadism. I realised that you need a remote job to work as a digital nomad, and I started working as a freelancer. I learned a lot from the courses on Udemy and YouTube about content creation, video editing



and social media marketing. After I learned the skills, I started to work as a freelancer. And then the pandemic hit. For me, these three years of pandemics were financially very prosperous as many companies realised that they needed to have an online platform presence.

#### **HOW DID YOU FIND OUT ABOUT THE COLIVING SPACES? HOW MANY HAVE YOU VISITED BY NOW?**

At first, I didn't know exactly where I wanted to go. I just knew I wanted to go to places where I could find similar people. People like me, digital nomads and freelancers.

I discovered the concept of coliving when searching for places where I could volunteer with my skills. This is how I found out about ANCEU coliving. I came as a social media person with a task to promote the space online. At first, I wanted to just stay for a month. But after I arrived there and saw that there were like 15 other digital nomads living in this space, I was immediately for it. There were people of different professions – data analysts, web developers, and product managers. I realised that the world is big. There are many different jobs and many possibilities. I decided to stay longer, for five months. When I discovered the concept of coliving, I knew I wanted to stay here.

When Anceu was closed in the winter, I started searching for other European colivings. I found Swiss Escape, another rural coliving space. And the third coliving was Cloud Citadel in France, a historical town in French Alps. But now I'm back at ANCEU for the whole year. I found that the Anceu Coliving is a place where I belong. Here's a family-like vibe. You connect with the locals and help them.

**Even though people and activities always surround you, you feel very, very lonely in the city. You don't have a real connection; everyone lives a very individual city life.**

#### **WOULD YOU SAY THAT LIVING IN URBAN AREAS IS MUCH DIFFERENT FROM LIVING IN RURAL AREAS? WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST DIFFERENCES?**

As an adult, I feel like I'm now more focused. Experiencing life and calmness in the countryside, I started to appreciate the slow pace of living and little things. Looking back on my city life, I think I can no longer stand the continuous noise with so many distractions. Even though people and activities always surround you, you feel very, very lonely in the city. You don't have a real connection; everyone lives a very individual city life.

In urban areas, you have more distractions. You have to keep up. It's like a continuous fight. The lifestyle is very expensive. I remember living in Bucharest and spending money every month on rent, utilities, and transportation for going out with my friends. On the other hand, what is missing in the countryside but is typical for urban life, are concerts, museums, and events. It's much more slow-paced in the countryside.

#### **YOU ARE ALSO ONE OF THE CO-FOUNDERS OF THE SUPPORT SERVICE LIVING COLIVING. CAN YOU EXPLAIN MORE ABOUT IT?**

The Living Coliving has now existed for a year. As a volunteer, I began understanding what the community needs to function. I naturally emerged these months as a community builder, creating offline and online activities. At the same time, I partnered up with two other women that I met in the colivings. One of them is an interior designer, so she understands space and its functionality. The other one, Africa, is very good at management. She has an overview of managing a coliving, starting from the little details like where to put on the signs, how the week should be scheduled and so on. We realised that the three of us have very distinctive knowledge that we can combine – interior design, management and community building. With Living Coliving, we want to help

others by offering our knowledge, consultancy and support on how to open a coliving space.

So, for example, if someone comes to us and wants to open a coliving, we can help them with different things. For example, what colours they should use and which values to focus on. We can support them with suggestions on decorating the space and online marketing. We can help build an online presence up to the moment when they open it.

We can organise creative weeks where we invite people from our network to live in the space for a week and afterwards collect feedback and offer practical advice based on their reviews.

*[Read the whole interview on the link](#) to learn how COVID-19 influenced her decision to live as a digital nomad, her upbringing in Romania and useful digital tools.*



# **DISCOVER THE WORLD OF DIGITAL NOMADS**



# SOIL. SEA. ICE. FIRE.

**All digital nomads have their story. The same also applies to the places where they spend their working hours, free time and social activities, where they sleep and relax. Each is special in a different way. Their story is connected to the place where they are located, to the traditions, cultural heritage and climate. They are connected with the local community. They feel their beat and their way of living.**

To easily navigate the places and their stories, we have sorted them into 4 different groups – Soil, Sea, Ice and Fire. In the first category, Soil, there are organisations and projects who connect digital nomads and other travellers to the land, to the countryside. These places are different from the places at the Sea, which have different energy associated with the coast, sun and often warmth. On the opposite side, there are places in colder, higher climates with a lot of Ice and many possibilities for skiing. And there is a Fire, a special category, where we put organisations and projects that organise retreats or communities for digital nomads in the countryside.

**Welcome to the world of digital nomads!**





# [ SOIL ]

## Anceu Coliving – a Restored Farm in Spain

Anceu is a rural coliving and coworking in a restored farmhouse in Spain. Agustín Jamardo, a founder of the space and a nomadic software engineer, opened it in 2020 after an inspiring trip to Latin America. The region of Galicia is facing depopulation and outmigration, like the rest of the European countryside. The Anceu Coliving provides the direct answer to the challenge of attracting young people (back) to the countryside.

As Anceu Coliving is located in a remote area, it's focused on sustainability, a deep connection with nature and a strong community. With ten rooms for a total of 23 colivers, they want to create a positive impact in the local community by fostering projects developed by the guests in the coliving. A big focus of their activities is working with the local community, where colivers from different parts of the world develop activities around Galicia. The Anceu Coliving has much space for flexible indoor and outdoor coworking and a strong internet connection.

Organising Rural Hackers, the Anceu Coliving provide a disruptive school in the Galicia countryside. It forms a free quality education programme with the participation of the other colivers and is aimed at the local community. The projects within the Rural Hackers are based on solving real-life problems of the local community.

The Anceu Coliving provides food from local producers and organises activities like game nights, movie nights and daily "family" dinners. Recently, the Anceu coliving, with the participation of guests or colivers, organised a local movie festival, developed a prototype of the water consumption device to measure the water in the village's houses and painted an old water deposit in the village. Together with some other organisations, they started a project, Circular Actions, where they develop projects for sustainable and regenerative growth.



### IMPACT

- Revitalisation of the village
- An educational programme (Rural Hackers) and events for the local community developed by digital nomads
- Sustainable and future-orientated technological projects aimed at the local community (e.g. Rural Makers)

### FUNDING

- private funding

### LEARN MORE

- Website: [anceu.com](http://anceu.com)
- E-mail: [hello@anceu.com](mailto:hello@anceu.com)
- Facebook: [www.facebook.com/anceu.coliving](https://www.facebook.com/anceu.coliving)
- Instagram: [www.instagram.com/anceu.coliving](https://www.instagram.com/anceu.coliving)

# 44

NOWADAYS, GALICIAN RURAL AREAS ARE BEING DEPOPULATED FOR THE LACK OF OPPORTUNITIES, SO I THOUGHT THAT A COLIVING SPACE COULD BE A WAY TO ATTRACT PEOPLE TO MOVE TO GALICIA AND CREATE NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE LOCALS.

AGUSTÍN, CO-FOUNDER



# [ SOIL ]

## Chateau Coliving – Where the Old Meets new

Chateau Coliving & Coworking inhabits an authentic 12th-century castle in Normandy, France. Here the old meets a very modern way of life, with digital nomads creating a vibrant home for everyone to work and live in.

Chateau Coliving was founded by Katia and her partner Emmanuel. After renovation, they first opened the castle as a bed and breakfast. However, this did not resonate with them; instead, they decided to fill this space with people who shared their values and way of life as a digital nomad. So back in May 2021, the Chateau Coliving started its new chapter of life, now focusing on the inclusion of all types of remote workers, individuals, families and even their pets.

The space in the castle provides the space and quietness which helps guests to concentrate on their projects. The main workspace is in a newly restored room with the functionality and comfort of a modern office. Despite that, the character and charm of the original castle are visible in every square inch of the space. The same theme also continues inside all the rooms and common areas. There's also a grand private park with many opportunities to enjoy it.

The Chateau Coliving & Coworking provides a solution for escaping busy city life and recharging in nature. It offers a sense of community, plenty of social life and fun activities to be enjoyed, from yoga classes and workouts to movie and game nights. There are French Crepes every Sunday with local jam and yoghurt, which is one of the ways how to support local businesses.



### IMPACT

- Focus on the strong community
- Supporting local businesses
- A space where people from the local area connect with digital nomads
- Hosting the event Coliving Founders Retreat 2022 for coliving spaces owners and managers

### FUNDING

- Private funding

### LEARN MORE

- Website: [chateaucoliving.com](https://chateaucoliving.com)
- E-mail: [welcome@chateaucoliving.com](mailto:welcome@chateaucoliving.com)
- Facebook: [www.facebook.com/chateaucoliving](https://www.facebook.com/chateaucoliving)
- Instagram: [www.instagram.com/chateaucoliving/](https://www.instagram.com/chateaucoliving/)

OUR GOAL IS TO BREAK THE CLICHÉS ABOUT NOBILITY AND NOMADISM ALIKE. TO PRESERVE AND SHARE THE FASCINATING HISTORY OF THIS PLACE, OUR PASSION FOR TRAVEL, AND OUR LOVE FOR ANIMALS AND NATURE IN A FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE WITH WONDERFUL PEOPLE, WITHOUT EXPECTATIONS, PRETENSIONS, OR JUDGEMENT.

KATIA  
FOUNDER





# [ SOIL ]

## Coconat Space – a retreat in a former mansion

COCONAT stands for community and concentrated work in nature. It's located in the countryside just over an hour outside Berlin, Germany. As Julianne, the founder, says, the idea for Coconat was based on the realisation that the people in the city of Berlin really yearned for the countryside but weren't willing to move permanently.

Beginning in 2012, the founding team created an idyllic place to work in the green. More than 10 years on, Coconat Coliving now offers much more than just good internet service, nice vegetarian food, and comfortable rooms. It became a part of growing international remote worker and digital nomad communities. They created networks for non-profits and contributed to numerous regional projects, like digital development projects funded by the national Smart City grant.

The original founding team also previously worked in environmental protection and sustainable tourism development. With the local communities in mind, the goal was always to develop an innovative tourism model, combining workation, coworking, coliving, and special projects focusing on rural development. Examples of these projects are COCO CABANAS, a tiny house community in nature, and COCOLAB, a maker space for rural hands-craftspeople.

Guests can choose from a large selection of accommodation options – from high-quality rooms in the historic building to the simple life of camping. It's possible to work from just about anywhere on the premises, but there are also special coworking and maker spaces. There is always something to do or experience. Guests can hike or cycle in the local forests, join the international art trail or visit a treetop path with views of the historic sanatorium.



### IMPACT

- Impact-driven company
- Developed an award-winning app for rural communities, which is being used in over 20 communities so far
- Innovative projects like COCOLAB that give strength to rural hands-craftspeople and expand the range of workation and manual work
- Longstanding working relationship with the regional tourism board

### FUNDING

- Private funds
- Income from business activities;
- Public grants

### LEARN MORE

- Website: [coconat-space.com](http://coconat-space.com)
- E-mail: [workation@coconat-space.com](mailto:workation@coconat-space.com)
- Facebook: [www.facebook.com/Workation.Retreat](https://www.facebook.com/Workation.Retreat)
- Instagram: [www.instagram.com/coconat.workation.retreat](https://www.instagram.com/coconat.workation.retreat)

# 44

WE SET UP A VERY INCLUSIVE STRUCTURE THAT ALLOWS PEOPLE OF ALL SOCIO-ECONOMIC BACKGROUNDS TO BE HERE. WE HOST PEOPLE RANGING FROM 20 TO 60 YEARS OLD AND FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.

JULIANNE BECKER  
FOUNDER



# [ SOIL ]

## ZeLLin House – a Restored House for Nomads in Bulgaria

The mission of the Nomadic UnityHub project is to bring young people closer to nature by blending urban and rural lifestyles and applying technology and social innovation. The ZeLLin House is a starting point of the Nomadic UnityHub project. In 2018, the Nomadic UnityHub team began the work process of restoring the old house to reopen it as an international coworking and coliving space for digital nomads.

The founder Tsvetina Petkova and the team created a community around the house and the project. Many locals and other people coming from different regions of Bulgaria or other countries have already joined the project. With an initiative "revive a house – build a community" it brings together the local community, entrepreneurs, and business accelerators. The team organizes events and workshops, yoga classes, jazz nights around the campfire, entrepreneurial events and much more.

The local residents joined the ZeLLin House network and became main collaborators by offering various services and products such as horse riding, painting, balloon jumping, trekking, and local food.

The Nomadic UnityHub team wants to build a network of healthy, aware, self-sufficient, connected villages and country houses in Bulgaria. Within the next 10 years, they plan to build a global village where entrepreneurs, digital nomads, startups and locals will live and work together.



### IMPACT

- A strong economic impact in the local area
- Over 100 young people from the region participated in various events and initiatives
- Growing interest in the properties around ZeLLin House
- Support from local authorities for the development of cultural tourism.
- Expected new jobs in the local community

### FUNDING

- Family personal funds
- Support from friends, volunteers and also sponsors

### LEARN MORE

- Website: [www.unityhub.co](http://www.unityhub.co)
- E-mail: [info@unityhub.co](mailto:info@unityhub.co)
- Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ZellinHouse](https://www.facebook.com/ZellinHouse)
- Instagram: [www.instagram.com/nomadic\\_unityhub](https://www.instagram.com/nomadic_unityhub)

# 44

NOW THAT ZELLIN HOUSE IS ALREADY A FACT, MORE AND MORE YOUNG PEOPLE SEE HOW IT IS POSSIBLE TO LIVE OUTSIDE THE BIG CITY, IN NATURE, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, HOW TO CREATE THE ENVIRONMENT THEY WANT TO LIVE IN.

TSVETINA PETKOVA,  
FOUNDER





# [ SOIL ]

## REC.ON – a sustainable coliving project in Andalusia

A REC.On Project is a coliving place in Andalusia, Spain, open to artists, writers, travellers and digital nomads. Based on the upcycled design, it's an inspirational place for remote work and relaxation in the pristine Spanish countryside.

Paulina and Bart, an artist and an environmental engineer, left their busy careers and hometown of Warsaw, Poland, and moved to Spain to follow their dream. They built an eco-friendly coliving residence and art gallery in the small village of Bolaimi near Velez Rubio in Andalusia. It's where they spread the values of a good, conscious life in harmony with nature and themselves.

In the 150-year-old rustic and authentic house buildings, an apartment with three rooms for up to 6 people is available, with an additional kitchen, bathroom, toilet and living room. The apartment is equipped with internet and work-friendly areas. The area around the coliving is perfect for hiking or biking. REC.On is an excellent example of sustainability, as they have a permaculture garden with vegetables and herbs (available for guests) and installation for rainwater recovery. They also harvest olives, used to produce their own ecological olive oil. The place is based on an upcycled design, so it inspires environmentally conscious visitors.

A unique place is also known as an ART & ECO hub. For over eight years, the mission of artists Paulina and Bart and their award-winning and much-loved brand REC.ON has been to inspire the creation of art that aims to build a more sustainable future. By designing applied art in the upcycling trend, they broaden the recipient's awareness, opening them to issues related not only to design but also to sustainable development (especially responsible production and consumption).



### IMPACT

- A coliving based on upcycling and sustainability
- A revitalised house in a rural area
- Young people and other guests can find a strong community of artists, digital nomads and other fellows.

### FUNDING

- Private funds
- Searching for additional support and funding

### LEARN MORE

- Website: [rec-on.es](http://rec-on.es)
- E-mail: [contact@rec-on.eu](mailto:contact@rec-on.eu)
- Facebook: [www.facebook.com/rec.on.spain](https://www.facebook.com/rec.on.spain)
- Instagram: [www.instagram.com/rec.on\\_spain](https://www.instagram.com/rec.on_spain)

WE LIVE BY OUR OWN RULES, CREATE OUR LIFE AND WANT TO SHARE IT WITH OTHERS. WE HAVE A MISSION TO SPREAD THE VALUES OF A GOOD, CONSCIOUS LIFE IN HARMONY WITH NATURE AND OURSELVES. UPCYCLING LIFE IS A WAY OF LIFE, A HAPPY LIFE.

PAULINA BIELECKA,  
CO-FOUNDER



# [ SOIL ]

## SENDE – a Sustainable Coliving in Spain

Sende is a rural coworking and coliving space hidden in the Spanish mountains, on the border with Portugal. Inside a village Senderiz with 20 inhabitants, an old house has been rebuilt and remodelled into spaces where young creators (designers, writers, thinkers, illustrators, web developers, project writers and project evaluators, coders, entrepreneurs) and digital nomads live and work on their projects.

The project started in 2013 after Edo Sadiković visited a rural village and realized that the winning formula is in connecting digital nomads, village life and speedy internet. He established a coliving space in the Spanish village Senderiz.

SENDE currently hosts and organises between four and eight Erasmus+ projects per year. These training courses support the transfer of their knowledge and skills to the youth sector and also work in the opposite way. When SENDE guests are not working, they enjoy the small things in life, such as cooking and having dinner together, holding long conversations, jogging, trekking, or hiking while enjoying the Galician rural countryside, visiting small local markets and nearby villages, including the natural park Xurés.

As they want to promote a sustainable approach to the local community, they work with and support 2 local restaurants, cafés, a shop, a bakery, a local construction company and a school. The guests in the coliving use local products and develop initiatives with all 20 neighbours in the village. Together with the local school and the Youth Peace Ambassadors Network, they organised a conflict transformation event where students from 18 countries visited the local school and did 4 workshops with local students. SENDE also ran a two-day hackathon for refugees where programmers, activists, journalists, lawyers, students, youth workers and NGO professionals gave birth to innovative solutions to help refugees.

As SENDE has proven to be a sustainable small business, SENDE 2 is being built in Portugal, in a village near Setubal.



### IMPACT

- One of the first coliving projects worldwide, running since 2013!
- Numerous projects involving youth workers, digital nomads and the local community (including Erasmus+ grants)
- More than 4000 people from 59 countries have stayed at SENDE.
- Currently building the second facility in Portugal

### FUNDING

- Privately funded
- Erasmus+ projects

### LEARN MORE

- Website: [www.sende.co](http://www.sende.co)
- E-mail: [contact@sende.co](mailto:contact@sende.co)
- Facebook: [www.facebook.com/Senderiz](https://www.facebook.com/Senderiz)
- Instagram: [www.instagram.com/sende](https://www.instagram.com/sende)

# 44

IN THE VILLAGE, WE SIT TOGETHER UNDER ONE LIGHT, WHILE IN THE CITY, PEOPLE ARE SURROUNDED BY THOUSANDS OF BLINDING LIGHTS.

EDO SADIKOVIĆ,  
FOUNDER





# [ SOIL ]

## Sonta Coliving – a Retreat in Serbia

Sonta Coliving is a small coliving, located in the Serbian countryside. The village of Sonta lies near the Danube River and is part of a larger area, rich in various cultures, peoples and nationalities. Nikola Dobrijević has been a part of the Centre for culture and education Sonta for years, constantly helping in the community. Recently, an organisation has expanded work by launching a new coliving space.

The idea of a shared space where people could live, socialise and work next to each other had been in Nikola's head since he was a kid. It's how he imagined his own house to be one day and when he bought a riverfront house on the Danube at the start of the pandemic, he realised the idea's potential again.

Despite being in the pilot phase, Sonta Coliving is already bringing together digital nomads, remote workers, NGO activists, artists and people with other potentials. The focus of their work remains on projects related to reconciliation, interculturalism and community development.

The coliving is expected to open at full capacity in May 2023, offering an alternative, a quiet place to work in nature, away from the city crowds. Nikola points out that if your job does not tie you to a location, the countryside can be a much better option than the city, with a cheaper cost of living, lack of competition for starting a new business and easier access to many local things. Besides all the standards of coliving and coworking spaces, Sonta Coliving also organises events and trips to the Danube River, activities with cooking, hanging out and business support. They are also engaged in agricultural activities, growing fruit in their orchard, producing wine and brandy, and living a sustainable life.



### IMPACT

- Engaged in local agricultural activities, supporting a sustainable lifestyle
- Projects related to reconciliation, interculturalism and community development
- Reducing the consequences of emigration from the area

### FUNDING

- Expected income from the business activities

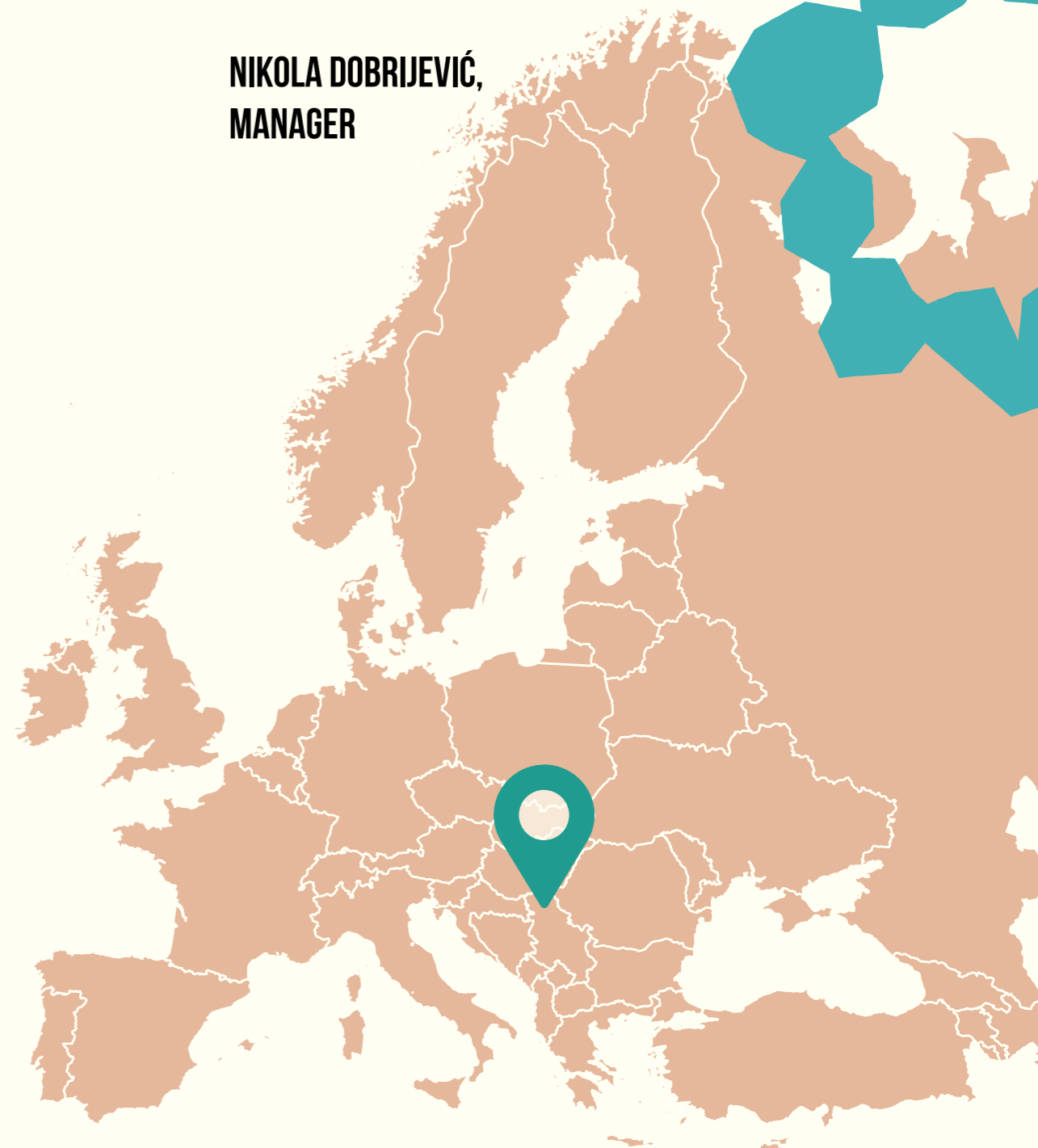
### LEARN MORE

- Website: [sontacoliving.com](https://sontacoliving.com)
- E-mail: [come2us@sontacoliving.com](mailto:come2us@sontacoliving.com)
- Facebook: [www.facebook.com/sonta.coliving](https://www.facebook.com/sonta.coliving)
- Instagram: [www.instagram.com/sonta.coliving](https://www.instagram.com/sonta.coliving)

# 44

WE SHOULD OFFER DIGITAL NOMADS SOMETHING ELSE BESIDES SPACE. THERE ARE EVENTS AND PLACES TO VISIT, GOOD LOCAL FOOD, A COMMUNITY OF PEOPLE WHO ENJOY SIMILAR THINGS AND MANY OPTIONS FOR QUALITY FREE TIME. ALL THIS IS IMPORTANT FOR A GOOD LIFE.

**NIKOLA DOBRIJEVIĆ,  
MANAGER**



# [ SOIL ]

## Tursi Digital Nomads – Smart Working in Italy

Tursi Digital Nomads is a project run by a non-profit association which offers a rural experience in the countryside of Basilicata (Italy).

Two years ago, Salvatore Gulfo decided to do something to dynamise the village of Tursi, with 4000 inhabitants. The project focuses on digital nomads who are searching for a place in the Italian countryside. With support from Kino, they have implemented an initiative which attracted 20 digital nomads in the summer months of 2022, carrying out workshops, meeting young people and experiencing the real Mediterranean lifestyle. For the rest of the year, Tursi Digital Nomad is a rural lab, preparing social and cultural projects with associations throughout Italy.

Their coworking space is an old monastery with the best views of the valley and the village. As it is located in the historic old centre, digital nomads can find anything they need nearby and enjoy the peace and quietness of the monastery, far from traffic, noise and urban pollution. On top of this strong community bond, they can trek the majestic calanques mountain, discover Pollino national park with its ancient pine trees or bathe in the spectacular Maratea beaches.

If your dream is to live "la dolce vita", the slow pace of countryside life, long nights under the stars, dinners around a bonfire or learning how to cook handmade pizza, Tursi Digital Nomads is happy to welcome you with a warm smile.



### IMPACT

- Social, educational workshops between digital nomads and the young local community
- Revaluating abandoned historical places to host young digital nomads
- In the summer of 2022, a community of 20 digital nomads stayed for 2 months
- 100% Italian experience

### FUNDING

- private funding
- A governmental lease for the coworking premises

### LEARN MORE

- Website: [www.tursidigitalnomads.com](http://www.tursidigitalnomads.com)
- E-mail: [tursidigitalnomads@gmail.com](mailto:tursidigitalnomads@gmail.com)
- Facebook: [www.facebook.com/tursidigitalnomads](https://www.facebook.com/tursidigitalnomads)
- Instagram: [www.instagram.com/tursidigitalnomads](https://www.instagram.com/tursidigitalnomads)

# 44

WE WANT DIGITAL NOMADS TO EXPERIENCE FIRST-HAND LIVING IN ITALY AND SEEING THEIR SOCIAL IMPACT IN THE COMMUNITY.

SALVATORE GULFO,  
FOUNDER





# [ SEA ]

## Burgas Coliving – a Community on the Black Sea Coast

"Burgas Coliving & Coworking" is a small family project that has been actively working since June 2022. It is located in the village of Vetren, 15 km from the beautiful city of Burgas on the Black Sea. The area is one of the oldest Bulgarian spa resorts with natural hot mineral healing water dating back more than 2500 years ago.

The founders are Katya Dimitrova, an urbanist and hobby cook, interested in yoga, spirituality and mental health, and Tony Penchev, a craft beer producer. They were inspired by several existing co-living spaces around the world and the opportunity they saw to meet and spend their free time with people from all over the world. So, they decided to invite the world to them.

"Burgas Coliving & Coworking" offers all the necessary amenities for a long-term stay of digital nomads in the countryside, including rooms for yoga, gymnastics, solitude and meditation. There is also a small winery where tastings of Bulgarian wines and products are organised. Since its inception, local artists and arts organisations have supported Burgas Coliving & Coworking by donating many paintings and art installations. They also participate in collaborative events where digital nomads and local artists draw and create together.

Digital nomads also have plenty of opportunities to make the most of their free time outdoors. The BC&C team enjoys strong support from local residents and the local government. They collaborate with them in organising events connecting digital nomads and the local population, showcasing the area and the lives of people travelling and working remotely.



### IMPACT

- Several new jobs for young and enterprising local people
- Revitalization of the area and popularisation of the Burgas mineral baths as an international tourist destination
- The overall infrastructure for remote work in the town has improved significantly

### FUNDING

- Personal funds

### LEARN MORE

- Website: [burgascoliving.com](http://burgascoliving.com)
- E-mail: [info@burgascoliving.com](mailto:info@burgascoliving.com)
- Facebook: [www.facebook.com/burgascoliving](https://www.facebook.com/burgascoliving)
- Instagram: [www.instagram.com/burgas.coliving](https://www.instagram.com/burgas.coliving)

COLIVING LIFE, ESPECIALLY RURAL COLIVING, IS SOMETHING LIKE UMAMI IN COOKING - MANY INGREDIENTS, COLOUR, MANY DIFFERENT SENSATIONS, TASTES, AFTERTASTES, EMOTIONS, PASSION, LAUGHTER, TEARS, WORK, FUN, RELAXATION... AND ALL THIS - IN PERFECT BALANCE.

KATYA DIMITROVA,  
FOUNDER



# [ SEA ]

## La Cocotera – a Coliving with Many Activities

La Cocotera is a multifaceted project for young digital nomads in Tarifa, a coastal village in Spain famous for surfing. It started as a pioneer project for digital nomads in Spain back in 2014 and has been a successful role model for start-up businesses ever since.

They offer a coworking space that caters for different needs and a coliving space for a maximum of 28 people. All the facilities are adapted for people with reduced mobility, and they accept pets. It is also suitable for people living and travelling in a motorhome or caravan with laundry service, kitchen use and showers.

La Cocotera manages activities not only for their guests but also for the local community. They offer different educational and training programs and organise events, sports activities (i.e. Kite-surfing), workshops and seminars with a wide range of topics, such as entrepreneurship, how to become a DJ, public speaking or coaching for start-ups. After eight years of experience in the field, they have also created an app with information about the cultural offer in Tarifa.

La Cocotera coworking space was conceived as a favourable space for co-creation and collaboration ever since its beginning in 2014. A rural lab was established based on the Participatory Action Research (PAR) strategy. In the social innovation lab, they deal with present local challenges and develop innovative collective actions that engage everyone in the community.



### IMPACT

- One of the first coworking hostels in Europe
- Personalised service (every digital nomad matters)
- A strong network of former and present digital nomads – Cocoworkers
- Developing an app with information on the local area for digital nomads – COCOGUÍA
- An award for the most innovative cooperative in Cadiz region (2018)

### FUNDING

- Private funding
- Crowdfunding
- European Regional Development Fund

### LEARN MORE

- Website: [www.lacocotera.com](http://www.lacocotera.com)
- E-mail: [hola@lacocotera.com](mailto:hola@lacocotera.com)
- Facebook: [www.facebook.com/cocoteratarifa](https://www.facebook.com/cocoteratarifa)
- Instagram: [www.instagram.com/lacocotera](https://www.instagram.com/lacocotera)

# 44

YOUNG PEOPLE NOWADAYS ARE NOT GOING TO ACCEPT UNFAIR SACRIFICES. THIS WILL BRING OUT A REVOLUTION WHERE DIGITAL NOMADISM APPEARS AS A VIABLE WORKING SOLUTION TO LIVE UP TO THIS CHALLENGE.

MARINA PABÓN AND VERÓNICA TRIVIÑO,  
CO-FOUNDERS





# [ SEA ]

## Digital Nomads Madeira Islands – Work from the Ocean or the Mountains

Digital Nomads Madeira Islands is an initiative developed by the Regional Government of Madeira through Startup Madeira, and the expert digital nomad and consultant Gonçalo Hall. Created during COVID, it was an opportunity for the region to be the pioneer and make a difference in a fast-growing market niche.

According to Micaela Vieira, project manager at Startup Madeira, the aim was always to build bridges not only inside of the island but also internationally. The foundations for the current project, Startup Madeira, started 26 years ago, in 1997. Acts as a facilitating entity and contact point of the regional entrepreneur ecosystem, supporting the creation and development of entrepreneurial projects with innovating potential. Besides supporting local entrepreneurs and companies, over the last years, Startup Madeira has been working on the development of international projects in the areas of Blue Economy and Tourism, having inclusively developed a program to promote Madeira as a digital nomads destination: Digital Nomads Madeira Islands. Starting in 2021, the pilot project will continue until 2024, but already the numbers are an impressive indicator of its success. As of the end of November 2022, the project counts over 14000 registrations from 130 countries and welcomed at least 7500 digital nomads.

The success of the initiative is based on identifying the needs of digital nomads, adapting products and services to their requirements, and in the process involving the community in different sectors. It focuses on five locations on the Madeira Islands so that digital nomads can choose where they would like to stay, depending on their lifestyle. The shining star of the pilot project is a Digital Nomad Village at Ponta do Sol, where they aim to blend digital nomads with the local businesses and Ponta do Sol inhabitants, turning it into a community of people that will have a strong positive impact on Madeira, both socially and economically. The connections that form between people from different countries and cultures, but also with the local population of the island, will have an everlasting effect. Then there is the financial impact of the initiative, which cannot be overlooked. Per average, the project welcomes 1000 people per month, which means 1,5 million euros per month. Once again, the numbers prove the value of the project for the Madeira islands.



### IMPACT

- Since February 2021, the islands hosted 8500 digital nomads;
- More than 15 600 registrations from 136 countries;
- 5 locations on Madeira and Porto Santo islands.

### FUNDING

- Regional Government of Madeira

### LEARN MORE

- Website: [digitalnomads.startupmadeira.eu](https://digitalnomads.startupmadeira.eu)
- E-mail: [info@digitalnomads.startupmadeira.eu](mailto:info@digitalnomads.startupmadeira.eu)
- Facebook: [www.facebook.com/DigitalNomadsMadeiraIslandsOfficial](https://www.facebook.com/DigitalNomadsMadeiraIslandsOfficial)
- Instagram: [www.instagram.com/digitalnomadsmadeira](https://www.instagram.com/digitalnomadsmadeira)

THERE ARE DIGITAL NOMADS WHO CHOOSE TO BE IN THE CITY WHERE THEY HAVE ACCESS TO ALL KINDS OF SERVICES AND SOCIAL LIFE. HOWEVER, THERE ARE MANY OF THEM (MOSTLY THE YOUNGER ONES) WHO, ON THE OTHER HAND, PREFER TO BE IN AN AREA SURROUNDED BY NATURE WHERE THEY HAVE THE TRANQUILLITY TO WORK WITH NO DISTRACTIONS.

MICAELA VIEIRA,  
PROJECT MANAGER



# [ SEA ]

## EVOLVE – a Flagship for Digital Nomads in Malta

EVOLVE Coliving Malta is an important flagship for digital nomads, just a few kilometres away from La Valetta. Run by Matt and Ola, Evolve Coliving Malta was opened in 2016.

The idea for opening a coliving space emerged a year prior on a trip to Canada when Matt and Ola ran out of money and options for accommodation in Whistler, a famous snowboarding mountain. With crazy expensive accommodation in the area, they risked it all and started to re-rent a large property for other travellers. Back then, it wasn't called coliving, but they instantly fell in love with the concept of what we know now as Evolve Coliving.

Apart from the warmth of the Mediterranean climate and the possibility of going on catamaran tours, Evolve Coliving aims to connect digital nomads with the locals to share a bonding experience for a lifetime.

The programme has different accommodation coliving spaces, but the crown jewel is the headquarters, also known as «The White House». Coworking premises are tailored towards digital nomads and remote workers, offering everything from a fun environment to fully equipped office spaces. The common areas include board games, an open fireplace, table tennis, a large garden, a pool, barbeque, a swimming pool, a gym and a rooftop jacuzzi! Apart from this, there are also organised community escapades in the three islands.



### IMPACT

- Many young entrepreneurs found out about Malta
- 5 fully furnished coliving homes
- Hosted over 1000 digital nomads over the past five years.

### FUNDING

- Private funding

### LEARN MORE

- Website: [evolvecoliving.io](http://evolvecoliving.io)
- E-mail: [findyourtribe@evolvecoliving.io](mailto:findyourtribe@evolvecoliving.io)
- Facebook: [www.facebook.com/EVOLVEcoworklive](https://www.facebook.com/EVOLVEcoworklive)
- Instagram: [www.instagram.com/evolve.coliving.malta](https://www.instagram.com/evolve.coliving.malta)

# 44

WE HAVE ATTRACTED SEVERAL YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS TO MALTA; SOME TELL US THEY FIRST FOUND EVOLVE AND DISCOVERED MALTA ONLY THEN. THIS IS A HUGE STATEMENT FOR US, AS IT SHOWS THE POWER OF COMMUNITY, WHAT WE ARE DOING, AND THE REAL AND TANGIBLE PULL IT HAS.

MATT,  
CO-FOUNDER





# [ SEA ]

## Project Bay – Workation in Northern Germany

“Project Bay” is an exciting “workation” space, offering a co-working living space for digital nomads, freelancers, entrepreneurs and creative people. It is the first coworking living space in northern Germany, located on the island of Rügen in the Baltic Sea, near the beach.

It was founded by two local entrepreneurs, Hannes Tretin and Toni Gurski, in July 2020. As a workplace, it is fantastic and flexible for work and relaxation, right on the water, with a great beach on the doorstep and amazing sunsets in the evening. On top of that, it has perfect transport connections and allows uncomplicated arrival from all over Germany by train or car.

At Project Bay, communicating with like-minded people from all fields over a hot cappuccino or cold soda is a great networking opportunity. Here, digital nomads can work early in the morning, for example, to make use of the most productive hours of the day and then reward themselves with a nature bike tour on the Baltic Sea coast or in a national park in the afternoon. Also, they can play beach volleyball and, in the evening, fire up the grill on the beach.

The co-working living space has modernly furnished shared bathrooms and a fully equipped shared kitchen with a stove, microwave, dishwasher, refrigerator etc., for joint cooking. The living and communal areas have a table tennis table, game consoles, living area, outdoor seating area, BBQ area and much more.

The goal of the founders of “Project Bay” is for the visitors and members to thrive in exchange and togetherness. They also provide an accelerator programme, The Founders Bay, which takes twice a year, and the Maker Space, a community workshop for everyone. Children and young people can take part in the CoderDojo, an education programme in the IT field.



### IMPACT

- Active contribution to shaping the future of the rural area, providing opportunities to motivate people to implement business ideas outside of metropolitan areas
- Opportunities for exchange among like-minded people

### FUNDING

- Mainly private capital with a small amount of state support

### LEARN MORE

- Website: [project-bay-coworking.de/](http://project-bay-coworking.de/)
- E-mail: [info@project-bay.de](mailto:info@project-bay.de)
- Facebook: [www.facebook.com/projectbaycoworking](https://www.facebook.com/projectbaycoworking)
- Instagram: [www.instagram.com/projectbaycoworking](https://www.instagram.com/projectbaycoworking)
- LinkedIn: [www.linkedin.com/company/project-bay](https://www.linkedin.com/company/project-bay)

# 44

A SUPPOSEDLY STRUCTURALLY WEAK RURAL REGION CAN BECOME A TECHNOLOGY HOTSPOT THROUGH THE SHIFT TO DIGITALISATION AND THUS LOSE ITS IMAGE AS A PURELY AGRICULTURAL AND TOURISTIC REGION.

TONI GURSKI,  
CO-FOUNDER



# [ SEA ]

## Remote East Coasters – a community transforming Machico

The community, known today as Remote East Coasters, was established by Dina Freitas, community manager and founder of the coworking space Amparo Machico. Her vision was simple, to spotlight Machico and create a network of locals, digital nomads, travellers, and remote workers who choose Madeira's East Coast as a home.

Machico is located at the landing point of the Madeira Islands. It still shows glimpses of its rich past, representing the start of the Portuguese era of discoveries. However, nowadays, it's getting recognised increasingly as a surfer's paradise, welcoming travellers from all over the world. "Machico used to attract specific groups of retired travellers", says Dina, "but all of that has changed since the idea for a Digital Nomad Village emerged".

Dina thought, "Why don't we invite digital nomads to Machico?". The town has all the essentials but stands out with its low-key vibe. Dina wanted to share her town's beauty, but most of all, she wanted to create something that would provide a positive impact on the local community. She found support from the municipality in the form of a free venue for the workspace, a place for hangouts, workshops and events.

As the project started during the Covid-19 pandemic, the beginnings were full of challenges, but the community soon started to thrive. Digital nomads from different parts of the world found a new home on the island, connecting with the local community. Even local Madeiran digital nomads started to show up as well. Today, local and international digital nomads work together for a good impact, often joining for volunteering actions like beach clean-ups and other ventures that bring the town together.



### IMPACT

- A new and different wave of visitors in Machico
- Free workspace at Amparo Machico, accessible for all
- Strong connection with the local community
- Ability to live a car-free life close to the beach and the mountains

### FUNDING

- Local authorities and donations

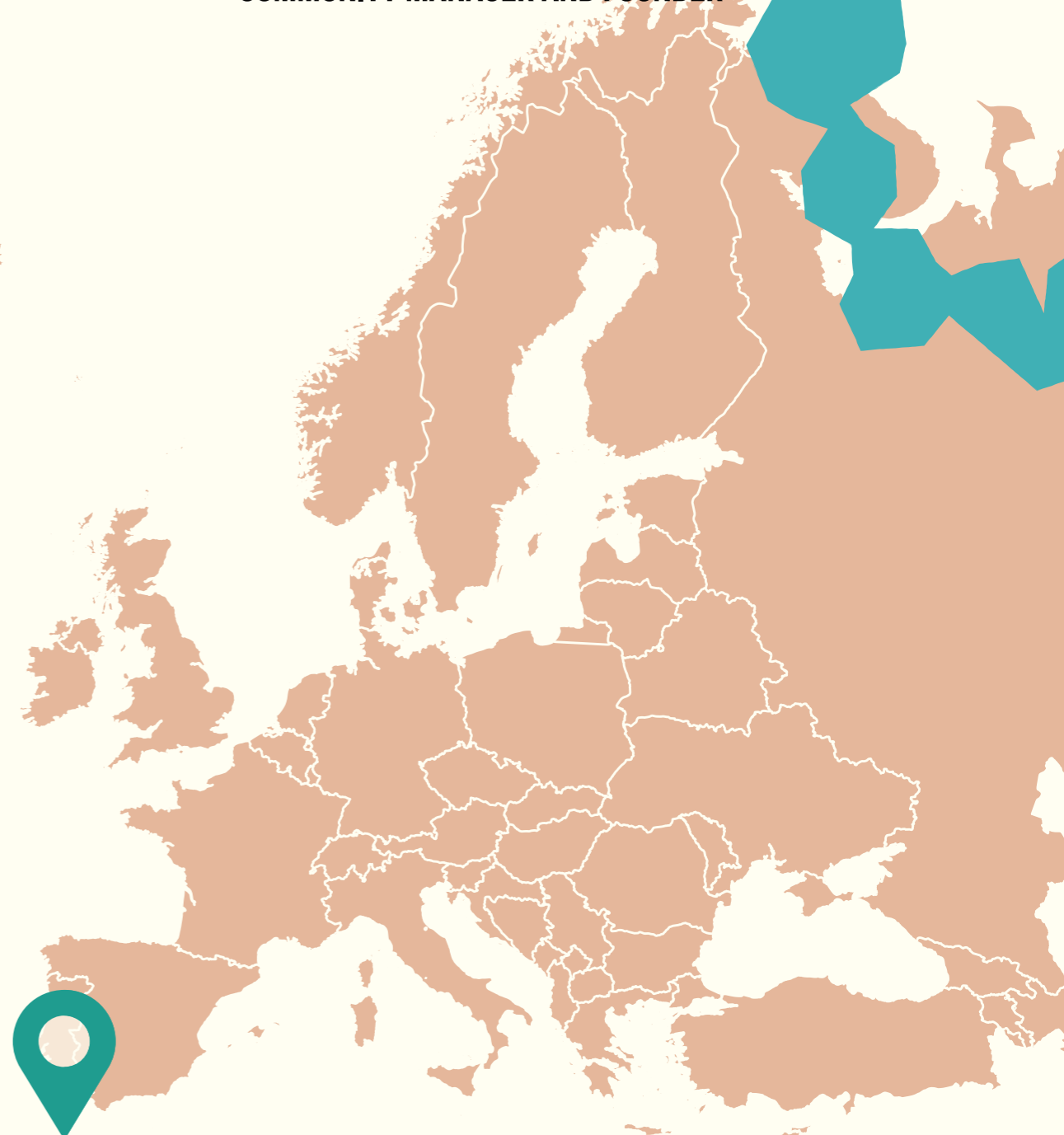
### LEARN MORE

- Website: [www.madeiraeastcoasters.com](http://www.madeiraeastcoasters.com)
- E-mail: [team.remoteeastcoasters@gmail.com](mailto:team.remoteeastcoasters@gmail.com)
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100083068373438>
- Instagram: [www.instagram.com/remoteeastcoasters](http://www.instagram.com/remoteeastcoasters)

# 44

THIS PROJECT OPENED UP A NEW AND FRESH TARGET GROUP OF VISITORS. A DEFINITE, CREATIVE, CARING, SMART AND ADVENTUROUS YOUNGER GENERATION, AT LEAST YOUNGER AT HEART.

DINA FREITAS,  
COMMUNITY MANAGER AND FOUNDER





# [ SEA ]

## Sun & Co. – work smarter and live better

The Sun & Co. coliving is located in the charming town of Jávea, with many sandy beaches, turquoise waters and the possibility to do sailing, surfing or scuba-diving at reach.

This coliving came into existence in 2015, when Edu, the founder, decided to completely refurbish his grandparent's house and give it a new life so that its walls may hear many new stories. It has a special focus on personal and professional growth, bringing together a diverse group of like-minded remote workers to connect and grow together, each at their pace.

The coworking space provides 3 professional events every week. The topics are varied from personal finance, branding, mental health, public speaking, social issues, marketing, sustainability, etc. There are also community meetings weekly, with a special highlight on Wednesdays with a dinner together. In 2022, they organised over 120 professional events, 240 social events and 19 masterminds! Sun & Co. also offers board games night, hiking trips, meet-ups for free, or even learning Spanish in 1-1 lessons for a reasonable price at a partner language school. The sense of community is also very important, since many locals participate in their activities.

The Sun & Co. Coliving also provides team retreats for corporations. Sun & Co's latest creation is the community pass, which is perfect for those who want to have the comfort of staying in their own apartment or a villa in Jávea but still have access to the Sun and Co. Community, including new coworking space and community events. The coliving is also a part of the Liwoto project, which unites similar colivings with a special focus on the unique approach to the guests.



### IMPACT

- 2 international awards: Best Coliving Community & User Experience in 2021 and the best Coliving for Digital Nomads in 2022 at the Coliving Awards
- A Sun & Co pop-up event in the Basque country in Spring
- LIWOTO (a collective community initiative from different high-quality Coliving spaces: Nine, SENDE, Sundesk and Sun&Co)
- 7 editions of Pechakuxa nights: 6-minute-and-40-seconds talks on innovative and interesting topics

### FUNDING

- Private capital with extra sources of income from members, events and community pass

### LEARN MORE

- Website: [sun-and-co.com](http://sun-and-co.com)
- E-mail: [info@sun-and-co.com](mailto:info@sun-and-co.com)
- Facebook: [www.facebook.com/sunandcojavea](https://www.facebook.com/sunandcojavea)
- Instagram: [www.instagram.com/sunandco\\_javea](https://www.instagram.com/sunandco_javea)

# 44

COMMUNITY IS BUILT WHEN YOU GIVE, NOT EXPECTING ANYTHING IN RETURN.

FERNANDO MANZANARES,  
HEAD HOST



# [ ICE ]

## Arctic Coworking Lodge – an Outdoor Paradise in Norway

Arctic Coworking Lodge is a coliving and coworking space located on the beautiful and quite unique arctic islands of Lofoten in Norway. It is a true Nordic experience for digital nomads who love to explore and discover new and exciting places. It's somewhat of an adventure to reach Arctic Coworking Lodge, but once there, digital nomads can enjoy the togetherness of the most awesome community of creative and adventurous individuals.

The founders of Arctic Coworking Lodge are Rolf Oftedal and Stian Morel, young people and friends from school, who love nature, adventure and travel. When they first arrived in Lofoten four years ago, they were amazed by the energy and beauty of the place. Inspired by the nature, they decided to stay in Lofoten and start a business.

In 2018, Rolf and Stian started building Arctic Coworking Lodge as a comfortable and inspiring environment for digital nomads to live and work – an open living space, kitchen, social coworking area, quiet area with separate desks and monitors, super-fast WiFi, private rooms, etc. Both are absolutely dedicated to the idea of digital nomadism and its values, so they created the Arctic Coworking Lodge as a social space where dreams are shared, adventures are planned, and everyone can recharge their research batteries. They also started to cooperate with other coworking places and local people and organizations.

The combination of mountain and water allows for various activities, such as hiking, skiing, and surfing. The turquoise fjords stretch right outside the kitchen window of the Arctic Coworking Lodge, and in the evening, everyone from the community gathers around the fire on the shore.



Photo: Bourke Steer

### IMPACT

- Perfect place for discussion on ecological and social topics among young people
- Creating new ideas together with the local community
- More and more young people want to stay longer in Lofoten or even live there

### FUNDING

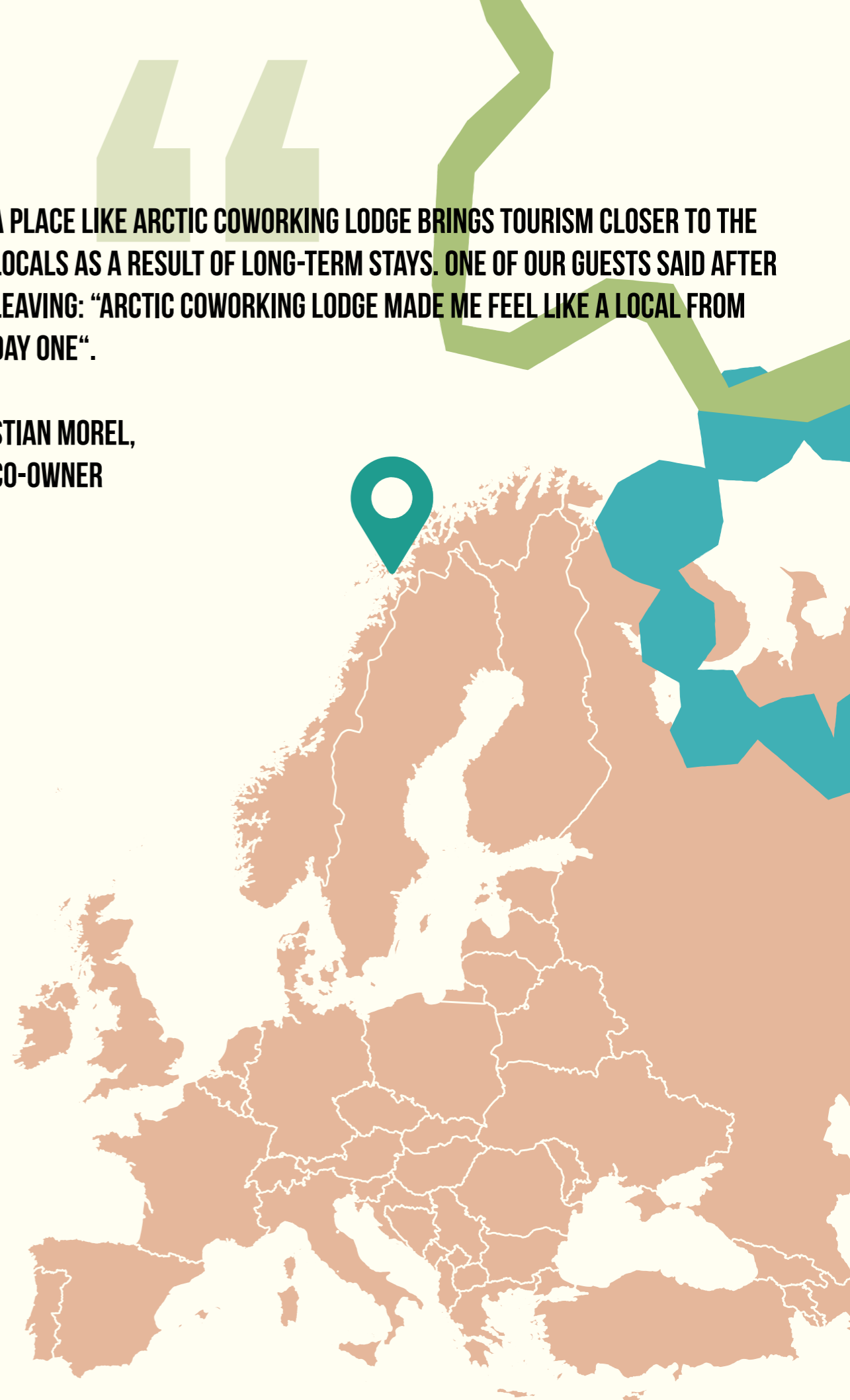
- private money

### LEARN MORE

- Website: [www.arcticcoworking.com](http://www.arcticcoworking.com)
- Instagram: [www.instagram.com/arcticcoworkinglodge](https://www.instagram.com/arcticcoworkinglodge)

A PLACE LIKE ARCTIC COWORKING LODGE BRINGS TOURISM CLOSER TO THE LOCALS AS A RESULT OF LONG-TERM STAYS. ONE OF OUR GUESTS SAID AFTER LEAVING: "ARCTIC COWORKING LODGE MADE ME FEEL LIKE A LOCAL FROM DAY ONE".

STIAN MOREL,  
CO-OWNER





# [ ICE ]

## Coliving.frilingue – Coliving Spaces in the Mountains

There are different ways to start a new coliving and coworking space. For example, Philipp Alexander Weber, the co-founder of Coliving.frilingue saw an opportunity to expand their language camp business in Liddes, Switzerland. The camp only operates during the summer, but they wanted to share their amazing spaces all year round. To Philipp, it seemed such a waste to leave the beds empty for the rest of the year, and the results of that are really something!

Today, Coliving.frilingue has three locations in Switzerland in the region of Saint Bernard and another in the mountains of Bansko, Bulgaria. For a totally different type of environment, they also offer a coliving space on the coast of Montenegro. With diverse locations, you can, of course, get different kinds of accommodation and coworking spaces to suit your needs.

Throughout the year they arrange special workations, where they meet up and bring together a bigger crowd (up to 35 people!). During these events, they dedicate themselves to creating a special feeling of togetherness as it is an opportunity to really connect with a group of like-minded people. There's also a Content Creator Week, formed with the intention of collaborating with nomads and exploring the region with them. All year round, Coliving.frilingue offers positions for community managers in exchange for benefits like free accommodation, food, and a ski pass. There are different volunteer roles, so that young talents can share their knowledge and passions and arrange different projects for the community. Any skill is welcome at the Coliving.frilingue.

It may have started with the intention to take advantage of their excellent premises, but Coliving.frilingue is now a vibrant place meant for guests to connect and experience new things. Primarily their aim was to host international nomads however they're trying to get involved with local Swiss nomads and build the community even further.



### IMPACT

- A network of coliving spaces in Switzerland, Bulgaria and Montenegro
- Offering a range of opportunities to work at the coliving spaces
- Connecting international and local Swiss digital nomads

### FUNDING

- Private funding

### LEARN MORE

- Website: <https://coliving.frilingue.ch/>
- E-mail: [coliving@frilingue.ch](mailto:coliving@frilingue.ch)
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/coliving.frilingue.community>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/coliving.frilingue/>

# 44

INITIALLY, WE ONLY ORGANISED SUMMER LANGUAGE CAMPS, BUT DURING THE LOW SEASON PERIOD, WE HAD A LOT OF FREE BEDS AND FELT THAT DOING SOMETHING WITH THE DIGITAL NOMADS WOULD BE FUN AND BRING US A NEW WAVE OF ENERGY.

PHILIPP ALEXANDER WEBER,  
CO-FOUNDER



# [ ICE ]

## Franz & Mathilde – a Retreat in the Middle of the Dolomites

Hidden in a small village in the middle of Southern Tyrol, Italy, Sarah and Philipp opened their doors to digital nomads from around the world in what used to be a family-run hotel. It's where the coliving and workation retreat also gets its name, Franz & Mathilde, from. The names belong to Sarah's grandparents, who ran the hotel from the 1960s.

Wanting to preserve the family's tradition, Sarah and Philipp saw an opportunity to reopen the hotel again now as the first coliving and workation retreat in South Tyrol. "You know that the place has a rich history", says Philipp, "when you learn that the reservations for the hotel used to come by regular post". The initial wish was only to revive the family's hotel. In the end, they created a place where like-minded people could together exchange ideas, work and experience new adventures.

Today, they offer different types of accommodation, fresh vegan and vegetarian breakfasts and an open place at the table, joining local and nomad communities. In the coworking space, Sarah and Philipp decided to implement the "pay what you want" concept and to open their doors to everyone. It amplifies their ideal of letting everyone work as they think it's best for them in a fair and just environment.

The place lies in the middle of the Dolomite mountains and offers easy access to nature, where you can be active year-round. Whether you want to hike, ski or discover historical villages, you will find something for you. And as the Italians like to say, it really is la dolce vita or the sweet life – now for the digital nomads, living and working from this beautiful retreat in the village of Tisens, Italy.



### IMPACT

- Reviving a family-run hotel
- Creating an "open-door policy" in the new coworking space
- Open for visitors and local digital nomads

### FUNDING

- Private funding

### LEARN MORE

- Website: <https://franzundmathilde.com/>
- E-mail: [info@franzundmathilde.com](mailto:info@franzundmathilde.com)
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/franzundmathilde>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/franz.mathilde/>

# 44

YOU KNOW THAT THE PLACE HAS A RICH HISTORY WHEN YOU LEARN THAT THE RESERVATIONS FOR THE HOTEL USED TO COME BY REGULAR POST.

PHILIPP,  
CO-FOUNDER





# [ ICE ]

## Gomarduli Dao Space – Coliving and Coworking in Georgia

Gomarduli Dao Space is a retreat, educational centre, international coliving and coworking located among the picturesque mountains of Gomarduli, Western Georgia. Founded by Ukrainian Yevhen Vovk, it's an international community and a meeting point for people from the entire world.

Yeven's deep relationship with Gomarduli began when he organised an international festival of contact improvisation there. After the festival, the owners of the place offered him to run the retreat. Sensing the potential and wanting to fulfil his long-time dream of creating a space to connect with ourselves and others, Yeven began to bring to life an idea of Gomarduli as an ark. Being 60 km from the sea and the closest city, the area has always been a safe place to live through turbulent times. Over the years, it has proven itself as a place of refuge for people in times of pandemics, wars and world turbulence.

Today, people come to Gomarduli Dao Space to connect with themselves, to be present, and to meet people close in spirit. The isolation provides a profound silence, the water is pure, and the air is fresh. Here, people can experience an alternative way of life. They begin gravitating towards living in nature, working online, and finding a better work-life balance. Staying in wooden rooms, eating healthy food, enjoying a sauna, meditating, practising yoga and tai chi, participating in tea ceremonies, and experiencing contact improvisation and bodywork are all things that improve your stay in Gomarduli. The connection to the whole environment continues with locals as well.



### IMPACT

- Creating jobs for locals at the retreat, buying natural food from the village
- Providing free treatments for seniors and education for children
- Hosting events like Silent or Tai Chi Retreats, lessons in contact improvisation and yoga, etc.

### FUNDING

- private funding (from hotel and retreat centre, activities, projects)
- looking to expand by applying for grants and soliciting donations from individuals

### LEARN MORE

- Website: [gomarduli.life](http://gomarduli.life)
- E-mail: [gomardulilife@gmail.com](mailto:gomardulilife@gmail.com)
- Facebook: [www.facebook.com/gomarduligarden](https://www.facebook.com/gomarduligarden)
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/gomarduli>

PEOPLE COME TO A RETREAT DRIVEN BY CURIOSITY OR THE DESIRE TO REST. AS THEY LEARN NEW PRACTICES, THEIR IDENTITY CHANGES, THEY BECOME MORE SENSITIVE, AND THE PHYSICAL SENSE OF REALITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT BECOMES AN IMPORTANT GUIDE AND A DECISION-MAKING FACTOR.

YEVHEN VOVK,  
CEO AND FOUNDER





# [ FIRE ]

## KINO – Bringing Remote Work Communities to the Hidden Gems of Italy

Kino is a project founded by Serena Chironna and Andrea Mammoliti. After years of living in multicultural cities, they decided to bring more diversity to their country by developing remote work communities in Italy's hidden gems. Although Italy is known as a tourist destination, there is a lack of space for digital nomads and remote workers, especially in the rural villages, facing the outmigration of young people.

For Serena and Andrea, a strong local community is crucial for developing their activities. In 2022, they launched two pilot projects, starting from the village of Tursi (region of Basilicata) in June, followed by a second one last October in Santa Fiora, Tuscany. They will expand their activities this year, starting in March, in Ostuni (Apulia region) and continuing with four more destinations over the course of 2023.

They focus on community building, not just within the digital nomads' group but also with the local community. During their stay in the village, life in small Italian villages becomes more colourful and youthful. Many activities are organised, including cosy dinners, weekend trips or fitness sessions in the local park. The organisers put much effort into establishing a strong relationship with the local community, which participants really appreciate. Young people in the local community encounter other young people from around the world, which helps them recognise their villages as a place for inspiration, not outmigration.



### IMPACT

- Stimulating the economy of destinations off the beaten path and off-season.
- Creating exchanges between remote workers and the local community.
- Inspiring young locals to see more opportunities for their villages.
- Contributing to social innovation projects and creating networks with the local entrepreneurial ecosystem.

### FUNDING

- Private funding

### LEARN MORE

- Website: [www.kinoitaly.com](http://www.kinoitaly.com)
- E-mail: [hello@kinoitaly.com](mailto:hello@kinoitaly.com)
- Facebook: [www.facebook.com/KinoItaly](https://www.facebook.com/KinoItaly)
- Instagram: [www.instagram.com/kino\\_italy](https://www.instagram.com/kino_italy)
- LinkedIn: [www.linkedin.com/company/kino-italy](https://www.linkedin.com/company/kino-italy)

THE LOCAL COMMUNITY SHOULD BE FIRST IN MIND WHEN THINKING ABOUT THE PROJECT. NOT EVERYONE WILL BUY INTO THE IDEA, BUT YOU NEED TO HAVE AT LEAST SOME LOCALS WHO SHARE YOUR VISION AND CO-CREATE THE PROJECT WITH YOU, WHETHER IT'S THE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, AN ASSOCIATION OR A PROVIDER OF LOCAL EXPERIENCES.

SERENA CHIRONNA,  
CO-FOUNDER





# [ FIRE ]

## Summer of Pioneers – spend 6 months in the countryside

Neulandia is the name of a social enterprise, a movement and network with a special mission: “We initiate changes that are bigger than us, so let’s collaborate”. They rely on visionary representatives of the community, citizens with an open mind and willingness to experiment. Their focus is on rural areas because they believe that changes are possible there faster than in metropolitan areas. They have started the project Summer of Pioneers, a special group experience in the countryside.

Before launching “Summer of Pioneers”, the Neulandia team organised special research to understand “why do you stay in cities if you find them boring and expensive?”. Two main findings were made: The first is “job opportunities” – many people would leave a big city only if they could take their jobs with them. The second one is the uncertainty of social integration in rural areas. Consequently, the Neulandia team created and launched the “Summer of Pioneers” concept in 2019. The idea is that “Summer of Pioneers” always creates a group experience in the countryside, bringing people together so that no one feels alone. Neulandia, in collaboration with local municipalities, organises coworking spaces and increases interest in village life.

The initiative attracts mainly young people – digital nomads and remotely working people, as they are flexible in terms of travel and work – to “test” living in rural areas in Germany for six months. Young people come with fresh ideas and perspectives, with different experiences of how they can really make a difference and push the transformation process.

Usually, the municipalities are the ones who finance the “Summer of Pioneers”. They also are the ones that officially invite digital nomads and external remote workers and create an authentic, welcoming atmosphere. This is key to attracting young people and removing the feeling of being aliens there.

“Summer of Pioneers” was launched for the first time in Homberg, Germany. The initiative is already taking place in five different small towns in Germany. At the end of 2022, the first city in Switzerland was announced, where the “Summer of Pioneers” started to take place. In 2023, it is planned to extend to Austria and, in 2024, to Spain, Ireland and Denmark. Thus, Neulandia will spread its concept throughout Europe.



Photo:  
Thomas Hnyk

### IMPACT

- Additional income for the areas, involved in the project
- Many new creative projects of digital nomads have been started involving the local people
- Millions were reached with media news about the programme, which brought focus to the towns in rural areas.
- Art, cultural programmes and exhibitions to reframe empty buildings in a completely new way

### FUNDING

- Public funding

### LEARN MORE

- Website: [neulandia.de/summer-of-pioneers](https://neulandia.de/summer-of-pioneers)
- E-mail: [info@neulandia.de](mailto:info@neulandia.de)
- Facebook: [www.facebook.com/groups/1688588571363796](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1688588571363796)
- Instagram: [www.instagram.com/neulandia\\_de](https://www.instagram.com/neulandia_de)

# 44

WE NEED TO ENGAGE AND ENABLE PEOPLE IN RURAL AREAS TO BE MORE ENTREPRENEURIAL, MORE ENGAGED IN SOLVING PROBLEMS, GAIN A LOT OF MOTIVATION AND SELF-ESTEEM THROUGH THIS EXPERIENCE SO THAT THEY CAN ACTUALLY CHANGE THEIR PLACE.

FREDERIK FISCHER,  
MANAGING DIRECTOR





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[www.nomadland-project.com](http://www.nomadland-project.com)



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