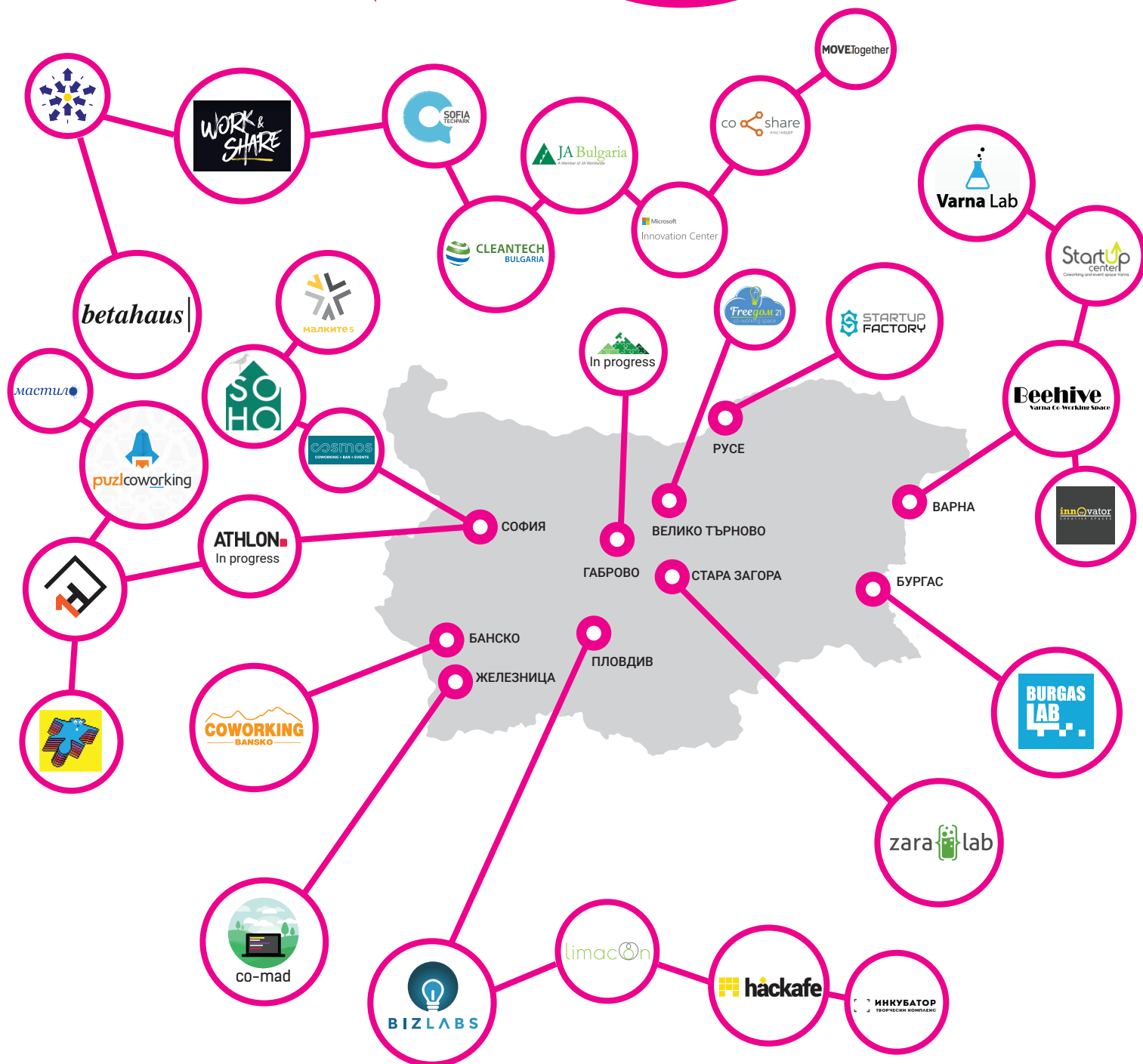




MAP OF THE CO-WORKING SPACES IN BULGARIA



By the end of 2017, the locations where you can meet and work with entrepreneurs, innovators and freelancers will be at least 33. We're happy to present to you the first list of those spaces and their main characteristics.

■ SOFIA

Without any surprise, the biggest concentration of co-working spaces and hacker spaces is in Sofia.

They are 17 and there is a big variety- technological, artistic, social.

The Digital Ones

■ Betahaus

This is the first co-working space in Sofia and in Bulgaria, founded in 2012 after the model of the German Betahaus. At 58 Krum Popov Str. there are open co-working areas, separate offices, conference halls, event halls and last but not least, the companies' social meeting point- the cafeteria on the first floor. Currently, Betahaus hosts more than 40 technology start-ups, freelancers, bloggers, NGOs, agencies (HR, content marketing), accountants, expats, a magazine, outsourcing companies, video game developers. Last year Betahaus received an award for best co-working space in Bulgaria from Central European Startup Awards.

■ Puzl CoWorking

This is the biggest co-working space in the country with plenty of digital and IT companies - gravitating around more than 300 startups and both of the investment funds LaunchHub and Eleven. Currently, with a size of 2500 m2, in 8 months the space at Cherni Vrah Blvd. will add another 2700 m2 of land to its area, whilst the long-term vision is for 50,000 m2. Puzl has open spaces with desks and smaller offices, conference halls and event halls. At moment there are two floors: The Space - a combination of open working area and separate offices suitable for start-ups as well as more mature companies and The Factory - an entirely open shared working area for companies in an early stage of development.

- **Work&Share**

Founded at the beginning of 2017 at 15 Tintyava Str, the space seems to be fighting for the first place in size with Puzl. Work & Share will be situated on 3000 m². At this moment the area, which consists of open area, offices, event hall and a relax zone, is almost fully occupied and it has around 100 companies, mainly from the technological field. In the next two stages of development, the space is expected to be expanded with additional 2000 m², including separate offices for more mature companies in a more advanced stage and a big event center.

- **1HUB**

The co-working space 1HUB is located in the building of the Software University at 15 Tintyava Str. and it is a place for work and communication of the Soft-Uni community. IT businesses of different character, freelancers, designers, architects, 3D printing and artificial intelligence related businesses and others, occupy the area of 1HUB.

- **init Lab**

Located at 6 Rila Str., this area is categorized as a hacker space and a place attracting not only freelancers and entrepreneurs from the digital field, but also artists. Comprising 200 m² of area, init Lab has a lecture hall, office space, a hardware Aquarium with 2-3 workplaces and tools, two recording rooms and the integral for such a place which is a relax zone.

- **Mastilo**

Mastilo is a very small space located at 2 Strahil Voyvoda Str. Its creators define it as a “no bullshit coworking”- there is no yoga or Christmas market. The place offers tranquility, a mixture of interesting people and activities. It has quiet and small offices and all of the walls are painted with Escreo, which turns them in white boards.

- **Co Share HIVE**

Emerged from a community of serial entrepreneurs Co Share HIVE's aim is to connect the "bees and the drones", as its creators often joke about, or in other words to connect the beginners with the masters ones. The area located at 104 Simeonovsko shose Blvd. has rooms different in size and an event place on the top floor. According to the creators, it is rather a co-working space for companies in a more advanced stage, and at the moment developers, consultants, architects, etc. can be found there. There can be found people from different sectors.

The Cultural Ones

- **SOHO**

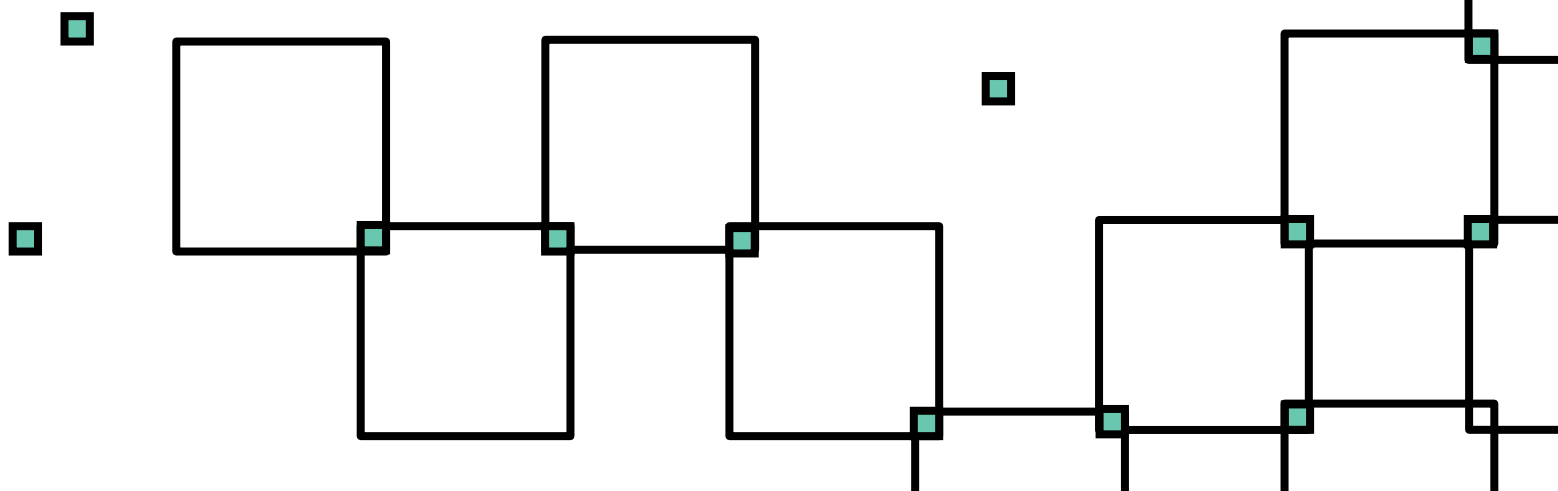
Since its first creation, SOHO was planned to be an art co-working space. At 4 Iskar Str. in the capital there are countless exhibitions, readings, concerts and the emblematic SoBazaar. Here you will rather not find the classic start-ups, but mostly mature/ established art companies and freelancers.

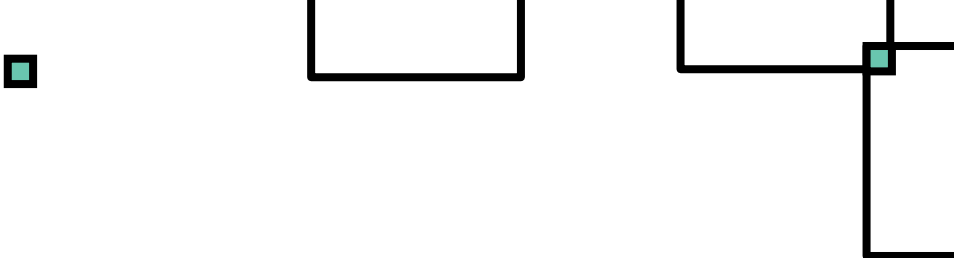
- **Malkite 5**

Malkite 5, located at 3 Han Krum Str., is a place for culture, art and co-working, situated in a spacious apartment in the center of Sofia. The place is suitable for both art lovers and individual professionals with artistic and various professions. Designers, architects, journalists, freelancers and IT developers can be seen there.

- **Cosmos**

Cosmos Coworking Camp, situated in a two-story house and a cultural monument, located at 3 Angel Kanchev Str. in Sofia, is the meeting point of people working in the design field.





The Experimentors

- **Incubator for innovations and creativity**

This is a project of the digital agency Athnlon and it is expected to be officially launched in September 2017. The incubator for innovations and creativity will be located in the former tobacco factory in Sofia with area of 800 m²., it will have high-tech laboratories, a center for training and lectures, as well as a co-working space. The topics, which the creators intend to work on, are diverse- the Internet of Things, robotics, music and sound, different audio-visual solutions, design, photography and even medicine, for which purpose there will be separate laboratories (electronics lab, software engineering lab, open device lab/ testing lab and sound engineering lab).

- **Incubator, Sofia Tech Park**

The space, located at 111 Tsarigradsko shose Blvd., is a part of the first science and technology park in Bulgaria. Currently there are 23 start-up companies, selected for incubation and receiving state support, which consists of affordable rents and consultancy services. Microsoft Innovation Center, the Junior Achievement start-up Hambar and a wing of dormitories are situated in the same building. The incubator is next to a compound of 11 high-tech laboratories and a big event center in Sofia Tech Park. A classic co-working space is expected to be opened too.

- **CleanTech**

In CleanTech accelerator's co-working space, there are mainly start-up companies focused on the green business and in an early stage of development. It is situated in Sofia Tech Park's Business Incubator building with about 200 m² area. It has workplaces, suitable for teams of 2 to 4 people, with a possibility of adapting to bigger teams. In addition to this, CleanTech has an 80 m² event hall.

- **JA Hambar**

Junior Achievement's space is designed for young entrepreneurs from the ages between 14 and 26, and it is a place where they can experiment and create their own training companies. JA offers trainings and mentoring. The "bam" is an empty space with about 200 m² with easily modified furniture, a library, a reading corner and desks. There can be held events with up to 80 attendees.

- **Microsoft Innovation Center**

With area of 400 m2, the Microsoft center in Sofia Tech Park offers to the start-up companies and students an access to the leading technologies of the American concerns (such as HoloLens for testing and app development), Surface Book, Surface tablet, etc). The acces to the space is open to students, developers, professionals in the IT sphere, entrepreneurs, start-up companies and academics.

The Social Ones

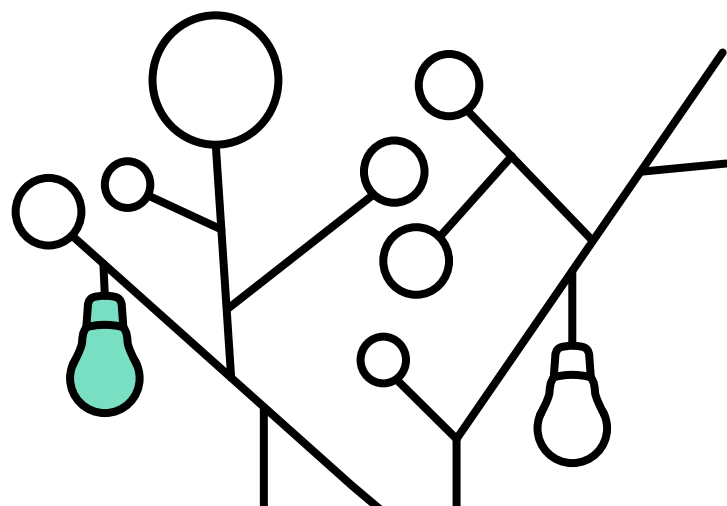
- **NGO House**

Also known as “The House of citizens' organizations”, this is a co-working space for collaboration between active people and organizations. NGO House is located at 3 Hristo Belchev Str. and it offers both classic co-working and offices, as well as halls for events and trainings. As the name suggests, this is a home for various non-governmental organizations.

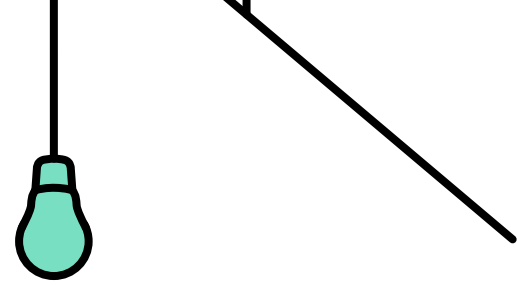
- **MOVE Together**

Situated in the very center of the capital- 20 Serdika Str., social innovators and businesses with social impact can be found in this space. The building offers small offices, a relax zone, two conference halls and event rooms. An expansion with one more floor is coming in July, which means - more offices and places for informal meetings.

The co-working places around the country are a bit different- they are more like hacker spaces, places for meetings, lectures and trainings. The biggest concentration is in Plovdiv and Varna, and across Bulgaria there are strong local communities, which, however, do not have their own spaces and they use university halls, public places and different centers. The opening of several new hubs is expected in the next two years.



■ PLOVDIV



The Digital Ones

■ BizLabs

This is the oldest co-working space in Plovdiv and it's located at 152 6th September Blvd. The place is not a very strong community element, and people come here mainly to work. However, there is an event hall too, which is often visited by representatives of the two main investment funds and accelerators. The inhabitants of this space are usually foreign companies or from Sofia, freelancers, digital nomads and foreigners living in Plovdiv and the fields they work in are software development, graphic design, consumer experience and research, architecture, HR, marketing, PR and communications, various people who work as consultants, R&D of new technologies.

■ Hackafe

Another co-working space that exists from long ago, located in the center of Plovdiv- 13 Opalchenska Str. Mostly people keen on high-tech and gadgets can be found there. In Hackafe there's access to the following luxuries: 3D printer, projector, oscilloscope, soldering equipment, software products, computer boards- Arduino, Raspberry pi, Olimex boards, Kinect v1 sensor. In the space there are places for working and events and Hackafe has a program with different thematic meetings.

The Artistic Ones

■ Incubator creative complex

The creative co-working space is located in Kapana neighborhood at Bratya Pulevi Str. The original idea of the place is to be a co-working space for journalists and bloggers, but at the moment it's rather Plovdiv art community corner. With its area of over 1500 m2, the incubator consists of places suitable particularly for authors, musicians, artists, architects, engineers, sculptors, designers and creative teams, involved with design, architecture, molding, sculpture, fashion, applied, digital, music, dance, performing and visual arts. The complex is suitable for organizing trainings, workshops, it prepares competitions, castings, press conferences, seminars, lectures, free exhibitions, presentations.

The Social Ones

- **Limacon**

Limacon, located at 154 Maritza Str., is probably the most prominent community center, that operates in Plovdiv at the moment. Here the co-working aspect is more in favor of building a community of different types of people. Most of the freelancers found there are also looking for partners and people to share their views with. The spaces main focus is on events and workshops.

- **In progress**

Two pre-acceleration/incubation hubs are about to start working next year in Plovdiv, sponsored by two big banks. The hubs will be in the banks' building, located in the city center.

■ **VARNA**

The Digital ones

- **VarnaLab**

VarnaLab is located at 50 Pencho Slaveykov Str. in Varna, and it's the meeting point of the tech community of the city. People in the lab are interested in computers, technology, science, digital and electronic art. The team of VarnaLab organizes different courses, mainly in the software field. Currently the spaces are being reconstructed, the rooms are being renovated and soon a lot of new courses and lectures are expected.

- **Beehive**

Entrepreneurs, designers, journalists, writers, translators, IT developers and in general everyone who needs only a computer to work, can be found in Beehive, located at 54 General Kolev Str. In Beehive there are open shared area, a place for meetings and event halls.

- **Start Up Center**

Until quite recently Start Up Center was located at 65 Primorski Blvd., offering workspaces between 20 and 130 m² according to people's needs, as well as event halls. The usual inhabitants were start-up companies, software engineers, digital nomads, designers, consultants. Since this spring, the space has

temporarily ceased its activity and it is currently supporting its community on Facebook.

- **Innovator Creative Spaces**

This summer in the new art neighborhood Talyana in Varna will appear new high-tech co-working & the laboratory complex for software and hardware prototype development, as well as developments in different fields of technology, science, customs, culture and human life. Coworking and laboratoru complex, the labs will be equipped with 3D printers, CNC routers, Virtual Reality labs, Internet of things, laser cutting and other technological innovations, as well as conventional equipment.

- **BURGAS**

- **Business Incubator Burgas**

The co-working space located at 28 Knyaz Alexander Baterberg Str. is a good example of a place, created with municipal support. Business Incubator Burgas is a social place, both physical and virtual, designed for the social SMBS. In the space are situated offices, meeting halls, a conference hall, a recreational space, a training room, a presentation room. The inhabitants are advertisers, journalists, consultants, tutors, digital marketing specialists.

- **BurgasLab**

BurgasLab is a non-governmental organization the mission of which is to develop and unite the Burgas IT community. It is located at 50 Aleksandrovska Str. and it has only 8 separate workplaces and the focus is mainly on meetings and community gatherings. People in BurgasLab gather every Wednesday traditionally and everyone is welcome.

- **VELIKO TARNOVO**

- **Freedom 21**

Until recently, Veliko Tarnovo did not have its own separate co-working space. On June 1st, Freedom 21, a joint initiative of "Start It Smart" Veliko Tarnovo and the "Shivachite" digital agency, opened for the first time. The space is located at 21 Stefan Stambolov Str. in an old building with an authentic spirit. It has an open shared working area with 15 workplaces. Freedom 21 can be used for events

for up to 30 attendees. The original idea is to be a place for freelancers, digital nomads and people willing to start their own businesses, but giving workplaces for companies in the long-term is not excluded.

■ ZHELEZNITSA, BLAGOEVGRAD PROVINCE

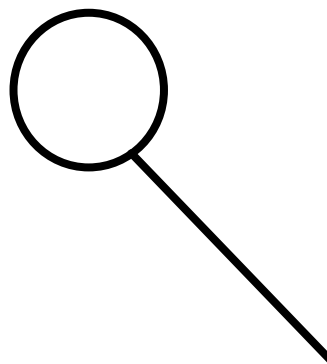
■ co-MAD

About an hour away from Sofia, along the Struma River you can find another green workspace. Co-MAD is a suitable place for every teleworker: programmer, developer, QA specialist, designer, marketing specialist, writer or every other who needs concentration. In co-MAD come mainly teams from companies. It is used as a co-working and co-living space. Since the beginning of spring, events for independent people and teams, who want to try out the place before renting it, are organized

■ BANSKO

■ Coworking Bansko

The shared workplace in Bansko is for everyone who'd prefer working in the nature and to breathe fresh air. Usually here can be found digital nomads, entrepreneurs, IT developers, digital marketing specialists, graphic designers, writers, as well as whole teams, who come on the so-called workations. There are different events organized here as well.



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