



Free Movement
SKATEBOARDING

**Annual
Progress
Report 2020**

Jan - Dec 2020

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Free Movement Skateboarding

Community, on and off the board

Through skateboarding, we support and promote the wellbeing, empowerment and social cohesion of youth in Athens. Together, we push for a welcoming and diverse Athenian skate scene and society.

Wellbeing...

Skateboarding is mindful exercise, in which focus is necessary to learn new tricks, championing physical and mental health.

Empowerment...

We create spaces in which womxn, people of colour, LGBTQI+ and other groups feel safe to develop their skills on and off the board.

Social Cohesion...

Through the supportive, communal act of skateboarding, diverse groups share more than just space and build community.

Developments at FMS

Team Changes: This year saw the team change and expand. FMS sadly said goodbye to long term team members, Amber, Ruby, Joe, Jack and Zelia, all leaving FMS throughout the 2020. We welcomed back co-founder Will, and transitioned to having a mainly local team as per our long-term strategy. FMS is now made up of Will, Lefty, Denia and Constantina, with two local volunteer instructors, Giannis and Denia K, who are all continuing to drive forward FMS's goals in Athens.

Coronavirus Lockdown and Development of Project: Lockdown gave us time to dedicate towards updating and refining our vision, strategy and future goals.

- We developed our vision and identity, making sure to be completely inclusive, accessible and relevant, ensuring that we are working towards achieving our vision of wellbeing, empowerment and social cohesion. (see page 3)
- We developed our goals and future plans for FMS (see page 14)
- We developed a new fundraising strategy for the year ahead, which will allow us to sustainably diversify fundraising and work towards our larger goals.
- The team found the time to participate in new trainings and expand our skills and knowledge. We participated in First Aid and Psychological First Aid trainings, Greek non profit workshops and we organised extended team meetings discussing sessions and the future goals of FMS.
- We also launched merchandise in both the 1st and 2nd lockdown.
- During the 1st lockdown, due to the absence of sessions, the team decided to donate part of the stipends back to FMS, and help out with the delivery of food to people struggling to during the lockdown restrictions. The team volunteered time and the use of our van to helping Khora Social Kitchen deliver this food, a service we believe is essential.

International Volunteer Program: Despite its success in 2019, and after receiving double the applications this year, as well as setting an increased fundraising target, our program was disrupted due to Covid-19 and complications with travel. Fortunately, we had incredible support from our local volunteers in sessions.

Operating Environment 2020

Covid-19: As with any organisation, FMS faced its difficulties due to Covid-19 in 2020, the restrictions and necessary precautions halted some sessions and limited others. During the lockdowns (March - June and October - ongoing into 2021 at time of writing) we were unable to deliver the majority of sessions but did start in some new shelters (page 9). When resuming sessions in June, we adjusted our safety standards by incorporating a hygiene station during sessions, where hand sanitizer and antibacterial spray was used on all equipment. We also reduced the number of participants at sessions, in order to have enough sanitized equipment and smaller groups to follow the restrictions of not exceeding 9 people. Moreover, we created and instituted a specific Covid-19 staff policy, guided and reviewed by a medical health professional from Medecins Sans Frontiers.



End of Access to Camps: Another big change in our operating environment were ministerial decisions towards NGOs and access to camps in Greece, which consequently means we cannot access and deliver sessions in the camps any longer. Hence our sessions at Eleonas and Schistou have ended.

Situation in Athens: For marginalised youth, the lack of accessible and inclusive recreational activities and spaces, wellbeing services and social cohesion initiatives still remain minimal. Moreover, these gaps will be exacerbated in a Covid-19 and Post Covid-19 world, where Greece yet again will need to recover from the economic and societal impact. Additional, is the reality that Covid-19 has worsened isolation, especially for those that were already marginalised, increasing poor mental health and wellbeing. Although Covid19 means we expect to see reduced funding and support given to social welfare and social cohesion initiatives, the relevance and need for the goals and service provided by FMS remains and will remain for some time.



Highlights

In 2020, despite disruptions and 5 months of inactivity due to Covid 19 and lockdown, we still **delivered 130 sessions**, in **8 locations**, to **394 young people**, of whom **45% regularly participated**.

Our participants were **35% female** and from **23 different ethnicities** living in Athens.

New Sessions and Collaborations: Despite our disappointment in camp sessions ending, this year we had 6 new sessions in 4 different new locations. We created 3 new collaborations with shelters for minors, and began 3 new public sessions in new Athenian neighbourhoods, including the Womxn Skate Meets. We aim to continue to expand and create new sessions, with a focus on our goals of wellbeing, empowerment and social cohesion.

Women Win Grant: Ruby and one of our volunteer instructors, Virginia, were separately granted the Roll Models grant by Women Win and Skateistan. Despite leaving FMS in September, Ruby continues to support this project. In October, with the support of this funding we hosted weekly Womxn Skate Meets at OAKA skatepark. These added sessions increased female engagement from 22% in September to 45% in October, whilst empowering girls to claim space at the skatepark. Plans for this grant were largely disrupted by changes in the operating environment (see page 5), as we hoped to use the money towards a space in order to re-launch the women's program. Despite these obstacles we remain active in empowering girls.



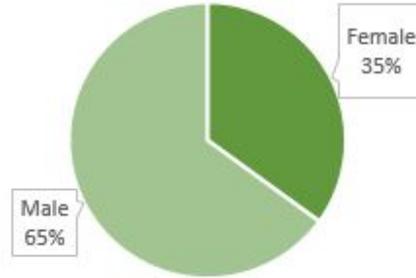
Impact 2020

	Unique Beneficiaries	Participants	Sessions
Total	394	1177	130
Jan-20	163	283	28
Feb-20	159	287	24
Mar-20	82	87	8
Apr-20	National Lockdown		
May-20			
Jun-20			
Jul-20	66	190	23
Aug-20	41	52	6
Sep-20	54	112	17
Oct-20	54	96	16
Nov-20	17	17	3
Dec-20	21	53	5

Age Range

	Total
Under 7 years old	12
7-11 years old	207
12-15 years old	92
16-18 years old	54
18+ years old	22
Blank	7

Gender Participation

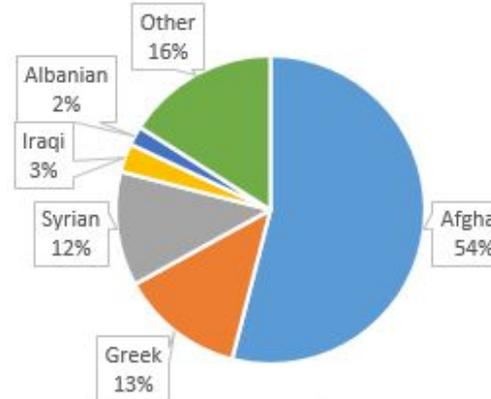


Return Participation

	Total %
2 or more sessions	63%
3 or more sessions	45%
4 or more sessions	34%
5 or more sessions	21%

Backgrounds

Total ethnicities	23
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Insights:

- Changes in the operating environment dramatically impacted our participation rates and number of sessions. However, we remained active in creating new sessions and providing access to skateboarding for new young people. **This year we had 184 new participants**, mainly in our new sessions.
- Female participation dropped to 35% in 2020, this was impacted drastically by the absence of the Camp Sessions.
- **63% of our participants returned for a second session**, reflecting the enjoyment of the young people and their interest.
- The various ethnicities of our participants continues to reflect how multicultural Athens has become and the many displaced communities living in Athens. This indicates the importance in social cohesion initiatives, and fully accessible and inclusive spaces, where everyone is welcome.

Camp Sessions

- Before the Camp Sessions ended at Eleonas and Schisto, we succeeded in improving gender parity at Schistou Camp, one of our main challenges, reaching 50% female participation. This was attributed to the new van allowing us to travel to the camp with more female instructors. Female instructors fostering a boost in female participants is something we've noted throughout our sessions.
- Before the 1st lockdown, due to the absence of the Latrac facilities, we had begun taking participants from Eleonas Camp to OAKA skatepark. This was important to get participants in a different environment, a different part of the city, with different people to interact with and skaters to inspire them. These trips were successful and our presence at OAKA remained after these sessions ended through Womxn's Meets.
- We are saddened for the Camp Sessions to have ended, they were our biggest sessions, most popular, longest running, most regularly attended and with the highest female participation. The absence of these sessions are reflected in our impact statistics. However, we are trying to get skateboarding back to these participants, and will keep trying, as we still believe in the importance of supporting the wellbeing, empowerment and social cohesion, of some of the most isolated youth in Athens.



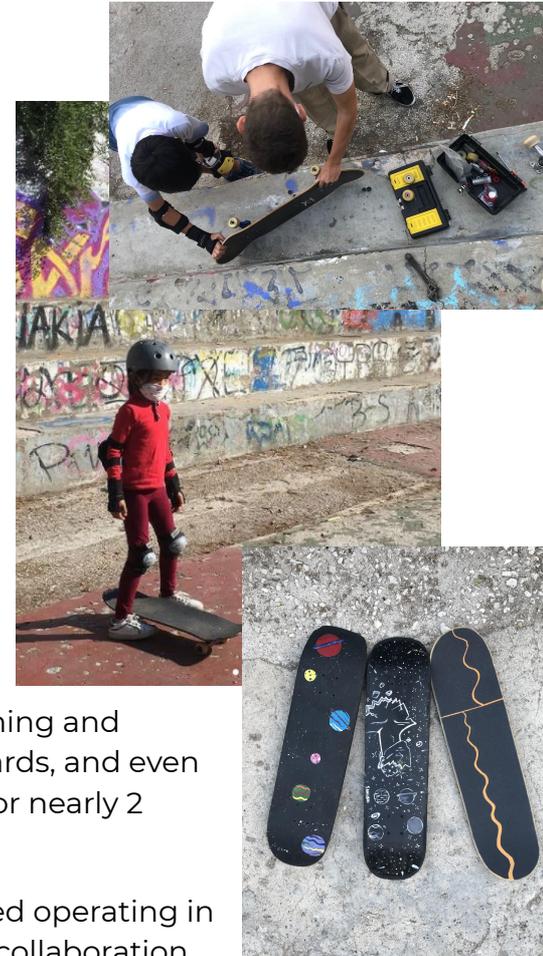
New Collaborations with Children Shelters (Outreach Sessions)

- In late June we established a new collaboration with a unaccompanied minors shelter in the center of Athens. With their help we got access to a local basketball court to set up the ramps and deliver sessions. Due to popular demand we hosted two sessions a week, with different participants. Unfortunately due to a Covid-19 outbreak in the shelter, these sessions were paused shortly before the 2nd lockdown and have not been reopened since. We hope to start again with this group in 2021.
- In December, in collaboration with Mum Institute, we began sessions at two Athens social care units for children. After securing permission, these sessions have continued during lockdown, with all the necessary precautions. These sessions have been so popular, with staff at the shelters expressing their support, that we have been asked to have more of a presence and to start extra sessions for the younger children.



Public City Sessions (Exarchia)

- Our public sessions in the neighbourhood of Exarchia are now our longest running session, having existed since we begun. It is also our session with the most diversity, in terms of bringing young people from various backgrounds together.
- Consistency in attendance was a challenge in these sessions, despite the year of disruptions, the return participation rate has improved. 30% of participants regularly attended this year. Compared to outreach sessions, where we go to our participants, these public sessions require the participant to motivate themselves to come meet us. The improvement in the rate of regular participation demonstrates a want and willingness from our participants. Some even come to us from other distant neighbourhoods to skate.
- We delivered 40 sessions this year, with the absence of the camp sessions and the restrictions on participation due to Covid-19, we increased the quantity of sessions in the neighbourhood. This gave us the opportunity to split sessions for older and younger participants. Our increased presence in the neighbourhood has helped us to build a sense of community with regulars, parents, neighbours and youth groups in the area.
- The reduction of participants was an opportunity to provide more personalised coaching and dedicate some attention to parallel activities like arts and crafts, building of skateboards, and even hip hop dance offs. Some of our participants in these sessions have been attending for nearly 2 years, these side activities keep sessions dynamic and engaging.
- Female participation dropped slightly when Halcyon Days, a women's project, stopped operating in Athens. It was great to see some of those women continue to come even after these collaboration ended.



New Public City Sessions

This year we delivered extra public sessions in also OAKA skatepark in Marousi and in the Sepolia neighbourhood, after popular demand from young people.

OAKA Skatepark, Marousi

- This session has been beneficial in community outreach, raising awareness of the project in the skate community and establishing a network of local volunteers, as well as inspiring new skaters. Participants from other neighbourhood and camp sessions have joined us here too. It represents a great opportunity to get inspired, feel empowered, change environment and meet new people.
- Womxn Skate Meets empowers girls to claim space at the skatepark, often a place that can be intimidating, especially to new, non-male skaters. There has been incredible feedback and support in these sessions, with Girls on Skateboards GR helping out.

Sepolia Neighbourhood

- Starting as an outreach session with a shelter, local children from the local neighbourhood showed interest and started participating regularly. It was great to see children coming together through skateboarding. As a result of this interest we delivered extra sessions in the neighbourhood, until the 2nd lockdown suspended the use of the sports facilities we used.

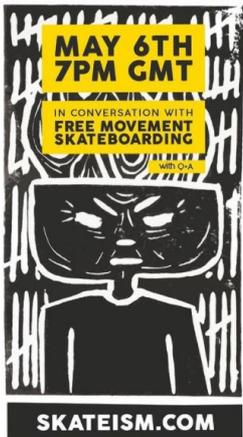


Lockdown Activities

It was important for us to maintain engagement with our participants and other followers during the lockdowns. We used social media to engage them with activities they can do at home.

This included:

- 'How to do' arts and crafts
- Our 'stay at home series' in which FMS instructors and friends showed how to do certain tricks through videos on social media.
- We hosted art competitions, including giving out old decks, that cannot be used anymore, to paint and design.
- We recorded and uploaded some interviews with friends of the project to inspire them.



Financial Breakdown

It is thanks to the generous support of so many that allows FMS to do the work that it does. The graph shows the monetary income of FMS from September 2019 - August 2020 (our fiscal year).

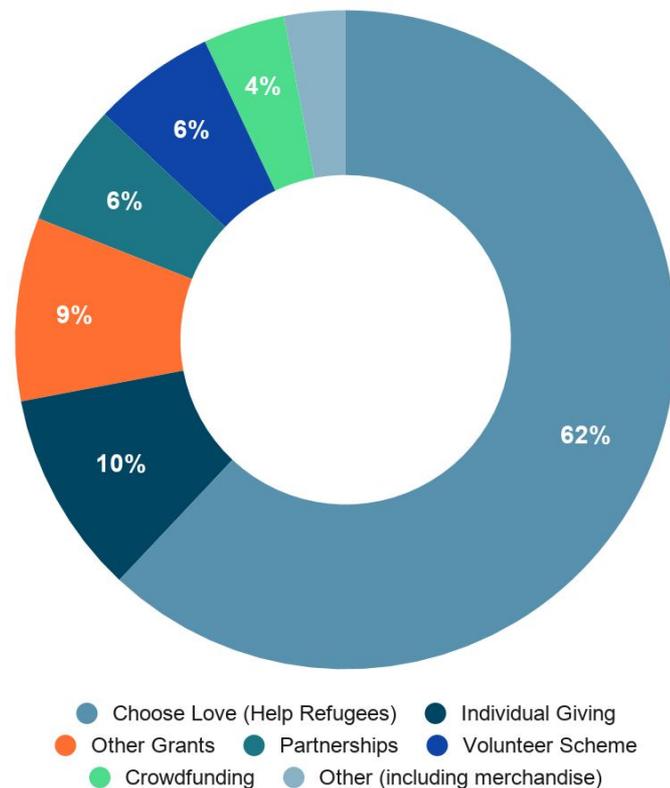
This year we also received new grants from Laureus Sport for Good, MASS Action and Women Win. We continue to receive generous support from Choose Love and The Skate Room. We look forward to building our relationships with Zoumboulakis Galleries and Clown Skateboards in 2021.

FMS are also grateful for the in kind donations (not represented in this information). These donations of, mainly skateboard equipment, allow FMS to maintain the quality of sessions, and none of this support goes to waste.



Choose Love (Help Refugees)	51,308.40
Other Grants	7,341.12
Partnerships	4,955.96
Individual Giving Donations	2,705.93
Staff Stipend Return (Furlough)	5,525.46
Crowdfunding	3,462.15
Merchandise	325.00
Volunteer Scheme	4,947.76
Other	2,454.39
Total	83,026.17

Income
September 2019 - August 2020



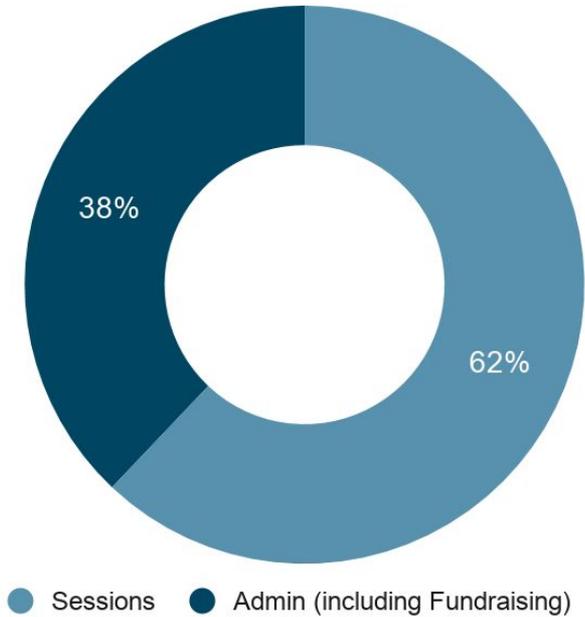
Financial Breakdown

100% of our income is spent on FMS projects and in order to deliver quality and reliable sessions, 62% of expenses this fiscal year were spent specifically for the hours we deliver sessions.



Expenses

September 2019 - August 2020



Van Costs	2,474.07
Stipends	42,837.08
Upkeep	1,083.21
Organisational	1,806.20
Van Purchase	6,186.79
VolFlat	10,231.93

Total	64,619.28
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Goals for 2021

- **Sessions:** Remaining hopeful that we will come out of lockdown soon, we aim to restart all sessions, welcome back old participants and actively work to create new collaborations and opportunities to provide access to skateboarding for young people in Athens.
- **Expansion and Project Development:** We aim to make progress on our goal of opening a community space, once we deem that Covid-19 risks and disruptions are significantly reduced.
- **Re-launch:** We hope to re-launch our empowerment programs, women's program and Womxn Skate Meets, provided we have a suitable space.
- **Local Skate Scene:** We are eager to return and have a presence at OAKA skatepark, inspiring our participants, spreading awareness of FMS and empowering those that feel intimidated to claim their space. We also want to continue to establish links in the local skateboarding scene in Greece, for community building collaborations and awareness raising.
- **Re-branding:** We will re-launch our website, with our refreshed branding and identity.
- **Fundraising Diversification:** We aim to diversify our funding, with the goal of improving FMS' sustainability. Hence we will invest time in exploring more sustainable funding channels, for example, our merchandise and corporate collaborations.
- **Social Skateboarding Network:** We will continue to establish strong links to the social skateboarding world internationally, for the sharing of best practices, resources and creating collaborations. We are always looking for ways to strengthen and develop our activities.



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Get in touch:

E-mail: info@freemovementskateboarding.com
Website: www.freemovementskateboarding.com
Insta: [@freemovement_sb](https://www.instagram.com/freemovement_sb)