

ANNUAL REPORT

September 2021 - August 2022



FREE MOVEMENT

skateboarding in solidarity

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FREE MOVEMENT

skateboarding in solidarity

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 women, 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 youth share more than just space and build community.

Over the past year, we delivered **202** Sessions, in **10** different locations, to **677** children, young people and even a few adults!



31%

Female Participation

Impact

677

Unique
Participants

3278

Total
Attendees

65%

Return
Participants

31%

Female
Participation

38

Cultural
Backgrounds

202

Total
Sessions

10

Session
Locations

Insights over the past year:

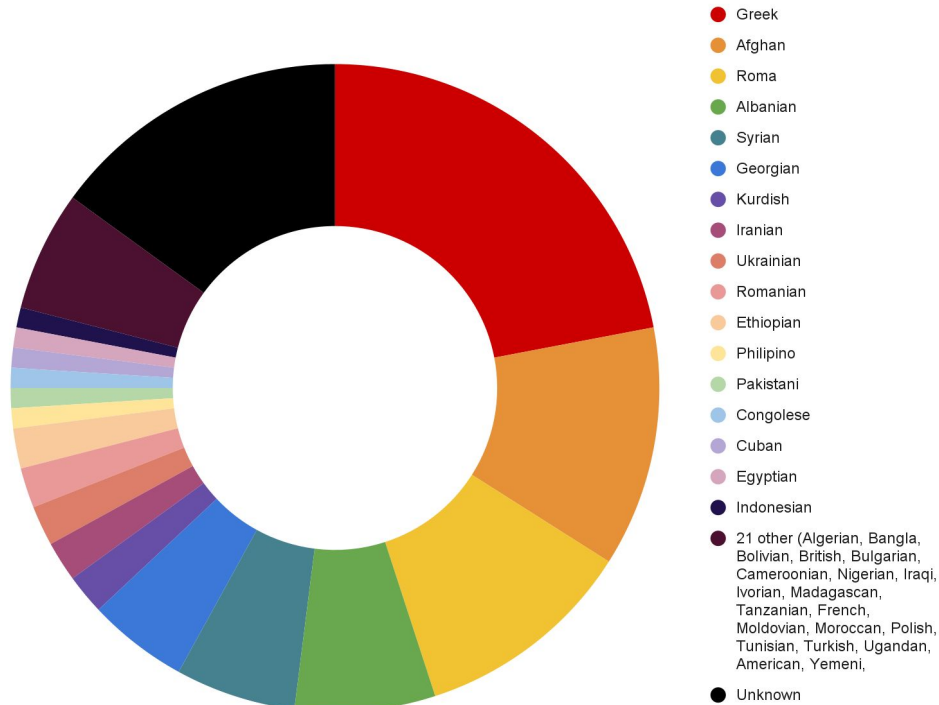
- We delivered 202 sessions to 677 participants over the past year, in 10 different locations.
- There was a 160% increase in participants that attended our sessions this year
- There was a decrease in the percentage of girl participation. This was largely impacted by the increase in new sessions and participants, as 69% of new participants were boys, especially when we first start sessions. However, we continue to work on empowering girls to skateboard and providing them access to skateboarding and a safe space. Positively when looking at regular participation of girls in comparison to boys, more girls remain regulars than boys. 33% of girls attended more than 5 sessions compared to 29% of boys.
- 65% of new participants returned to sessions, with 31% of participants becoming regular attendees (having participated in more than 5 weekly sessions). There was an increase in participants regularity this year, meaning that our regular participants can experience more of the benefits of skateboarding.

Our participants were from 38 different cultural backgrounds this year, and 52 since we started, all residing in Athens.

Athens can sometimes be a scary and unwelcoming city, with many cases of racism, obstacles, bureaucracy, and exclusions based on difference and othering. Much is due to it being a relatively recent multicultural city with few broader schemes to encourage social cohesion and understanding. We ensure our sessions and community feel safe and are welcoming, inclusive and accessible to everyone despite differences.

As a community we speak more than 18 different languages spoken between us, and there are many things we can share and learn from one another as we connect through skateboarding.

FMS sees potential and beauty in diversity. We know the importance in feeling a sense of belonging and safety, of building community, and its importance for an individual's mental well-being and ability to meet their potential. These bonds at the micro-level form the basis for a neighbourhood's and city's social cohesion, as well as for a more peaceful society in the future.



'I see and know you are good people with good intentions and I am happy my daughter has this...The feeling of community is what I miss from our country, I feel a distance between people and lockdown did not help'

-Father of a 10 year old girl who has become one of our most regular and enthusiastic participants



Operating Environment

Situation in Athens: Greece continues to face complex societal and economic issues. Athens still has a lack of accessible and inclusive recreational activities and spaces, wellbeing services and social cohesion initiatives, especially spaces shared by young people of diverse backgrounds. Many issues of divisions, exclusion, isolation, mental wellbeing and health were only exacerbated with Covid-19. These are only made worse by added crises over the past year, including the increase in living expenses impacted by the energy crisis caused by the latest of wars. These increases in living costs and even supermarket prices, has put an increased strain on many families. In addition, the withdrawal of resources towards migration NGOs has caused many projects and NGOs to withdraw from Greece and reduce services. This has not only put a strain on those that remain, but also making the life of those that live in the periphery even harder. Moreover, during the past year various stories have come to light that have shocked Greek society; whether it is feminicides, racism, police brutality, abuse, paedophilia or other safety concerns. The relevance and need for the goals and service provided by FMS remain, skateboarding in solidarity remains as important as ever to safeguard the mental and physical wellbeing of youth in Athens, to empower them, build community, networks and cohesion are as important as ever.

Skateboarding: Interest in skateboarding has only continued to increase, and interest in sessions and new young people that attend has grown. This year we also witnessed the establishment of the National Federation of Skateboarding in the country, following the Olympics.

Coronavirus: Fortunately, Coronavirus caused less disruption to our activities this year. Despite our persistence in taking all the precautions necessary, it was a relief once all the team got fully vaccinated. There was a slight scare at the end of December with the Omicron variant causing a large impact in Athens and causing many of the team to have to quarantine, meaning that it took us a while to begin sessions at the start of January, especially due to the large number of cases causing a larger risk in gathering people in a public space. The disruption caused last year is reflected in the large increase of sessions and participants this year, there was a 57% increase in sessions.

‘I have been skating for 2 hours! It didn’t feel like it, I don’t want to stop...’

- 11 year old boy when being notified of the end of the session.

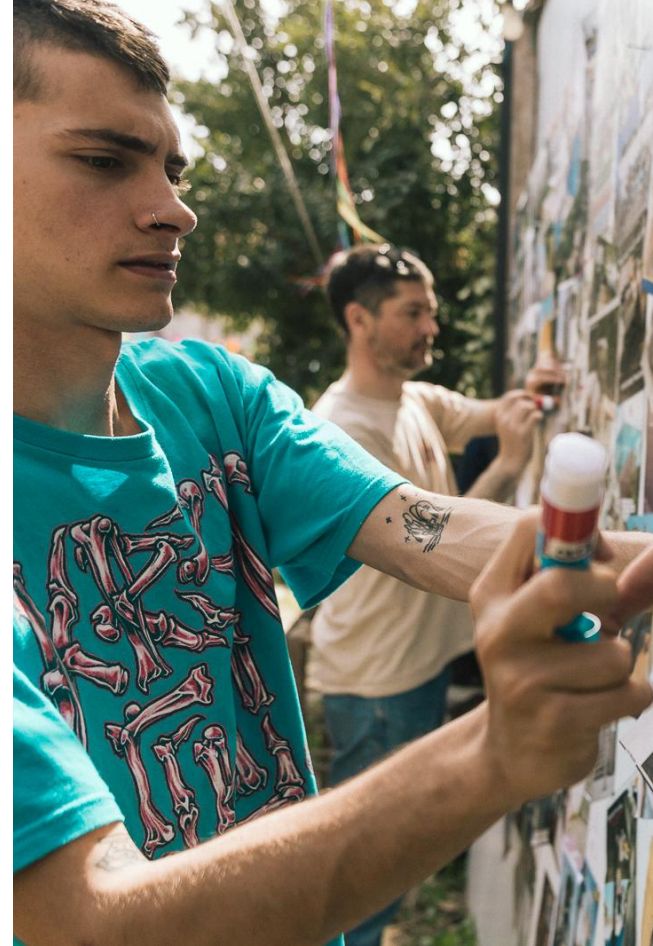
Time flies at Free Movement sessions!




Developments in the FMS Team

Developments in the Team: In the past year, Giannis, a long time FMS skate instructor, joined the core team, he has since become the volunteer and sessions coordinator, running the Edu-Skate curriculum in partnership with Concrete Jungle Foundation, and playing an important role in the development and quality of our sessions. This was a key development to meet our expansion and project development goals for 2021. Koger joined the team becoming a strong asset in making connections with the local skate scene and the skate industry. Unfortunately he left the team, due to finding a job that got him closer to obtaining some of his dreams, which we fully support, despite missing him. Denia Kopita (yes, we now have two Denia's in the team) joined us part-time in June and is now full time since September. She joins the team as a one of the top women skaters in the city, bringing her connections to the local and international skate scene and industry, as a fantastic skate instructor who has been with us for more than a year, inspiring and supporting the local girls skate scene. She will also create communication and promotional content for social media, as well as reigniting the blog. She's truly an asset to the project and the team.

Our team of paid sessional and volunteer skate instructors has also expanded dramatically, especially with the switch in focus last year from international to on local skaters. This year we have welcomed a brilliant group of instructors to the team: Christos, Erato, Valentina and Andreas. We greatly appreciate their efforts!





**'I wish you could come everyday,
you get my children out of the
house, away from the internet
and they go home exhausted.
Exactly what I want as a mum'**

-A mum who has recently started bringing her 2
children to sessions

Developments in FMS Activities

Greek NGO: We have officially become a NGO in Greece in April (AMKE Free Movement Skateboarding). This has been a goal of ours for a while now, and finally it has happened, and will open many new doors for us.

Filika Skate Meets: Ruby, our co-founder, and Denia K. begun weekly evening skate meets for girls, women and all non-traditional skaters. This is following the success of last years skate meets and to fill the need for a space like this in the Athenian skate scene with a supportive and welcoming environment for all.

Concrete Jungle Foundation: We are rolling out Concrete Jungle Foundations Edu-skate curriculum. 'Edu-skate is an innovative curriculum to teach skateboarding through the life-skills its practice induces. The programme's aim is to empower and support its participants(ages 6-16 years old) in their development as a skateboarder, as well as a human being.' One of our goals is to continue to improve the quality of our sessions for the young people we support and this curriculum will help us do so, thanks to CJF. In June, we even joined a multilateral initiative aimed at connecting social skate projects and exchanging perspectives on the implementation of life-skills focused skateboarding classes through the Concrete Jungle Foundation's Edu-Skate programme. We are extremely happy to be participating in this initiative, supporting to build and strengthen the social skateboarding community, as well as participating amongst many other incredible projects worldwide.





‘When will I be old enough to work with you?’

-10 year old girl that regularly attends sessions to an instructor

Highlights - Beyond Skateboarding Tour

In February some of the team went on a UK training and networking tour! Together with Concrete Jungle Foundation and Skate Nottingham, Will, Giannis, Denia K. and Erato visited different cities and social skateboarding projects in the UK. The FMS instructors also completed the Skateboard GB Get Rolling coach course.

They visited Manchester, Nottingham, Birmingham and London, meeting and sharing knowledge with many social skateboarding projects in these cities and beyond. They also had the opportunity to talk at Nottingham Trent University.

The team returned to Athens with new knowledge, new ideas, new connections and contacts, and the social skateboarding network has been strengthened. This was all part of our goal to improving the quality of our sessions.

More information about what they got up to is on our social media.

The team undertook impact surveys following the trip. The following quote from Giannis says it all: 'Before the trip I was completely lost on what to follow in my work and my life in general. Now I know what I want to do in my work life.'



'I want to be like you when I am older'

- 7 year old girl to instructor Denia K.



Highlights - Community Events

A major goal of ours over the past year was community development in our public sessions, but also in the bigger sense the FMS community with the local skate community. This year we have had different sized events and brought together diverse communities. Whether it was a small workshops or bigger events by the Athenian skate shops and community for our participants or at sessions, skate demos, community events with other grassroots organisations in Athens or participating a big skate events in Athens or Refugee Week Greece. All community events, whatever size, have been a great opportunity to bring communities together, widen support and demonstrate skateboarding in solidarity, on and off the board, in practice.

Skate events allow our participants the opportunity to be included in the skate community, creating a sense of belonging and community. They also offer an opportunity to watch the FMS team skate and smash it with their incredible talent, bringing respect and admiration.

Each event welcomes lovely reactions and comments from participants, their families, the neighbourhood and the skate scene. Moreover there have been opportunities to introduce our participants to new activities, skills and experiences through the wider community and our collaborations with others.





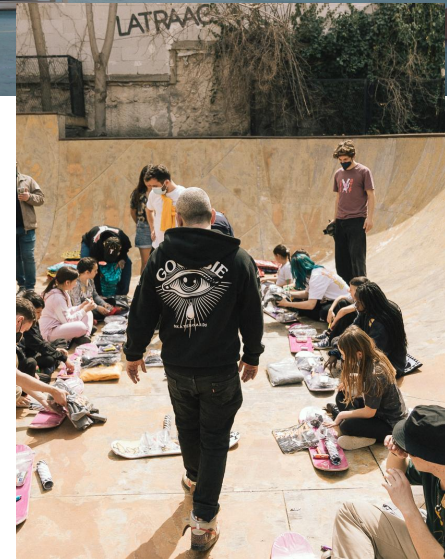
‘Thank you for bringing people to our neighbourhood and teaching here. People need to see that it is not a ghetto, that there are children, families and life here.’

- Parent of participant and neighbourhood resident at Patisia event

Highlights - Community Events

In October we hosted our first community skate event at our public session in Patisia. We invited local skaters from the Athenian skate community to come and skate with us and the FMS community. Local skaters skated our mobile skatepark for the first time, while demonstrating to our participants different tricks and what can be achieved through years of committed skating. After this, our participants got to skate with them, bringing to the skatepark experience to them in one of the most unlikely and unconventional settings and neighbourhoods. We mixed skaters and non-skaters, beginners and advanced skaters, FMS community and the local Athenian skate community, Athenians from different neighbourhoods, communities, backgrounds etc. It really was communities coming together, on and off the board. Moreover, we were incredibly happy to see how many local and known skaters turned up, brought enthusiasm, interacted with our participants and showed support for our work.

In March, we collaborated with Color Skate shop and Latraac skate cafe. We invited our most regular, dedicated and enthusiastic participants from different sessions to participate in a workshop on how to assemble a skateboard. These skateboards were generously donated to the children and young people at the event. They also got the opportunity to skate the bowl at Latraac, which was kindly opened for us for the event. We then watched the Color Skates team skaters and FMS instructors skate the bowl, as well as side activities like creating a massive collage out of skate magazines, used to inspire everyone. Moreover, Color arranged donuts and refreshments to treat all the kids. We had a lovely Sunday in the sun!



**‘I am so happy, thank you so much,
I will always keep it close’**

- said with the biggest smile by child that received his first skateboard from us, after attending sessions for many months.





We threw a birthday day party to celebrate 5 years of FMS in April! This was our excuse to host a small party at one of our skate sessions. We decorated, we got creative and painted, we treated everyone to donuts and juices and delivered a special skate session. Everyone had a lot of fun. Some parents even bought some treats for the children, alongside our own and got into the spirit of our birthday. We also received many birthday wishes.

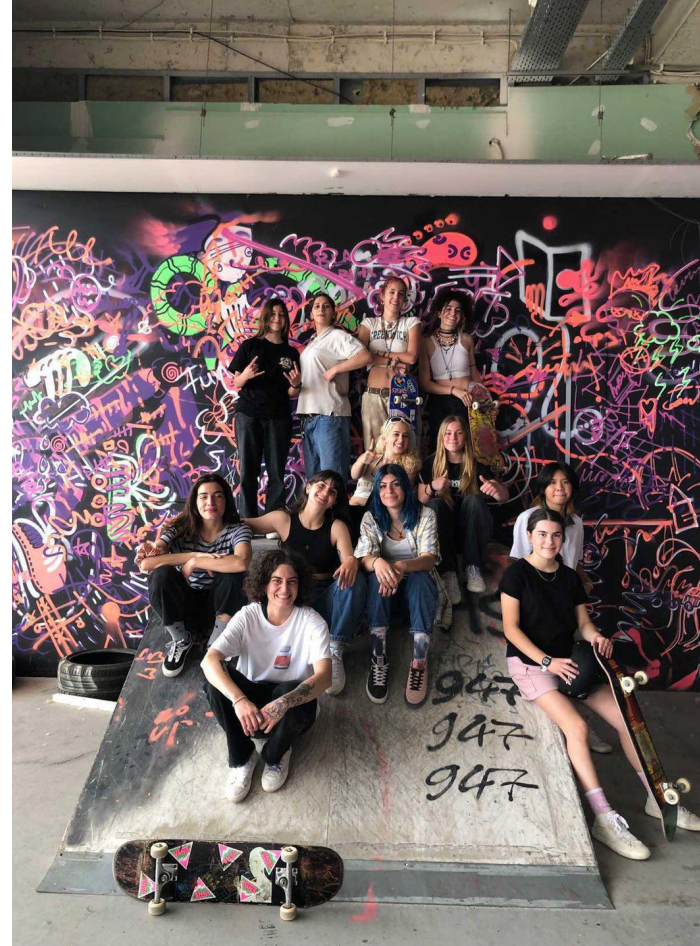
Highlights

Game of Skate Contest

We hosted a Game of Skate contest for the Athens skate community. Our aims were to support the local skate scene but also support and showcase the girls skate scene's skills and talents, as they feel unsupported in this country. It is important to support the girls skate scene in Athens, as these are the people that will offer inspiration for younger girls and empower them. Additionally, we want to support them to claim their space in the scene, by highlighting their skills to other skaters. We felt it was crucial to host for the first time in the country a contest that included them equally and had an equal prize to their male counterparts.

After 2 months of Game of Skate battles, in May the finals took place and it came to an end at an infamous Athenian skate spot in the center of Athens. All the finalists battled it out and we declared the winners. Notably the girl's winner won the same amount as the men. The finals were a celebration of Greek skateboarding and a great opportunity to gather together, importantly showcasing women's skateboarding in Greece. We heard male skaters talking about women's skating seriously, which was a great achievement. Hopefully this is the first of many to come, as we continue to play a role in supporting and inspiring girl skaters.

All games are available online on our blog and YouTube channel.



‘Thank you! We had so much fun, and because of you I saw my son dancing for the first time’

-Mother at our Refugee Week event after seeing her son participate in Hip Hop 4 Hope’s workshop



Highlights

Premier of 'The Invincible Summer'

In July, The Skateroom and Evan Maragoudakis premiered the film they created about FMS. The premier was hosted at Metaphor Creative Hub in Athens, Jack and Aurelie from The Skateroom were there to present their work, the collaboration and display some of their Cindy Sherman boards. Denia N., Denia K. and Lefty, along with Evan, stood up for the panel, talking about FMS's present and future in Athens, as well as answering the audience's questions. There was a great turnout and the screening went wonderfully, there were so many positive comments from people that attended, everyone loved the film and wanted more. We also met various people that have leads for our future plans and that are enthusiastic to help us out.



THE INVINCIBLE SUMMER

A FILM BY FREE MOVEMENT SKATEBOARDING

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY EVAN MARAGOUDAKIS AND ODIS TAMMARAS

THE SKATEROOM PRESENTS

THE INVINCIBLE SUMMER

A FILM BY FREE MOVEMENT SKATEBOARDING

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THE INVINCIBLE SUMMER

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THE SKATEROOM PRESENTS

'I don't know why I wasted so much time not skateboarding, it is so good!'

11 year old girl, who took a lot of encourage over many weeks to get her to try skateboarding and participate.



Session Insights

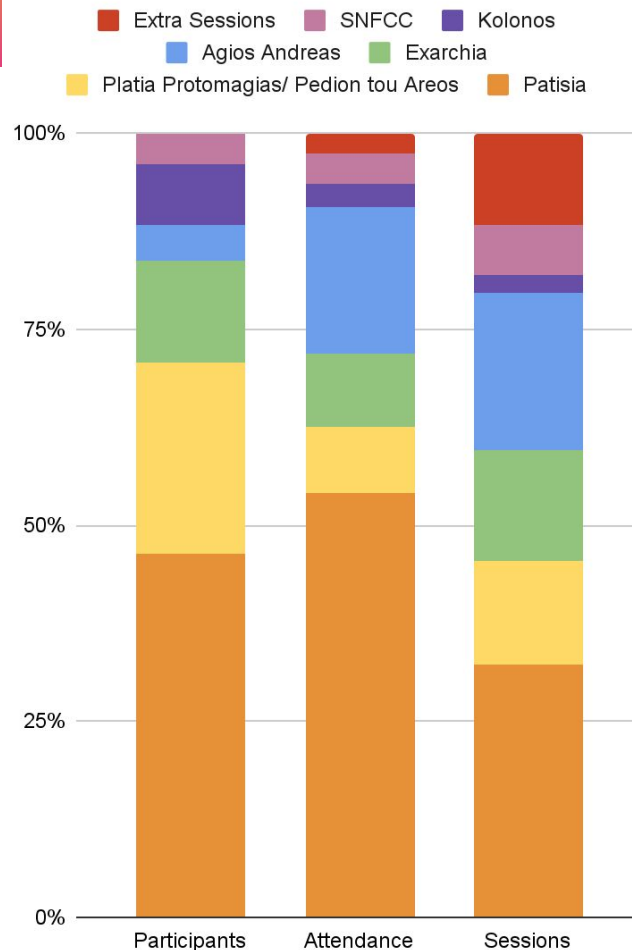
We delivered 66 sessions in the Patisia neighbourhood throughout the entire fiscal year. It is our largest session, and with 45% of our participants, it is the most popular and well attended session.

24% of our participants attended the 27 sessions both we delivered in both Pedion tou Areos Park and Platia Protomagias next to the park, which we started delivering in November 2021. Due to the inconsistency of sessions, it being a new session and it not being amongst a neighbourhood, it took a long time to have regular attendance, as a result it has a low attendance. We are confident it will grow greatly over the coming year.

We chose to end our session in Exarchia as we felt the neighbourhood change, seeing lower interest and participation, understanding that we could meet a real need by moving to Pedion Tou Areos.

We delivered sessions at Agios Andreas children's shelter from September 2021 until June 2022, therefore it accounted for 24% of our sessions. However as it is a closed session it had the least of our participants, but a high attendance as we delivered sessions at the shelter.

In Kolonos we delivered 5 sessions to 49 participants in the short period we were delivering sessions at the location, there was a lot of interest and good attendance. We were forced to stop due to a participant safety concern in the space. We are developing plans to return to the neighbourhood.





‘You really do learn how to fall and get up’

-11 year old girl whilst laughing, after being told about one of the benefits of skateboarding

Outreach Sessions (Social Care Units)



We continued to deliver 2 sessions a week in one of the two social care units this year. In November the majority of these children marked one year of skating. Considering that they skateboard for 1 hour a week and the cancelled sessions due to the many quarantines the shelter had to undertake, this was a challenge for children learning tricks. Yet they learnt to persevere and we even witnessed a shift in their mentality towards skateboarding, from just a fun activity to seeing it as a sport and skill, something they work at and see rewards. This was aided by introducing Koger and Denia K. to these sessions. They have massive respect for them and see them as role models. They also brought new ideas, games and challenges to the sessions, which were needed after nearly a year of sessions. The enthusiasm of the kids has been revitalised and we truly saw great progression

The beginning of 2022 brought many COVID quarantine and weather interruptions to this sessions. The break was a good opportunity to trial the Edu-Skate structure at this session, which the children have engaged with.

In June, after one and a half years delivering sessions at Agios Andreas, we delivered our last session before the children were heading off to summer camp. The children's interest has dropped over the time we have been at the care home. We re-evaluated our impact as a project, we made the hard decision that we can have more of an impact in public sessions another neighbourhood rather than outreach sessions.

Public Sessions

Exarchia Neighbourhood

We ran sessions in Exarchia for the 5th year running, unfortunately in June, we made the discussion to end these sessions as we were not seeing the impact we wanted anymore. In order to stay true to our aims and values we have moved the session to Platia Protomagias, covering interest from 3 neighbourhoods, including a several participants that wanted to continue from Exarchia. Some of our most regular and enthusiastic participants have joined us at that session since.



Public Sessions

Patisia Neighbourhood

Despite this session starting out as a collaboration with Safe Place International, there was more interest from the children of the neighbourhood. It continues to be our strongest session and over the past year we have introduced the Edu-Skate curriculum, improving the quality of sessions and making them more developmental. Due to popular demand in November we also added a second session in the week.

It is incredible to see these sessions progress, adaptation overtime and the impact on the children and neighbourhood. We have witnessed many positive behavioural and attitude changes from participants. Moreover, the community is lovely, kids and parents alike wanting to fully help out in sessions, unloading and loading the van. We have lovely catch up conversations, kids come excited to tell us news, and many families have come to multiple sessions, extra sessions, even on the same day.

Since April, we have begun rewarding our participants for their dedication, progress and enthusiasm by giving them their own skateboards. Our most regular and advanced participants at these sessions have been gifted their own skateboards. They are now able to continue to enjoy the benefits of skateboarding outside of the sessions and practice.



It is incredible to see that even after over a year of sessions there is still so much demand and enthusiasm for skateboarding in the neighbourhood, some of our participants have been skating with us from the beginning. We turn up to sessions and people are waiting for us and the majority of participants are regulars. We have more girls participating than ever, which was a challenge when we first began this session.

Part of building community in this neighbourhood are the community events we have organised. We have received so much love and positive feedback from locals, parents and participants. As a result interest has not slowed down and there is demand to have a bigger presence in the neighbourhood.

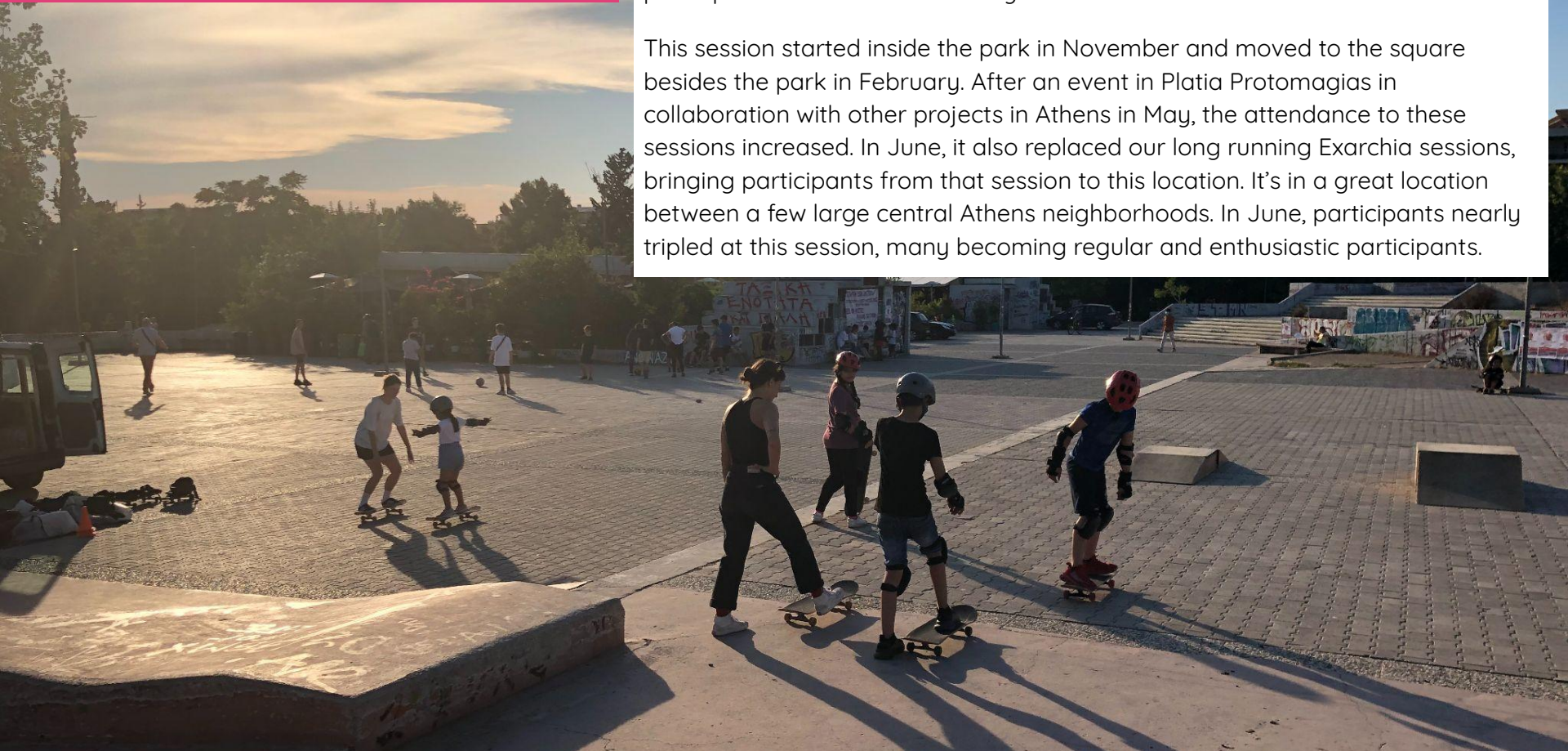


Public Sessions

Plateia Protomagias

This session has gone through various phases with changing groups of participants but continuous new youth in the area and interest.

This session started inside the park in November and moved to the square besides the park in February. After an event in Platia Protomagias in collaboration with other projects in Athens in May, the attendance to these sessions increased. In June, it also replaced our long running Exarchia sessions, bringing participants from that session to this location. It's in a great location between a few large central Athens neighborhoods. In June, participants nearly tripled at this session, many becoming regular and enthusiastic participants.



Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center

We were back at Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center for May and June. These are our calmest sessions, with between 15 to 18 children at each session, and it has been great seeing children that attended sessions last year. Furthermore, we have observed there are more girls attending these sessions than last year.

We have had such incredible feedback from SNFCC and from parents at the session, and it is great to hear that many participants want to join us at other sessions.

Once again it was a pleasure to deliver sessions in a space which definitely has the most suitable facilities and floor to teach on.

Public Sessions



Kolonos

In June we began delivering sessions in collaboration with Network for Children's Rights Youth Center at a basketball court in Kolonos. Along with the young people from the center we delivered the session also to the children of the neighbourhood. We had around 20 children and young people participating weekly. This session came to an end in July due to unforeseen circumstances, and we hope to return somewhere near to the neighbourhood.

Public Sessions



Latraac Skate Cafe

In July, we delivered sessions weekly at Latraac due to its popularity with our participants following some successful events. With summer holidays as the perfect excuse and the reduction in other activities, some of our participants were able to come to even more sessions and also in other locations. It also gives our more advanced participants something new to try.

Moreover, after the ending of the Kolonos sessions, the young people from Network for Children's Rights Youth Center joined us at this location.

Despite our initial plan to deliver these sessions just in July, Latraac were so enthusiastic about our presence, that we will continue to deliver sessions at this location, bringing more children from the surrounding neighbourhood through outreach.

Extra Sessions



Extra Easter Sessions in April

During the Easter school holidays we deliver four extra morning sessions, two at OAKA skatepark and two at Galatsi skatepark. We wanted to deliver these in order to give children and young people from our public sessions an opportunity to skate at a skatepark, for them to be around other skaters and try out larger ramps. The ones that were able to come loved it! We also had some new participants attend. We hope to do it again.

Extra Sessions



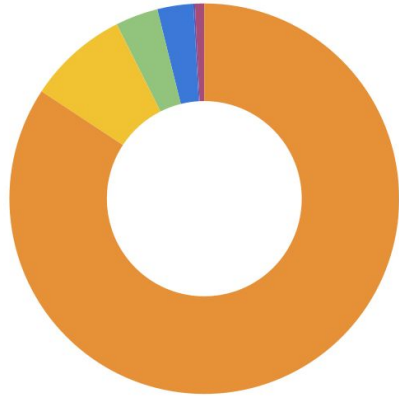
‘I can’t believe the change I have seen in my daughter, she used to be so shy and scared. She has become more confident and talkative. I never imagined that she would be interested in skateboarding or that it would have such a positive effect on her. Thank you so much for everything.’

-Mum of 8 year old girl who started attending sessions twice a week 2 months ago, and has not missed a session since!



Income

September 2021 - August 2022



- Grants
- Individual Giving (Donations)
- Collaborations/ Partnerships
- Crowdfunding
- Merchandise
- Other



Financial Breakdown (Income)

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 that FMS received between September 2021 and August 2022 (our fiscal year).

This year our goal continued to be to diversify our funding streams, with other grants, investing our efforts in increasing individual giving, a successful winter fundraiser and many collaborations (including with Decathlon Skateboarding and Athenian skate shops).

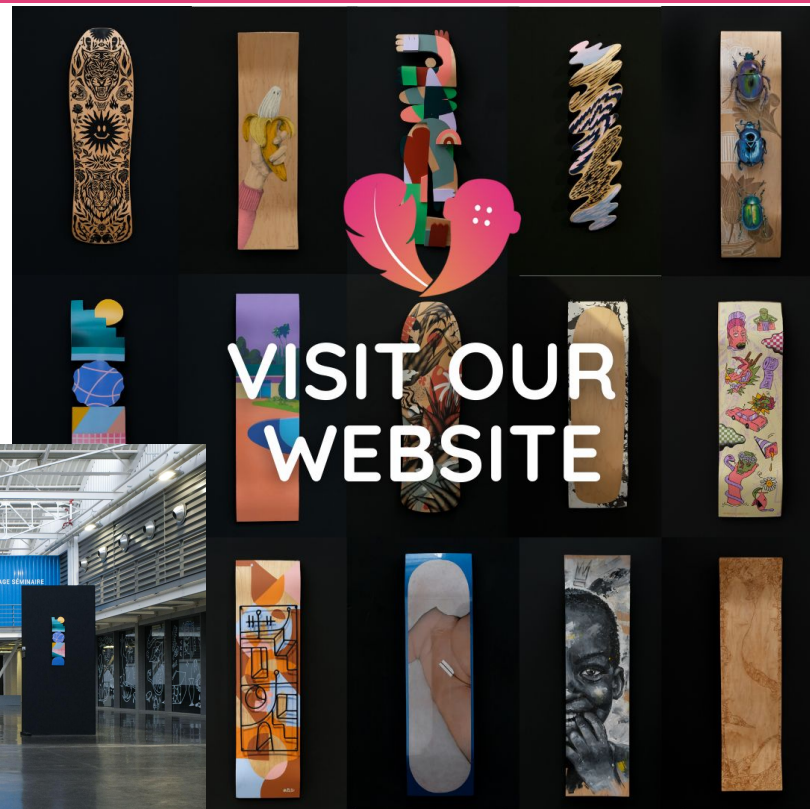
FMS also generously received in kind donations (not represented in this information)

Choose Love (Help Refugees)	40,572.93.
The Skateroom	19,634.36
Other Grants	2,478.11
One-off Donations	4,516.26
Recurr. Donations	1,668.86
Winter Fundraiser	2,214.13
Merchandise	101.75
Collaborations/ Partnerships	2,635.02
Other	569.28
Total	74,390.70

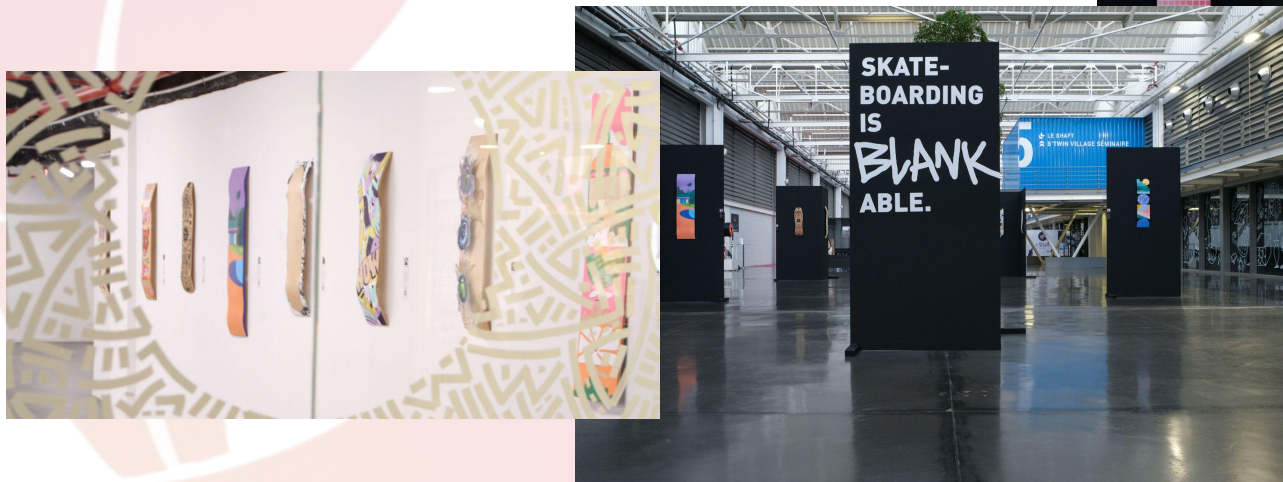
Collaborations

Decathlon x FMS

Decathlon collaborated with 18 artists for an exhibition called 'Skateboarding is BLANKable'. They generously decided that 100% of sales proceeds will go directly to us. We are massively grateful for their gesture of support to our project. Along with the financial support, it has been a great way to promote our work and project.



**VISIT OUR
WEBSITE**



Collaborations

Ministry of Concrete x FMS x Latraac Event

In July, along with Ministry of Concrete, one of the Athenian skate shops, we hosted an event at Latraac Skate Cafe. It was an opportunity to once again have a session for our participants on the bigger ramps and have a skate demo to inspire them. Moreover, it was an opportunity to launch our t-shirt collaboration with the skate shop. We sold t-shirts and limited editions of Philip Joa's incredible design, whilst the Ministry of Concrete team entertained with their music choices and Mi55T performed.

Beyond Skateboarding Campaign

Our aim was to raise money aimed at funding the Edu-Skate curriculum. In collaboration with CJF we used the campaign as an opportunity to raise awareness and promote the curriculum, giving information about how it works, examples and insight from the programs in Peru, Jamaica and also at our own sessions. We raised £2,214.13, including £400 in match funding and other companies also generously donated large amounts.





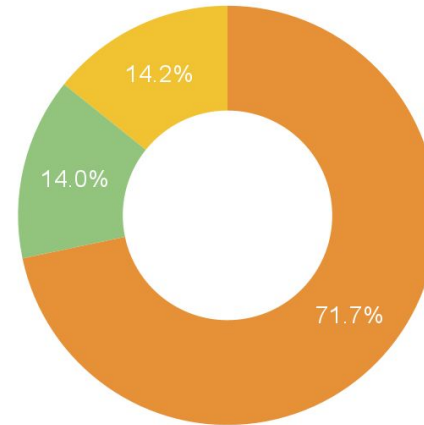
Financial Breakdown (Expenses)

100% of our income is spent on FMS activities, in order to deliver quality and reliable sessions for young Athenians.

Admin and fundraising costs cover necessary team working hours and fundraising costs needed for the operation of the charity, and the quality and sustainability of our activities.

Expenses

September 2021 - August 2022



● Sessions ● Admin ● Fundraising

Van Costs	3,902.12
Session Costs	28885.58
Staff Welfare	1433.94
Covid 19 Costs	185.01
Fundraising	8441.20
Administration Costs	8323.88
Staff Training	3166.32
Outreach	2325.73
Other	2585.46
Total	59,249.24



‘He sees your van from the apartment window, starts getting excited and we have to run down.’

- Father of 7 years old participant, explaining that he has seen an improvement in confidence in his son and that he was always shy to come play with the others kids in the neighborhood

Goals 2023

More Community Events: Aim for even more community events and collaborations this year. We value the importance of bringing people together and introducing our participants to new experiences.

Developing Edu-Skate and being active in Network: To continue to develop Edu-Skate curriculum to fit our context and sessions. As well as being active in the Edu-Skate network with other social skateboarding projects worldwide.

Expansion and Project Development: Set up a community space in the Patisia neighbourhood to better support our participants and community there. Allowing us also to expand our mobile activities and impact to other neighbourhoods.

Fundraising diversification: We will always aim to improve and diversify our funding, to ensure greater financial security for our activities.





Message from FMS Core Team Member Lefteris...

Another year in the bag, the fourth since I first volunteered with FMS and so much has changed since. A humanitarian crisis was on full blast, with tens of thousands of refugees crossing the sea towards perceived European prosperity, instead landing in an EU border state struggling with its own financial and social demons, unable to offer them anything above the bare minimum care. The far right (Golden Dawn) still had a firm grip on politics and constantly looking over our shoulder in public skate sessions was the norm. The core team was made up entirely of non-Greeks and very few locals knew about FMS or were interested in its work. We weren't yet a registered charity, Britain was still a part of the European family and Corona was a beer brand.

Now the core team is 80% Greek and skate instructors are all young local skateboarders and Golden Dawn is behind bars. We are a registered charity in the UK and Greece and in a far better place with regard to networking, collaborations, financial management, safeguarding and overall governance.

It hasn't been easy and everyone involved in the team had to give more than long work hours in a very challenging environment, dealing with possibly traumatised children. The team proved its resilience, but at a cost: in a 5 member team, I've seen 7 people come and go, having given their soul to go above and beyond their job title. But we've come through and now the organisation is offering counselling to its members, so we're in our good place mentally to help others get to theirs.

The local skate scene is now on board with what we're doing. FMS organised the first ever Game of Skate in Greece to feature all 5 of Athens' main skate shops on the same poster, side by side. And both Greek skate contests to ever offer equal prize money to women and men were organised and hosted by FMS.

But most of all, we've come back from extensive lockdown periods to 5 flourishing public sessions a week in mixed, inner city neighbourhoods. It is here that Greeks live side by side with people from 38 other cultural backgrounds and here where we are most needed to facilitate Social Cohesion through Wellbeing and Empowerment, on and off the board. In short, we practice what we teach: you only fail when you decide to quit!



Get in touch:

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