



FREE MOVEMENT

skateboarding in solidarity

ANNUAL REPORT

September '24 - August '25



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OUR AIMS & VISIONS

Free Movement Skateboarding is a project which aims to create safe and inclusive spaces for marginalized youth in Athens, using skateboarding as a tool to support our participants' wellbeing, empowerment and social cohesion. Our mobile skatepark gives the chance to participants coming from various displaced communities (refugee, migrant, and Roma communities, FLINTA, participants with disabilities) aged 7 and above, to join our weekly sessions in open spaces. Additionally, we visit public elementary schools and organize community events specifically aimed at engaging minority groups, creating welcoming spaces where individuals can connect, share experiences, meet people with different cultural backgrounds and form friendships.

These gatherings are designed to foster a strong sense of belonging and support, while also encouraging collaboration and mutual empowerment. Through our skateboarding sessions along with the parallel activities we provide, we cultivate trust while building a strong sense of belonging within the Athenian neighbourhoods. All of the public spaces in which we operate are strategically chosen in areas where we can provide direct accessibility to the beneficiaries, and create relations with the locals and the neighbourhood as a whole.

OUR IMPACT IN NUMBERS



648 Unique participants

223 Total Sessions

2758 Total Attendance

49% Girl Participation

25 Participants with disabilities

21 Different Locations

56 Different Cultural Backgrounds

24 Community Events

"Falling isn't the end, it's just a
step toward getting better.

A , 12 Year Old Participant learning about
not giving up





OVERVIEW OF THE YEAR



WHAT WE OFFER

Skateboarding can play a significant role in **supporting mental health and overall well-being**. As a physically engaging and creative activity, it **helps reduce stress and anxiety** by **promoting mindfulness and releasing endorphins**. The process of learning new skills, falling, and trying again builds resilience, confidence, and a healthy attitude toward challenges. By offering skateboarding sessions in public spaces we go beyond the physical and emotional benefits of skateboarding and also aim to **foster community, inclusion, and a sense of belonging**. For many, skateboarding serves as a form of self-expression and empowerment, strengthening both identity and self-esteem. In this way, it contributes holistically to emotional, psychological, and social well-being, promoting balance, connection, and personal growth.

Alongside skateboarding, we actively support childminding siblings and younger children that are too young to skate by providing parallel activities and value-driven games, focused on themes such **respect, teamwork and inclusion**, creating opportunities for **creative expression, emotional regulation, and positive social interaction**. Through active listening, thoughtful behavioral guidance, and in-depth conversations, the FMS team helps nurture understanding and peaceful relationships among the children, **ensuring a space where every young person feels heard, safe, and valued**.

Last but not least, The Edu Skate Curriculum by the Concrete Jungle Foundation is a curriculum that includes skate activities and monthly themes such as creativity, team work and self-confidence, adjusted according to the needs and goals of our sessions. Over the year, FMS delivered **73 Edu-Skate sessions with 256 unique participants** joining multiple sessions that helped them gain skills, knowledge, and resources which will contribute to peace in their communities and strengthen their relationships.

OVERVIEW OF OUR SESSIONS

We deliver three types of sessions:

- Weekly Public Sessions: Free, open and consistent skateboarding sessions held in public spaces, where participants from all walks of life come together to skate, learn, and grow every week. These sessions are about breaking down walls and building community, one trick at a time.
- Weekly School-based Sessions: In collaboration with schools, we bring skateboarding to a school environment, reaching children directly within their educational settings, overcoming challenges like travel, accessibility and ensuring every child can participate.
- Special Events and Extra Sessions: One-off events or short-term series of sessions outside our regular program, expanding our reach and creating unique opportunities for participants, celebrating milestones or special days and collaborating with partners.

Our public skateboarding sessions remain at the heart of our work to create safe, inclusive, and empowering spaces for children and young people from diverse and marginalized communities. This year, 89.24% of our sessions were part of our weekly public sessions, reaching 68.48% of our unique participants across 7 locations. Free and open to all, these sessions ensure that no child is excluded due to financial or social barriers. By bringing skateboarding sessions into neighbourhoods that need it most, with the use of our mobile skatepark in a van, we make it accessible to those who may not otherwise have the opportunity.

Our public sessions are grounded in the principles of **diversity and inclusion**. Over the past year, we have welcomed participants from 56 nationalities, all living in Athens. Although the city can sometimes feel unwelcoming due to racism, bureaucratic challenges, and social exclusion, we remain deeply committed to creating a space that is safe, inclusive, and accessible to all. Within our community, a wide range of cultural traditions and perspectives are shared. This diversity fosters mutual learning, understanding, and connection as we come together through skateboarding.

With girl participation hitting 49%, we continue to **prioritise gender equity and representation in skateboarding**, reaching an all-time high this year in the number of girls and non-male skaters joining our sessions.





BUILDING COMMUNITY, ON AND OFF THE BOARD

Free Movement sessions go beyond skateboarding; they serve as **important spaces for social connection, self-expression, emotional well-being, and community building.** Each week, they provide young people with an opportunity to step away from daily challenges, develop new skills, and experience the joy of belonging to a supportive and vibrant community. Skateboarding sessions in public spaces have a powerful positive impact, creating an **open and engaging environment where young people can learn, express themselves, and build community.** Alongside skating, the parallel activities we run such as group games and art workshops, offer creative and social outlets for all participants. Our EduSkate sessions introduce monthly themes, such as self-confidence, resilience, and cooperative learning, that not only support their progress in skateboarding but also **nurture valuable life skills.** By integrating these practices and ensuring a dedicated safeguarding officer is consistently present to look after vulnerable youth, **we provide a safe, inclusive space for the young Athenian community to grow, connect, and thrive, on and off the board.**

"Seeing what others are doing helps me improve."





"I can't believe they did this for me."
(N's reaction when we celebrated
her bday)

A photograph of the interior of a white van, showing a wooden crate in the center. The crate is made of light-colored wood and is empty. To the left of the crate, there are several pairs of shoes. The van's interior is white, and the cargo door is open on the right side. The text "EXPANDING INCLUSION" is overlaid in large, white, bold, outlined letters across the middle of the image.

EXPANDING INCLUSION

SESSIONS FOR PARTICIPANTS WITH DISABILITIES

One of FMS's goals for the end of this period was to be **more inclusive towards participants with disabilities** from September 2024 onwards. As it is challenging to adjust skate sessions in public spaces, we took the decision to network with special needs schools that would potentially be interested. We have established a collaboration with the Special Needs Elementary School Zefyri since November 2024, and in February 2025 we additionally held our first session at PIKPA Voulas (Rehabilitation & Recovery Unit for Children with Disabilities). Since then, we have had a steady collaboration both with the Special Needs Elementary School in Zefyri by providing monthly sessions, as well as with PIKPA Voulas, resulting in a total of 25 unique participants who are very much enjoying the FMS sessions



FILIKA MEET UPS - GIRL EMPOWERMENT

Over the past year, we hosted a variety of events that championed girl empowerment, both within our sessions and across the broader local skateboarding scene. **The presence of girls in skateboarding in Athens continues to grow**, and we are committed to ensuring they feel safe, supported, and excited to skate.

This year, Filika kept rolling strong, continuing to build space and visibility for the girl and queer skate community of Athens. Our **weekly meet-ups** at Kotzia Square and skateparks around the city **became a hotspot for community and new friendships**, and a place where new skaters found support and experienced ones gave it back, resulting in 41 regular participants. In October 2024 we celebrated Filika's 3rd birthday with a lively skate jam in the heart of Athens, took part in a big community market at Kypseli Agora hosted by Patinia (our friends from the local women-led roller crew), and hosted a special Girls & Queers Pride Skate Meet-Up during Pride Month, mixing skating, creativity, and self-expression through art workshops. **Week by week, these sessions have grown into something bigger**, a visible community that continues to uplift and inspire. This year also brought wider recognition of our work, with Filika featured on an article on a big online paper LIFO.gr, as well as a national TV show, sharing our story and the energy of Athens' women and queer skaters with an even broader audience.

FILIKA



PS(H)Y DEX

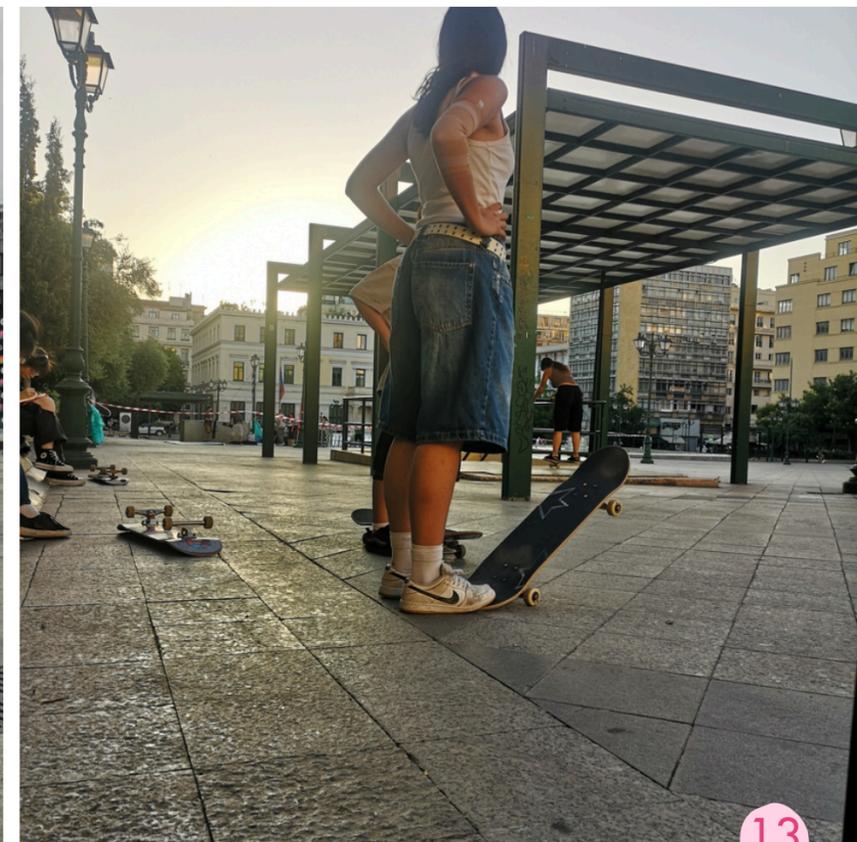
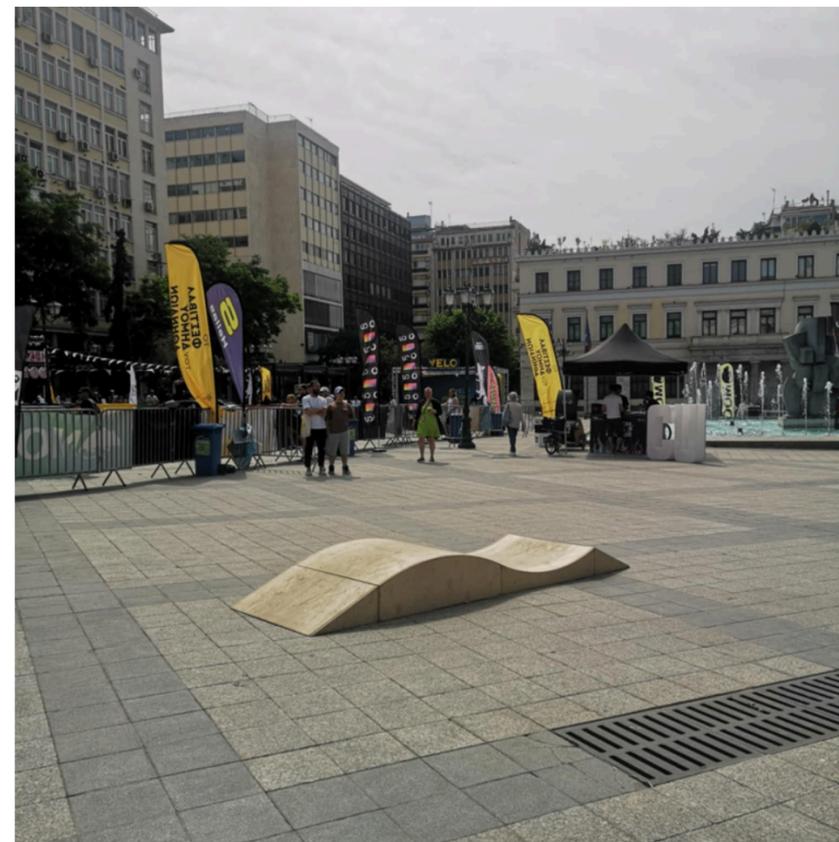


Last year, Sonia, with her project **Ps(h)y Dex**, was selected as a ROLL Model (programme by Goodpush Alliance / Skateistan and Women Win) along with 15 other participants from 10 different countries to design and deliver skateboarding projects that encourage gender-diverse youth to get rolling across Europe.

Ps(h)y Dex is a project that **focuses on girls and genderqueer individuals aged 12 and above**. Its goal was to create an obstacle inspired by “Obstacles to Treatment,” a skate obstacle designed by Joel Pippus that can be used as part of a treatment process for high-needs children, as well as by “Push to Heal,” a programme that seeks to verbally articulate and visually demonstrate the connections between skateboarding and neuroscience, highlighting skateboarding as an activity that can help heal the human brain from past trauma.

The project involved the design of a multi-form ramp to be used in skate sessions with young female and genderqueer individuals who face difficulties entering the Athenian skate scene on their own, helping them **feel more confident and present in the city’s skateparks and skate spots**.

Ps(h)y Dex aims to foster a sense of belonging and help FLINTA skaters feel confident in their presence at skateparks and skate spots across the city. To this end, we organized and **delivered five skate gatherings that served as community events, with 58 individual participants in total**.





"Seeing what others are doing helps me improve!"

INSIGHTS FROM ANNUAL SURVEY

The survey gathered 39 responses from young participants attending FMS skateboarding sessions, aged 7 to 15. The gender balance leaned slightly toward female participants (56%), showing that the program is successfully engaging girls in skateboarding, which is traditionally dominated by boys. The survey results align with the fact this year we reached an all time high girl attendance according to our impact stats. Participants represented multiple neighborhoods including Ag. Panteleimonas, Metaxourgeio, Attiki, Patisia, the Multicultural School and Protomagias square, trying to include multiple voices and achieve a broad community reach. Most respondents had been skating for at least several months, with nearly 40% having one year of experience, indicating a mix of newcomers and committed participants.

- **Safety & Belonging:** While young people rated their sense of safety in the streets at just 3.1/5, they felt very safe with FMS (4.9/5) and highly included (4.8/5).
- **Health & Enjoyment:** Participants believe skating with FMS is good exercise (4.2/5) and overwhelmingly enjoy sessions (79% gave the highest rating), with 86% looking forward to attending.
- **Confidence & Skills:** 65%+ reported improved perseverance, teamwork, and confidence — skills that extend beyond skateboarding.
- **Friendship & Diversity:** 76% made new friends, 97% engaged with peers, and 100% connected with someone from a different cultural background, demonstrating FMS's role in building social cohesion.
- **Trusted Support:** 97% feel comfortable approaching the FMS team with problems, showing the program provides mentorship and emotional support in addition to sport.

In conclusion, FMS offers much more than skateboarding. It creates a safe, supportive space where young people build resilience, confidence, friendships, and intercultural understanding — all while having fun and staying active.





BEYOND SKATEBOARDING



SKATER CREATORS

This year we received a grant from UNESCO to run our SkaterCreators project. SkaterCreators, a youth empowerment project was implemented by Free Movement Skateboarding (FMS) in Athens from April to November 2025, **uniting art and skateboarding to promote inclusion, mental well-being, and anti-racist values.** Through various creative **skate-based activities and a final public exhibition** and community event, 56 young people aged 7–25, many from displaced or low-income backgrounds explored themes of unity, belonging, diversity, courage, and emotional expression while reclaiming public space and challenging gender and social inequalities in skate culture. By integrating artistic workshops into FMS’s Edu-Skate curriculum and collaborating with local partners, SkaterCreators **strengthened self-confidence, empathy, and social cohesion,** demonstrating the **power of creative sport as a tool for youth resilience** and a more inclusive future for Athens.



PUBLICITY AND COLLABORATIONS



This year, our work continued to gain visibility through multiple platforms, raising awareness about the transformative impact of skateboarding on young girls and marginalised communities. Through media, collaborations, international events, and advocacy opportunities, we can amplify our presence, strengthen our connections, and continue to champion inclusion and empowerment through skateboarding on a national and global scale.

Media Features:

- **LiFo Online Magazine:** An [article](#) about Denia's Filika weekly meet-ups in Kotzia square, highlighting the sense of community and belonging these meet-ups have created in the girls skateboarding scene.
- **Alpha TV:** Filika Skate Meets were also featured in a morning show on national TV

International Advocacy:

- **Global Cultural Districts Network (GCDN) Conference, Athens 2024:** Will and Denia N. participated in a conference and panel discussion on including refugee and migrant communities in cultural spaces. Sharing the stage with The Home Project, El Sistema, and the Walking with Amal project, the event offered valuable networking opportunities and enhanced our visibility.

Partnerships & Collaborations:

From local organisations and NGOs to international brands, this past year has been successful when it comes to growing awareness and visibility for our project.

- **CPH OPEN Athens** - During the week of one of the biggest skate events we ran a skate jam with ThereSkateboards and NIKE SB
- **Decathlon Skate Jam & Fundraiser** - Music, prizes & Cash for tricks in collaboration with Decathlon, as a wrap up of CPH Open
- **ROES Cooperativa** - This year we worked closely with ROES Cooperativa by holding multiple events focusing on fostering safe and inclusive spaces for FLINTA skaters through creativity, dialogue and skateboarding
- **EPAPSY** - Awareness event regarding street culture and mental health, in collaboration with EPAPSY (Association for Regional Development and Mental Health)
- **Vans Shop Riot x Color Skates x Skate Shop Day** - FMS was part of the VSR EU Finals in Athens where we held a skate session for our young participants who also received Vans Shoes and complete skateboards
- **Navarino Challenge** - Our 3rd year taking part in the Navarino Challenge sports event in Pylos
- **Leonteios school & Eurohoops** - We ran 2 skate sessions at Leonteios school during their Eurohoops summer camp, a project inviting youth to join free community activities



COMMUNITY EVENTS



"Confidence is trusting yourself to try new things."





STORIES

(CASE STUDIES)

THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING THE SPACE TO GROW

Two teenage girls, N and A, joined us about a year ago. At the time, they were noticeably shy and reserved, shaped by experiences in public skate spaces that were largely male-dominated and often unwelcoming. Skateboarding, like many action sports, has long been defined by confidence, speed, and visibility—traits traditionally encouraged and rewarded in boys.

For N and A, joining the group meant navigating both the technical demands of a new sport and the unspoken expectations placed on them as girls. During their first sessions, they spoke very little. They listened carefully to instructors, responded briefly when addressed, and stayed close to one another. Gradually, familiarity replaced hesitation. They began attempting new tricks, engaging in casual conversation, and showing more ease within the group. They returned consistently—early to each session, always together.

Their progress was uneven. Some days were marked by confidence, others by withdrawal or frustration. Still, their continued presence mattered. Each return challenged the assumption that leadership and belonging in skate culture are reserved for a particular type of person.

Over time, N and A became points of reference for newer girls in the group. They offered encouragement, demonstrated techniques, and paid attention to who might be struggling or feeling excluded. Their leadership was quiet and collective rather than assertive or dominant. It took the form of shared learning, mutual support, and care.

As new participants joined, many began to look to N and A for guidance. They followed them during sessions, copied their movements, and sought their advice. Friendships developed naturally. No formal role was assigned, and none was needed. N and A became leaders because the environment allowed space for them to grow into that role.





CHALLENGES & LESSONS LEARNED

1. SHRINKING AND UNEQUAL PUBLIC SPACES

Greece continues to face long-standing economic and social challenges, which disproportionately affect marginalized communities. In Athens, ongoing metro expansion and urban development have led to the closure or repurposing of public spaces used for our skate sessions. While some areas receive investment, others—often in marginalized neighborhoods—remain neglected and unsafe. This unequal management of public space limits children’s and young people’s access to safe, inclusive places for play, connection, and community-building, reinforcing the importance of FMS’s work.

2. GENDER INEQUALITY IN THE SKATEBOARDING SCENE

The skateboarding scene in Greece is heavily male-dominated, a reality reflected in low participation from girls in FMS’s early sessions. Cultural barriers and a lack of female role models initially limited engagement. In response, we introduced targeted inclusion strategies, including weekly girls-only sessions and two FLINTA-focused projects, Filika and Ps(h)y Dex, both supported by Skateistan’s Roll Models Programme. These initiatives have significantly increased participation and created safer, more welcoming environments for girls and gender-diverse youth.

3. INCLUSION OF PARTICIPANTS WITH DISABILITIES

It’s a known fact that in Athens, there is a big lack of inclusive infrastructure. Recognizing this gap, FMS shifted its approach by forming partnerships with special needs schools and care institutions. Since November, we have run regular sessions at a Special Needs Elementary School in Zefyri and established an ongoing collaboration with PIKPA Voulas – Rehabilitation & Recovery Unit for Children with Disabilities. These efforts challenge ableist narratives in skateboarding and expand who gets to participate.

4. SAFEGUARDING, TRAUMA, AND YOUTH WELLBEING

Many of the children and adolescents we work with—particularly those from displaced or marginalized backgrounds—have experienced trauma related to family instability, poverty, or social exclusion. Between January and March 2025, several safeguarding incidents highlighted the complexity of this work. Rather than viewing these incidents as failures, we used them to inform improvements to our trauma-informed approach. Through trained staff, clear safeguarding protocols, and ongoing professional development, we provide consistent emotional support and behavioural guidance. Following strategic programme adjustments, no safeguarding incidents occurred during the spring and summer of 2025.

OVERCOMING BARRIERS

5. SCHOOL-BASED SESSIONS AS AN ALTERNATIVE SPACE

As access to public spaces became increasingly limited, FMS developed collaborations with public elementary schools and parents' associations. This resulted in weekly sessions at two elementary schools and monthly sessions at a Special Needs Elementary School. Delivering skateboarding within school environments reduced barriers related to travel, safety, and accessibility, allowing us to reach children directly in their daily settings.

6. COMMUNITY-CENTERED, INCLUSIVE PROGRAMMING

All FMS activities take place in neighborhoods primarily inhabited by migrants, refugees, working-class residents, and other marginalized groups, including trans and gender-diverse people. Amid rapid gentrification, our presence in these areas supports local connections and strengthens community ties. Projects such as Filika and Ps(h)y Dex combine skateboarding with art, group discussions, and mental health awareness, addressing intersectionality and empowering participants to reclaim public spaces traditionally dominated by cis male skaters.

7. CREATIVE AND THERAPEUTIC APPROACHES

To support emotional regulation and positive social interaction, FMS integrates yoga-based warm-ups, breathing exercises, mindfulness, art workshops, and value-driven games into sessions. Activities such as collective graffiti, fabric painting, and guided discussions create opportunities for expression and connection. Through active listening and consistent support, the FMS team ensures that every participant feels safe, heard, and valued.



The background is a light pink color with various autumn-themed illustrations. There are several large, stylized leaves in shades of pink and orange. Interspersed among the leaves are several buttons, some with four holes and some with two. The overall aesthetic is soft and seasonal.

FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN

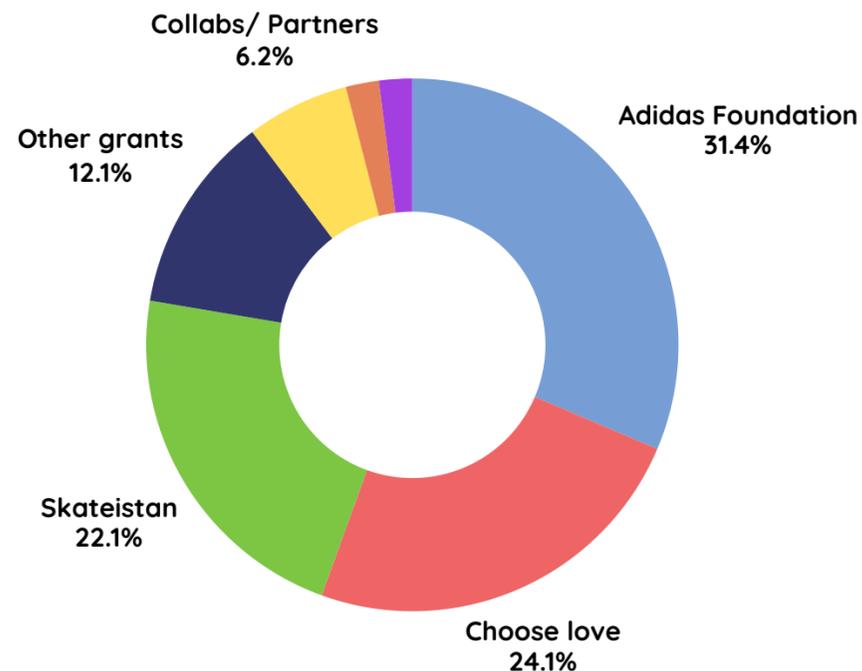
FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN - (SEPTEMBER '24 - AUGUST '25)

INCOME:

Thanks to the continued generosity of our partners, donors, and wider community, FMS has been able to sustain and expand its work throughout the past year. The chart below outlines the monetary income FMS received between September 2024 and August 2025 (our fiscal year), totaling €116,373.57.

This year, we continued to strengthen and diversify our funding streams, securing €104,576.34 in grants, €2,052.78 from individual giving, €7,225.40 through collaborations and partnerships, and €2,519.05 from other income sources. These efforts—ranging from successful grant applications to building new partnerships for program delivery—play a vital role in ensuring that our programs remain accessible, sustainable, and impactful for young people in Athens.

Sources of Funding:	
Grants	€104,576.34
Individual Giving	€2,052.78
Collaborations and Partnerships	€7,225.40
Other	€2,519.05



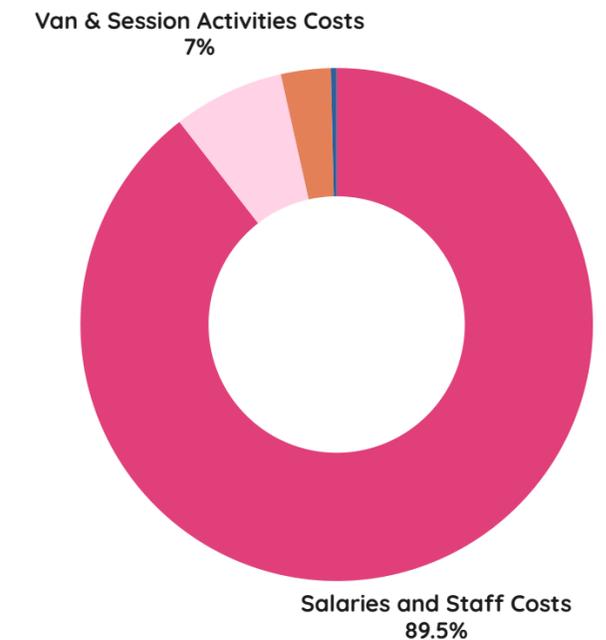
EXPENSES:

100% of our income is directed toward delivering free, high-quality, and consistent skateboarding sessions and activities for young people in Athens.

Administrative and fundraising costs are essential to cover core staff working hours and to sustain our fundraising activities. These investments ensure the effective operation of the organization and support the long-term quality and sustainability of our programs.

Total expenses for the 2024–2025 fiscal year amounted to €103,721.84.

Key Areas of Spending:	
Van Costs	€4,852.45
Session Activities/ Equipment	€2,420.21
Salaries and Staff Costs	€92,819.03
Fundraising and Promotion	€374.33
Administration and Operations Costs	€3,255.82





"Best day of my life!
(S's reaction, coming from a shelter
for unaccompanied kids)



GOALS FOR 2026

SESSIONS & EVENTS

Over the next three years, we will strengthen and gradually expand our weekly skateboarding sessions. Year 1 focuses on consolidating programme quality, while Years 2 and 3 introduce new school and disability-sector sessions, growing to around ten weekly sessions by 2028. Community events—around ten per year—will continue to build local connection and celebrate key social themes.

INFRASTRUCTURE & CURRICULUM

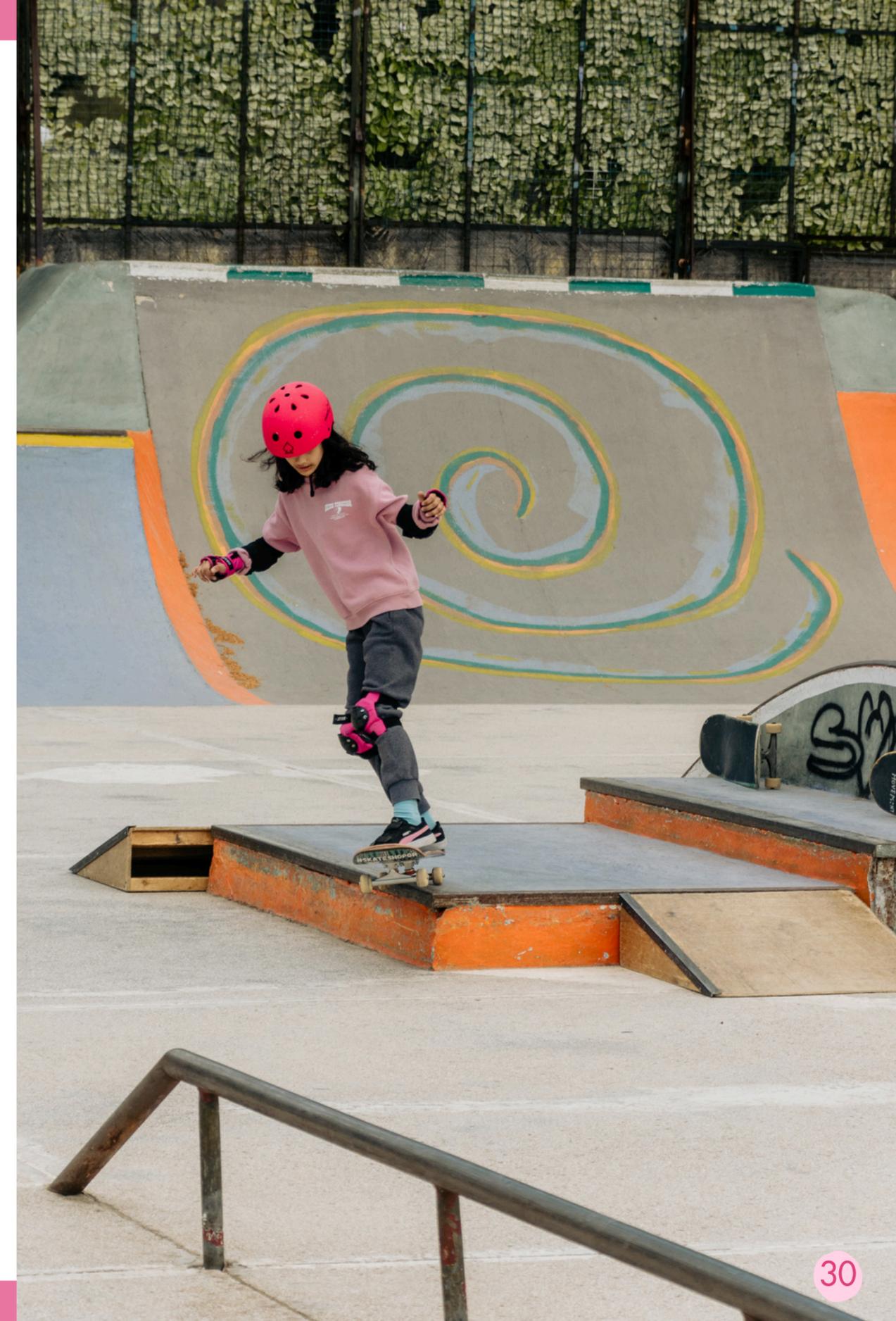
We will continue developing our in-house teaching methodology and curriculum with the aim of sharing our expertise internationally through trainings, seminars and exchanges. Investment in infrastructure remains essential: we will replace and upgrade ramps as fundraising allows, assess the long-term future of our van.

SAFETY & STANDARDS

We will maintain rigorous safeguarding, health and safety and emergency-response training for all staff and volunteers. Annual Red Cross training for lead instructors and adherence to the health and safety standards will ensure we minimise risks and uphold best practice across all activities.

GOVERNANCE & TRUSTEES

Our governance approach will become increasingly participatory. Long-term, we aspire for a parent representative to join the trustee board, supported by structured parent and youth focus groups. We aim to have a dedicated youth board to ensure young people's voices directly inform decision-making, with a youth representative contributing to trustee meetings.



By the end of 2025, we started working on “Rolling Together”, a project funded by Adidas Foundation that its core goal is to provide a comprehensive toolkit that supports everyone involved in Free Movement Skateboarding’s (FMS) work — from instructors to youth workers — **in delivering safe, inclusive, and empowering skateboarding sessions.** This curriculum will serve as a practical handbook for leading and facilitating FMS sessions, explaining **why and how FMS uses skateboarding to promote youth empowerment, wellbeing, and social inclusion** by describing the session structure and including themes and values like creativity, respect, courage, teamwork, and fun, that will be shaping each week’s activities.

Furthermore, FMS is committed to **creating safe and welcoming spaces for marginalized young people in Athens**, using skateboarding as a tool to promote wellbeing, empowerment, and social cohesion. By the end of September 2025, we began a collaboration with Yoga and Sports for Refugees (YSR) as part of the Sports for Refugees Coalition programme. YSR’s mission is to transform lives through sport by bringing people together and fostering hope. We have seen steady participation from young people from displaced communities, and we expect this engagement to grow through our ongoing partnership in 2026. YSR coaches with refugee and migrant backgrounds have been joining FMS sessions, leading parallel sports activities that offer diverse role models and further strengthen inclusion, empowerment, and community leadership.

As FMS expands its work delivering sessions for young people with learning disabilities, two team members are taking part in a six-month Innovation Incubation Learning Hub funded by Olympism365, Women Win, and Beyond Sport. Throughout the programme, they are developing project-design skills while we trial innovative lesson plans using structured feedback from participants and instructors. The insights gained will ultimately shape a best-practice guide for teaching skateboarding to young people with learning disabilities, intended for wide dissemination.

Last but not least, **girl participation has increased significantly compared to 2024**, leading to a steady group of female skaters who attend multiple weekly sessions. We continue to host our weekly girls’ sessions, along with additional events throughout the year that focus on FLINTA skaters. Through our two projects, Filika and Ps(h)y Dex, we aim to **promote inclusion and visibility for non-traditional skaters within the Athenian skateboarding scene.**





THANK YOU!