



# ROOKIE SLASH ACTIVITY REPORT

Year 2021-2022



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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Rookie Slash was born within the *Association Lémanique de Ski et Snowboarding Freestyle* (ALSF) in the winter of 2021-2022. The initial project allowed 10 young refugees to learn skateboarding, trampolining, and skiing/snowboarding, while being introduced to the local freestyle community.

Due to the success of the winter program, coaches and organizers decided to create the association Rookie Slash in March 2022 to expand and continue the initiative.

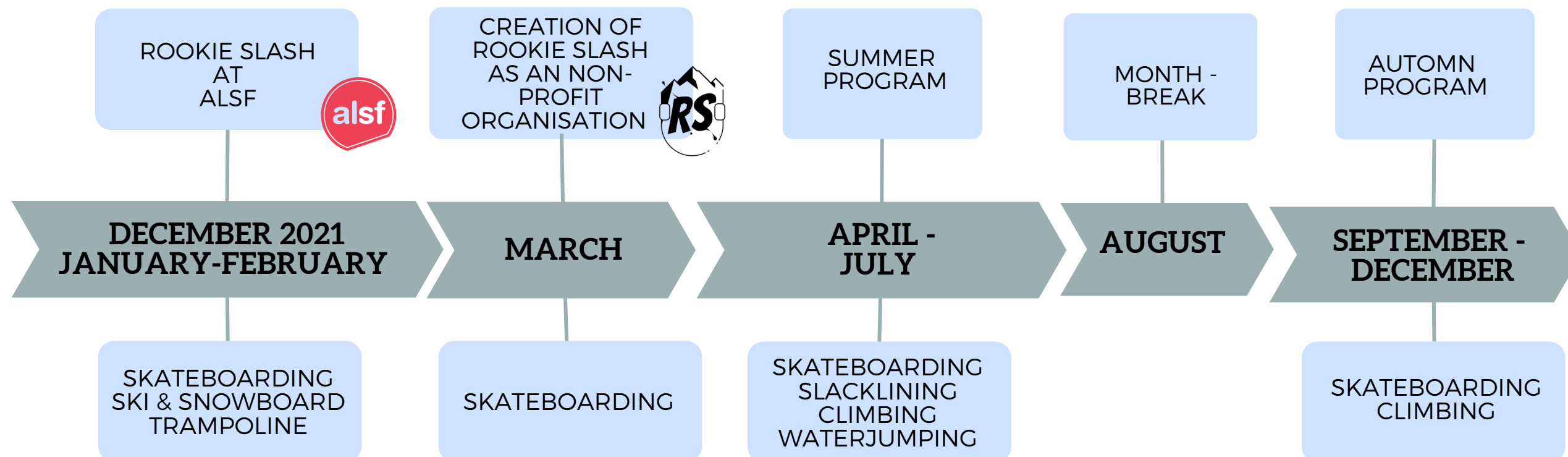
Since then we have been giving weekly lessons in board sports and outdoor activities at no cost for the youth. During our first year, we developed 6 activities and organized 95 sessions!

It is now time for us to reflect on our activities and imagine our future. In this report, we offer a detailed overview of our work on the integration of refugees through outdoor and board sports in Geneva.

You will find a comprehensive list of the activities we have developed, along with the number of sessions held and the participants' attendance. Through a methodological assessment, we further evaluate the social impact of our actions and identify areas for improvement for 2023.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all the individuals and organizations who supported Rookie Slash during its first year! The help we received demonstrates the supportive nature of outdoor and board sports communities.

Thank you all for helping us empower young refugees through outdoor and board sports!



# BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

In 2022, Switzerland registered 24,511 asylum requests, mainly from Afghanistan, Eritrea, and Turkey. Additionally, 10% of these refugees are unaccompanied minors. These are the highest numbers recorded since 2015. Furthermore, since the start of the war, many Ukrainian families have found protection in Switzerland.<sup>1 2</sup>

In Geneva, the treatment of families and unaccompanied minors has come under strong criticism. While waiting for a response on their asylum request, many young people remain in uncertainty, often for years. The psychological damage caused by this situation has led to a surge in suicides among the young refugee population in the canton of Geneva.<sup>3</sup>

In light of this situation, Rookie Slash believes it is essential to provide these young people with tools for well-being and integration



Rookie Slash promotes the integration of young refugees in the canton of Geneva through the practice of board sports and outdoor activities.

In addition to improving physical condition, board and outdoor sports are great social tools. In the bouldering hall or at the skatepark, practitioners commonly give each other advice. We can meet and communicate beyond language and cultural barriers.

Furthermore, these sports allow us to promote positive life values such as self-confidence, tolerance, resilience, and team spirit. We intentionally incorporate these notions into our weekly classes.

Overall, through board and outdoor sports, we offer refugees the opportunity to be part of inclusive and positive communities. We encourage social mixing to strengthen cohesion in the canton of Geneva.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.letemps.ch/opinions/graves-consequences-psychiques-nonrespect-droits-migrantes>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.sem.admin.ch/sem/fr/home/publiservice/statistik/asylstatistik/statistik\\_uma.html](https://www.sem.admin.ch/sem/fr/home/publiservice/statistik/asylstatistik/statistik_uma.html)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.letemps.ch/monde/europe-demandes-dasile-plus-haut-2016>

# ACTIVITIES DESCRIPTION

This year, Rookie Slash offered six physical activities, all of which promote physical and mental health. Moreover, these activities share values of perseverance, resilience, and teamwork, and are connected to positive and tolerant communities.



## Skateboarding

Thanks to Skateistan, we were able to introduce participants to the Skate&Create educational program, which combines art and sport. Additionally, the participants discovered inclusive places where they can practice skateboarding for free and make new friends.



## Bouldering

Through our collaboration with ClimbAID and Planet Climbing, we opened the doors of climbing gyms to our participants. Climbing spots are ideal places for personal development, discussion, and meeting new people.



## Slacklining

Slacklining is a complete sport that requires a mix of concentration and balance, making it ideal for those who prefer a safe physical activity. Often practiced in public parks, it is an inclusive activity that often attracts people who are interested in meeting new people while testing their skills on the line.



## Skiing / Snowboard

Since Rookie Slash was originally part of ALSF, we had the opportunity to offer three days of skiing and snowboarding lessons spread over the season. Going down the slopes was a great activity for the participants to gain comfort and confidence in letting go.



## Trampolining

From a physical point of view, trampolining is a complete activity that develops explosivity, proprioception, and spatial body perception. It supports the physical needs for the other sports we offer while also improving strength and confidence.



## Water Diving

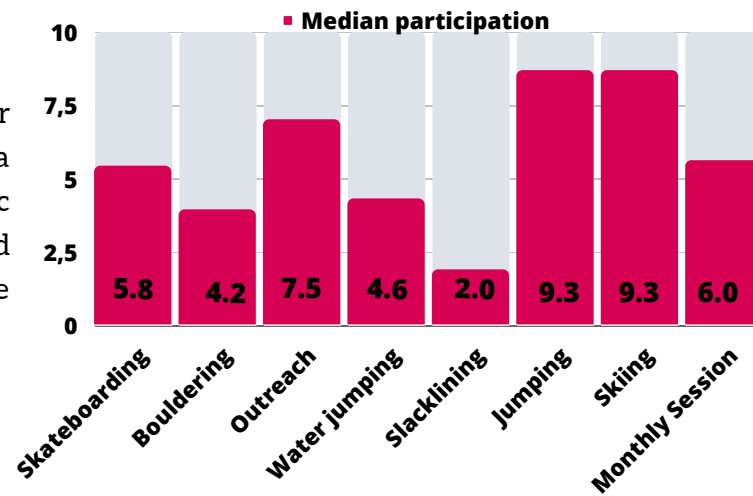
The past summer was extremely hot, so we decided to add a water activity to our program. There is nothing better than water diving! In addition to teaching some of our participants how to swim, we introduced the basics of diving. The classes took place at the Bain des Paquis, an emblematic place that showcases Geneva's diversity.

# PRESENCES

Recording attendance is a crucial part of our work at Rookie Slash. By keeping track of participation, we can evaluate the success of our activities, assess the engagement of our participants, and make informed decisions for future planning. Furthermore, attendance records provide valuable information to our partners and funders, enabling us to demonstrate the impact and reach of our organization.

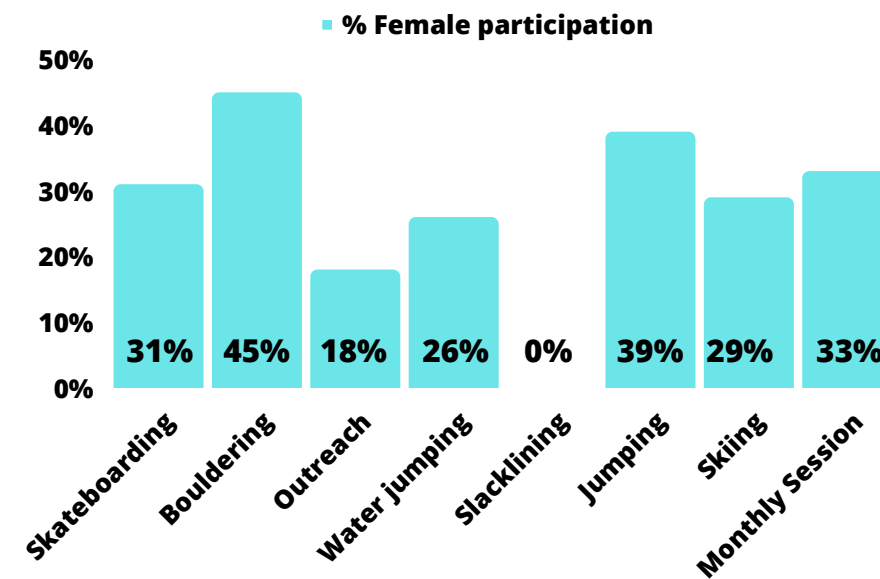
## Median participation

The key metric we use is the average participation per sport. As Rookie Slash limits participation to a maximum of 10 participants per session, this metric allows us to identify which activities need improvement or require more focus based on the interests of our participants.

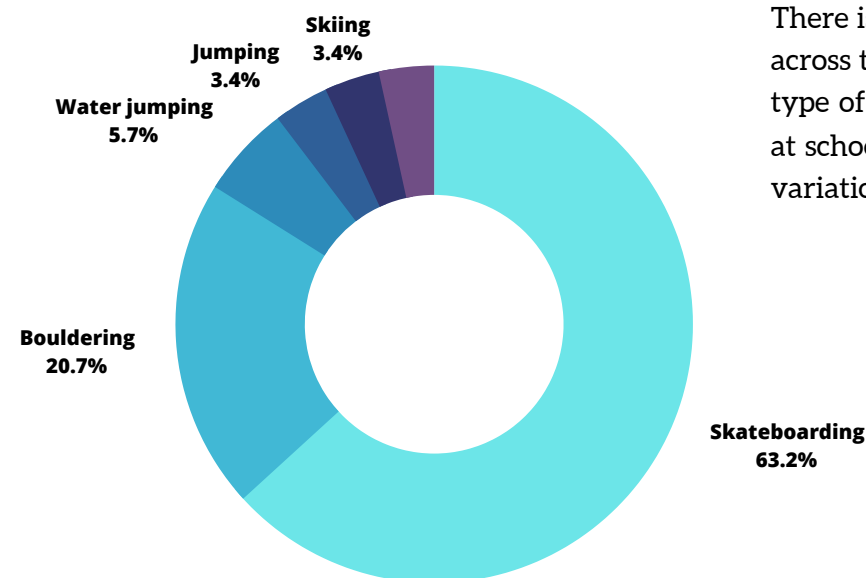


## Gender proportion across activities

By tracking the percentage of female participation throughout the year, we can identify potential barriers or biases that may be limiting their access to some activities. Rookie Slash has trouble to involve female participants in slacklining and outreach events. The female participation remains low in regards to our goals.



## Proportion of sport activity in the program



## Seasonality effect

There is a seasonality effect observed in the participation across the annual program of activities. The weather, the type of seasonal activities, and the participants' program at school are the three main causes of the participation's variation.

**540**

Total participations

**9.3/10**

Mean participation for skiing & jumping

**95**

Events, including 55 skateboarding sessions

## Conclusion

- In the first year, we found that slacklining had the lowest participation rate among the activities offered, while skiing, jumping, and skateboarding were highly popular and attracting new participants.
- Therefore, we are considering reducing the number of activities to further develop the most popular ones.
- Additionally, Rookie Slash wants to adapt its communication, outreach session, and program to incentivize more female participation in its activities.

# IMPACT & OUTCOME

Rookie Slash tracked the impact of its activities on its participants throughout 2022 to verify the effectiveness of fostering confidence and inclusion. The questionnaire was offered in both paper and online formats, and will be answered annually by the Rookies. Coaches distributed the questionnaire to the participants after each sport session. Over the course of three months, 15 surveys were collected. However, it should be noted that this number is only indicative and not strictly representative.

The figures below are based upon the 15 collected surveys, and highlight the diverse aspects of our impact evaluation.

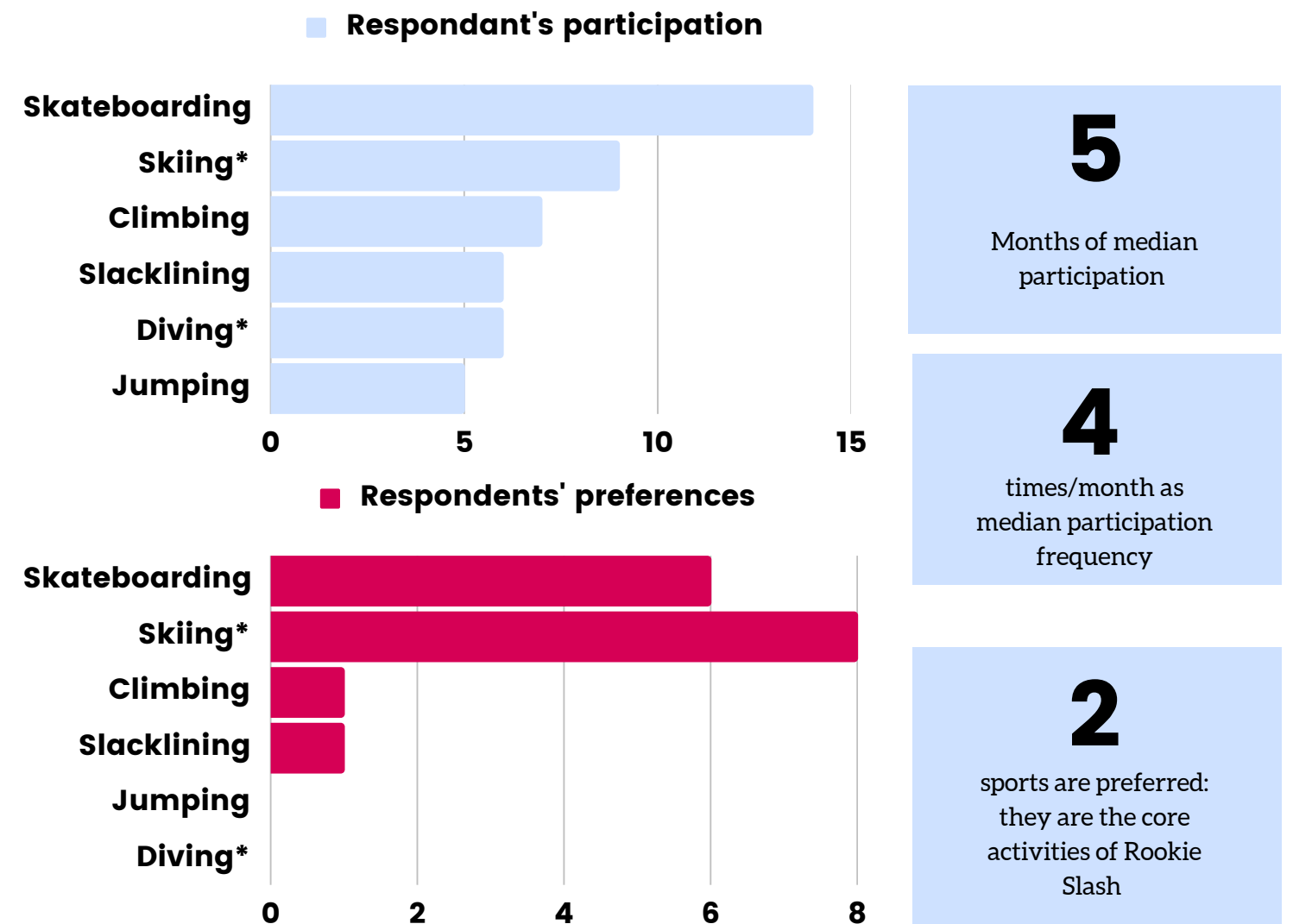
## Socio-demographics

Key Indicator	Results	Comment
Gender	12 males (80%) 3 females (20%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Representative of the overall program.</li> </ul>
Age	Average : 15 yo Youngest: 11 yo Oldest: 18 yo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In line with the targeted young population: 10 to 18 years old.</li> </ul>
Nationality	33% Afghanistan 20% Erythrea 20% Ukraine 20% Syria 7% Ethiopia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Representative of the overall program.</li> </ul>

Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning Process has been conducted and reported by Eugénie Mathieu-Chartier

## Presences & Preferences

Based on the sample of the 15 respondents, the graphs below show the participation rate per sports. Please note that Skiing and Water Diving are seasonal activities and might have a frequency lower than the other activities, thus impacting their participation rates as represented below.

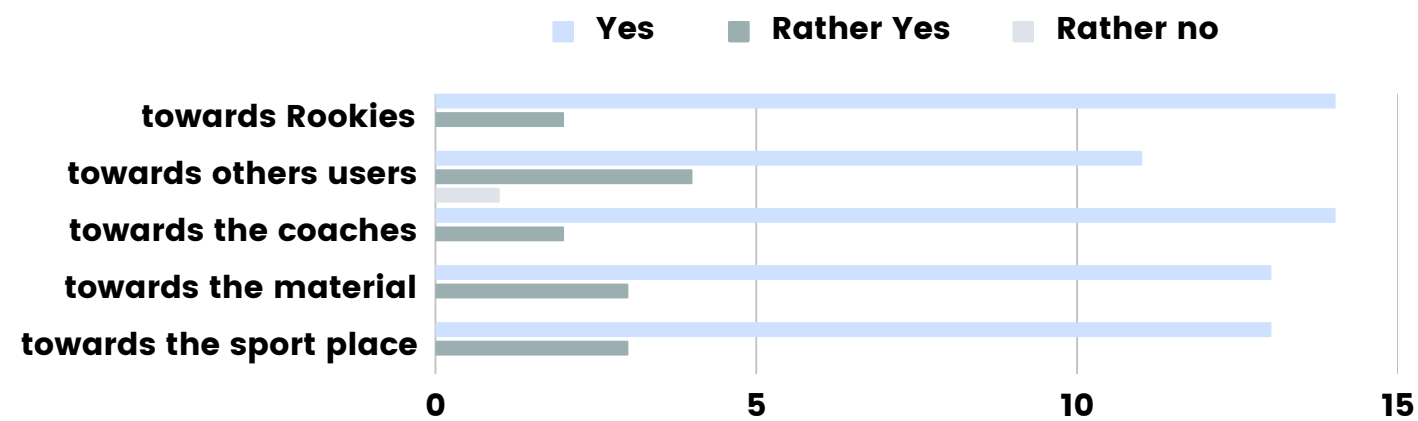


## Testimony

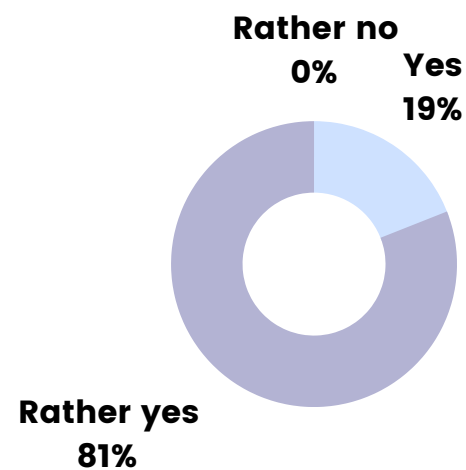
*"I love it when I'm with the Rookie Slash team, and I've learned so many new things with them so far!  
Thank you so much for your kindness, I will continue riding!"*

# Confidence & Engagement

Evaluation of the trust of the respondents towards



Has your participation at Rookie Slash reinforced your self-confidence?



**100%**  
of the participants want to keep going with the activities of Rookie Slash

## Conclusion

- Our program's monitoring indicates a sincere appreciation from our participants towards our activities.
- The implementation of our programs has led to a significant increase in self-confidence among our participants.
- However, our monitoring has identified a lower level of trust among our Rookies towards other users of the sport facilities, which may hinder inclusion.
- To address this issue, we can organize mixed sessions with other users to foster connections and trust between Rookies and locals.

# Comments of participants



# CHALLENGES

As a young organisation, implementing our programs was not without difficulties. We cite here a few of them with the hope to better tackle them in the coming years.

## No. 01 — Openness of the Plainpalais Skatepark

The Plainpalais skatepark is a vital resource for our organization, providing an easy access to skateboarding for our participants in the heart of the city.

However, there are significant challenges that we face in using this public space. As a public skatepark, it is impossible to privatize the space to give our lessons, which can be an issue during crowded times. Additionally, there is a risk of undesirable individuals interacting with our participants during our classes which could in turn make the Rookies uncomfortable.

## No. 02 — Lack of Indoor Skatepark Facilities

The availability of suitable indoor facilities is a crucial issue for our organization, especially on rainy days. Unfortunately, the only option for shelter in Geneva is La Praille skatepark, which is located under a highway between two busy roads.

Due to its exposure to pollution, noise, and accessibility issues, we do not consider this space a safe option for our skateboarding lessons. Consequently, we are often compelled to seek refuge in a covered public schoolyard in the neighborhood, or sometimes we have to cancel our sessions altogether.

This lack of an indoor facility has also impacted our ability to properly implement Skateistan's 'Skate & Create' program. Going forward, we acknowledge the significance of having a secure and accessible indoor space to host our skateboarding lessons and expand our programs.



## No. 03 — Storage Space

Currently, we store Rookie Slash's equipment in a small and limited space shared with GVA SK8 at the Plainpalais skatepark. While we are grateful for this arrangement, it is clear that we require a larger space to accommodate our growing needs.

Having a bigger and personalized space next to the Plainpalais skatepark would enable us to collect more materials for our classes, including equipment for winter sports such as snowboards, skis, and clothing. This would also allow us to better maintain and organize our equipment, ensuring that it is in good condition and easily accessible for our participants.

## No. 04 — Accessibility for Refugee Participants

Some of our participants had to stop attending our program due to the distance between their housing and our activities.

The challenge of transportation for refugees and asylum seekers living in remote shelters can limit their access to recreational activities and sports programs.

We strive to find solutions to make our activities more accessible to all participants, including those facing transportation challenges.

# JOINING THE CALL FOR AN INDOOR SKATEPARK IN GENEVA

Rookie Slash is joining the call with Geneva's skateboarding community for a safe, indoor skatepark in the Canton. The lack of indoor space represents a challenge for educative lessons at the Plainpalais location; as aforementioned, the only option on rainy days is La Praille, an unsafe space due to its exposure to pollution, noise, and its lack of accessibility. We believe that the creation of an indoor skatepark would benefit our participants and the practitioners of urban sports in the Canton of Geneva.



# BEYOND THE PROGRAM

In addition to sport classes, Rookie Slash has been active in many ways!

## Prix Jeunesse LAURÉATE 2022 PRIX JEUNESSE

The Prix Jeunesse recognizes the efforts of young individuals who have displayed commitment and dedication towards an altruist cause. Eligible candidates are between the ages of 15 and 25 and must have demonstrated their commitment in the city of Geneva. Rookie Slash was honored with the Public Prize in the "A Youth Who Commits" category.



## Crowdfunding Snoubar



Snoubar's objective is to provide children and youth in Beirut with an inclusive skatepark. In partnership with local communities, Snoubar is dedicated to creating a safe and sustainable space. Rookie Slash contributed to this initiative by offering a skateboarding class to anyone who supported the crowdfunding campaign with a donation of 200 CHF or more.

# BEYOND THE PROGRAM



## Collective of Skatepark de Plainpalais

In 2022, a collective was created to bring together various community actors surrounding the Plainpalais skatepark, one of the largest skateparks in Europe. The goal is to enhance social cohesion around the skatepark and foster cooperation in its usage. This is being achieved through efforts such as fundraising to build new features, roundtable discussions with neighbors, and events for young people. Rookie Slash is thrilled to be a part of this collective effort!

## Pushing Borders Program



The Goodpush Alliance is an initiative by Skateistan that aims to provide support and opportunities for knowledge sharing to social skateboarding projects worldwide. Through its Pushing Borders program, the Goodpush Alliance collaborates with organizations that use skateboarding as a tool to empower refugees and migrants, helping them integrate and feel welcome in their local communities. Rookie Slash actively participates in these monthly discussions.



# FINANCE

In the past year, we are grateful to have received support from a variety of funding sources. Private funders, who are donors from the private sector, contributed to our organization, as did grants from public funding sources. Additionally, we received funds from the Prix Jeunesse.

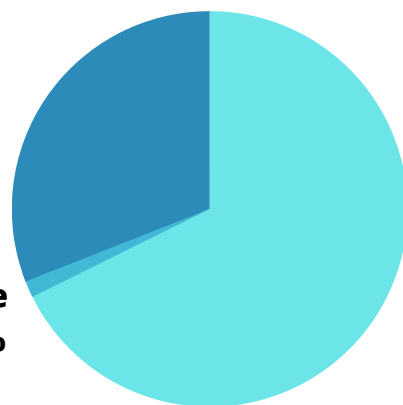
Our expenses have primarily been directed towards running our sports classes, including monetary compensation for our coaches and instructors. We have also had operational expenses, such as transport, compensation for logistics, monitoring, and evaluation, and other related costs. Our educational materials expenses include various items such as skateboards, aid kits, art materials, snacks, and other materials needed for our programs.

## Source of Fundings

Total: 35'500CHF

**Private Funders**  
31%

**Prize**  
1.4%



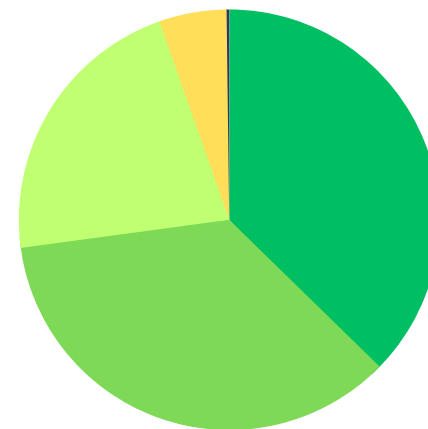
**Grants**  
67.7%

## Source of Expenses

Total: 33'733CHF

**Social Insurance**  
5.2%

**Educative Material**  
21.7%



**Operational Expenses**  
35.6%

**Sport Class Expenses**  
37.3%

## Conclusion

We believe that social inclusion is a long-term process that requires a sustainable financial strategy. As part of our commitment to achieving our goals, we have reviewed our financial sources and expenses, and have identified the following objectives to improve our financial strategy:

- **Diversify Funding Sources:** We aim to mitigate the risk of relying too heavily on one source by exploring additional funding sources, such as corporate social responsibility programs, philanthropic foundations, or crowdfunding campaigns.
- **Cost-sharing Partnerships:** We plan to explore cost-sharing partnerships with local governments or other organizations to share the costs associated with our programs and reduce our overall expenses.

The financial control and rapport had been supervised by Ramzy Chahboun and audited by Gaël Kaufmann and Mickael Jouini.



# Partners

## Donors

**RE** CAPITAL

London | Lisbon | Geneva

Thanks to the generous donation from RECapital, we are now able to compensate our sports teachers for their time and energy! Going forward, we hope to train the most dedicated participants to become sports teachers themselves and take an active role in Rookie Slash. RECapital's support enables young riders and refugees to monetize their knowledge and benefit from sharing their expertise. We are grateful for their contribution to our mission!



We are incredibly grateful to have the Canton of Geneva and the City of Geneva as our precious partners! Not only do they provide funding, but they also offer invaluable logistics support to help us carry out our mission. It is truly exciting to have local officials recognize our work and show their support, as it demonstrates our commitment and credibility in making a positive impact on our community!





# Partners

## Social Partner



Hospice général

Hospice Général is a public institution in Geneva that provides a wide range of social services to support the city's residents. One of the most critical aspects of their work is their commitment to helping refugees and asylum seekers integrate into local society.

We are thrilled to have the opportunity to collaborate with Hospice Général, which has opened doors for Rookie Slash to reach out to various refugee camps in the Canton of Geneva. This partnership enables us to organize Reach Out sessions, connect with new participants, and positively impact more lives in our community.

Hospice Général's support is invaluable, not only in terms of logistical assistance but also in providing us with expertise on refugee laws and customs. We are truly grateful for their partnership and excited to continue working together to make a positive impact!

# Partners

## Local Sport Community



GVASK8 is the largest skate school in Geneva, and we are incredibly grateful for their support of our activities at Rookie Slash. Through our collaboration, we share the space of the Plainpalais skatepark and the storage box for skateboards and protective equipment. We are proud to be associated with Geneva SK8, and we look forward to continuing our partnership!



TranZport is a local skate and snow shop in Geneva that has been an invaluable supporter of our winter activities. They have generously served as a donation collection spot to support our programs. In the summer, TranZport also provided us with skateboards to use in our skate sessions, enabling us to provide more opportunities for young people to learn and grow through skateboarding. Thank you, TranZport, for being with us every step of the way!





## Partners

International Sport Community



We are proud partners of Skateistan, an award-winning NGO that empowers children through the combined power of skateboarding and education. Their support has been invaluable in helping us develop our skateboard program, providing equipment, logistics, and pedagogical training for our coaches through their Skate and Create e-course, which emphasizes ethical skateboarding teaching and children's rights.



We are honored to partner with ClimbAid, an international non-profit organization that utilizes rock climbing to support communities in need. Through their MaXi family network, we have been able to connect with the local climbing community, benefiting from the expertise of ClimbAid, and fostering social integration and positive interactions.

We are especially grateful to Planet Climbing, our local bouldering hall, for hosting our weekly events and providing us with the facilities and support we need to make a positive impact.

# CONCLUSION

We are proud to report that Rookie Slash has had a strong start, with weekly outdoor and board sport lessons organized throughout the year, and a total of 540 presences!

Our program has demonstrated its capacity to promote inclusion through outdoor and board sports, and we are excited to continue expanding and improving our activities in the future. This annual report reports our progress, and highlights our commitment to empowering young refugees in the Canton of Geneva.



## Activities & Program

- A continuous program throughout the year
- Awarded by the Prix Jeunesse.
- 95 sessions in 6 different sports activities
- A **systematic** measurement of the program's impact on the participants.
- More than 80% of participants feel more confident,
- And 100% want to continue the program!



## Finance

- A successful fundraising of 35'000CHF
- From private and public actors
- Successfully managed funds with a transparent and efficient financial system.



## Partners

- Supported by the local authorities: the City and Canton
- Collaborated with Geneva's social services
- Connected with local sports communities
- Discussions with international actors in the sport-for-development fields.

# NEXT STEPS

As we reflect on our first year of existence, we are proud of the impact we have made in the lives of young refugees in Geneva. We still recognize that sustaining this impact requires addressing several challenges.

Through our monitoring efforts, we have identified a need to strengthen the connection between our participants and local actors to foster trust, as well as establishing a long-term strategy for our programs.

Additionally, we see value in expanding our network within the local and international sport community which would further benefit our participants.

To address these challenges, we have established three directives for the coming year:



## No. 01 – Inclusion

Out of the 6 activities, we will focus on the most appreciated sports and further collaborate with local sport actors to offer opportunities for Rookies and locals to participate in activities together. This could include organizing mix sessions between Rookie Slash and local sport associations to actively encourage inclusion.



## No. 02 – Participation

To encourage long-term participation, we will offer ways for our participants to take responsibility in our programs, such as proposing help-coach positions to our most dedicated participants.



## No. 03 – Funding

While we have primarily relied on one-time grants to fund our activities in our first year, we recognize the importance of establishing longer-term partnerships to sustain our work. We will strengthen our connections with current partners and look for new organizations interested in supporting our efforts: foster the inclusion of refugees in the Canton of Geneva through outdoor and board sports.



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to express our deep gratitude to everyone who has supported us throughout the year.

Thank you to all the coaches for your unwavering dedication and passion for teaching our participants: Anthony, Lara, Marjo, Mat, Oscar, Nathanël, Nytaï, Ysaline, Tibet, Rouselle, Solenne, Perrottet, Gaël, Mickaël, Rico, Elise, Momo, Ju, Vincent, Eugénie and many more!

We are grateful for the invaluable support of our board members: Ramzy, Bastien, and Nathanël.

Special thanks to the talented photographers who captured our sessions so beautifully: Bastien Gallay, Océane, and Sedra.

We extend our appreciation to our friends and partners who have generously contributed to our cause: Dani, Fadi, and Liam from GVASK8; Bud, Jordan, Fleur, and Gab from Skatepark de Plainpalais; Karim and Anou from Association Lémanique de Ski et Snowboard Freestyle & Genève Snow Sport; Romain and Manon from TranZport; Beat, Tamara, Elise, Séverine, and all the coaches from ClimbAid; Jérôme from the State of Geneva; Candice, Jennifer, Mr. Sorg, Sabrina, Dora, Nicolas, Baptiste, Mehdi, Taara, Vincent, Fares, Brahim, and many more from the Hospice Général; Alexandre Rausis from Snoubar Skatepark; Newman, Héloïse, Clem, and Jarred from ReCapital; Mr. Cailloux and staff from Aeschbach; James, Cindy, and Niall from Skateistan; Rhianon and Ruby from GoodPush; Vladimir from Prix Jeunesse; PlanetClimbing's staff, Armand from NkManufacture.

Last but not least, we would like to thank all of you who have offered your help and support: Haggay, Monika, Sam, Ivan, Diogo, Bastien's Dad, Junge's family, and many more!

And of course, a heartfelt thank you to all of the Rookies who make every session worth the time and effort! Keep riding!

*We thank you for your continued support in our efforts to foster inclusion of refugees through outdoor and board sports!  
It would not be possible without all of you !*



## Contact

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