

Skopje, North Macedonia

heyskopje.com

Year



One.

ACTIVITY REPORT

Home for Empowering the Youth

October 2025 to October 2026

WHO

A youth-led NGO in Skopje, North Macedonia

WHAT

Eleven projects and activities from the first year, with dates, aims and outcomes

FOR

Institutions and partners



INTRODUCTION

WHO WE ARE

A home for young people in Skopje.

HEY is a youth-led NGO that opened its doors in December 2025. This report documents its first year.

REGISTERED

October 2025

OPENED TO THE PUBLIC

27 December 2025

BASED IN

Skopje

North Macedonia

ONLINE

heyskopje.com

@heyskopje

WHO WE ARE

Home for Empowering the Youth (HEY) is a youth-led non-governmental organization in Skopje, North Macedonia. It was legally registered in October 2025 and opened to the public on 27 December 2025 with one aim: a space where young people can empower themselves, connect with each other and grow.

WHAT WE DO

We run workshops, talks and training for young people in Skopje, send youth workers and young leaders to Erasmus+ training courses across Europe, and promote regional programs for young founders. Every activity in this report was documented in public on our Instagram account, @heyskopje, which has reached more than 60,000 people.

HOW WE WORK

In its first year HEY ran without a core grant or a commercial sponsor. Venues and training places came from partners such as INNOX Center, YoWo Poland and Udruga DRONE. Our work follows a Strategic Plan for 2025 to 2028.

OUR THREE PILLARS

Empower.

Workshops and talks that build practical knowledge: sport science, startups, gamification, stereotypes.

Connect.

Erasmus+ courses and partnerships that link Skopje with youth organizations in Poland, Croatia and across Europe.

Grow.

Programs that move young people from idea to action, from the Bridge2Balkan accelerator to our first Erasmus+ application.



00.1

OVERVIEW

AT A GLANCE

The year in brief.

Nine delivered, two ahead: from the opening night in December 2025 to a first Erasmus+ project application in October 2026.

IN NUMBERS

60K+

Reach on social media

11

Projects and activities in this report

177+

Young people who took part

3

Erasmus+ training courses attended abroad

14

Organizations met at Voices to Inspire

2

Projects ahead: Epic Fail and BuildHer Stack

NO.	DATE	ACTIVITY	TYPE	PLACE
01	27 Dec 2025	Grand Opening of HEY	Launch event	Skopje
02	1 Feb 2026	360 Elite Athlete	Workshop	Skopje
03	9 to 12 Feb 2026	GAMY, Gamification Academy	Erasmus+ bootcamp	Skopje
04	15 Feb 2026	From Idea to Business	Workshop	Skopje
05	March 2026	Voices to Inspire	Erasmus+ course	Osieck, Poland
06	12 Apr 2026	Stereotype Deconstructed	Film and workshop	Skopje
07	From 7 May 2026	Bridge2Balkan	Startup acceleration	Skopje, hybrid
08	25 to 29 May 2026	The Human Rights Odyssey	Erasmus+ course	Karlovac, Croatia
09	11 to 19 Jul 2026	Economy Essentials	Erasmus+ course	Osieck, Poland
10	19 to 25 Nov 2026	Epic Fail	Erasmus+ course, upcoming	Karlovac, Croatia
11	1 Jan 2027 to 31 Mar 2028	BuildHer Stack	KA210-YOU, submitted	Skopje, Romania

01

LAUNCH EVENT

Grand Opening of HEY

The public launch of HEY at INNOX Center, with a keynote on why young people need to be trusted, supported and heard.

DATE

27 December 2025

18:00

VENUE

INNOX Center

Ploshtad Makedonija 1

1000 Skopje

FORMAT

Public launch with a presentation and a guest keynote

VENUE PARTNER

INNOX Center of Innovation

PARTICIPANTS

35

OBJECTIVE

To introduce HEY to the young people, partners and institutions of Skopje: who we are, why HEY was created, where it is heading and which goals drive its work.

WHY IT MATTERS

A new organization has to earn trust before it can run programs. The opening gave HEY a public starting point, and holding it at INNOX Center, an innovation hub in the city centre, placed HEY inside Skopje's innovation community from day one.

WHAT HAPPENED

The launch was announced from 20 December 2025 with the message that HEY is officially here, followed by the opening poster and the guest speaker announcement. On the evening of 27 December, Co-Founder Abbad Ramadani presented HEY's identity, purpose and direction. Professor Abil Baush then spoke about the importance of an empowered youth and about why a safe space for growth, learning and self-development is essential for any healthy society.

OUTCOME

The evening marked the start of HEY's public work and ended with a clear commitment: concrete activities, programs and opportunities for young people to grow, connect and lead. The programme that followed is documented on the next pages.



01.1



01.2

02

WORKSHOP

360 Elite Athlete

A free workshop on the mental and physical sides of sport, led by a sport psychology speaker and a physiotherapist.

DATE

1 February 2026

14:00 to 16:00

VENUE

InnoX Center

Skopje

FORMAT

Free workshop, registration required

AUDIENCE

Young athletes

SPEAKERS

Addas Ramadani,
psychology of sportValon Abdullahu,
physiotherapy

PARTICIPANTS

25

OBJECTIVE

To give young athletes practical knowledge on how mental preparation, recovery and functional strength work together to produce consistent performance.

WHY IT MATTERS

Young athletes usually get technical coaching. Guidance on mental routines, recovery and injury prevention is less often part of the offer. The workshop put a psychology speaker and a physiotherapist in one room, and entry was free so that cost was not a barrier.

WHAT HAPPENED

The session covered six topics: mental routines that affect game performance; how fatigue affects focus and decisions; discipline and mental consistency; why recovery is an active process and not just rest; injury prevention and long-term body health; and functional strength, meaning stability and balance, for safer and stronger performance. Registration ran through an online form.

OUTCOME

Participants took an active part in the discussion with both speakers. The session showed that HEY can bring sport and health professionals together for young people at no cost to them.



02.1



02.2

03

ERASMUS+ PROJECT, BOOTCAMP

GAMY

Gamification Academy for Mastering Youth: an Erasmus+ funded bootcamp in Skopje on how gamification is used in education, business and game design.

DATE

9 to 12 February 2026

Applications: 3 to 7 Feb

VENUE

Skopje

FORMAT

Four-day intensive bootcamp

Ages 18 to 30

24 places for North Macedonia

PARTNERS

Startgate Tekmer

InnoX Center of Innovation

Experts from Turkey and North Macedonia

PARTICIPANTS

30

OBJECTIVE

To introduce young people aged 18 to 30 to gamification as a practical method, and to let them work with international experts from Turkey and North Macedonia.

WHY IT MATTERS

Gamification uses game mechanics to raise motivation and engagement. It is applied in classrooms, in companies and in product and game design, which makes it a transferable skill for young people at the start of their careers. Participants also received an official Erasmus+ certificate.

WHAT HAPPENED

HEY acted as a partner, opened the call for participants on 3 February 2026 and took applications until 7 February. Twenty-four places were available for participants from North Macedonia. The bootcamp took place in Skopje from 9 to 12 February and combined learning how gamification works in education, business and game design with collaboration across the two countries.

OUTCOME

As part of the GAMY Erasmus+ KA210 program, participants developed innovative solutions addressing real-world economic and social challenges.

The Shift – Surviving the Job Market Through Decision-Making and Community is a gamified platform designed to help young people navigate the modern job market safely and confidently.

The project tackles a silent crisis faced by young job seekers: scam job postings, working conditions, and lack of reliable guidance when making career decisions.



03.1



03.2

04

WORKSHOP

From Idea to Business

A hands-on Lean Startup workshop with guest speaker Jamie Anderson, taking participants from a raw idea to a tested one in a single session.

DATE

15 February 2026

From 14:00

VENUE

InnoX Center, Skopje

Host and space partner

FORMAT

Hands-on workshop

Session length: 2 hours 40 minutes

Registration through an online form

SPEAKER

Jamie Anderson

Exited founder who raised \$18M+ (as announced)

PARTICIPANTS

30

OBJECTIVE

To show young people how a raw idea becomes a tested one using the Lean Startup approach, and to give them a method they can repeat without capital.

WHY IT MATTERS

Many early ideas fail because nobody checked whether the problem was real. Validating before building saves time and money, which matters most for young founders who have little of either. A guest speaker with startup experience in the US and Southeast Europe gave participants direct access to a practitioner.

WHAT HAPPENED

In 2 hours and 40 minutes, participants went through the full process of building a startup idea from zero. They learned how to find strong ideas from real problems, build simple solutions, validate an idea with 0 euros, test assumptions with real people and move from idea to action. The session was hands-on: everyone worked, shared and learned together.

OUTCOME

Participants completed the full cycle in one session and left with a low-cost method for testing ideas.



04.1 Photo: @_iproduction



04.2 Photo: @_iproduction

05

ERASMUS+ TRAINING COURSE

Voices to Inspire

A week in Osieck, Poland, with youth organizations from nine countries, spent finding the voice and the story of HEY.

DATE

March 2026

14 March - 22 March

VENUE

Osieck, Poland

FORMAT

Erasmus+ training course

25 participants from 9 countries

HOST

YoWo Poland

PARTICIPANTS

2 from HEY

OBJECTIVE

To work out how HEY tells its own story: its values, its culture and the way both show up in communication.

WHY IT MATTERS

A young organization depends on how clearly it can explain itself to young people, partners and institutions. The course gave HEY time, tools and an international peer group to work on exactly that question, with methods that ranged from LEGO challenges to filmmaking.

WHAT HAPPENED

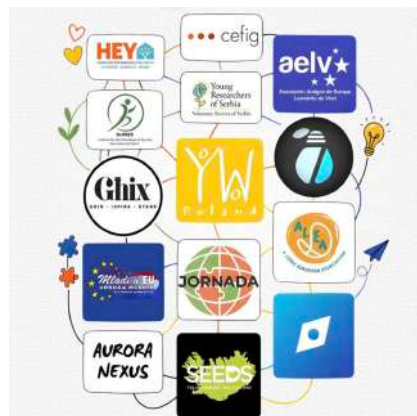
The week combined strategy sessions by day with team challenges, football matches and evenings together. The group worked through its culture and values and practised telling the HEY story, including on film. Across the week HEY met 14 organizations from across Europe, among them YoWo Poland, Young Researchers of Serbia, SEEDS Iceland, Jornada and Mladi u EU.

OUTCOME

HEY returned to Skopje with a clearer sense of its voice and a network of contacts in 14 organizations across Europe, ready for the next project.



05.1



05.2

06

FILM, TALK AND WORKSHOP

Stereotype Deconstructed

An afternoon of film, conversation and group work on where stereotypes come from and how to work around them.

DATE

12 April 2026

14:00

VENUE

InnoX Center

Skopje

FORMAT

Film screening, director talk with Q&A, interactive workshop in three groups

GUEST

Murat Zherka, director of the film Dance in This Chaos

PARTICIPANTS

21

OBJECTIVE

To break down labels, challenge first impressions and make room for an honest conversation about the stories we do not usually get to see.

WHY IT MATTERS

Stereotypes shape how young people see themselves and each other, and they often go unexamined. A film gave the room a shared starting point, and the workshop turned the conversation into something participants could work with.

WHAT HAPPENED

The afternoon followed four steps: watch, listen, connect, reflect. It opened with a screening of Dance in This Chaos, then an introduction, discussion and Q&A with its director, Murat Zherka. The conversation turned to the impact of stereotypes, with a focus on the Roma community in North Macedonia. In the workshop, three groups used prompt cards to explore where common stereotypes come from, why they are false and how to work around them.

OUTCOME

Each group produced flipcharts that capture its analysis, and the day closed with shared takeaways. HEY thanks Murat Zherka and every participant who shared their voice and kept an open mind.



06.1



06.2

07

STARTUP ACCELERATION, OPEN CALL

Bridge2Balkan

A six-week hybrid acceleration program connecting early-stage founders with mentors and investors across the Balkans and Türkiye.

DATE

Kickoff: 7 May 2026

Applications until 15 April

VENUE

InnoX Innovation Centre,
Skopje

Hybrid format

FORMAT

6 weeks of acceleration

2-day intensive bootcamps

One-on-one mentoring

Demo Day with investors

PARTNERS

InnoX Center of Innovation

Bridge to Balkans (B2B)

PARTICIPANTS

25

OBJECTIVE

To help aspiring founders and early-stage startups, from a sketch on a napkin to a working MVP, build entrepreneurial skills, refine their business model and pitch, and reach regional investors.

WHY IT MATTERS

Founders in North Macedonia work in a small domestic market. A regional program gives them access to mentors, peers and investors beyond it. For HEY it extends the startup work that began with the From Idea to Business workshop in February.

WHAT HAPPENED

HEY acted as a partner, opened the call on 27 March 2026 and directed applications through the link in its bio, with a deadline of 15 April. The program covers entrepreneurship training, mentoring and coaching, business model development, pitch deck preparation, networking and a Demo Day with regional investors, starting on 7 May.

OUTCOME

Startups worked on their pitch decks and they presented, shared their innovative ideas, and worked on refining their business models in preparation for the upcoming Demo Day where they presented in front of entrepreneurs, investors. 3 startups were selected to continue their growth alongside international mentors.



07.1



07.2

08

ERASMUS+ TRAINING COURSE

The Human Rights Odyssey

Three HEY participants joined an Erasmus+ course in Karlovac, Croatia, and took part in writing a declaration on human rights in the digital age.

DATE

25 to 29 May 2026

VENUE

Karlovac, Croatia

FORMAT

Erasmus+ training course

Travel, food and accommodation covered

HOST

Udruga DRONE, Croatia

PARTICIPANTS

3 from HEY

OBJECTIVE

To explore the future of human rights in four areas: digital sovereignty, mental integrity, genetic integrity and the right to be offline.

WHY IT MATTERS

Questions about data, AI and personal autonomy affect young people directly. The course treated them as rights issues and not only as technology issues, and asked what protection human dignity needs in a digital age.

WHAT HAPPENED

Over five days, participants worked through discussions, teamwork and non-formal learning activities on current and future challenges linked to human rights, digitalization and AI, including the possible emergence of a fourth generation of human rights. The course was open to youth workers, educators and community leaders.

OUTCOME

The group co-created the Karlovac Declaration on the 4th Generation of Human Rights: a document with principles, demands and proposed rights aimed at protecting human dignity and freedoms in the digital age. HEY thanks the hosting NGO, Udruga DRONE.



08.1



08.2

09

ERASMUS+ TRAINING COURSE

Economy Essentials

An Erasmus+ training course in Osieck, Poland, on financial literacy and decision making through non-formal education.

DATE

11 to 19 July 2026

VENUE

Osieck, Poland

FORMAT

Erasmus+ training course

Travel, accommodation and food covered

HOST

YoWo Poland

PARTICIPANTS

3 from HEY

OBJECTIVE

To build foundations in economic and financial principles, strengthen critical thinking and decision making, and learn non-formal education tools for teaching these topics to young people.

WHY IT MATTERS

Budgeting, saving and weighing risk are life skills that many young people pick up only by trial and error. The course taught them through practice and gave HEY's participants methods they can reuse with young people in Skopje.

WHAT HAPPENED

The week was built around interactive activities, simulations, strategy games and team challenges: investment games, budgeting exercises and the Spaghetti Tower challenge, each designed to show how economic concepts apply in real life and to train quick, creative, collaborative decisions. Participants from different countries worked side by side with experienced trainers.

OUTCOME

HEY's participants returned with practical tools to bring into local community work, and with new international friendships and contacts.



09.1



09.2

10

ERASMUS+ TRAINING COURSE, UPCOMING

Epic Fail

An upcoming Erasmus+ training course in Croatia built around one question: what if failure is not the opposite of learning?

DATE

19 to 25 November 2026

VENUE

Croatia

Karlovac or Ogulin, to be confirmed

FORMAT

Erasmus+ training course

27 participants from 9 countries

Accommodation and meals covered, travel reimbursed under Erasmus+ rules

PARTNER

LAG Vallis Colapis

PARTICIPANTS

3 places for HEY

OBJECTIVE

To explore failure, risk taking and experimentation as part of learning, and to strengthen non-formal education practices and tools for youth participation.

WHY IT MATTERS

Fear of failure keeps many young people from starting projects, applying for opportunities or speaking up. Youth workers who can teach failure as a method help young people take the first step. The course is open to youth workers, trainers, facilitators and volunteers.

PLANNED PROGRAMME

Participants from nine countries will spend a week on failure, risk taking, experimentation and non-formal learning. HEY is sending three participants, and application details for the HEY places will be announced soon.

EXPECTED OUTCOME

HEY's participants will bring tools for treating failure as part of learning into our work with young people in Skopje, and will extend our European network. Results will be reported after the course.



10.1

ERASMUS+ KA210-YOU, APPLICATION SUBMITTED	
11	BuildHer Stack A 15-month Erasmus+ small-scale partnership that helps 80 young people, at least 60% of them young women, turn digital and entrepreneurial skills into visible, employer-readable proof.
STATUS	OBJECTIVE
Application submitted, October 2026 deadline	To help young people, with a strong focus on young women, turn digital and entrepreneurial skills into proof that employers can read and trust: visible evidence of what they can do, not only a list of courses taken.
Decision pending	
PROJECT PERIOD	WHY IT MATTERS
1 January 2027 to 31 March 2028	Skills only open doors when others can see them. Young women face an additional gap: in 2024, fewer than one in five ICT specialists in the EU were women (19.5%). BuildHer Stack addresses both problems at once, by making skills visible and by setting a clear target of at least 60% young women among the 80 participants.
15 months	
PROGRAMME	PLANNED PROGRAMME
Erasmus+ KA210-YOU, Small-scale Partnership in youth	The project will include practical digital skills workshops, mentoring, company visits, and a study visit to Bucharest, helping young people build skills and connect them with real career opportunities. Key outputs will include Europass profiles, digital portfolios, Youthpass certificates, digital credentials, and a final practical toolkit.
Lump sum: €60,000	
PARTNER	EXPECTED OUTCOME
Future Opportunities Association (Oportunitati de Viitor), Galati, Romania	80 young people, at least 60% of them young women, who turn digital and entrepreneurial skills into visible, employer-readable proof. The application is HEY's first Erasmus+ project proposal and moves the organization from taking part in other organizations' projects to applying for its own.
TARGET GROUP	
80 young people	
At least 60% young women (48 or more)	

Source: Eurostat, EU Labour Force Survey, women as a share of ICT specialists in employment (isoc_sks_itcps), 2024.

NEXT

LOOKING AHEAD

What comes next, and how to join us.

Two projects are already in motion. We are looking for partners who want to build the next year with us.

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Skopje, North Macedonia

IN MOTION

Epic Fail, 19 to 25 November 2026. An Erasmus+ course in Croatia on failure, risk taking and experimentation. HEY is sending three participants.

BuildHer Stack, from 1 January 2027. Our first Erasmus+ project application, with a Romanian partner, for 80 young people. Decision pending.

WHERE PARTNERS CAN HELP

Host with us. Co-organize events, workshops and exchanges in Skopje and abroad.

Build projects together. Join us in Erasmus+ and other European partnerships.

Share expertise. Speakers, mentors and trainers for young people in Skopje.

Support our core. Funding for running costs, so that we can plan beyond one event at a time.

TEAM

Furkan Idrizi, President & Project Coordinator

Agan Sulejman, Project Implementation Coordinator

Abbad Ramadani, Digital Skills & Technical Coordinator

Addas Ramadani, Training & Participant Engagement Coordinator

Shuajb Rexhepi, Communication & Dissemination Coordinator

Besnik Emini, Quality Assurance and Monitoring Coordinator

This is only the beginning.