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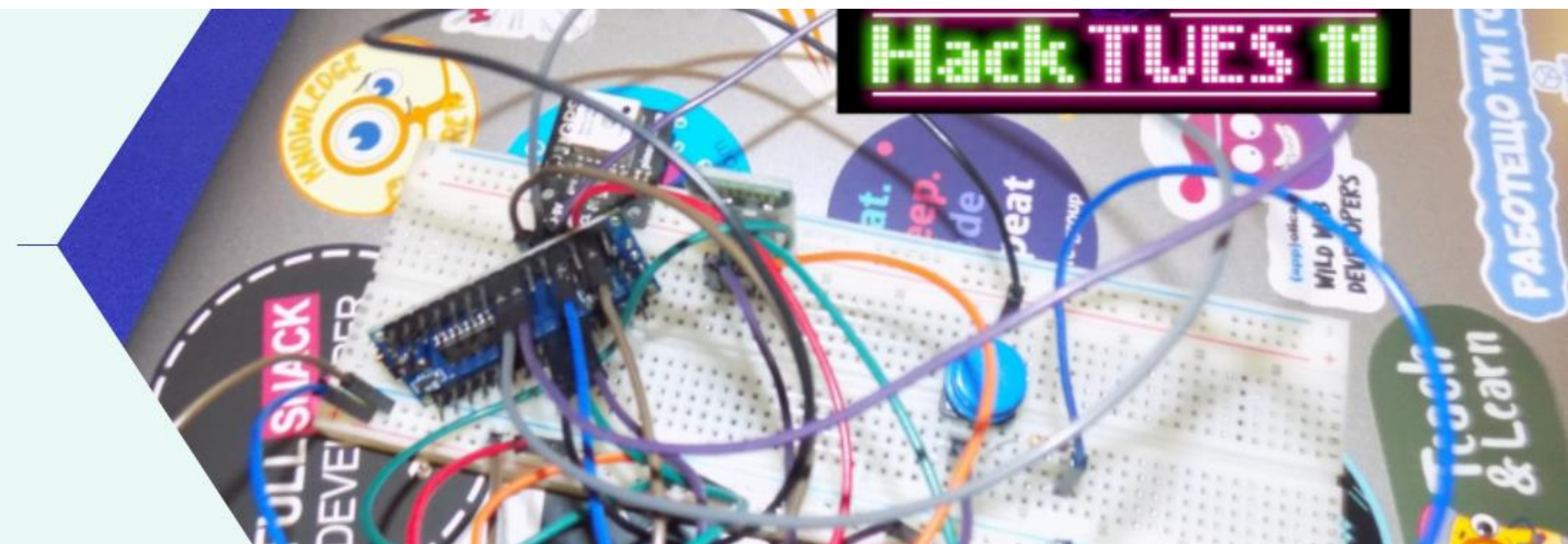
SKYLA

**By students, for students:
Hack TUES inspires
innovation and IT learning**



SMART

Skills for S3 and industrial transition



SOFIA REGION

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*Webinar “Smart Specialisation Skills Ecosystems for the Twin Transition
Regional Pathways to Inclusive Growth and Innovation”, 17 June 2025, online*

About

The Technology School of Electronic System (TUES)

public school | grades 8 to 12 | integrated at Sofia Technical University | educates all levels of technicians

Challenges for schools & the IT sector:

- IT education often lags behind real-world tech demands
- Students lack hands-on experience and soft skills



Hack
TUES



Empowers students to lead and innovate

What is Hack TUES ?

- A 3-day student-led hackathon at TUES (Sofia)
- Organized by 11th-grade students
- Participants: 8th–12th grade students from the school
- Supported by alumni, industry mentors, and sponsors



How it works?

Organising team (12–15 students) manages:

Fundraising | Logistics & communication | Tech infrastructure & website
| Media, PR, mentor coordination | guided by school alumni (AATUES)

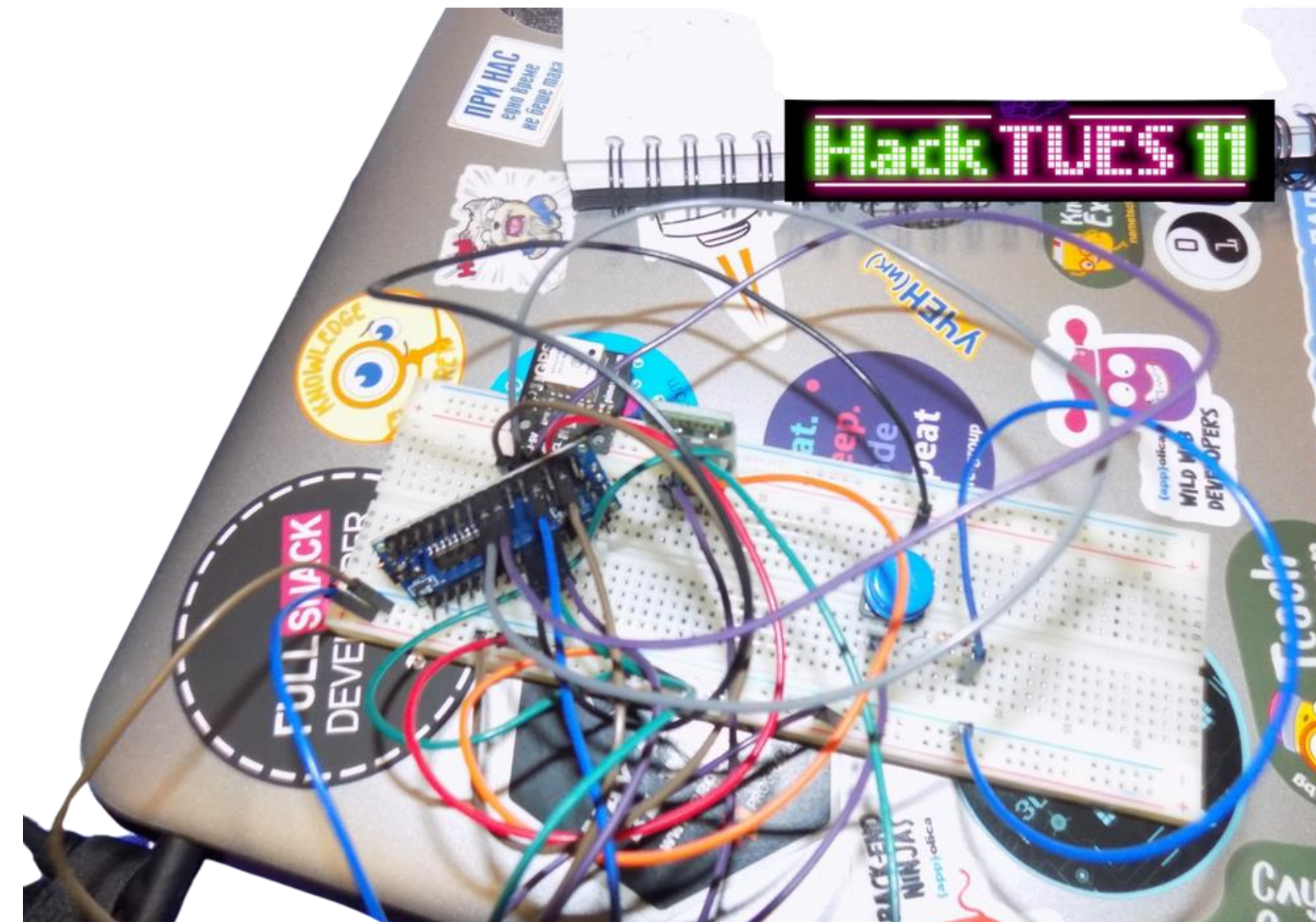


Who benefits & how?

- **Participants:** Tech + soft skills, career connections
- **Organisers:** Leadership, planning, confidence
- **Mentors (mostly alumni) :** stay in the community, recruit talent
- **Companies:** Early access to skilled youth

- **Impact so far**

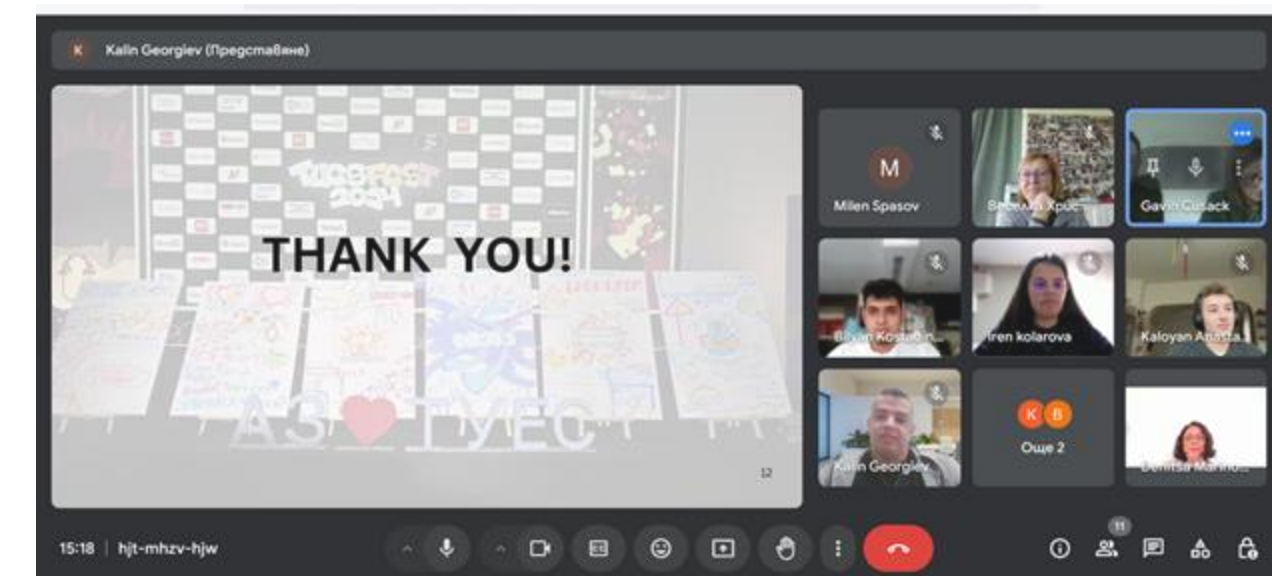
- 11 editions (2015–2024)
- 400+ participants, 70+ mentors annually
- 85% say it's essential to their education
- Recognized by UNESCO-UNEVOC



What others can learn?

- ✓ Student ownership builds motivation
- ✓ Alumni and mentor involvement is critical
- ✓ Real-world themes engage students
- ⚠ Balancing time btw. study & Hack TUES organisation time – solved with the help of teachers and mentors
- ✓ Transferable to other cities with IT ecosystems

SKYLA exchange: Bilateral sharing of youth-led education models with FINGAL partners



Final takeaways :)

Hack TUES shows that when **students lead**, **innovation follows**.

A model for **hands-on** and **students-by-students** inspiring vocational education.



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Hack TUES inspires innovation
and IT learning

Thank you!

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More information:

<https://hacktues.bg/>

<https://www.interregeurope.eu/good-practices/by-students-for-students-hack-tues-inspires-innovation-it-learning>

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