



Newsletter

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Happy Easter from TGS Eurogroup!

by Igino Zanandrea, President of TGS Eurogroup

This year, TGS Eurogroup's Easter wishes come from the whole Leaders Group for Summer 2009: you can see them all in the picture below, happily holding their Easter eggs in their hands. This picture was taken during our latest training meeting for TGS Leaders, which took place on the Sunday next before Easter in Asolo (Treviso). The leaders are the ones that, generation after generation, with their relentless and free help allow TGS Eurogroup to guarantee continuity when organising its educational and sharing proposals for young people.

But in this period TGS Leaders are not only busy getting ready for the summer in the UK, they are also helping out in the organization of the "Su e Zo per Ponti", also known as "**Up & Down the Bridges**" walk in Venice, scheduled for **Sunday, 19th April!** We will all be there, either assisting the march contestants along the portion of the route assigned to us - from Rialto to San Marco Square - or handing out

refreshments in Campo San Maurizio.

What a better opportunity to spend a wonderful day with TGS friends? The official start is scheduled for 10am from San Marco Square, but if you're an early bird you might want to join the Holy Mass of the "Su e Zo", cheered up by the *Improvvisando* choir from Conegliano. If you feel like joining us for Mass, let's meet in San Marco Church at 8am. The Mass will be an important moment for both a break and a reflection: definitely the best way to start off on the right foot!

We are waiting for you in great numbers. You can even enrol on the day of the march, at the enrolment desk, in San Marco Square. At the same desk you will also be offered the opportunity to get (free offer) one of the official "Up & Down the Bridges" sweatshirts from previous editions. The profits will go to the victims of the earthquake which devastated the Abruzzi region recently. This event was the catalyst of a widespread solidarity movement everywhere in Italy. TGS Eurogroup, as an Association of Social Advancement, can't help but giving its own contribution, and this little but meaningful help will give us the chance to remember the true meaning of our voluntary services.



Su & Zo... such a party!

by Chiara De Cleva, Su e Zo per i Ponti Management Committee

The first thing is getting up at an ungodly hour. Meeting at 7 o'clock at Tronchetto island. As we gather, you can see that some of us are sleepy, some feel chilly, and we are all scanning the horizon to identify the coaches of our folk groups. During the years we have had the chance to welcome groups coming from both Italy and abroad. I still remember the devoted and historical folk groups from the Friuli Venezia Giulia region, from the Piedmont region, from Salesian schools and youth clubs, from Croatia and Bosnia, famous flag-wavers as well as the singing groups.

And after leaving on a boat for San Marco Square... let's get the party started! Yes, I did call it "a party" because this is how we feel about it. All of a sudden we are absorbed in the music of these groups, in every corner of the boat which is taking us to San Marco Square. Everyone is thrilled about spending a wonderful day in Venice. Being unmoved is simply impossible, so our sleepiness and our tiredness are soon forgotten. Time flies during the morning, although everyone is on edge, because we all want to make sure everyone respects the program. Nonetheless, every year you learn something new: getting in touch, getting to know and sharing the sacrifices of these groups working together to keep their local traditions alive or to create alternative activities for the young people of their villages... it's such an enriching experience!

We tried to make everyone understand the real spirit which inspires this non-competitive march: the chance of spending one day under the sign of true friendship, light-heartedness, everyone being happy in this wonderful city. Thanks to the help and understanding of everyone, we hope that our dream has come true!

Excerpt from "TGS40. It was 40 years ago today..."

"Short on the run" competition

by Luigi Ladisa, winner of the "Short on the run" 2008 edition

And once again this year, on the occasion of the "Up & Down the Bridges", the competition "Short on the run" is announced.

The competition is promoted by the Auser Association (Venice) and supported by TGS Eurogroup. "Short on the run" is a short-videos competition: the videos must be shot during the march with camcorders, cameras or mobile phones and the aim is to show how joyful and fun it is to spend time together at the "Su e Zo" walk in Venice.

The person who is writing this piece joined last year's edition with a 3-minute-clip shot during the march, with a particular focus on the San Maurizio refreshment point, exclusively managed by TGS leaders.

The shooting starts early in the morning, during the unloading of the boats (water and "gondoete" croissants unloaded from a boat on the Canal Grande), it proceeds with the mounting of counters and crush barriers, and we see how a quiet Venetian campo is transformed into an archetypal "TGS place", a place of joy and happiness, based on a "style" which is shared by all participants.

Taking part in this competition gave me the chance to have my clip projected during the final evening of the "Francesco Pasinetti" video-competition, early in June last year, and even during the Venice "Biennale" film festival last September.

This is where I met Woody Allen, which implored me to follow him in the US, where I am at the moment, to help him out as an assistant director on his latest movie.

So do just like I did, join the "Short on the run" competition...

I can tell you it brings good luck!

Happy Easter to you all!

Hollywood, 10th April 2009.

TGS update

www.tgseurogroup.it

- 11.01.2009: on the occasion of the traditional **Friendship Meeting**, which takes place in TGS Eurogroup HQ, the **elections for the new TGS Eurogroup Committee** for the 2009-2010 period were held. Here is the makeup of the new Council: Marta Barichello, Giulia Beni, Fr. Igino Biffi, Angela Cais, Mariachiara Cais, Fr. Franco Campello, Giacomo Cecchinato, Katya De Marchi, Francesca Dotto, Giulio Fenwick, Fabio Girardelli, Alessandra Granziero, Luigi Ladisa, Umberto Menon, Roberta Parolo, Bruna Rainaldi, Igino Zanandrea. This is the Executive Council: Igino (President), Bruna (Vice-President), Fabio (Treasurer), Francesca (Secretary), Katya (Councillor), Angela (Councillor) and Fr. Igino Biffi (Salesian Delegate). We wish them a fruitful work!
- 15.02.2009: Welcome Meeting for TGS Leaders at TGS Eurogroup HQ in Mogliano Veneto. This is the first official meeting of the **Training Course for TGS Leaders 2009**. Other meetings will follow: 1st Training Meeting, 1st March, in Mogliano; 2nd Training Meeting, 4th / 5th April, at Casa S. Dorotea in Asolo (Treviso); 3rd Training Meeting, 24th May, back in Mogliano, during which leaders will be notified the group of students they will be accompanying. The leaders will introduce our summer courses structure to both parents and students during the traditional presentation meeting, which will take place on 6th June in Mogliano Veneto, TGS HQ. A full list of our activities can be found by logging on to: <http://www.tgseurogroup.it/associazione/incontri.htm>
The best pictures from our meetings are now on line: <http://www.donboscoland.it/fotografie/index.php?idalbum=1326>
- 08.03.2009: **TGS Eurogroup joins the Youth Meeting** (Festa dei Giovani) organized by the Salesian Youth Movement of the Triveneto Region. Marta, Giacomo and Umberto prepared and livened up the atmosphere at our stand; they presented the photo exhibition "TGS2008", by Arcangelo Piai (which was first exhibited during TGS40 celebrations) and they gave out information leaflets on our summer courses in the UK and on the "Up & Down the Bridges" event. The visitors of the stand had the possibility to play games and win TGS T-shirts, calendars and gadgets!
- 12.03.2009: **TGS Eurogroup on air: Blu Radio Veneto!** The topic is our UK summer courses in the UK. You can listen to the two interviews in the Press Area of our website. Log on to: <http://www.tgseurogroup.it/areastampa/index.htm>
- 31.03.2009: **"Up & Down the Bridges" on The Times and on BBC World!** UK press and television show their interest in the Venetian walk: one article was published on "The Times" and the program "Fast Track", on BBC World, dedicated a special place to the march among the most interesting events in April. Internet links available in the Press Area of the TGS website.
- 31.03.2009: following the success of the page dedicated to TGS Eurogroup (230 fans so far), "Up & Down the Bridges" lands on **Facebook** too, with a special page of its own. Become a fan and confirm your presence to the event which will take place on the 19th April!
- 10.04.2009: **enrolments for TGS Eurogroup Summer Courses in the UK** are still open. Our **Caterham** TGS centre, for students aged from 11 to 14, was very quickly complete, so a waiting list has been created. There are still places available in **Tonbridge, Dorking and Tunbridge Wells**, for students aged from 15 to 18. So be quick and book your own summer course now!