



TGS
EUROGROUP
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NEWS LETTER



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Happy Easter from TGS!

by Alessandra Granziero

Spring is the time of the year when we send our Easter Greetings, and it also is the "Su e Zo per i Ponti di Venezia" season ("Up and Down the Bridges" solidarity walk in Venice). 2025 is no exception. Guess how many people joined the Walk for solidarity last 6th April... 8.500 enrolled – in line with the authorisation granted by the municipality of Venice – supported by 330 volunteers. Among the participants, people from different countries: mainly from Italy, but also from Slovenia, Austria, Switzerland, France, Germany, Denmark, and the United Kingdom, and even as far away as Australia.

We are about to take a short – a very short, indeed – Easter break

after so much work dedicated to the solidarity walk, and before dipping into the full-time organization of our exciting summer programme of activities for the youth.

Lately, we've been reflecting on a defining characteristic that unites two key initiatives of TGS Eurogroup: the Su e Zo and our summer activities. While the Su e Zo serves as our traditional spring gathering, the summer activities more specifically encompass our educational programs for young people, such as English language study stays abroad. Despite their distinct nature, both initiatives embody the teamwork, cooperation, lasting relationships, and shared purposes that have always been central to our association.

This engagement occurs both internally, with members regularly meeting at the initiative of the Committee, the Secretariat, or





the promoting body, and externally, to get and stay in touch with the people and other associations that support and enjoy the event at different levels. To name some, regarding the solidarity walk, these include the Municipality of Venice, supporters, equipment and goods operators, and participants. As for our summer study holidays, this involves local organisers, teachers, people from the local parish or Salesian community, students, and families.

Meetings, whether in person or video calls, are a good chance for sharing projects as well as issues, and for working out solutions that consider what the volunteers have experienced. The way organisers, volunteers, people and associations are working together has many an advantage. Different points of view make the experience richer; different people mean different skills that help each other out and allow everyone to learn. It's all in keeping with the nature of TGS Eurogroup. Amongst the aims of a non-profit organisation like us, one of the main things is to encourage social inclusion and people feeling connected. This, in turn, is really tied to making sure individuals have opportunities to be part of society, regardless of their background, while keeping an eye on cultural understanding and swapping ideas.

If we think about our volunteers at the *Su e Zo per i Ponti*, you see they come from all sorts of backgrounds, they're all different ages (the youngest is 16, the oldest is probably in their eighties) and they all play a key role at the event. They bring different amounts of energy and experience, but whatever they're doing, they make sure participants get a warm welcome and a smile. People joining the Walk feel this, and always point out how the volunteers being there and helping is a good reason to take part, even if it's a windy day.

We feel the same appreciation for the leaders, the dedicated volunteers who guide TGS students on their English study holidays. TGS leaders are just the tip of the iceberg of the whole organisation, which has a big setup of people working to get the programme sorted before the study holiday, as well as during, to help with activities and keep in touch between Italy and the other country. Then, when the groups are back, they also look

at how it all went and come up with guidelines for the next summer.

Both the solidarity walk in Venice and the summer activities abroad focus on the people taking part in them, aiming to find a point where what people expect from what we do for them meets what you have to do when you're organising things. There's a common thread that links everyone who's involved with the association, whether they're organisers or participants. You can only have this thread if you share information and requests, which is made possible by talking to each other at all levels.

Here at TGS Eurogroup, we properly believe in communication as a way for everyone to grow, both on their own and together. Because of that, this Newsletter itself is how we keep in touch with those of you we hardly ever see, or just bump into when we're working on a particular project. Getting in touch with you lot lets us tell you what we're up to at the moment, so we can share not just ideas, but also how we're feeling and hopefully get your thoughts on your own experiences. Thinking about Venice and one of the main reasons it's famous, you could even say that communication is like a bridge that gets people working together and feeling more like a community.

So, what are the main things that happen when you share ideas? Basically, waving relationships, understanding each other better, nurturing successful projects, and good ideas turning into action.

Wishing each and every one of you a very happy Easter, filled with warmth, laughter, and good company!



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TGS EUROGROUP - Turismo Giovanile Sociale
Via Marconi 22, 31021 Mogliano Veneto (Treviso), Italy
tel. 041 5904717- fax. 041 5906702 - info@tgseurogroup.it

tgseurogroup.it

