



TGS
EUROGROUP
since 1968

NEWS LETTER

A year with TGS Eurogroup!

by Alessandra Granziero

Christmas is in the air so why not send our December newsletter and let you know what 2019 has brought to TGS Eurogroup?

January started with the appointment of the new TGS Eurogroup Committee that is to remain in office until January 2021. By the end of the month the first study visit of the year took place in Brussels: our "TGS18+ Project", an educational journey to meet the European institutions, allowed a group of young TGS students and volunteers to visit the European Parliament, the European Commissions and many other institutions and organisations at the very heart of Europe.

February and **March** were mainly dedicated to present our TGS activities in schools and universities. That's how we started recruiting volunteers for the forthcoming activities, engaging the leaders and training them. Working sessions in training weekends kept the Committee busy in planning all related



activities from March to June.

April main appointment, the "Up and Down the Bridges of Venice" solidarity walk on 7th April, was again a great challenge. Almost 10.000 people gathered in Venice for the occasion. Every year different itineraries twist and turn through the less known areas of the city on the water, also touching its most famous landmarks. A day of sustainable tourism, respecting the city we are in, its art, its history, its real soul and its essence.

May saw the Committee taken with the difficult task of appointing all teams of TGS Leaders for the upcoming Summer Courses in Great Britain, while **June** saw TGS Office getting ready for the departure of the students.

July was traditionally fully oriented to our Summer Courses of English language in Great Britain. Over one hundred students and about 25 group leaders enjoyed the English Summer. Year by year we have been improving to fulfill new needs and expectations on both sides, from our English associates – host families, teachers, local organisers – and from the Italian side – leaders, students and their families. That's why a Committee trip

«Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven»
Mt 6,10

Good christians and upright citizens

«Strenua 2020», Fr. Ángel Fernández Artime, Rector Major of the Salesians



Best wishes for a merry Christmas and a happy New Year
TGS Eurogroup Students, Leaders and Committee



to England towards the end of the month was important to get precious feedbacks from all people involved.

A very challenging experience involved the Association in **August**. We hosted our first youth exchange in Mogliano Veneto (our headquarters) and in Venice: *"The Journey never ends"*, a partnership between National TGS and Don Bosco Youth-Net, with the support of the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union. It was meant to be a training experience for young people coming from all over Europe and dealing with the topic of intercultural and inter-religious dialogue in Europe. We got enthusiastic feedbacks from the 34 participants thanks to the vibrant programme consisting of study sessions, visits to some iconic places in Venice as well as training sessions held by relevant representatives in the Lagoon city. We were also asked to plan a new edition sometimes in the future as... the journey never ends, indeed!

September was time for reflection at last with the gathering of the Committee, for a whole weekend, in order to ponder how our TGS experience had worked so far, to review all the activities we implemented this year and to start imagining new projects and challenges for the new year.

In **October** we invited our Summer 2019 students to join us in Mogliano for the *"Back Together"* day, a great chance to meet again – although some groups had already organized spontaneous Back Together trips and outings somewhere on their own – and give the Summer reports and Cambridge University Certificates for those who had attended exams in Guildford.

November took some Committee members to Great Britain once again, to see how the experience had worked on the English side and to start planning next Summer courses as well. New possible destinations have been explored in order to plan new engaging outings for our students next year.

December... here we are! At the beginning of the month, a delegation of TGS Committee paid a visit to Dublin as part of the *TGS18+ Project*; this was also an opportunity to visit many Salesians communities all over Ireland and start thinking of possible future collaborations.

Meanwhile, enrollment to our Summer courses has been launched and TGS office is already at work to welcome any questions from prospective students and their families.

We met our leaders for a Christmas Lunch altogether and at the same time we are getting ready to welcome the leaders, our students and their families on the *Friendship Meeting*, next 12th January.

The *Up and Down the Bridges* – 42nd edition is also on its way. Together with all parties concerned, we are giving our best to plan another joyful event in Venice next Spring. As usual you are welcome to join us on 19th April for the solidarity walk across the city – feel free to get in touch with us for further information.

Now that you have been given a versatile summary of 2019 at TGS, we would like to send a big thank you to each of you for being part of our family and supporting us, each of you in a peculiar and essential way. As it happens in every family at this time of the year, we are knocking at your door to wish you and your loved ones a very special Christmas!



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