



TGS
EUROGROUP
since 1968

NEWS LETTER

Happy Christmas dear TGS friends!

by Alessandra Granziero

As Christmas is knocking at the door, and 2021 is coming to an end, we at TGS are in the proper mood to send you our warmest wishes for the festive season.

Given all the occurrence of the year, it can be difficult for our friends to stay up on the events the Association has been carrying out. When you have a moment to spare, just relax, make a cup of tea and sip this very bit we have selected for you. While we have been posting about several TGS activities through the year - some have become well integrated as the TGS Summer Camp in Mogliano Veneto and Venice - we can say something more on a new project we gave birth to this year: the "Su e Zo Detour" guided tours in Venice. Basically, these tours were the answer the Association gave to the unlucky deferment



of "Su e Zo per i Ponti di Venezia" ("Up and Down the Bridges of Venice", the solidarity walk TGS Eurogroup has been organising in Venice for over 40 years), as a consequence of the pandemic and the well know restrictions coming with it. Soon, it proved to be an activity that captivated our members and friends and allowed TGS to keep in touch with its family.

Several appointments from May to November early this year offered participants unique walks through Venice. The idea of taking a walk through Venice still remains and, in exchange for the massive "Su e Zo" solidarity walk, the Association developed an event intended for a limited number of people on a monthly basis. Thanks to guides' experience, the walks were not just meant to present places and *sestieri* (local districts) in Venice, which you could also experience individually by reading a guidebook or listening to an audioguide by yourself. The guides frequently introduced the story of the people living there, the traditions of the past, historical returns, and the needs of the local residents living in such a peculiar city. Just add that Venice still looks like in the past, with the same buildings and palaces,

*«Do all through love, nothing through constraint»
(St. Francis de Sales)*

"Strenua 2022", Fr. Ángel Fernández Artime, Rector Major of the Salesians



*Wishing You a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
TGS Eurogroup Students, Volunteers and Committee*



with the same canal still crossing the city and its waves still crashing against the walls. Were it not for ferry boats, one would think to visit a city in the past.

"Cooperating with the Su e Zo per i Ponti was a brand-new experience for the Cooperativa Guide Turistiche Autorizzate di Venezia. After several months of seclusion and isolation, guiding tours to introduce Venice to those had been taking part to this extraordinary event for years – an appointment that combines the passion for outdoor activities with the generosity of volunteering - made us guides feel proud, hoping to help and keep the spirit of the Su e Zo alive. As President of the Cooperativa, I would like to thank the organisers as well as the Su e Zo Volunteers who supported us guides on our walks through Venice: Stefania, Christina, Mariangela, Lea (the guides) hope to see people who are passionate and curious about Venice and the city's history again next year, and trust that our cooperation becomes customary". Anna, President of "Cooperativa Guide Turistiche Autorizzate di Venezia" (Cooperative of Licenced Tourist Guides of Venice).

One of the "Su e Zo Detours" participants shared the following feedback with the Association: *"I would suggest this event as it allows to visit wonderful places in Venice. You can breath the real Venice as locals want tourists to".* Our local guides engaged all participants with great passion, which did not go unnoticed as another participant reported: *"A great cultural and tourist experience in the spirit of family and friendship".* From the Association's perspective, this is a good point. Many participants reported they enjoyed visiting hidden corners in Venice as well as they appreciated the special atmosphere within the group. We think TGS' own spirit and attitude, always

attentive to hospitality and relationships among people, was an essential point of the overall experience. There was a good dialogue between the guides and TGS Volunteers, and the two parties worked really well together. All participants felt such an exchange and all the efforts put in place to make everyone feel welcome, which is always a good reward for us. Any association can offer a good tour. TGS is committed to get that "extra and special feeling" among organisers and participants.

Still uncertain on how the worldwide pandemic emergency will develop, we are at work for the next edition of the "Su e Zo per o Ponti di Venezia" (2022 edition, hoping to make it come true again) and for a new series of "Su e Zo Detours" as well. Stay tuned! We will be updating you on our social media.

Last but not least, for those of you who might be interested in, we would like to inform that the so-called Su e Zo per i Ponti Solidarity Ticket is now available online, supporting the charity fund for the local territory and the Salesian Missions in the world. Further information can be found on this web page: <https://www.suezo.it/en/iscrizioni-on-line> Wishing you and your loved ones, the best for the festive season, from all of us at TGS Eurogroup!



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