



TGS
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NEWS LETTER



Happy Easter from TGS!

by *Alessandra Granziero*

Happy Easter to you, dear TGS's Friends! At the headquarter in Mogliano Veneto we are deeply breathing and enjoying quite a busy life. Collaborators in charge of the Secretariat manage online bookings, answer phone calls, reply to e-mails and keep an eye on every detail of an articulate event as the "Su e Zo" is. What is it all about? "Su e Zo per i Ponti di Venezia" ("Up and Down the Bridges" walk) is a spring event that involves thousands of people in a walk for solidarity around Venice alleys: young and not-so-young people, families, school groups, sport teams, all together in a day devoted to meeting, friendship and solidarity. It was mid February when the appointment was finally scheduled on 15th May and this piece of news brought fresh air to TGS. It looked as though a pinch of normality was back, not only for TGS itself, but for people in general and for the walk supporters first. We have organized several appointments to meet and coordinate volunteers since February. As one can imagine, after a two-year suspension, calling back collaborators may not be an easy task. TGS is lucky as it can count on trustworthy friends and supporters, many just looking to be of help as in the

past. Much effort has been made by the Association in the last two-year period to keep in touch with volunteers and new cooperators through on-line meetings, and we are now looking forward to meeting everyone again "on site" in Venice on 15th May! Would you like to join us for a special weekend treat in Venice? Just check the web site www.suezo.it/en and book your ticket now!

The "Up and Down the Bridges" is currently the main activity TGS is working at, as the walk is taking place in less than one month. At the same time, we are also putting an extra effort into the field we have been specialising through the years: our summer courses for students aged 11 to 18. Keeping our fingers crossed, we have been working hard at two projects which we are to develop in the Summer: the "TGS Summer Camp" in Italy, a residential language course in Mogliano Veneto and Venice for the younger students, and a full "Summer Course of English Language" in Ireland for the older ones.

As you probably remember, TGS gave birth to the Summer camps a couple of years ago when the burst of the pandemic forced to stay local. Encouraging feedback from previous editions and still a promising interest from families suggested that we could not do without. The organisation was soon set in motion and we have been working to draw up the





programme which is about to be finalized. Again, the Salesian College "Astori", where TGS Eurogroup has its headquarters, is hosting the students on the first week of July, a mother-tongue English teacher is joining us, an assistant teacher already cooperating with TGS will be there to support and TGS leaders will guide students on all outings to Venice as well as a number of games, workshops and activities, following an exciting one-week long programme.

Once the Summer Camp in Italy was confirmed for July 2022, we felt it was the right time to fly abroad again, although with a close eye on all guidelines and recommendations still in force. While we do hope to take our students back to England one day, Ireland is an exciting brand new venture for us. Thanks to the cooperation between TGS Eurogroup and the Irish branch of the Salesians of Don Bosco, with whom the Association has started a joint pastoral planning since 2019, TGS Eurogroup has been developing a brand new educational project. TGS students will be hosted for two weeks at St Patrick's College – a 19th century complex also seat of a prestigious Pontifical University and heart of the university campus of Maynooth, only 25 minutes from Dublin. Mother-tongue teachers will accompany students on a course to deepen their knowledge of the English language and Irish culture, as part of the educational path also in preparation for the Cambridge PET (Preliminary English Test) or FCE (First Certificate in English) exams, which the students may take in Dublin at the end of their stay. TGS leaders will be there to guide the students and overlook all activities, in collaboration with the Youth Ministry Office of the Salesians of Ireland. Trips to Dublin and other nearby places of interest are also planned, as well as meetings with the local community.

Both the residential experience and the Summer course abroad are good opportunities for the training path within the Association. TGS members are offered the chance to get

involved in educational projects, such as study trips abroad or active voluntary work training. In line with this, our **Training Meetings for TGS Volunteers** are also on the calendar. TGS committee members have been visiting universities in the last few months with the aim to introduce the Association and explain what TGS leaders do. We are now managing training events where a new generation of volunteers is meeting volunteers that have been part of the family for years. Believe us, it is a great source of satisfaction for us!

A few more words for an event we have been working at, in the last two year: the **"Su and Zo Detour"**. Visits to Venice organised in collaboration with local tourist guides are also on the agenda in the coming months. We attended a remarkable visit of the Doge's Palace in March, celebrating the final days of the 1600th anniversary of the founding of Venice (421-2021), which started last year, on 25th March 2021, the day Venice is traditionally said to have been born. An amazing exhibition gave an account of the thousand-year history of the Serenissima Republic from the birth of the 'chosen city' and the myth of St. Mark to the creation of the maritime empire.

We hope these few lines gave you a hint of the vibrant life at TGS and the joy we are deeply feeling. Should you wish to send any comments or greeting, just reach out to us e-mailing blog@tgseurogroup.it! Once again... Happy Easter!



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