



TGS
EUROGROUP
since 1968



NEWS LETTER

Happy Christmas from TGS!

by Alessandra Granziero

Dear TGS Friends, we hope the year about to end has brought joy and satisfaction to you. TGS Eurogroup is now sending its love along with warm Christmas wishes from its volunteers for a fresh start and new beginnings.

The TGS Eurogroup Advent Calendar, accompanying us to Christmas on the Association social channels, has also taken us through the events that TGS organized and supported in 2022. Our English classes, including Summer Camps in Italy and Summer Courses in Ireland, our European citizenship awareness project, including study visits to the European institutions in Brussels, as well as the small scale projects in partnership with local secondary schools, engaging students in a "Pathway for transversal skills and orientation" linked to the solidarity walk "Su e Zo per i Ponti di Venezia"... all these activities, in many different ways, put in practice a real educational pathway that

places young people at the very centre of our activities and strengthens the cooperation between the Association and those who benefit from its initiatives.

Furthermore, TGS Eurogroup requires its Volunteers to measure their skills through concrete experiences, developing personal awareness and self-confidence. We strongly believe in the importance to enhance transversal competences. They consist of a set of skills valuable for effective action in any work, learning or life activity. Being transversal, they can relate to several contexts. Due to the very nature of our Association, we help develop competences to fit in multicultural or other-language-speaking contexts, with a special focus on the study of English. Take our Summer activities as an example: what are the main achievements students get from a language course?

Basically, they improve their vocabulary, pronunciation, and language skills. Focusing on the learning process, two aspects are worth keeping in mind as natural consequences of language strengthening.

First, the language course is not the final goal in itself: it

*«As the yeast in today's
human family»*

Fr. Angel Fernández Artime, Rector Major of the Salesians



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



becomes a work "with and within the person". By improving their English, students lose some of the hesitation that prevents interaction in a foreign language, thus generating a growing enthusiasm for personal achievements. Secondly, increasing language confidence leads students to reevaluate English as a subject of study, from being maybe a disliked subject to a less burdensome one.

Moreover, TGS strongly believes in the importance of a group experience. Being a member of a group, and not an independent student, is a choice for many families who appoint an organisation they trust to deal with all organizational aspects: from the choice of the school to the accommodation with specific requirements, from contact persons to support the study visit to high profiled teachers. However, we cannot avoid pointing out how joining a group places participants in a micro-society where all the members respect rules in a cultural context different from the one they are exposed daily. Whether they are rules set in place by third parties organizing and supervising the activities, rather than common sense wit to maintain order among the participants, or regulations laid down by the organisations that host the activities, observance is compulsory. Respecting the rules – even the less appreciated ones – makes awareness, regardless of each person's pleasure in it, and without the exceptions a family-life context may grant. We have realized that group activities expose students

to a comprehensive experience that ensures the formation and growth of the person in the awareness of their own being. In turn, this process brings to the development of a personal dimension, first within the group's micro-society, consequently of a broader one.

Interesting enough, the means through which this process takes shape, is basically the aim for attending TGS Summer activities: the language course. What skills do we focus on, in our activities and dedicated training sessions? We mainly encourage skills such as self-motivation, critical thinking, problem solving, decision making, cooperation, and teamwork. We believe that, given the nature of our Association, TGS Eurogroup can play an important role in passing competences to its younger members and to the final recipients of its activities. We will keep moving in this direction in the years to come, wishing to help our members to benefits from this as much as possible.

Before this letter come to an end, let us wish you joy and happiness to you and your dearest ones for the Christmas Season!

Do you want to share joy? The solidarity walk "Su e Zo per i Ponti di Venezia" (Up and Down the Bridges of Venice) is scheduled on next 16th April... "Share the wonder" is the tag line for next year's edition. Why don't you come and visit us on that occasion? It could be one of your resolutions for the new year! We'll be looking forward to meeting you in Venice next Spring!



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