



TGS
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NEWS LETTER



Happy Easter from TGS!

by *Alessandra Granziero*

We hope you all are doing well in these first days of Spring. Three months since we last got in touch almost at the end of 2023, today we bring our best Easter wishes.

We are here also to share a few lines about how far our TGS18+ Project has gone since we gave birth to it. Finally, we bring you updates on the coming edition of the *Su e Zo per i Ponti* and on next Summer language courses.

June 2024 marks the 10th European Parliament Election since the first direct election in 1979. Moreover, this is the first appointment after the Brexit. As the European Union describes its values as being 'Human Dignity, Freedom, Democracy, Equality, Rule of Law, and Human Rights', the occasion of the Election makes us consider that our **TGS18+ Project** is as contemporary as so relevant to today. TGS18+ is an ambitious project which TGS Eurogroup has been working at for almost 10 years now, both in the form of tailored trips to **Brussels** and as specific visits planned during our language courses abroad. The traces of this Project date back to 2015, when we guided the first group of young people to the heart of the European Institutions in Brussels to make awareness on active and European citizenship.

It was not a mere journey. It covered several issues, such as providing young people with possible opportunities for volunteering, internships, cultural exchanges, offering TGS Eurogroup new forms of cultural and institutional exchanges in Europe as well as opportunities to establish new networks aimed at a possible participation in European calls. Soon after, in 2016, the first sample of the integrated project took place in **London, UK**, engaging the students of our language courses. Indeed, one of the activities scheduled for the students was the visit to the Houses of Parliament, not an unprecedented visit, although with different aims. Previously an opportunity to enter the Houses of Parliament, it then became an occasion for the students to be and feel like European citizens – before the Brexit changed the borders of Europe. We remember one of those training weekends for the leaders: when we came to describe the importance of that very visit, we wanted them to be aware of what the Houses meant, so that they could pass the same issues over the students. And it happened. Once in London, before entering the Houses, the students gathered all together in one of the green areas next to the Parliament, and the leaders explained what they were going to visit.

A long way has been walked until today. The following step came soon after with an invitation to TGS Eurogroup by the





United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO), which has its headquarters in **Madrid, Spain**, for a visit to their office, as 2017 marked the celebrations of the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development. The visit to Madrid was also a brilliant opportunity to contribute to the TGS18+ European citizenship awareness programme and offered the participants – some of them are members of TGS Eurogroup Committee now – the chance to meet institutions, thanks to a guided tour of the “Congreso de los Diputados”, the main branch of the Spanish Parliament.

With Brussel becoming a recurring appointment for TGS Eurogroup, new networks have been developed with **Malta**, at first meant to be a tailored destination for a group of students from Collegio Asotri in Mogliano Veneto, in May 2023. The Malta experience also focused on a specific topic, that of inclusion and diversity, because of the main issue the island is facing due to the number of immigrants it deals with.

This project soon became part of the broader area of activities called **TGS for Schools**, whereby schools and training institutions ask TGS Eurogroup to plan and guide tailored activities in the youth tourism sector.

Meanwhile, in Summer 2022, TGS Eurogroup landed in **Dublin, Ireland**, for the brand-new language course experience we developed thanks to the cooperation with the Salesian community based at St Catherine's at Maynooth University. With an eye to the European project, we planned a tour to the Irish Parliament site in Dublin.

Malta which we had already visited in 2022, has walked side-by-side with Dublin and is now following the Dublin example. With a new Summer camp taking place in Malta in Summer 2024, fully dedicated to younger TGS students, we will not miss the chance to combine the language course with trips to focus on the meaning of being European citizens.

Only two weeks to the **“Su e Zo per i Ponti”**, our solidarity walk taking place in **Venice** on Sunday 14th April. As it happens, the sending of our Easier newsletter is one step ahead the upcoming edition of the well-known **“Up and Down the Bridges of Venice”**, now in its 44th Edition. The closer the day, the bigger the number of people who check if they still are in time to participate. They get in touch with TGS Eurogroup office not only for specific issues regarding the walk, or for late registration, but also to know more about the fee that is to be paid to enter Venice: as you may know, visitors and tourists will have to pay a fee to enter the city on many weekends this year, although 14th April is going to be one of the very last “free entrance” days before Summer. TGS Eurogroup staff is doing a great job to ensure everybody gets a reply and everything is ready in time. Preparation, willingness to help and team work are needed and any Volunteer is more than welcome.

You are still in time to join us for the walk. If you cannot participate in person, do follow the event on 14th April through our social media channels where we will be sharing pictures, stories and comments. Follow @suezoperiponti or simply log on to www.suezo.it/en!

Should you wish to e-mail on the above or share your experience, just reach out to us e-mailing blog@tgseurogroup.it.

Happy Easter to each of you!



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