



**TGS**  
**EUROGROUP**  
since 1968

## NEWS LETTER

### TGS Eurogroup 2025: a Salesian courtyard that becomes the world

by TGS Journal Staff

For over fifty years, the **TGS Eurogroup** association, promoted by the **Salesian Province "San Marco" of North-East Italy (INE)**, has been translating the charism of Don Bosco into travel and study experiences abroad. These are not simply language holidays, but real paths of integral growth for young people, based on the Preventive System. The mission is always the same: to offer a "courtyard" that extends to the ends of the earth, where young people can grow as "honest citizens and good Christians," citizens of the world open to encounter and dialogue. The summer of 2025 saw this promise renewed through three distinct experiences united by the same soul: Malta, Ireland, and Great Britain.



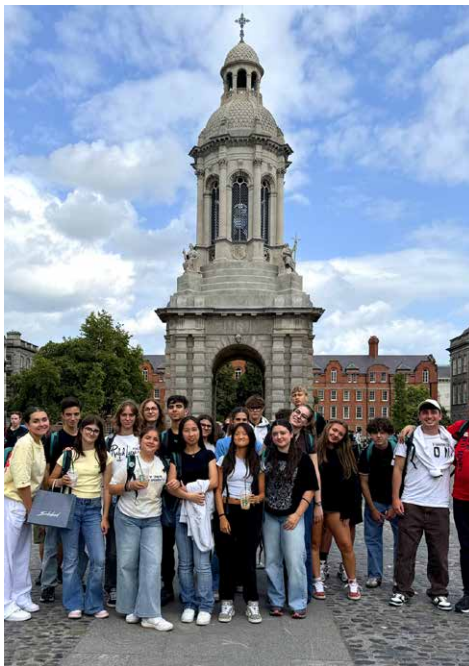
### A tailor-made educational project to accompany growth.

The TGS Eurogroup project is structured as a gradual journey, designed to accompany the different ages and the growing needs for autonomy of the young people. In **Malta**, the experience is dedicated to the very young students of the **1st grade of secondary school**. Here, thanks to the precious collaboration with the **Salesians of Don Bosco Malta** who make their environments available, the young people take their first steps abroad in a protected and familiar context. In **Ireland**, for students in the **first two years of the 2nd grade of secondary school**, the step towards autonomy is taken within a university campus, but always under the wing of the Salesian family. The close collaboration with the **Salesians of Don Bosco in Ireland**, who welcome the young people to their oratories and schools in Maynooth, guarantees that home-like atmosphere that is fundamental for a peaceful adventure. In **Great Britain**, the experience for the older students in the **last three years of the**

*«Do whatever He tells you» John 2,5*  
*Fr. Fabio Attard, Rector Major of the Salesians*



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



**2nd grade of secondary school** matures into a total immersion in the local culture, through accommodation with a host family. Here too, the style of welcome was a pillar, thanks to the warm hospitality of the **Catholic parish of the English Martyrs in Reading**, which opened the doors of its premises, making us feel part of a living community.

## **The pillars of the experience: a home, a school, a courtyard.**

Beyond the destinations, what emerges from the stories of students and parents is the concreteness of an educational style that rests on three pillars.

**"A home that welcomes"** was the first, great gift. It manifested itself in the affection of the host families in England, described by the young people as a "second family"; in the familiarity of the Salesian environments in Malta; and in the strong community union created on the Irish campus.

The **"school that prepares for life"** goes beyond learning the language. The goal is to form active and global citizenship. A striking example was the visit to the **Irish Parliament** in Dublin, with a direct meeting with one of its members, and the immersive experience at **"Europa Experience"**, a European Parliament facility. These activities are directly linked to the ten-year TGS Eurogroup project for European citizenship, TGS18+.

Finally, the **"playground where friends can meet"**. No Salesian experience is such without the dimension of community and animation. The beating heart of each group are the **TGS Eurogroup Leaders**, young animators trained according to the

educational style of Don Bosco. Guaranteeing the lifeblood and Salesian identity is the constant presence, within each staff, of a Salesian Cooperator and/or a Salesian priest, who offer a human and spiritual point of reference for the entire journey.

## **The voice of the protagonists: the words of young people and families.**

And the fruits of this educational commitment? They emerge strongly from the words of the participants.

From the students' side, the chorus is unanimous: what remains in the heart, beyond the places visited, are the new friendships and the unity of the group. Many emphasize personal growth, the discovery of greater autonomy and independence, and the awareness of having lived an unforgettable experience that helped them come out of their shell. For the students, the TGS experience proves to be much more than a simple trip, but an authentic human adventure that *"created wonderful bonds"* and allowed the young people to *"grow a lot"*. The success of this journey is based on the strength of *"being together"* and on the constant *"commitment that the leaders have put in"*, creating a unique supportive environment. In this climate of trust, the students were able to test themselves, discovering a new *"awareness of myself (what I can do if I try)"*. It is an experience that leaves an indelible mark, *"something that is not forgotten"*.

This path of growth is confirmed with gratitude by the parents, from whom emerges a unanimous feeling of trust, the *"peace of mind in knowing him in good hands"*, which comes from a



*"meticulous organization and always in the footsteps of the Salesian Project". A "well-rounded experience" that balances "language preparation, conviviality, sharing and safety" is appreciated. Parents recognize that "[You] take care of every aspect of the experience with affection and competence", favoring "the group experience, so important for teenagers".*

The definitive proof of success is the impact on the children, perfectly summarized by a parent: *"The great enthusiasm with which my daughter returned home and the great regret of having finished the experience".*

At the end of the TGS Summer, the young people do not return home only with more fluent English, but with a wealth of friendships, a greater awareness of themselves and the world, and with an experience of a living and welcoming Church in their hearts.

A small piece of Don Bosco's dream that, this summer too, has become a reality.

## TGS Host Family of the Year 2025

Our return to the UK last summer revived a long-standing tradition: the "TGS Host Family of the Year" Award.

This special recognition expresses our deep gratitude for the heartfelt care and attention that host families dedicate to our students. In Reading, the students completed a detailed questionnaire that covered different aspects of their experience; the results were truly outstanding, with many families receiving excellent ratings!

Sincere thanks to **Mr. and Mrs. Hawkins**, our first winners, and to our local organiser **Ms. Margaret Gardner** for her superb work in managing the new centre and its hosts.



## TGS Eurogroup 2026 A journey of growth and discovery

The 2026 TGS Eurogroup calendar is officially taking shape, filled with meaningful milestones and exciting opportunities for our entire community. We are looking forward to a year of renewed connections, starting on January 11th with the **TGS Open Day 2026** at TGS headquarters in Mogliano Veneto, designed to allow students and families to explore our upcoming projects and study abroad programmes.

The spring season will be particularly vibrant for our staff and supporters. Between March and May, our volunteers will participate in a comprehensive **training programme** spread across five intensive sessions. This formative journey is essential to ensure our **TGS Leaders** are fully prepared, motivated, and inspired to support the students during the summer season.

Meanwhile, the city of Venice will host one of the most beloved and iconic traditions of the year: the 46th **"Su e Zo per i Ponti"**, or **"Up and Down the Bridges of Venice"**, our solidarity walk which is scheduled for April 12th and promises to bring together thousands of participants in a shared spirit of friendship.

As we move toward the warmer months, the anticipation builds for our international travel programmes. On June 20th, we will gather once again at TGS headquarters for the official **TGS Summer 2026 Presentation**, a final chance to share every practical detail and excitement before the departures.

The **Summer Courses** will then take place throughout the month of **July** in a truly immersive way. The experience begins in **Sliema, Malta**, from July 1st to July 11th, continues in **Maynooth, Ireland**, from July 14th to July 28th, and concludes with our group in **Reading, Great Britain**, from July 16th to July 30th. These trips represent an unforgettable opportunity for language learning, cultural exchange, and personal growth. Finally, we will all reunite on September 27th for the **TGS Back Together** meeting to celebrate all the wonderful goals and memories achieved together.



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