



34° SU E ZO PER I PONTI DI VENEZIA (Up and Down the Bridges of Venice) - 15 APRIL 2012

FACT SHEET

The first edition of “Up and Down the Bridges” took place in 1975 and was organized by TGS Eurogroup and Venetiadi. In later years many other organizations such as AGE SC, CTG, FISM, Ex allievi Don Bosco, joined in. This event was so successful that the promoters decided to carry on organizing it.

“Up and Down the Bridges” was conceived and still is a **non competitive “race”**. The aim of this event is to involve **young people, adults, families, school parties and sport groups** in an amazing walk through the Venice *calli* (alleys). The idea is to spend some time together in the name of friendship and solidarity. Over the years many folk groups and music bands joined the event. All these groups contribute to the atmosphere in Piazza San Marco and other places in and around Venice during the event.

After over **30 editions**, while keeping intact the spirit of its origins, this event still represents a day of celebration and joy which is renewed from year to year.

Every year **10 to 15,000 people** take part in this exciting day which couldn't take place without the help of **600 volunteers** working at the refreshment points and along the race route itself.

The founder and coordinator of the Promoting Committee was Father Dino Berti. He guided the organization of the “Up and Down the Bridges” even in the year 2000, a few months before he died. Thanks to the efforts of so many people and of the current coordinator, Mr. Gianfranco Mandruzato, this event continues to be successful every year. This is also proven by the fact that, year after year, the Italian media show increasing interest in this initiative.

The Municipality of Venice considers “**Up and Down the Bridges**” **one of the most important events** in the annual Venetian calendar, just like traditional celebrations such as la Festa del Redentore (The Saviour) or the historical Regata (Boat Race).

Local authorities, private companies, banks and enterprises, thanks to their help and their funding, nurture this event to make it the success it has become in the city of Venice.

Apart from the awards of medals and the plaques, which have been created specially for the “Up and Down the Bridges”, there are several other prizes for school parties, large groups and for folk groups.

Every year **the money raised from the event, after expenses, is donated to charity.**

TGS Eurogroup, which has been organizing and coordinating this event since its beginnings, is a **non-profit organization** promoted by the Salesian Region “San Marco” Italia Nord Est. TGS Eurogroup finds its roots in the **Salesian Youth Movement (SYM)** and has educational objectives as well as recreational, charitable and promotional values. TGS Eurogroup draws its inspiration from the Christian idea of life and society, explicitly referring to Don Bosco’s educational and pastoral system and to the Salesian style.

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