



# FAKRO'S GRUWELIJKSTE INTERVIEW THEO PETERS

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In the beginning of 2016 you started with the realisation of your big wish to organize an event. How did it all come together? *“We were looking for an event that fits our organization. In my opinion this had to meet a few conditions:*

- » *A fun activity for our customers with a relax atmosphere and a good feeling.*
- » *To show something of the surroundings of Groesbeek.*
- » *To support a charity, because we think it's important to do something for others and the surroundings.*
- » *And to show a bit more of FAKRO (Netherlands); who we are and what we stand for.*

*And we succeeded! Soon my colleagues and I figured out that we were all excited about cycling and that was the start of this all”, says Theo.*

## **Cycling for charity**

FAKRO Netherlands started to work together with the charity ROAd4energy for the cycling event. Theo: *“The charity we picked is ROAd4energy, a foundation with the main goal to collect financial means to fight mitochondrial disease. This year they celebrate their 5th anniversary by organizing (amongst others) the mountain bike tour ‘Groesbeeks Gruwelijkste’ and collect money. We started to work together and after a first meeting both parties were so excited that the cycling event came together in a short time.”*

## **Not just**

You didn't just pick this charity. Why are you sympathetic to this charity? *“Because ROAd4energy is very committed to fight children diseases. Children have their whole life ahead of them and should be able to live it carefree. It would be great if they all don't have to suffer anymore. No parent should see that and live through that experience.”*

## **Passion for cycling**

But where did your excitement about cycling come from? How did it all start? *“Four years ago I started with cycling. A partner of mine, with whom I always used to ice skate on nature ice, signed me up for Tour4life. That is a cycling tour for charity which starts in Italy and ends in the Netherlands. So then I had to start training for it. From that time on I got infected with the ‘cycling virus’, as they say.”*

## **Biggest achievement**

And this cycling virus has brought you more beautiful things. After two of your bigger achievements in the Tour4life and the Marmotte there are probably some new challenges or goals

you would like to achieve. *“These are indeed two of my bigger achievements. Every year I set a goal for myself. This year that goal is the Maratona dles Dolomites in the Dolomites. But to be honest, I don't have a new goal for next year. Although, Ötztaler Radmarathon sounds as a good idea.”* That is a totally different surrounding than Italy or France. Where should cycling enthusiasts have cycled in your opinion? What should they not miss? *“The most beautiful surrounding is of course Groesbeek. But other surroundings, such as the Eifel and Italy, have much to offer. Actually, every surrounding has something special.”*

## **A great advice from Theo**

In conclusion, do you have any advice for all the enthusiastic participants? *“I do indeed. Set a goal for yourself every year! Know where you want to cycle and just do this. It feels like a great and big achievement if you have done it and you get a good feeling from it. Beside that it motivates you to set a new goal every year. My second goal this year was to organize an event and of course to participate in that event. This goal has been reached with the first edition of FAKRO's Gruwelijkste and the year isn't even over yet. What I am excited about is that there were so many cycling enthusiasts that participated in the event. I would like to thank everybody who participated, for their enthusiasm, donation for charity and of course their participation.”*

*“I am very grateful for everyone who helped and participated. Hopefully we can do this again next year.”*

