Originally, Codognotto was a pure road transport provider, but it has moved on from that and found success in diversification.

On the Inside – The Codognotto Group, from Salgareda in the Veneto region

The future is already here

How can a small firm become a multinational corporation without being effected by the economic crisis? The long-established Codognotto Group tells us about its past and its path to a prosperous future. It leads from the northeastern Italian province of Treviso across Europe and onwards to India and Singapore. The path to warehousing and other successes was covered on the roads as well as on railway lines.

The Codognotto Group has worked hard to become one of the most dynamic entities in the European transport industry, and in so doing has attracted attention for its strong growth as well as for its will to innovate and develop.

Growing against the tide
These core traits are the key to understanding the impressive growth that the group has reported over the last 15 years. In 2002 it registered a turnover of approximately EUR 10 million. By 2015 this had improved to more than EUR 160 million, a massive EUR 19 million more than in 2014. In the same years the company has invested large amounts abroad, opening more than 20 foreign firms as well as 30 branches in Europe, India, Dubai and Singapore.

The Codognotto brand has been well-known all across the country since the first entity established by the Codognotto family was founded after the Second World War. In 1975 its place was taken by the current holding of the group, founded by the six Codognotto brothers. The beginning of the enterprise's impressive growth is more recent however, starting in the midst of the economic crisis.

At a difficult time, when a number of companies were staggering towards the abyss and being forced to close down, the group started internationalising its activities by investing in infrastructure, technology as well as human resources. Today the group is seen as one of the leaders of the industry, showing strength when faced by new challenges. The company's decision to strengthen its contract logistics activities is a perfect illustration of this ability.

In just a few months Codognotto's managed warehouse space rose from 75,000 sqm to about 130,000 sqm, with new establishments opened at the London Gateway in England, near the port of Koper in Slovenia, as well as in the hinterland of the port of Venice, in the holding's home market.

The group is rather well-known historically for its experience in road transport. It owns more than 600 vehicles as well as around 1,500 semi-trailers. It has acquired the necessary know-how over the years to operate in every mode of transport worldwide. Its new railway link between Piacenza and Łódz (Poland) means the group now manages six railway connections.

Traditional and avant-garde
Codognotto has also always been interested in approaching market niches that could benefit from the strong motivation offered by the group's employees. At the end of 2015 the company started services dedicated to art transportation, and also started options dedicated to coffee logistics, with the main base for this activity in the port of Trieste.

The holding's interest in innovation and experimentation can be seen in the management of its vehicles too. The average age of the units is a mere five years, but the company is trying to bring even this figure down to three years. Naturally, every vehicle is equipped with monitoring systems for its tyres, as well as a GPS system, to guarantee constant traceability. Codognotto's first LNG vehicles are already in operation, and the company's intention is to increase its efforts and attain the progressive conversion of its entire fleet to alternative fuels.

Salgareda, a small town in northeastern Italy where the firm was first established, is still home to Codognotto's headquarters. The futuristic premises are self-sufficient in terms of their energy supply, and are also equipped with wellness facilities for all employees. The company's slogan is «See you in the future» – which encapsulates its philosophy perfectly, because the future is already here for Codognotto. *ah*

Photos: Codognotto