

VERONA'S CONSORZIO ZAI: Leading the Way in Sustainable Logistics

In the heart of northern Italy, Verona exemplifies the transformative power of logistics and sustainability. Central to this evolution is Consorzio ZAI, the organization managing one of Europe's most essential intermodal hubs, the terminals that seamlessly connect different modes of transport like rail, road, air, or sea. Founded in 1948, Consorzio ZAI has played a pivotal role in shaping Verona into a powerhouse of logistics, sustainability, and innovation.

Known as Quadrante Europa, this freight village is the largest intermodal terminal in Italy and among the most advanced in Europe. Spanning 2.5 million square meters, it is more than an industrial zone—it is a dynamic "city of goods," home to 140 companies, over 13,000 employees, and a vital gateway for goods moving across Europe and beyond. "We've built a state-of-the-art infrastructure that not only connects Italy to the rest of Europe but also serves as a model for sustainable and efficient logistics," says Matteo Gasparato, president of Consorzio ZAI.

This success has earned Quadrante Europa prestigious recognition, earning the title of Europe's best intermodal terminal from GVZ, the German association of freight villages, in 2010 and 2015. This honor was reaffirmed in 2020, confirming Verona's prime role in European logistics.






As global concerns about climate change intensify, the transport sector faces mounting pressure to reduce its carbon footprint. In response, Consorzio ZAI has taken bold steps to align with the European Union's ambitious sustainability goals, including outlining a greener future for logistics and transportation in its Sustainability Report in 2022. "Sustainability is at the core of everything we do," says Gasparato. "Our investments in green technologies and rail infrastructure are not just about improving efficiency—they are about safeguarding the environment for future generations."



Matteo Gasparato President of Consorzio ZAI

The numbers speak volumes: In 2023, Verona's freight village managed 13,944 trains, moving 7.27 million tons of goods, and redirecting over 548,000 truckloads from roads to rail. This shift reduced CO₂ emissions by an impressive 506,446 tons, cementing Verona's role in Europe's green transport revolution.

With the European Commission aiming to shift one-third of freight traffic trips of more than 350 km each to rail by 2030—and 50% by 2050—

	REDUCED NUMBER OF TRUCKS	548,000
	REDUCED ROAD KM	3,047,000 Km
	REDUCED CO ₂	506,446 Tons
	REDUCED NO _x	15,792 Kilograms
	REDUCED PARTICULATES	443,901 Grams

Verona's freight village is perfectly positioned to meet these targets. "We are ready to support the EU's vision of a sustainable, rail-centric transport network," says Gasparato. "Verona will play a pivotal role in making that a reality."

To complement its rail investments, Consorzio ZAI is spearheading forward-thinking initiatives such as the "Green Kilometer" project along the A4 highway near the Marangona logistics zone. This initiative will plant 6,200 trees, sealing up over

170 tons of CO₂ annually and advancing Verona's ambition for climate neutrality by 2030.

Looking ahead, Consorzio ZAI is focused on expanding Verona's capacity and technological infrastructure to maintain its competitive edge. Key projects include the construction of a new 750-meter terminal in partnership with railway infrastructure manager RFI (Rete Ferroviaria Italiana), supported by EU funding through the Veneto Intermodal project. Designed to meet European standards for rail transport, this terminal will accommodate longer, faster, and more efficient trains, reducing processing times and streamlining operations.

Additionally, the ambitious Marangona project—a logistics, production, and innovation zone—aims to redefine Verona's intermodal future. By integrating cutting-edge technologies, Marangona will foster a dynamic, green ecosystem for logistics and manufacturing. "Marangona represents more than just physical expansion," says Gasparato. "It's about building an innovation ecosystem that combines logistics, production, and sustainability to shape the future of global trade."

Verona's freight village is more than an Italian success story – it is a benchmark for logistics worldwide. As one of Europe's largest intermodal hubs, it serves as a crucial link in the global supply chain, connecting industries and people through sustainable, efficient transport. "The future of logistics is green, digital, and connected," says Gasparato. "We are working every day to ensure Verona remains at the forefront of these changes, driving innovation and sustainability in a rapidly evolving global market."

With ongoing investments in technology, sustainability, and infrastructure, Verona's Quadrante Europa Freight Village is set to ensure its role as a key player in the future of European logistics, shaping how goods move across borders while minimizing environmental impact.