Handelsblatt

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Young entrepreneur struggles against the crisis

"Greek Tiger" in Thessaloniki aims to modernize his country

The journey continues – passing by the huge logistics center of Lidl at the Industrial Zone of Thessaloniki- we arrived to a small and healthy business. The company <u>Tsokanos</u> distributes to professional veterinarians all products they need: ranging from veterinary pharmaceuticals, vaccines, instruments, consumables, equipment for small and large animals to unique pet accessories and nutritional supplements (4.500 products). In its <u>3.500m² big and extremely clean warehouse</u>, other companies can also lease space and benefit from 3PL services (stock management, transportation etc.). The company serves more than 10.000 customers in Greece and South-Eastern Europe.

In Tsokanos the roles are slightly different than Isomat: Junior Executive Nikolaos <u>Tsokanos</u> manages the company, while his father <u>Dimitrios</u> provides the ideas. Nikolaos proudly introduced us to his young partners and trainees. An Erasmus student from Turkey also joined the young team who is *optimizing the marketing*, logistics, sales processes and digital integration of the company. In total, around 30 people work at Tsokanos.

In his own office the junior chief speaks with *enthusiasm* for his company. "To further improve our opportunities in the market, we developed our own products, such as electronic ear tags for large animals." With special devices (readers) any type of information about each animal can be read. Certainly a pure niche in the market: In Greece alone there are 14 million sheep and goats, and many cows and pigs. The 30-year-old junior manager is a real technology-mongol. Having reengineered the company's software to an ERP system, he would like also to see the IT infrastructure of all the *authorities in Greece* be modernized too.

But currently, the crisis slowed down this self-confident young manager. "I am 30 years old, at the peak of my physical and mental performance. Together with the experience of my father, I can create added value. But for that we need a stable economic environment. However, the Greek Government represents many things but economic stability."

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