The sun is barely showing its face when the plane hits the ground. It is an inspiring Sunday morning and the moment you step out the plane, the Alps standing up north as firm as ever are recreating the glorious view Leonardo da Vinci himself must have experienced. It is like all of Lombardy dressed up to applaud our choice - the choice of walking an unknown path promising future self development and knowledge. Cause what other promises would drive people for hundreds or thousands of miles than the promises of evolution and success?

Yet this place is merely a pit stop because the final destination were all our dreams will find their answers is going to be Pavia. So we must leave behind the Alps, Bergamo and even the more famous Milano. Of course the Naviglio Pavese is not an option so we pretend Trenord was the only option from the very beginning. No matter personal preferences, arriving Pavia one feels confidence flooding all the senses. Firstly because you hope that you can catch at least the slightest form of wisdom just by breathing the air of what once was Albert Einstein home. As if brains can be caught as catching the flu... Anyway, secondly because once the delusion passes you realize that all those years studying medicine were not in vain since you recognize the name of Camillo Golgi, Nobel Prize winner in Medicine and former University of Pavia student at. But if any if this overwhelming level of confidence became a permanent status, the dense rain vanished any trace. So we find ourselves the same old us awaiting for the unfolding of what will be Pavia’s TNT.
Training New Trainers (TNT) self development program is not an IADS invention. But I guess foreseeing the tremendous benefits of such a program amongst dental students is. Mostly because it underlines a paradigm shifting truth: soft skills matter in the equation of who will you be as a dentist.

As our trainer put it: our calling is not only to clean, drill, cement, straighten, cut, place implants or whatever else you can imagine yourselves doing...our calling is to change lives so we could change the world. And if the technical part is for sure acquired during your studies, there is still a big concern regarding the emotional, personal, psychological part. Who are you without the handpiece? Does it matter?

Well from a purely scientific point of view it does, because research shows that only 20% of someone’s success relies on IQ, while the incredible amount of 80% relies on EQ (emotional intelligence). And so we face a new reality, a reality which we oftentimes face unprepared. No one taught us that emotional intelligence wins the game.

No one told us that EQ is not only the way you face fear, anxiety or the way you focus on delivering your best. EQ is not a psychological test score. EQ is a skyscraper that encompasses all your abilities portraying a better image of yourself to the world, than your past exam results. If something will predict your career better, that something is EQ. And so we saw that the TNT was all about what companies should offer space in our skyscraper. We started with Intercultural learning as we live now in a world without borders and if we want to make the full of it, we have to understand our neighbors, we have to respect them. It becomes clear that in order to do so, we must know how to communicate so public speaking and communication presentations offered some valuable insight. Then we focused on leadership and team building, just to find that in order to perform creative thinking will always be required. And of course, never forget that the last floor is kept for the CEO - emotional intelligence itself.