

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

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Why CEE is ripe for private equity expansion

An interview with Filip Suchta, Branch Director, Malta, following his participation in the 0100 Emerging Europe conference panel: "The Fundraising Landscape: Trends and Future Opportunities".

Q: What is your outlook on the future of private equity in the CEE region?

Filip Suchta: The optimism for accelerated growth in the CEE private equity market is not just hopeful thinking—it is backed by observable trends. There's a strong belief that the region is poised for significant expansion.

What role does regulation play in this positive outlook?

Regulation is a key driver. The EU is evolving its frameworks in a constructive way—not simply deregulating, but refining the system to enhance efficiency and reduce unnecessary complexity. These efforts are making capital markets more effective.

Are there specific regulatory trends investors should watch?

Yes, the push to democratise access to alternative investments is particularly noteworthy. This includes initiatives to expand the definition of professional investors or to introduce new investor categories, which could unlock substantial pools of domestic capital in the CEE region.

How is the trend toward more regulated structures impacting the market?

It's fostering transparency and security, which are crucial for collective investment vehicles. Sophisticated, regulated fund structures are becoming more prevalent, and they help to build investor confidence.

What are your thoughts on fund domiciles for CEE managers?

While larger jurisdictions remain popular, Malta is becoming an increasingly attractive option. It offers flexible and accessible frameworks, such as Notified AIFs and Notified PIFs, which allow for quicker time-to-market. It's also cost-effective, has a proactive regulator in the MFSA, benefits from EU passporting rights, and boasts a growing service ecosystem.

Beyond regulations and domiciles, what makes the CEE region compelling?

The region's real strength lies in its people. CEE is full of industrious, innovative individuals and a dynamic entrepreneurial spirit. These qualities are the true engines behind the creation of investable businesses.

What impact could geopolitical stability have?

Stability would certainly help by removing a significant headwind. However, even without that certainty, the combination of regulatory improvements, attractive fund domiciles like Malta, and the intrinsic strengths of the CEE region provide a solid foundation for sustained growth in private equity and venture capital.

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