



Brussels, 29 August 2012

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## Central & Eastern European Private Equity remains strong and resilient in 2011

Brussels, 29 August 2012. The European Private Equity and Venture Capital Association (EVCA) today releases its “[Central and Eastern Europe Statistics 2011](#)” report, which once again demonstrates the region’s strength and resilience and underpins its strong potential. The year 2011 was another year of growth and recovery from the 2009 trough, establishing the CEE region as an area of reasonable stability with relative fiscal prudence and continued positive prospects. The EVCA “Central and Eastern Europe Statistics 2011” shows that:

- Private equity and venture capital funds focused on CEE attracted **€941m** of new funds in 2011, up **48% compared to 2010** (and more than 135% on the previous year), an increase mainly driven by buyout funds. In line with overall European trends, these figures illustrate the region’s continued recovery and important role in the European economy.
- A total of **€1,244m** was invested in the CEE region in 2011, a slight decrease of 4.6% compared to 2010.
- Total investments as a percentage of GDP remained **relatively constant** for both the CEE region and for Europe as a whole in 2011, with the CEE region recording 0.105% compared to the Europe-wide average of 0.326%. This indicates the untapped potential of the CEE region for development of private equity.
- **195 companies** received private equity backing in 2011 in the CEE region, a significant **increase of 17%** compared to 2010, driven by an increase in venture financings.
- **Investment** activity was concentrated in the CEE region’s larger countries in 2011, similar to previous years, with **Poland** again accounting for the largest share of CEE investments at 55% of the total.
- **Venture capital** investments grew significantly by **57%** to account for 7.6% of total investments in CEE in 2011, one of the highest recorded proportions, driven primarily by a significant 85% increase in start-up investments. The number of venture financed companies grew to 97, or 49% of all companies receiving private equity investment in CEE in 2011. It is clear that certain countries’ programs targeted to close the “equity gap” are starting to have an impact.

## Press Release

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- Divestment activity in 2011 showed a significant increase to reach an **all-time high** in CEE of €1,383m (measured at investment cost).

Dörte Höppner, The EVCA's Secretary-General, pointed: "The Central and Eastern Europe region's 2011 positive dynamics demonstrates how private equity and venture capital can be a major provider of finance, and a reliable one, stable throughout the toughest economic conditions, driving Europe's economic recovery."

Robert Manz, chairman of the EVCA's Central and Eastern Europe Task Force, said:

"Central and Eastern Europe registered a solid performance in 2011 in all activity areas. It confirmed once again that it is primarily a mid-market buyout and growth capital market while at the same time showing a significant increase in the proportion of venture activity. A number of very interesting new investments as well as exits took place that are making investors in the PE asset class once again take note of the potential of this dynamic region."

The CEE report is available on the EVCA's website [here](#). The EVCA CEE report was produced in collaboration with the EVCA's CEE Task Force and PEREP\_Analytics statistic unit. The EVCA would like to thank Gide Loyrette Nouel Warsaw Office for their sponsorship.

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### European Private Equity and Venture Capital Association (EVCA)

The EVCA is the voice of European private equity and venture capital.

We promote the interests of our more than 1,200 members, to ensure they can conduct their business effectively.

The EVCA engages policymakers and promotes the industry among key stakeholders, including institutional investors, entrepreneurs and employee representatives.

The EVCA develops professional standards, prepares research reports and holds professional training and networking events.

The EVCA covers the whole range of private equity, from early-stage venture capital to the largest buyouts.

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