

# SOUTHEAST EUROPE PRIVATE EQUITY & M&A FORUM 2026



Strategic Capital and Growth Opportunities in SEE

**2 June 2026 | Metropol Palace, Belgrade | Serbia**

## Associated Sponsors:

**Wolf Theiss**

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## OVERVIEW

For nearly two decades, the SEE PE & M&A Forum has served as the leading platform dedicated to Southeast Europe's private equity and M&A markets. Bringing together private equity firms, corporate investors, advisors, and lenders, the Forum provides a unique space to explore the region's evolving deal landscape, share insights on cross-border transactions, and discuss strategies for building regional champions.

Across its panels, participants will examine the latest trends in buy-and-build, exits, fundraising, deal financing, and strategic expansion, offering actionable intelligence for executing successful deals in today's competitive SEE market. With a long-standing track record, the Forum continues to connect dealmakers, foster collaboration, and shape the next generation of regional investments.

### WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

- Private Equity Firms & Fund Manager
- Corporate Investors & Strategic Buyers
- Advisors & Consultants
- Lenders & Financial Institutions
- CFOs & Finance Leaders
- Family Offices & Institutional Investors
- Industry Experts & Sector Specialists



### Past participants included:

- AI Serbia / FIC Serbia
- Accession Capital Partners
- Actis
- Amber Infrastructure
- Aretera
- Banca Intesa ad
- BDK Advokati
- BlackPeak Capital
- BNP Paribas
- BSCC
- CEECAT Capital
- Connectis Tower
- CVCA / VentureXchange
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- Elana Trading
- Enterprise Investors
- Erste Group Bank AG
- Fifth Quarter Ventures
- FIPA
- Forvis Mazars
- Gecić Law
- Hemofarm / FIC Serbia
- IFC
- Ilej & Partners
- Karanovic & Partners
- Kearney
- Kinstellar
- LaFarge Holcim
- Leipziger Energie GmbH
- Mainstream doo
- MidEuropa
- MK Group / FIC Serbia
- Moravacem d.o.o
- Nelt Group
- NLB d.d.
- PHOENIX Pharma
- PPF a.s.
- Provectus Capital Partners
- Raiffeisenbank International
- SEENews
- Siemens Energy d.o.o.
- Subsidiium Advisors Ltd FZE
- UniCredit Bank Serbia JSC
- WIRELESS MEDIA GROUP
- White & Case

# SPEAKERS



Mirna Marovic  
President, **CVCA**, Managing  
Director, **VentureXchange**



Natasa Lalovic Maric  
Partner  
**Wolf Theiss**



Jelena Hrle  
Partner  
**BDK Advokati**



Sebastian Skupien  
Lead Senior Banker, CSEE,  
Manufacturing and Services  
**EBRD**



Maja Barac Adrinek  
Executive Director - Corporate  
Strategy and Development  
**Atlantic Group**



Marko Hinic  
Partner, **Integral Venture  
Partners**



Jonathan Herren  
Investment Professional,  
Private Equity Infrastructure  
(CEE), **Actis**



Miroslav Virjjevic  
CFO  
**HTEC Group**



**Andrija Garofulic**  
Partner  
**Forvis Mazars**



**Nikola Stefanovic**  
Managing Director  
**SEAF**



Dino Bendekovic  
Managing Partner Adriatic M&A  
**Marktlink**



Kiren L. Naidoo  
CEO, **Frontier Pharma I  
Zdravlje AD**



Iris Ernst  
Deal Advisory Partner  
**Crowe Croatia**



Ivailo Gospodinov  
Managing Partner  
**BlackPeak Capital**



Marko Galic  
Partner, **Proventus  
Capital Partners**



Ćrt Slokan  
Managing Partner  
**PRVA Capital**



Laurien Field  
Senior Equity Specialist,  
Manufacturing, Agribusiness  
and Services, **IFC**



Aleksandar Dragicevic  
Principal  
**MidEuropa**



Leon Batagelj  
Co-Founder  
**EastPeak Invest**



Tihomir Dyankov  
CIO & Partner  
**INVENIO.partners**



Martin Paev  
Chairman and CEO  
**SORTIS Group**



Tomislav Tomljenovic  
Regional Director, Adria  
**Enterprise Investors**



Zoran Stanojevic  
CEO  
**Kafeterija**



Boris Vujicic  
Managing Partner  
**Black Pine Executive  
Consulting**

## 09:00 – 09:30 | Registration & Networking Coffee

### 09:30–09:40 Chairwoman Opening Remarks

Mirna Marovic – President, **CVCA**, Managing Director, **VentureXchange**

## 09:40 – 10:30 SESSION 1

### CAPITAL GETS SELECTIVE: WHAT WINS IN SEE'S NEXT DEAL CYCLE

As private equity and strategic capital in SEE becomes more selective, scale, execution capability, and platform potential are increasingly decisive. Investors are increasingly winning by building regional platforms rather than backing standalone assets. This session will compare standalone businesses with buy-and-build strategies, exploring how investors consolidate markets, add bolt-on acquisitions, and create scale in fragmented, family-owned sectors. Panellists will also discuss integration risk, execution speed, and what drives exit premiums today.

- **Nikola Stefanovic** – Managing Director, **SEAF** (Moderator)
- Marko Hinic – Partner, **Integral Venture Partners**
- Jonathan Herren – Investment Professional, Private Equity Infrastructure (CEE), **Actis**
- Ivailo Gospodinov – Managing Partner, **BlackPeak Capital**
- Dino Bendekovic – Managing Partner Adriatic M&A, **Marktlink**

## 10:30 – 11:20 SESSION 2

### CROSS-BORDER EXPANSION AND THE STRATEGIC BUYER ADVANTAGE

Corporate buyers are increasingly shaping SEE M&A, using regional expansion and operational synergies to outpace traditional private equity. This panel will explore how strategic acquisitions create value, the challenges of cross-border integration, and the competitive edge that corporates bring to today's market. Attendees will gain actionable insights into deal execution, structuring, and driving growth across borders.

- Natasa Lalovic Maric – Partner, **Wolf Theiss** (Moderator)
- Kiren L. Naidoo – CEO, **Frontier Pharma I Zdravlje AD**
- Maja Barač Adrinek – Executive Director – Corporate Strategy & Development, **Atlantic Grupa**
- Miroslav Virijevic – CFO, **HTEC Group**
- Iris Ernst – Deal Advisory Partner, **Crowe Croatia**

## 11:20 – 11:50 | Networking Break

## 11:50 – 12:40 SESSION 3

### EXITS, NOT JUST ENTRIES

With SEE deal activity on the rise, understanding exit routes has never been more critical. This panel will explore the full spectrum of exit strategies – from IPOs and trade sales to secondary PE transactions – highlighting what works, what doesn't, and the lessons from recent regional exits. Attendees will gain practical insights into preparing assets for sale, navigating valuation gaps, and maximizing returns in today's competitive SEE market.

- Jelena Hrle – Partner, **BDK Advokati** (Moderator)
- Aleksandar Dragicevic – Principal, **MidEuropa**
- Tomislav Tomljenovic – Regional Director, **Adria, Enterprise Investors**
- Boris Vujcic – Managing Partner, **Black Pine Executive Consulting**
- Martin Paev – Chairman and CEO, **SORTIS Group**

## 12:40–13:40 | Lunch & Networking

## 13:40 – 14:30 SESSION 4

### REGIONAL CHAMPIONS IN THE MAKING: THE RACE TO BUILD SEE MARKET LEADERS

A clear shift from local champions to regional category leaders is visible across sectors. This session explores why scale is now a prerequisite for premium valuations in SEE, which sectors can produce regional champions, when expansion multiplies—or destroys—value, and how PE and strategic investors approach regionalisation differently.

- **Andrija Garofulić** – Partner, **Forvis Mazars** (Moderator)
- **Zoran Stanojevic** – CEO, **Kafeterija**
- **Marko Galic** – Partner, **Provectus Capital Partners**
- **Tihomir Dyankov** – CIO & Partner, **INVENIO.partners**

## 14:30 – 15:20 SESSION 5

### FUNDING SEE DEALS: FROM LPS TO DEBT PROVIDERS

This panel explores how private equity fundraising, co-investments, and deal financing come together to drive M&A in SEE. Panelists will share insights from fund managers, LPs, banks, and corporate finance leaders on structuring transactions, optimizing leverage, and securing capital for complex deals. Attendees will gain practical lessons on navigating cross-border finance, meeting investor expectations, and executing deals in today's competitive SEE market.

- **Mirna Marovic** – President, **CVCA**, Managing Director, **VentureXchange** (Moderator)
- **Sebastian Skupien** – Lead Senior Banker, **CSEE, Manufacturing and Services, EBRD**
- **Črt Slokan** – Managing Partner, **PRVA Capital Partners**
- **Laurien Field** – Senior Equity Specialist, **Manufacturing, Agribusiness and Services, IFC**
- **Leon Batagelj** – Co-Founder, **EastPeak Invest**

## 15:30 – 15:35 | Closing Remarks

Mirna Marovic – President, **CVCA**, Managing Director, **VentureXchange**

## 15:35 | Networking Drink Reception

## Get in Touch

For more information on the SEE PE & M&A Forum, speaking opportunities, or sponsorship packages, as well as delegate registration, please contact our team:

### Speaking opportunities and sponsorships:

Head of Content: [aga.pawlowska@eeevents.co.uk](mailto:aga.pawlowska@eeevents.co.uk)

### Delegate registration and group bookings:

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For more information: [www.eeevents.co.uk/see-private-equity-and-ma-forum-2026/](http://www.eeevents.co.uk/see-private-equity-and-ma-forum-2026/)