

Private Debt Industry in Europe Reaches \$200bn in Assets

Europe-focused private debt AUM hits new heights following record-breaking fundraising

The European private debt universe has exploded over the last decade, and funds focused on the region now hold \$200bn in assets under management. Europe has been a key area of interest for investors in private debt – the largest proportion see Europe as presenting the best opportunities over the next 12 months, and the number of investors allocating to opportunities in the region has risen to 1,755 as of November 2018. This has spurred a boom in fundraising, with a record-breaking 2017 and strong activity in 2018, which has in turn pushed assets under management to new heights. The largest proportion of industry assets (49%) is for direct lending funds, while distressed debt, mezzanine and special situations vehicles represent much smaller elements of the industry.

For more information on the European private debt industry, download the data pack here:

<http://docs.preqin.com/data/European-PD-Nov-18-Data-Pack.xlsx>

Tom Carr, Head of Private Debt:

“Europe is of abiding interest to private debt investors and fund managers alike – although it is a developed credit market with lots of opportunities for investment, it is not as saturated with industry participants as the North American market. This has created ideal circumstances for the industry to grow, and those conditions don’t look likely to abate in the near future. With the majority of investors citing Europe as a continued area of interest, we can expect to see capital keep flowing to the region in the coming months.”

Key Europe Private Debt Facts:

- **Forty-seven percent of private debt investors surveyed in June 2018 view Europe as presenting the best opportunities in the next 12 months** – the largest proportion for any region.
- The number of investors allocating to Europe has increased year-on-year, and as of November 2018, **there are a record 1,755 investors allocating to private debt in Europe.**
- **Interest in the region helped Europe have a record 2017**, with 56 funds holding a final close and raising an aggregate \$45bn.
- This surpasses the previous record of \$37bn seen in 2015. 2018 is on course to be the third-largest fundraising year ever, with \$27bn in capital commitments raised as at November.
- This has helped push **Europe-focused assets under management to a record high of \$200bn** as at March 2018 – the latest data available.
- **Almost half (49%) of Europe-focused assets under management is held by direct lending funds**, while distressed debt funds account for 24% of Europe-focused private debt assets under management.

Preqin is the home of alternative assets, providing industry-leading intelligence on the market and cutting-edge tools to support participants at every stage of the investment cycle. More than 60,000 industry participants in over 90 countries rely on Preqin as their indispensable source of data, solutions and insights.

Preqin’s data and analysis is frequently presented at industry conferences, and is used in the global financial press and academic journals & white papers. We are always happy to support journalists by providing reports, custom data and one-on-one interviews.

For more information, contact our dedicated press team at press@preqin.com or call (+44) 20 3207 0265.