

WOLF THEISS – ONE REGION, ONE FIRM

SMART PEOPLE WORKING ON CHALLENGING PROJECTS FOR INSPIRING CLIENTS IN FASCINATING PLACES.

That's how we'd sum up Wolf Theiss. The European Legal 500 described us as "arguably the best Austrian firm in Central and Eastern Europe". Chambers agreed, naming us "Law Firm of the Year for Central & Eastern Europe" in 2017. It's a reputation we've taken 60 years to build. Since starting out in Vienna,

we have grown into the largest fully integrated firm in Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe (CEE and SEE). Our team now brings together over 340 lawyers, working across numerous practice areas in 13 countries. During that time, we have worked on many cases that have broken new ground.

LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

We concentrate our energies on a unique part of the world: the complex and dynamic markets of the CEE and SEE regions. It's an area that requires specialist knowledge and contacts – and we have plenty of both. Through our network of local offices, we work closely with our clients to help them solve problems and create opportunities.

In addition to our 13 offices, we have regional desks covering Kosovo, Montenegro and North Macedonia. Our desks focus on smaller jurisdictions and help us to serve your needs – even in countries where we might not have an office. This means that we can provide legal services seamlessly across the region, ensuring that our clients don't spend their valuable time coordinating with different advisers in a multitude of jurisdictions.

INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

We offer our clients a wealth of knowledge and expertise in the following areas:

- Arbitration
- Banking & Finance
- Capital Markets
- Competition & Antitrust
- Compliance
- Construction & Infrastructure Projects
- Corporate, Commercial & M&A
- Corporate Investigations
- Data Protection & Cybersecurity
- Employment
- Insolvency & Restructuring
- IP & IT
- Litigation
- Public Procurement
- Real Estate
- Regulatory
- Tax
- White Collar Crime

CLOSER TO OUR CLIENTS – AND CLOSER TO THE ACTION

Many law firms talk about having a presence in multiple countries. But that often means they simply have links to other firms in the region. We prefer to have a real presence on the ground. It leads to closer client relationships and a better working knowledge of regional jurisdictions. That's important when you're working in such a constantly evolving part of the world.



THE WOLF THEISS
REGION

SETTING PRECEDENT – BREAKING NEW GROUND

SOME OF OUR HIGH-PROFILE CASES:

- Largest transaction in the banking sector since 2008: acquisition of Hypo Alpe-Adria's SEE assets by Advent International
- One of the largest telecom deals in Austria and Central Europe: Acquisition of UPC Austria by mobile operator T-Mobile
- One of the largest infrastructure M&A transactions in Austria to date: Allianz Capital Partners and SNAM's EUR 600 million acquisition of a 49% stake in Gas Connect Austria from OMV
- First ever secondary insolvency proceeding in Bulgaria and Slovenia opened under the EU Crossborder Insolvency Regulation: collapse of Alpine Bau, one of Austria's largest construction companies
- Largest Croatian privatisation to date: Croatia Osiguranje
- Largest single tenant lease on the Austrian market thus far: Erste Group Bank's intra-group lease of the entirety of the "Erste Campus" in Vienna
- First Additional Tier 1 Notes Programme in the European Union – Erste Group Bank's EUR 2 billion Additional Tier 1 Notes Programme
- First PPP project in the healthcare sector in Poland: design, construction, equipping and financing of the regional hospital in Zywiec
- First issuance of notes admitted to trading on the regulated market of the Prague Stock Exchange by a fund of qualified investors
- Largest single-asset deal recorded in Central Europe thus far: Hannover Leasing's EUR 570 million sale of a multifunctional complex and shopping centre in Prague
- First ever multi generating unit cascade of hydro-power plants in Kosovo providing clean energy from a renewable energy source
- Largest highway PPP project in the Slovak Republic: construction of the D1. It was the first infrastructure project to benefit from a bond refinancing in CEE and was the largest unwrapped bond financing for a PPP project in Europe
- Largest energy infrastructure project in Europe: The development of the South Stream gas pipeline from Russia to Bulgaria under the Black Sea
- First issuance of Eurobonds by the Republic of Albania valued at EUR 300 million
- First formulation of terms & conditions on the definition and classification of an ICO product in Austria: ICO of Bitpanda
- First payment services license for paysafecard.com in Austria and Diners Club in Slovenia
- First school PPP in Vienna: the City of Vienna's tender for the development, construction and operation of a large school project
- Hungary's biggest conventional energy development project in 2018/2019: new gas power plant development by BorsodChem, part of the Chinese Wanhua Group
- First fully digital issue of a borrower's loan note via a blockchain platform in Europe: Wolf Theiss assisted Erste Group in this groundbreaking transaction
- First general tender for the exploration of onshore oil and gas reserves in Croatia
- First local denomination and local listing corporate bond transaction in Serbia: Issue of RSD 2.5 billion Floating Rate Bonds due 5 December 2019
- Largest forestry deal to date in Romania, both by value and size of the forest: IKEA's acquisition of Greengold Value Forests
- Largest medical facility privatisation in CEE: Medicover Hospital in Warsaw

OUR AWARDS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES

IFLR

Bulgarian Law Firm of the Year 2020

Austrian Law Firm of the Year 2011, 2012, 2015 & 2016

Most Innovative Law Firm of the Year: Austria 2018 & 2019

Czech Law Firm of the Year 2010

Hungarian Law Firm of the Year 2009

THE LAWYER

Law Firm of the Year: Central Europe 2010 & 2014

Law Firm of the Year: Eastern Europe & The Balkans 2009, 2012 & 2015

Law Firm of the Year: Austria 2014 & 2017

CHAMBERS

Austrian Client Service Law Firm of the Year 2011

Austrian Law Firm of the Year 2008, 2009, 2012, 2013 & 2018

Eastern European Law Firm of the Year, 2006

Central & Eastern Europe Law Firm of the Year, 2017

MERGERMARKET

CEE M&A Legal Advisor of the Year, 2016

WHAT OTHERS SAY ABOUT US

Clients appreciated a 'high level of contact with partners' and the firm's presence in CEE once again proves to be a major draw, with market sources habitually agreeing that this is 'the firm you would want to work with going abroad, they're bigger and more experienced than others'.

[Chambers Global](#)

Wolf Theiss' key strength is that it is really well entrenched in CEE. They are able to provide both a regional perspective from Vienna and deeply rooted local insights in different countries in the region. Their local partners are well connected and up-to-speed with the local legal environment in the countries.

[IFLR1000](#)

Sources admire the firm's ability to advise clients in different jurisdictions, stating: 'They are able to handle sophisticated clients on cross-border situations while also understanding local specifics. They have a long track record of working in emerging markets, are solution-oriented and are able to guide clients as to what is really important'.

[Chambers Europe](#)

'Austrian giant Wolf Theiss is one of the most prominent names in the region' and, according to one client, 'offers a consistently high level of service regardless of where we are doing business'.

[Legal 500](#)

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