

State of European FinTech 2023

The **Return of Funding discipline** resulted in a
Flight to **Quality** and **Profitability** to **Survive**



Welcome to Finch Capitals 8th edition of the *“State of European FinTech”* report in which we take a closer look at Europe’s FinTech sector. Given the market backdrop, we focus on 3 core areas that provide an analysis of the sector and a forecast for opportunities that will likely emerge including:

(1) State of European Fintech, (2) State of Fintech in Key European Countries and (3) Opportunities Likely to Emerge In Current Situation

These topics are good proxies for the overall health of European FinTech which, as we predicted last year, has now entered a period of contraction. Unsurprisingly, there will be losers, but like in every market cycle, there will be winners as well. Laser focus on building profitable businesses at sustainable valuations will drive economic value to all stakeholders in the future.

Finch Capital is a Growth Investor in Europe’s Biggest Technology Transitions. We currently focus on 6 themes: FinTech (incl. Health and Insurance), Payments, Business Applications (Incl Accounting, Tax), Regulatory and ESG Software and Real Estate Technology. We back companies generating €2m+ in ARR by investing €5 to €15m initially and help them scale to €30m-€50m revenues by building sustainable and capital efficient business models. We’ve invested in ±45 companies including Fourthline, Goodlord, Grab, ZOPA, Twisto, AccountsIQ, NomuPay and Symmetrical.

Finch Capital consists of a team of 12 investment professionals with wide entrepreneurial experience located across offices in Amsterdam, London and Dublin. For more information see www.finchcapital.com and subscribe to our newsletter.

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The year of reckoning has arrived in European FinTech. The Return of Funding discipline resulted in a Flight to Quality and Profitability to Survive for the entire ecosystem.

- Funding dropped by 70% to pre 2020 levels driven by the end of mega round and flight to quality;
- A retreat in Payments and Challenger Banks as the traditional resilient sector loses its crown to Crypto and Lending given valuation benchmarks achieved in 2022;
- US, Asian and Strategic investors are retrenching and are in 50-100% less deals than they were last year;
- M&A has remained stable with volumes on track to match 2022 levels, but deal sizes have fallen dramatically with 19% of deals above €500m vs 30% last year;
- Valuations are stabilizing in the public markets which will help private companies to get funding/exits, but at different terms than before, which will take time before all companies reset "last round" to "current" valuations

European local ecosystems have been impacted differently based on their maturity

- US investors were ranking in the top lists in major countries in 2021/H1 2022, but have disappeared this year
- UK, Germany and France saw a 70% drop in funding value BUT exits were getting done consistently
- Ireland and Netherlands are more elastic to single deals (Fourthline & NomuPay respectively) in both regions
- Poland recorded biggest drop, but the crypto infrastructure sector is gaining momentum

The trend of a shift to software and B2B FinTech continues in 2023. More than 50% of all fintech deals are B2B software versus 17% in 2016.

- Business models: Some balance sheet business are in tough spot with loan losses rising as well as those without own deposit funding. Focus on recurring software businesses with strong margins and NRR vs. product led hyper growth.
- Key areas we foresee strong momentum the next 6 to 12 months are:
 - Revisit of the payment investment landscape, with accelerated consolidation expected to boost profitability and growth
 - RegTech continues to show attractive growth in KYC and AML
 - Consolidation of Open Banking and Banking as a Service continues
 - Generative Artificial Intelligence will get at scale in Insurance and Banking
 - Automation and Digitalization of the CFO and HR function continues to increase control and efficiency

1. State of European FinTech



The Year 2023 Can Be Seen As A Year The European Fintech Market Adapts To The New Normal

Macro

€4.6Bn

Down 70% from €15.3Bn in H1 2022

Capital invested in European FinTechs in H1 2023

463

Down 48% from 884 in H1 2022

Number of deals in H1 2023

-84%

Decrease in M&A transaction value versus H1 2022

-3100

Announced total laid-off employees in European FinTechs in the past year

Insights

50%

Up from 45% in H1 2022

UK share of total capital raised

19.7%

Up from 14.1% in H1 2022

Share of announced flat and down rounds in H1 2023

3rd

Down from 1st in 2022

Rank of Payments & Banking in amount raised for all FinTech sub sectors

1054

Last 12 months

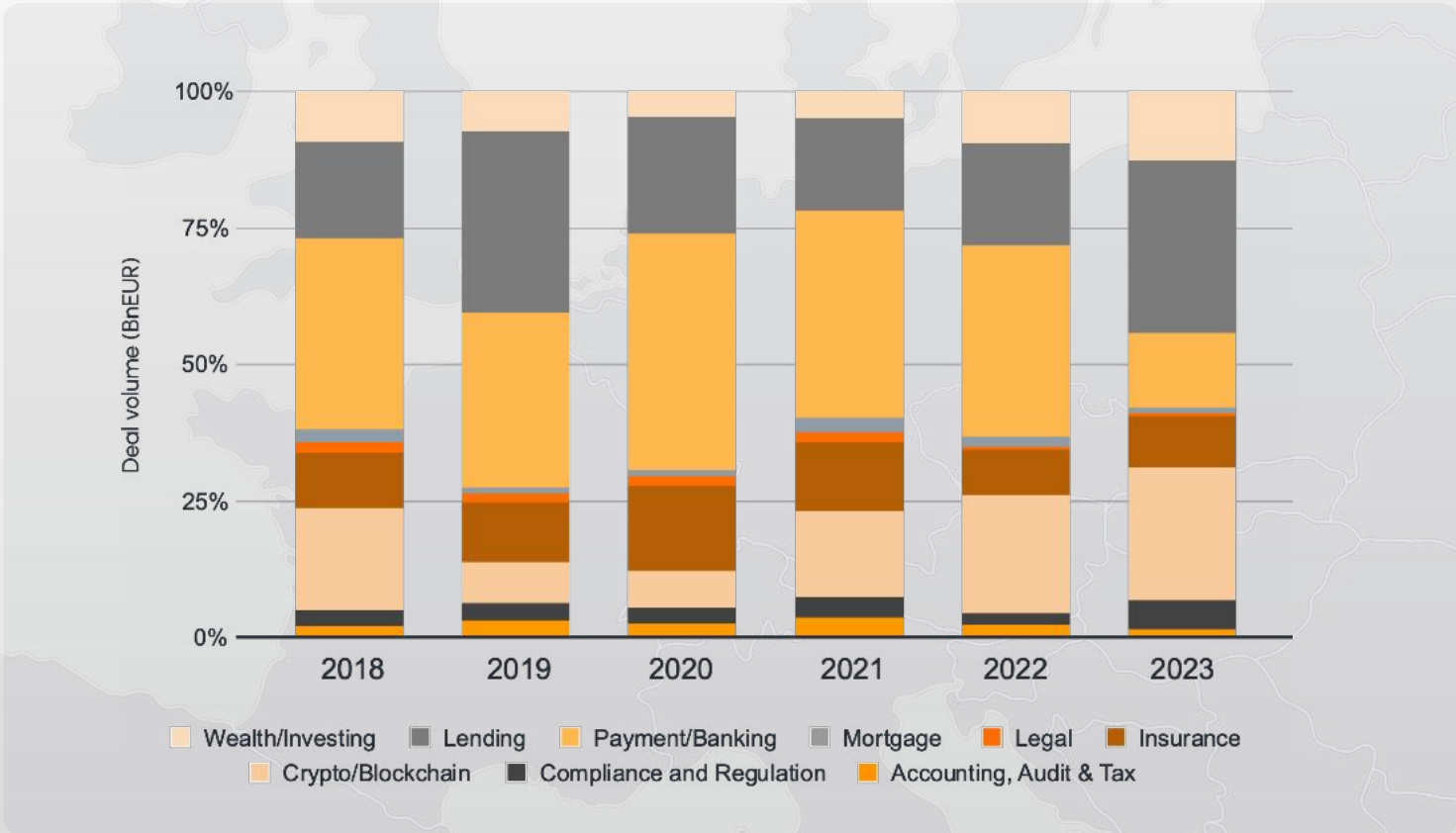
Number of hires from Top 10 fastest growing European FinTechs

After Many Years Dominating, Payments & Banking is No Longer The Leading Sub Sector

Is every fintech company becoming a crypto company? 1 in 3 Fintech company is labeled as Crypto/Blockchain

- The top subsectors in # deals**
1. Crypto/Blockchain
 2. Payment/Banking
 3. Lending
 4. Wealth/Investing
 5. Insurance

- Top subsectors in deal volume**
1. Lending*
 2. Crypto/Blockchain
 3. Payment/Banking
 4. Wealth/Investing
 5. Insurance



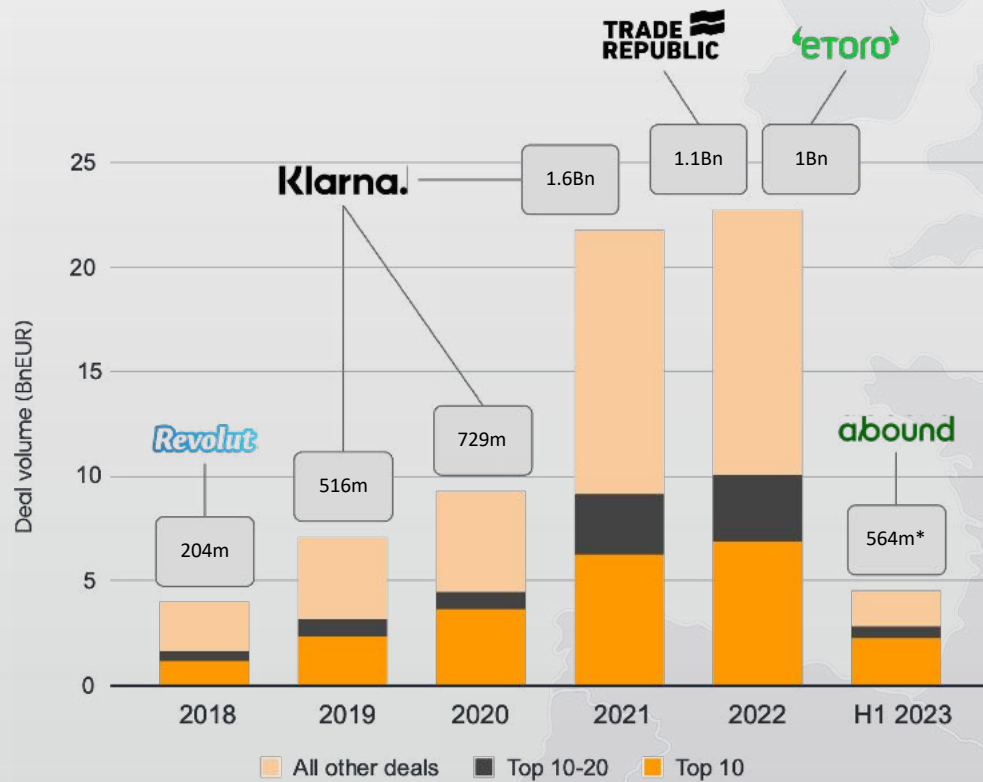
*€564m round by lending tech Abound was the largest of H1 2023, mix of debt and equity

** 2023 numbers are from H1 2023

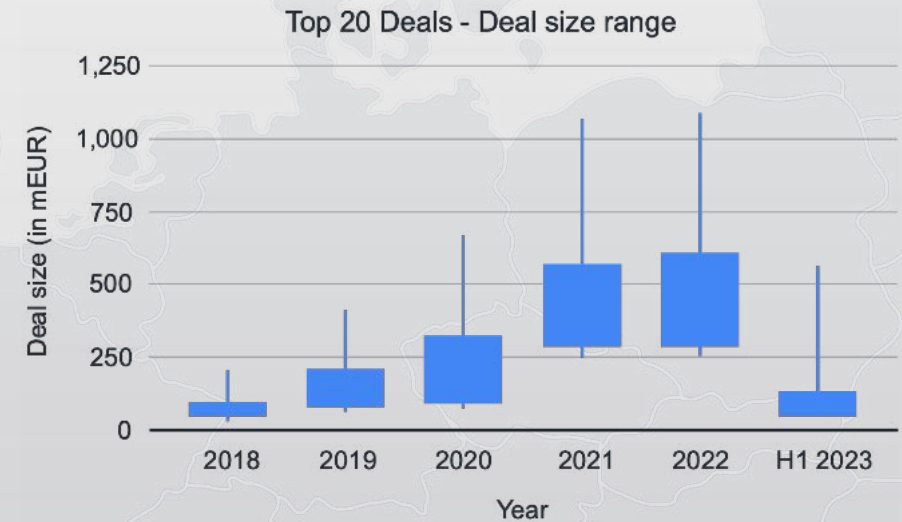
Source: Finch Capital Team analyses, Pitchbook

Funding Back To Pre 2020 Level Due To End of Mega Rounds And Flight To Quality

Funding dropped the most for the non top 20 rounds



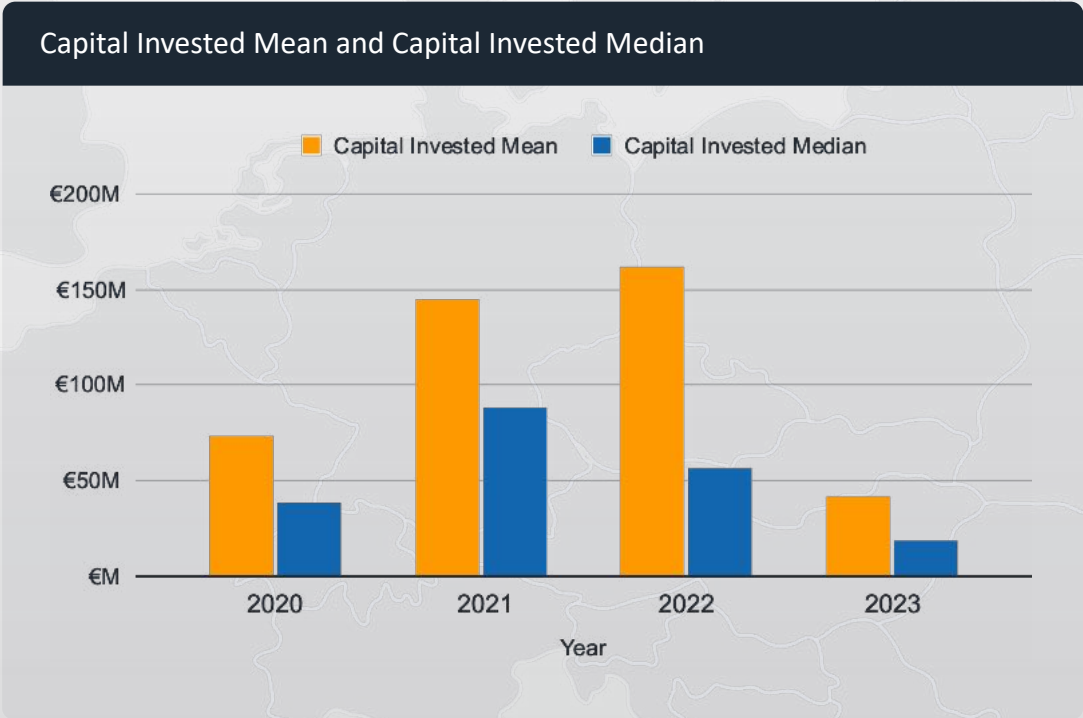
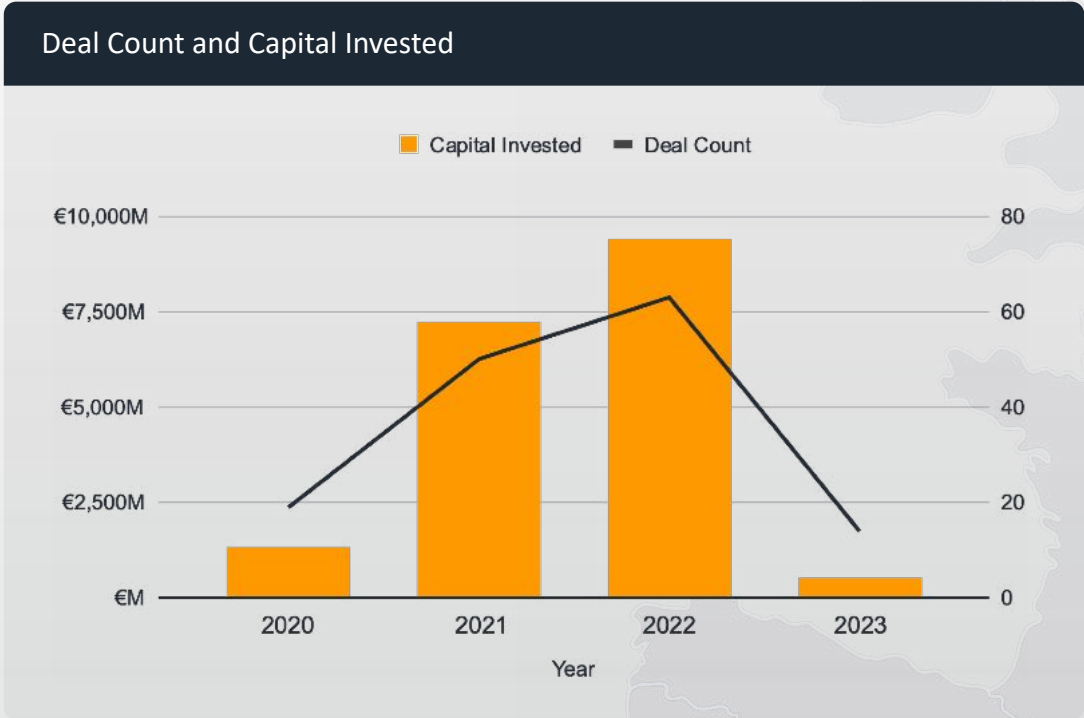
Top 20 rounds are back to pre 2020 levels



* Majority of the round was debt
Source: Finch Capital Team analyses, Pitchbook

In 2023, US Investors Have Retreated From Europe

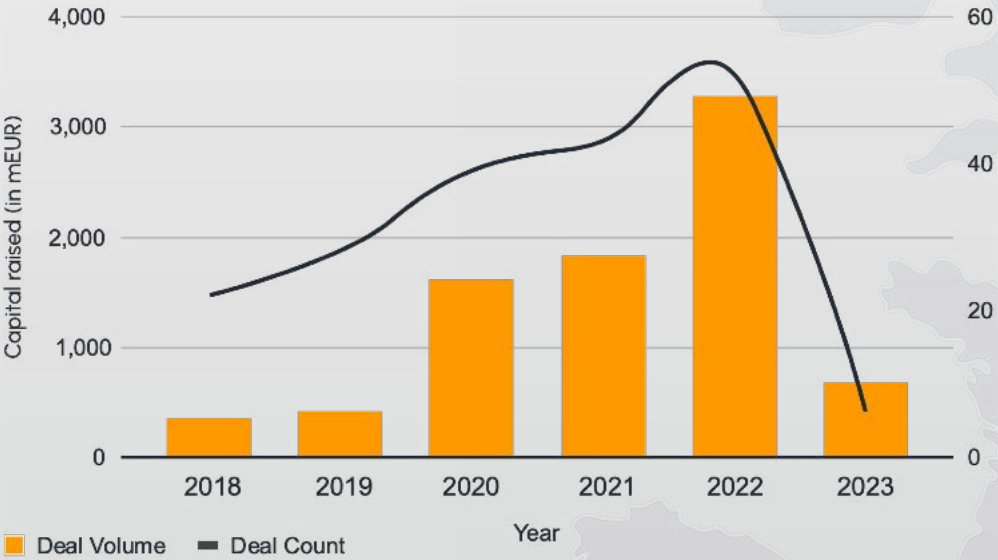
In a change from what has been seen in recent years, top US VC investors have pulled back from Europe. This opens the door for European investors to lead the way in their home continent.



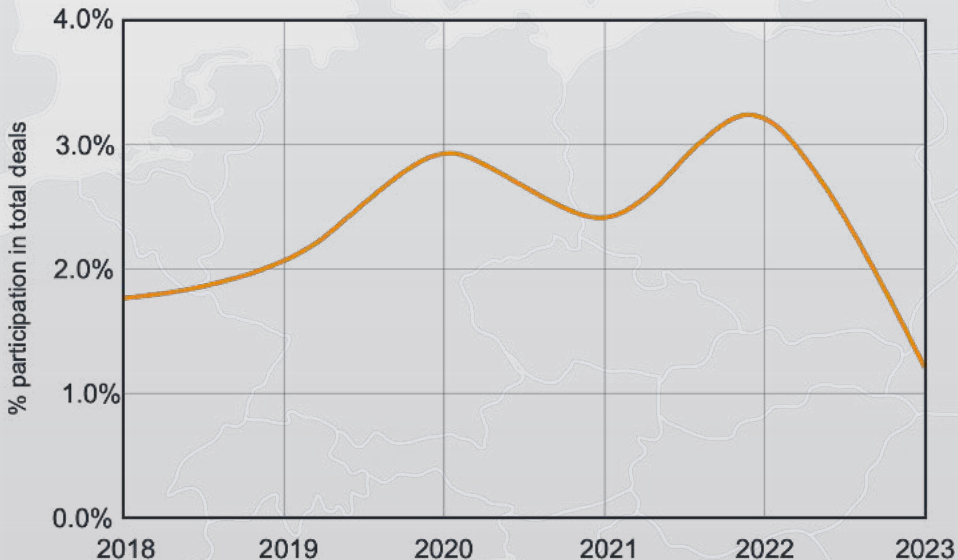
Source: Finch Capital Team analyses, Pitchbook
 ** 2023 numbers are from H1 2023

Strategic Investors' Participation In VC Deals Is Coming Down

Less deals with participation from top 10 historical strategic investors* partly because the total number of deals is coming down



A declining % participation of top 10 historical strategic investors in total deals shows that they are collapsing faster than the market

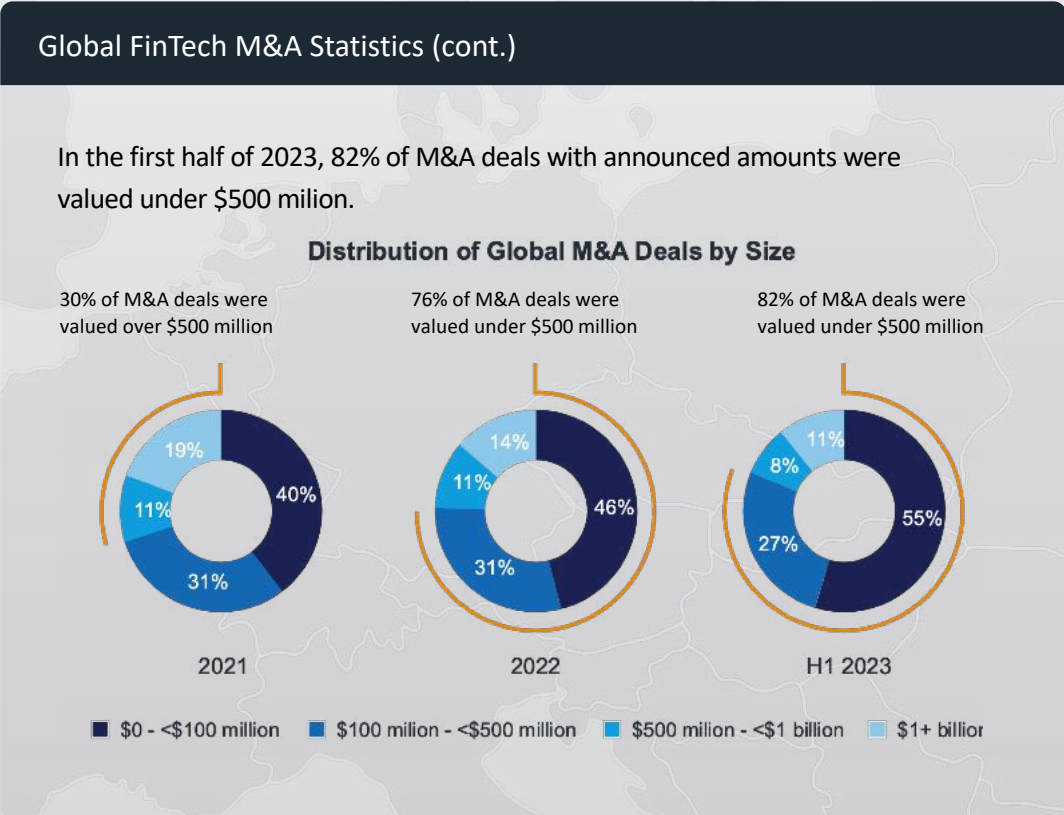
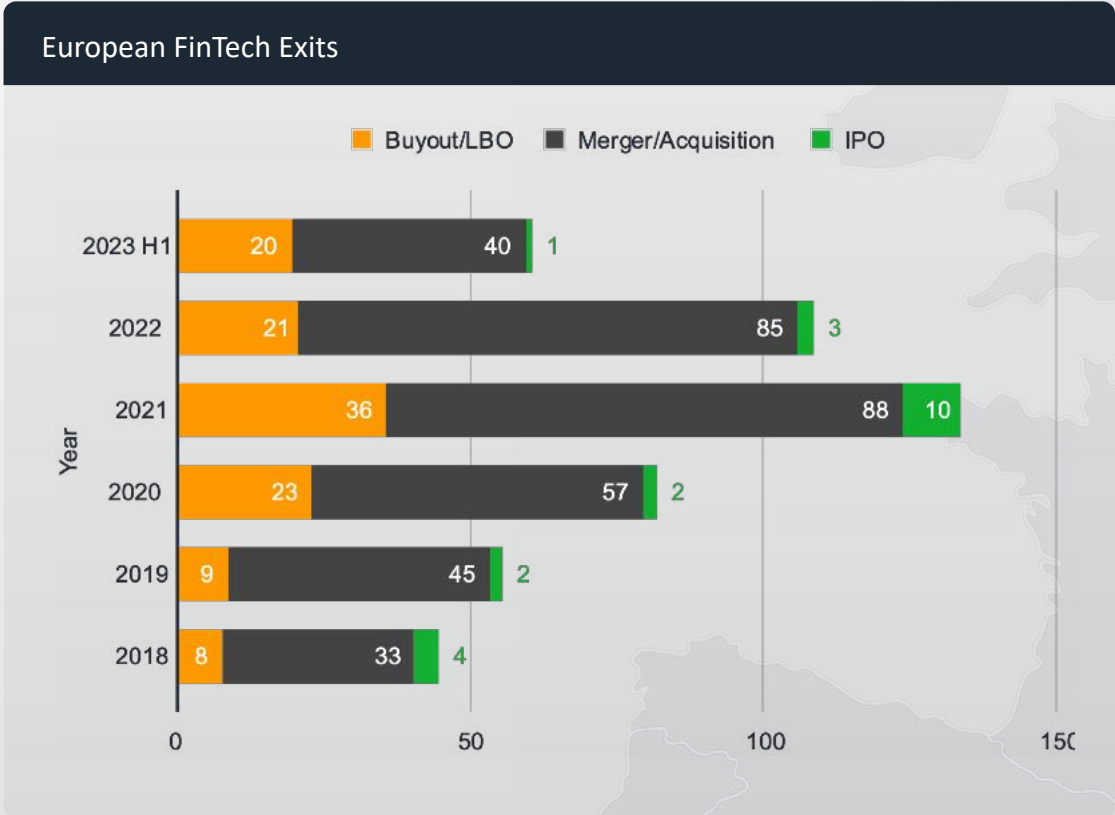


Top 10 historical CVC, Corporations, Family Offices: ABN AMRO Ventures, Coinbase Ventures, Digital Currency Group, Digital Magics, ING Ventures, Portage Ventures, Schibsted Growth, Tencent Holdings, UNIQA Ventures, Wayra UK
 ** 2023 numbers are from H1 2023
 Source: Finch Capital Team analyses, Pitchbook

A Reset In Valuations Will Be Needed To Restart Unicorn Level Exits

The Exit market remains fairly active in terms of number of exits, but mainly for smaller deal sizes, as share of deals valued over USD 500m have come down from 30% to 19%.

FinTechs are becoming more attractive to PE funds for buyouts. In H1 2023, with 33% of deals being Buyout/LBO, versus 19% in 2022.



Several Of Europe's Most Valued FinTech's Continued To Hire, But Increasingly Feel Pressure

Employee Growth - last 12 months*

	Company	Tech/IT/Product	Sales/Marketing/BusDev/Ops
Payment & Banking	Monzo	+23% ↑	+22% ↑
	Adyen	+26% ↑	+31% ↑
Lending	Klarna	-17% ↓	-18% ↓
	Funding Circle	+10% ↑	+13% ↑
Crypto & Blockchain	Ledger	+1% ↑	+10% ↑
	Blockchain.com	-29% ↓	-10% ↓
Wealth & Investing	eToro	-9% ↓	-11% ↓
	Freetrade	-52% ↓	-25% ↓
Insurance	Wefox	+18% ↑	+18% ↑
	Alan	+13% ↑	+10% ↑

Adyen have laid off expensive senior hires and increased junior headcount

Payments group Adyen's shares plunge almost 40% after profits disappoint
 Dutch company counts cost of sustained recruitment and fierce US competition

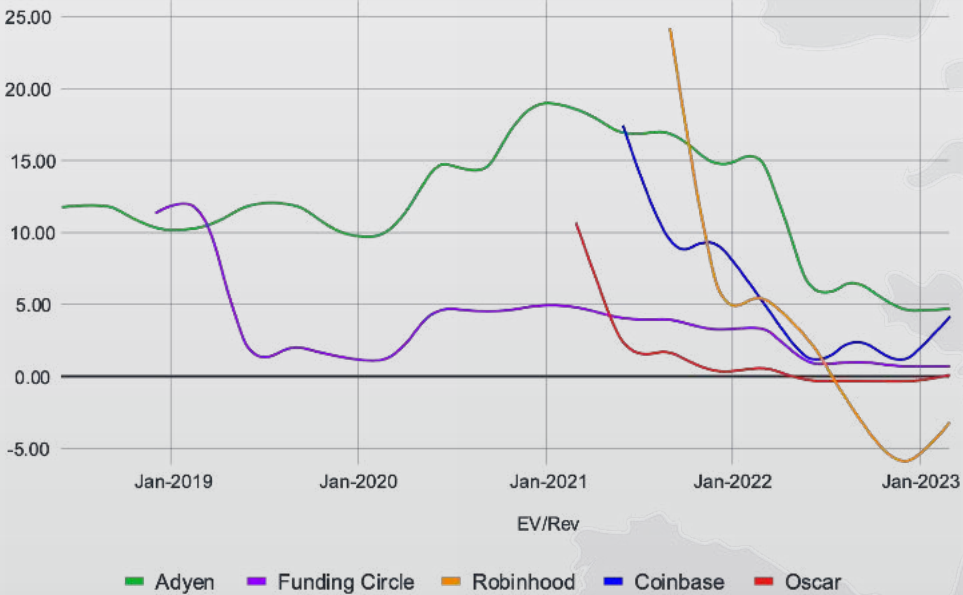
With new cuts, Klarna joins the ranks of companies having to conduct more than one layoff

Freetrade to cut up to 15% of staff

* From H1 2022 to H1 2023
 Source: LinkedIn, Financial Times, TechCrunch

Multiples Came Down For All Sub Sectors With Early Signs Of Stabilisation

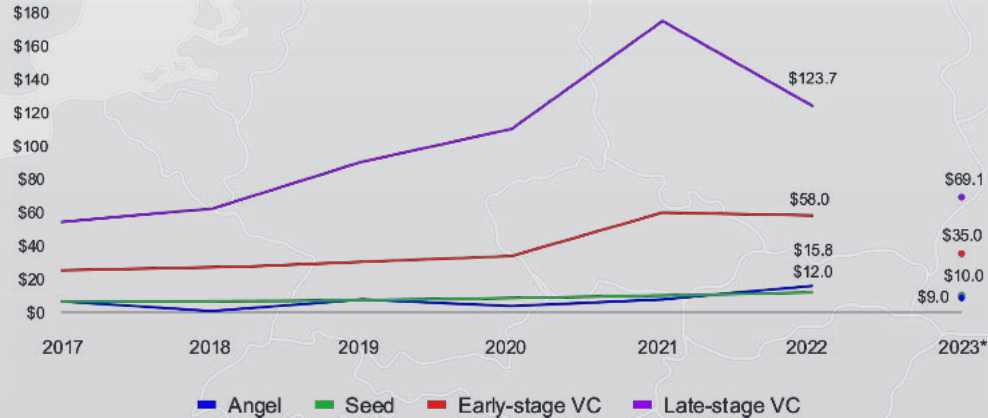
Public company valuations are stabilising



Private valuation adjustments have taken place

Valuations falling significantly

Median fintech VC pre-money valuation (\$M) by stage



2. State of FinTech in key European Countries





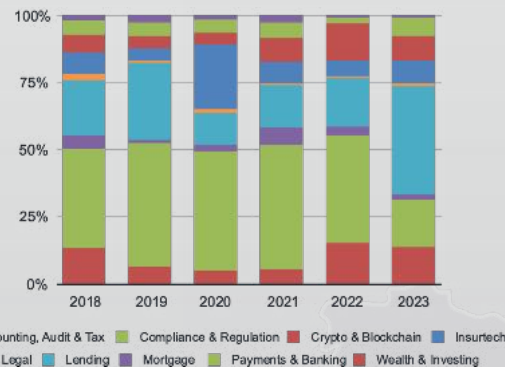
UK FinTech: Maturity Shines Amidst Decline; Consistent Exits Fostering An Improved Outlook



Interesting startups

 Financial markets regulatory software	 Network analytics platform	 Private markets infrastructure platform	 API-first credit platform	 Financial product lifecycle platform	 Litigation analytics platform	 Renewable energy financial software	 Open payroll software
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Capital Invested (€)



Key Exits & Takeaways

	Reward gateway was acquired by Edenred for £1.15bn on 16 May 2023.
	Cushion was acquired by NatWest Group for €144mn on 1 June 2023.
	Kantox was acquired by BNP Paribas via an estimated €120mn LBO on 13 July 2023.
	British Business Bank acts as the largest local LP having invested in more than 50 venture funds with UK mandates.

Top Investors

octopus ventures	6
ASCENSION	6
Fuel Ventures	5
Augmentum investing in Fintech	4
HAMBRO PERKS	4



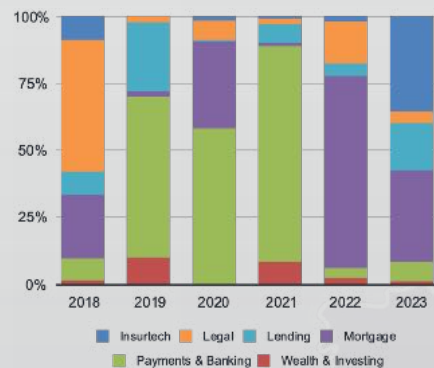
Netherlands FinTech: Paradox With Declining Deals, Rising Capital; RegTech Takes the Lead with Fourthline's Boost



Interesting start-ups

 FINOM Digital business account benefits	 in3 Pay in 3 instalments	 Sygnø Financial crime analysis software	 The Social Handshake Payroll charity software	 fourthline KYC & AML software	 blanco Wealth management software	 FUNDSUP Connecting founders and investors	 Fledgerr Equity management platform
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Capital Invested (€)



Key Exits & Takeaways

- Removing Fourthline from the equation would result in a 28% decrease in capital invested H1'22 vs H1'23.
- PayU was acquired by Rapyd for \$610mn on 1 August 2023.
- Growth stage companies receive a larger slice of the pie as the early-stage market struggles for leftovers and investors in mature companies hold off on exits.

Top Investors

	3
	1
	1
	1
	1



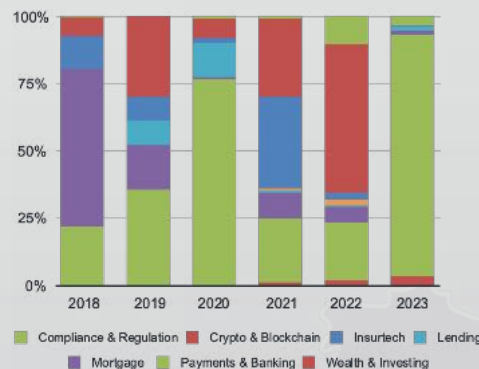
Ireland FinTech: Seed Deal Activity Dominates, Opening Gap For Growth Stage; NomuPay's Mega Raise Skews Funding Landscape



Interesting startups

 dimply AI financial insights software	 circuit Automated audit platform	 NomuPay Unified payments platform	 AccountsIQ Smart cloud accounting	 webio Credit and payments conversational AI	 inaza Real-time insurtech platform	 CORLYTICS Risk based approach to Regulatory Compliance	 fonaa Tax and compliance automation
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Capital Invested (€)



Key Exits & Takeaways

- Absent NomuPay, Ireland experienced a 94% funding drop H1'22 vs H1'23.
- Immedis was acquired by Ultimate Kronos Group with help from its investor backers for an estimated €550m on 1 July 2023.
- Seed funding comprised the majority of fintech deals seen in H1'23 suggesting a gap in the growth stage market in the coming period that is waiting to be filled.

Top Investors

	4
	2
	1
	1
	1



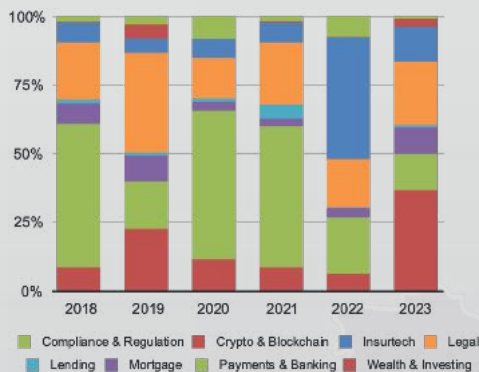
Germany: Crypto Activity Peaks Amid Deal Dive; Mature Firms Command Capital Spotlight



Interesting startups

 SMB financial management	 B2B embedded lending infrastructure	 Digital pension management	 B2B transaction automation	 Private market investing platform	 Climate finance gateway platform	 Digitised signature and billing	 Retirement planning platform
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Capital Invested (€)



Key Exits & Takeaways

Overall funding plummeted 76% when comparing H1'22 to H1'23. Wealth & Investing technology holds the line with €200M raised in H1'23.

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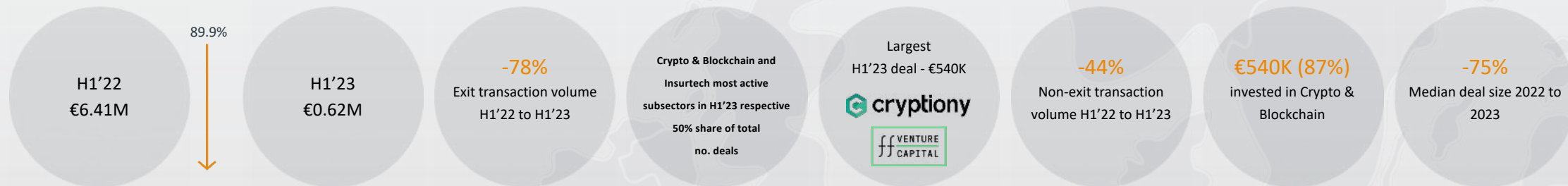
Median valuations and deal size increase as overall funding declines suggesting more mature companies are receiving funding as the early-stage bears the brunt of the downturn.

Top Investors

	3
	2
	2
	2
	2



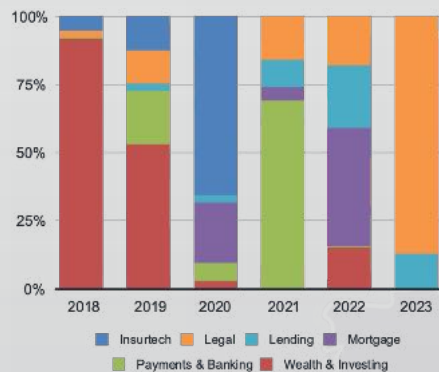
Poland FinTech: Steep Decline Cushioned by Crypto & Blockchain; A Nascent Sector Grappling with Sparse Exits



Interesting startups

 cryptiony Cryptocurrency tax software	 Climatica Digital weather insurance tool	 symmetrical Smart payroll software	 solvbot Economic legal processes software	 FIZEN CEE open banking	 AUTENTI E-signature and identity services	 Quantee Insurance pricing platform	 alphamoon Financial document processing
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Capital Invested (€)



Key Exits & Takeaways

Poland's fintech sector remains nascent. A 75% decline in deal size and a non-existent exit landscape points to the emerging nature of Poland in the Fintech landscape.

The Polish Development Fund Group (PFR) aims to direct capital towards Polish early-stage companies by functioning as a funds of funds manager.

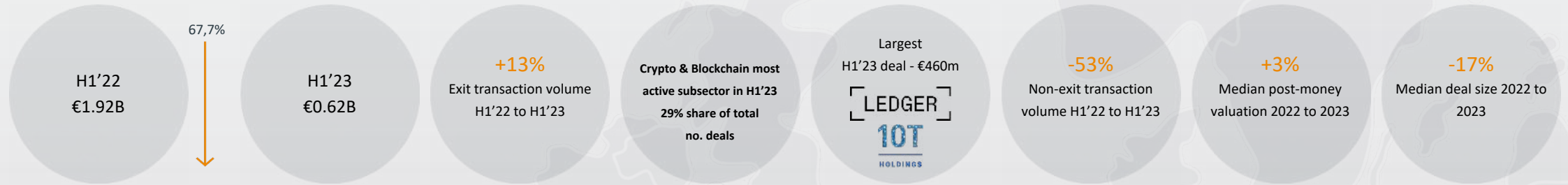
With over 70 funds in its portfolio, PFR acts as an LP across various venture capital & private equity funds mandated to invest in Polish businesses.

Top Investors

	1
	1
	1
	1
	1



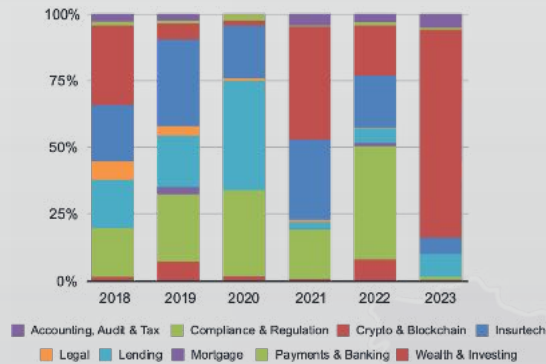
France FinTech: Amidst Funding Slowdown, Ledger & Crypto Lead; Shifting Deal Landscape Mirrors Evolving Investor Preferences



Interesting startups

obat Construction invoicing & planning software	betterway Employee mobility payment software	dotfile No-code compliance platform	algoan Credit scoring API	Koala Flight insurance platform	LEDGER Cryptocurrency security technology	pono Collateral management platform	FUTURZ ESOP-alternative platform
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Capital Invested (€)



Key Exits & Takeaways

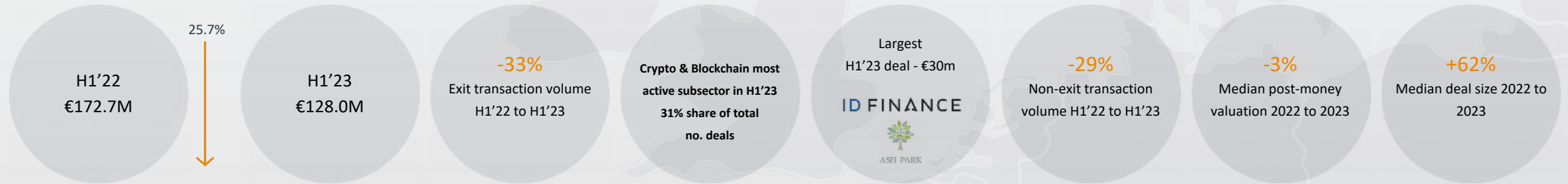
- LEDGER**: Ledger comprised €460M of the €480M invested into crypto and 74% of the total French Fintech funding.
- NeoXam**: Neoxam was acquired by Eurazeo, Mr Serge Delpla and its management via an approximate \$100m LBO on 25 January 2023.
- Payments & Banking** suffered from the steepest decline in new funding having raised €1.09B in 2022 to only having raised €10M.

Top Investors

kima ventures	8
SUPER CAPITAL	6
Mandalore Partners	4
ENTREPRENEUR FIRST	3
BLACKFIN	3



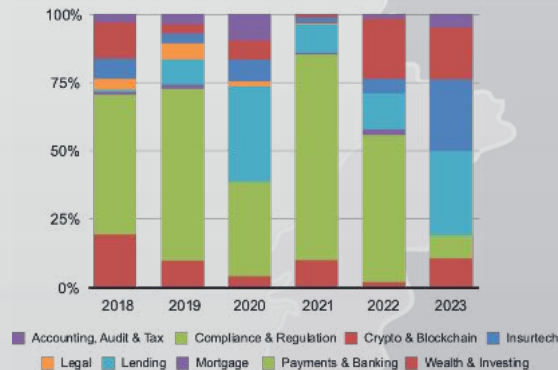
Spain FinTech: Funding Dips, Deal Size Rises; Early-Stage Landscape with Promising Resilience in European Context



Interesting startups

taxdown. Tax-saving & filing software	Bdeo Visual intelligence insurance software	nebeus Crypto-backed financing platform	twinco capital Supply chain finance	Payflow Earned-wage access	ID FINANCE Retail finance solutions	snab Payments, cash & treasury management	fuel Card and expense management
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Capital Invested (€)



Key Exits & Takeaways



Gestión Tributaria Territorial was acquired by AnaCap Financial Partners and Stirling Square Capital Partners via an estimated \$300m LBO on 3 July 2023.

Median deal size remains relatively low in Europe sitting at €1.94M after its 62% rise signaling the early-stage that the Spanish fintech sector sits in.

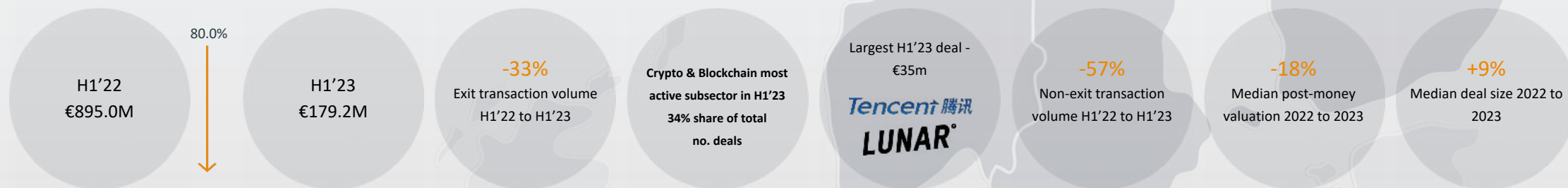
The Spanish fintech funding decline was less extreme than its European counterparts. Increased cheque sizes and a more resilient funding landscape suggests Spanish Fintech is poised for strong developments.

Top Investors

inveready	4
FJ LABS	3
JME VENTURES	3
LANAI	3
Actylus	2



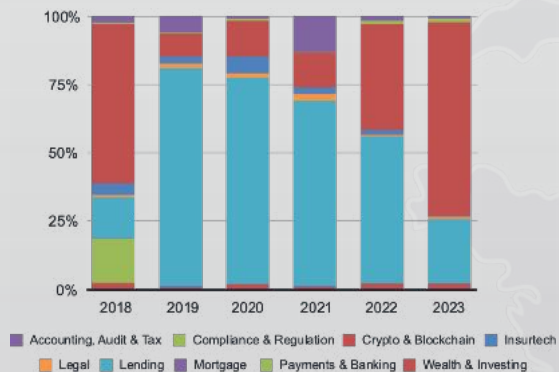
The Nordics FinTech: Funding Turbulence Meets Crypto Resilience; Lending Bears The Brunt



Interesting startups

Scaleup finance CFO-as-a-Service	MAZEPAY Smart Procurement Software	Cardboard SaaS Spend Management	nordkap Treasury management software	LUNAR Digital banking application	booksalon Salon payment and appointment platform	LUCINITY AI-powered AML software	Lassie Digital pet insurance platform
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Capital Invested (€)



Key Exits & Takeaways

Kron.

Kron was acquired by The Storebrand Group for approximately €40m on 3 January 2023.

NOMENTIA

Nomentia was acquired by Inflexion Private Equity Partners via a €349m LBO on 25 July 2023.

Blockchain & Crypto was the most active and well-funded sector, accounting for 34% of deal volume and 49% of new capital invested. Lending tech suffers the worst decline, showering a drop from €1.09B to €50M.

Top Investors

ANTLER	4
Alliance^{VC}	3
Fin	2
NFT VENTURES	2
Seed capital	2

3. Opportunities Likely to Emerge In Current Situation



Themes shaping FinTech

RegTech

1

RegTech continue to show attractive growth in KYC and AML

Banking

2

Consolidation of Banking as a Service (BaaS) continues driven by regulatory and investor pressure with a likely split of business models between Banking Software vs Regulatory Banking as a Service

3

Open Banking will consolidate and expected to reach real momentum with use cases after a decade of hope

Payments

4

As premium multiples for Payment companies like Stripe and darling Adyen faded. Investors and Payment Companies revisit the Payment investment landscape, with accelerated consolidation expected to boost profitability and growth

Insurance

5

Generative AI will reach the insurance industry first as complexity is tackled

CFO

6

Increasing oversight outside of accounting gives CFOs a headache to solve resulting in accelerated demand for Automation and Digitalization

7

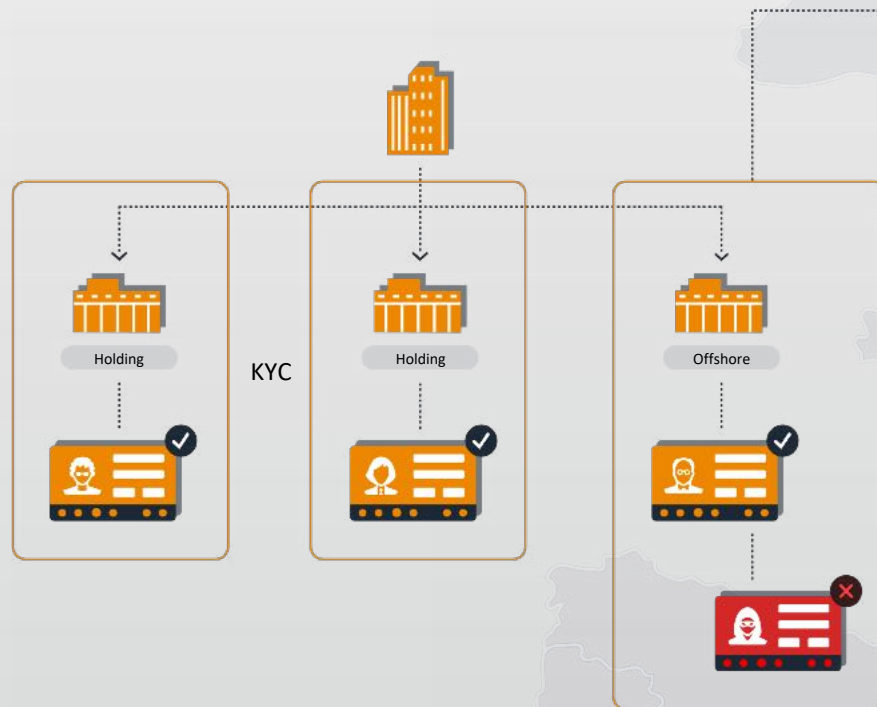
New breed of ERP for S & MEs with a finance focus as controlling the procurement has never been so apparent for CFOs

HR & Payroll

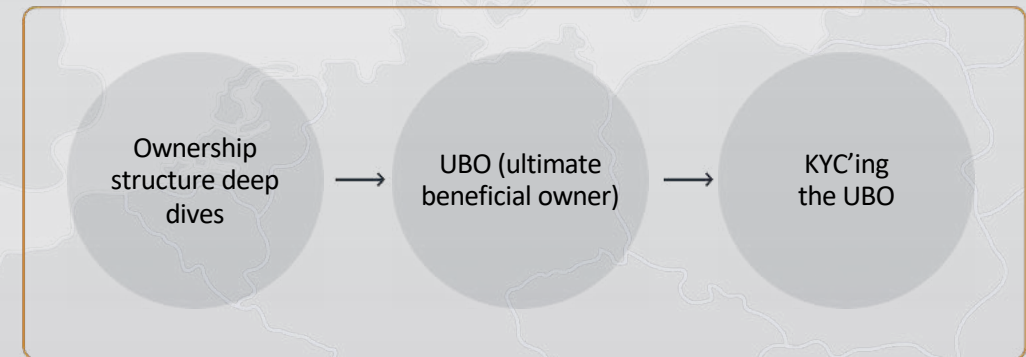
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As spend per employee increases by 50%, HR team get serious about impactful technology decisions to increase efficiency and productivity

Passport checking is not enough. There are layers of complexity, holding and shell companies that need to be analysed in a business setting



Workflow and case management tools are the answer for streamlined operations



\$35 million for a bank onboarding 10,000 new clients per annum

KYB checks can cost an additional \$18-25 per check

Lithuania revokes licence of former Railstr unit

22 June 2023

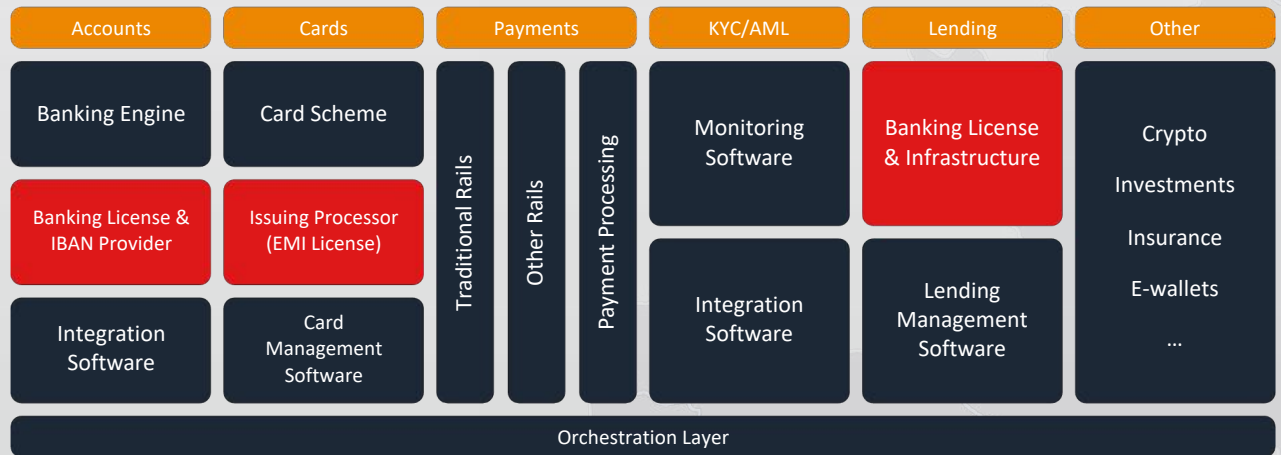
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Solaris may only accept new customers with BaFin's permission

Friday 20 January 2023 12:41 CET | News

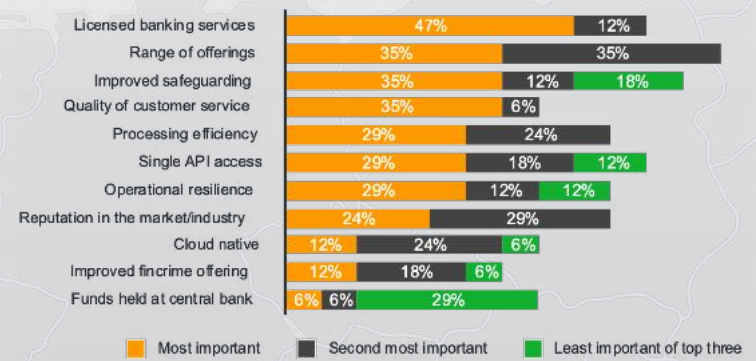
FCA flags poor controls at UK payment firms

News | March 17, 2023

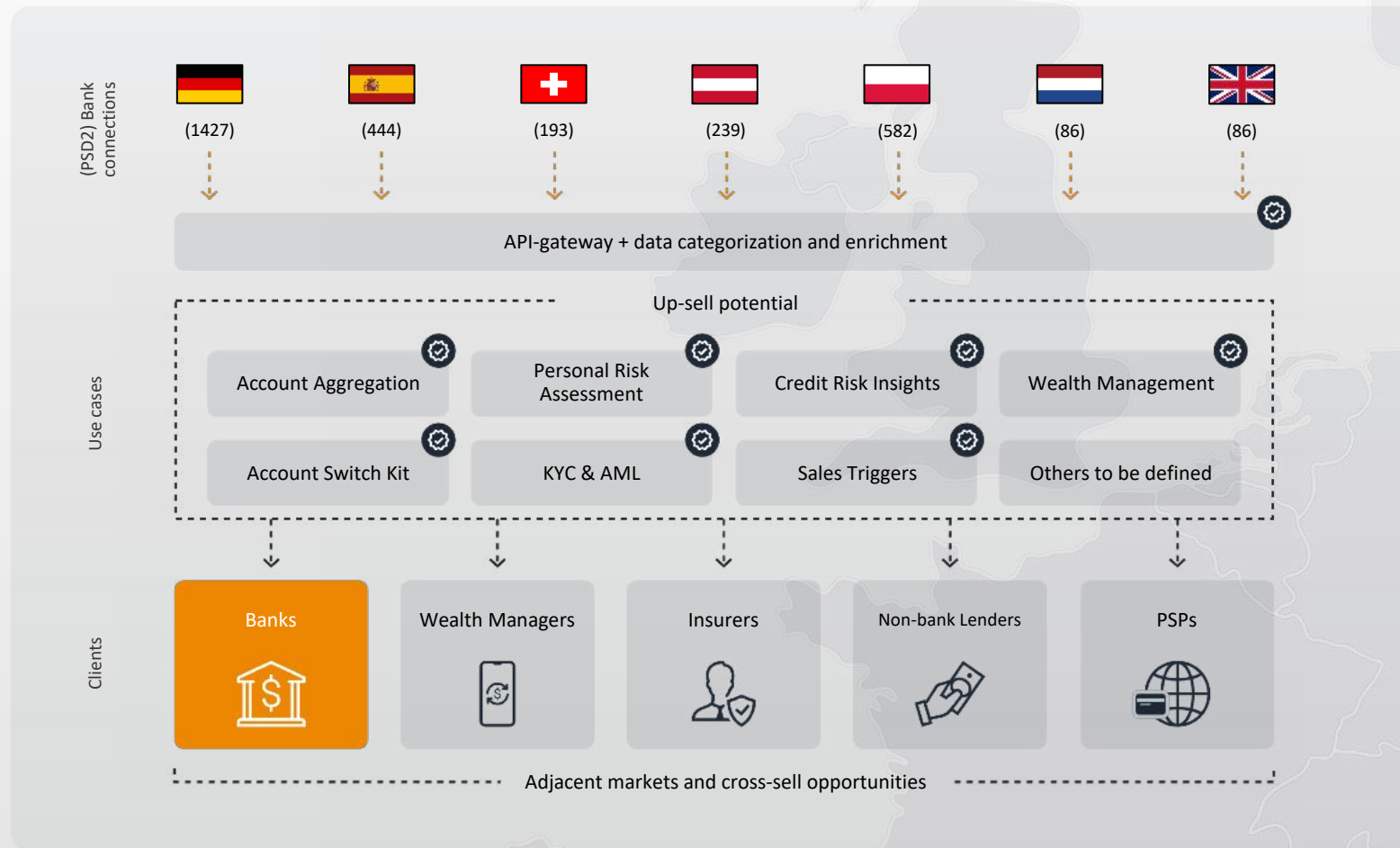


Safeguarding has become one of the most important factors

Q. What are the top three factors when evaluating a provider? (Base 17; Multiple options allowed)



Complexity of this ecosystem means that it's incredibly hard for end users to know who is responsible for their money, and companies looking to use BaaS providers are ever-more confused about who they need to do what



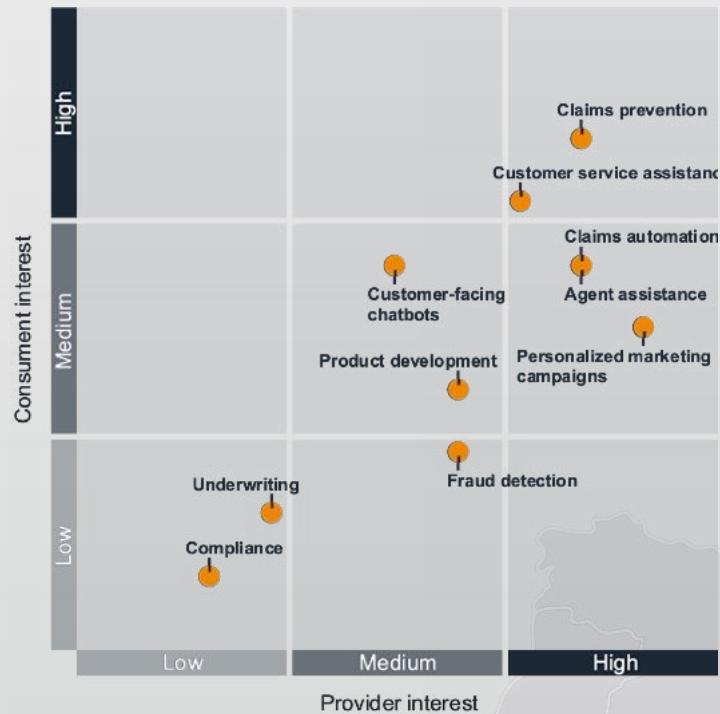
Consolidation rationale

- The European open banking landscape is fragmented, with sub-top 5 players struggling to reach scale and healthy profit margins. With Open Banking adoption being much slower than anticipated, exit opportunities for sub-scale companies are extremely limited.
- The majority of players have 1-2 functioning use-cases, but lack the necessary customer relationships, scaling is very difficult

Increasing Questions About Where Payment Companies Should Focus To Create Value Will Trigger Further Consolidation, Especially Now That Darling Adyen's Organic Plans Are Challenged



Analyst Estimates: Provider and Consumer Interest in Select Generative AI Applications in Insurance
over a 3-year horizon



While underwriting is unlikely to change, gen AI can boost complex product assessment

- Underwriting is so core and beloved to insurers that they have not wanted to let go of it despite progress in some products (auto, home, pet)
- Life, in particular, is such a complex product and relies on variety of data sets that are unique to individuals
- The broker channel will likely see biggest impact, with data gathering, synthesis and initial assessment to be combined, parts of the value chain will come closer to the underwriter
- Underwriting is unlikely to see a revolution but more a transformation as alternative LLM model sits by its side

Transactional activities are the most automatable, but opportunities exist across most subfunctions.

Activities that can be automated using demonstrated technologies, %*



* Proportion of tasks. Figures may not sum to 100%, because of rounding.

The 3 areas that have been difficult to automate is where CFOs will be looking for help

Risk management

AML, fraud monitoring, cash - think SVB, vendor selection

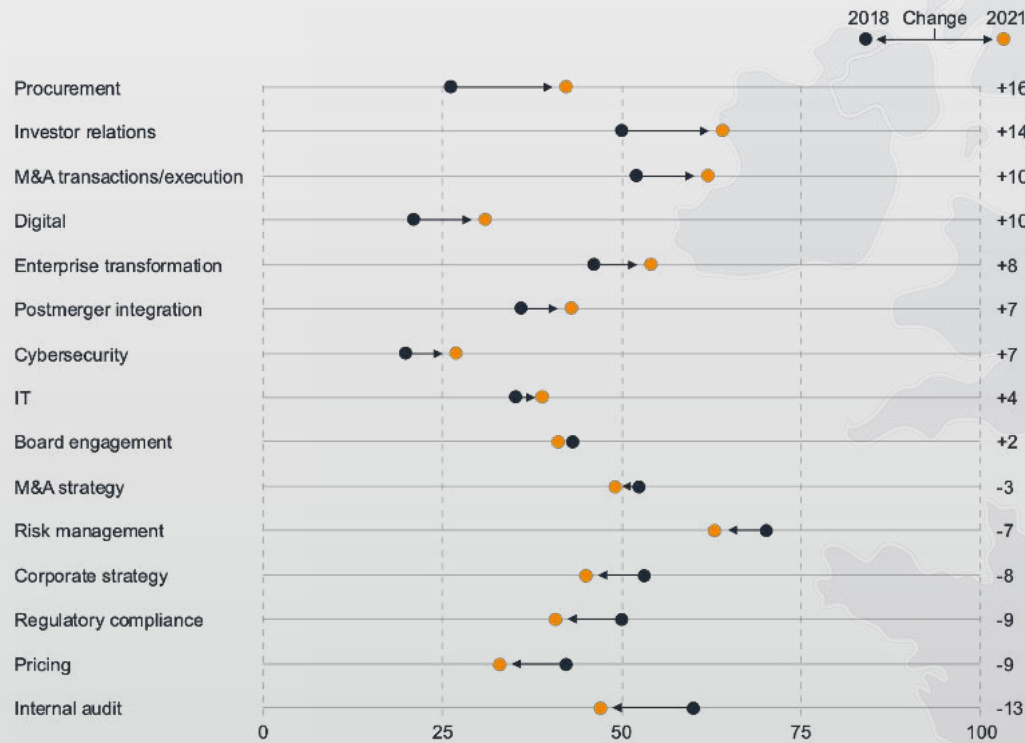
Audit

Time sink for finance teams, tools for live auditing

External relations

ESG, Ethics, Board and investor management

Share of roles in direct reporting relationships to CFO, %

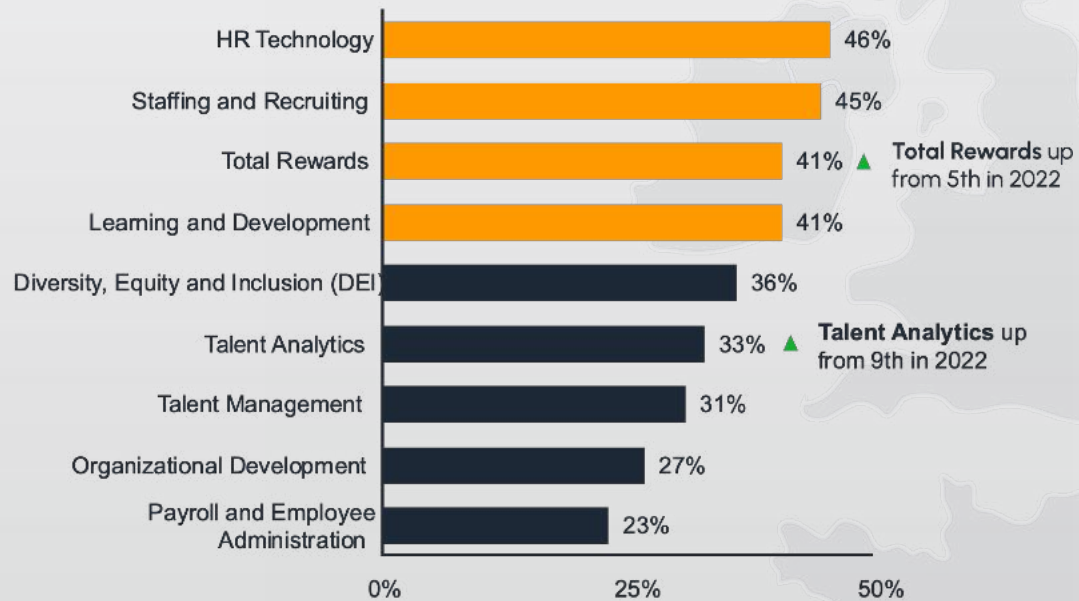


The interconnected CFO



HR Investment Areas

Percentage of HR Leaders Planning to Increase Budget



n = 118 HR Leaders

The interconnected CFO

- Manage compliance with employment laws
- Process payroll for employees
- Maintain up to date employee information
- Track time and attendance

The interconnected CFO

- Learning management
- Wellness
- Data integration

4. Summary



The year of reckoning has arrived in European FinTech. The Return of Funding discipline resulted in a Flight to Quality and Profitability to Survive for the entire ecosystem.

- Funding dropped by 70% to pre 2020 levels driven by the end of mega round and flight to quality;
- A retreat in Payments and Challenger Banks as the traditional resilient sector loses its crown to Crypto and Lending given valuation benchmarks achieved in 2022;
- US, Asian and Strategic investors are retrenching and are in 50-100% less deals than they were last year;
- M&A has remained stable with volumes on track to match 2022 levels, but deal sizes have fallen dramatically with 19% of deals above €500m vs 30% last year;
- Valuations are stabilizing in the public markets which will help private companies to get funding/exits, but at different terms than before, which will take time before all companies reset "last round" to "current" valuations

European local ecosystems have been impacted differently based on their maturity

- US investors were ranking in the top lists in major countries in 2021/H1 2022, but have disappeared this year
- UK, Germany and France saw a 70% drop in funding value BUT exits were getting done consistently
- Ireland and Netherlands are more elastic to single deals (Fourthline & NomuPay respectively) in both regions
- Poland recorded biggest drop, but the crypto infrastructure sector is gaining momentum

The trend of a shift to software and B2B FinTech continues in 2023. More than 50% of all fintech deals are B2B software versus 17% in 2016.

- Business models: Some balance sheet business are in tough spot with loan losses rising as well as those without own deposit funding. Focus on recurring software businesses with strong margins and NRR vs. product led hyper growth.
- Key areas we foresee strong momentum the next 6 to 12 months are:
 - Revisit of the payment investment landscape, with accelerated consolidation expected to boost profitability and growth
 - RegTech continues to show attractive growth in KYC and AML
 - Consolidation of Open Banking and Banking as a Service continues
 - Generative Artificial Intelligence will get at scale in Insurance and Banking
 - Automation and Digitalization of the CFO and HR function continues to increase control and efficiency

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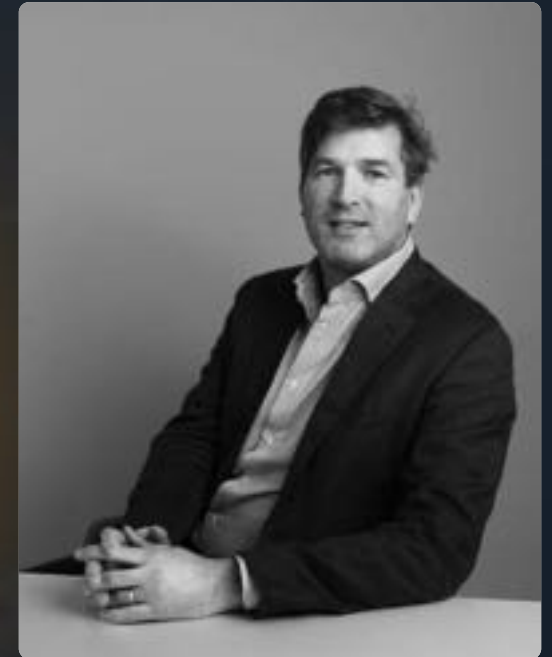
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