



tor due to the combination of increasing footfall, retail sales, and higher yields in the sector. “Among the completed transactions so far in the second quarter can undoubtedly be mentioned **Atrium Palác Pardubice**.” The shopping centre was sold by G City Europe. “The investment volume in the second quarter is likely to surpass the same period of the previous year. We have already witnessed closing of several transactions with a total value of over a quarter billion euros.” Krus added that retail, which is showing liquidity internationally, is the only sector in CEE expanding in size year-on-year by 50 %. “The renewing appeal of retail was in evidence in Poland, with the sale by G City of the 27,500 sqm centre **Atrium Molo Szczecin**, and with the sale of **Europa Centralna** (71,000 sqm) to Mitiska REIM,” pointed out Agata Czarnecka, Director, Head of Research in CBRE in Warsaw.

Portfolios and industrial in focus

In Q2 a major portfolio trade was revealed, a **transfer by CPIPG to S IMMO**. It includes the **Mayhouse** and **Luxembourg Plaza** office buildings in Prague and the **ZET.office in Brno**, along with the hotel **Courtyard by Marriott Prague City**. The four assets have a total asset value of EUR 167.7 million. As CPIPG owns 88.4 % of S IMMO shares the transfer is considered a related party transaction.

The Czech market saw significant trade in the industrial sector. Among key deals, Bluehouse sold its **Ostrava-Hrušov** project to **CTP**; comprising an industrial complex on a former brownfield of some 330,000 sqm, the built first phase (18,000 sqm) is rented to Prosperplast, Hyundai Steel and LogFlex. Groups such as **UDI** and **Arete** were also active in the sector. Another major deal was the acquisition of **Karlovarská Business Park by Accolade** from Conseq, or the purchase by CB Property Investors (a fund of the Crowdberry group) of a majority stake in an industrial complex under construction near Liberec in a deal exceeding CZK 1 billion.



Karlovarská Business Park (CR) was acquired by Accolade from Conseq in Q2/2023

Industrial investment also led volumes in **Poland**, where **Panattoni** led the way, **disposing c. EUR 300 million of assets** to various buyers including P3 (international), Trigea (Czech), and undisclosed parties, pointed out Turpin. Another major deal this year in the sector was in Romania, Turpin flagged, where **CTP** acquired a **100,000 sqm portfolio from FM Logistic** for c. EUR 60 million.

It was just the end of 2022 when CA Immo sold all its assets in Romania. The momentum has continued – in June, **CA Immobilien** announced the reclassification **of Hungary** as strategically non-core, thus initiating **plans to exit the market** though platform sale, sub-portfolio sale, or individual asset sales. While the Hungarian market has seen its main Q1 transactions in the hospitality sector, overall it has been relatively subdued, said Mike Edwards, International Partner, Head of Capital Markets Group Hungary at Cushman & Wakefield.

In **Slovakia**, the largest deal was the acquisition **by IAD Investments’ Prvý realitný fond** of the **Pribinova 19** office building (28,000 sqm) from



Pribinova 19 (part of Eurovea City) in Bratislava (Slovakia) was acquired by Prvý realitný fond managed by IAD Investments

JTRE. The building, **part of the Eurovea City** waterfront in Bratislava, houses domestic and international tenants.

Financing costs have put investors and asset managers under increasing pressure as they seek to renew lending terms. “All-in financing costs are currently somewhere between 5.0 and 6.0 % driven by significantly higher interest rates from just 12 months ago,” Turpin noted. “While refinancing and other financial commitments may have the potential to trigger the need to sell for some, we are still not yet seeing a significant wave of such cases currently.” According to CBRE the rises in yields were showing more stability in CEE markets at the start of second quarter. At the end of Q1 2023, office prime yields in CEE were stable quarter-on-quarter in CR and Poland, while in Slovakia, Hungary and Romania there was yield decompression.

Going forth in 2023, the pace of deals is in focus. “We expect investment activity to gradually gather momentum through the remainder of the year,” said Alson. Current patterns by sector are likely to continue, indicated Turpin. For offices, investors will remain very selective until they see more stability in working trends. Logistics, plus retail parks and supermarkets are expected to see good demand across most markets in the region, although conditions such as strained financing may complicate or prolong the time required to close deals, he explained. “Predicting market activity for the remainder of the year, given current conditions, is challenging but we estimate it could reach EUR 5.0–6.0 billion at the current trajectory.”