

**Press release - Antibiotice SA**

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Iași, November 11, 2025

**Antibiotice Iași - Investments worth 75 million euros for the development of a research, development and production center for critical medicines, through the STEP program**

Antibiotice S.A. signed, together with the Ministry of Investments and European Projects (MIPE), a financing contract worth 75 million euros for the implementation of the project "INOVA a+ Center for Research, Development and Production of Critical Medicines", financed through the Health Program - Priority 9 (STEP).

The project will support the Romanian healthcare system by creating a modern production infrastructure for critical medicines, while also contributing to the European Union's strategic autonomy in the pharmaceutical field by securing supply chains and by increasing the resilience of European healthcare systems.

Out of the total eligible value of the project, 52% represents non-reimbursable financing provided by the MIPE and the rest is provided by Antibiotice. The project implementation is scheduled for the period November 2025 - November 2029.

*"This large investment project is a decisive step towards the future for Antibiotice, a strategic initiative that will integrate resources, expertise and collaborations between the industry and the research environment, strengthening our company's position as a strategic manufacturer of critical medicines at national and European levels. Also, the project brings along a complex challenge, which we will address through solid partnerships and the rigorous management of financial and profitability balances. The fact that we are launching this project in the year when we celebrate our company's 70th anniversary is proof of our constant commitment to innovation and development for the benefit of the health of the Romanian*

*population and with a significant impact at a global level"*, Ioan Nani, General Director of Antibiotice stated.

The signing of the contract took place during the 7th meeting of the Monitoring Committee for the Health Program, organized by the MIPE and hosted by Antibiotice Iași between November 11-12, 2025. The event was attended by Mr. Dragoș-Nicolae Pîslaru, the Minister of Investments and European Projects, Mr. Alexandru Rogobete, the Minister of Health, representatives of the European Commission, the MIPE, as well as by members of the Monitoring Committee for the Health Program.

### **Supporting the European industry and stimulating the investment in critical medicines - the main objective of the funding**

The project, which has as its general objective the development of research, development and production capacities for critical medicines, in line with the strategic directions of the STEP Platform, includes two major components oriented towards innovation and the expansion of industrial production:

#### **1. INOVA a+ Research and Development Center**

The INOVA a+ Research and Development Center, a modern facility that will provide innovative solutions and technology transfer in the fields of biotechnologies and critical medicines, will be built in Iași, on the Antibiotice platform, and it will include:

- Research laboratories in the fields of biosimilars, genetics-proteomics, general analytics and nanotechnologies;
- Areas dedicated to scientific collaboration, an amphitheater and a virtual library for documentation and continuing education.

The INOVA a+ Research Center is an important milestone for the Romanian pharmaceutical industry, through a strategic investment that shifts the focus from the production of generic medicines to the internal scientific development and applied innovation. This investment is a strong signal that Romania is starting to build a competitive research and development (R&D) infrastructure, in a field so far dominated by technological imports.

The impact of our company's new center stimulates academic partnerships, it entices high-level specialists and it creates the premises for integrating the complete value chain - from industrial research and experimental development to production and export.

Through INOVA a+, Antibiotice confirms its commitment to support our domestic scientific progress and to add to the transformation of the Romanian pharmaceutical industry into a regional innovation hub.

## **2. Production unit for critical medicines**

The project is also meant to develop a production unit for critical medicines in the form of sterile injectable beta-lactam powders, a segment where Antibiotice has a wealth of over seven decades of industrial expertise.

The new facility will have an annual production capacity of 100 million equivalent vials. Through this investment, our company will contribute to reducing Romania's as well as the European Union's dependence on non-EU suppliers for critical medicines.

The critical medicines are medicinal products whose continued supply is considered to be a priority for healthcare systems and whose shortage could have serious consequences for patients' health. A critical medicine is identified by combining two main criteria: (1) the severity of the disease it treats and (2) the availability of therapeutic alternatives at European level.

These medicines cover a wide range of therapeutic areas, such as the anti-infectives. The Antibiotice portfolio encompasses 13 critical medicines aligned with the STEP strategic technologies.

By implementing the above investments, Antibiotice Iași consolidates its position as a strategic manufacturer of critical medicines and a trusted partner in the development of an independent, sustainable and innovative European pharmaceutical industry.