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PRESS RELEASE

## **Impetum Group is launching Agista, the first Romanian investment fund to develop local companies through the capital market**

- **Agista will be a EUR 25 million capitalization investment fund joining the Bucharest Stock Exchange mission to increase the degree of understanding and access to the specific mechanisms of capital markets**
- **Agista will act as an anchor investor and contribute to the development of a competitive capital market**

Impetum Group launched Agista, the first investment fund in Romania focused on the AeRO market, helping local SMEs to get listed on the stock market, financing and accelerating their increase through the capital market. Agista sets out with a EUR 25 million capitalization, nearly half of the entire capital raised by the AeRO market companies in 2021, and is planning to invest in 20 local companies in the next two years, out of the 150 to be analysed.

Agista is launched at a time when, although there is money in the market – a total of EUR 33.5 billion in bank deposits owned by individuals\*, none of it reaches any of the companies in need of it. In the same time, the equity financing deficit of SMEs is EUR 4.64 billion.

*In recent years, Bucharest Stock Exchange has experienced a development correlated with all our efforts and those of the entire community to stimulate the use of the capital market for financing Romanian companies. From this perspective, the AeRO market has had an essential role in bringing us even closer to the entrepreneurs and their developing companies, and last year's evolution, as well as Q1 2022, is a tangible proof in this regard. We are talking about 27 companies listed on the AeRO market that managed to attract financing worth EUR 70 million, and another 27 bond issues worth EUR 63.1*



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Register of Commerce: J40/12328/2005  
C.U.I.:17777754  
Social Capital: 80.492.460 lei  
C.N.V.M. Decision No /31.01.2006

*million. The positive evolution of the AeRO market is also reflected in the launch of the first index dedicated to this market, BET AeRO. The establishment of the first investment fund dedicated to the AeRO market by Impetum Group is yet another step towards consolidating it as a growth market for SMEs, stated Radu Hanga, President of the Bucharest Stock Exchange.*

*The experience and practice within the Impetum Group community have taught us that when businesses manage to scale their success in a sustainable manner, it has a positive impact on the entire society. It is precisely for the purpose of bearing a hand to the education and maturity of the Romanian capital market, that we have created, through Agista, a first Romanian institutional instrument, dedicated to robust companies, wishing to develop through listing on the local stock exchange. A solid economy needs healthy companies which should perform efficiently whilst supporting development. We believe in the Romanian economy and we are acting in this respect, stated Andrei Cionca, Impetum Group CEO and co-founder.*

### **What is Agista going to do?**

The core business will consist of PRE-IPO investments, as well as listed shares of companies showing potential. More than just a capital investor, Agista will be an active partner that provides complementary expertise to Romanian entrepreneurs in order to accelerate their businesses and to open access to a relevant business ecosystem.

*Agista will act as an anchor investor, with an aim to hold minority packages in companies with a turnover of EUR 3-15 million. The investment ticket will be EUR 500,000 - 2.5 million, and Agista will act from a strategic place, at board level, in terms of company development, said Nicolae Kovacs, Agista CEO.*

### **The Agista Team**

Agista Management was registered as an alternative investment fund manager on 10 March 2022, and the fund is currently undergoing authorization by the ASF.

The executive team consists, together with the CEO, of consummate professionals in the capital market, with complementary skills and expertise: **Nicolas Pleșea**, Senior Investment Manager, active in the financial field for 15 years, and **Aurel Podariu**, Senior Investment Manager, 14 years of experience in the management of companies in difficulty, but also in business development. Besides, Agista receives the experience and synergies of Impetum Group, which will be valorised for all our partner companies.

In order to support entrepreneurs, Agista will develop an acceleration program dedicated to small businesses. Through this program, Agista will support small companies in accelerating their managerial skills and abilities, in an entrepreneurial spirit and a practical way. Starting today, Agista joins Impetum Group's mission to develop a new entrepreneurial culture based on access to the capital market.

*Source:*

*\*NBR*

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### **About Agista**

Agista is the first Romanian investment fund dedicated to the AeRO market that accelerates local SMEs through capital market instruments . Agista is a brand of Impetum Group, the Romanian group formed by the reunion of the 4 brands: CITR, the leader of the Romanian insolvency market, with 20 years of experience in crisis management, ROCA Investments, a private equity aiming to consolidate and scale SMEs, ROCA X, a venture capital for disruptive start-ups on the tech market, and, as of today, Agista, an investment fund that scales local SMEs through the capital market. Impetum Group is a Romanian entrepreneurial ecosystem that brings together capital, management and resources.

### **About the Bucharest Stock Exchange**

The Bucharest Stock Exchange (BVB) is the only operator of securities markets in Romania. Listed on its own market since 2010, the Bucharest Stock Exchange is part of the BVB Group together with the Central Depository, institution responsible for registration and settlement operations in Romania, and CCP.RO, company established in 2019, which will take over the offsetting of securities transactions in Romania and contribute to the relaunching of the derivatives market. BVB manages two distinct markets, the Regulated Market and the Multilateral Trading System, listing a variety of financial instruments, such as stocks, bonds, fund units, certificates, structured products, preference rights. 83 companies are listed on the Regulated Market, as well as 283 on the AeRO market, the share segment of the Multilateral Trading System. 11 Romanian companies listed on the Stock Exchange are included in the FTSE Russell indexes dedicated to Emerging Markets.

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