

WORK PROGRAMME 2021

In the following document AREPO would like to present its work programme for 2021, setting out the main activities to be carried out all along this year.

Due to the persisting COVID-19 emergency, the main lobbying activities remain concentrated on AREPO's Brussels office with the Secretary General supervision from Bordeaux.

Furthermore, AREPO offices in Brussels and Bordeaux had to comply with the measures taken respectively by the Belgian and French governments. As a result, the remote working period has been extended until further notice, while interactions with EU Institutions have been reduced to online meetings and conferences.

1. EU POLICIES:

- AREPO will continue monitoring **Common Agricultural Policy** trilogues, in order to assure the right recognition and support for quality and origin products in the final text.
- In line with the European Commission priority of strengthening EU Geographical Indications, AREPO will contribute to the **revision of EU quality policy**, firstly by replying to the public consultation launched by the European Commission. AREPO will present a position paper with evidence-based policy recommendations, following the whole process until a Commission's proposal.
- AREPO will keep setting forth its position on the **"Farm to Fork" strategy** and keep monitoring all related developments. In this framework, AREPO will work on the topic of the **harmonised mandatory front-of-pack nutrition labelling**. The first step in this direction will be the discussion of the related AREPO position with the AREPO Board of producers in order to consolidate it and be ready to take part in the incoming public consultations on the revision of information to consumers and the establishing of nutrient profiles.
- AREPO will participate in the process of **revision of EU Promotion Policy**, contributing to the future public consultation and monitoring the state of play until a Commission's proposal.

2. DISSEMINATION/INFORMATION ACTIVITIES ON GIS

Starting from May, AREPO will work on **the production of informative materials**, to be published and freely used by its member regions.

1. **In line with the priorities of the EU Farm to fork strategy**, we would like to produce informative and didactic material explaining what are GIs and their advantages in relation to sustainability. The main target public will be young consumers school-aged.
2. **UN General Assembly designated 2021 [International Year of Fruits and Vegetables \(IYFV\)](#)** and that FAO is the lead agency for celebrating the year in collaboration with other relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system. Consequently, AREPO would like to propose to other organizations specifically dealing with fruit and vegetables to cooperate on the topic of **PDO and PGI fruits and produce together informative material within this UN framework**.

3. GIS AND PUBLIC FOOD PROCUREMENT

AREPO started monitoring the topic of Public Food Procurement within the context of the Strength2Food project. On this basis and following a proposal of the region of Catalunya, AREPO intends to work on Public Food Procurement, focusing on the use of local products and PDOs and PGIs in public menus. After an initial collect of information, through literature and the definition of a general bibliography, the idea is to **organise a working group with other AREPO regions**. Firstly, the group should work on understanding if specific laws covering this subject are in place in some regions. Secondly, it will be explored how to promote this initiative and encourage especially public administrations to include PDO and PGI products in the menus they propose, with the ultimate aim of facilitating the consumption and improving consumers recognition.

This activity should begin in May and will be run until the end of 2021.

4. GIS AND TOURISM

In the past AREPO carried out a study on the touristic flux of AREPO regions. Starting from this and considering how this sector has been harshly hit by the COVID-19 crisis, AREPO would like to resume this work and expand it. As a consequence, **AREPO intends to establish strategic cooperation with other organization dealing with tourism** (namely, [Necstour](#) and [Eurogites](#)) in order to identify new areas of cooperation, such as agrotourism, rural tourism and slow tourism, with the aim to rekindle the link between AREPO and its regions.

This activity will be set up as of the second half of 2021, with the prospect to keep working on this topic also afterwards.

5. STUDIES

- **GIs as ingredient in processed food:** The report is about to be finalised. Following the translation in the four AREPO working languages, the study should be published by the first semester of 2021.
- **Problems and needs of small GIs:** The study is still ongoing. The student has so far realised a database including all GIs represented in AREPO and has set the criteria to define small and medium GIs. A survey should be submitted to AREPO Regions and producers in order to collect information for the study and to elaborate recommendations.

6. MEETINGS WITH AREPO MEMBER REGIONS DEDICATED TO SPECIFIC TOPICS

- AREPO is setting up a specific **working group with the Italian regions on GIs support measures allowed by article 71 of the proposed EC Regulation on the strategic plans of the CAP dedicated to "cooperation"**. Its main aim should be to identify which types of interventions in support of Geographical Indications and quality schemes could and should be included and propose a common draft of these interventions. The results will be shared with the rest of AREPO members.
- In April, AREPO will organise a **meeting on National quality schemes with its German member regions**. National quality schemes should be better taken into account by EU policymakers as viable options to achieve some of the main goals of the Farm to Fork strategy. As a result, the main goal of this exchange should be to better understand this subject and learn from existing good practice.

7. EUROPEAN PROJECTS

- **AGROSMARTglobal** (Interreg Sudoe Programme): started in October 2019, AREPO has found a real interest in this project for the activities dedicated to the **protection of Geographical Indications on the Internet**, which is a real challenge in the current context, as well as for the activities dedicated to the **promotion and marketing of GIs on the Internet in order to make existing information on GIs and their specific production characteristics accessible through effective communication tools for consumers**. AREPO will also have a key role in promoting, networking and disseminating results to strategic political representatives and has a **total budget of €118.360**, 75% of which is co-financed by the ERDF, to implement its activities.
- **MOVING - Valuing the Mountain through Interconnectivity and Green Growth** (Horizon 2020): Its overall objective is to build capacity and co-develop policy frameworks across Europe for the establishment of new or improved value chains that would contribute to the resilience and sustainability of mountain areas, by enhancing local assets and providing private and public goods. AREPO will contribute to this project by involving regional/local authorities and producer associations in the mountain areas of its member Regions, providing its expertise in policy evaluation and its experience in promoting and disseminating the project's results. AREPO has a **total budget of €85.600**, 100% financed by H2020 programme.

5. SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL

The expansion of AREPO Scientific Council, through the participation of new experts coming from a larger number of AREPO member regions, is in progress. Several meetings will take place in order to consolidate the structure and the functioning of the Scientific Council, as well as to deepen the exchanges among its members. A further step will be to increase the occasion of exchange between the Scientific Council and the rest of AREPO members in order to better develop AREPO positions on several priority themes.

6. GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Monitoring the actual health situation, AREPO will evaluate whether to hold a physical meeting for its next General Assembly. In any case, on this occasion, the new AREPO Executive Board will be elected.

7. AREPO WEBSITE

The renovation of AREPO website is about to be finalised. In the following months it will be uploaded online. Among the new features, it will display the following new sections:

- **Bibliography on studies on Geographical Indications** and related issues;
- **Map on training offers of Universities** of our member regions, providing courses entirely dedicated to geographical indications and quality schemes.