

INTERMEDIATE ACTIVITY REPORT October 2021 – April 2022

1. MEMBERS

In 2021, AREPO received 30 membership fees. AREPO currently represents 33 Regions from 8 different Member States.

In March 2022 AREPO welcomed the FEVAO - Fédération des Viandes AOP de France as associate member.

2. AREPO INTERNAL MEETINGS

2.1 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

The first meeting of the new AREPO Executive Board was held on February 1st, 2022. The members of the Board discussed the organisation of the spring and autumn General Assembly, as well as AREPO's actions and planned activities for 2022.

3. EUROPEAN POLICIES

3.1 COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY & QUALITY POLICY

AREPO kept monitoring the decision-making process concerning the new Common Agricultural Policy, until the publication of the three regulations that will govern the 2023-2027 EU CAP in December 2021.

We remind you that AREPO and oriGIn EU cooperated to defend together GIs at EU level and the two associations **adopted a common position and lobbying strategy concerning the CAP**. We elaborated together a document with common amendments proposals on the CAP post-2020 and on the revision of GI regulations (click here to find the text in [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#)), to strengthen the position of GIs in rural development and sectoral interventions and to reinforce their protection in the relevant regulations. The majority of the [objectives achieved through AREPO-oriGIn common strategy hold inside the final texts agreed](#).

Furthermore, in the framework of the CAP Strategic Plans regulation trilogues, together with Agiregions, AREFLH and Euromontana, AREPO presented a [common position on the role of regional authorities in the governance of future PAC](#).

3.2 EU QUALITY POLICY

The process of the evaluation of EU Quality Policy began in April 2019 with the EC Roadmap on EU quality schemes ([click here to consult the feedback presented by AREPO](#)). This has been followed by a public consultation run from November 2019 to February 2020, with the aim to get feedback on the understanding and opinion of these EU quality schemes. AREPO replied to the open consultation joining a **position paper**, elaborated after the internal consultation of its members and the scientific committee ([click here to read the position paper](#) - abstract also available in [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#)).

On January 16th 2020, **AREPO position paper has been presented to the European Commission** in occasion of the Strength2food project engagement event with DG AGRI (GI Unit as well as R&I representatives both from DG AGRI and the Research Executive Agency).

The evaluation of EU Quality Policy completed, the European Commission officially launched in November 2020, during the **EC virtual conference "[Strengthening geographical indications](#)"**, the **process of revision of the EU GIs system**.

AREPO took part in this conference. **AREPO Secretary General was invited as speaker in the Closing Plenary of the online event** (as there was no interpretation available for the President), where he presented AREPO position on Strengthening EU GIs. Additionally, AREPO participated in various sessions also taking the floor during the stakeholder debate in the panel dedicated to increasing the attractiveness of GIs.

The process of revision began with the **Roadmap for the revision of the EU GIs system** (click here to read AREPO [position](#)), followed by the opening of a **Public consultation on the Revision of EU geographical indications scheme**, in January 2021. AREPO replied to the public consultation and submitted a [position paper](#) addressing the proposals and objectives of the consultation.

Monitoring the progress of the work of the European Commission (EC), in February 2021, AREPO, together with AREV, EFOR and origIn EU, presented an [open letter to the EU Institutions](#), expressing concern about the EC's intention to transfer competences over the management of product specifications (registration of new GIs and modifications of product specifications) to the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO).

Furthermore, with the aim to understand and discuss the competences that EUIPO has developed on GIs as well as its relation with DG Agri of the European Commission, **AREPO set up a technical group which met EUIPO on March 18th 2022 during a Zoom webinar.** ([click here to read the report of the meeting](#))

On March 31st, AREPO President, **Ms Begoña García Bernal**, had a meeting with EUIPO Executive Director, **Mr Christian Archambeau**, to discuss the concerns raised by AREPO on the involvement of EUIPO in the management of the EU GI system.

On the same day, the EC published the [proposal for a regulation on the revision of the EU GI system](#). AREPO shared an analysis with its members in order to begin the internal discussion on the topic. [Click here to read the analysis.](#)

Additionally, AREPO has been appointed by the Committee of the Regions (CoR) as expert to support the CoR rapporteur, **Ms Karine Gloanec Maurin** (President of the Communauté de communes des Collines du Perche, First Deputy Mayor of Couëtron au Perche and Regional Councillor for Europe and International Economic Development - Centre-Val de Loire Region), in the drafting of the CoR opinion on the regulation on the revision of the EU GI system.

To conclude, on April 19th the Secretary General, Laurent Gomez, represented AREPO during a technical group on the revision of EU GIs organised by the EESC - European Economic and Social Committee, together with other GIs' stakeholders and the DG Agri of the European Commission.

3.3 FARM 2 FORK STRATEGY – FRONT-OF-PACK NUTRITION LABELLING (FOPNL)

On **27 October 2021**, AREPO organised the online public conference *"EU Geographical Indications and Nutrition Labelling: Can a score provide meaningful information to consumers?"*.

This multi-stakeholder event gathered more than 160 participants from all over Europe, aiming to enrich the debate at EU level concerning nutrition labelling. Particularly, it has been the occasion to present to the European Institutions and relevant EU stakeholders the concerns and the perspective of EU Regions and producer associations dealing with quality products. Furthermore, it intended to consider possible ways forward to enhance the value of geographical indications in EU dietary patterns, without forgetting their primary role as tools for rural development. [Click here to read the report of the virtual conference.](#)

AREPO contributed as well to the [public consultation on Food labelling - revision of rules on information provided to consumers](#), responding to the online questionnaire and submitting a position paper ([click here to read the position paper](#)). The European Commission will prepare an **impact assessment** and plans **to adopt its proposal by the end of 2022**.

In December 2021, AREPO participated in an **online focus group** organised by [ICF consulting](#), under contract to DG SANTE to carry out an external evaluation study on the revision of rules on information provided to consumers. The aim of this group was to seek feedback and opinion on the lists of objectives and criteria set for this assessment. This was followed in March 2022 by the **participation in a targeted survey and an interview on FOPNL led by ICF**.

Furthermore, on 18 March, the Secretary General delivered a presentation on FOPNL during the meeting of the Board of Directors of FedELIS (Federation of Label Rouge, GIs and TSGs), associate member of AREPO.

3.4 PROMOTION POLICY

AREPO regularly participates in the Civil Dialogue Group of DG AGRI on promotion, as well as in **the Infoday on the promotion programme** ([click here to see the presentations of the 2022 virtual event](#)), in order to update its members. Moreover, every year AREPO updates and shares with members the [descriptive note on promotion policy](#).

AREPO also continues monitoring the process of revision of EU Promotion Policy ([Click here to consult the position submitted to the related public consultation](#)). The legislative proposal should be published in June 2022.

3.6 ORGANIC FARMING

AREPO monitored the developments related to organic farming. After being postponed, the new organic regulation entered into force on 1 January 2022.

AREPO policy officers have been chosen by the Committee of the Regions (CoR) as experts to support the CoR rapporteur, Mr Uroš Brežan, Mayor of Tolmin, in the drafting of its [opinion on the EU action plan for organic farming](#), which was adopted by the Plenary session of the CoR on 2 December 2022.

3.8 NON-AGRICULTURAL GIS

For several years AREPO has been following the developments at EU level in the field of non-agricultural GIs, calling for their recognition and laying stress on the importance for all GIs to be protected.

In this framework, AREPO has worked with and will keep collaborating with the **French Association of Industrial and Artisanal Geographical Indications (AFIGIA)**, by **setting of a lobbying strategy at EU level** to put forward the demands of the sector in front of EU Institutions. This cooperation was further consolidated through a partnership agreement, [making AFIGIA one of AREPO associated members](#).

After having submitted its contribution to the Roadmap and then to the Public Consultation opened by EC (Click here to read [AREPO contribution to the Roadmap](#) and [AREPO contribution to the Public Consultation.](#)), AREPO also presented its position on the topic during the [Stakeholders consultation on Protecting Industrial and Craft Geographical Indications in the EU](#), organised by the ECON Commission of the Committee of the Regions in the light of the drafting of the related CoR opinion.

Furthermore, on 12 November 2021, AREPO held a meeting with DG Grow in order to discuss its position and answer to further questions concerning the system to be put into place.

4. 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 has started working on public food procurement, focusing on the use of local products and PDOs and PGIs in public menus.

The preliminary work on this topic consisted of a collect of information, through literature and the definition of a general bibliography and also through existing legislation. After the sharing of the report drafted, ([click here to consult it](#)) AREPO regions have been invited to express their interest in order to set up a working group on the topic. However, very few regions replied positively so far, putting this area of activity on hold until we will reach a larger group and most diversified in terms of geographical area.

This working group should firstly work on understanding if specific laws covering this subject are in place in some regions. Secondly, it should explore 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.

5. 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 has resumed this work and has started drafting a report investigating the issue of tourism related to Geographical Indications. Specifically, this document provides an overview of the legislative and theoretical context of tourism in the European Union and lays stress on some relevant initiatives concerning the food and wine tourism sector, emphasising initiatives that specifically link tourism to typical products labelled with Geographical Indications.

The report will be diffused among members at a later stage.

Furthermore, **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.

6. STUDIES

6.1 STUDY ON PROBLEMS AND NEEDS OF SMALL GIS – MATTEO PONZA, STAGIAIRE AREPO

Matteo Ponza, stagiaire at AREPO, has completed the **study on the problems and needs of small and medium GIs**, focusing especially on sustainability issues. The research carried out has helped developing first of all a database including all GIs represented in AREPO and has set the criteria to define small and medium GIs. Then a survey has been submitted to AREPO Regions in order to collect information for the study. This step has been followed by the identification of specific case studies in order to conduct interviews with producers.

The ultimate aim of the study is to elaborate recommendations to deal with sustainability issues for small and medium-sized GIs and to prevent them from disappearing.

7. SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL

The Scientific Council has welcomed new academics and researchers from research centers and universities situated in some of our member regions in Germany, Spain, France, Italy, Greece, as well as experts in the field of Geographical Indications and Intellectual property coming from non-member regions or countries not represented within AREPO (Austria, England).

Increasing the occasion of exchange between the Scientific Council and the rest of AREPO members has been set as a priority. The presence of scientists to feed the political and technical reflections of AREPO's members is an incredible added value for AREPO as it allows to bring objective elements to AREPO's positions or to orientate its work.

Click here to read the detailed [description of the new structure of AREPO Scientific Council](#).

8. COOPERATION WITH EU INSTITUTIONS

8.1 EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Participation in **3 Civil Dialogue Groups of DG AGRI**: "Quality and Promotion" (2 seats), "Organic Farming" (2 seats) and "Rural Development" (1 seat). This is one of AREPO's strengths and shows the recognition of its legitimacy by the EC.

Participation in the **Civil Society Dialogue of DG TRADE** to monitor the evolution of bilateral free trade agreements, with particular attention to the protection of GIs.

AREPO has been regularly invited to high-level conferences of DG AGRI.

Furthermore, AREPO is in contact with DG SANTE in charge of the topics concerning Farm to Fork, especially nutrition labelling. Ms Sabine Pelsser, Head of Unit E.1, Food information and composition, DG Sante,

participated in our public conference *"EU Geographical Indications and Nutrition Labelling: Can a score provide meaningful information to consumers?"*.

8.2 EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

The European Parliament reacts positively to our demands.

AREPO has established solid relations with several MEPs of the AGRI Committee sensitive to the topic of quality (Clara Aguilera, Eric Andrieu, Isabel Carvalhais, Paolo De Castro, Jérémy Decerle, Herbert Dorfmann, Martin Häusling, Irène Tolleret).

Proof of this solid relationship is the objectives achieved in the complex process of CAP reform, where many of our proposals for amendments have been tabled by MEPs and contributed to the formulation of the final text.

More recently, AREPO is developing further relations with MEPs that will be working on the legislative proposal on GIs in order to provide an analysis of the text and to start identifying possible areas of common work.

Furthermore, AREPO contributed to reactivate the **Intergroup on wines, alcoholic beverages and quality food**, chaired by MEP **Irène Tolleret** (Renew Europe). Despite Covid-19 outbreak, the work of this Intergroup has kept going on virtually.

Last, since February 2020, the **'Linking the Levels' Unit (LINK) at the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS) of the European Parliament**, recognised AREPO as a well-established European Association and showed interest in cooperating with us. This unit, recently created for bringing together the local, regional, national and European levels of decision-making in Europe, aims to contribute to better EU law making.

8.3 EUROPEAN COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

AREPO is often involved in contributing to the work of the NAT Commission of the Committee of the Regions, providing its expertise on several topics.

AREPO Policy officers worked as experts to support the CoR rapporteur in the drafting of its opinion on the EU action plan for organic farming and they will support as well the CoR rapporteur for the opinion on the revision of the EU GI system.

8.4 EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

AREPO is often invited to contribute with its expertise to the work of some groups of the European Economic and Social Committee.

9. COOPERATION WITH PARTNER ORGANISATIONS AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

AREFLH: cooperation on promotion policy and on the Farm 2 Fork strategy.

Agriregions: support to the maintenance of the role of Regions as managing authorities in CAP Strategic Plans and cooperation on the Farm 2 Fork strategy.

Qualivita: cooperation for the promotion of new Geographical Indications.

OriGIn: collaboration on the development of sustainable strategies and tools for GIs. Collaboration in order to defend together geographical indications at EU level, adopting a common position and lobbying strategy concerning the CAP and cooperating on the GI review. In addition, collaboration on the proposals for the Annual Work Programme and the public consultation on Promotion Policy.

AREV: collaboration on the GI review.

EFOW: collaboration on the GI review.

Copa-Cogeca: collaboration on the GI review.

European Countryside Movement (MER): collaboration and exchange of information on the ENRD's Steering Group and Intergroup on Rural, Mountainous and Remote Areas (**RUMRA**). In the context of the health crisis, joint communication [*"Building on the resilience of rural territories for the post-Covid-19 period"*](#).

Euromontana: exchange and collaboration concerning the optional quality term "mountain product". Collaboration on the response to the EC public consultation on Promotion policy.

Eurofoiegras: cooperation and support in the consultation on marketing standards.

AFIGIA: cooperation in the field of non-agricultural GIs and support in the setting of a lobbying strategy at EU level in order to put forward the demands of this sector in front of EU Institutions.

IFOAM: cooperation in the field of organic farming.

11. EVENTS

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12. MAIN WEBINARS AND CONFERENCES

- [Nutriscore: a high-level dialogue between science, citizens, and operators](#) (23 November 2021, online): a high-level discussion with researchers, nutritionists, MEPs, and stakeholders to understand how this Front-of-pack label works, what are its benefits and its flaws so to set the basis for the EU debate on nutrition & education.
- [oriGIn 2021 Online conference](#) (24 November 2021, online): Parallel sessions on Sustainability; GIs groups strategies and tools to fight misleading practices; International Cooperation on GIs; Trade Agreements.
- [Online Info Day on the Calls for Proposals 2022](#) (1-2 February 2022, online): two days dedicated to the publication of the 2022 Calls for proposals for grants for information provision and promotion measures concerning agricultural products.
- [Conference on the launch of the EU Geographical Indication protection system for craft and industrial products](#) (2 March 2022, online): organised by Renew Europe to discuss the future proposal for an EU-wide system on GIs for craft and industrial products.
- [L'Europe en fait-elle assez pour une alimentation de qualité ?](#) (17 March 2022, online) : it was organised by La Maison de l'Europe - EUROPE DIRECT Limousin. Joao ONOFRE, Head of the Geographical Indications Unit at the European Commission's DG AGRI, provided an update on current policies and answered participants' questions.
- [Healthy Food Trends: Sustainability, Culture and Consumer Preferences](#) (5 April 2022, online): Hosted by NUI Galway, the one-hour webinar featured insights on the influence of sustainability, culture and consumer preferences and how they may guide SME's approach to future product development.
- ["La Riforma del Sistema delle Indicazioni Geografiche"](#) (**The Reform of the Geographical Indications System**), (20 April 2022): organised by Origin Italia, in collaboration with Afidop, Federdop and with the support of Fondazione Qualivita, to start discussing the EC legislative proposal on the revision of the EU GI system.

13. COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

Since November 2019, AREPO team has been working on setting a new communication strategy in order to find multiple tools to communicate with and reach its members as well as to better promote the activities carried out. This strategy included the **revision of the website and a better engagement on social media**.

AREPO WEBSITE: A new website is about to be published online. It will be officially presented during the April General Assembly.

A more catchy and dynamic graphic design for a more user-friendly site where members could stay up to date and find all the news concerning AREPO activities and the EU policies followed, as well as being able to share it on social networks. We also created a section dedicated to a series of tools for GIs where you will find:

- **AREPO publications and studies;**
- **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;
- Existing databases related to GIs and EU quality schemes.

AREPO SOCIAL MEDIA: AREPO social media give priorities to news on GIs and EU quality policy, as well as on EU agricultural policy and all related issues. These channels are also used to promote our activities among our members and towards outsiders. In general, good engagement rate on social media. Interactions with EU Institutions accounts on social media, especially with DG Agri and some of its representatives on Twitter. However, it should be recalled that AREPO's actions generally target a very specific audience, which is not the general public.

- [Facebook](#): 652 Likes; 696 Followers.
- [Twitter](#): 239 Followers.
- [LinkedIn](#): 445 Followers.

14. EUROPEAN PROJECTS

ONGOING

14.1 AGROSMARTglobal (PRIORITY AXIS 2 OF THE INTERREG SUDOE PROGRAMME 2014-2020)



The [AGROSMARTglobal project "Space for the competitiveness, promotion and intelligent international expansion of agri-food cooperatives in the Sudoe rural areas"](#) is a 3.5-year project (October 2019 - March 2023) involving 10 partners from France, Spain and Portugal and coordinated by the Union of agri-food cooperatives of Galicia (AGACA), Spain. The project is co-financed by the [Interreg Sudoe Programme](#) 2014-2020 under Priority Axis 2: Promoting the competitiveness and internationalisation of the SMEs of Southwest Europe (Sudoe).

The overall objective of AGROSMARTglobal is to contribute to **alleviate the difficulties faced by rural areas in Southwest Europe** and to promote their economic development by finding efficient transnational solutions to improve the competitiveness and the internationalisation of their agri-food cooperatives.

To achieve this objective, the AGROSMARTglobal project has chosen to consolidate the [space for promotion, inter-cooperation and competitiveness of agri-food cooperatives in Sudoe](#) (launched during the [AGROSMARTcoop](#) project) by developing advanced support tools and services to strengthen their positioning and internationalisation through the **implementation of digital marketing strategies** that rely on inter-company cooperation.

AREPO is part of the AGROSMARTglobal consortium as an internal partner and plays a major role in the activities aimed at **promoting and protecting agricultural and agri-food products that benefit from European quality schemes on the Internet**. The project has identified the need to support and strengthen the promotion and protection on the Internet of quality agri-food products such as GIs, which represent an important part of exports from Southwest Europe.

To carry out this activity, AREPO - in collaboration with [UTAD](#), [IrRADIARE](#) and competent experts in the field of intellectual property - is working on the elaboration of a **"best practice" guide** for GI consortia, producer associations and cooperatives in the EU, which would aim to:

1. **Improve their knowledge on how to promote their products that benefit from EU quality schemes** (PDOs, PGIs, TSGs and organic farming) **on the Internet**, to take better advantage of their added value on international digital markets;
2. **Provide them with operational tools to protect their Geographical Indications (GIs) on the Internet**. To date, there is no strong protection for GIs with regard to the allocation of domain names. The fight against Internet fraud is essential to protect the rights of producers and consumers.

In order to develop the most relevant guide possible, AREPO has developed a survey to identify the needs of GI consortia, producer associations and cooperatives in both these areas. We strongly encourage you to help us by participating in this survey [through this link](#).

AREPO will also play a key role in disseminating the project results to its network and to strategic political representatives, and it is in this context that AREPO will organise its major **European event for the promotion of quality and origin products** in early 2023 in Brussels: AREPO will benefit from €26 820 co-financed at 75% by the ERDF to finance the organisation of this event during the first quarter of 2023 within the framework of the AGROSMARTglobal project in order to highlight the project during the afternoon of conferences and to allow the agri-food cooperatives of the Sudoe to promote their products of quality and origin to a large audience of agricultural stakeholders during the evening of tasting (more information to come soon).

AREPO has a **total budget of €118,360, 75% co-financed by the ERDF**, to implement all its activities.

14.2 MOVING (RIA PROJECT OF THE HORIZON 2020 PROGRAMME)



RUR-01-2019: "Building modern rural policies on long-term visions and societal engagement"

[MOVING - Mountain Valorisation through INterconnectedness and Green growth](#) - is a four-year project (September 2020 - August 2024) gathering 23

partners and coordinated by the University of Córdoba, Spain.

The **overall objective** of MOVING is to build capacity and co-develop relevant policy frameworks across Europe for the **establishment of value chains that would contribute to the resilience and sustainability of mountain areas to climate change**. To achieve this objective, MOVING has launched a bottom-up participatory process with the value chain actors (regional and European stakeholders and policy makers): **the Community of Practice (CoP)**.

The CoP is a core feature of the project. It consists of a Science-Society-Policy interface at European level to involve different stakeholders (MOVING partners and external to the project) and at different territorial levels (regional and European) around climate change resilience of mountain value chains, and to bring together interested stakeholders to contribute to the co-creation and validation of all research outputs delivered by MOVING.

The MOVING CoP has been materialised through Multi-Actor Platforms (MAPs). MOVING has created 24 MAPs across Europe:

- **23 regional Multi-Actor Platforms (regional MAPs)**, established in the 23 reference regions identified by the project partners: they will enable the exchange of local knowledge between stakeholders from the reference regions up to the European level. To find out more about the regional MAPs, [go here](#).
- **1 European Multi-Actor Platform (EU MAP)**: it will provide a space for stakeholders that are interested to exchange, learn and interact at European level on the climate change resilience of mountain value chains. Interested in joining the EU MAP? [Find out more here](#).

AREPO is part of the MOVING consortium as an **internal partner** and will play a major role in the **evaluation of the policy recommendations** issued by the project. AREPO's main work will effectively start in 2023 when the project will start developing policy recommendations and the first results can be disseminated. However, AREPO is actively involved in the promotion of the MOVING project and the EU MAP and will organise a webinar in autumn 2022 on the topic of EU quality schemes and their added value for mountain value chains (*more information to come soon*).

AREPO has a **total budget of €85 600, 100% financed by the programme**, to implement all its activities.

AWAITING RESULTS

14.3 ISO FOOD TRACK (RIA PROJECT OF THE HORIZON EUROPE PROGRAMME)

HORIZON-CL6-2022-FARM2FORK-01-04: "Innovative solutions to prevent adulteration on food bearing quality labels: focus on organic food and geographical indications"

Objectives of the call:

- **To prevent food adulteration on products benefiting from EU quality schemes** and more particularly on organic products and Geographical Indications (GIs);
- **To contribute to the achievement of the “Farm to Fork” objective for organic farming** (reaching the target of at least 25% of EU agricultural land devoted to organic farming by 2030) and to **strengthen the GI scheme**, including specific sustainability criteria.

The **ISO FOOD TRACK** project proposes to strengthen the GI scheme and support the transition to sustainable agriculture by developing reliable and cost-effective methods to control claims indicating the origin of products of animal and plant origin. The project thus aims to establish a **traceability system to guarantee the authenticity and origin of agricultural and agri-food products benefiting from EU quality schemes**, from raw material processing to the plate, using **isotopic analysis** of food, supported by trustworthy Artificial Intelligence (AI) and blockchain technologies.

The **project coordinator** is the **Sorbonne University** (Paris, France) and the **consortium** is composed of universities, research centres, producer associations and control bodies forming 11 partners from 6 EU countries: France, Spain, Italy, Germany, Slovenia and North Macedonia.

AREPO is part of the ISO FOOD TRACK consortium as an **internal partner** with a major role in **promoting and disseminating the project** and its results to its wide network of agricultural stakeholders. It will also contribute to **linking the project to its network** by collecting key information from GI consortia and producer associations in its member regions, in particular to gather their needs and expectations in terms of traceability and their opinions on the recommendations issued by the project.

AREPO will have a **total budget of €94 906, 100% of which will be funded by the programme**, to implement all its activities over a period of 36 months.

The evaluation results of the applications by the Horizon Europe programme are expected to be communicated to the applicants in June 2022. 13 proposals have been submitted in response to this call.

For more information on the HORIZON-CL6-2022-FARM2FORK-01-04 call, [click here](#).