

The background of the slide features a light purple map of Europe. Overlaid on this map are several thick, curved, multi-colored lines in shades of green, orange, blue, and red, which sweep across the continent from the bottom left towards the top right.

AREPO Executive Board Meeting

February 1st, 2022

Agenda

Debate on the organisation of the 2022 General Assemblies;

Update on the state of the accounts 2021 ;

Update on AREPO activities and actions for 2022;

Any other business.

AREPO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PROPOSED TIME PERIOD

- **27-29 April 2022**
- **General Assembly on the 28 April 2022**

FORMAT OF THE MEETING

- 1. General Assembly in Brussels (whole day):** Sharing most of our member regions with the Agriregions coalition, it was decided to combine the organisation of our plenary meeting with the organisation of an Agriregions event in the same time period, in order to ensure the widest participation and representation of our member regions.
 - **Meeting of the Board of Producers**
 - **Meeting of the Scientific Council**

**The afternoon before GA /
The morning after GA – 1h30/2h00**
- 2. General Assembly as an hybrid event** (in-presence in Brussels but also guaranteeing a virtual meeting for those who cannot travel to Brussels):
 - **virtual meeting with the Interactio platform for interpretation** (+ Interactio technical assistance);
 - **technical equipment needed for members attending in Brussels.**
- 3. Virtual General Assembly:** shorter duration. The options for the thematic part will be adapted to the online format and duration.

AREPO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PROPOSALS FOR THE THEMATIC PART

1. **Proposal for the revision of the EU GI system** (March/April at the latest):
 - If the timetable is respected, the whole or most of the thematic part will be dedicated to a **debate with the officials of Unit F.3 on GIs of DG Agri and the MEPs** with the aim of discussing together the reform and the priorities of AREPO;
 - **Meeting of the College of Producers and of the Scientific Council** to start identifying and structuring the amendments to the EC proposal that AREPO should present in the next legislative step with the MEPs.
2. If the EC calendar is not respected:
 - **Updates on the EU policies of interest** (GI reform, nutritional labelling, review of the promotion policy, protection system for industrial and artisanal GIs),
 - **Presentation of the results and conclusions of the studies carried out between 2020 and 2021** (study on GIs as ingredients and study on the sustainability of small and medium-sized GIs),
 - **New website.**
3. **Short thematic part + seminar** to present the FAO guide by professors Giovanni Belletti and Andrea Marescotti on the evaluation of the sustainability of GIs.

AREPO GENERAL ASSEMBLY – AUTUMN 2022

- AREPO Statutes: one General Assembly in Brussels and one GA in one of our member regions;
- Regions themselves propose to host a GA;
- The three AREPO German regions (**Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria and Hesse**) shortly before the beginning of the pandemic informed us of the intention to host the next AREPO GAs;
- The three German regions are jointly coordinating the organisation of this GA and the technical visits.
- **Venue: Würzburg**, located in the northwest of Bavaria; quite close to the border of Baden-Württemberg and not far from the border of Hesse.
- **Possible dates:** within the period **from 4 October 2022 to 11 November 2022**.

UPDATE ON THE ACCOUNTS

	Réalisé 2020	Prévu 2021	Prévu 2021 révisé au 20/10	
Dépenses par poste	€ TTC	€ TTC	€ TTC	
Contrat Giulia et Francesca : salaires, charges, logement, TR, Mutuelle...	73700	74,000	74,000	
Stage	2900	3,000	6,800	
Consulting	38400	38,500	38,500	
Réunions et documents hors interprètes réunions plénières	0	0	1,300	zoom
Avion, train, hôtels, restauration, km pour SG et team Bruxelles	3700	3,500	3,500	
Avion, train, hôtels, restauration, km pour membres dont présidente	5000	5,000	5,000	
2 Réunions plénières (printemps et automne) dont interprètes	12600	12,500	24,000	
Tél., internet, fournitures, publicité, publications, locations...	3900	3,000	2,500	
Commissaire aux comptes, comptable, assurances, contrôleurs	6600	6,000	6,000	
Autres charges de gestion courantes	800	300	800	
Frais bancaires	100	300	300	
Charges exceptionnelles	0	500	500	
Total	147700	146,600	163,200	

UPDATE ON THE ACCOUNTS

	Réalisé 2020	Prévu 2021	Prévu 2021 révisé au 20/10	
Ressources	€ TTC	€ TTC	€ TTC	
Cotisations des Régions membres 4500 €/an	130500	130,500	135,000	
Revenus des produits financiers	3700	3,800	3,900	
FEDER Projet AGROSMART puis Agrosmart Global	4440	9,800	9,800	41 000 reçus en 2020 pour moving
Autres produits de gestion courante (cotisations sociales...)	0	0	0	
Produits exceptionnels, dettes, produits constatés d'avance	0	0	0	
Autres produits dont Com UE et autres remboursements	460	2,500	0	
Total	139100	146,600	148,700	
Résultat	-8,600	0	14,500	
Capital disponible (total fonds propres)	269,000		265,700	au 31/10/2021

UPDATE ON EU POLICIES

REVISION OF EU GI SYSTEM

- EC legislative proposal in March/April
- Change of Head of Unit on GIs
- EP Intergroup on Wine, Spirits and Quality foodstuff in November 2021, followed by a **joint press release with EFOW and oriGIn**
- **Joint Letter to EU Institutions** with EFOW and OriGIn

REVISION OF REGULATION 1169/2011 AND FOPNL

- **Public consultation** open until March 7th -> internal consultation of AREPO members to collect feedback also on origin labelling and date marking;
- **ICF** (firm in charge of conducting an external study) **focus group in December 2021**
- **ICF Targeted interviews to stakeholders**

REVISION OF EU PROMOTION POLICY

- EC legislative proposal by the first half of 2022

INDUSTRIAL AND CRAFT GI SYSTEM

- **A legislative proposal should be published in Spring 2022** -> simultaneously with the proposal on agricultural GIs

STUDY ON THE SUSTAINABILITY OF SMALL AND MEDIUM GIS

- Case studies in November/December 2021;
- Finalisation in February 2022

Upcoming reform of the EU Quality Policy

- The drafting of the reform is ongoing -> **a legislative proposal in December;**
- **Omnibus Regulation** -> one regulation for amending the 3 GI Regulations (CMO/wine, Foods, Spirits);
- Definitions shouldn't be part of the scope of the revision;

LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND PROCEDURES

- **Faster and more reliable procedures** concerning registration and amendments;
- Creation of a **single set of simplified procedural rules;**
- **Partial outsourcing of competences on GI application, amendments and cancellation to EUIPO:**
 - > the Alicante office would deal with **the assessment of compliance with intellectual property rules, being involved for scrutiny and opposition procedures;**
 - > Commission will be in charge to accept or reject proposals and there will be a possibility to appeal to the Commission = DG AGRI would act as an “appellate body”.
 - > **time saving and burden reduction**

Limiting the examination to IPRs could eventually lead to transform PDO and PGI schemes into a simple IP protection mechanism.

Upcoming reform of the EU Quality Policy

ENFORCEMENT

- Reinforcing the protection of GIs for producers by clarified rules;
- Creating a level playing field amongst operators through aligned control procedures;
- Development of rules on the respect of GIs in relation to **internet sales** -> this concerns especially online platforms like Amazon or Alibaba
- **Domain name system** -> EC wants to improve protection on the DNS clarifying rules on the national DNS and in the “.eu” by giving more powers to Member States to act against bad faith registration. However, given the transnational nature of the internet, it's ICANN who can take actions on DNS.

LOGO

- The use of the logo on the product label is **obligatory** while producers can decide on its size
- Labelling with the relevant GI term or the acronym is **obligatory**

EC believes that consumers can be made more aware of the PDO and PGI schemes.

Upcoming reform of the EU Quality Policy

EMPOWERING PRODUCER GROUPS

- Management of supply extended to all GI products;
- The EC is debating on what powers to give GI groups, especially with regards to the use of GIs as ingredients.

SUSTAINABILITY

- **On voluntary basis**, GI producer groups define sustainability standard in the product specification and make it public (GIview);
- **Alternatives with less salt, sugar, fat to be included in the product specification, where possible -> VOLUNTARY BASIS**, in order to encourage producers to collect more data on the nutritional value of their products.

This represents a preliminary step towards the introduction of a **Sustainable food labelling framework** that will be covering the nutritional, climate, environmental and social aspects of all food products, including GIs. A legislative proposal should be adopted by 2024.

TSG

It should be maintained while its main elements clarified (scope, protection, controls)

UPDATE ON AREPO 2022 ACTIVITIES

SEMINAR ON FAO GUIDE (AREPO GA / May – June 2022)

Evaluating geographical indications – Guide to tailor evaluations for the development and improvement of geographical indications.

- It provides a **detailed and stepwise approach** with specific tools to help practitioners in establishing their framework **to carry out an ex-ante and ex-post evaluation of the impact of registering a new GIs**. Local actors need to well **define their GI system** and, more specifically, **the product specifications as well as monitor and evaluate the impacts** in order to apply the necessary adjustments;
- **Webinar** with AREPO member regions and producers

FAO-CIRAD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GIs - "*Worldwide Perspectives on Geographical Indications*" (5-8 July 2022, Montpellier)

- AREPO will coordinate a **session on the governance of GIs and the role of regional and local public actors**, aiming to discuss the role of local and regional public actors along the process of protection and valorisation of GIs, exchanging good practices and experiences from all over the world;
- Invitations to AREPO member regions to submit proposals of contribution;
- **FAO&CIRAD coordinating committee** will select among the contribution received;
- Intention to complement this scientific session with a side event for stakeholders.

UPDATE ON AREPO 2022 ACTIVITIES

SYAL CONGRESS - "BALANCING FOOD HERITAGE, HEALTHY DIETS AND PLANETARY RESOURCES" (14-15-16 November 2022, Vila Real)

- **Call for papers on all topics related to localized agri-food systems:** production approaches, consumers' behavior, food heritage strategies, alternative and sustainable food systems, food innovation, the role of institutions and local organizations, markets, gastronomy, health and nutrition challenges, relationship with territorial development;
- **AREPO has been invited to participate** either by submitting a paper or presenting its network as a good practice at EU level.

MOVING - WEBINAR ON QUALITY SCHEMES (TBD)

- **23 regional MAPs** (multi actor platform) and **1 EU MAP** to engage different stakeholder and at different territorial level (regional and European) around mountain value chains;
- AREPO webinar will be organised in the framework of the EU MAP. It should bring together interested stakeholders to contribute in the co-creation and validation of all research outputs delivered by MOVING;
- How quality schemes can contribute to mountain value chains.