

A stylized map of Europe in light purple, overlaid with several thick, colorful ribbons in shades of green, blue, orange, and red that swirl across the continent. The ribbons are semi-transparent and overlap each other.

# **AREPO position paper on research and innovation presented in collaboration with SYAL**

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# AREPO position paper on research and innovation

## AREPO Seminar at Expo Milano

- The position paper is the result of a stock taking process concerning the high-level seminar on “**Innovating and Organising Research, Education and Training for Sustainable GIs**”, held by AREPO on September 2015, during the Week of DG AGRI Stakeholders at Expo Milano.
- **Seminar conclusions:** GIs need support and funding at EU level on research, education and training

## GIs and quality products in H2020

- The EC provides financial support and funds research projects on GIs
- **DOLPHINS&SINER-GI:** Past research projects financed by the EC under the FP for Research
- **2016:** Strenght2food
- **WP2016-2017 nothing on GIs**

## EU Context

- **2015:** EC started a consultation process to elaborate a **long-term strategy for agricultural R&I**
- **January 2016:** DG AGRI conference
- **2016:** definition of **strategic research priorities for H2020 topics for the WP 2018-2020**

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## Objectives

- To contribute **to the discussion on the long-term strategy for European agricultural R&I**
- To contribute to the definition of the **priority topic for H2020 WP2018-2020**
- To **make sure that the research needs and issues related to Local agro-food systems and GIs will be taken into account**

## Potential and Challenges

- Past research results highlighted **the enormous potential of origin and quality products for the sustainable development of rural areas** in terms of **safeguarding employment, diversification of rural economy, food safety and food security and conservation of biological resources**

## Main messages

- Far from being fixed and defined by an immutable tradition, **quality products and GIs are driven by multiple innovation processes**
- **Innovation needs to go hand in hand with the evolution of the tradition and with new societal demands**
- **Research and innovation should support the improvement of those products, and use them as case study to extend good practices to other sectors**

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## THEORETICAL FRAME AND ORGANISING CONCEPTS

- **Scope:** whole set of **GI products valorisation initiatives** and tools and their **integration in LAFS dynamics**.
- It focuses on the **primary sector** and its links with the **food chain and rural development**.
- It establishes relevant links to the **bioeconomy strategy**.
- Section 1: introduces the concept of **LAFS**, its possible contribution to a sustainable **bioeconomy** and its essential role in **R&I**, thanks to its interdisciplinary and dynamic nature.
- Section 2: describes the **valorisation of origin and quality products** (“virtuous” circle)
- Section 3: **orientation for EU strategy for agricultural R&I**

## Sustainable Primary Production

Technological research

Governance systems

Incorporate all sustainability dimensions in GIs

Attitude of consumers

Analysing the multidimensional and multifunctional performances of LAFS  
and GI

Re-localisation of productions systems

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## New openings for rural growth

LAFS contribution to rural economies

Monitoring and evaluation GIs effects

Integration of research results in territorial development strategies

Understanding the dynamics of GIs supply chains and their interactions with non-food chains

Investigating possible uses of quality products residues/by-products/waste

## **AREPO position paper on research and innovation**

### **Developing the human and social capital in rural areas**

**Need for specialized experts & generalists trained on local and traditional products**

**Strengthen the transversal, multidisciplinary and holistic approach to train professionals**

**Maintain and strengthen the link of the formative offer with research**

**Developing tools to strengthen the network and the connection between the formative offer and the economic actors**

## Next steps and AREPO strategy

### Next steps at EC level

- **(1)** preparation of the **European Food Research Area** which will shape all food and farming research in the next WP and in the next Research Programme (successor of H2020)
- **(2)** preparation of the Scoping Paper which defines the **strategic lines of the WP2018/2020**,
- **(3)** research programme for **food industry**

### AREPO strategy

- **Transforming the position paper in strategic lines** for WP2018/2020 working in collaboration with ERG SYAL
- **Collaboration with TP Organic** on common priorities