

A stylized map of Europe in light purple is the background. Overlaid on the map are several thick, curved, overlapping ribbons in shades of green, orange, blue, and red. A white rounded rectangle with a dark red border is centered on the map, containing the title and subtitle text.

AREPO Meeting of the College of Producers

*Consorzio del Parmigiano Reggiano
Reggio Emilia, September 4th, 2018*

AREPO Meeting of the College of Producers

Agenda

Introduction of AREPO President

Welcome speech of AREPO Vice-President

Presentation of AREPO activities and main working themes

Presentation of some working proposals/themes of interest for the College of Producers

Strategy to strengthen the participation of producers and other themes to be addressed to reply to the interest of producers: *open discussion with participants*

Presentation of AREPO activities and main working themes

1. Introduction: AREPO mission and functioning



2. Main working areas and results achieved



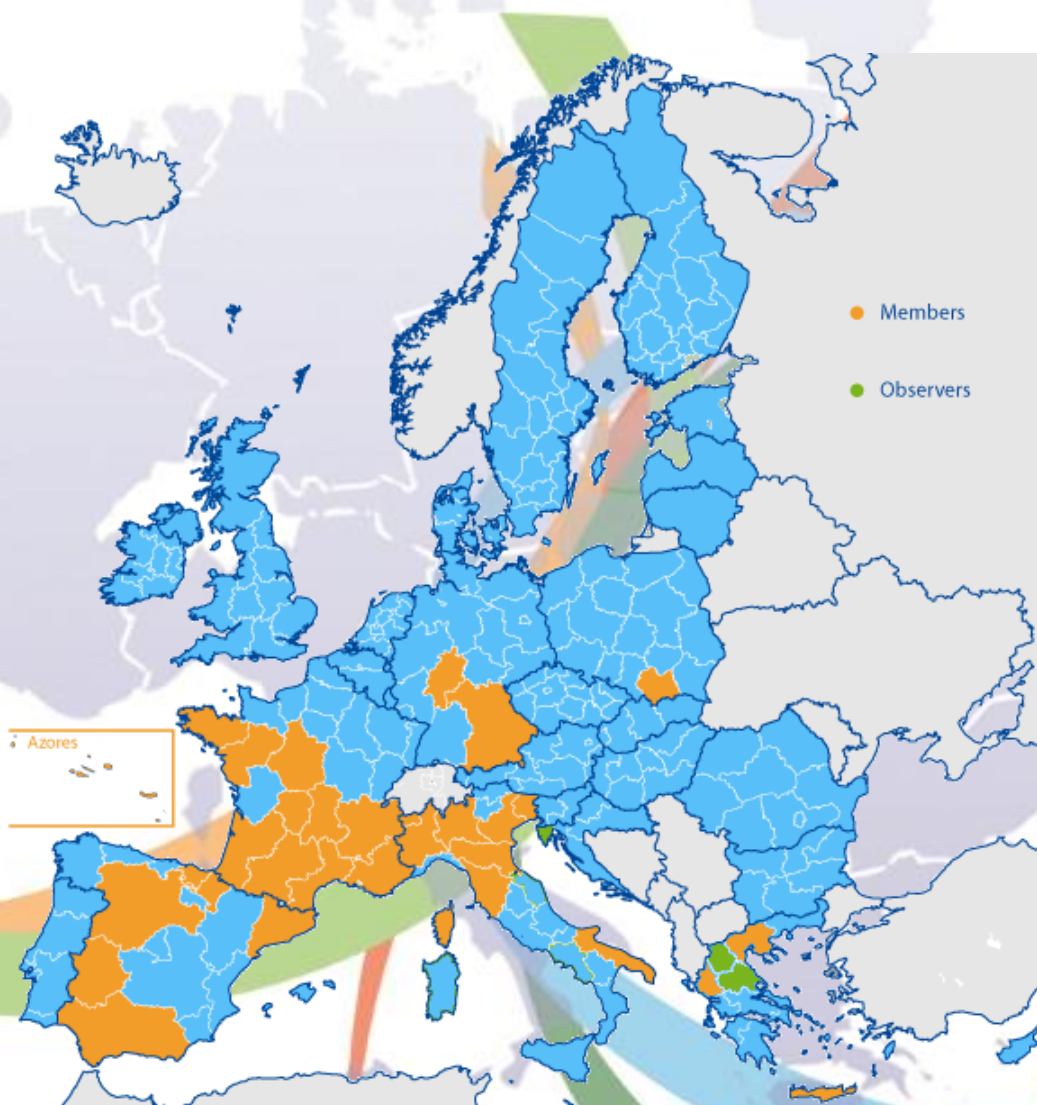
3. CAP post 2020 and revision of GI regulation



The Association of European Regions for Products of Origin

AREPO is a network of **regional governments** and **producer associations** that deals with products of origin and EU quality certifications

- > 45% of GIs of EU
- > 30 Regions
- > 8 Member State



Our mission

For our regions GIs and quality products are tools for rural development and territorial planning. It is crucial to protect and promote them

strengthening the European policy on geographical indications and quality products, in order to grant

a reasonable **remuneration** for the producers

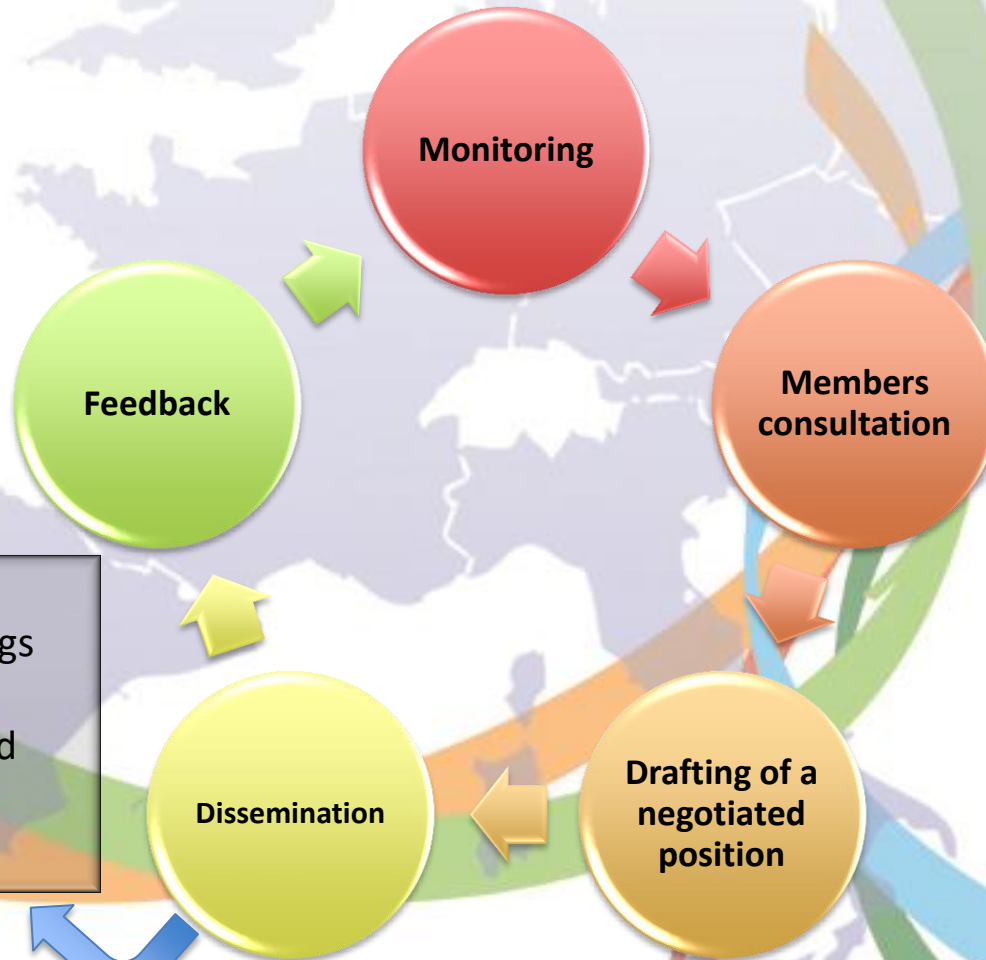
a fair **communication** to consumers

AREPO acts as a **platform** for the exchange of experiences among our regions/producers and as a **lobby** to ensure that GIs take the proper place within EU policies

AREPO's assets

- A consolidated network of **regions and professionals**
- **Multinational expertise** on quality policies
- Solid relations with European institutions and recognition as one of the **main stakeholders in the sectors of quality policies (CDG)**
- **Strong positions on CAP** thanks to our Member Regions' expertise in the implementation of rural development programmes
- **Geographical coverage and network enlargement** to include the position and expertise of Regions from Northern and Eastern Europe
- Partnership with **universities and research institutes**

How we work



Our tools

Sectorial working groups

Ex: Working group on olive oil

Partenariati tematici

- **AREFLH** – Fruit and Vegetable sector
- **AREV** – Wine
- **ERG SYAL** - European Research Group on Localised Agri-food systems
- **ERIAFF** – **Innovation** in agriculture
- **Euromontana** – **Mountain areas**
- **IFOAM EU** – Organic agriculture
- **NecsTour** – **Sustainable tourism**

European Projects

- **Interreg**: Agrosmartcoop
- **Horizon2020**: Strength2food on quality policy (Advisory Board)

Comunicazione

- **Internal** (*between members*) – exchange of good practices; networking and partner search; support
- **External**: Dissemination of AREPO positions / lobbying actions

Our website

sécurisé | www.arepoquality.eu/en/user/register



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Main working areas and results achieved

Quality package

Regulation 1151/12:

- **Faster** recognition process
- Recognition of **mountain products**
- **Role of producer groups:** better recognition and better defined roles

CAP 2014-2020

Measure supporting quality schemes:

- Larger scope
- Introduction of **groups of producers as beneficiaries**
- Re-introduction of promotion measure

Promotion Policy

Regulation 1144/14:

- **Higher budget**
- **Quality schemes** identified as one of the main priorities
- **Introduction of producer groups as beneficiaries**

Organic farming

Definition and dissemination of **AREPO common position** on the review of organic farming regulation

Main working areas and results achieved

Research and Innovation

- **Position paper** on R&I for GIs
- Cooperation agreement with **SYAL**
- Creation of **AREPO scientific committee**
- Study on **operational groups**

Regional Brands

- **Inventory** of regional/territorial brands in AREPO Regions (2013, updated 2018)

Trade agreements

AREPO common position on trade agreements:

- **AREPO opposes the principle of an *a priori* restricted list GIs and asks for a widespread recognition and strong protection of GIs in trade agreements.**

CAP post 2020

- Spring 2017: **AREPO internal consultation**
- October 2017: GA approved AREPO position paper and strategy
- Spring 2018: **dissemination** (EU event)
- June/July 2018: **analysis of EC legal proposal**

Ongoing

CAP post 2020

June 1st 2018: EC legislative proposals for regulations modernising and simplifying the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

[Click here to consult the legislative proposals](#)

Three regulations within the future CAP regulatory framework:

- **CAP Strategic Plans** (a proposed new way of working covering direct payments to farmers, rural development support and sectoral support programmes);
- **Horizontal Regulation** (financing, management and monitoring); and
- **Amending Regulation** (proposes amendments to CMO Reg. 1308/13, **Reg. 1151/12 on quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs**, **Reg. 251/14 on GIs for aromatized wine**, among other).

CAP strategic plans

QUALITY SCHEMES INCLUDED IN COOPERATION MEASURE

- **Promotion and setting-up** of quality schemes. Furthermore, this measure includes the possibility to support **producer organisations** or producer groups.
- **Support for certification costs** (current measure 3.1) **seems absent from this proposal.**

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR QUALITY SCHEMES IN SECTORAL INTERVENTIONS

- Quality schemes are introduced among the **objectives and types of interventions** admissible for sectorial intervention.

Revision of GIs regulation

PROPOSED CHANGES FOR ALL GI PRODUCTS

Modify the PDO definition: the human factor only “where relevant”.	This provision only aims at making the European Commission’s analysis easier.
Extend the scope of the protection of GIs with regard to goods in transit and electronic commerce.	This is a positive proposal.
Force MS to inform the EC about procedures initiated before a national court/body concerning an ongoing application. The EC could temporarily suspend the scrutiny of the application for registration.	This could have a side effect: some might be tempted to block any GI registration by launching challenges before courts at the national level. Nevertheless, the EC assures that every single case will be evaluated separately and that the power to suspend the registration will be used only when a national procedure highlight objective problems.

Revision of GIs regulation

PROPOSED CHANGES FOR ALL GI PRODUCTS

Limit the Commission's role in the examination of the application for GI registration to the review for manifest errors.

This proposition introduces a positive simplification in the registration process.

Commission scrutiny should focus on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR).

Nevertheless, the protection conferred "shall be without prejudice to compliance of products concerned with other Union rules relating in particular to the placing of products on the market, marketing and to food labelling".

This proposition aims to focusing EC scrutiny on IPR: the assessment of compliance with IPR will be separated by the assessment of compliance of the product specifications with the requirement laid down in marketing standards and labelling rules.

As a consequence, in order to assure faster protection, a registration can be completed even if the products specifications do not comply with marketing standards and labelling rules. Nevertheless, the product can be marketed only if it complies with those rules, so this provision could cause confusion and should be further analysed.

Revision of GIs regulation

PROPOSED CHANGES CONCERNING THE REGULATION 1151/12

Cancel the requirement that the product specifications contain “evidence that the product originates in the defined geographical area”.

The Commission proposes this change to harmonise the different regulations of GIs, since this provision exists only in Regulation 1151/2012 and does not apply for wine and spirits. Nevertheless, it is important to analyse further the possible impact of this proposal.

Enlarge the scope of Reg. 1151/12 in order to include aromatised wines

This proposal is positive since it aims to simplify the structure of GIs regulation, avoiding having a specific separate scheme for on 5 registered aromatised wines.

Simplification of opposition procedure. The proposals are mainly procedural changes concerning the timing for opposition and should have a limited impact.

This does not imply any change of delays in practice.

Introduction of transitional period for the use of designations that contain names of TSG, in line with existing rules for PDO and PGI.

Positive proposal.

Revision of GIs regulation

PROPOSED CHANGES CONCERNING THE REGULATION 1151/12

Distinction between Union and standard amendments:

Union amendment (EC responsibility):

1. change in the name;
2. risks voiding the links;
3. changes to the production method/ raw materials /ingredients that deviate (TSG);
4. entails new restrictions on the marketing of the product.

Other amendments to are **standard amendments**, including temporary amendment (**MS responsibility**).

Amendments shall be scrutinised taking into account other elements of the product specifications. Where appropriate, the Commission or the Member State concerned may invite the applicants to modify other elements of the product specifications.

Positive simplification as long as MS will not abuse their power and the EC will maintain a certain level of control on the classification of standard amendments.

EC proposals introduce the possibility for the Commission or MS concerned to invite the applicant to modify other elements of the product specifications. Even if the Commission justify this provision with the necessity to update product specifications, especially in light of international trade agreements, this could bring to touch elements outside the scope of the original amendment request. For this reason we should consider if it would be better to eliminate this provision.

Presentation of some working proposals/themes of interest for the College of Producers



What else? Time to discuss you idea!

1. WHAT STRATEGY SHOULD WE ADOPT TO **STRENGTHEN THE PARTICIPATION** OF PRODUCERS?
2. WHAT **OTHER THEMES** SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO REPLY TO THE INTEREST OF PRODUCERS?

OPEN DISCUSSION WITH PARTICIPANTS