

## STUDIES ON THE MANAGEMENT OF THE INTEGRATION OF QUALITY SCHEMES FOR AGRI-FOOD PRODUCTS

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### Abstract

Quality systems established at Union or national level, including farm certification schemes for agricultural and food products, provide consumers with assurances about the quality and characteristics of the products or the production process used as a result of farmers' participation in these schemes, confer added value to the products concerned and increase their market opportunities. Until June 2022, Romania received, from the European Union, the proof of registration in the Register of Protected Designations of Origin and Protected Geographical Indications of the product "Telemea de Ibănești", as well as of the wines "Insuraței" and "Adamclisi" as products with the Designation of Protected Origin (PDO). Also, the products registered as PGI were: "Salam de Sibiu", "Cârmați de Pleșcoi", "Magiun de prune Topoloveni", "Novac afumat din Tara Bârsei", "Scrumbie de Dunăre afumată" and "Salad with pike roe from Tulcea". The only product registered as STG was the product "Salată cu icre de știucă de Tulcea". In Romania until June 2022, five documents were published in the eAmbrosia database for the registration of 5 food products that come from 3 classes, respectively: Class 1.2. Meat products (boiled, salted, smoked) - "Salinate de Turda"; Class 2.3. Bakery products, pastry products, confectionery products, biscuits - "Pita de Pecica"; Wines - "Drăgășani", "Bohotin", "Terasele Dunării".

**Key words:** quality, management, schemes, agri-food, PGI – Protected Geographical Indication, PDO – Protected Designation of Origin

### INTRODUCTION

Consumers are increasingly paying attention to the quality and origin of the products they consume. European Union (EU) quality schemes are associated with a label, which was introduced to enable consumers to make an informed choice and to protect producers from unfair practices. This present study provides an overview of the last 25 years of EU quality systems [Protected Designations

of Origin (PDO), Protected Geographical Indications (PGI) and Traditional Specialties Guaranteed (TSG)] on agricultural products and foodstuffs from 28 EU member states (Pop et al., 2018). According to the results, it could be concluded that Southern European countries have the highest number of registered products. The most widely used EU quality scheme is PGI, followed by PDO (Albuquerque, Oliveira, și Costa).

In the EU, consumers often associate "quality" with the origin of these products, and as a result, the demand for certification systems has increased. EU rules for the protection of geographical indications and specific characteristics of agricultural and food products were established for the first time in 1992 (Tarabella, Varese, și Cesarani 2019).

In the last few years, following food crises, quality assurance systems have been widely introduced in the European agri-food sector (M. Vladu și Vladu 2016). Customers' increasing quality demands and their undermined confidence in food safety are just two of the driving forces behind this trend. In terms of quality assurance systems, agriculture and food industries in Central and Eastern Europe are catching up (Gawron și Theuvsen 2009).

Although the balance between the costs and benefits of quality schemes is positive, the general impression is that much of the price premium for products under quality schemes is eroded by higher production and processing costs. In addition, the financial support offered by regional policies in favor of quality schemes does not encourage the adoption of quality-based strategies. (Santeramo et al. 2021).

European agriculture, and implicitly that of Romania, must respond to a new

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

As in the case of products with PDO, PGI and TSG in the process of registration whose documentation has been submitted, analyzing the situation of products published at the level of the European Union, it is observed that the countries that have the most registered products also have the most documentation published for the products

challenge, that of reducing the amounts of pesticides used, according to the demands of the Farm to Fork strategy, a component of the Green Deal, which requires that 25% of the agricultural area be dedicated to ecological agriculture and a 50% reduction in pesticide use (DINU et al. 2022).

The quality of food products is increasingly a factor of competitiveness in all EU countries. EU quality schemes are a way of recognizing the quality of food products that have a sensory characteristic influenced by the geographical area (C. E. Vladu, Sperdea, și Vladu 2016).

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

In the present study, to identify PDO, PGI, TSG and GI products existing up to now in the eAmbrosia database of the European Union:

- The situation of products registered at the European level as PDO, PGI, TSG, GI up to now (June 2022);
- The situation of Romanian products registered with PDO, PGI and TSG in the eAmbrosia database, until now (June 2022);
- The situation of the documentation published in order to register some products with PDO, PGI and TSG from Romania (June 2022).

to be registered after the opposition period has passed. Until now (June 2022), the Minister of Agriculture has received, from the European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, proof of registration in the Register of Protected Designations of Origin and Protected Geographical Indications of the product "Telemea de Ibănești", as well as of the wines. "Însurăței" and "Adamclisi" as products

with Protected Designation of Origin (PDO). Also, the products registered as PGI were: "Salam de Sibiu", "Cârnați de Pleșcoi", "Magiun de prun e Topoloveni", "Novac Afumat din Țara Bârsei",

"Scrumbie de Dunăre Afumată" and "Salată cu icre de știucă de Tulcea". The only product registered as STG was the product "Salată tradițională cu icre de crap" (Table 2).

Table 1

The situation of products registered at European level as PDO, PGI, TSG until the present (June 2022)

Country	Product quality/quantity systems				Total Reg.
	PDO	PGI	STG	IG	
Hungary	42	24	2	13	81
Sweden	10	15	2	0	27
Austria	14	5	3	1	23
Czech Republic	6	24	1	0	31
Denmark	1	8	0	0	9
Slovakia	4	13	3	0	20
Finland	5	4	3	0	12
Ireland	4	8	0	0	12
Lithuania	1	7	2	0	10
Latvia	1	3	3	0	7
Slovenia	11	13	4	0	28
Estonia	0	1	0	0	1
Cyprus	2	9	0	0	11
Luxembourg	2	2	0	0	4
Malta	0	0	0	0	0
Bulgaria	3	2	5	3	13
Belgium	12	14	5	10	41
Netherlands	15	5	4	0	24
Germany	18	85	0	3	106
France	119	165	2	1	287
Italy	180	147	4	0	331
Spain	125	109	4	0	238
Poland	10	25	10	0	45
Romania	3	8	1	0	12
Greece	81	40	0	0	121
Portugal	87	70	1	3	161
Croatia	24	26	0	0	50
Total	780	832	59	34	1705

Table 2

The situation of Romanian products registered with PDO, PGI and TSG up to now (June 2022)

No.	Product name	The quality system	Product Category/Insertion Class
1	Salam de Sibiu	PGI	Class 1.2. Meat products (boiled, salted, smoked, etc.)
2	Cârnați de Pleșcoi	PGI	Class 1.2. Meat products (boiled, salted, smoked, etc.)
3	Telemea de Ibănești	PDO	Class 1.3. Cheese
4	Telemea de Sibiu	PGI	Class 1.3. Cheese
5	Cașcaval de Săveni	PGI	Class 1.3. Cheese
6	Magiun de prune Topoloveni	PGI	Class 1.6. Fresh or processed fruits, vegetables and grains
7	Novac afumat din Țara Bârsei	PGI	Class 1.7. Fresh fish, molluscs, crustaceans and derived products
8	Scrumbie de Dunăre afumată	PGI	Class 1.7. Fresh fish, molluscs, crustaceans and derived products
9	Salată cu icre de știucă de Tulcea	PGI	Class 1.7. Fresh fish, molluscs, crustaceans and derived products
10	Salată tradițională cu icre de crap	TSG	Class 1.7. Fresh fish, molluscs, crustaceans and derived products
11	Însurăței	PDO	Wine
12	Adamclisi	PDO	Wine

As can be seen from table 3, Romania until June 2022, has five documents published in the eAmbrosia database for the registration of 5 food products that come from 3 classes, respectively:

- Class 1.2. Meat products (boiled, salted, smoked) - "Salinate de Turda"

- Class 2.3. Bakery products, pastry products, confectionery products, biscuits  
- "Pită de Pecica"  
- Wine – "Drăgășani", "Bohotin", "Terasele Dunării"

Table 3  
The situation of the documentation published in order to register some products with PDO, PGI and TSG from Romania (June 2022)

No.	Product name	The quality system	Product Category/Insertion Class
1	Salinate de Turda	PGI	Class 1.2. Meat products (boiled, salted, smoked, etc.)
2	Pită de Pecica	PGI	Class 2.3. Bakery products, pastry products, confectionery products, biscuits
3	Drăgășani	PDO	Wine
4	Bohotin	PDO	Wine
5	Terasele Dunării	PGI	Wine

## CONCLUSIONS

Until June 2022, the Minister of Agriculture has received, from the European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, proof of the registration in the Register of Protected Designations of Origin and Protected Geographical Indications of the product "Telemea de Ibănești", as well as of the wines of "Însurăței" and "Adamclisi" as Protected Designation of Origin (PDO) products. Also, the products registered as PGI were: "Salam de Sibiu", "Cârnați de Pleșcoi", "Magiun de prume Topoloveni", "Novac afumat din Țara Bârsei", "Scrumbie de Dunăre afumată" and "Salată cu icre de știucă de Tulcea". The only product registered as TSG was the product "Salată tradițională cu icre de crap".

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Wines - "Drăgășani", "Bohotin", "Terasele Dunării".

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