

## **Diversity in typicity : how geographical indications could become an international standard**

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**Abstract.** After a long experience of the use of geographical indications (GIs) in European countries, both for producers and consumers, the stress has moved towards an implementation of this tool in other countries, and especially South countries. The questions presently raised by and to European GI systems must now be considered in a worldwide perspective.

This was the aim of the SINER-GI European research project, with the purpose of extending the scientific knowledge drawn from European GIs to non European cases and frameworks, in order to identify and analyze the stakes and driving forces which condition the development of GIs in countries where this tool appears to be an innovation. This extension of GI related initiatives introduced new concerns for the implementation of that standard as a tool for global or regional stakes on public goods like rural development and biodiversity issues; and thus new aspects of the international debate on GI issues are developing.

Objectives related to cultural and biological diversity are debated, both as incentives, specific assets, market opportunities, constraints, impacts, etc. these debates are getting more and more importance amongst the local actors within GI production systems, and amongst policy-makers in the perspective of an international standard. Enlarging the scope, cultural and biological diversity is a part of the sustainability of GI systems, as an element of their definition and as a field of impacts for them; thus they may contribute to support the existence of the GI concept, provided there is a positive relation between GIs and cultural or biological diversity.

We propose to do a comparative review of case studies from South countries, and then to integrate the results into a prospective framework related to the status of GIs on the markets. Finally, we will summarize the recommendations provided by the SINER-GI project for public policies with a particular focus on the issues on biodiversity and cultural heritage.