European Commission study on the value of EU geographical indications

Geographical indications (GIs), a type of intellectual property right, are considered as indications which identify a good as originating in the territory of a country, or a region or locality in that territory, where a given quality, reputation or other characteristic of the good is essentially attributable to its geographical origin. Well known examples of GIs are Parma Ham, Champagne and Feta.

In the European Union (EU) it can apply to wines, spirits, agricultural products and foodstuffs, as well as aromatized wine products. Non agricultural GI products are also protected in some EU Member States through different legal instruments, such as consumer law, unfair competition, trade mark law or *sui generis* GI systems. For further information on GIs, please click here and here.

The European Commission has commissioned in 2011 a study on the value of agricultural GIs with the purpose to collect economic data on each of the 2768 GIs registered in the EU 27, from 2005 to 2010. Moreover, the study was intended to analyse the value premium received by products bearing a registered name, to assess the evolution of value, volume and trade of GIs during that time, and to compare the situation with standard products and between different GI products and sectors at EU and Member State levels.

To see the results of this study, please click here and here.