

QUALITY IN EUROPE

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1. EUROPEAN AGRI-FOOD PRODUCTS

EU AGRI-FOOD POLICIES

The European Union turned its attention towards agri-food quality – which over time has become one of the pillars of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) – at the end of the 1980s, when the European Commission approved the Green Paper on the Future of Rural Society in 1988, focusing on the role of the agricultural world in terms of food quality and preservation of the environment and ecosystem. Over the following years, other important regulatory interventions have marked the gradual evolution of policies for EU quality, which today represent the most advanced protection and valorization scheme for the authenticity of quality agri-food products at international level.

With the aim of protecting the consumer and guaranteeing the transparency of information and labelling, European agri-food products are subject to a wide range of legislations:

- **Food safety**, aimed at guaranteeing that products sold within the EU conform to sanitary-hygiene regulations.
- **Marketing**, which establish the minimum requirements that products must possess in order to be sold.
- **Labelling**, aimed at guaranteeing transparent and truthful information for consumers.
- **European Quality Schemes**, institutes which identify products that possess specific qualities in respect to other products in the same category.

European quality products must respect the restrictive product specifications/regulations - and they are subject to strict controls by third party bodies - which characterise them and make them clearly distinguishable. They can be protected with three different Quality Schemes that are disciplined by specific regulations, through which these products can be effectively protected and valorized:

- **As Geographical Indications** – including Traditional Specialities Guaranteed– recognised at EU level and based on regulations regarding PDO, PGI, TSG products;



REFERENCE REGULATIONS

Geographical Indications

FOOD

EC Reg. 2081 and 2082 of 1992 – Revoked;
 EC Reg. 510/2006 – Revoked;
 EC Reg. 509/2006 – Revoked;
 EU Reg. 1151/2012 – Quality Package – in force.

WINE

Pred. Decree 930/1963 superseded by Leg. Decree 164 of 1992, repealed and replaced by Leg. Decree 61/2010, now repealed and replaced by Law No. 238 of 12 December 2016.
 EC Reg. 479/2008, now repealed;
 EU Reg. 1308/2013.

SPIRITS

EC Reg. 110/2008 – relative to the definition, designation, presentation, labelling and protection of the Geographical Indication Spirits.

AROMATISED WINES

EU Reg. No 251/2014, on the definition, description, presentation, labelling and the protection of GI aromatised wine products and repealing Council Regulation EEC No 1601/1991.

- **Organic farming** - The European Union established the principles and standards for organic production in several specifically dedicated regulations, taking an important first step with Regulation EEC No. 2092 of 1991, which established common minimum standards for the organic production of vegetable products. Subsequently, provisions were introduced for the production of animal products and for the importation of organic products from Third Countries whose production standards and inspection systems have been recognised as equivalent to European ones. Today, organic farming is governed by Regulation EU No. 834 of 2007 relative to the production and labelling of organic products, which establishes the objectives, principles and technical regulations for the organic production of vegetable, animal and transformed products, as well the criteria for control and certification. An additional innovative legislation for organic production methods has also been established for wine with Council Implementing Regulation EU No. 203 of 2012 which established technical standards of production for organic wine, extending them to the entire winemaking process, while before the approval of this regulation, organic was only applicable to grapes used for production.



- **With the Optional Quality Term “Mountain Product”** established at Community level.
- **National Quality Schemes** National Quality Schemes provide the possibility for each Member State to recognise products with specific characteristics, (identifiable by the Ministerial or Regional logo) on the condition that they conform to the requirements established by Article 16 of EU Reg. 1305/2013 and that they provide binding product specifications, the compliance to which must be verified by independent inspection bodies.

REFERENCE REGULATIONS

Products from organic agriculture

EC Reg. 834/07;
 EU Reg. 203/2012.

National Quality Schemes NQS

EC Reg. 1974/2006 and EC Reg. 1698/2005 replaced by Article 16 of EU Reg. 1305/2013;
 Law 4 of February 3 2011 - Labelling provisions and food quality; MD March 4 2011 - Regulation of the national quality Scheme for zootechnolgy.

Mountain products

Art. 31 of EC Reg. 1151/2012 – Quality Package;
 EC Reg. 665/2014.

GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS FOR FOOD

These are Schemes which recognise and protect the given designation of an agri-food product that has a strong link to the territory in which it is produced or a certain reputation, with specific production regulations that are indicated in a Product Specification approved at European level.

They are products either with an extremely strong link to the territory (PDO and PGI) or with specific production techniques (TSG). In this sector non-food agricultural products are also included. With the creation and development of the European Union, the valorization and protection of Designations of Origin has acquired a supranational value, also in view of the particular circumstances that exist in the different EU Member States, and protection tools for designations have been established in all European Union countries; first with EEC Reg. 2081/1992, then with EC Reg. 510/2006 and, finally, with EU Reg. 1151/2012. This regulation today represents the common point of reference for all the certified quality Schemes for the Geographical Indications of agri-food products. Important principles have been introduced under the new regulations, including several requests that have been made in recent years for the Italian Consortia Scheme. Among these:

- the recognition of a precise role being given to producer associations and therefore, with reference to the Italian panorama, to protection Consortia;
- the ex-officio protection necessary for guaranteeing equal and reciprocal protection for PDO and PGI products in all Member States of the EU.

It also establishes the use of graphic Community symbols, which, as well as the specific name and/or logo of each designation, allows for the unequivocal identification and qualification of agri-food products, in a way that renders them easily recognisable and distinguishable from other conventional products for consumers. The designation and graphic marks not only represent the quality of the products, they also constitute a guarantee for their authenticity.

WHAT ARE PDOS, PGIS AND TSGS



PDO (Protected Designation of Origin): identifies agricultural and food products originating from a defined territory, where the production stages are carried out and where the specific qualities of the product originate (e.g. Grana Padano PDO, Gorgonzola PDO).



PGI (Protected Geographical Indication): identifies agricultural and food products originating from a territory to which a given quality, reputation or other characteristic can be attributed, and in which at least one of the production stages takes place (e.g. Bresaola della Valtellina PGI, Radicchio Rosso di Treviso PGI).



TSG (Traditional Speciality Guaranteed): highlights the traditional distinctive characteristic of the product, the traditional ingredients with which it is made or the fact that it is produced with traditional processing methods.

The agri-food categories that can obtain a designation are those which fall within the chapters listed in Annex I of the EC Treaty and in the listed classes of Annex I of EU Regulation 668/2014, as specified below.

CLASSIFICATION OF PDO AND PGI

Class 1.1	Fresh meat (and offal)
Class 1.2	Meat products
Class 1.3	Cheeses
Class 1.4	Other products of animal origin
Class 1.5	Oils and fats
Class 1.6	Fruit, vegetables and cereals, fresh or processed
Class 1.7	Fresh fish, molluscs and crustaceans and prod. der.
Class 1.8	Other products of Annex I of the Treaty
Class 2.1	Beers
Class 2.2	Chocolate and derived products
Class 2.3	Bread, pastry, cakes, confectionery, biscuits
Class 2.4	Beverages made from plant extracts
Class 2.5	Pasta
Class 2.6	Salt
Class 2.7	Natural gums and resins
Class 2.8	Mustard paste
Class 2.9	Hay
Class 2.10	Essential oils
Class 2.11	Cork
Class 2.12	Cochineal
Class 2.13	Flowers and ornamental plants
Class 2.14	Cotton
Class 2.15	Wool
Class 2.16	Wicker
Class 2.17	Scutched flax
Class 2.18	Leather
Class 2.19	Fur
Class 2.20	Feather

CLASSIFICATION OF TSG

Class 1.1	Fresh meat (and offal)
Class 1.2	Meat products
Class 1.3	Cheeses
Class 1.4	Other products of animal origin
Class 1.5	Oils and fats
Class 1.6	Fruit, vegetables and cereals, fresh or processed
Class 1.7	Fresh fish, molluscs and crustaceans and prod. der.
Class 1.8	Other products of Annex I of the Treaty
Class 2.21	Prepared meals
Class 2.22	Beers
Class 2.23	Chocolate and derived products
Class 2.24	Bread, pastry, cakes, confectionery, biscuits
Class 2.25	Beverages made from plant extracts
Class 2.26	Pasta
Class 2.27	Salt

GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS FOR WINE

These are Schemes which recognise and protect the determined designation of a wine that is distinguished by a given origin of the grapes and the specific characteristics of the finished product, codified in a Specification which is approved at European level.

The history of designations in this sector at national level began in 1963, with the application of Presidential Decree 930, which for the first time sought to link the quality of a wine to its place of origin, through the introduction of the Designation of Controlled Origin (DOC) concept.

With Law 164 of 1992, the concept of the quality of a wine corresponded with that of the terroir, through the definition of quality wines produced in specific regions (QWPSR), divided into two typologies: Designation of Controlled Origin (DOC) and Designation of Controlled and Guaranteed Origin (DOCG) wines. There was also another table wine category, Typical Geographical Indication (IGT).

With the entry into force of EC Regulation 479/08 — replaced with EC Reg. 491/2009 which amends EC Reg. 1234/2007 — the common organisation of the wine market (CMO) was reformed through the introduction of European protection for wines in the form of a PDO or PGI, thereby creating a uniform framework for wine and food Protected Designations of Origin.

Legislative Decree 61/2010, today replaced by Law No. 238 of 12 December 2016 “Regulation on the organic cultivation of grapes and the production and trade of wine”, with which the previous Law 164/1992 on designations of origin for wines was revised at national level, established that DOCG and DOC wines merge together in the PDO wine category, while IGT wines are identified with the acronym already in place for similar food products (PGI).

However, due to the custom of their use in everyday language, the law states that the DOCG, DOC and IGT acronyms can still be used.

As with other products, wines that conform to the product specification of a given PDO or PGI can be identified with the same European symbols used for the Indication of Origin of agricultural and food products, following controls by public control authorities or private control bodies authorised by the Ministry of Agricultural Policies.

The new regulation renders the link between the wine’s characteristics and its geographical origins even stronger, as the link with the territory is specified in the product specification. It is obligatory for the vinification and bottling areas to correspond; there is loss of right to claim a particular designation for musts and wines that are suitable to become a PDO or PGI if they are not produced within the specific production area.

Today European legislation on Geographical Indications for wines has been integrated into EU Reg. 1308/2013, establishing a common organisation of agricultural products markets and repealing Council Regulations (EEC) No 922/72, (EEC) No 234/79, (EC) No 1037/2001 and (EC) No 1234/2007.

The Commission is starting work on the preparation of the Delegated Acts and Implementing Acts provided for in EU Reg. 1308/2013, necessary to implement the provisions therein concerning PDO and PGI wines. At the same time, due to the detection of errors in some of the product specifications for Italian PDO and PGI wines, and at times even in the single documents describing the product submitted under the procedure set out in Article 118s of EC Reg. No 1234/2007, the Ministry of Agricultural Policies is correcting these errors to make the product specifications in question consistent and in compliance with Community and national legislation on PDO and PGI wines, thereby permitting the registration of pre-existing designations.

WHAT ARE WINE PDOS AND PGIS



PDO (Protected Designation of Origin): indicates the name of a region, determined place or, in exceptional cases, a country, which serves to describe a wine product that conforms to the following requirements:

- its quality and characteristics are essentially or exclusively given to a particular geographical environment and its natural and human factors;
- the grapes from which it is produced originate exclusively from the geographical area;
- it is produced within the geographical area;
- it is obtained from vine varieties *Vitis vinifera* species.



PGI (Protected Geographical Indication): refers to the name of a region, determined place or, in exceptional cases, a country, which serves to describe a wine product that conforms to the following requirements:

- it possesses qualities, fame or other specific characteristics that can be attributed to the geographical origin;
- the grapes from which it is obtained originate for at least 85% from the geographical area;
- it is produced within the geographical area;
- it is obtained from vine varieties belonging to the *Vitis vinifera* species or to a crossbreed of the *Vitis vinifera* species and other species of the *Vitis* genus.

TRADITIONAL REFERENCES

Traditional references are used to:

- indicate that the product benefits from a PDO or PGI in application of European legislation and the legislation of a Member State;
- describe the production or aging method or the quality, colour, type of place or particular event linked to the history of the product that benefits from a PDO or PGI.

CATEGORIES

The following specified typologies of wine products which can apply to be registered as a PDO or PGI, are listed under numbers: 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 15, 16 of Annex IV of EC reg. 479/2008.

CLASSIFICATION OF PDOS AND PGIS

1.	Wine
3.	Liqueur wine
4.	Sparkling wine
5.	Quality sparkling wine
6.	Quality aromatic sparkling wine
8.	Semi-sparkling wine
9.	Aerated semi-sparkling wine
11.	Partially fermented grape must
15.	Wine from raisined grapes
16.	Wine of overripe grapes

GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS FOR SPIRITS

EC Regulation 110/2008 lays down rules on the definition, designation, presentation, labelling and protection of Geographical Indications for Spirits.

Unlike Food and Wine, Spirits can only be registered as GIs at European level. These beverages are intended for human consumption and have specific characteristics, a minimum alcohol content of 15%, and are produced either directly or indirectly by mixing a spirit with one or more other types of beverages.

The following can be used in the mixture: spirits and/or ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin or distillates of agricultural origin, and/or other alcoholic beverages, and/or beverages. Registration applications for spirits must be submitted directly to the European Commission via the product's Member State of origin, accompanied by a technical fact sheet giving a description of the requirements that must be met in order to obtain recognition for the Geographical Indication.

In addition to the designation and category of the spirit, as well as the name and address of the applicant, the technical fact sheet must contain the following information: a comprehensive description of the product including the main physical, chemical and / or organoleptic characteristics and the production methods used; a definition of the relative geographical area and elements which prove the link between the product and the production area; any additions to the Geographical Indication or specific labelling regulations.

MAIN CATEGORIES OF GI SPIRITS*

1.	Rum
2.	Whisky/Whiskey
3.	Grain spirit
4.	Wine spirit
5.	Brandy/Weinbrand
6.	Grape marc spirit
9.	Fruit spirit
10.	Cider spirit and perry spirit
15.	Vodka
17.	Geist
18.	Gentain
19.	Juniper-flavoured spirit drinks
24.	Akvavit/aquavit
25.	Aniseed-flavoured spirit drinks
29.	Distilled Anis
19.	Bitter-tasting spirit drinks/bitter amaro
32.	Liqueur
34.	Crème de cassis
40.	Nocino
-	Other spirit drinks

*Partial list including the classes of the spirits registered in Annex III of EC Regulation 110/2008. The complete list of classes is given in Annex II of the same Regulation.

THREE THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT GI FOOD REGISTRATIONS

1. REGISTRATION PROCESS

The registration of a PDO, PGI or TSG product is a complex process involving producers and national and European bodies on various levels, described briefly below. The first step is filing the registration application, which can be done by a group – promotion committee, association, etc. - working with the products for which the name is to be registered.

The application is submitted to the national authority of the relevant Member State; in Italy it is submitted to both the regional body and the Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies.

The Member State examines the application to evaluate whether or not the requirements are met and then initiates a national objection procedure, assessing any objections that arise; if they decide favourably upon the application, it is submitted to the European Commission. The Commission shall in turn examine the application and, if it considers the conditions met, will publish the unified document and the reference of the published approved product specification within six months.

2. PRODUCTION SPECIFICATION

In order to benefit from the protection given to a Geographical Indication and to be able to use the EU logo, Community regulations dictate that an agricultural or food product must comply with a production specification.

This means that products have to comply with the production regulations, both in terms of the production process and the final characteristics of the product.

The specification is therefore the product's identification document, prepared and presented by the individual applying for the name to be registered, and it must contain a description of the requirements that the product must comply with.

The product specification must include at least the following elements:

- Product designation
- Product description (raw materials, characteristics)
- Delimitation of geographical area
- Proof that the product originates from the geographical area
- Description of the method used to obtain the product
- Evidence of the link with the geographical area
- References relative to control systems
- Specific labelling elements related to the PDO or PGI indication
- Any conditions to be met to comply with Community and/or national provisions.

3. PROTECTION CONSORTIA

In general, a Consortium agreement establishes that a group of entrepreneurs create a common organisation for correctly carrying out certain phases of the respective ventures.

Protection Consortia are voluntary, non-profit associations and are promoted by the economic operators involved in the individual supply chains, with the sole function of protecting agri-food products with Geographical Indications. For an association in the Food sector to be recognised as a Consortium by the Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies, it must demonstrate being part of the shareholder structure of the companies that represent at least 2/3 of production controlled by the inspection body and deemed suitable for certification, while for the Wine sector, it must represent at least 40% of the winemakers and 66% of the certified product.

A recognised protection Consortium promotes, valorizes, informs consumers and generally oversees Geographical Indications (Article 14 of Law No. 526 of 21 December 1999).

2. PDO PGI CONTROL AND SUPERVISION SYSTEM

AUTOCONTROL, CONTROL, SUPERVISION

The European Union's PDO, PGI, TSG system involves a control procedure aimed at verifying the conformity of a product to the recognised product specification and monitoring the use of registered names on products placed on the market. The procedures are implemented by a control system that operates on three distinct levels: public supervision, controls by third party bodies, autocontrol by producers.

- **Supervision is entrusted to the competent public Authority** recognised by the European Commission. In Italy, it is the Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies, which heads the bodies responsible for the public supervision and control of products. It also authorises public and private control bodies to carry out certification activities.
- **Controls and certifications carried out by third party bodies** concern ensuring that the requirements of the product specification are met and are entrusted to public or private control bodies that operate as certification bodies. The activities of the control bodies are authorised by the Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies and, in the case of private bodies, must be accredited by the sole National Accreditation Body (Accredia). They confirm compliance with the requirements of the specification through on-site inspections at the production companies and product controls. The costs of these inspections are generally borne by the operators that are subject to control: Member States can decide to contribute to the costs.
- For **autocontrol by producers**, recognised Consortia can carry out protection and control activities for the products, using specific supervisory agents recognised by the Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies and registered in the apposite register. The agents mainly carry out these activities during the commercialisation stage and they can perform inspections and sampling, while they are not allowed to carry out inspections on control bodies or to autocontrol the products.



About Accredia

Accredia is the Italian national Accreditation Body, appointed and authorized by the government, in accordance with EU regulation 765/2008, to attest the competence, independence and impartiality of certification, inspection and verification bodies, as well as testing and calibration laboratories which assess the conformity of products, services, professional people and management systems to the applicable standards and regulations.

Accredia is a not-for-profit association, operating under the aegis of the Ministry of economic development. It has 67 partner members amongst which there are 9 government ministries, as well as all the parties involved in accreditation and certification activities, including the major national Public Administration Authorities, the standardization bodies, the main business organizations and the associations of certification and inspection bodies and laboratories.

What is accreditation?

Accreditation is a response to the growing need for quality and safety, operating in the interests of the general public, strengthening the trust of institutions, of businesses, and of consumers in the market, ensuring the reliability of certifications and inspections, of laboratories tests and instruments calibrations.

Accreditation is voluntary when it is requested by bodies or laboratories, or it is obligatory in sectors regulated by EU directives and regulations or by national or local legislation as a pre-requisite for obtaining specific authorizations by the Public Administration Authorities or for obtaining notification from the European Commission.

The role of checks and controls

In the agri-food sector the accreditation of bodies and laboratories functions in accordance with, and is com-

plementary to, the system of controls enforced by the competent authorities – the Ministry of health and the Ministry of agricultural policy and food – which oversee the market, ensuring that only products which conform to the standards, fostering quality and consumer health, are placed on the market.

The certification of organic products to EU regulation 834/2017, for Protected Designation of Origin (PDO), for Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) and for Traditional Specialty Guaranteed (TSG) to EU regulation 1151/2012, and to EU regulations 1308 and 1306/2013 for wine production, can be issued only by control bodies with ministerial authorization and with accreditation from Accredia (if they are private).

Assessments

Accredia performs assessments on control bodies responsible for agri-food product certifications bearing the PDO, PGI and TSG marks in the wine-producing and organic food sectors in order to ascertain conformity with the standard UNI CEI EN ISO/IEC 17065, as well as adherence to the control plan with ministerial approval for each product.

A cycle of accreditation lasts for four years during which time an accredited body is verified annually for maintenance of the requirements. At the end of the four-year period, under request, accreditation is renewed by means of an assessment.

The benefits of accreditation for export

Accredia is member of international networks of accreditation bodies, EA in Europe and IAF and ILAC worldwide, and signed the mutual recognition Agreements for all accreditation activities. Thanks to this, the export of agri-food products certified by accredited bodies is facilitated throughout the world's leading markets.

3. INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

GI GLOBAL PROTECTION

Geographical Indications need global protection that operates not only in the country of origin, but also on other target markets. The international protection of Geographical Indications is not an easy issue because of the significant differences between the regulations in the various legal systems. The difficulty in defining a shared worldwide regulation and protection framework, lies in the conflict of interest between countries that have strong traditions in local quality products and those that don't, which tend to favour generic products.

BILATERAL AGREEMENTS

Over time, the European Union has negotiated with several international trade partners some bilateral agreements (GIs Agreements, Free Trade Agreements with chapters dedicated to GIs, Cooperation Agreement with implications for GIs, etc...), for the recognition of qualitative European products.

The table below shows a general framework of bilateral agreements, already ratified or under negotiation, between European countries and Third Countries.

	COUNTRY	FOOD	WINES	SPIRITS	PROTECTED ITALIAN GIs	YEAR
RATIFIED AGREEMENTS	Australia		X		X	2008
	Mexico			X	X	1997
	USA		X		X	2006
	USA			X		1994
	South Africa		X	X	X	2002
	Bosnia-Herzegovina		X	X	X	2008
	Albania		X	X	X	2006
	Chile		X	X	X	2002
	Ukraine	X	X	X	X	2014
	Colombia & Peru	X	X	X	X	2012
	Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama	X	X	X	X	2012
	Moldova	X	X	X	X	2012
	Georgia	X	X	X	X	2011
	Serbia		X	X	X	2010
	South Korea	X	X	X	X	2011
	Montenegro		X	X	X	2007
SADC Groups	X	X	X	X	2016	
Switzerland	X	X	X	X	1999	
COMPLETED NEGOTIATIONS (NO YET RATIFIED)	Canada	X	X	X	X	2017
	Ecuador	X	X	X	X	2014
	Singapore	X	X	X	X	2014
AGREEMENTS UNDER NEGOTIATIONS	China	X	X	X	X	2010
	Japan	X	X	X	X	2013
	Morocco	X	X	X	X	2013
	Thailand	X	X	X	X	2013
	Vietnam	X	X	X	X	2012

Source: OriGIn, data elaborated by Qualivita

MULTILATERAL AGREEMENTS

TRIPs Agreement (WTO)

Trade Related Aspect of Intellectual Property Rights

The regulations on Geographical Indications in the TRIPs Agreement protect them against being used in such a manner as to mislead the public and unfair competition, as well as against the coexistence of homonymous Geographical Indications. There is also additional protection for the Geographical Indications of wines and spirits against the misuse of the name or association with terms such as "type", "style", "model" or the like, which, although not deceptive in terms of the origin of the product, do try to benefit from the reputation of the original.

- **1995** - Negotiated at the end of the Uruguay Round of WTO.
- **Countries** - 164 Member States involved.
- **What it regulates** - Intellectual property rights relating to trade, with a specific section dedicated to GIs.

The Lisbon Agreement (WIPO)

The Lisbon Agreement provides a legal infrastructure to facilitate the worldwide protection of designations of origin, i.e. an international registration mechanism for products whose characteristics are closely linked to the geographical area of origin, which are protected against usurpation and imitation, even if the true origin of the product is translated or accompanied by terms such as "kind", "type", "method", "imitation" or the like. In 2015, a Diplomatic Conference took place in Geneva to review the original agreement which led to the adoption of a "less restrictive" text that allows producer Consortia to directly submit their application for international registration. Finally, it increased the flexibility of the Agreement, permitting countries that do not have specific national regulations for the protection of Geographical Indications to also become members (e.g. the USA), on the condition that protection is guaranteed through a different system (e.g. national trade mark legislation) with the aim of encouraging new memberships.

- **1958** - Lisbon Agreement.
- **2015** - Amendments to the agreement: the Geneva Act.
- **Countries** - 28 EU and Non-EU Countries.
- **What it regulates** - The protection of Geographical Indications and their international registration.

WORLD TRADE
ORGANIZATION



World Trade Organization – International organization established in 1995, with the main objective to oversee global trade agreements and abolish tariff barriers to trade in goods and services. It also deals with trade agreements within the scope of intellectual property rights. Its headquarters are in Geneva, Switzerland.



World Intellectual Property Organization – Specialised agency of the United Nations created in 1967, with the main objective to promote the protection of intellectual property throughout the world. It currently has 188 member states and regulates 24 international treaties. Its headquarters are in Geneva, Switzerland.

