

"Is the protection of geographical indications an effective tool for fostering rural development?": working group at the ESRS Congress

In July 2013 the XXV Congress of the European Society for Rural Sociology (ESRS) will be held in Florence .

One of the working groups is about the topic "Is the protection of geographical indications an effective tool for fostering rural development?" and is endorsed by SYAL.

The call for papers is open, and we invite you to submit proposals.

Abstracts for papers of at max. 400 words should be submitted by March 1st 2013 through the link on the conference website <http://www.florenceesrs2013.com/>. Acceptance of the abstracts will be communicated by April 1st.

You can find more information below :

European Society for Rural Sociology (ESRS)

<http://www.ruralsociology.eu/>

Conference website:

<http://www.florenceesrs2013.com/>



Rural resilience and vulnerability: the rural as locus of solidarity and conflict in time of crisis

UMBRELLA THEME: 7 Sustainable Foodscapes

Working group title:

IS THE PROTECTION OF GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS AN EFFECTIVE TOOL FOR FOSTERING RURAL DEVELOPMENT?

Keywords: geographical indications, evaluation, rural development, typical/origin products, localized food systems

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Geographical indications (GIs) are names used to designate products endowed with a reputation and a given quality, which are linked to the territory they originate from, thus being the result of a mix of local food, handicraft culture, specific local human and natural resources, and collective initiative.

GI products valorization is increasingly perceived as a tool for escaping from price competition and delocalization trends, offering opportunities both to firms and rural population.

After the TRIPS Agreement (1994), the interest and expectations for the protection of GIs have significantly spread all over the world. Beyond the basic purpose of granting the

legitimate producers against usurpations and misuses of the GI, numerous public policies, international organizations, private collective initiatives as well as scientists consider GIs in a broader social and economic perspective, as a tool that can help achieving positive results in the areas of rural development, small producers'empowerment, self-organization of supply-chains, preservation of specific local resources and biodiversity, social welfare.

However so far little has been done to evaluate the many types of effects coming from the protection of GIs. The few studies that analyze the reasons why firms apply to obtain protection, the extent to which the protected GIs are used by firms, and especially the effects obtained by means of the protection, show a scattered and uneven picture.

This session aims at sharing methodologies, evidences and thoughts on the economic, social, and environmental effects of the GIs protection, with particular emphasis on the resilience of local agri-food production systems and rural areas.

Contributions are welcome on the following topics:

- Methodologies of evaluation of the GI protection effects, at firm, supply-chain, and rural area level
- Critical issues emerging in the rule-setting process before and after the approval of a GI
- Comparison between the effects of different labeling tools: protected GIs, collective geographical trademarks, other quality labels
- Economic effects of the GI protection for firms, local supply chains and rural areas
- Uneven access to protected GIs and to GI protection: exclusion processes and conflicts
- Social effects of the GI protection: social cohesion, collective action, gender issues, communities well-being
- Territorial effects of GIs protection, spill-over effects, GI-based territorial valorization strategies (e.g. tourism, wine routes)
- GI protection and the environment: management of specific local resources, environmental externalities, agro-biodiversity preservation, landscape, land management
- Effects on consumers' preference and willingness-to-pay for positive externalities
- Public policies supporting GIs dynamics: from national legal frameworks to accompanying actions for rural development
- Convergences and divergences between the GI systems and/or GI public policies at international level regarding their role on rural development and other externalities

Basic information

Abstracts for papers of at max. 400 words should be submitted by 1st March 2013 through the link on the conference website <http://www.florenceesrs2013.com/>. Acceptance of the abstracts will be communicated by 1st April.

After acceptance, Authors should submit a short paper (2.500 to 4.000 words) by 31st May to: andrea.marescotti@unifi.it. Short papers should have the following suggested structure: Aims; Methodology; Results; Discussion and Conclusions.

Short papers will be put in the Congress web site, and selected to be published in an electronic journal. The most valuable ones will be selected for a publication as full papers in a peer-reviewed journal.

The working group is endorsed by:

SYAL European Research Group
<http://syal.agropolis.fr/>

SINERGI network
<http://www.origin-food.org/>

