

Liberté Égalité Fraternité



Craft and industrial geographical indications : European and worldwide perspectives

Antoine Ginestet aginestet@inpi.fr

Craft and industrial geographical indications policy officer INPI



GIS: AN OFFICIAL SIGN OF QUALITY AND ORIGIN



CONSUMERS

- They benefit from a guarantee from public authorities on the quality and authenticity of a productils
- They can take responsibility for their purchasing actions



PRODUCERS

- They increase the added value of their products through state recognition
- They get themselves better protection against unfair competition and counterfeiting



STATE, MUNICIPALITES AND EUROPEAN UNION

- Local heritage is protected
- It is an opportunity to revitalise a territory and maintain or develop jobs



GIs – THE SYSTEM

Organization of the operators (craftsmen or companies) around a structure that carries the project: the defense and management organization (DMG) Filing with the INPI of product specifications in which the DMG demonstrates, via specific and objective criteria, that the product concerned can reserve this name

2

Demonstration by the DMG of its **representativity** in relation to the operators in the concerned sector

3



GIS – THE SYSTEM: PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS

- The name of the geographical indication and the product concerned
- The geographical area
- The link between the product characteristics and the geographical area
- The description of the production processes
- The methods and frequency of checks carried out by independent third-party bodies accredited by COFRAC (French Accreditation Committee)



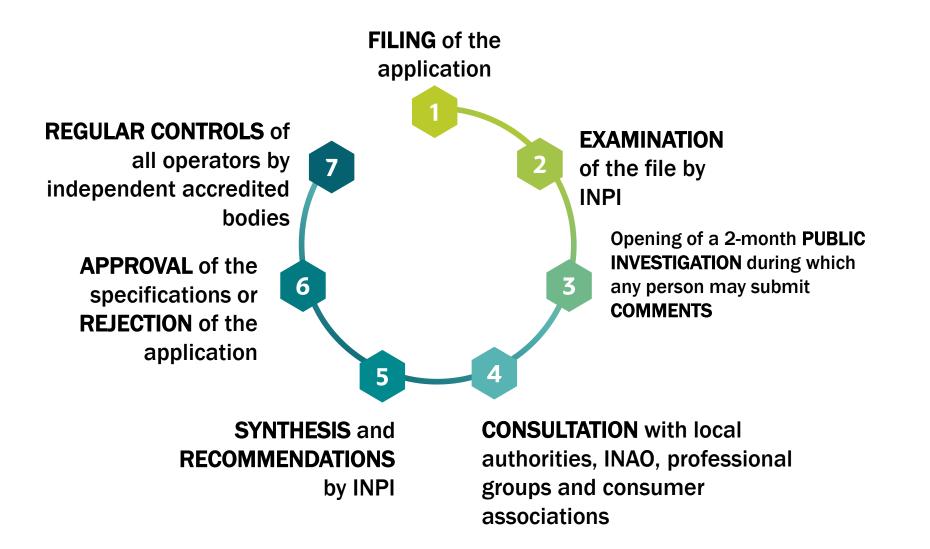
GIs – THE SYSTEM

A FULLY DEMATERIALISED PROCEDURE:

- Filing and payment only online
- Public consultations and surveys on the inpi.fr website
- Dematerialised exchanges
- Online database

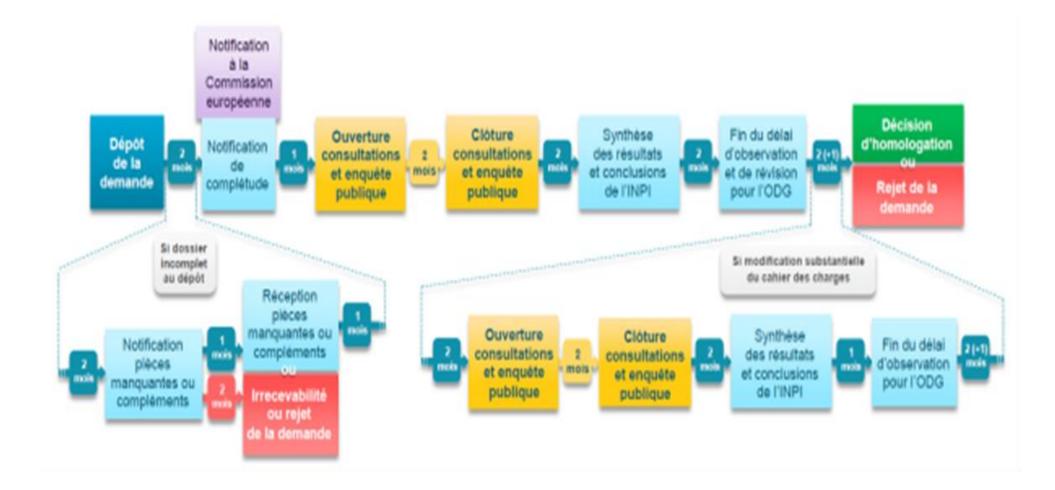








GIs – DETAILED PROCEDURE





GIs – OFFICIAL LOGO

The official logo, registered as an official sign of guarantee by the French State with the World Intellectual Property Office (WIPO):





14 REGISTERED GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS

As an official sign of quality and origin, GI is a guarantee of authenticity for consumers and a means of promoting their products and know-how for companies







End 2016 – 1st GI

- 18 companies in Lorraine and the Vosges with a centuries-old know-how in cabinet making,
- **Established in an area of 165 municipalities,**
- M€ 7 in annual turnover





December 2017 – 3rd IG LIMOGES PORCELAIN

- **34** companies all located in **Haute-Vienne**,
- entirely produced in the department (cooking and decoration)
- Employing 1000 people,
- ▶ M€ 100 turnover









December 2017 – 3rd IG LIMOGES PORCELAIN

Since 2017:

- 7 companies have decided to join the geographical indication
- Whom to 2 companies relocated in the area
- More than 150 jobs were created









- 27 companies on 4 departments
- M€ 50 annual turnover
- ► A turnover of 450 workers implied

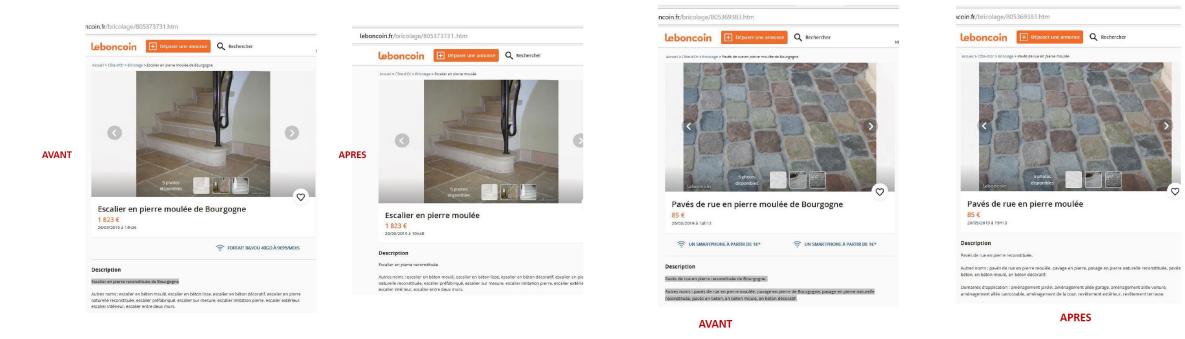








Was the first craft GI to use his property right for fighting against counterfeiting on internet







Was the first craft GI to use his property right for fighting against counterfeiting on internet



Suppression de la page.





Was the first craft GI to use his property right for fighting against counterfeiting on internet



Suppression de la page.





In short:

- A small association of little businesses won against big companies
- > Only with sending formal notices in 100 cases
- > And only one lawsuit that led to :
 - > 9 domain names transfer,
 - ► 25 000 damages and interests



November 2018 - 5^{ème} IG PERPIGNAN GARNET

- **13 companies in the Pyrénées-Orientales**
- 45 craftsmen
- M€ 2 in turnover









November 2018 - 5^{ème} IG **PERPIGNAN GARNET**

- These jewels have gone from a regional reputation to a national one
- 50% more turnover in the months following approval

G

30% more turnover in the long term







December 2018 – 6th & 7th GIs AUBUSSON TAPESTRY AND CARPET

- ► 8 companies, all located in Creuse department
- ▶ 60 craftsmen,
- M€ 6 in turnover









November 2020 – 12th GI BASQUE LINEN

- ► 3 companies
- 42 craftsmen
- ▶ M€ 5 in turnover





March 2022 – 13th IG
ALSACE POTTERIES

- ▶ 12 companies
- ► 600 000 pieces of pottery produced per year
- ▶ M€ 5 in turnover





September 2022 – 14th IG LAGUIOLE KNIFE

- **38** companies from Massif central
- Employing 600 people
- ▶ M€ 40 in annual turnover







- The European Union is now working on a regulation enlarging GI protection to craft and industrial Gis
- Regulation project is now in Parliament hands
- Entry in force in 2024-2025
- Extension of protection on all EU members







Art. 17:

" the processing of applications for a geographical indication concerning products originating in a third country, other than geographical indications protected in the Union under the Geneva Act or under any other international agreement to which the Union is a contracting party."



Art. 18:

"In cases referred to in Article 17(c), an application for registration of a geographical indication concerning a product originating in a third-country shall be submitted to the Office either directly by the applicant or by the competent authority of the third country concerned, whichever the third country allows. The applicant and the competent authority of the third country concerned shall be considered to be parties to the procedure."



Article 21:

"Opposition and comments Union level opposition procedure

1. Within three months from the date of publication of the single document and the product specification in the Union register, **an opponent may lodge an opposition or notice of comment with the Office**. The applicant and the opponent shall be considered to be the parties to the procedure.

2. An opponent may be the competent authority of a Member State, or of a third country, or a natural or legal person having a legitimate interest and established or resident in a third country or in another Member State, except a national opponent referred to in Article 13(1).."



Article 21:

"Where the Office considers the opposition to be admissible, it shall, within two months after receipt of that opposition, invite the opponent and the applicant to engage in consultations for a reasonable period not exceeding three months with a view to a friendly settlement. At any time during that period, the Office may, at the joint request of either party the opponent and the applicant, extend the time limit for the consultations by a maximum of three months. The Office may offershall offer alternative dispute resolution, such as mediation for the consultations between the applicant and the opponent pursuant as referred to Article 170 of Regulation (EU) 2017/1001."



Article 22:

"An opposition, shall be based on one or more of the following grounds for opposition:

(a) the requested geographical indication does not comply with the requirements for protection laid down in this Regulation;

(b) the registration of the requested geographical indication would be contrary to Articles 37 and 38 or Article 39(12); or

(c) the registration of the requested geographical indication would jeopardise the existence of an identical or similar name used in trade or of a trade mark, or the existence of products that have been legally on the market for at least 5 years preceding the date of the publication of the application provided for in Article 18(3)."



Article 46 b): Verification of compliance of products originating in a third country

In respect of geographical indications that designate products originating in a third country, **verification of compliance with the product specification before placing the product on the market shall be carried out by:**

(a) a competent authority designated by the third country; or

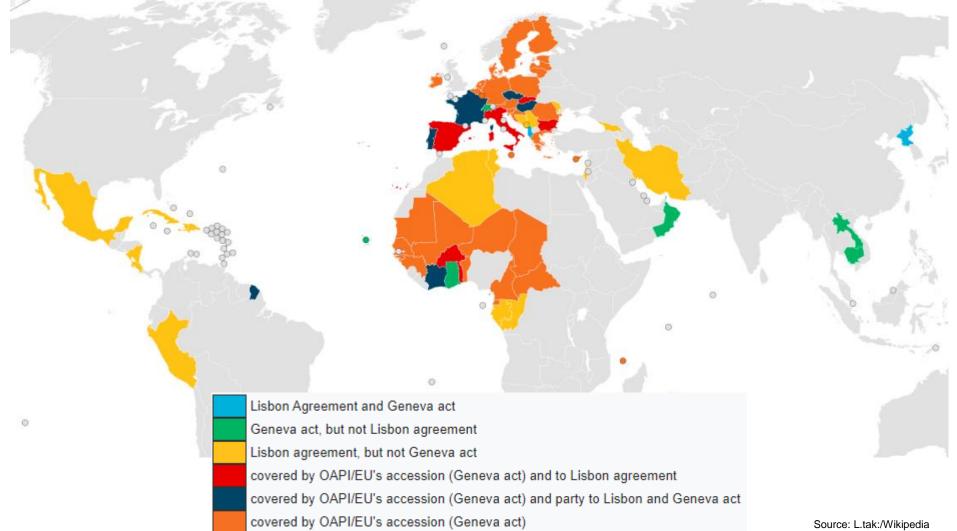
(b) one or more product certification bodies."



WORLDWIDE PERSPECTIVES: GENEVA ACT

- Lisbon Agreement (1958) was limited to PDOs and had too few members (27)
- Geneva Act, negotiated in 2015, entered in force in 2021
- Protection extended to Gis
- Membership enlarged to intergovernmental organizations: EU and OAPI (2022)
- Today federating 70 members
- One shot procedure through WIPO

WORLDWIDE PERSPECTIVES: GENEVA ACT



Liberté Égalité Fraternité

1

RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE indi



Liberté Égalité Fraternité



• ------

Thanks for your attention

Antoine Ginestet aginestet@inpi.fr

GI policy officer - INPI