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An Important Step to Support Local Producers

The Parliament of the Republic of Moldova voted on Friday, May 13, at the second reading, the draft Law amending and supplementing Law No. 66-XVI of 27.03.2008 on the Protection of Geographical Indications, Appellations of Origin and Traditional Specialties Guaranteed.

Adoption of the said draft is of major importance to consolidating and developing the intellectual property system in the Republic of Moldova, of which continuous evolution is correlated with the new economic trends recorded internationally. Moreover, adoption of those changes is a national priority in the context of commitments by the Republic of Moldova as a result of signing of the Association Agreement with the European Union, being included in the national action Plan for implementation of the agreement.

Thus, following the entry into force of the new legislative changes will simplify the procedure for issuance by AGEPI of certificates on the right to use the geographical indication (GI) and appellation of origin (AO). The right to use those indications will be obtained by the manufacturer with the authorization issued by the competent authority designated by the Government responsible for the management and control of goods designated with GI and AO to demonstrate that the manufacturer meets and complies with the conditions prescribed by the specifications. The certificate on the right to use the GI and AO will be issued upon request, without paying taxes.

Also, through the said draft, for wines and wine products, has been introduced the derogation on admission of transformation of raw materials into wine with GI and AO beyond the defined geographical area, provided that this possibility is prescribed in the specifications and under the supervision of the competent authority designated by the Government with functions of management and control of products with GI and AO.

In this context, we underline that the new legislative provisions will help to simplify the procedures to be passed through by the local producers, who wish to benefit from the advantages offered by the AO, GI, STG protection system, given that the high and also guaranteed level of product quality is one of the basic requirements of consumers.

Law on the Protection of Geographical Indications, Appellations of Origin and Traditional Specialties Guaranteed will enter into force on the date of its publication in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Moldova.

AGEPI endeavors to promote products with geographical indications and appellations of origin.

Please note that, to date, in Moldova are registered two appellations of origin: „Ciumai” and „Romanesti” and four geographical indications: „Divin”, „Codru”, „Stefan Voda” and „Valul lui Traian”. In December 2015, with the AGEPI were filed two new applications for registration of geographical indications: Rose petal jam of Calarasi and Apricot brandy of Nimoreni.

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Visible Progress in the Trademark Field

In the first three months of 2016, the number of trademark registration applications filed with the State Agency on Intellectual Property (AGEPI), increased by 22 percent over the same period of the last year.

Thus, in the first quarter of 2016, 582 applications were filed with the AGEPI, with 106 applications more than the same period in 2015.

The weight of national applicants in the total applications filed by national route is 70 percent, registering an increase of 14 percent compared to the first quarter of the last year.

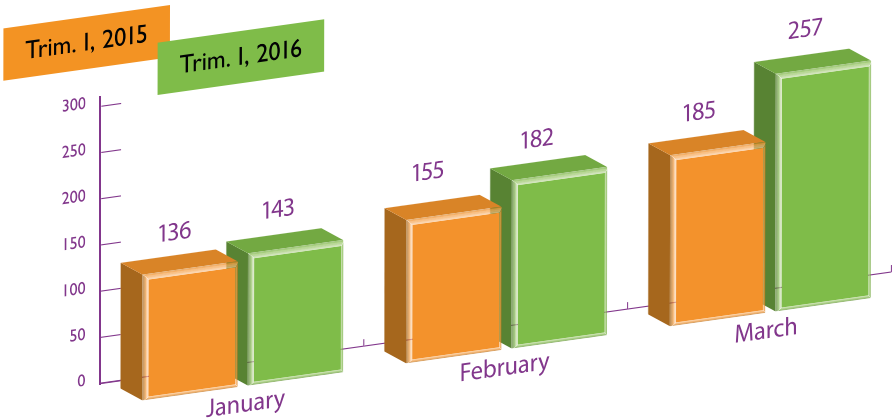
Almost half of the total number of trademark registration applications received by AGEPI in the reference period were filed in March - 257 applications.

At the same time, in the first quarter of 2016, the weight of applications filed in online format is higher than those filed in paper format. Thus, 307 applications were submitted online and in paper format - 275.

According to Director General of AGEPI, Octavian Apostol, the growth in the last three months of the number of trademark registration applications is due to AGEPI efforts to promote the intellectual property protection system and reflects the increasingly awareness and recognition of trademark importance in business development. Gratifying is that more and more applicants appeal to the service for online filing of applications for registration of intellectual property objects <https://e-servicii.agepi.gov.md/>, allowing of the efficient management of time and reduction of personal expenses, says Octavian Apostol.

Providing trademark protection is an important step in the work of any company that wants to promote a product or service, distinguishing it from those of competitors by means of distinctive elements.

There may be registered as trademarks words (including personal names), letters, numbers, drawings, combinations of colors, figurative elements, three-dimensional shapes, particularly the shape of the product or its package, and any combinations of these signs.



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Two New Applications for Registration of Autochthonous Geographical Indications Filed with the AGEPI

Two new applications for the registration of some geographical indications (GI) have been filed with the State Agency on Intellectual Property (AGEPI). It is the GI for Calarasi rose petal jam and the GI for Nimoreni apricot spirits.

The specifications of these two products were approved in December by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry. Thus, the groups of producers have initiated the procedure for registering the names with the AGEPI.

Geographical indications and appellations of origin are intellectual property objects. They play an important social and economic role and are valuable marketing tools widely used by many countries.

The purpose of protecting appellations of origin and geographical indications is to ensure a fair return to producers for their products with specific qualities and characteristics which are essentially due to the geographical origin. Also, products benefiting from a protected geographical indication or appellation of origin have an important economic role, as they provide information on the specific characteristics relating to the geographical origin, thus contributing to the promotion of the region they come from.



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It was signed the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications

On 11 April this year, General Director of the State Agency on Intellectual Property (AGEPI), Octavian Apostol, signed the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications.

The treaty is a revised version of the Lisbon Agreement for the Protection of Appellations of Origin and their International Registration, signed on 31 October 1958, and was adopted in Geneva, Switzerland, in the Diplomatic Conference of 11-21 May 2015. Republic of Moldova has actively participated throughout the process of negotiation and adoption of the document.

The signing took place at the headquarters of the World Intellectual Property Organization, in the presence of Director General of WIPO, Francis Gurry, and the Permanent Representative to the UN Office and other international organizations in Geneva, Ambassador Tudor Ulianoschi.

Signing procedure was followed by the Moldovan delegation meeting with the Director General of WIPO, which enabled a constructive exchange of ideas on the developments in intellectual property globally and assessing the state of bilateral relations between our country and WIPO.

Director General of AGEPI, Octavian Apostol, stressed the importance of collaboration between the Agency he represents and WIPO to develop the intellectual property system in our country, expressing confidence that the revised Lisbon System will contribute not only to facilitation of international registrations of geographical indications, but also by strengthening the protection of this instrument.

Currently in Moldova are registered four local geographical indications, which will be protected globally after the entry into force of the Geneva Act both internationally and for our country. Moldova is the fifteenth state to sign the treaty. It will enter into force after the deposit of the fifth instrument of ratification.

At the same time, WIPO Director General, Francis Gurry, noted the growing importance of geographical indications for promoting traditional products that ensure diversity in a globalizing world in the process. Referring to his visit to Moldova in 2012, Francis Gurry appreciated the quality and high value of Moldovan products and showed confidence that Moldova has a rich potential of products that can be promoted through the geographical indication system and other intellectual property tools, as confirmed by the project "From the Heart. Brands of Moldova", presented by the Director General of AGEPI, in the International Conference on Intellectual Property and Development on 7-8 April this year.

Permanent Representative to the UN Office in Geneva, Mr. Ambassador Tudor Ulianoschi informed WIPO Director General about the latest developments in Moldova and reiterated our country's commitment to participate actively in WIPO activities and initiatives.

The parties were assured of full mutual openness for the continuation and strengthening of relations between Moldova and WIPO in bilateral and multilateral context and agreed on long-term priority directions.



It should be mentioned that AGEPI delegation, headed by Director General of AGEPI, Octavian Apostol, participates on 11-15 April this year in the session of the Committee on Intellectual Property and Development. According to the agenda, Member States are to adopt recommendations for the General Assembly of WIPO on implementation of the Development Agenda and technical assistance projects, dedicated to the achievement of WIPO commitments on the development dimension of the organization.

Photo Source: Emmanuel Berrod © WIPO 2016.

It was signed the Cooperation Agreement between AGEPI and the Ministry of Education



On April 27, General Director of the State Agency on Intellectual Property (AGEPI), Octavian Apostol, and Minister of Education, Corina Fusu, have signed a Cooperation Agreement with a view to promote knowledge in the field of intellectual property in educational institutions of the Republic of Moldova and to raise awareness in the younger generation on counterfeiting and piracy.

The Agreement provides the creation of a Joint Working Group which will ensure the realization of the following priority activities:

- ✓ will take the necessary steps to include the course "Introduction to Intellectual Property" in the list of optional courses recommended by the Ministry of Education published on the official website www.edu.gov.md;
- ✓ will develop the Curriculum for the optional training course for pupils in intellectual property "Introduction to Intellectual Property" (grades X-XII);

- ✓ will promote and approve the Curriculum at the National Council for Curriculum;
- ✓ will develop and edit didactic materials (manuals, guides) related to the field of intellectual property, for the training course included in the study plans and
- ✓ will organize and conduct awareness campaigns for pupils, which will cover secondary schools from different regions of the country, on the negative impact of counterfeiting and piracy on the economic and cultural development of the country, as well as on the health of population.

Minister of Education, Corina Fusu, said that signing this Agreement is extremely important as it will allow the creation of a new module in the school program, which will refer to knowledge of the field of intellectual property in educational institutions of the Republic of Moldova and carrying out of awareness actions for young generation on the phenomena of counterfeiting and piracy.

The young generation must know that intellectual property rights are protected by law and society must recognize that intellectual property is as precious as any other type of material property, said the Minister of Education.

In turn, Director General of AGEPI, Octavian Apostol, thanked the Minister of Education for receptivity and openness to AGEPI request to sign such an Agreement. We must educate young people to know what is intellectual property and how can be exploited intellectual property rights, so as to bring an added value to the economy of the Republic of Moldova, said Octavian Apostol.

The priority directions of cooperation between AGEPI and the Ministry of Education, in the context of training the younger generation in the field of intellectual property, which are an integral part of the signed Cooperation Agreement, were discussed, on March 16, during a meeting between Director General of AGEPI and the Minister of Education.

The Agreement was also signed in the execution of the provisions of the National Intellectual Property Strategy until 2020, approved by Government Decision No.880 of 22.11.2012, on training and education in the field of intellectual property via the pre-university, university and post-university system, and the provisions of the Education Development Strategy for the years 2014-2020 „Education-2020”, approved by Government Decision No.944 of 14.11.2014, on fostering creativity and innovation, including the entrepreneurship of youth, at all levels of the educational system.

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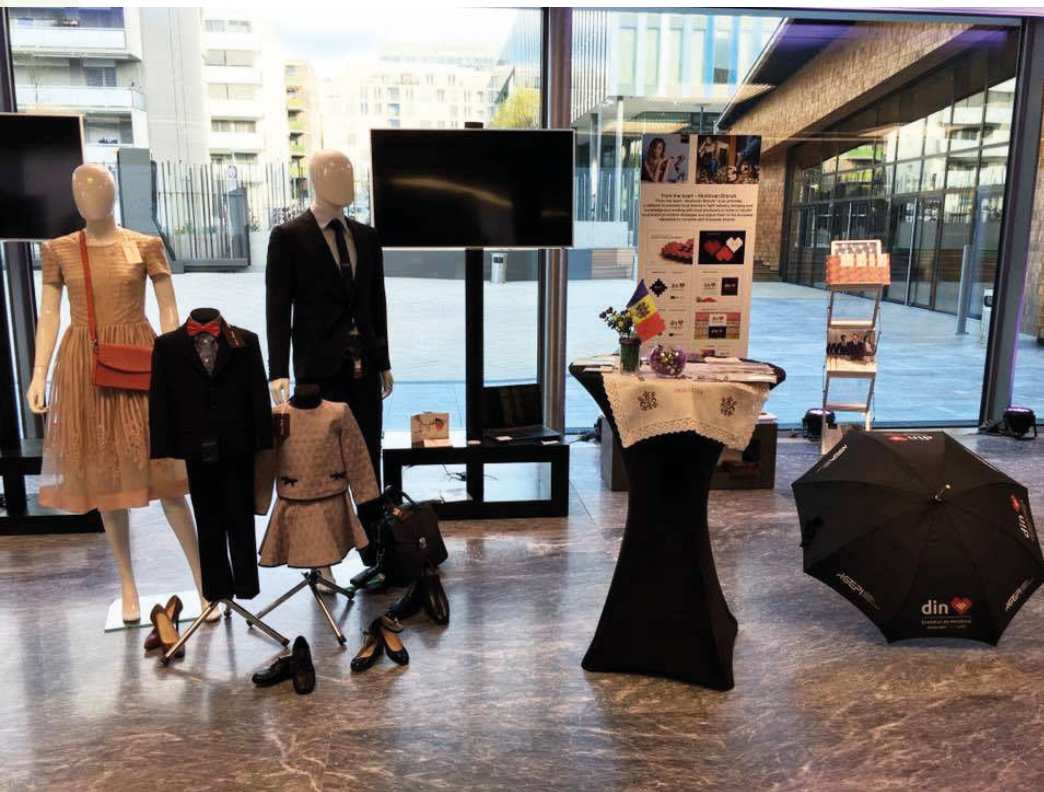
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The „From the Heart. Brands of Moldova” Project, successfully presented in Geneva



The role of intellectual property in economic, social and cultural development of society was in the spotlight of discussions in an international conference organized by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), between 7 to 8 April this year, in Geneva, Switzerland.

The International Conference on Intellectual Property and Development brought together representatives of intellectual property offices, civil society, governmental and non-governmental organizations.

The event was opened by Francis Gurry, Director General of WIPO, who welcomed the decision of Member States to organize the conference. This event is a unique opportunity to discuss in an open environment, subjects of major importance. The main purpose of the conference is to discuss, explore and investigate existing connection between intellectual property, on the one hand, and development and building a sustainable economy, on the other hand, said Director General of WIPO.

According to the program, over two days, there were presented several case studies on the impact of intellectual property on socio-economic development.

At the invitation of WIPO, Director General of the State Agency on Intellectual Property (AGEPI), Octavian Apostol, attended the conference with a communication focused on the presentation of the case study „From the Heart. Brands of Moldova” – our country's successful project of in promoting local brands. Octavian Apostol presented the implementation steps of the project „From the Heart. Brands of Moldova”, launched in 2012, to enhance the competitiveness of Moldovan brands in apparel, footwear and accessories, and its contribution to promoting companies on the market, increasing sales, their productivity, creating new brands, new jobs and to increasing exports.

At the same time, in the conference was organized an exhibition of the most interesting case studies presented by the Member States of WIPO at the event. Moldova participated in this exhibition with an exhibition stand presented by AGEPI, by which was promoted the “From the Heart. Brands of Moldova” project, as well as the companies participating in the project.

Moldova's stand was most appreciated by the participants in the conference. Visitors were impressed by the quality of products and their prices and said that products made in Moldova can compete with even articles produced by globally recognized companies. Participants in the conference appreciated the

efforts of AGEPI in promoting products made in Moldova. Some visitors were clearly willing to buy products displayed at the stand.

The exhibition stand was organized by AGEPI with the assistance of the US Agency for International Development (USAID) project and the Employers' Association of Light Industry Enterprises (APIUS).

The „From the Heart. Brands of Moldova” project (www.dininima.md) is the first joint action to promote apparel, footwear and accessories produced in Moldova. The campaign aims to increase visibility among the population of the products produced in Moldova.

The „From the Heart. Brands of Moldova” campaign was launched in March 2012 with the support of USAID CEED II PROJECT, in partnership with APIUS and 12 domestic light industry companies that have created successful trademarks in the local market. Many of these producers were also assisted by the USAID CEED II PROJECT in strengthening their own trademarks, developing collection design skills and marketing capacities. The project „From the Heart. Brands of Moldova” is currently a platform for the promotion of more than 70 domestic trademarks.

49 of the companies promoted under the brand „from the heart” have registered their intellectual property rights with the AGEPI. In total, by national route, there were registered 126 trademarks. Six companies have registered their trademarks by international route, under the Madrid System

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World Intellectual Property Day, celebrated at the AGEPI

On April 26 this year, at the State Agency on Intellectual Property (AGEPI), was held a festive meeting dedicated to World Intellectual Property Day. The event was attended by representatives of central public authorities, representatives of institutions in the sphere of science and innovation, higher education, creative unions, inventors, patent attorneys and employees of the AGEPI.

World Intellectual Property Day theme this year was „Digital Creativity: Culture Reimagined”, by which it was wanted to debate issues related to the work of cultural and creative sectors in the digital age.

The festive meeting was opened by Director General of AGEPI, Octavian Apostol, who congratulated all those who work in fields of activity related directly or indirectly to the creation, protection and exploitation of intellectual property, wishing them perseverance, inspiration and new achievements in the professional work.

Next, Octavian Apostol stressed that, on this day, we celebrate not only the enormous power of human creativity, but also intellectual property rights, which helps to feed and channel this force, making it an important engine of economic, cultural and social development.

Present at the festive meeting, Alina Zotea, Member of Parliament of the Republic of Moldova, expressed gratitude for the work and sacrifices of the citizens whose activity is related to the field of intellectual property. Alina Zotea said she would like the creative work to be appreciated to the expected level and is convinced that the AGEPI team will lay down the foundations of a dynamic and intransigent system.

With a congratulatory message also came Vladimir Hotineanu, President of the Parliamentary Committee on Culture, Education, Research, Youth, Sports and Media. Vladimir Hotineanu said that intellectual property protection is a prerogative of modern society and promotion of this area by the AGEPI brings only benefits to the creative process.

Present at the event, Ion Tighineanu, first vice-president of the Academy of Sciences of Moldova, stressed that Moldova has potential, because we have talented young people and we need to get as further promoting European projects.

With a welcoming speech also came Roman Chirca, Director General of the Agency for Innovation and Technology Transfer, noting that AITT and AGEPI are loyal partners because they share the same field and promote innovations.

Further, in the festive meeting, there were announced the results of the creativity contests launched by AGEPI, on the occasion of World Intellectual Property Day. The winners received diplomas and awards from the State Agency on Intellectual Property, as well as from partners Ritlabs and Starnet.

Thus, winner of the Contest for image creation with the theme: „Digital Creativity: Culture Reimagined”, organized in the period March 9–April 20, 2016, was appointed Popescu Alexandru.

Irodoi Camelia won the Grand Prix of the Interactive Interview-Contest „What is Intellectual Property associated with?” organized in the period 14 March – 20 April 2016.

Winners of the National Contest for young people „Online Game in the field of Intellectual Property”, organized in the period March 3–April 20, 2016, were appointed Amarfii Sergiu and Gori Radu.

To support activities to promote intellectual property and creativity and inventiveness of young people, Director General of AGEPI handed diplomas of mention to Director of Ritlabs, Maxim Masiutin, and to Director of StarNet Management Group, Sergiu Sitnic.

Traditionally, in the framework of the festive meeting dedicated to World Intellectual Property Day, AGEPI also awarded the most active patent attorney in industrial property of the previous year. Thus, AGEPI Trophy „Most Active Patent Attorney of the Year 2015” was handed to Iulian Iorga, who submitted the most applications for registration of industrial property objects.

Also, in the framework of the festive meeting were handed awards received by inventors from the Republic of Moldova at the International Exhibition of Inventions in Geneva, which took place in the period 13-17 April this year. Eight of the eight inventions presented by the representatives of Moldova were awarded with medals. Moldova's stand was provided and organized by the financial contribution of AGEPI.



World Intellectual Property Day is marked annually on 26 April, in all Member States of the World Intellectual Property Organization, including also the Republic of Moldova, and provides an opportunity to promote the role of intellectual property in fostering innovation and creativity.

The feast is marked since 2000, and April 26 is the day on which the Convention establishing WIPO (1970) came into force. The initiative belonged to China, and the General Assembly of WIPO Member States unanimously accepted the proposal.

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Use of the Hague System by citizens of the Republic of Moldova

The benefits of the Hague Agreement for design protection in other countries are also used by citizens of the Republic of Moldova.

Priority areas for protection sought by the Moldovan creators abroad are articles of furniture; packages and containers for transportation or storage of goods and labels.

A prominent example of this is the registration of the exterior aspect of a bench, created by designer Mihai Stamati. During an exhibition in France, the bench design proposed by the creator has been awarded. The author decided firstly to protect his rights not only in France but also in all EU countries including the Republic of Moldova. The request was submitted in 2010 and it was the first application filed with the State Agency on Intellectual Property (AGEPI) at the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in electronic format. The image of this bench was also used by WIPO in its promotional activities, being placed on the website of the organization and promoted in various brochures published by WIPO.

Also on May 14, 2015 in the outdoor Technology Museum Park inside the university campus of the Technical University of Moldova from Chisinau the famous "lovers benches" were launched within „Le Gardien des souvenirs” project on the occasion of the 4th edition of the students' exhibition of creative works „Creation Opens Universe”.

Registration of an industrial design shows major benefits in the construction of management and marketing policies of the applicant providing market competitiveness and legal means of defense against counterfeiting. In this context, the Hague Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Industrial Designs which is a modern, reliable and evolving system provides the opportunity to protect the industrial design by saving time, money and effort in different countries.



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The Significance and Recognition of Trademarks Notoriety in the Republic of Moldova

It is unimaginable, today, a world without trademarks, a world in which goods that surround us can be easily identified when we want to purchase them. Attachment to products and services is made through trademarks and quite often, it leads to individualization of trademark which, over time, can become notorious.

In this context, it appears that the definition of notorious trademark is a sign or a symbol with a high degree of distinctiveness widely known among consumers and has commercial value as a result of prolonged use in the country or the world market.

A trademark may be recognized as being notorious under Law No. 38 of 29.02.2008 on the Protection of Trademarks according to an application for confirmation of notoriety or a counter application, filed with the court in whose jurisdiction is the headquarters of the State Agency on Intellectual Property (AGEPI). The term of protection of the notorious trademark is unlimited.

Thus, depending on the result of examination of the application for confirmation of trademark notoriety shall be adopted a decision on finding of the notoriety or rejection of the application.

Date entered in the Register of Notorious Trademarks shall be published in the Official Bulletin of Intellectual Property (BOPI), within 3 months of adoption of the decision on recognition of trademark notoriety.

Currently in the Republic of Moldova are recognized 27 notorious trademarks, involving various fields of activity.



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AGEPI-MAFI Cooperation in the Field of Geographical Indications and Appellations of Origin



On 1 March this year, AGEPI Director General, Octavian Apostol had a meeting with the Minister of Agriculture and Food Industry, Eduard Grama. From AGEPI, at the meeting were also present the Deputy Director General, Svetlana Munteanu and the Head of Legal Department, Diana Stici. The meeting was also attended by the Director of the National Office of Vine and Wine, Dumitru Munteanu, Head of Viticulture and Winemaking Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, Valeriu Cibotaru and specialists from these institutions.

AGEPI and MAFI specialists discussed about the current situation on the protection of geographical indications (GIs), appellations of origin (AO) and traditional specialties guaranteed (TSG), in the context of interest displayed by local producers to use regional products by

accessing this specific system of quality. Representatives of the two institutions mentioned the importance of the field of geographical indications and appellations of origin for our country. Moldova has a modern normative basis, harmonized with the European legislation on the protection of GIs and AO, but the competitive potential and multiple economic advantages of this system are not used sufficiently.

It is imperatively necessary a change of attitude in this respect: strengthening institutional capacity and creation of practical mechanisms with the view of developing the system of GIs and AO, joint efforts of the two institutions in order to identify effective mechanisms to support local producers, including the opportunities that are to be provided to them to boost the GI, AO and TSG registration process.

During the meeting AGEPI and MAFI representatives made an overview of the current status on the common normative drafts and discussed the ways of cooperation to ensure the implementation of all joint actions provided for in the policy documents, including those related to the development and intensive promotion of the national GI, AO and TSG protection system by organizing seminars, roundtables, trainings, etc.

Another topic on the agenda was related to the protection of trademarks in the context of the Draft Government Decision on management of state - owned trademarks for alcoholic products, promoted by MAFI.

At the end of the meeting, AGEPI Director General, Octavian Apostol and Minister of Agriculture and Food Industry, Eduard GRAMA have agreed to intensify the cooperation in all areas where the two institutions are targeted.

Currently, two appellations of origin: Ciumai and Romanesti, and four geographical indications: Divin, Codru, Stefan Voda and Valul lui Traian are registered in the Republic of Moldova. In December 2015, AGEPI received two new applications for the registration of geographical indications: Rose petal jam Calarasi and Apricot brandy Nimoreni.

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National Seminar „Protection of Geographical Indications”

On 14 March 2016, at the State Agency on Intellectual Property (AGEPI), was held the National Seminar „Protection of Geographical Indications”.

The event was organized by AGEPI in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Agrifood and Forestry of France, the French National Institute for Origin and Quality (INAO), and the French Embassy. The seminar is part of the working mission in the field of geographical indications of French experts in Moldova, which runs from 14 to 16 March.

The purpose of the seminar was to familiarize national experts with the best European practices in the protection and promotion of geographical indications, increasing the level of knowledge of the geographical indications system and identification of practical ways of production, protection and promotion of high quality products.

French delegation included: Nicolas Perrin, agricultural counselor, Embassy of France, Arnaud Mottin and Valerie Keller – experts from the French National Institute for Origin and Quality (INAO).

From the Republic of Moldova at the event were present representatives of the competent authorities responsible for the approval of specifications, control bodies and producers' associations: State Agency on Intellectual Property, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry (MAFI), Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Regional Development and Construction, Agency for Consumer Protection, National Agency for Food Safety, Tourism Agency, Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Scientific-Practical Institute of Horticulture and Food Technology, National Vine and Wine Office, viticultural and wine-making associations of the geographic regions

CODRU, STEFAN VODA and VALUL LUI TRAIAN, Association of Divin Producers, National Association of Beekeeper, etc.

In the opening, AGEPI Director General, Octavian Apostol thanked French experts for the support they lend to Moldova to promote geographical indications system. Octavian Apostol said that Moldova has a normative basis modern and harmonized with European legislation on the protection of geographical indications and appellations of origin, but the competitive potential and multiple economic advantages of this system are not used properly. This seminar is a perfect opportunity to borrow and learn from French experts' experience in the field of geographical indications, added AGEPI Director General.

In turn, Vasile Luca, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food Industry, said that the seminar is a real support for all institutions involved in this field and sharing experiences with colleagues from France will help improve and increase the speed of implementation of everything related to the production of products with geographical indications.

At the same time, Nicolas Perrin, agricultural counselor, Embassy of France, said that geographical indications system plays an important role in harnessing agricultural production and enables to grow farmers' importance. French counselor appreciated the seminar as an effective platform for dialogue and exchange of experiences that will enable the identification of mechanisms necessary to promote and ensure the protection of geographical indications in Moldova.

The seminar began with two overviews of the geographical indications protection systems, in the Republic of Moldova, on the one hand and the European Union and France, on the

other hand, held respectively by AGEPI Deputy Director General, Svetlana Munteanu, and Nicolas Perrin, agricultural counselor, Embassy of France. The participants were familiarized with the legal and institutional framework, strategies and policies related to the protection and promotion of geographical indications in the respective countries and at EU level.



Further Valerie Keller spoke about the approval of specifications presented at the INAO and interdepartmental collaboration between INAO and the Ministry of Agriculture, Agrifood and Forestry and other responsible authorities from France and the EU. INAO expert also presented the main stages of the process of recognition and protection of geographical indications.

About the official control on compliance of products with geographical indication spoke Arnaud Mottin, INAO expert.

At the end of the seminar, participants appreciated the exchange of experience that took part and showed their open participation in other meetings of this kind.

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External Expert of WIPO on a Working Visit to AGEPI

In the period 15-17 February this year, there took place the working visit to Chisinau of the external expert of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Gift Huggins Sibanda.

The expert was on a mission of documentation and assessment of the implementation in Moldova of the WIPO Project „Improvement of National, Sub-Regional and Regional IP Institutional and User Capacity” within the WIPO Development Agenda. Under this project, Moldova has benefited from the assistance of WIPO in developing the National Intellectual Property Strategy until 2020.

During the three days of visit, Gift Huggins Sibanda has undertaken a series of meetings with experts from institutions involved in implementing the National Intellectual Property Strategy, including the Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Education, Academy of Sciences of Moldova, Agency for Innovation and Technology Transfer, Chamber of Commerce and Industry and University of Medicine and Pharmacy „N. Testemitanu”.

The evaluation report of the WIPO Project will be submitted to the Member States of the World Intellectual Property Organization in the General Assembly to be held in October this year.

At the same time, the external expert of WIPO also met with members of the Observatory on Intellectual Property Rights: AGEPI, Customs Service, Police General Inspectorate and Prosecutor General's office. They discussed issues related to the enforcement of intellectual property rights in the Republic of Moldova, prevention and counteraction of offences in the IP field, issues and challenges facing the authorities and society at the present stage.

At the end of the mission, the WIPO expert expressed satisfaction over how the Republic of Moldova, and in particular AGEPI, manages the system of protection of intellectual property and recommended the national authorities to further promote the reforms in the field so that intellectual property may serve for economic development of the country. Given the results achieved by Moldova in building a modern system of intellectual property, Moldova can and should also serve as a source of best practices for the Member States of WIPO concerned, especially for the developing and less developed countries, said the international expert.

The last mission of assessment of the economic impact and implementation of the National Intellectual Property Strategy until 2020 took place in October 2014.



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