



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

oriGIn

Organization for an International
Geographical Indications Network

Third Regional Consultation on Geographical Indications in Europe and Central Asia - Virtual



UK Geographical Indications

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Regulatory framework



- UK previously operated under EU GI system, but left at end of 2020
- Replacement domestic system very similar
- Overseen by UK Government (Defra)
- 93 products: Spirits (5), Wines (7), and PFNs (81)
- High proportions registered in 1990s and then in 2010s



Process



- Application process typically takes 4-7 years, costs vary (and hard to quantify)
- Many small local-scale Operational Groups, a few very large national-scale ones
- Control inspections by Local Authorities, Government Agencies and third-parties
- Enforcement mainly by Local Authorities and Government Agencies
- Some actions by OGs themselves



Potential and obstacles



- Over 1300 potential candidate GI listed by trade association (5 in progress)
- But UK food system lacks collective organisations common in parts of EU
- Only modest market premium; some OGs now have few active members
- Low domestic consumer awareness (and GI label not always used)
- GI don't include wider sustainability issues



Market Situation

- Sales and Exports dominated by national-scale GI (whisky; salmon, beef, lamb)

	UK	EU	RoW	Total	Value
Wine	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	€0.1bn
Spirits	4.1%	18.2%	39.3%	61.7%	€4.7bn
PFN*	26.3%	9.7%	2.2%	38.3%	€2.9bn
Total	30.5%	27.9%	41.6%	100.0%	€7.7bn

- Local-scale GI often focused on local tourism-related demand
- Covid-19 effects difficult to disentangle from EU-exit effects
- No obvious UK role for FAO, but potential to share expertise elsewhere