

Press Release

Practitioners' Encounter on Geographical Indications in Western Balkan Countries

The first regional Practitioners' encounter on Geographical Indications in Western Balkan countries was organized in Prizren, Kosovo, on November 22 and 23, 2016.

Invited countries of the Western Balkans (Albania, Kosovo, Montenegro, FYROM and Bosnia & Herzegovina) were represented by "delegations" composed of civil servants, local authorities, producer associations, universities and development brokers. The aim was to cross visions, objectives and practical challenges to build a functional legislative and institutional framework – in line with EU standards – to register and protect product names and support an effective collective action at local level. Four practical case studies (one by country) were presented and extensively discussed.



The purpose of this "Practitioners' Encounter" was to share grassroots and institutional experiences on building GI. The aim of these exchanges on key strategic issues and choices faced at the local/national levels is to increase the stakeholders' involvement and understanding through the comparisons of these learning processes. This regional Practitioners' Encounter provided space, time and resources, to extensively discuss both practical and strategic GI issues.

This practitioners' encounter was organized by the **BiodivBalkans** program (funded by the French Fund for World Environment (**FFEM**) & co-implemented by **MADA**, the Albanian Agency for mountain areas rural development and **CIHEAM-IAMM**, an intergovernmental organization dedicated to agriculture and rural development in the Mediterranean), with the support of **ADECIA**, the French network of public agricultural expertise, food and rural development, and with the support of the **French Embassies** in Kosovo, Bosnia & Herzegovina and Albania, in relation with Kosovo Institute of Intellectual Property (**KsIIP**), a non-for-profit association aiming to promote the intellectual property rights in Kosovo and in the region.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: [PRESENTATION OF THE BIODIVBALKANS PROGRAM](#)

