The inter-professional coordination system: its application to the wine sector

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The French inter-professional coordination system refers back to the implementation by the French government of economic relationships based on contracts to manage food and agricultural markets during the 1960s. Since then, no other economic sector has set up as many inter-professions as the wine sector. Of the 60 inter-professions that exist in France, 20 are regional inter-professions concerning wines with appellation of origin and one concerns table wines. France also counts two federations of inter-professions.

It seems that this success is due to the internal characteristics of the French wine economic organisation, and in particular to the regional model of economic organisation which favours dialogue between the different actors (grape growers and wine traders). This dialogue is itself favoured by the system of appellations of origin. Nevertheless, despite a common legal framework (the 1975 law about inter-professions now supervised by European CMO – Common market organisation) and a shared economic sector (the one of wine, and particularly wine with appellation of origin), French wine inter-professions have taken very different forms and do not have the same priorities.

In this communication, the emergence of the inter-professional coordination system in France through the evolution of the wine industry and also through the legal framework that rules theses institutions will be discussed, before analysing the various applications in the larger French vineyards. The first elements of a comparative analysis of the wine inter-professions will be presented. Through this analysis, an understanding of the link between the two institutions that are inter-professions and appellations of origin will be sought. Particular attention will be paid to the appellation of origin, of vertical nature, which appears to have difficulty working without an inter-profession to run it.

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References


