

Abstract

The diploma thesis deals with the topic of European law and case law on designations of origin, geographical indications, and traditional specialties guaranteed. The aim of this thesis is to comprehensively analyse the EU legislation on geographical indications for agricultural products and foodstuffs, together with related case law and relevant international conventions. In particular, the work focuses on Regulation (EU) No 1151/2012 on quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs, which is key in this area. In the introductory part of the thesis, the characteristics and terminology of geographical indications and the European system of their sui generis protection are introduced. The second part focuses on the functions of geographical indications and their importance for producers and consumers in the European Union. Attention is also paid to current issues and the relationship between geographical indications and innovation. The third part focuses on the relevant international conventions, which are presented chronologically, including the historical and legal circumstances of their creation and an analysis of the most important provisions. The penultimate part of the thesis concerns the legal regulation of geographical indications in the EU and explains its development and objectives within the framework of the Common Agricultural Policy and the protection of intellectual property. The separate legislation for wines and spirits and the free trade agreements concluded by the EU with non-member states are also briefly introduced. The final and crucial part contains a detailed analysis of Regulation (EU) No 1151/2012, supplemented by relevant case law of the Court of Justice. It concludes that, although the Regulation has proven its worth, there is room for improvement. The two draft regulations currently under discussion at the EU level aim to remedy the shortcomings identified, and the intentions contained therein are also part of the final part of the work, including the possible extension of EU geographic indication protection to non-agricultural products.