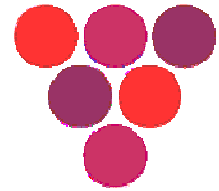




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**Degree of Development and Competitiveness in the Wine Sector in
EU Member States**

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Wine production plays a primary role in the agricultural activity of most wine-producing EU Countries, making a considerable contribution to the value of final agricultural output. However, total wine consumption has been decreasing due to the increased consumption of quality wines and the introduction of market tools to prevent overproduction.

An overview of key factors that are essential for a proper understanding of EU wine sector are presented, such as the structurally unbalanced market situation, the continuous decline in consumption, the progressive loss of competitiveness and the complexity of the legal framework.

The paper seeks to analyse the development of the EU wine sector in the last 20 years with special attention to evolution in wine areas, wine yields, consumption trends and trade balance. On the basis of different data sources (FAO, EUROSTAT, ISMEA and FADN) a number of indicators will be drawn for setting the scientific bases of policies and development strategies to increase competitiveness in the wine sector among different EU countries (EU-15).