

Phase II

- *Activity II* - Support to Legal Case

Reasons for the action

Under the *Lisbon Agreement*, Georgia has submitted seven names for registration as appellations of origin. Some or all of these appellations were already registered in some other countries (like Bulgaria, Israel) as trademarks by local private companies, thus generating rejection of registration as appellations under the *Lisbon Agreement*.

As the process of registration continues (Georgia has a total of 18 appellations names), there is a possibility of rejection by other countries. Hence, a coordinated strategy to deal with this problem is needed.

To strengthen Georgia's position in front of all the countries, a test case in one country should be identified and vigorously pursued, FAO contributing by sharing its experience and assisting the legal counterpart in its work.

The country selected for the test case could be either Israel (that has just recently rejected Georgia's registration of appellations), Ukraine (with which Georgia's government has friendly relations that could ease the process for a successful result), or Latvia (an EU country where numerous infringements could be easily identified).

Specific Tasks

- To assist in reviewing all relevant documents and arguments used by the country for rejecting the Georgians appellations
- To assist in all the steps to be taken in addressing the issue
- To hold consultations with the potential negotiators of these agreements;

Main output

Preliminary Legal opinion was delivered by FAO on a legal case opposing Georgia to Israel wineries using Georgian appellations.