

Improvement of the competitiveness of the Catalan winemaking and cork industries by determining the added value provided by Catalan cork in the winemaking process and obtaining data on the production potential of Catalan cork

Summary

The project consists of the creation of a project whose innovation lies in the symbiosis of the cork and winemaking sectors in the Empordà DO (and its possible extension to the whole of Catalonia) through the characterisation of the differences between cork extracted in Catalonia and cork from elsewhere for the manufacture of stoppers. This would improve the competitiveness of both the wineries and the stopper manufacturers thanks to the use of differentiated quality cork stoppers.

Objectives

- Increase knowledge of Catalan cork stoppers and especially their impact on the winemaking process and the preservation of wine.
- Strengthen the links between cork oak silviculture, the cork industry, wine producers in L'Empordà and the research centres that work in these fields.
- Develop a new product (a stopper made of cork from Catalan forests) that helps improve the competitiveness of wineries in Catalonia, forest owners and the cork stopper industry by determining the differential characteristics of Catalan cork stoppers and their impact on the evolution of wine stopped with this cork.
- Update the information currently available on cork production capacity in Catalonia and use it to analyse raw material availability and long-term profits in order to encourage investment in the sector.

Conclusions

The main conclusion drawn from this innovative project is the verification of the empirical differences between Catalan cork stoppers and stoppers from elsewhere, in terms of both their physical characteristics and their impact on the maturation of the wine. It has also been determined that it is necessary to undertake a longer-term project to be able to classify and precisely define these differences and the reasons for them. The data have also revealed that the production potential of cork in Catalonia is 10 to 11 thousand tonnes per year (double the current level).

Task force leader

Entity: **REGULATORY COUNCIL OF THE EMPORDÀ DESIGNATION OF ORIGIN**

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Typology of entity:

Other actors in the sector

Subject area(s) of application

Biodiversity and nature management

Geographical area(s) of application

Province(s)

Girona

Region(s)

Vallès Oriental

Farming / forestry competitiveness and
Food quality/processing and nutrition
Supply chain, marketing and consump

Barcelona

Baix Empordà
Alt Empordà

Dissemination of the project *(publications, conferences, multimedia...)*

'Taps de Finca' cork stopper initiative promotional material
Participation in the 2018 Stopper Fair at Cassà de la Selva

Project website

www.firadeltap.cat

More information on the project

Project dates

Starting date (month-year): March 2018

End date (month-year): July 2018

Current status: *Executed*

Approved budget

Total budget: €11,159.43

DARP funding: €4,452.61

EU funding: €3,358.99

Own funding: €3,347.83

With funding from:



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