



WINE ACT

I. INTRODUCTION

1. SITUATION ASSESSMENT AND REASONS FOR ADOPTING THE DRAFT ACT

In the Republic of Slovenia, the field of viticulture and winemaking is regulated by the Wine Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos 105/06, 72/11, 90/12 – ZdZPVHVVR, 111/13 and 27/17 – ZKme-1D; hereinafter: the current Act), adopted by the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia in October 2006. The current Act has been amended three times to date.

The draft Wine Act is necessary for the comprehensive and systematic regulation of viticulture and winemaking, as the current legislation, adopted in 2006, does not allow for the effective implementation of EU legislation due to its obsolescence. Although the current Act was amended in 2011, 2012 and 2013, the rules at EU level have changed significantly since then. Due to these changes, the preparation of a draft Act is not only advisable but also necessary in order to adequately adapt national legislation to EU requirements.

The draft Act covers all key aspects of grape and wine production, regulates the wine register, the inward and outward register, regulates traditional terms, aromatised wine products, the wine evaluation procedure, the appointment of authorized organizations and laboratories for the wine sector, organoleptic evaluation of wine, labelling, isotopic analysis, wine trade, unfair business practices, and control and criminal provisions.

1.1. Situation Assessment

a) The situation in the sector in the European Union

In 2020, the EU had 3.2 million hectares of vineyards, which corresponds to 2.0% of agricultural land in use and approximately 45% of all wine-growing areas worldwide. Among the 16 Member States with a threshold of more than 500 ha of vineyards, Spain (with 0.9 million hectares), France (0.8 million ha) and Italy (0.7 million ha) together accounted for around three quarters (74.9%) of the total EU vineyard area. The majority of the remaining vineyards in the EU were located in Romania, Portugal, Germany and Greece, each with a further 0.1 to 0.2 million hectares of vineyard.

2.2 million vineyards were used for wine production (hereinafter referred to as “vineyards”). Just under two fifths (37.9%) of the 2.2 million EU wine estates accounted for 0.8 million estates in Romania,

which are usually very small. A further 0.5 million wine estates were located in Spain and 0.3 million in Italy, together accounting for one third (35.3%) of all estates in the EU.

In 2020, Spain, France and Italy together accounted for three quarters (74.9 %) of the areas planted with vines in the EU and about two fifths (38.7 %) of the wine estates.

Vineyards in the EU are typically small, especially when compared to the size of other farms growing crops or rearing livestock. The average size of a wine estate in the EU was 1.4 ha in 2020, compared to an average of 15.2 ha (2016) for all estates in the EU. The smallest vineyards in the EU were in Romania (average 0.2 ha per vineyard) and in Croatia, Greece, Slovenia and Cyprus (all averaging around 0.5 to 0.6 ha). In contrast, the average size of a wine estate in France was 10.5 ha, which is more than double the next highest average of 4.6 ha in Luxembourg.

There are relatively few agricultural holdings with large vineyard areas in the EU; at EU level, 3.2% of agricultural holdings with more than 10 ha of vineyards accounted for the majority (59.2%) of all vineyards in the EU. The vast majority of wine estates were very small; 83.3% had less than 1 ha of vineyards. This distribution was typical for most Member States; in Slovakia, France, the Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Spain, Germany, Luxembourg, Austria and Hungary, the majority of wine-growing area was on holdings with more than 10 ha of vineyards, while in Italy and Portugal it was just under 50%.

The main grape varieties in the EU accounted for 91.1% of the total area planted with vines. The share of small (with a total area of less than 500 ha at national level), often regional varieties, amounted to 8.9%. There are more than 500 different main grape varieties in the EU (varieties whose area exceeds 500 ha at national level; according to Regulation (EU) No 1337/2011), with Italy alone having 96 main grape varieties.

The main grape varieties for red wine covered 1.5 million hectares in 2020, compared to 1.3 million hectares for the main grape varieties for white wine and 0.1 million hectares for other colour varieties (or unspecified). Red wine varieties accounted for the majority of wine-growing area in France (63.3%), Portugal (62.1%), Cyprus (58.0%), Bulgaria (55.5%) and Spain (52.3%). White wine varieties accounted for the majority of wine-growing area in Austria (68.4%), Slovenia (68.3%), Germany (68.1%), Croatia (67.3%), Hungary (65.8%), Slovakia (65.0%), Romania (62.7%) and the Czech Republic (61.1%). In Spain and Italy, the distribution between the main varieties of red and white wine was relatively even. In Greece, around one fifth (20.9%) of vines were intended for other coloured varieties, in particular the pink variety Rodritis.

In 2020, the main red varieties grown in the EU were Tempranillo tinto (13.8% of the total area planted with the main red wine grape varieties), Merlot noir (11.5%) and Garnacha tinta (9.5%). The most widely grown main white varieties were Airen (14.9% of the total area planted with main white wine grape varieties), Trebbiano toscano (9.9%) and Chardonnay blanc (7.8%).

Most varieties, even the most widespread ones, are grown in a relatively narrow geographical area: for example, Airen is grown only in Spain, Tempranillo tinto only in Spain and Portugal, and Trebbiano toscano mainly in France and Italy. The key exceptions were Merlot noir and Chardonnay, each planted in 14 Member States.

In the EU, the vines are usually older than 10 years; in 2020, 36.7% of vines in the EU were over 30 years old, and a further 41.3% were between 10 and 29 years old. Very young vines, less than 3 years old, accounted for only 4.5% of all vines in the EU in 2020, while those between 3 and 9 years old accounted for 17.5%. Only in Hungary has the age distribution of vines been relatively even (35.5% younger than 10 years, 34.4% between 10 and 29 years, and 30.1% older than 30 years).

The share of vines older than 30 years was particularly high in Bulgaria (68.8%), Romania (65.7%) and Cyprus (64.7%). In the case of Romania, the replanting process was well above the EU average, with 12.0% of vines also being younger than 3 years. Germany (7.1%), Hungary (6.8%) and Italy (6.5%) also had relatively high share of vines younger than 3 years.

The vast majority (82.4%) of vineyards in the EU were dedicated to the production of grapes for quality wine in 2020. Quality wine refers to products with a protected designation of origin (2.1 million ha, corresponding to 65.3% of EU vineyards) and a protected geographical indication (0.5 million ha, corresponding to 17.1%). Only 13.2% of the vines in the EU were intended for table wine.

A protected designation of origin (PDO) indicates the name of a product that must be produced in a specific geographical area using recognised and documented know-how. All products with PDO status must be produced exclusively from grapes from the area concerned.

A protected geographical indication (PGI) designates a product with a quality, reputation or other specific characteristics that can be attributed to a particular geographical area. All products with PGI status must be produced from at least 85% grapes originating in the area concerned.

In the Czech Republic, Germany, Luxembourg, Austria and Slovenia, all vineyards for grape production are intended exclusively for the production of quality wines. The relative shares in Croatia, Spain, Hungary and Slovakia were also above 90% in 2020.

Only in Romania was the majority (72.1% in 2020) of vineyards dedicated to table wine production. Vines for table wine were also relatively common in Bulgaria (38.7% of total vineyards), Italy (24.3%) and Portugal (20.1%). Greece was the only Member State with vineyards dedicated to the production of raisins (dried grapes), and these vineyards accounted for 37.4% of all vineyards in the country.

Between 2015 and 2020, the number of wine estates in the EU decreased by 257 000 (–10.3%). Most of these estate losses originated from the smallest vineyard estates; in size class with less than 1 ha of vineyards, there were 226 000 fewer estates than in 2015. The number of wine estates has fallen sharply in a number of Member States, in particular in Portugal (loss of 98 000 estates), Italy (loss of 78 000 estates) and Spain (loss of 34 000 estates). Despite these losses, the vineyard area for wine production remained relatively stable between 2015 and 2020 (–1.1%), with the increase in the vineyard area in Italy (by 38 000 ha despite a sharp decrease in the number of wine estates) largely offsetting the losses in Spain (30 000 ha reduction) and France (10 000 ha reduction). In addition to the loss of wine estates in Portugal, the vineyard area in 2020 was 25 000 hectares smaller than in 2015.

b) The situation in the sector in the Republic of Slovenia

The situation in viticulture and winemaking

In Slovenia, we produce up to 800 000 hectolitres of wine annually, depending on the individual vintage. Each wine-growing region has at least one large winery that purchases grapes, and there are already over 2 500 registered winemakers who also bottle their own wine.

There are around 17 000 hectares of cultivated vineyards in Slovenia, of which almost 14 600 hectares are registered for the purpose of marketing grapes and wine. Over 27 000 agricultural holdings are involved in the vineyard cultivation. In 2021, 862 hectares of vineyards were included in organic production.

The size of wine-growing areas has not changed significantly in recent decades; the wine-growing area grew until 1996, then began to decline slightly, with a somewhat greater decline in the most

recent period. Compared to 2010, it is evident that the wine-growing area has decreased by 5% according to data from the Register of Agricultural Holdings, and by as much as 18% according to agricultural land use surveys, which indicates the abandonment of mainly smaller vineyards. The average vineyard area in the agricultural holding is slightly increasing to 0.55 ha.

The vineyards are located on steep slopes, which means that production is extremely expensive on the one hand, but on the other hand, it enables a high-quality grape harvest. The share of quality wines with geographical indication therefore represents up to 70% of production. Due to declining wine consumption in Slovenia, winemakers are selling an increasing proportion of their harvest on foreign markets.

Grape and wine products in individual years were mostly dependent on weather conditions due to relatively small changes in area. After 1992, there were several exceptionally rich harvests (1993, 1997, 2000, 2002, 2007, 2015 and 2018), which filled the cellars to capacity and led to an increase in wine stocks and a consequent fall in the prices of grapes and wines.

In 2022, producers registered 507 380 hectolitres of wine in the Register of Harvesters and Winemakers (RPGV). In addition to this amount, the Ministry estimates that there are approx. 20% of additional wines produced by smaller producers intended for self-consumption by producers and their household members.

The production of organic wines in Slovenia is increasing. The quantity of areas on which organic grapes are grown, the latter being a condition for the production of organic wine, is increasing in Slovenia (955 ha in 2022). The quantity of organic grapes produced (3 359 tonnes in 2022) is also increasing, and these grapes are included in the European ECO scheme and have been awarded a certificate for this. The number of organic winemakers is also increasing (59 winemakers in 2022), as is the annual volume of organic wine produced (6 790 hectolitres in 2022).

The quality of wine depends greatly on the grape variety (grapes), the growing conditions (geological substrate, climate, microclimate conditions) and all the oenological practices used by the winemaker to produce and refine the wine. With the contents of a wine label on a bottle, the consumer is given comprehensible and appropriate information about the wine or other wine product, its origin, characteristics, producer, method of production, etc.

Situation in the sector in 2023

In the Register of Agricultural Holdings (hereinafter referred to as RKG), there are 14 357 ha of vineyards registered, the yield is regularly reported from 13 000 ha, and the agricultural land use survey shows that there are 16 430 ha of vineyards in the territory of the Republic of Slovenia. In the Register of Harvesters and Winemakers (hereinafter referred to as RPGV), there are 26 400 registered harvesters, almost all of whom are also winemakers; there are just over 2 700 registered bottlers, 11 of which are large-scale producers (over 500 000 litres per year).

Compared to 2010, it is evident that the wine-growing area has decreased by 11% according to data from the RKG, and by as much as 25% according to agricultural land use surveys, which indicates the abandonment of mainly smaller vineyards. The average vineyard area per agricultural holding is slightly increasing to 0.55 ha.

The vineyards are highly fragmented, with 85% of winegrowers cultivating less than 0.5 hectare of vineyards, while 91% of all wine growers cultivate vineyards of up to 1 hectare.

Table 1: Fragmentation of production – size classes based on the vineyard area cultivated by an individual producer

| Size class | Vineyard area (ha) | No. of producers |
|------------|--------------------|------------------|
| < 0.1 ha | 875 (6%) | 12 034 (47%) |
| 0,1–0,5 ha | 2 089 (15%) | 9 688 (38%) |
| 0,5–1 ha | 1 125 (8%) | 1 590 (6%) |
| 1–2 ha | 1 463 (10%) | 1 035 (4%) |
| 2–5 ha | 2 390 (17%) | 760 (3%) |
| > 5 ha | 6 371 (44%) | 453 (2%) |

Source: RPGV, status as of 11. 9. 2023

More than 90% of producers in areas where the size structure is most fragmented (Styrian Slovenia, Prekmurje, Dolenjska, Bela krajina, Bizeljsko Sremič) cultivate less than 1 hectare of vineyards. Less than 0.5 ha is cultivated by most producers in the wine-producing areas Prekmurje (95%), Dolenjska (95%) and Bela krajina (94%).

The greatest changes towards improving the size structure of vineyards occurred in the Goriška Brda wine-growing region, where 64% of producers cultivate more than 1 hectare of vineyards and 17% cultivate more than 5 hectares of vineyards. In this wine-growing region, the area of vineyards in terms of agricultural land use is practically the same as the area entered in the register (95%). Meanwhile, in the most fragmented regions, this share is only 60% in some places.

On average, a good 300 hectares of vineyards are renewed or newly planted each year, which is not sufficient for simple reproduction. As a result, the age structure of vineyards is deteriorating: 16% of vineyards are over 40 years old, compared with only 4% from 20 years ago. The largest proportion of young vineyards (up to 25 years old) is in the Primorska region (70%), while in the Podravje and Posavje regions, they account for just over half.

The situation slightly improved in the period before 2020, when almost 400 ha of vineyards per year were newly planted, and this slightly deteriorated again during epidemic.

Table 2: Age structure of vineyards in Slovenia

| Age | Area (ha) – 2004 | Area (ha) – 2018 | Area (ha) – 2023 |
|---------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 0–24 years | 11 345 (69%) | 9 724 (61%) | 8 082 (56%) |
| 25–30 years | 2 421 (15%) | 1 583 (10%) | 2 009 (14%) |
| 31–35 years | 1 371 (8%) | 1 277 (8%) | 1 038 (7%) |
| 35–40 years | 634 (4%) | 1 385 (9%) | 906 (6%) |
| over 40 years | 578 (4%) | 1 866 (12%) | 2 277 (16%) |

Source: RPGV, 2004 and 2018

The involvement of agricultural holdings in the organic production of grapes is sharply increasing – 955 ha of vineyards were included in organic production in 2022, which represents a three-fold increase in comparison with 2010.

The size of the annual harvest is mainly influenced by the weather conditions in a given year. Between 63 and 89 million litres of wine are produced annually, of which around 20% is for self-consumption – registered production is thus 45–55 million litres per year. The majority of the production consists of quality wines with protected geographical origin (70%).

Wine stocks depend mainly on the previous harvest and range between 30 and 40 million litres per year; due to the abundant harvest in 2018, they jumped to 48 million litres in 2019, and due to sales restrictions caused by the epidemic, they rose slightly to 49 million litres in 2020. With the introduction of the wine distillation measure in 2020 and 2021, the stock situation has become rather normalised (36 million litres in 2022).

There are 60 wine grape varieties grown in the wine-producing area of Slovenia. The representation of the main varieties is shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Representation of main varieties in Slovenia

| Variety | % |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Laški rizling | 11% (1 570 ha) |
| Refošk | 9% (1 230 ha) |
| Chardonnay | 8% (1 120 ha) |
| Sauvignon | 7% (1 060 ha) |
| Malvasia | 7% (990 ha) |
| Merlot | 5% (690 ha) |
| Žametovka | 5% (680 ha) |
| Small grain muscat | 5% (670 ha) |
| Rebula | 4% (600 ha) |
| Modra frankinja | 4% (600 ha) |
| Pinot Gris | 4% (510 ha) |
| Renski rizling | 3% (470 ha) |

Source: RPGV, January 2020

Planting of vines

A vine planting authorisation must be obtained before planting vineyards. Only those vineyards that are less than 0.1 ha and intended exclusively for the production of wine intended for consumption in the winegrower's household are exempt.

On 1 January 2016, a new scheme of authorisations for vine plantings came into force in the European Union, under which anyone wishing to plant or replant a vineyard must first obtain the appropriate authorisation.

Register of harvesters and winemakers

All winegrowers and winemakers who cultivate 0.05 ha or more of vineyards must be entered in the register of winegrowers and winemakers. If the harvest is sold, winemakers and winegrowers who cultivate smaller areas must also register.

New European legislation imposes heavy penalties on those who plant vineyards without an authorisation or who do not have their vineyards registered and market wine, must or grapes (the only exception being vineyards belonging to producers who consume wine exclusively within the household).

Registration in the register shall be carried out at the administrative unit free of charge, allowing the winegrowers to expand their vineyards, restore the existing vineyards and sell the wine.

2. THE OBJECTIVES, PRINCIPLES AND MAIN SOLUTIONS OF THE DRAFT ACT

2.1 Objectives

The draft Act pursues the following objectives:

- to ensure an effective and modern systemic approach to regulating viticulture and

winemaking, thereby facilitating the implementation of EU legal acts;

- to protect the interests of producers and consumers;
- improve competitiveness of the Slovenian wine sector on the international market.

2.2 Principles

The principle of specificity and the principle of simplification were taken into account in the drafting and preparation of the draft Act, and the purpose of the legislation is to comprehensively regulate the field of viticulture and winemaking, thereby achieving greater transparency and clarity.

The draft Act also takes into account the principle of legal clarity, on the basis of which the implementation of EU legal acts in the legal order of the Republic of Slovenia is regulated by clearly defined and comprehensible provisions.

The principle of professionalism was also taken into account in the drafting of the draft Act. The entire draft Act was prepared by a working group appointed by the Minister of Agriculture, followed by a public consultation and inter-ministerial consultation.

2.3 Main solutions

a) Presentation of the proposed solutions:

- The list of wine-growing units will be made public on the central website of the State Administration and will be updated annually. This ensures greater transparency for producers. When determining or changing the boundaries of wine-growing localities and wine-growing locations, the interests of producers may also be taken into account. The draft Act sets out the procedure for producers to submit proposals for amendments.

- The vine varieties will be published and updated annually on the central website of the State Administration, which will allow for more effective data updating and usability in the implementation of the intervention measures of the Common Agricultural Policy.

- The draft Act stipulates that grapes intended for the production of wine or grape juice must be grown on vineyard parcels, thereby preventing the abandonment and overgrowth of vineyards.

- A more transparent system for the purchase of grapes between natural persons producing wine with the same geographical indication is provided for. The purchase may not exceed 100% of the three-year average of the declared yield of own grapes. To this end, the use of grape shipping notes valid within the Republic of Slovenia is being introduced.

- The wine register also includes new obligated parties who are not entered in the register of agricultural holdings, which enables better recording of the quantities of wine sold as non-original bottled wine.

- Grape production will be entered in the wine register on GERK, so that aid may also be claimed in the future in the event of exceptional weather events (e.g. frost, hail).

- All those who cultivate at least 0.05 ha of wine-growing area are required to register in the register of winemakers, which is harmonised with the requirements of the Register of Agricultural Holdings.

- For traditional terms, procedures for registration, amendment and cancellation of traditional terms will be harmonised on the basis of EU legal acts.

- The establishment of a recognised producer group for geographical indications is

permitted.

- The draft Act regulates aromatised wine products.
- The draft Act lays down the conditions and procedure for designating an authorised organisation for the wine evaluation, which must meet the professional and technical requirements laid down in the draft Act.
- The draft Act lays down the conditions and procedure for designating an authorised organisation for training, which must meet the professional and technical requirements laid down in the draft Act.
- The draft Act enables the designation of authorised laboratories for isotopic analysis.
- It is determined when the wine is placed on the market.
- The draft Act defines what constitutes own wine production, thereby preventing abuse of labelling and support.
- It is specified when a certain wine in circulation is considered to be misleading for the consumer.

b) Resolution method:

The draft Act regulates the legal basis for the adoption of regulatory acts in the field of viticulture and winemaking. The draft Act comprehensively regulates public powers in the field of wine evaluation. The draft Act comprehensively regulates the area of records in viticulture and winemaking.

c) Normative consistency of the draft Act:

The draft Act is consistent with the current legal framework.

(c) Consistency of the draft Act:

The draft Act has been coordinated with representatives of the interested public.

3. ESTIMATE OF FINANCIAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE DRAFT ACT FOR THE STATE BUDGET AND OTHER PUBLIC FUNDS

The draft Act has financial consequences for the state budget and no financial consequences for other public funds.

To carry out the tasks set out in the draft Wine Act, the annual expenditure from the Slovenian budget is estimated at EUR 187 366.00 in 2025, 2026 and 2027 (200021 Professional tasks in viticulture EUR 187 366.00).

4. INDICATION THAT FUNDS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACT SHALL BE PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET IF THE DRAFT ACT PROVIDES FOR THE SPENDING OF APPROPRIATIONS DURING A PERIOD FOR WHICH THE STATE BUDGET HAS ALREADY BEEN ADOPTED

In order to carry out the tasks of the draft Wine Act, funds are already provided in the adopted state budget, as the content areas and tasks are transferred from the current Wine Act and, as a result, the financial consequences already planned on the basis of the legislation currently in force are also transferred.

5. PRESENTATION OF ARRANGEMENTS IN OTHER LEGAL SYSTEMS AND ADAPTATION OF THE PROPOSED ARRANGEMENT TO EUROPEAN UNION LAW

The draft Act is in line with EU legislation.

At the level of the European Union (hereinafter: EU), the wine legislation is part of the Common Agricultural Policy and is regulated within the common organisation of the markets in agricultural products. The basic regulation governing this area is Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products and repealing Council Regulations (EEC) No 922/72, (EEC) No 234/79, (EC) No 1037/2001 and (EC) No 1234/2007 (hereinafter referred to as “Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013”), supplemented by numerous delegated and implementing regulations. The aim is to ensure harmonised rules for the production, labelling and marketing of wine in the EU, to protect consumers and producers, to maintain a balance between supply and demand, to prevent overproduction and to promote quality and the protection of traditional products.

The key regulations governing wine at EU level are:

- Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 (regulates product definitions, oenological practices, authorisations for vine plantings, labelling, geographical indications),
- Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/33 of 17 October 2018 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards applications for protection of designations of origin, geographical indications and traditional terms in the wine sector, the objection procedure, restrictions of use, amendments to product specifications, cancellation of protection, and labelling and presentation (regulates the rules for protection of designations of origin, geographical indications and traditional terms),
- Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/934 of 12 March 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards wine-growing areas where the alcoholic strength may be increased, authorised oenological practices and restrictions applicable to the production and conservation of grapevine products, the minimum percentage of alcohol for by-products and their disposal, and publication of OIV files (regulates authorised oenological practices and restrictions),
- Regulation (EU) 2021/2117 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 2 December 2021 amending Regulations (EU) No 1308/2013 establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products, (EU) No 1151/2012 on quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs, (EU) No 251/2014 on the definition, description, presentation, labelling and the protection of geographical indications of aromatised wine products and (EU) No 228/2013 laying down specific measures for agriculture in the outermost regions of the Union (new requirements for nutrition declaration and designation of ingredients; mandatory from December 2023),
- Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2011 on the provision of food information to consumers, amending Regulations (EC) No 1924/2006 and (EC) No 1925/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council, and repealing Commission Directive 87/250/EEC, Council Directive 90/496/EEC, Commission Directive 1999/10/EC, Directive 2000/13/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, Commission Directives 2002/67/EC and 2008/5/EC and Commission Regulation (EC) No 608/2004 (hereinafter referred to as “Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011) (regulates horizontal rules and applies where sectoral rules do not provide otherwise).

Austria:

The wine sector in Austria is regulated by the Wine Act 2009 (*Weingesetz* 2009, last amended in 2023) and its regulatory acts. Austrian wine legislation is based on EU wine legislation, but Austria has retained its own strict regulations. The fundamental principles of wine legislation at EU level are governed by Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 and are binding for all EU Member States. These principles include the scheme of authorisations for vine plantings, financing programmes and market interventions (distillation, storage, etc.), permitted oenological practices, the protection of origin and

wine labelling rights. The Wine Act regulates specific circumstances in the country, particularly in the area of quality wines and wine control. These are:

- production and appropriate oenological process of wine (enrichment, deacidification, sweetening, blending, etc. are regulated),
- definitions and regulations concerning different quality levels (wine, wine with indication of variety or vintage, “Landwein” and quality wine, including premium wines),
- the use of specific origin and traditional names,
- regulations on supervision in the wine sector (harvest report, inventory report, vineyard register, label, keeping of cellar books, definition of competences and organisation of the federal wine inspection authority),
- fruit wine (definitions and production regulations),
- administrative regulations (e.g. penal provisions, rules for the promotion of the wine industry).

These rules are supplemented and specified in more detail in many areas by additional implementing regulations issued by the Minister of Agriculture, e.g. the Regulation on the labelling of wine, the Regulation on the determination of grape varieties for the production of quality wines, or the Regulation on the establishment of sectoral organisations.

The Wine Act regulates grape and wine production, oenological practices, labelling, protection of geographical indications (*Districtus Austriae Controllatus* – DAC), excise duties, supervision and penal provisions. The foundations of wine law are controlled origin, yield limits per hectare, quality levels and state quality control.

Austria distinguishes between wine with a protected designation of origin (“Qualitätswein” – wine with a protected designation of origin marketed under the designation for quality wine, “Landwein” – wine with a protected geographical indication marketed under the designation for rural wine) and wine without a protected designation of origin (wine from Austria). The origin of the grapes and the sugar content of the must, expressed in degrees on the Klosterneuburg Must Weight Scale (°KMW), are decisive for classification into different categories. For wine with a protected designation of origin (quality wine/quality wine of specified origin – DAC), the grapes must come from an Austrian wine-growing region; for “Landwein”, the origin must be from a wine-growing region (larger than a single wine-growing region). The label contains the following information: product name, geographical indication, state control number (for “Qualitätswein” and “Prädikatswein”), net quantity, producer or bottling plant, vintage, grape variety, allergens, designation of origin, quality grade, alcohol strength, sugar content, nutritional value and ingredients. Misleading indications (e.g. incorrect geographical names, fantasy names suggesting origin), health claims (e.g. “healthy wine”) and false statements about varieties, vintage and processes are prohibited.

For “Landwein”, quality wine and “Prädikatswein” (and for wine without protected designation of origin with indication of grape variety and vintage), the general maximum yield shall be 10 000 kilograms of grapes or 7 500 litres of wine per hectare, respectively. If more is produced, the entire quantity must be declared as wine without a protected designation of origin. Wine without an indication of origin may only be sold without a detailed indication of origin, without an indication of the grape variety and without an indication of the vintage. If a wine without an indication of origin bears an indication of grape variety and vintage, it must meet the requirements for “Landwein”.

Only oenological practices prescribed at EU level and by law are permitted. The Act also regulates reporting on harvesting and processing, as well as reporting on inventory. A harvester of grapes from which more than 3 000 litres of wine has been produced must report to the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management by 30 November of each year and submit a harvest and production report via the electronic wine database. Each harvester of grapes from which more than 3 000 litres of wine was produced must submit an inventory report (with a report on the quantity of available wine) to the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management by 15 August each year, with a reference date of 31 July. By 15 August each year, each harvester of grapes from which more than 3 000 litres of wine have been produced, as well as natural or legal persons or their associations storing more than 3 000 litres of wine, must submit to the Federal

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, via the wine database, a report detailing their stocks, additions and withdrawals of wine and other products, as well as the stocks of concentrated grape must and rectified concentrated grape must.

The state may allocate financial resources for the purpose of promoting the wine industry, namely for the promotion of wine sales, quality production and the repair of damage caused by frost. The support measures are financed by the federal government and the relevant state. The share of funding provided by the federal government is determined by law or regulatory act, which may establish the funding ratio by agreement between the federal government and the relevant states.

Croatia:

The wine sector in Croatia is regulated by the Wine Act (*Narodne novine*, No 32/19). The law lays down the competent authorities for the implementation of the law, grapevine cultivation, the production of wine-sector products, the physico-chemical and organoleptic characteristics of the wine, wine-sector product categories, the vineyard register, compulsory declarations and accompanying documents for wine-sector products, records of entering and exiting the cellar, obtaining, protecting and controlling protected designations of origin, protected geographical indications and traditional terms in the wine sector, labelling of wine, regional winegrower and winemaker organisations, promotional and marketing labelling and presentation of the wine, placing on the market and conditions for the sale of wine-sector products, conditions and mandatory procedures in the production and placing on the market of fruit wines, production procedures and categories, description, presentation and labelling and protected designations of aromatised wine products, administrative and inspection controls and penal provisions.

The fundamental principles of wine legislation, which are binding for all EU Member States, are laid down in Regulation (EU) 1308/2013, supplemented by numerous delegated and implementing regulations.

The Act shall ensure the implementation of Regulation (EU) 1308/2013 and the related delegated regulations, in particular as regards the cultivation of vines, oenological practices and methods of analysis, vine varieties, protected designations of origin, protected geographical indications and traditional terms, the labelling and presentation of wines, the vineyard register, and mandatory declarations and control procedures.

The law stipulates that the following must be entered in the vineyard register:

- winegrowers, harvesters, winemakers, processors, bottlers, merchants,
- catering establishments selling wine,
- natural and legal persons holding wine products for business or commercial purposes, in particular harvesters, winemakers, processors, bottlers and merchants, who keep entry and exit registers for these products,
- distilleries.

The establishment and maintenance of a viticultural land register is the basis for the management of production potential (granting of authorisations for vine plantings, monitoring of wine-growing areas, varietal structure and production capacities) and the implementation of measures provided for in EU legislation. The obligation to register all harvesters and winemakers in the register and to report changes (e.g. new plantings, grubbing-up of vineyards) is crucial to ensure the traceability of grape and wine production and the monitoring. The data contained in the register form the basis for quality control, prevention of the grey economy and ensuring compliance with the legislation. The register is linked to mandatory declarations (on harvesting, production, stocks) and accompanying documents for the marketing of grapes and wine.

The information that is kept in the register of winegrowers is laid down in the Regulations on

winemaking (*Narodne novine* Nos 81/22, 75/23, 81/23 and 82/24). It contains data on:

- viticultural potential,
- crop report (harvesters), production report (winemakers), stock report (winemakers, processors, bottlers, merchants), report on expected harvest for wines with protected designations,
- list of natural and legal persons maintaining entry and exit registers,
- geographical areas where grapevines are cultivated,
- historic vine growing locations,
- vineyard owners,
- categories and subcategories to which the obligated parties belong (winegrowers, harvesters, winemakers, processors, bottlers, merchants, wine sales outlets (catering establishments), obligated parties who keep entry and exit registers, distilleries).

Obligated parties are exempt from the obligation to submit a crop declaration in cases where they deliver their entire grape harvest as grapes or must to a winery or cooperative, provided that these cooperatives or groups are required to submit a production declaration, and when they process the entire grape harvest into wine themselves or when they process the entire grape harvest in their own name, provided that they produce less than 10 hectolitres (1 000 litres) for their household's needs.

Based on the natural conditions for growing vines, the geographical areas for growing vines in the Republic of Croatia are divided into: wine-growing zones, regions, sub-regions, districts and locations. In view of the geographical areas of grape production, the following protected designations may be designated for Croatian wines:

- protected designations of origin (PDO) at the level of wine-growing sub-regions, districts and locations,
- protected geographical indications at the level of the wine-growing region.

France:

French wine legislation is based on the Rural and Maritime Fisheries Code (*Code rural et de la pêche maritime*; hereinafter referred to as “French Code”), European regulations (e.g. Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013) and the rules of the National Institute of Origin and Quality (*Institut National de l'Origine et de la Qualité* (INAO)).

France uses the AOC (*Appellation d'Origine Contrôlée*) and PDO (protected designation of origin; *Appellation d'Origine Protégée*) systems to protect the origin and quality of its wines. The system of protected designation of origin (certification) is designed to protect typical and traditional regional products, the production and processing stages of which take place in a given geographical area (so-called *terroir*). All production and processing must take place within this area.

The French Code and the associated regulations set out the obligations of harvesters and winemakers in three key areas: labelling, control and sanctions. The labelling of wine is based on the provisions of the French Code, Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 and Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011. The mandatory indications on the label are the name of the wine category (e.g. PDO, PGI, *Vin de France*), the geographical indication (PDO/AOC or PGI), the alcoholic strength, the net quantity, the name and address of the producer or bottler, lot number, allergens, nutritional value and the list of ingredients (can be via a QR code). False or misleading indications (e.g. false origin, fantasy names suggesting PDO) and health claims (e.g. “healthy wine”) are prohibited. Traditional terms (*Château, Clos*) are only allowed under INAO conditions; for sparkling wines, additional requirements apply (e.g. *méthode traditionnelle*).

In France, there are three categories of wine: wines with a protected designation of origin (PDO/AOC), wines with a protected geographical indication (PGI; *Indication Géographique Protégée*) and table wines without a geographical indication (*Vin de France*).

PDO/AOC is the highest category, which is also strictly regulated. In order to be granted a PDO/AOC certificate, the prescribed conditions must be met – rules on varieties, cultivation, vinification, minimum alcohol, method of pruning, planting density.

France has certain maximum permissible loads of grape production per hectare, but these limits depend on the category of wine and geographical indication (AOC/PDO). For wines with a protected designation of origin (PDO/AOC), maximum permissible loads of grape production per hectare are prescribed, referred to as *rendement butoir* (upper limit) and *rendement de base* (basic limit). Restrictions are intended to maintain quality and regulate the market. Exceeding the permitted harvest may lead to a deterioration in wine quality and sanctions (e.g. the wine may not bear the PDO designation). The maximum permissible load of grape production per hectare is expressed as the maximum wine production in hectolitres per hectare determined by each PDO. Typical values are:

- – PDO red wines: approximately 50–60 hl/ha (hectolitres of wine per hectare),
 - – PDO white wines: often 55–70 hl/ha,
 - – champagne: around 66 hl/ha,
 - – ordinary table wine (*Vin de France*): may exceed 100 hl/ha, as they do not have strict limits.
- 1 ha of vineyard yields around 130 kg of grapes (depending on the variety and technology).

The INAO plays a key role in the French regulation system for wine and other products with a protected designation of origin. Its tasks are:

- management of the AOC/PDO system (approval and registration of the product specification (*cahier des charges*) for wines with a protected designation of origin, determines the conditions of production (variety, area, vinification methods)),
- control and certification (ensures product compliance with approved product specifications, organisation of control and issuance of PDO/AOC wine certificates),
- legal protection of designations (protects geographical designations from misuse or counterfeiting, monitors the use of traditional terms (e.g. “Château”, “Clos”),
- quality development (promotes improvement in product quality and traceability, advises the government on changes to legislation and standards),
- sanctions and measures (may propose sanctions for infringements (e.g. incorrect labelling), cooperates with authorities in withdrawing the right to use PDO/AOC).

In accordance with the French Code and Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013, every harvester must be entered in the vineyard register (*registre viticole*) who:

- cultivates a vineyard, regardless of size, if the crop is placed on the market,
- has a vineyard above the minimum area (usually 0.1 ha).

Registration is also mandatory for wine producers who purchase grapes for processing.

The vineyard register contains the identification of the producer, the location of the vineyards, including the wine-producing area, the wine-growing area and the varieties, the method of production, and information on the cellar (location of the vinification facility, processing and storage capacity). In France (and in most EU countries, as there is a common market regulation for wine), harvesters and winemakers must declare the quantity of grapes, must and wine produced by 20 November of the current year at the latest. If the harvest is very late and it is not possible to submit the declaration by 20 November, it must be submitted no later than 20 days after the harvest. Declaration is mandatory for:

- anyone who cultivates 0.1 ha or more of vineyards,
- even for smaller areas if the crop (grapes, must, wine) is placed on the market.

The quantity of grapes (in kg), the quantity of must and wine (in litres), including the yield for own consumption, must be declared.

If the harvest is very late and it is not possible to submit the declaration by 20 November, it must be

submitted no later than 20 days after the harvest.

Part of the vineyard register is the stock register in which stocks of wine and must are kept. Wine and must stocks must be declared each year, and the declaration must include stocks remaining in storage on 31 July. Declaration is not required if there were no stocks on that day. The party obligated for registration is the wine producer.

The purpose of the register is to ensure traceability from vineyard to bottle, to monitor the production and marketing of PDO/AOC and PGI wines, and to provide a basis for compiling statistics, carrying out controls and fulfilling tax obligations.

6. ASSESSMENT OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE ADOPTION OF THE ACT

6.1 Assessment of administrative consequences

a) In proceedings or operations of public administration or judicial authorities:

The introduction of the obligation to enter data on grape harvest by GERK (graphical units of agricultural land) instead of at the level of the entire agricultural holding increases the accuracy and traceability of data on actual production by location. The procedure enables more effective implementation of measures, particularly in assessing damage caused by adverse weather conditions and in monitoring the origin and quantities of grapes.

However, such an upgrade of the register also means an increase in the amount of administrative work on the part of the administrative units. The entry of data by individual GERKs requires more time and accuracy in the processing of producer applications, especially for larger agricultural holdings with dispersed production. The draft Act will no longer restrict entries in the wine register to individual administrative units; instead, all administrative units throughout Slovenia will be able to participate.

The draft Act does not confer any new powers, nor are administrative disputes expected, since the Ministry, as the first-instance body, is only provided for in Articles 11, 14, 26, 27, 28 and 33 of the draft Wine Act, and, from experience, no administrative dispute has arisen to date. We also clarify that this is not a large number of beneficiaries under the proposed articles.

b) In the obligations of the parties vis-à-vis the public administration or judicial authorities:

With the entry into force of the new Wine Act, the obligation to record grape harvests per GERK (graphical unit of agricultural land) is introduced for parties obligated to be registered in the wine register. The change replaces the previous practice, which allowed for collective reporting at the level of the entire agricultural holding.

As a result, producers will have to establish appropriate records that will separately include data on the harvest from each individual wine-growing area defined in the register of agricultural holdings (RKG). This will require a higher level of organisation and timeliness in document management, as well as coordination with land registries.

The introduction of this requirement is an important step towards greater transparency of information in the field of viticulture and winemaking, while also representing an individual administrative and technical adjustment for producers.

6.2 Assessment of the consequences for the environment, including spatial and protection aspects, for:

The draft Act has no environmental impact.

6.3 Assessment of the consequences for the economy, for:

The draft Act introduces a number of important systemic changes that will affect the economic sector, in particular in the area of the marketing of wine products.

The draft Act establishes more accurate recording of grape and wine production in the wine register, which means greater transparency and quality of data in the register. This will strengthen the traceability of the production flows and facilitate control.

The draft Act extends the circle of parties obligated for the entry in the wine register. Under the new proposal, economic operators engaged in the circulation of non-original bottled wine will also be included, although they are not harvesters and winemakers themselves.

This extension will enable better control over the quantities of wine in circulation on the market and reduce the possibilities for undeclared or unregistered marketing of wine, which will consequently limit the operation of the grey market. The reduced influence of the grey market will contribute to fairer competitive conditions for registered winemakers and bottlers and will have a positive impact on the stability and transparency of pricing for domestic wine production in Slovenia.

The draft Act therefore reinforces transparency in the sector, reduces unfair competition and, in the long term, creates more favourable conditions for economic activity in the wine sector.

6.4 Assessment of the consequences for the social sector, for:

The draft Act has no consequences for the social sector.

6.5 Assessment of the consequences for development planning documents, for:

The draft Act has no consequences for the development planning documents.

6.6 Assessment of the consequences for other areas:

The draft Act has no consequences for other areas.

6.7 Implementation of the adopted regulation:

a) Presentation of the adopted Act:

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food (hereinafter referred to as "Ministry") will present the adopted Act to target groups and the general public directly through their representatives, via the Ministry's website and through media announcements.

b) Monitoring implementation of the adopted regulation:

The implementation of the adopted regulation will be monitored by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food.

7. DISPLAY OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE PREPARATION OF THE DRAFT ACT:

On the initiative of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food, a working group was established on 29 March 2023 to prepare a draft Wine Act. The purpose of the working group was to provide an

expert basis for the preparation of comprehensive legislation in line with European regulations and the needs of the Slovenian wine sector.

On 23 May 2023, an additional representative of winemakers was added to the group, which enabled better involvement of various stakeholders in the legislative process. In 2023, the working group met five times (in May, June, July, August and September). During this period, numerous technical topics were discussed, *inter alia* oenological practices and testing of new practices, the wine categorisation system and the definition of premium wines, traditional terms in accordance with European legislation, rules on the purchase of grapes by natural persons, regulation of non-alcoholic wine, wine analyses and establishment of a system of authorised laboratories, classification of producers by size classes, powers of supervisory authorities and fines for natural persons, accompanying documents and shipping notes for wine trade, rules for designations of origin (PDO/PGI), establishment and maintenance of a register of grapes and wine and cellar registers, control of quality and origin, wine serving at local events, absolute wine-growing locations, procedures for registering vineyards, reporting harvests, wine stocks and oenological practices used, existing zoning of wine-growing areas.

Due to personnel changes at the Ministry, the working group was reorganised, with new decisions on the appointment of members being issued on 19 February 2024 and 26 September 2024. Intensive and content-oriented work on the legal text was initiated with the new head of the working group. It has been agreed that the Ministry shall prepare thematically divided sets of articles of the Act, which it shall submit in advance to the members of the working group, aimed at the efficient discussion and expert consideration at regular meetings.

In this context, the following working group meetings were held in 2024 and 2025: 4 April 2024, 18 April 2024, 22 May 2024, 18 June 2024, 25 July 2024, 3 December 2024, 19 December 2024, 20 December 2024, 10 January 2025 and 26 March 2025.

Regular cooperation and substantive discussions within the working group contributed significantly to the preparation of the draft Act that comprehensively regulates the field of viticulture and winemaking.

The draft Act was published on the E-democracy website on 18 April 2025. The public hearing was held until 19 May 2025.

8. INFORMATION ON THE EXTERNAL EXPERT OR LEGAL ENTITY THAT PARTICIPATED IN THE DRAFTING OF THE DRAFT ACT AND THE AMOUNT OF REMUNERATION FOR THIS PURPOSE:

External experts or legal entities did not participate in the preparation of the draft Act.

9. INDICATION OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PROPOSER WHO WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE WORK OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND ITS WORKING GROUPS

- Mateja Čalušič, Minister,
- Maša Žagar, State Secretary,
- Ervin Kosi, State Secretary,
- Simona Vrevc, Acting Director General of the Directorate for Agriculture,
- Andrej Hafner, Head of the Sector for Legal Systemic Affairs in Agriculture,
- Maja Močilar, Sector for Legal Systemic Affairs in Agriculture,
- Andreja Komel, Head of the Sector for Structural Policy and Rural Development,
- Dr Polona Grahovac, Head of the Sectoral Development Plans Department in the Sector for Structural Policy and Rural Development,
- Nika Gregorič, Minister's Office

II. TEXT OF THE ARTICLES

WINE ACT

CHAPTER I.

FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

Article 1

(Content)

(1) This Act regulates the categories of grapevine products, the production of grapes, wine and other grapevine products, the register of harvesters, winemakers and other grapevine products and aromatised wine products producers, the inward and outward register, traditional terms, aromatised wine products, the assessment and labelling of wine and other grapevine products and aromatised wine products, the laboratory for isotopic analysis, the marketing of wine and other grapevine products and aromatised wine products, inspection control and penal provisions.

(2) This Act implements the following Regulations:

1. Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2011 on the provision of food information to consumers, amending Regulations (EC) No 1924/2006 and (EC) No 1925/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council, and repealing Commission Directive 87/250/EEC, Council Directive 90/496/EEC, Commission Directive 1999/10/EC, Directive 2000/13/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, Commission Directives 2002/67/EC and 2008/5/EC and Commission Regulation (EC) No 608/2004 (OJ L 304, 22.11.2011, p. 18), as last amended by Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2024/2512 of 17 April 2024 amending Annex II to Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the provision of food information to consumers, as regards behenic acid from mustard seeds to be used in the manufacturing of certain emulsifiers (OJ L, 2024/2512, 25.9.2024), (hereinafter referred to as "Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011");

2. Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products and repealing Council Regulations (EEC) No 922/72, (EEC) No 234/79, (EC) No 1037/2001 and (EC) No 1234/2007 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 671), as last amended by Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2025/1269 of 6 May 2025 laying down rules supplementing Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to the electronic system for agricultural non-customs formalities ('ELAN') to monitor and manage trade and market in agricultural products (OJ L, 2025/1269, 10.7.2025), (hereinafter referred to as "Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013");

3. Regulation (EU) No 251/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on the definition, description, presentation and labelling of aromatised wine products and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 1601/91 (OJ L 84, 20.3.2014, p. 14), as last amended by Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2024/585 of 8 December 2023 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 251/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards specific rules for the

indication and designation of ingredients for aromatised wine products (OJ L, 2024/585, 15.2.2024), (hereinafter referred to as “Regulation (EU) No 251/2014”);

4. Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2017/670 of 31 January 2017 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 251/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the authorised production processes for obtaining aromatised wine products (OJ L 97, 8.4.2017, p. 5);

5. Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2017 on official controls and other official activities performed to ensure the application of food and feed law, rules on animal health and welfare, plant health and plant protection products, amending Regulations (EC) No 999/2001, (EC) No 396/2005, (EC) No 1069/2009, (EC) No 1107/2009, (EU) No 1151/2012, (EU) No 652/2014, (EU) 2016/429 and (EU) 2016/2031 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Council Regulations (EC) No 1/2005 and (EC) No 1099/2009 and Council Directives 98/58/EC, 1999/74/EC, 2007/43/EC, 2008/119/EC and 2008/120/EC, and repealing Regulations (EC) No 854/2004 and (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Council Directives 89/608/EEC, 89/662/EEC, 90/425/EEC, 91/496/EEC, 96/23/EC, 96/93/EC and 97/78/EC and Council Decision 92/438/EEC (OJ L 95, 7.4.2017), as last amended by Regulation (EU) 2024/3115 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 November 2024 amending Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 as regards multi-annual survey programmes, notifications concerning the presence of regulated non-quarantine pests, temporary derogations from import prohibitions and special import requirements and establishment of procedures for granting them, temporary import requirements for high-risk plants, plant products and other objects, the establishment of procedures for the listing of high-risk plants, the content of phytosanitary certificates and the use of plant passports, and as regards certain reporting requirements for demarcated areas and surveys of pests and amending Regulation (EU) 2017/625 as regards certain notifications of non-compliance (OJ L, 2024/3115, 16.12.2024), (hereinafter referred to as “Regulation (EU) 2017/625”);

6. Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2018/273 of 11 December 2017 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the scheme of authorisations for vine plantings, the vineyard register, accompanying documents and certification, the inward and outward register, compulsory declarations, notifications and publication of notified information, and supplementing Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the relevant checks and penalties, amending Commission Regulations (EC) No 555/2008, (EC) No 606/2009 and (EC) No 607/2009 and repealing Commission Regulation (EC) No 436/2009 and Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/560 (OJ L 58, 28.2.2018, p. 1), as last amended by Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2025/382 of 18 September 2024 amending Delegated Regulation (EU) 2018/273 as regards the certification of imported wine products and the import of wine originating in New Zealand (OJ L, 2025/382, 21.2.2025), (hereinafter referred to as “Delegated Regulation (EU) 2018/273”);

7. Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/274 of 11 December 2017 laying down rules for the application of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the scheme of authorisations for vine plantings, certification, the inward and outward register, compulsory declarations and notifications, and of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the relevant checks, and repealing Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/561 (OJ L 58, 28.2.2018, p. 60), as last amended by Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/340 of 19 February 2025 amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/274 as regards the procedure for granting replanting authorisations for vineyards (OJ L, 2025/340, 20.2.2025), (hereinafter referred to as “Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/274”);

8. Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/33 of 17 October 2018 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards applications for protection and labelling of designations of origin and geographical indications, applications for

protection, the objection procedure, modification and cancellation of traditional terms and labelling and presentation in the wine sector (OJ L 9, 11.1.2019, p. 2), as last amended by Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2025/28 of 30 October 2024 amending Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/33 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards applications for protection of designations of origin, geographical indications and traditional terms in the wine sector, the objection procedure, restrictions of use, amendments to product specifications, cancellation of protection, and labelling and presentation (OJ L, 2025/28, 15.1.2025), (hereinafter referred to as “Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/33”);

9. Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/34 of 17 October 2018 laying down rules for the application of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards applications for protection of designations of origin, geographical indications and traditional terms in the wine sector, the objection procedure, amendments to product specifications, the register of protected names, cancellation of protection and use of symbols, and of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards an appropriate system of checks (OJ L 9, 11.1.2019, p. 46), as last amended by Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/26 of 30 October 2024 laying down rules for the application of Regulation (EU) 2024/1143 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards registrations, amendments, cancellations, enforcement of the protection, labelling and communication in respect of geographical indications and traditional specialities guaranteed, and amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/34 as regards geographical indications in the wine sector, and repealing Implementing Regulations (EU) No 668/2014 and (EU) 2021/1236 (OJ L, 2025/26, 15.1.2025), (hereinafter referred to as “Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/34”);

10. Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/934 of 12 March 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards wine-growing areas where the alcoholic strength may be increased, authorised oenological practices and restrictions applicable to the production and conservation of grapevine products, the minimum percentage of alcohol for by-products and their disposal, and publication of OIV files (OJ L 149, 7.6.2019, p. 1), as last amended by Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2024/3085 of 30 September 2024 amending Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/934 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards authorised oenological practices (OJ L, 2024/3085, 9.12.2024), (hereinafter referred to as “Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/934”);

11. Regulation (EU) 2021/2116 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 2 December 2021 on the financing, management and monitoring of the common agricultural policy and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 (OJ L 435, 6.12.2021), as last amended by Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/2434 of 11 September 2024 derogating in respect of the year 2024 from Article 44(2), second subparagraph, of Regulation (EU) 2021/2116 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the level of advance payments for interventions in the form of direct payments and area-based and animal-based rural development interventions (OJ L, 2024/2434, 12.9.2024);

12. Regulation (EU) 2024/1143 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 April 2024 on geographical indications for wine, spirit drinks and agricultural products, as well as traditional specialities guaranteed and optional quality terms for agricultural products, amending Regulations (EU) No 1308/2013, (EU) 2019/787 and (EU) 2019/1753 and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1151/2012 (OJ L, 2024/1143, 23.4.2024), (hereinafter referred to as “Regulation (EU) 2024/1143”).

Article 2

(Information procedure and clause)

(1) This Act shall be issued subject to an information procedure in accordance with Directive (EU) 2015/1535 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 September 2015 laying down a procedure for the provision of information in the field of technical regulations and of rules on Information Society services (OJ L 241, 17.9.2015, p. 1).

(2) The provisions of this Act shall not apply to products which, in accordance with national legislation ensuring an equivalent level of protection of the public interest as determined in the legislation of the Republic of Slovenia, are lawfully:

- produced or marketed in other Member States of the European Union and Turkey, or
- produced in the countries of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), which are also signatories to the Agreement on the European Economic Area.

(3) This Act shall be implemented in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2019/515 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 March 2019 on the mutual recognition of goods lawfully marketed in another Member State and repealing Regulation (EC) No 764/2008 (OJ L 91, 29.3.2019, p. 1).

Article 3

(Definitions)

Terms used in this Act mean:

1. aromatised wine products are products as defined in Regulation (EU) No 251/2014;
2. GERK is a continuous area of agricultural land with the same type of use within a single block in accordance with the law governing agriculture;
3. own production of wine and other grapevine products (hereinafter referred to as "own wine production") means the production of wine and other grapevine products from own grapes grown in the Republic of Slovenia;
4. abandoned wine-growing area is an area as defined in Delegated Regulation (EU) 2018/273;
5. original bottling of wine and other grapevine products and aromatised wine products is the bottling of wine and other grapevine products and aromatised wine products, as defined in Delegated Regulation (EU) 2018/273;
6. bottler of wine and other grapevine products and aromatised wine products (hereinafter referred to as "bottler") is a natural person, a sole trader, or a legal person who performs the activity of original bottling of wine, other grapevine products and aromatised wine products or on whose behalf the original bottling of wine, other grapevine products and aromatised wine products is carried out, and is entered in the register of harvesters, winemakers and other grapevine products and aromatised wine products producers;
7. harvester (hereinafter referred to as "harvester") is a natural person, a sole trader or legal person who, on an agricultural holding governed by the law regulating agriculture, produces grapes for

the purpose of selling them or processing them into wine and other grapevine products and aromatised wine products;

8. fresh grapes are the fruit of the vine, as defined in paragraph 4 of Part IV of Annex II to Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 (hereinafter referred to as “grapes”);

9. vineyard is land in a wine-growing unit referred to in Article 7 of this Act, planted with grapevines, which is recorded in the Register of Agricultural Holdings as type of actual use “1211 Vineyard”;

10. wine year is the marketing year for the wine sector as referred to in Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013;

11. wine stock is the quantity of all wine owned by the party obligated for entry in the register of harvesters, winemakers and other grapevine products and aromatised wine products producers on 31 July of the current year, regardless of the origin and location of storage.

Article 4

(By-laws)

The Government of the Republic of Slovenia and the Minister responsible for Agriculture (hereinafter referred to as “Minister”) shall issue the by-laws provided for in the provisions of this Act and other regulations necessary for the enforcement of this Act and the implementation of legal acts of the European Union (hereinafter referred to as “EU legal acts”) relating to the content of this Act.

CHAPTER II.

VITICULTURE AND WINEMAKING

SECTION 1.

CATEGORIES OF GRAPEVINE PRODUCTS

Article 5

(Categories of grapevine products)

This Act regulates the following categories of grapevine products in accordance with Part II of Annex VII to Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013, except for wine vinegar (hereinafter referred to as “wine and other grapevine products”):

1. wine;
2. new wine still in fermentation;

3. liqueur wine;
4. sparkling wine;
5. quality sparkling wine;
6. quality aromatic sparkling wine;
7. aerated sparkling wine;
8. semi-sparkling wine;
9. aerated semi-sparkling wine;
10. grape must;
11. partially fermented grape must;
12. partially fermented grape must extracted from raisined grapes;
13. concentrated grape must;
14. rectified concentrated grape must;
15. wine from raisined grapes; and
16. wine of overripe grapes.

SECTION 2.

GRAPE PRODUCTION

Article 6

(Grape production)

(1) Grape production includes all agrotechnical and ampelotechnical work carried out in the vineyard to ensure the production of grapes that are entered in the register of harvesters, winemakers and other grapevine products and aromatised wine products producers.

(2) The vineyard must be cultivated, whereby cultivation is deemed to be the annual registration of the grape harvest in the register referred to in the preceding paragraph.

(3) The Minister shall prescribe more detailed conditions on the quality of grapes for the production of wine and other grapevine products, unless EU legal acts regulating procedures and restrictions relating to the production and conservation of grapevine products and product specifications stipulate otherwise.

Article 7

(Wine-growing units)

(1) According to environmental conditions (relief, climate, soil and agrobiotic factors), organoleptic characteristics of wine and other grapevine products, and traditional aspects of production, the wine-producing area of the Republic of Slovenia is divided into the following wine-growing units: wine region, wine-growing region and wine-growing sub-region, narrower wine-growing region, wine-growing locality and wine-growing location.

(2) A wine region is a geographically larger wine-growing unit with similar climatic and soil conditions which, together with agrobiotic factors, influence the main organoleptic characteristics of wine and other grapevine products produced in that area. The wine regions are Primorska, Podravje and Posavje.

(3) A wine-growing region is a geographically smaller defined wine-growing unit of an individual wine region with similar climatic and soil conditions, the same vine varieties and other similar agrobiotic factors that enable the production of wine and other grapevine products and have similar organoleptic characteristics typical of the wine-growing region. The wine-growing regions are Styrian Slovenia, Prekmurje, Dolenjska, Bela krajina, Bizeljsko-Sremič, Kras, Slovenska Istra, Vipavska dolina or Vipava and Goriška brda or Brda.

(4) A wine-growing sub-region, narrower wine-growing region, wine-growing locality and wine-growing location are smaller wine-growing units of an individual wine-growing region with similar climatic, soil and other environmental conditions, and vine varieties that enable the production of wine and other grapevine products that differ in quality and organoleptic characteristics from wine and other grapevine products from other wine-growing units in the same wine-growing region.

Article 8

(Determination of wine-growing units)

(1) The wine-growing sub-region, narrower wine-growing region, wine-growing locality and wine-growing location are geographically defined units that follow the boundaries of cadastral municipalities or boundaries defined in nature.

(2) The Minister shall determine wine-growing units on the basis of expert analyses covering data on climate, soil, characteristics of grapes, wine and other grapevine products, and production traditions. The wine-growing units referred to in this Article shall be updated regularly.

Article 9

(Scheme of authorisations for vine plantings)

(1) A vineyard may be newly planted or replanted if the producer has previously obtained an authorisation for vine plantings, in which case the vineyard must be planted with vine varieties referred to in paragraph 1 of Article 12 of this Act.

(2) Notwithstanding the preceding paragraph, in the cases referred to in paragraph 4 of Article 62 of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013, a vineyard may be newly planted or replanted without obtaining an authorisation for vine plantings.

Article 10

(Authorisation for new vine plantings)

(1) For the implementation of Article 62 of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013, the administrative unit and the Ministry are the competent authorities for deciding on authorisations for new vine plantings.

(2) The conditions for issuing an authorisation for new vine plantings are laid down in Articles 62, 63, 64 and 68 of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013.

(3) The application for an authorisation under this Article shall contain the KMG MID and other information about the producer, as well as information on the size and location of the vineyard to be planted.

(4) The application referred to in the preceding paragraph shall be submitted to the administrative unit by 30 June prior to the wine year in which the vineyard will be planted.

(5) Before issuing the authorisation referred to in this Article, the administrative unit shall communicate to the Ministry the data on the size of the vineyard covered by the authorisation application. The Ministry shall verify the total area covered by applications for new vine plantings referred to in point (b) of paragraph 1 of Article 63 of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013.

(6) If the total area referred to in the preceding paragraph is exceeded, the Ministry shall decide whether to grant the authorisation referred to in this Article, whereby it shall:

- take into account the criteria set out in point (ca) of paragraph 1 and points (d) and (h) of paragraph 2 of Article 64 of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013;
- carry out the selection procedure in accordance with the paragraph 2 of Article 7 of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/274.

(7) The authorisation for new vine plantings includes:

- KMG MID and other information from the producer;
- information on the size and location of the vineyard to which the authorisation relates;
- information on the validity of the authorisation in accordance with Article 62 of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013.

(8) Regardless of the deadline specified in paragraph 4 of this Article, the producer may, from the date of receipt of the authorisation referred to in this Article until the start of planting of the vines, submit an application to the administrative unit for a change in the location of the vineyard referred to in the second indent of the preceding paragraph. In the case referred to in the previous sentence, the administrative unit shall issue a new authorisation for new plantings, whereby the previous authorisation shall cease to be valid. The validity period of the new authorisation shall be determined by the validity period of the previous authorisation.

(9) The administrative unit shall enter the data on the authorisations issued referred to in this Article in the Register of Agricultural Holdings provided for in the law governing agriculture.

(10) A producer who, on the basis of the authorisation referred to in this Article, does not plant a vineyard during the period of validity of the authorisation, may not submit a new application referred to in paragraph 3 of this Article for the same area covered by the authorisation one year after the expiry of that authorisation, except:

- in the case referred to in paragraph 8 of this Article;
- if the vineyard was not planted due to *force majeure* or exceptional circumstances in accordance with the law governing agriculture; or
- if the producer has planted vines to the extent of at least 80 % of the area specified in the authorisation referred to in this Article, whereby the new application may only concern the issuance of an authorisation for an area which has not been planted on the basis of the authorisation referred to in this Article.

(11) The Minister shall prescribe the more detailed content of the application and the more detailed conditions and criteria for granting the authorisation referred to in this Article.

Article 11

(Vine replanting authorisation)

(1) For the implementation of Article 66 of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013, the administrative unit is the competent authority for deciding on vine replanting authorisations.

(2) The conditions for issuing a vine replanting authorisation are laid down in Articles 62, 66 and 68 of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013.

(3) The application for a vine replanting authorisation shall contain the KMG MID and other information about the producer, as well as information on the size and location of the vineyard to be replanted.

(4) The application referred to in the preceding paragraph shall be submitted to the administrative unit in the wine year in which the grubbing-up of the vineyard is carried out, or at the latest by the end of the wine year following the wine year in which the grubbing-up was carried out, in accordance with Article 9 of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/274.

(5) Vine replanting authorisation shall contain:

- KMG MID and other information from the producer;
- information on the size and location of the vineyard to which the authorisation relates;
- information on the validity of the authorisation in accordance with Article 62 of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013.

(6) Regardless of the deadline specified in paragraph 4 of this Article, the producer may, from the date of receipt of the vine replanting authorisation until the start of planting of the vines, submit an

application to the administrative unit for a change in the location of the vineyard referred to in the second indent of the preceding paragraph. In the case referred to in the previous sentence, the administrative unit shall issue a new vine replanting authorisation, whereby the previous authorisation shall cease to be valid. The validity period of the new authorisation shall be determined by the validity period of the previous authorisation.

(7) A producer may submit an application for the vine replanting on land acquired for use at any time during the three years prior to the submission of the application, provided that this land was recorded in the Register of Agricultural Holdings as actual use "1211 Vineyard" at any time during the same period, regardless of the type of actual use of this area at the time of submitting the application for an authorisation.

(8) The administrative unit shall enter the data on the authorisations issued referred to in this Article in the Register of Agricultural Holdings provided for in the law governing agriculture.

(9) The Minister shall prescribe the more detailed content of the application and the more detailed conditions for granting the authorisation referred to in this Article.

Article 12

(Vine varieties)

(1) For the purposes of implementing Article 81 of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013, the permitted vine varieties and rootstocks are those specified in the vine varieties for individual wine-growing regions and smaller wine-growing units within that wine-growing region (hereinafter referred to as "vine varieties").

(2) The names of individual vine varieties may be replaced by synonyms in the labelling of wine and other grapevine products, provided that the synonym is indicated in the vine varieties.

(3) Notwithstanding the paragraph 1 of this Article, the research and educational institution may submit an application to the Ministry for the planting of vine varieties and rootstocks not included in the vine varieties, provided that these varieties or rootstocks are included in the process of selection and introduction within the public service in viticulture referred to in the law governing agriculture.

(4) In the administrative procedure, the Ministry shall decide on the application referred to in the preceding paragraph.

(5) Wine and other grapevine products produced from the varieties referred to in paragraph 3 of this Article may not be blended or mixed with the authorised products referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article.

(6) The Minister shall determine the vine varieties.

SECTION 3.

PRODUCTION OF WINE AND OTHER GRAPEVINE PRODUCTS

Article 13

(Production of wine and other grapevine products)

(1) The production of wine and other grapevine products may be carried out by a winemaker and other grapevine products producer (hereinafter: producer) who is:

- sole trader;
- legal person; or
- natural person, if the grapes for the production of wine and other grapevine products come from his or her own production.

(2) For the producer referred to in the third indent of the preceding paragraph, additional grapes purchased from producers of wine and other grapevine products from a wine-growing unit with the same geographical indication as the area of production of his grapes shall also be considered to be grapes from his own production, where:

- the total grape production must not exceed 100% of the average declared harvest of own grapes of the best 3 years in the last 5 years; and
- the producer must carry out grape and wine production activities.

(3) The production of wine and other grapevine products includes all production processes involving grape harvesting, transport and collection, destemming and crushing of grapes, pressing of grapes, processing of must, alcoholic fermentation, fining and all other wine processing using authorised oenological practices referred to in Article 80 and Annex VII of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 and paragraph 1 of Articles 3, 5 and 6 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/934, and ends with the original bottling of wine and other grapevine products.

(4) The storage of wine and other grapevine products represents a separate technological phase between the original bottling of wine and its placing on the market, and comprises the storage of wine and other grapevine products in appropriate premises, containers or packaging under conditions that ensure the preservation of quality, safety, sensory characteristics and traceability of the products until they are placed on the market.

Article 14

(Oenological compounds)

(1) In accordance with Article 3 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/934, a winemaker may use oenological compounds which are:

- originally packaged and accompanied by a technical data sheet, declaration and appropriate and clear written instructions for use; or
- packed non-original in packaging that ensures the preservation of quality, safety, sensory properties and traceability and are accompanied by appropriate and clear written instructions for use and a copy of the original packaging declaration.

- (2) A seller of oenological compounds may not sell oenological compounds if they:
- are not permitted by Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/934;
 - do not comply with the technical data sheet; or
 - are packaged in non-original packaging that does not ensure the preservation of quality, safety, sensory properties and traceability, or are not accompanied by appropriate and clear written instructions for use and a copy of the original packaging declaration.

Article 15

(Experimental use of new oenological practices)

- (1) In order to implement Article 4 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/934, natural persons, sole traders or legal persons engaged in the production of wine and other grapevine products shall submit to the Ministry an application for the experimental use of new oenological practices of treatments and oenological compounds.
- (2) The Ministry shall decide on the application referred to in the preceding paragraph in an administrative procedure.
- (3) The applicant referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall submit to the Ministry and the Wine Inspection Authority, within 30 days of the expiry of the approved period of trial use of oenological practices or oenological compounds, an expert opinion prepared by an authorised organisation for the assessment of wine and other grapevine products and aromatised wine products referred to in Article 26 of this Act.
- (4) The amount of the costs of preparing the expert opinion referred to in the preceding paragraph shall be determined by the authorised organisation referred to in the preceding paragraph, which shall publish a price list of expert opinions on its website and in the locally customary manner.
- (5) The costs of preparing the expert opinion referred to in paragraph 3 of this Article shall be borne by the applicant.

SECTION 4.

REGISTER OF HARVESTERS, WINEMAKERS AND OTHER GRAPEVINE PRODUCTS AND AROMATISED WINE PRODUCTS PRODUCERS

Article 16

(Management, integration and maintenance of databases and the obligation to provide data)

- (1) The Ministry shall manage and maintain the databases referred to in this Act, unless otherwise provided for in this Act.

(2) The management of databases means laying down uniform procedures and controls for the management of databases and the establishment and implementation of an information security management system.

(3) Maintaining databases means conducting procedures for the entry, modification and deletion of individual data and making decisions in these procedures.

(4) The databases referred to in this Act shall be maintained electronically.

(5) The data in the databases referred to in this Act shall be stored permanently, including the identification number of the entity, except for personal data, which shall be stored only for as long as necessary to achieve the purpose for which they were collected or further processed, but not longer than 10 years.

(6) The data contained in the register of harvesters, winemakers and other grapevine products and aromatised wine products producers shall be linked to the register of entities and the register of agricultural holdings provided for in the law governing agriculture.

(7) Parties obligated to register in databases referred to in this Act shall provide truthful information.

Article 17

(Register of harvesters, winemakers and other grapevine products and aromatised wine products producers)

(1) The register of harvesters, winemakers and other grapevine products and aromatised wine products producers (hereinafter referred to as "wine register") is intended for agricultural policy planning, monitoring of the implementation of agricultural policy measures, analyses and statistical processing of data and reporting in accordance with the EU legal acts governing wine.

(2) The parties obligated for entry in the wine register are the producer of wine and other grapevine products and aromatised wine products and the harvester, who is entered in the register of agricultural holdings as the head of the holding:

- cultivating at least 0.05 ha of vineyards;
- marketing part or all of the harvest;
- producing wine with a geographical indication; or
- producing aromatised wine products.

(3) In addition to the obligated parties referred to in the preceding paragraph, legal persons and sole traders who trade with non-original bottled wine and other grapevine products and aromatised wine products, regardless of their origin, as well as the bottler of wine who does not have an area planted with vines, shall also be obligated to register in the wine register.

(4) If the head of the agricultural holding referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article is a natural person who does not cultivate vineyards or produce grapes, wine and other grapevine products and aromatised wine products, in addition to the head of the agricultural holding, a member of the

agricultural holding who cultivates vineyards or produces grapes, wine and other grapevine products and aromatised wine products shall also be entered in the wine register.

(5) The obligated party referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article shall be entered in the wine register under a single registration number with all the vineyards cultivated within a single agricultural holding.

(6) Notwithstanding the preceding paragraph, an obligated party who is a natural person or a sole trader may be entered in the wine register under two registration numbers, separately as a natural person and as a sole trader, but at the time of entry in the wine register it must indicate which vineyards it cultivates as a natural person and which as a sole trader, and must declare separately in the wine register the yields obtained from these vineyards.

(7) The obligated party referred to in this Article must carry out at least one of the following activities:

1. grape production;
2. production of wine and other grape products;
3. production of aromatised wine products;
4. original bottling of wine, other grapevine products or aromatised wine products from own production;
5. original bottling of wine, other grapevine products or aromatised wine products carried out as a service; or
6. storage of non-original bottling of wine, other grapevine products or aromatised wine products.

Article 18

(Maintenance of wine register)

(1) The wine register is maintained by administrative units and managed by the Ministry.

(2) The following information is maintained or recorded in the wine register for each party obligated to register:

1. details of the obligated party from the register of entities in accordance with the law governing agriculture (entity identification number, name, surname or title, address or name and registered office of the legal person, tax number);
2. data on the obligated party from the register of agricultural holdings in accordance with the law governing agriculture (KMG-MID, data on the head and members of the agricultural holding, data on the vineyard of the agricultural holding);
3. activity referred to in paragraph 7 of the preceding Article;
4. wine-growing unit within which the vineyard is located;

5. declaration of harvesters, winemakers and other grapevine products and aromatised wine products producers;
6. declaration of grapes sold and purchased in the Republic of Slovenia, based on an application – grape shipping note;
7. declaration of wine and other grapevine products and aromatised wine products sold and purchased on the basis of an application – wine shipping note;
8. declaration of stocks of wine and other vine products for the purposes of implementing Article 32 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2018/273;
9. declaration of quantities from the accompanying document referred to in Article 10 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2018/273 for the declaration of grapes purchased in EU Member States and wine and other grapevine products in EU Member States and third countries;
10. laboratory and organoleptic analyses for the assessment of wine and other grapevine products for the purposes of implementing Article 19 of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/34;
11. attestation of compliance with the product specification of a geographical indication for the implementation of Article 45 of Regulation (EU) 2024/1143;
12. additional location where wine and other grapevine products and aromatised wine products are traded.

(3) The party obligated to register shall report the data referred to in points 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 11 of the preceding paragraph to the administrative unit. Grapes, wine and other grapevine products shall be declared for the current wine year no later than 20 November and wine stocks on 31 July no later than 10 September.

(4) Notwithstanding the preceding paragraph, a party obliged to declare grapes that were harvested so late that declaration was not possible by the deadline specified in the preceding paragraph shall submit the declaration no later than 10 working days after harvesting, attaching to the application referred to in the preceding paragraph the supporting documents from the inward and outward register referred to in Article 19 of this Act.

(5) For the purposes of implementing paragraph 2 of Article 34 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2018/273 and notwithstanding paragraph 3 of this Article, the following shall be authorised to declare the production of grapes, grape must or partially fermented grape must delivered by the harvester:

- a legal person registered in accordance with the law governing cooperatives or the law governing commercial companies, and performing the tasks of a cellar;
- a group of producers in accordance with the law governing agriculture;
- a recognised group of producers referred to in Article 22 of this Act; or
- a producer organisation in accordance with the law governing agriculture.

(6) The party obligated for declaration must notify the administrative unit of any change in the data referred to in paragraph 3 of this Article within 8 working days of the change occurring, except for changes in data that are kept in other official records and are entered in the wine register *ex officio*.

(7) The Ministry shall forward data from the wine register to its constituent bodies, authorised organisations, public service providers, public authorities and implementers of agricultural policy measures, if they need it to perform tasks within the Ministry's field of work, and to other state bodies and municipalities, if they need it to perform tasks prescribed by law.

(8) The Ministry shall enable access to the wine register databases to persons, constituent bodies, authorised organisations, public service providers, public authorities, if they need it to perform tasks within the Ministry's field of work, and other state bodies, research and educational institutions and municipalities, if they need it to perform tasks prescribed by law.

(9) The data contained in the wine register shall not be public, unless otherwise provided for by law.

(10) A list of tasters shall be kept in the wine register for the organoleptic assessment of wine and other grapevine products and aromatised wine products, where the following information shall be kept or taken over for the taster:

1. information about the taster from the register of entities in accordance with the law governing agriculture (identification number of the entity, first and last name, tax number, address);
2. year of performing the organoleptic aptitude test referred to in the second indent of paragraph 1 of Article 27 of this Act;
3. year of completing the additional education referred to in paragraph 3 of Article 27 of this Act;
4. year of the additional organoleptic aptitude test referred to in paragraph 3 of Article 27 of this Act;
5. number of participations in the panel referred to in Article 29 of this Act; and
6. name and registered office of the legal entity or sole trader for which the individual is acting.

(11) The Minister shall lay down the method of maintaining the wine register, the more detailed data to be entered and processed in the wine register, the content of the data reporting application, the more detailed content and the procedure for issuing the grape shipping note and the wine shipping note.

SECTION 5.

RECORD OF RECEIPTS AND ISSUES

Article 19

(Inward and outward register)

(1) For the implementation of Articles 28, 29 and 30 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2018/273, the party obligated to register in the wine register must keep inward and outward register, which, in addition to the information specified in Article 29 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2018/273, must also include information on:

- origin, geographical origin, health status, sugar content, quality and quantity of grapes;
 - origin, geographical origin, quality and quantity of the wine; and
 - consumed wine.
- (2) The Minister shall prescribe the detailed content of the records referred to in this Article.

SECTION 6.

TRADITIONAL TERMS

Article 20

(Traditional terms)

- (1) For the purposes of implementing Articles 112 and 113 of Regulation (EU) 1308/2013, the traditional term for the product categories referred to in points 1, 4, 5 and 6 of Article 5 of this Act may only be used in conjunction with an indication of the type of geographical indication, whereby the use of the traditional term shall be considered as an indication of the quality class of the product.
- (2) The Minister shall prescribe more detailed conditions regarding the use of traditional terms.

Article 21

(Registration, amendment and cancellation of a traditional term)

- (1) With regard to the registration, amendment and cancellation of traditional terms, the Ministry is the competent authority for the implementation of Articles 25, 30, 34 and 35 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/33 and Articles 21, 22, 26, 27, 29, 30 and 31 of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/34.
- (2) The procedure for the registration, amendment and cancellation of a traditional term shall be carried out in accordance with Articles 25 and 28 of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/34.

Article 22

(Recognised producer group)

- (1) For the implementation of Article 33 of Regulation (EU) 2024/1143, a producer group may be recognised.
- (2) A producer group is a form of association of producers in the wine sector which is a legal entity or a clearly defined organisational part of a legal entity, registered in accordance with the law governing cooperatives or the law governing commercial companies.

(3) For recognition, the producer group referred to in this Article must associate at least 10 members who produce wine with the same geographical indication and together meet the condition referred to in Article 33(2), point (ii)(b), of Regulation (EU) 2024/1143 regarding the declared quantity of wine of their own production with a geographical indication.

(4) An application for recognition of a producer group shall be submitted to the Ministry together with the supporting documents referred to in the preceding paragraph.

(5) The Ministry shall decide on the recognition of producer groups. If a producer group no longer meets the conditions for recognition, the Ministry shall withdraw its recognition by means of a decision.

(6) Only one producer group may be recognised for a given geographical indication for wine.

CHAPTER III.

AROMATISED WINE PRODUCTS

Article 23

(Aromatised wine products)

(1) Aromatised wine products are obtained, classified and labelled in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 251/2014.

(2) For the implementation of Article 32 of Regulation (EU) No 251/2014, with regard to the exchange of information, the competent authority shall be the Ministry.

(3) The storage of aromatised wine products represents a separate technological phase between the original bottling of aromatised wine products and its placing on the market, and comprises the storage of aromatised wine products in appropriate premises, containers or packaging under conditions that ensure the preservation of quality, safety, sensory characteristics and traceability of the products until they are placed on the market.

CHAPTER IV.

ASSESSMENT AND LABELLING OF WINE AND OTHER GRAPEVINE PRODUCTS AND AROMATISED WINE PRODUCTS

SECTION 1.

ASSESSMENT OF WINE AND OTHER GRAPEVINE PRODUCTS AND AROMATISED WINE PRODUCTS

Article 24

(Assessment of wine and other grapevine products)

(1) The assessment of wine and other grapevine products produced in the Republic of Slovenia shall include:

- carrying out analytical tests and organoleptic assessment in accordance with the product specification of the geographical indication or in accordance with Article 20 of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/34, if the product does not have a geographical indication;
- assessment of their suitability for placing on the market;
- determination of the markings they may have; and
- verification of their conformity with the accompanying documents.

(2) The assessment referred to in this Article shall be carried out by an organisation authorised to assess wine and other vine products and aromatised wine products at the request of the producer, the certification body or the competent inspection authority, unless otherwise specified in EU legislation.

(3) Wine and other grapevine products may not be placed on the market if, on the basis of the assessment referred to in this Article, they are found to be unsuitable for marketing or do not comply with the accompanying documents.

Article 25

(Assessment of aromatised wine products)

(1) The assessment of aromatised wine products that are produced in the Republic of Slovenia shall include:

- assessment of their suitability for placing on the market;
- determination of the markings they may have; and
- verification of their conformity with the accompanying documents.

(2) Wine and other grapevine products intended for the production of aromatised wine products must be assessed in accordance with the preceding Article before the start of the production processes referred to in paragraph 4 of Article 4 of Regulation (EU) No 251/2014.

(3) The assessment referred to in this Article shall be carried out by an organisation authorised to assess wine and other vine products and aromatised wine products at the request of the producer, the certification body or the competent inspection authority, unless otherwise specified in EU legislation.

(4) Aromatised wine products may not be placed on the market if, on the basis of the assessment referred to in this Article, they are found to be unsuitable for marketing or do not comply with the accompanying documents.

(5) The Minister shall prescribe more detailed conditions for determining the suitability of aromatised wine products for marketing.

Article 26

(Authorised Assessment Organisation)

(1) For the implementation of Article 146 of Regulation (EU) 1308/2013, Article 37 of Regulation (EU) 2017/625 and analytical and technical tasks in the field of viticulture and winemaking, the Ministry shall authorise an organisation to carry out the assessment of wine and other grapevine products and aromatised wine products (hereinafter referred to as "authorised assessment organisation").

(2) The authorised assessment organisation must meet the following conditions:

1. has a registered office in the territory of the Republic of Slovenia;
2. has a registered activity relating to laboratory test within the scope of this Act;
3. has a laboratory accreditation certificate in accordance with the standard EN ISO/IEC 17025 for wine;
4. has appropriate staff;
5. has suitable premises and equipment for carrying out organoleptic tests;
6. has proof of successful regular participation in interlaboratory comparative programmes;
7. has validated and accredited methods for carrying out the analyses referred to in Article 20 of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/34 in accordance with the requirements of the standard SIST EN ISO/IEC 17025.

(3) An application for authorisation as an authorised assessment organisation, accompanied by evidence of compliance with the conditions set out in the preceding paragraph, shall be submitted to the Ministry.

(4) The public power referred to in this Article shall be granted by a decision of the Minister in an administrative procedure for a period of 10 years. The mutual relations between the authorised assessment organisation and the Ministry shall be governed by a contract.

(5) Public power shall be terminated by mutual agreement if the holder of the public power ceases to comply with the conditions laid down in this Act or regulations issued pursuant to it, if he infringes a contract or acts contrary to said regulations, as established by the Ministry in the administrative procedure.

(6) The Ministry shall publish the list of authorised assessment organisations on the central website of the state administration.

(7) The more detailed content and manner of performing the tasks, as well as the more detailed conditions referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article, shall be laid down by the Minister.

Article 27

(Taster for organoleptic assessment of wine and other grapevine products and aromatised wine products)

(1) A taster for the organoleptic assessment of wine and other grapevine products and aromatised wine products (hereinafter referred to as “taster”) is a natural person who fulfils the following conditions:

- at least five years of work experience in viticulture and winemaking or in wine sales, or at least a completed undergraduate degree in winemaking, viticulture, food science or other comparable agricultural or biotechnological sciences;
- passed the prescribed organoleptic aptitude test, knowledge of oenology and regulations governing viticulture and winemaking;
- certificate from an authorised organisation confirming participation in at least 20 tasting panels for the organoleptic assessment of wine and other grapevine products and aromatised wine products referred to in Article 29 of this Act;
- age between 25 and 70 years.

(2) The taster shall submit an application with evidence of fulfilment of the conditions set out in the preceding paragraph to the Ministry, which shall decide on the application in an administrative procedure.

(3) A taster who is a member of the panel referred to in Article 29 of this Act must, at least once every 2 years, undergo additional training and an additional organoleptic aptitude test, which is carried out by an authorised organisation for training tasters referred to in Article 28 of this Act.

(4) The costs of the test referred to in the second indent of paragraph 1 of this Article and the costs of the additional training and additional test referred to in the preceding paragraph shall be borne by the taster.

(5) Notwithstanding the preceding paragraph, the taster shall cover only 20% of the costs of additional training and additional testing referred to in paragraph 3 of this Article if he or she has participated at least 10-times in the past year as a member of the panel referred to in Article 29 of this Act. The remaining funds shall be provided from the budget of the Republic of Slovenia.

(6) The Minister shall prescribe more detailed conditions for carrying out the training and testing referred to in this Article.

Article 28

(Authorised organisation for training tasters)

(1) Authorised organisation for training tasters for the organoleptic assessment of wine and other grapevine products and aromatised wine products (hereinafter referred to as “authorised organisation for training tasters”) shall conduct training and testing of the organoleptic aptitude of tasters for the

purpose of organoleptic assessment of wine and other grapevine products and aromatised wine products.

(2) The conditions for appointing an authorised organisation for training tasters are the following:

1. it is a legal entity registered to perform educational activities;
2. has a training programme for taster candidates, in particular in the fields of oenology, methods of assessing wine and other grapevine products and regulations governing viticulture and winemaking;
3. has a specific method and procedure for testing the organoleptic aptitude of candidates for tasters and for additional testing of organoleptic aptitude of tasters;
4. has the appropriate staff and other conditions for conducting training and testing the organoleptic aptitude of candidates for tasters and additional testing of organoleptic aptitude of tasters;
5. is not subject to insolvency proceedings or compulsory dissolution or deletion from the register in accordance with the law governing financial operations, insolvency proceedings and compulsory dissolution; and
6. has paid all of the taxes, contributions and other charges provided for in the regulations.

(3) The public power referred to in this Article shall be granted by a decision of the Minister in an administrative procedure for a period of 7 years. The mutual relations between the authorised organisation for training tasters and the Ministry shall be governed by a contract.

(4) Public power shall be terminated by mutual agreement if the holder of the public power ceases to comply with the conditions laid down in this Act or regulations issued pursuant to it, if he infringes a contract or acts contrary to said regulations, as established by the Ministry in the administrative procedure.

(5) The more detailed content of tasks from paragraph 1 of this Article and conditions referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article shall be laid down by the Minister.

Article 29

(Panel)

(1) The organoleptic assessment of wine and other grapevine products and aromatised wine products (hereinafter referred to as "organoleptic assessment") shall be carried out by a tasting panel chaired by a chairperson and composed of representatives of producers and experts in the field of viticulture and winemaking.

(2) The chairperson shall conduct the assessment procedure referred to in this Article and shall not evaluate the wine.

(3) The chairperson referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be appointed by the authorised assessment organisation from among the appointed tasters.

(4) The organoleptic assessment shall be carried out by a five-member tasting panel consisting of at least 2 representatives of producers and at least 2 representatives of professionals in the field of viticulture and winemaking.

(5) Notwithstanding the preceding paragraph, the re-evaluation shall be carried out by an extended tasting panel consisting of 7 members, including at least 3 representatives of producers and at least 3 representatives of experts in the field of viticulture and winemaking. The original assessors are excluded from the re-assessment.

(6) If the taster is also a winemaker or wine owner, or is employed by an organisation that makes wine, their assessment of their own wine sample will not be taken into account.

(7) The Minister shall prescribe the more detailed conditions and tasks of the panel referred to in this Article.

Article 30

(Organoleptic assessment procedure)

(1) A sample of wine or other grapevine product or aromatised wine product (hereinafter referred to as "sample") for organoleptic assessment shall be prepared by the producer or taken by the competent inspection authority in accordance with the guidelines of the International Organisation of Vine and Wine (OIV) published on the OIV web portal and submitted to the authorised assessment organisation.

(2) The authorised assessment organisation shall issue a laboratory report for the sample (hereinafter referred to as "report") within 5 working days of receiving the sample, except for new wine still in fermentation, for which the report shall be issued within 2 working days of receiving the sample. Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, the result for the inspection samples shall be issued within 4 working days of receiving the sample.

(3) The cost of the organoleptic assessment shall be borne by the contracting authority.

(4) The Minister shall prescribe the amount of the costs of the organoleptic assessment and the methodology and detailed procedure for the assessment.

SECTION 2.

LABELLING OF WINE AND OTHER GRAPEVINE PRODUCTS AND AROMATISED WINE PRODUCTS

Article 31

(Labelling of wine and other grapevine products)

Wine and other grapevine products shall be labelled in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 and Chapter IV of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/33, whereby indications concerning geographical origin, quality, ingredients, grape varieties, producer, production methods and other characteristics of the product must not mislead the consumer.

Article 32

(Labelling of aromatised wine products)

Aromatised wine products must meet the requirements of Regulation (EU) No 251/2014 and Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 as regards the description, presentation and labelling of products.

SECTION 3.

LABORATORY FOR ISOTOPIC ANALYSIS

Article 33

(Authorised laboratory for isotopic analysis)

- (1) For the purposes of implementing Article 27 of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/274, an authorised laboratory for isotopic analysis shall be designated to perform isotopic analysis of hydrogen and oxygen, carbon and deuterium for the purposes of establishing and maintaining a database and issuing expert opinions.
- (2) In order to carry out the isotopic analyses referred to in the preceding paragraph, the authorised laboratory referred to in this Article must have accredited and validated methods according to standard ISO/IEC 17025.
- (3) To obtain the public power referred to in this Article, an application shall be submitted to the Ministry.
- (4) The application referred to in the preceding paragraph shall be granted by a decision of the Minister in an administrative procedure for a period of 7 years.
- (5) If the authorised laboratory referred to in this Article no longer meets the condition referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article, the Minister shall withdraw the public power by decision.
- (6) The mutual relations between the authorised laboratory referred to in this Article and the Ministry shall be governed by a contract.
- (7) The Minister shall prescribe the price of the isotopic analyses referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article.

CHAPTER V.

MARKETING OF WINE AND OTHER GRAPEVINE PRODUCTS AND AROMATISED WINE PRODUCTS

Article 34

(Marketing)

- (1) The marketing of wine and other grapevine products and aromatised wine products is the placing of these products on the market.
- (2) Wine and other grapevine products and aromatised wine products must be managed on the market in such a way as to preserve their organoleptic and physico-chemical characteristics.
- (3) Wine and other grapevine products and aromatised wine products may only be placed on the market if they are originally packaged and labelled in accordance with Article 119 of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013, Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/33 and Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011.
- (4) Notwithstanding the preceding paragraph, the producer may place wine and other grapevine products and aromatised wine products, that are not originally bottled, on the market if they are from their own production and are placed on the market in their own production facility that is entered in the wine register, or in an additional location that is entered in the wine register.
- (5) For the transport of wine and other grapevine products and aromatised wine products within the EU or third countries, the accompanying documents referred to in Article 10 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2018/273, containing the information specified in Part A of Annex V to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2018/273.
- (6) The Minister shall prescribe the more detailed form and content of the accompanying document referred to in the preceding paragraph.

Article 35

(Marketing ban)

- (1) Prohibition of marketing applies for wine and other grapevine products and aromatised wine products that:
 1. are produced from residues from production (e.g. marc, sediment or lees);
 2. are produced from fruits other than grapes;
 3. are spoiled (e.g. due to the undesirable influence of microorganisms);
 4. have a defect due to physico-chemical processes or the introduction of foreign substances;
 5. are deficient due to too low or too high content of substances;
 6. are not appropriate for marketing;
 7. are not assessed if their assessment is mandatory;
 8. are counterfeit;
 9. are produced using unauthorised oenological practices or oenological compounds;

10. are produced by the unauthorised mixing of grapes, wine and other grapevine products from the territory of EU countries with products from third countries;
11. are without the required supporting documents; or
12. are produced in trials without a permit issued under Article 15 of this Act.

(2) For the purposes of implementing Article 10 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/934, wine and other grapevine products and aromatised wine products referred to in points 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10 and 12 of the preceding paragraph must be destroyed. The costs of destruction shall be borne by the producer.

Article 36

(Prohibition of deception)

(1) The labelling, advertising or marketing of wine and other grapevine products and aromatised wine products must not mislead consumers as to the accuracy of the information provided in any way, whether verbally, visually or otherwise.

(2) Misleading imagery in the labelling of wine and other grapevine products and aromatised wine products referred to in the preceding paragraph means any use of visual material such as photographs, illustrations, maps or graphic elements that suggest or are used for a specific geographical origin of wine and other grapevine products, aromatised wine products, even though the wine and other grapevine products and aromatised wine products are not actually produced in that area.

(3) If wine and other grapevine products and aromatised wine products are advertised or marketed by a natural person, sole trader or legal entity that does not have its residence or registered office in the Republic of Slovenia, it must appoint a responsible person or representative with residence or registered office in the Republic of Slovenia. If the person referred to in the previous sentence does not have a designated responsible person or authorised representative residing or having their registered office in the Republic of Slovenia, the documents shall first be served at the address of residence or registered office of that person abroad. If service in accordance with the previous sentence is unsuccessful, it shall be effected by public announcement in accordance with the law governing general administrative procedure.

CHAPTER VI.

CONTROL

Article 37

(Inspection)

(1) Inspection of the implementation of the provisions of this Act, the regulations issued pursuant to it and EU legal acts regulating wine and other grapevine products and aromatised wine products

shall be carried out by the wine inspector within the framework of the inspectorate responsible for agriculture.

(2) Notwithstanding the preceding paragraph, inspection of the implementation of the provisions of Articles 9, 17 and 18 of this Act shall also be carried out by an agricultural inspector within the inspectorate responsible for agriculture.

(3) Measures under this Act shall be ordered by a wine inspector or an agricultural inspector by decision in administrative proceedings. An appeal shall not lead to a suspension.

Article 38

(Wine inspector)

(1) In addition to the terms and conditions pursuant to the general regulations governing work in the state administration and the act governing inspection, the wine inspector shall meet the following conditions:

– must have completed higher education (previous)/higher education (previous) or specialist education after higher vocational education (previous)/specialisation after higher vocational education (previous) or master's degree (second Bologna cycle)/master's degree (second Bologna cycle) in the field of winemaking, viticulture, food sciences or other comparable agricultural or biotechnological sciences;

– it must have at least 5 years' professional experience, of which at least 3 years' experience in the field of viticulture and at least 1 year's experience in the field of winemaking;

– it must have passed the organoleptic aptitude test referred to in Article 27 of this Act or carry out that test within 1 year of the conclusion of the contract of employment.

(2) The person conducting the wine inspection must meet the conditions set out in the first and third indents of the preceding paragraph and have at least 5 years of work experience in viticulture or winemaking.

Article 39

(Powers of inspectors)

(1) When carrying out inspections, in addition to the powers conferred on the wine inspector by the general regulations governing inspection, the wine inspector shall have the powers for:

1. access and checking of: vineyards, production facilities (cellars, bottling plants, etc.), warehouses where grapes, wine and other grapevine products, aromatised wine products and oenological compounds are stored, residential premises where wine and other grape products intended for marketing, as well as aromatised wine products or oenological compounds, are produced or stored, customs warehouses in the presence of officials of the Financial Administration of the Republic of Slovenia, facilities where grapes, wine and other grape products and aromatised wine products are sold to consumers;

2. checking of production, processing and bottling equipment;
 3. checking of grapes, wine and other grapevine products and aromatised wine products in production facilities, means of transport, marketing, including offers to consumers, oenological compounds, packaging;
 4. checking the labelling on packaging, promotional materials and in advertising, laboratory reports, reports from the authorised laboratory for isotopic analyses and the authorised assessment organisation, certificates and other documents accompanying the grapes, wine and other grapevine products and aromatised wine products and oenological compounds intended for marketing, inward and outward registers, data from the wine register and the register of agricultural holdings, and other documentation held by producers, processors, bottlers, sellers, caterers, importers and distributors;
 5. supervising the performance of the work of an authorised laboratory for isotopic analyses and of an authorised assessment organisation;
 6. at the expense of the owner, taking samples of grapes, wine and other grapevine products and aromatised wine products and oenological compounds and submitting them for analysis;
 7. organoleptic assessment of wine and other grapevine products and aromatised wine products.
- (2) When carrying out the inspections, in addition to the powers conferred on the agricultural inspector by the general regulations governing inspection, the agricultural inspector shall have the power to inspect vineyards and register entry in the wine register.

Article 40

(Measures taken by inspectors)

- (1) When carrying out inspections, a wine inspector may, in addition to measures pursuant to general regulations governing inspection and in accordance with EU legal acts governing the field of wine and other grapevine products and aromatised wine products, impose the following measures:
1. prohibit new and repeated planting if the grower does not have the appropriate authorisations;
 2. prohibit planting and order the destruction of vines that are not included in the vine varieties;
 3. order the production of grapes for processing into products in accordance with this Act;
 4. verify the data contained in the wine register and compare it with the actual situation, order the entry, deletion or regulation of the data;
 5. order and set a deadline to regulate the situation in the wine register or prohibit the performance of the activity if the prescribed conditions on entry in the wine register or regarding the premises, equipment and professional competence of the obligated parties referred to in Article 17 of this Act are not met;
 6. order and set a deadline to regulate the situation in the wine register or prohibit the performance of the activity referred to in the paragraph 7 of Article 17 of this Act if the prescribed conditions regarding the premises, equipment and professional competence of a legal person or a sole

trader of an individual engaged in hospitality or trade activity, authorised laboratory for isotopic analyses, authorised assessment organisation, a legal person or a sole trader of an individual engaged in import or distribution are not met;

7. withdraw from circulation, confiscate, order the processing or appropriate labelling of wine and other grapevine products and aromatised wine products, oenological compounds, if they do not comply with Articles 12, 14, 17, 18, 20, 26, 31, 32, 34 and 35 of this Act;

8. prohibit the marketing of wine and other grapevine products and aromatised wine products which do not meet the prescribed conditions, or prohibit the marketing of products and processes that are not authorised or used in an unauthorised manner have been used in production;

9. withdraw from circulation, confiscate, order processing or appropriate labelling of aromatised wine products if they do not comply with Article 21 of this Act;

10. temporarily, until the analysis report is obtained, prohibit the marketing of wine and other grapevine products and aromatised wine products if it suspects that they do not comply with the prescribed conditions;

11. withdraw from circulation the wine and other grapevine products and aromatised wine products if they do not comply with Articles 22 and 23 of this Act;

12. submit wine and other grapevine products and aromatised wine products for assessment to an authorised assessment organisation;

13. propose to the Ministry the withdrawal of the designation or authorisation of an authorised assessment organisation and of an authorised laboratory for isotopic analyses if they do not fulfil the conditions for carrying out the activities or do not carry out the tasks pursuant to regulations or the contract on the basis of which the public power or other tasks are carried out;

14. prohibit the marketing of wine and other grapevine products and aromatised wine products if they are not accompanied by the relevant documents in accordance with Articles 31 and 32 of this Act;

15. prohibit the marketing if, based on an assessment of wine not produced in the Republic of Slovenia, it finds that the wine is unsuitable for marketing or does not correspond to the documents of the country of production in accordance with Article 32 of this Act;

16. order further refinement or use of wine and other grapevine products with defects, deficiencies or inadequate quality, if the defect, deficiency or inadequate quality is such that this is permitted in accordance with Article 33 of this Act;

17. prohibits misleading commercial practices in accordance with Article 34 of this Act.

(2) When carrying out inspections, an agricultural inspector may, in addition to measures pursuant to general regulations governing inspection and in accordance with EU legal acts governing the field of wine and other grapevine products and aromatised wine:

1. prohibit new and repeated planting if the grower does not have the appropriate authorisations;

2. verify the authenticity of data on claims for damage caused by natural disasters;

3. order the production of grapes for processing into products in accordance with this Act;

4. verify the data contained in the wine register according to the actual situation, order the entry, deletion or regulation of the data.

Article 41

(Powers of the police)

(1) When carrying out inspections under this Act, the police, within the scope of their powers, shall provide assistance to the wine inspector and the agricultural inspector.

(2) If, in the performance of his duties and the implementation of measures, the competent inspector encounters physical resistance or obstruction, or if he has reasonable grounds to expect such resistance or obstruction, he may request the assistance of the police.

Article 42

(Offender)

(1) When determining the amount of the fine:

– the micro-producer is considered as a producer who cultivates up to 10 a of vineyards or produces a maximum of 800 kg of grapes or a maximum of 600 l of wine, other grapevine products or aromatised wine products (hereinafter referred to as “micro-producer”).

– the small producer is considered as a producer who cultivates more than 10 a and up to including 1 ha of vineyards or produces more than 800 kg and up to including 7 000 kg of grapes or more than 600 l and up to including 5 000 l of wine, other grapevine products or aromatised wine products (hereinafter referred to as “small producer”);

– the medium-sized producer is considered as a producer who cultivates more than 1 ha and up to including 20 ha of vineyards or produces more than 7 000 kg and up to including 150 000 kg of grapes or more than 5 000 l and up to including 100 000 l of wine, other grapevine products or aromatised wine products (hereinafter referred to as “medium-sized producer”);

– the large producer is considered as a producer who cultivates more than 20 ha of vineyards or produces more than 150 000 kg of grapes or more than 100 000 l of wine, other grapevine products or aromatised wine products (hereinafter referred to as “large producer”).

(2) When determining the scope of production referred to in the preceding paragraph, the last state of entry of the vineyard in the register of agricultural holdings in accordance with the act governing agriculture shall be taken into account, and the harvests shall be the last three-year average of the harvest of grapes, wine, other grapevine products or aromatised wine products in the wine register. If there is no data on the harvest from the previous sentence, the data on the harvest from the wine register for the last wine year shall be taken into account. If the data in the register of agricultural holdings in accordance with the law governing agriculture or in the wine register do not correspond to the actual situation, or if there is no data in the wine register, the producer shall be classified on the basis of the actual situation as determined by the wine inspector in the field, taking into account the criteria set out in the preceding paragraph.

(3) If the producer referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article is classified in two or more of the classes referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, the class for which the minimum fine is prescribed shall be taken into account when determining the amount of the fine.

(4) If a producer is not entered in the wine register and is engaged in the production and marketing of grapes, wine and other grape products, as well as aromatised wine products or oenological compounds as a legal entity or sole trader, they shall be considered a large producer when determining the amount of the fine.

(5) If a producer is not entered in the wine register and is engaged in the production and marketing of grapes, wine and other grapevine products, as well as aromatised wine products or oenological compounds as an individual, a sole trader, they shall be considered a small producer when determining the amount of the fine.

Article 43

(Infringements)

(1) A large producer who is a legal person or sole trader shall be fined in the amount of EUR 2 800 to EUR 28 000 for the following infringements:

1. grapes intended for the production of wine and other grapevine products are grown outside the wine-growing units referred to in Article 7 of this Act, unless the grapes are grown for personal use;
2. the vineyard does not have an authorisation for vine planting pursuant to Article 9 of this Act;
3. in vineyards, for the purpose of producing wine and other grapevine products, plants wine grape varieties and rootstocks that are not specified in the vine varieties referred to in Article 12 of this Act;
4. fails to cultivate a vineyard in accordance with Article 6 of this Act;
5. the production of wine and other grapevine products is carried out by a producer who does not meet the conditions referred to in the paragraph 1 or 2 of Article 13 of this Act;
6. carries out unauthorised oenological procedures referred to in paragraph 3 of Article 13 of this Act;
7. uses oenological compounds in contravention of Article 14 of this Act;
8. engages in the experimental use of new oenological practices referred to in Article 15 of this Act without approval from the Ministry;
9. fails to report data to the wine register in accordance with paragraphs 3 and 6 of Article 18 of this Act;
10. does not keep inward and outward register in accordance with Article 19 of this Act;
11. uses traditional terms in contravention of Article 20 of this Act;

12. aromatised wine products do not meet the requirements set out in Articles 23 and 25 of this Act;
 13. places on the market wine and other grapevine products contrary to Article 24 of this Act;
 14. places on the market wine and other grapevine products labelled in contravention of Article 31 of this Act;
 15. places on the market aromatised wine products labelled in contravention of Article 32 of this Act;
 16. places on the market wine and other grapevine products and aromatised wine products in contravention of Article 34 of this Act;
 17. places on the market wine and other grapevine products and aromatised wine products referred to in paragraph 1 of Article 35 of this Act;
 18. labels, advertises or markets wine and other grapevine products and aromatised wine products in such a way as to mislead the consumer as to the veracity of the indications, as referred to in Article 36 of this Act.
- (2) A fine of up to EUR 250 shall also be imposed on the responsible person of a large producer who is a legal person or a sole trader for the offence referred to in the preceding paragraph, if they commit the offence referred to in the preceding paragraph.
 - (3) A fine ranging from EUR 1 570 to EUR 5 000 shall be imposed for the offence referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article on a large producer who is an individual, sole trader or the responsible person of a sole trader, if they commit the offence referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article.
 - (4) A fine ranging from EUR 1 570 to EUR 15 700 shall be imposed for the offence referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article on a medium-sized producer who is a legal person or a sole trader if they commit the offence referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article.
 - (5) A fine of up to EUR 200 shall be imposed for the offence referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article on the responsible person of a medium-sized producer who is a legal person or a sole trader if they commit the offence referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article.
 - (6) A fine ranging from EUR 1 125 to EUR 5 000 shall be imposed for the offence referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article on a medium-sized producer who is an individual, sole trader or the responsible person of a sole trader, if they commit the offence referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article.
 - (7) A fine ranging from EUR 1 125 to EUR 11 250 shall be imposed for the offence referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article on a small producer who is a legal person or a sole trader if they commit the offence referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article.
 - (8) A fine of up to EUR 150 shall be imposed for the offence referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article on the responsible person of a small producer who is a legal person or a sole trader if they commit the offence referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article.
 - (9) A fine ranging from EUR 650 to EUR 5 000 shall be imposed for the offence referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article on a small producer who is an individual, sole trader or the responsible person of a sole trader, if they commit the offence referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article.

(10) A fine ranging from EUR 100 to EUR 1 000 shall be imposed for the offence referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article on a micro-producer who is a legal person or a sole trader if they commit the offence referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article.

(11) A fine of up to EUR 50 shall be imposed for the offence referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article on the responsible person of a micro-producer who is a legal person or a sole trader if they commit the offence referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article.

(12) A fine ranging from EUR 40 to EUR 400 shall be imposed for the offence referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article on a micro-producer who is an individual, sole trader or the responsible person of a sole trader, if they commit the offence referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article.

(13) A fine in the amount of EUR 2 800 to EUR 28 000 shall be imposed on a legal person or a sole trader for the following infringements:

- trades in non-original bottled wine and other grapevine products and aromatised wine products, regardless of their origin, if they are not entered in the wine register in accordance with paragraph 3 of Article 17 of this Act;
- is a bottler who is not entered in the wine register in accordance with paragraph 3 of Article 17 of this Act.

CHAPTER VII.

PENAL PROVISIONS

Article 44

(Imposition of a fine)

For offences referred to in this Act a fine may be imposed under an expedited procedure of an amount higher than the minimum fine laid down by this Act.

CHAPTER VIII.

TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 45

(Authorisation for vine plantings)

(1) To a producer who, due to the change of the conditions for entry in the wine register referred to in Article 17 of this Act, needs an authorisation for vine plantings for an existing vineyard, even though it is not required under the Agriculture Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos 45/08, 57/12, 90/12 – ZdZPVHVVR, 26/14, 32/15, 27/17, 22/18, 86/21 – decision US, 123/21,

44/22, 130/22 – ZPOMK-2, 18/23 and 78/23), an exceptional authorisation for vine plantings shall be issued on the basis of the application if such a vineyard is in use at the time of submission of the application.

(2) The application referred to in the preceding paragraph shall contain data on the producer, the KMG MID, the size of the vineyard and the location of the vineyard.

(3) The application referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be submitted to the administrative unit no later than 1 year after the entry into force of this Act.

Article 46

(Registration in the wine register)

Obligated parties who, prior to the entry into force of this Act, are entered in the register referred to in Article 14 of the Wine Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos 105/06, 72/11, 90/12 – ZdZPVHVVR, 111/13 and 27/17 – ZKme-1D) shall be deemed to be entered in the wine register referred to in Article 17 of this Act on the date of entry into force of this Act.

Article 47

(Wine assessment procedure)

(1) Notwithstanding the paragraph 4 of Article 30 of this Act, for the years 2028 and 2029, the costs of assessing wine with a geographical indication for the analyses referred to in point (a) of Article 20 of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/34 shall be co-financed. The costs are covered from the budget of the Republic of Slovenia.

(2) The amount of co-financing of the costs of the assessment referred to in the preceding paragraph shall be determined by the Minister.

Article 48

(Tasters)

The current tasters, appointed in accordance with Article 34 of the Wine Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos 105/06, 72/11, 90/12 – ZdZPVHVVR, 111/13 and 27/17 – ZKme-1D), may continue to perform their duties if they meet the conditions set out in Article 27 of this Act.

Article 49

(Panel for the organoleptic assessment of must and wine)

The panel for the organoleptic assessment of must and wine, appointed in accordance with Article 35 of the Wine Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos 105/06, 72/11, 90/12 –

ZdZPVHVVR, 111/13 and 27/17 – ZKme-1D), shall perform the tasks of the assessment panel referred to in Article 29 of this Act up to and including 31 July 2026.

Article 50

(Holder of a public power)

The current holder of a public power appointed pursuant to Article 49 of the Wine Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos 105/06, 72/11, 90/12 – ZdZPVHVVR, 111/13 and 27/17 – ZKme-1D) shall perform the tasks referred to in Articles 26, 27 and 33 of this Act up to and including 31 December 2026.

Article 51

(Prohibition of deception)

Notwithstanding Article 36 of this Act, economic operators with or without a registered trademark whose company name, at the time of entry into force of this Act, contains any direct or indirect indication of a geographical indication, a part thereof or a derivative thereof and which were established or registered before the protection of a geographical indication at EU level may continue to use such a trademark.

Article 52

(Completion of procedures)

Procedures initiated on the basis of the Wine Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos 105/06, 72/11, 90/12 – ZdZPVHVVR, 111/13 and 27/17 – ZKme-1D) before the entry into force of this Act shall be completed in accordance with this Act.

Article 53

(Expiry of existing regulations)

- (1) The following regulatory acts shall expire on the date of entry into force of this Act:
1. Regulations on the quality control of grapes during their harvesting (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos 68/99, 79/00, 69/01 and 105/06 – Zvin);
 2. Regulations on the procedure and method for assessing must, wine and other wine products (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos 32/00, 99/01 and 105/06 – Zvin);
 3. Instruction on the physico-chemical analyses of grape must and wine (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos 43/01 and 105/06 – Zvin);

4. Regulations on the appointment of tasters and authorised organisations for testing tasters and the organoleptic aptitude of agricultural inspectors (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos. 69/01 and 105/06 – Zvin);
 5. Regulations on the conditions to be met by grapes for processing into wine, on permitted technological procedures and oenological compounds for the production of wine and on conditions regarding the quality of wine, must and other marketed products (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos 43/04, 127/04, 112/05 and 105/06 – Zvin);
 6. Regulations on the register of harvesters and winemakers (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos. 16/07, 62/09 and 4/16);
 7. Regulations on the list of geographical indications for wines and on vine varieties (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos 49/07, 26/21 and 15/22);
 8. Regulations on the amount of costs for preparing a preliminary opinion on the suitability of the report, which determines the name of the recognised traditional designation (“priznano tradicionalno poimenovanje” – PTP), for monitoring the ripening of grapes, for an opinion on the suitability of the quantity and quality of grapes for the production of “vrhunsko vino ZGP” (premium wine ZGP), for the preparation of isotopic analyses and for additional training of tasters (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos. 31/08, 104/09, 51/12, 32/13, 15/14, 17/15 and 29/16);
 9. Regulations on wine with the recognised traditional designation “Bizeljčan” (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos. 22/09 and 59/09);
 10. Regulations on cellar registers and accompanying documents for marketing of wine (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No 96/09);
 11. Regulations on the labelling and packaging of wine (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos. 37/10 and 8/17);
 12. Regulations on wine with the recognised traditional designation Ritoznojčan (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No.38/16);
 13. Regulations on wine with recognised traditional designation “Teran” (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No 205/21);
 14. Regulations on wine with recognised traditional designation “Cviček” (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 44/22);
 15. Regulations on wine with the recognised traditional designation “Metliška črnina” and wine with the recognised traditional designation “Belokranjec” (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 112/22).
- (2) The provisions of the previous paragraph shall apply until the entry into force of the by-laws referred to in this Act.

Article 54

(Deadline for adopting by-laws)

The Minister shall adopt the regulations referred to in this Act within 2 years of the entry into force of this Act.

Article 55

(Expiry)

On the day this Act enters into force, the Wine Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos 105/06, 72/11, 90/12 – ZdZPVHVVR, 111/13 and 27/17 – ZKme-1D) shall cease to apply.

Article 56

(Entry into force)

This Act shall enter into force on the fifteenth day following their publication in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia.

III. EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Re Article 1:

The article regulates the content of the Act and lists the EU regulations that are implemented by this Act.

Re Article 2:

The article defines the information procedure and the clauses. Acts or rules affecting the placing of products on the market that do not constitute a transposition of EU rules must be notified in accordance with the provisions of Directive (EU) 2015/1535 laying down a procedure for the provision of information in the field of technical regulations and of rules on Information Society services, or in accordance with the Decree on notification procedures in the field of standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No 17/2014), which transposes the provisions of that Directive into Slovenian law.

Re Article 3:

The Article regulates the terms used in the Act.

Re Article 4:

The article regulates the issuance of by-laws provided for by this Act. The article also stipulates that the Government of the Republic of Slovenia or the Minister responsible for agriculture may issue other regulations if these are necessary for the effective implementation of this Act or for the implementation of EU legal acts relating to the contents regulated by this Act.

Re Article 5:

The article specifies the categories of grapevine products that are regulated by this Act.

Re Article 6:

The article specifies what is included in grape production. Grape production includes all agrotechnical and ampelotechnical work carried out in the vineyard to ensure the production of grapes that is entered in the register of harvesters, winemakers and other grapevine products and aromatised wine products producers (hereinafter referred to as "wine register").

The article stipulates that the vineyard must be cultivated, whereby cultivation is deemed to be the annual registration of the grape harvest in the wine register.

The minister responsible for agriculture shall prescribe more detailed conditions on the quality of grapes for the production of wine and other grapevine products, unless EU legal acts regulating procedures and restrictions relating to the production and conservation of grapevine products and product specifications stipulate otherwise.

Re Article 7:

The article stipulates that according to environmental conditions (relief, climate, soil and agrobiotic factors), organoleptic characteristics of wine and other grapevine products, and traditional aspects of production, the wine-producing area of the Republic of Slovenia is divided into wine-growing units: wine region, wine-growing region and wine-growing sub-region, narrower wine-growing region, wine-growing locality and wine-growing location. Each wine-growing unit is also described in more detail.

Production areas are part of the specifications for geographical indications for wine published on the eAmbrosia portal and regulated in the law governing food.

Re Article 8:

The wine-growing sub-region, narrower wine-growing region, wine-growing locality and wine-growing location are geographically defined units that follow the boundaries of cadastral municipalities or boundaries defined in nature. The Minister responsible for agriculture shall determine wine-growing units on the basis of expert analyses covering data on climate, soil, characteristics of grapes, wine and other grapevine products, and production traditions. The wine-growing units will be regularly updated, and the opinions and interests of producers from these areas will also be taken into account during the public consultation process for the draft regulation.

Re Article 9:

The article governs the planting of a vineyard. A vineyard may be newly planted or replanted if the producer has obtained an authorisation for vine plantings in advance. The vineyard must be planted with wine grape varieties referred to in paragraph 1 of Article 12 of this Act. The Article also regulates the exception when a vineyard may be newly planted or replanted without obtaining an authorisation for vine plantings.

In accordance with the applicable EU legislation for vine plantings, prior authorisation for vine plantings must be obtained for the planting of vineyards. There are two types of authorisations:

- authorisation for replanting (grubbing-up existing vineyards and planting in the same or another location on the same agricultural holding, covering the same or a smaller area; there are no restrictions, and anyone who is grubbs-up and submits an application can obtain a permit) and
- authorisation for new plantings (planting on a new area, without prior grubbing-up; such authorisations may only be granted within the framework of the available “quota”, amounting to 172.04 ha annually from 2023 onwards).

Re Article 10:

The article regulates the conditions and procedure for issuing authorisations for new vine plantings and the competent authorities for implementing Article 62 of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013. The article stipulates that the conditions for issuing an authorisation for new vine plantings are laid down in Articles 62, 63, 64 and 68 of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013.

The application for authorisation for new vine plantings shall be submitted to the administrative unit by 30 June prior to the wine year in which the vineyard will be planted. The article regulates in detail what an application for an authorisation must contain, how to proceed if the total area specified in the application for an authorisation for new vine plantings is exceeded, and what the authorisation for new vine plantings contains.

From receipt of authorisation for new plantings until the start of planting of vines, the producer may change the vineyard planting location, where an application for a change of vineyard location must be submitted to the administrative unit in advance. The administrative unit shall issue a new authorisation for new vine planting, whereby the previous authorisation shall cease to be valid, and the period of validity of the new authorisation shall commence from the date of issue of the previous authorisation.

If a producer who, on the basis of the authorisation for new vine plantings, does not plant a vineyard during the period of validity of the authorisation, may not submit a new application for the same area covered by the authorisation one year after the expiry of that authorisation, except in cases provided for by law.

The Minister responsible for agriculture shall prescribe the detailed content of the application and the detailed conditions and criteria for issuing an authorisation for new plantings.

Re Article 11:

The article regulates the conditions and the procedure for granting vine replanting authorisation. The article stipulates that the conditions for issuing an authorisation for the replanting of vines are laid down in Articles 62, 66 and 68 of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013, and an administrative unit is responsible for the implementation of Article 66 of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013.

An application for an vine replanting authorisation shall be submitted to the administrative unit in the wine year in which the grubbing-up of the vineyard is carried out, or at the latest by the end of the wine year following the wine year in which the grubbing-up was carried out. The article regulates in more detail what an authorisation application must contain and what an authorisation will contain.

From receipt of vine replanting authorisation until the start of planting of vines, the producer may submit an application for a change of vineyard location to the administrative unit. The administrative unit shall issue a new vine replanting authorisation, whereby the previous authorisation shall cease to be valid. The validity period of the new authorisation shall commence from the date of issue of the previous authorisation.

A producer may submit an application for the vine replanting on land acquired for use at any time during the three years prior to the submission of the application, provided that this land was recorded as actual use "1211 Vineyard" at any time during the same period.

The Minister responsible for agriculture shall prescribe the detailed content of the application and the detailed conditions for issuing a vine replanting authorisation.

Re Article 12:

Wine grape varieties and rootstocks specified in the vine varieties may be planted in each wine-growing region and smaller wine-growing units of that region. This is in line with the implementation of Article 81 of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013. An exception applies if varieties or rootstocks that are not included in the vine varieties are included in the selection and introduction process within the framework of the public service in viticulture. In this case, the research and educational institution submits an application to the Ministry for the planting of wine grape varieties and rootstocks that are not included in the vine varieties. The Minister responsible for agriculture shall decide on the application by means of a decision.

Re Article 13:

The article determines who may engage in the production of wine and other grapevine products. The article also stipulates an exception for the purchase of grapes by natural persons, defines what constitutes the production of wine and other products, and what constitutes the storage of wine and other grapevine products and aromatised wine products.

Re Article 14:

The article specifies which oenological compounds may be used by winemaker and which oenological compounds may not be sold by sellers.

The use of non-original packaged oenological compounds is also permitted, provided that the packaging ensures the preservation of quality, safety, sensory properties and traceability, and that the

oenological compounds are accompanied by appropriate and clear written instructions for use and a copy of the original packaging declaration.

Re Article 15:

The article lays down the procedure for an applicant who wishes to test the use of new oenological practices of treatments and oenological compounds, taking into account the provision of Article 4 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/934. The Minister responsible for agriculture shall decide on the application by means of a decision. The article also lays down the applicant's obligation after the expiry of the approved period of trial use of oenological practices.

Re Article 16:

This article regulates the management and maintenance of databases in the field of viticulture and winemaking. A deadline for the retention of data in the records is set. Permanent storage is provided for data on the basis of which various requirements can be verified (e.g. from courts, research of individual cases of historical rights or cases of eligibility for agricultural policy payments). Personal data shall be stored only for as long as it is necessary to achieve the purpose for which they were collected or further processed, but not for more than 10 years.

Re Article 17:

The article sets out the purpose of maintaining a wine register as well as the parties obligated to register in the wine register. The wine register is intended for agricultural policy planning, implementation of agricultural policy measures, analyses and statistical processing of data and reporting in accordance with EU legal acts, in the field of wine.

Re Article 18:

This article regulates the maintaining of the wine register, namely: it specifies who maintains and manages the wine register, what data is kept or entered in the register for each individual obligated party, the deadline for reporting the prescribed data to the administrative unit, and the obligation to report changes to the data.

The key changes compared to the current regulation are:

- the parties obligated to register must process at least 0.05 ha of vineyard areas;
- activities listed in the register now also include aromatised wine products;
- registration in the wine register is also mandatory for bottlers of wine or aromatised wine products, even if they do not have their own vineyards;
- the grapes shall be declared in graphical units of agricultural land. Such a declaration shall make it possible to assess the loss of income due to weather effects.

A shipping note is an official document accompanying the marketing of grapes and wine between harvesters or winemakers within the territory of the Republic of Slovenia. The issue of a shipping note enables the recording of transfers of quantities of grapes or wine between producers.

The Minister responsible for wine shall lay down the method of maintaining the wine register, the more detailed data to be entered and processed in the wine register, the content of the application for notification of data on obligated party in the wine register, the more detailed content and the procedure for issuing the grape shipping note and the wine shipping note.

Re Article 19:

The article stipulates the obligation to maintain inward and outward register. The register shall be kept by parties obligated for entry in the wine register. In the current legislation, this is the so-called cellar register. Maintaining this register ensures transparency and traceability in individual production facilities and enables control over the quality and compliance of wine with European legislation.

Re Article 20:

This article provides that traditional terms may only be used together with the geographical indication for wine and other grapevine products. The traditional term is stated in the specification for the designation of origin or geographical indication. The use of the traditional term is considered an indication of the quality class of the product.

Re Article 21:

The article provides that the procedure for the registration, amendment and cancellation of a traditional term shall be carried out in accordance with Articles 25 and 28 of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/34.

Re Article 22:

The article governs the recognition of a producer group whose members produce wine with the same geographical indication. The group may take various legal organisational forms, such as: sole trader, limited company, general partnership, limited partnership, joint stock company, economic interest grouping, institute, society, institution, agricultural holding, cooperative. The conditions relating to the quantity of wine of a given geographical indication declared will be verified on the basis of the wine register for the year preceding the year of application. The recognition procedure begins with an application submitted by producers to the Ministry. Only one producer group may be recognised in order to avoid duplication of groups within the same geographical indication. The Minister responsible for agriculture shall decide on the recognition of producer groups. If a producer group no longer meets the conditions for recognition, the Minister shall withdraw its recognition by means of a decision.

Re Article 23:

The article stipulates that aromatised wine products shall be obtained, classified and labelled in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 251/2014.

This article regulates which authority is competent for the exchange of information relating to aromatised wine products pursuant to Article 32 of Regulation (EU) No 251/2014.

Re Article 24:

This article regulates the assessment of wine and other grapevine products produced in the Republic of Slovenia, namely what the assessment includes, who performs the assessment and at whose request the assessment is performed. It is stipulated that the assessment shall be carried out by an organisation authorised to assess wine and other vine products and aromatised wine products at the request of the producer, the certification body or the competent inspection authority, unless otherwise specified in EU legislation.

The article also stipulates that the wine and other grapevine products may not be placed on the market if, on the basis of the assessment, they are found to be unsuitable for marketing or do not comply with the accompanying documents.

Re Article 25:

This article regulates the assessment of aromatised wine products produced in the Republic of Slovenia, namely what the assessment includes, who performs the assessment and at whose request the assessment is performed. The assessment shall be carried out by an organisation authorised to assess wine and other vine products and aromatised wine products at the request of the producer, the certification body or the competent inspection authority, unless otherwise specified in EU legislation.

The article also stipulates that the aromatised wine products may not be placed on the market if, on the basis of the assessment, they are found to be unsuitable for marketing or do not comply with the accompanying documents.

Re Article 26:

The article regulates the conditions and procedures for appointing an authorised organisation for the assessment of wine and other grapevine products and aromatised wine products (hereinafter referred to as “authorised assessment organisation”).

The article sets out the conditions that an authorised assessment organisation must meet. It is important that it possesses accredited and validated methods for carrying out the analyses referred to in Article 20 of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/34.

The article also lays down the procedure for obtaining authorisation as an authorised assessment organisation, which shall be based on an application with appropriate supporting documents. The public power shall be granted by a decision of the Minister responsible for agriculture for a period of 10 years. The list of authorised assessment organisations is published on the central website of the state administration, which ensures the transparency of the system. The article also governs the termination of the public power.

Re Article 27:

The article defines the conditions that a natural person must meet in order to be a taster for organoleptic assessment of wine and other grapevine products and aromatised wine products (hereinafter referred to as “taster”). On application, the taster shall be appointed by the Minister by way of a decision. A list of wine tasters shall be maintained in the wine register. If a taster is a member of the panel referred to in Article 29 of this Act, he or she must undergo additional training at least once every 2 years, organised by an authorised organisation for training tasters for organoleptic assessment of wine and other grapevine products and aromatised wine products.

The costs of testing for organoleptic aptitude, knowledge of oenology and the regulations governing viticulture and winemaking and education shall be borne by the tasters themselves. If the taster has participated at least 10-times in the past year as a member of the panel referred to in Article 29 of this Act, it shall cover only 20% of the costs of additional education and additional testing. The remaining funds shall be provided from the budget of the Republic of Slovenia.

Re Article 28:

The article specifies the conditions that must be met by an authorised organisation for training tasters for the organoleptic assessment of wine and other grapevine products and aromatised wine products (hereinafter referred to as “authorised organisation for training tasters”) and its tasks. The public power to perform the tasks shall be granted by a decision of the Minister for a period of 7 years. The article also governs the termination of the public power.

Re Article 29:

The article governs the composition of the tasting panel, which performs the organoleptic assessment of wine and other grapevine products and aromatised wine products (hereinafter referred to as “organoleptic assessment”). The tasting panel shall be chaired by the chairperson and composed of representatives of producers and experts in the field of viticulture and winemaking. The chairperson of the panel does not participate in the assessment, but leads the assessment procedure. The panel shall be composed of 5 members, in the event that there is a re-assessment (e.g. if the producer disagrees with the assessment), the panel shall have 7 members. Assessors who participated in the initial assessment may not participate in the re-assessment. This prevents the influence of preconceived opinions and enables independent judgement.

Re Article 30:

The article lays down a procedure for the organoleptic assessment of wine or other grapevine products or aromatised wine products, which is carried out in order to verify their compliance with the prescribed requirements, thus enabling the wine or other grapevine product or aromatised wine product to be placed on the market. A sample of wine or other grapevine product or aromatised wine product (hereinafter referred to as “sample”) for organoleptic assessment shall be prepared by the producer or taken by the competent inspection authority in accordance with the guidelines of the International Organisation of Vine and Wine.

The article also specifies the deadline for issuing a laboratory report for the sample (hereinafter referred to as “report”). The authorised organisation for organoleptic assessment must issue the report within 5 working days of receiving the sample. An exception is the deadline for issuing a report for a new wine still in fermentation, for which report shall be issued within 2 working days of receiving the sample. For the inspection samples, it is stipulated that the report shall be issued within 4 working days of receiving the sample.

The amount of the costs for the organoleptic assessment referred to in point (a) of Article 20 of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/34 shall be prescribed by the Minister responsible for agriculture. The article also stipulates that the cost of the organoleptic assessment shall be borne by the contracting authority.

Re Article 31:

The article lays down rules for the labelling of wine and other grapevine products which shall be labelled in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 and Chapter IV of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/33, whereby indications concerning geographical origin, quality, ingredients, grape varieties, producer, production methods and other characteristics of the product must not mislead the consumer. The products must be labelled in such a way that the information is complete, true and compliant with the legislation, and must not mislead the consumer.

Re Article 32:

The article lays down rules for the labelling of aromatised wine products, which must be labelled in accordance with European legislation. Aromatised wine products must meet the requirements of Regulation (EU) No 251/2014 and Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 as regards the description, presentation and labelling of products.

Re Article 33:

The article regulates in detail the procedure for establishing, authorising and operating authorised laboratories for isotopic analyses of wine, in accordance with European requirements. The authorised

laboratory for isotopic analysis also issues expert opinions at the request of the wine inspection authority.

Re Article 34:

The article regulates the rules for the marketing of wine and other grapevine products and aromatised wine products after their production has been completed. It applies to all processes related to the sale, transport and packaging of wine and aromatised wine products. It also specifies which documents are required for the transport of wine and aromatised wine products.

Re Article 35:

The article sets out prohibitions relating to the marketing of wine and other grapevine products and aromatised wine products. It specifies which wines and other grapevine products and aromatised wine products may not be on the market, who is responsible for removing them from the market and the possibility of rectifying defects.

Re Article 36:

The article regulates the rules relating to the labelling, advertising and marketing of wine and other grapevine products and aromatised wine products. The purpose is to protect the consumer from being misled, while at the same time protecting the authenticity of geographical indications and other characteristics of wines. The use of images depicting a specific geographical area is prohibited if the product does not originate from that area.

Re Article 37:

The article regulates inspections. Inspection of the implementation of the provisions of this Act, regulations issued pursuant to it and EU legal acts in the field of wine and other grapevine products and aromatised wine products shall be carried out by the wine inspector. Inspection of the implementation of the provisions of Articles 9 and 16 of this Act shall also be carried out by an agricultural inspector.

Re Article 38:

The article lays down the conditions to be met by a wine inspector (education, work experience, organoleptic aptitude test).

Re Article 39:

The article lays down the powers that a wine inspector has when carrying out inspections.

Re Article 40

The article lays down the measures that a wine inspector may impose when carrying out inspections.

Re Article 41:

The article regulates the assistance of the police to the wine and agricultural inspector in carrying out the inspections. If, in the performance of his duties and the implementation of measures, the competent inspector encounters physical resistance or obstruction, or if he has reasonable grounds to expect such resistance or obstruction, he may request the assistance of the police.

Re Article 42:

The article stipulates that the economic size of the offender, whether a large producer, medium-sized producer, small producer or micro-producer, shall be taken into account when determining the amount of the fine.

Re Article 43:

The article defines offences and fines. The penalties shall be proportionate and have a dissuasive effect.

Re Article 44:

The article provides that, for offences referred to in this Act, a fine may be imposed under an expedited procedure of an amount higher than the minimum fine laid down by this Act.

Re Article 45:

The article governs the issue of an exceptional authorisation for vine plantings. Upon application, this shall be issued to a producer who, due to the change of the conditions for entry in the wine register referred to in Article 17 of this Act, needs an authorisation for vine plantings in an existing vineyard, even though it is not required under the Agriculture Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos 45/08, 57/12, 90/12 – ZdZPVHVVR, 26/14, 32/15, 27/17, 22/18, 86/21 – decision US, 123/21, 44/22, 130/22 – ZPOmK-2, 18/23 in 78/23).

Re Article 46:

The article provides that obligated parties who, prior to the entry into force of this Act, are entered in the register referred to in Article 14 of the Wine Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos 105/06, 72/11, 90/12 – ZdZPVHVVR, 111/13 and 27/17 – ZKme-1D) shall be deemed to be entered in the wine register referred to in Article 17 of this Act on the date of entry into force of this Act.

Re Article 47:

The article regulates the transitional period for co-financing the costs of assessing wine with a geographical indication for the analyses referred to in point (a) of Article 20 of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/34. For 2028 and 2029, the costs shall be covered by the budget of the Republic of Slovenia.

Re Article 48:

The article stipulates that current tasters, appointed in accordance with Article 34 of the Wine Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos 105/06, 72/11, 90/12 – ZdZPVHVVR, 111/13 and 27/17 – ZKme-1D), may continue to perform their duties if they meet the conditions set out in Article 27 of this Act.

Re Article 49:

The article regulates the transitional period for the performance of tasks by the panel for the organoleptic assessment of must and wine, appointed in accordance with Article 35 of the Wine Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos 105/06, 72/11, 90/12 – ZdZPVHVVR, 111/13 and 27/17 – ZKme-1D). It shall carry out the tasks of the panel referred to in Article 29 of this Act up to and including 31 July 2026.

Re Article 50:

The article regulates the transitional period for the performance of tasks by the current holder of a public power appointed pursuant to Article 49 of the Wine Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos 105/06, 72/11, 90/12 – ZdZPVHVVR, 111/13 and 27/17 – ZKme-1D). It must perform the tasks referred to in Articles 26, 27 and 33 of this Act up to and including 31 December 2026.

Re Article 51:

The article provides that economic operators with or without a registered trademark whose company name, at the time of entry into force of this Act, contains any direct or indirect indication of a geographical indication, a part thereof or a derivative thereof and which were established or registered before the protection of a geographical indication at EU level may continue to use such a trademark.

Re Article 52:

The article regulates the completion of procedures initiated prior to the entry into force of this Act.

Re Article 53:

The article lays down the termination of validity and application of existing by-laws.

Re Article 54:

The article lays down the deadline for adopting the by-laws referred to in this Act.

Re Article 55:

The article provides for the termination of the Wine Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos 105/06, 72/11, 90/12 – ZdZPVHVVR, 111/13 and 27/17 – ZKme-1D).

Re Article 56:

The article regulates *vacatio legis*.

IV. ANNEXES

- Declaration of conformity,
- Regulations on viticulture (P1),
- Regulations on wine (P2).