CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING THE E.U. ROLE IN THE WORLD GRAPE PRODUCTION

Agatha POPESCU¹, Cecilia POP²

¹University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine Bucharest, 59 Marasti, District 1, Zip code 011464, Bucharest, Romania, Phone: +40 213182564/232, Fax:+40213182888, Email:agatha_popescu@yahoo.com
²University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine Iasi, 3 M.Sadoveanu Street, Iasi City, Romania, 700490, Phone: +40 232407514, Fax: +40 232260650, Email: cicipop@uaiasi.ro

Corresponding author: agatha_popescu@yahoo.com

Abstract

The paper aimed to analyze the EU-27 position in the world grape production based on the data collected from FAO Stat data base for the period 2000-2008, using the index and share methods. The EU-27 is the most important vine cultivator and grape producer in the world. With its 3.5 million ha planted with vine, it accounts for 90.21 % of Europe’s area of vineyards and 48.14 % of the world vine area. In 2008, the EU-27 produced 25.1 million tones grapes placing it on the top position and contributing by 41.56 % to the world production. The top European countries: Italy, Spain, France, Germany and Romania achieved 21.8 million tones grapes, representing 86.98 % of the EU-27 and 32.96 % of the world grape production. Italy, Spain and France are among the top 10 grape producers in the world.

As a conclusion, even thou the EU-27 planted area decreased by 8.24 % and its grape production declined by 16.16 %, the EU-27 continues to remain the main grape producer in the world.

Key words: EU-27, grape, production, trends, vineyards area

INTRODUCTION

Grapes are among the most attractive and preferred fruits. They are consumed both as such, but also as grape just, wine, jam, jelly, seed extract, raisins, sultanas, vinegar and seed oil. [1]. They have a benefic effect on the human body due to their chemical composition rich in sugar, antioxidants, minerals, vitamins etc [4].

Grape consumption assures the protection of blood vessels, the decrease of cholesterol level, it has an antioxidant effect because of its poly-phenols (mainly resveratrol) which have a strong effect against free radicals and cancer [2,3,5,6,7].

Grape demand is increasing but demand/offer ratio is unbalanced because of the production decline during the last 30 years [3].

Grape production varies from a country to another in close relationship to climate and soil conditions, vine cultivars and varieties, plantation surface and grape yield [1].

In this context, the present paper aimed to analyze the EU position of role in the world grape production taking into account the surface of vine plantation, and grape yields.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The paper was set up based on the data collected from FAOStat data base for the period 2000-2008 in order to comparatively analyze the status of vine plantations’ area at world level and in the top cultivating countries, world grape production, its distribution by continent and in the top producing countries. Also, the data for the same years were collected for the EU-27 as a whole, but also by each member state regarding: vineyards surface and grape production in order to identify the major changes along the time and the position of the EU-27 and of its important grape producers in the world.

The primary data have been statistically processed using the index, share and comparison method, common procedures for such an analysis and the obtained results have been interpreted.
RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Vine cultivated area at world level

At world level, vine plantations occupied 7,473,020 ha in 2008, by 2.54 % more than in the year 2000. In largest cultivated area is situated in Europe, which accounts for 53.54 % of world vine planted surface. On the 2nd position is situated Asia with 26.90 % of world vine planted area. On the next positions are coming South America (7 %), North America (5.19 %), Africa (4.89 %) and Oceania (2.48 %).

In the period 2000-2008, the surface of vine plantations registered a decline in Europe (-8.87 %) and North America (-0.55 %) and increased in South America (+21.49 %), Asia (+21.09 %) and Africa (+18.39 %) (Table 1).

In 2010, the total surface planted with Vitis species reached 7,586,600 ha, showing an average growth of 2 % per year.

Table 1. World area planted with vine and its distribution by continent

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Continent</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2008/2000 (%)</th>
<th>The share in the world area in 2008 (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>4,375,574</td>
<td>3,987,500</td>
<td>91.93</td>
<td>53.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>308,624</td>
<td>365,400</td>
<td>118.39</td>
<td>4.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North America</td>
<td>390,482</td>
<td>388,345</td>
<td>99.75</td>
<td>5.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South America</td>
<td>430,861</td>
<td>523,478</td>
<td>121.49</td>
<td>7.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>1,660,357</td>
<td>2,010,600</td>
<td>121.09</td>
<td>26.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oceania</td>
<td>120,820</td>
<td>196,697</td>
<td>162.79</td>
<td>2.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total world</td>
<td>7,286,718</td>
<td>7,472,020</td>
<td>102.50</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: FAOStat, 2011 [8]. Own calculations

The top 10 countries regarding the planted area with vine totaled 7,472,020 ha in 2008, by 2.54 % more than in the year 2000. Their vine surface represented 69.39 % of the world area in the year 2008.

The surface planted with vine in the EU-27 accounted for 3,597,437 ha in the year 2008, when it was by 9.24 % smaller than in the year 2000. In 2008, it represented 90.21 % of the vine planted area in Europe and 48.14 % of the vine planted area at world level. In the period 2000-2008, the share of the EU-27 in the Europe’s planted area with vine increased from 89.59 % in 2000 to 90.21 % in the year 2008 (Table 3).

At world level, the share of the EU-27 planted area with vine declined from 53.79 % in the year 2000 to 48.14 % in the year 2008.

In the EU-27, there are important cultivators of vine with a long tradition, also some other countries with medium-sized surfaces cultivated with vine and also countries with very small or no cultivated areas with vine (+144.20 %), Chile (+22.95 %), Argentina (+16.88 %) and Iran (+5.32 %).

In 2010, the top producers of grapes for wine making, in the decreasing order according to the planted area were: Spain (1,175 thousand ha), France (864 thousand ha), Italy (827 thousand ha), Turkey (812 thousand ha), USA (415 thousand ha), Iran (286 thousand ha), Romania (248 thousand ha), Portugal (216 thousand ha), Argentina (208 thousand ha), and Chile (184 thousand ha).

Table 2. The top 10 countries in the world based on the area planted with vine (ha)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>1,167,700</td>
<td>1,109,050</td>
<td>94.97</td>
<td>14.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>860,979</td>
<td>814,697</td>
<td>94.62</td>
<td>10.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>872,730</td>
<td>788,100</td>
<td>90.30</td>
<td>10.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>786,128</td>
<td>698,730</td>
<td>244.20</td>
<td>9.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>535,000</td>
<td>482,780</td>
<td>90.23</td>
<td>6.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>383,016</td>
<td>378,770</td>
<td>98.89</td>
<td>5.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>263,692</td>
<td>277,740</td>
<td>105.32</td>
<td>3.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>231,959</td>
<td>222,700</td>
<td>96.00</td>
<td>2.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>187,740</td>
<td>219,440</td>
<td>116.88</td>
<td>2.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>156,859</td>
<td>192,870</td>
<td>122.95</td>
<td>2.58</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Therefore, 5 European countries: Spain, France, Italy, Romania and Portugal are among the top countries regarding the surface planted with vine in order to produce wine.

The surface planted with vine in the EU-27 accounted for 3,597,437 ha in the year 2008, when it was by 9.24 % smaller than in the year 2000. In 2008, it represented 90.21 % of the vine planted area in Europe and 48.14 % of the vine planted area at world level. In the period 2000-2008, the share of the EU-27 in the Europe’s planted area with vine increased from 89.59 % in 2000 to 90.21 % in the year 2008.

At world level, the share of the EU-27 planted area with vine declined from 53.79 % in the year 2000 to 48.14 % in the year 2008.

In the EU-27, there are important cultivators of vine with a long tradition, also some other countries with medium-sized surfaces cultivated with vine and also countries with very small or no cultivated areas with vine (+144.20 %), Chile (+22.95 %), Argentina (+16.88 %) and Iran (+5.32 %).
(Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden).

The planted area with vine declined in most of the EU-27 countries. The highest decrease was noticed in: Belgium (-85 %), Slovakia (-46 %), Greece (-30 %), Malta (-40 %), Romania (-25 %), Hungary (-15 %), Cyprus (-22 %). The only countries where the planted area with vine registered an increase were Czech Republic (+45 %), Luxemburg (+6.95 %), Slovenia (+4.33 %) and the Netherlands (+20 %) (Table 3).

### Table 3. The area planted with vine in the EU-27 (ha)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>48,082</td>
<td>45,622</td>
<td>94.88</td>
<td>1.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>15.38</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>111,207</td>
<td>110,816</td>
<td>99.64</td>
<td>3.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyprus</td>
<td>18,410</td>
<td>13,590</td>
<td>78.31</td>
<td>0.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>11,236</td>
<td>16,300</td>
<td>145.06</td>
<td>0.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estonia</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>860,979</td>
<td>814,697</td>
<td>94.62</td>
<td>22.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>101,546</td>
<td>99,700</td>
<td>98.18</td>
<td>2.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>124,790</td>
<td>86,800</td>
<td>69.55</td>
<td>2.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>88,672</td>
<td>75,776</td>
<td>85.45</td>
<td>2.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>872,730</td>
<td>788,100</td>
<td>90.30</td>
<td>21.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latvia</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lithuania</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luxembourg</td>
<td>1,309</td>
<td>1,400</td>
<td>106.95</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malta</td>
<td>317</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>59.39</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>120.00</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romania</td>
<td>247,500</td>
<td>187,038</td>
<td>75.57</td>
<td>5.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slovakia</td>
<td>17,531</td>
<td>9,600</td>
<td>54.76</td>
<td>0.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slovenia</td>
<td>15,335</td>
<td>16,000</td>
<td>104.33</td>
<td>0.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>1,167,700</td>
<td>1,109,050</td>
<td>94.97</td>
<td>30.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>809</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>86.52</td>
<td>0.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU-27</td>
<td>3,920,217</td>
<td>3,597,437</td>
<td>91.76</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share of the EU-27 in Europe (%)</td>
<td>89.59</td>
<td>90.21</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share of the EU-27 in total world (%)</td>
<td>53.79</td>
<td>48.14</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: FAOStat, 2011[8]. Own calculations

In 2008, the top 10 countries in the EU-27 regarding the planted area with vine were: Spain, whose share in the total EU-27 area of vineyards was 30.80 %, then on the 2nd position comes France (22.63 %), on the 3rd position Italy (21.89 %). The cultivated area with vine in these three countries accounted for 2,711,847 ha, representing 75.38 % of the EU-27 area and 36.29 % of the world area planted with Vitis species. The countries coming on the next positions are: Portugal (6.18 % of the EU-27 area planted with vine), Romania (5.19 %), Bulgaria (3.07 %), Germany (2.76 %), Greece (2.41 %), Hungary (2.10 %) and Austria (1.26 %).

All these top 10 countries in the EU-27 had together 3,540,299 ha representing 98.41 % of the EU-27 planted area with vine. If one considered all the 5 countries situated on the top positions, their vine surface accounted for 3,121,585 ha, representing 86.77 % of the EU-27 and 41.77 % of the world planted area with vine.

### World grape production

increased by 2.85 % from 64.4 million tones in the year 2000 to 66.2 million tones in the year 2008. The highest contribution to the world grape production was given by Europe, 41.56 %, and Asia, 27.86 %.

The other continents had a smaller contribution in the year 2008: South America 10.80 %, North America 10.14 %, Africa 6.37 % and Oceania 3.27 %. In 2010, world grape production reached 68,311,466 tones according to FAO Statistical data, of which 71 % was used for producing wine, 27 % as fresh fruit and 2 % as dried fruit (Table 4).

### Table 4. World grape production by continent (Tones)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>22,375,639</td>
<td>27,547,816</td>
<td>84.56</td>
<td>41.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>3,216,066</td>
<td>4,226,063</td>
<td>131.40</td>
<td>6.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North America</td>
<td>7,017,548</td>
<td>6,720,882</td>
<td>95.50</td>
<td>10.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South America</td>
<td>5,671,506</td>
<td>7,158,301</td>
<td>126.21</td>
<td>10.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>14,536,278</td>
<td>18,466,090</td>
<td>127.03</td>
<td>27.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oceania</td>
<td>1,391,480</td>
<td>2,151,790</td>
<td>154.64</td>
<td>3.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total world</td>
<td>64,428,517</td>
<td>66,270,742</td>
<td>102.85</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: FAOStat, 2011[8]. Own calculations

The top 10 countries in the world produced together 46.2 million tones grapes in the year 2008, by 7.01 % more than in the year 2000. Their production represented 69.82 % of the world grape production in 2008. The hierarchy, in the decreasing order, and the contribution of each country to the world grape production in the year 2008 was the following one: Italy (16.84 %), China (15.63 %).
%, USA (14.34 %), Spain (12.86 %), France (12.27 %), Turkey (8.46 %), Argentina (6.28 %), Chile (5.18 %), Australia (4.22 %) and South Africa (3.87 %) (Table 5).

In the year 2010, the contribution of various countries to the world grape production, 63,311,466 tones, was the following one: China 12.67 %, Italy 11.40 %, the USA 9.11 %, Spain 8.94 %, France 8.56 %, Turkey 6.23 %, Chile 4.03 %, Argentina 3.83 %, India 3.31 % and Iran 3.30 %. One can notice China’s fast increase of the area cultivated with vine and grape production. This country succeeded to come on the 1st position, regarding grape production.

**Grape production in the EU-27** decreased by 16.16 % from 29.9 % million tones in the year 2000 to 25.1 million tones in the year 2008. However, the situation is different from a country to another. Grape production registered a decline in countries such as: Belgium (-89 %), United Kingdom (-24 %), Bulgaria (-20 %), Cyprus (-68 %), France (-27 %), Greece (-32 %), Hungary (-17 %), Italy (-13 %), Luxembourg (-8 %), Portugal (-27 %), Romania (-23 %), Slovakia (-13 %), Slovenia (-17 %) and Spain (-9 %). Therefore, this was the main factor determining the decline of grape production in the EU-27. But grape production increased in a few countries: Austria (+31 %), Czech Republic (+46.8 %), Germany (+4.9 %), Malta (+2.75 %), and the Netherlands (+6 %).

Also, countries like Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden could not give any contribution to the EU grape production because of the lack of vine plantations as imposed by climate conditions (Table 6).

**The top 10 grape producers in the EU-27 are:** Italy on the 1st position with a share of 31.03 % in the EU-27 production, Spain on the 2nd position with a contribution of 23.70 %, on the 3rd position is France with 22.61 %. These 3 countries together contributed by 77.34 % to the EU-27 grape production in the year 2008.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>303,940</td>
<td>399,163</td>
<td>131.32</td>
<td>1.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>11.25</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>451,474</td>
<td>363,539</td>
<td>80.52</td>
<td>1.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyprus</td>
<td>110,768</td>
<td>35,976</td>
<td>32.47</td>
<td>0.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>66,937</td>
<td>98,323</td>
<td>14.688</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>7,762,580</td>
<td>5,676,800</td>
<td>73.15</td>
<td>22.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>1,360,900</td>
<td>1,429,780</td>
<td>104.98</td>
<td>5.68</td>
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<td>Greece</td>
<td>1,251,460</td>
<td>852,900</td>
<td>68.15</td>
<td>3.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>683,641</td>
<td>570,502</td>
<td>83.45</td>
<td>2.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>8,869,501</td>
<td>7,793,300</td>
<td>87.86</td>
<td>31.03</td>
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<tr>
<td>Latvia</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lithuania</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luxembourg</td>
<td>18,357</td>
<td>16,900</td>
<td>92.06</td>
<td>0.06</td>
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<tr>
<td>Malta</td>
<td>1,306</td>
<td>4,398</td>
<td>375.03</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>106.00</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>1,045,030</td>
<td>763,000</td>
<td>72.94</td>
<td>3.03</td>
</tr>
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<td>Romania</td>
<td>1,295,300</td>
<td>996,023</td>
<td>76.89</td>
<td>3.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slovakia</td>
<td>59,371</td>
<td>51,617</td>
<td>86.93</td>
<td>0.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slovenia</td>
<td>126,650</td>
<td>105,719</td>
<td>83.47</td>
<td>0.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>6,539,810</td>
<td>5,950,580</td>
<td>91.00</td>
<td>23.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>1,400</td>
<td>1,064</td>
<td>76.00</td>
<td>0.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU-27</td>
<td>29,950,224</td>
<td>25,111,980</td>
<td>83.84</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Top 10</td>
<td>29,564,536</td>
<td>24,797,287</td>
<td>83.87</td>
<td>98.74</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: FAOSTat, 2011[8]. Own calculations

On the 4th position was placed Germany with 5.68 % and on the 5th position Romania with 3.96 %. The first 5 countries contributed all together by 86.98 % to the EU-27 grape production in the year 2008. In the same year, their grape production represented 21.8 million tones which accounted for 32.96 % of the world grape production.
Also, on the next 5 positions are situated Greece (3.39 %), Portugal (3.03 %), Hungary (2.27 %), Austria (1.58 %) and Bulgaria (1.44 %) as other important producers in the EU-27. Taking into consideration all these 10 top grape producers, their production accounted for 24.7 million tones, representing 83.87 % of the EU-27 production (Table 6).

CONCLUSIONS

The EU-27 is the most important grape producer in the world. Its area planted with vine accounted for 3.5 million ha, representing 90.25 % of the vineyards area in Europe and 48.14 % of the vine planted area in the world.

Four EU countries: Spain, France, Italy and Portugal had together 2.9 million ha vineyards, representing 39.18 % of the world planted area with vine, placing them among the 10 top vine cultivators in the world.

The EU surface cultivated with vine decreased by 8.24 % in the period 2000-2008, with a negative influence on grape production and its contribution to the world production accounted for 25.1 million tones, being by 16.16 % smaller than in the year 2000.

The general trend was a decreasing one in the most important producing countries in the EU. The top 5 EU-27 grape producers are: Italy, Spain, France, Germany and Romania, whose production totaled 21.8 million tones, contributing by 86.98 % to the world grape production.

Three countries: Italy, Spain and France are among the 10 top producers of grape in the world. As a conclusion, the EU plays and will continue to play a very important role in the world grape production as long as it has a long tradition and high performance in producing grapes, a large market and a favorable demand/offer ratio.

REFERENCES
