

PROGRAMMING PERIOD 2007-2013

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURE OF TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION (TNC) UNDER LEADER AXIS

SECTION A: **COUNTRY SPECIFIC DETAILS**

1. Name of the programme:

FörderInitiative Ländliche Entwicklung in Thüringen (FILET) 2007 - 2013

2. Number of Local Action Groups (LAGs):

15

3. Axes covered by LAGs:

Leader actions may address axes 1, 2 and 3 of the RDP

4. Axes and measures covered by TNC projects:

TNC may address any measure under any of the above axes of the RDP

5. Total RDP budget for all the four axes (including EU+ public+ private expenditure):

EUR 1,528,647,051

6. Total budget for Leader axis:

EUR 66,253,054

Of which:

a. EU Funding: EUR 34,566,810

b. Public funding: EUR 8,641,703

c. Private funding: EUR 23,044,541

SECTION B: PROGRAMMING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION PROJECTS

1. FINANCIAL ASPECTS	
Budget for TNC projects (Total public funding: EU + public)	The budget allocated to measure 421 amounts to EUR 5.8 million. The amount of funds made available for TNC will depend on applications actually submitted, which must fit within the LAGs' already established budgetary frameworks.
Responsibility for the management of the Budget (MAs or LAGs)	Relevant competent / specialist authorities (= approval authorities) are responsible for the management of the budget.
Special budget for the preparatory technical support of TNC projects	No provision for a particular budget covering the preparation (initiation) of transnational cooperation projects has been made. Related expenses are to be financed via the LAG management cost category (M431).

2. PROGRAMMING ASPECTS	
Local Development Strategies and TNC	LAGs have not included detailed TNC project proposals in their local development strategies (LDS). However, reference was made to already ongoing cooperation activities. No approval for future TNC projects has been issued so far, as LAGs have not submitted any applications yet.
Way of selecting cooperation projects	LAGs determine the eligibility of cooperation project proposals. The final determination of eligibility is the responsibility of the approval authorities.
Main topics of TNC proposed for the 2007-2013 programming period	In Thuringia, TNC is considered for joint actions covering rural development in general and urban-rural relationships and youth exchanges in particular.
Cooperation with third countries	Measure 421 supports cooperation with EU Member States only.
Maximum/minimum number of TNC projects per LAG	No rule has been established concerning the number of TNC projects a LAG may engage in.

3. COMMON PROVISIONS FOR TNC PROJECT APPROVAL	
Information about procedures of approval and implementation of TNC projects	LAG managements obtained information about the general framework (Article 65 of EARDF regulation / Article 39 of implementing regulation) and overall sequence (project initiation / project planning / cooperation agreement / project implementation) during a training session held in April 2010. The occasion was used to present the EU Commission's administrative guide on the measure cooperation (M421) and to introduce the cooperation guide issued by the Network Support Unit of the German NRN. The information has been made available on the website of the Leader Network Unit of Thuringia at http://www.leader-thuringen.de/
Eligibility criteria for cooperation projects	In general, eligibility criteria are based on the provisions of the respective funding regulations or administrative rule, to which a proposed project must be assigned to.



Selection criteria for cooperation projects	LAGs can basically apply for cooperation under any of the EAFRD axes. They are recommended to preferably cooperate with other groups from partner regions in Thuringia. It is expected that LAG work primarily with groups in a similar starting situation displaying comparable development issues.
Eligible activities of measure 421 Cooperation	Cooperation must include the implementation of one or more joint or similar projects and must bring additional benefits to the participating areas. Typical examples are presently not available.
Typical examples of eligible costs for TNC projects	In the absence of relevant examples the provisions of the funding regulations and relevant administrative rules apply (see above).
Specific documents concerning the cooperation partners required from LAGs	There are currently no specific rules. Reference is made to the already existing publications referred to above.
The approval process of TNC applications	Approvals will be issued by the relevant competent / specialist authority, in consultation with the Thuringian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Conservation (MA).

List of abbreviations:

EU:	European Union
LAG:	Local Action Group
LDS:	Local Development Strategy
MA:	Managing Authority
MS:	Member State
PA:	Paying Authority
TNC:	Transnational Cooperation
RDP:	Rural Development Programme