

## PROGRAMMING PERIOD 2007-2013

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

#### SECTION A: **COUNTRY SPECIFIC DETAILS**

##### 1. Name of the programme:

Österreichisches Programm für die Entwicklung des Ländlichen Raums 2007 - 2013

##### 2. Number of Local Action Groups (LAGs):

86

##### 3. Axes covered by LAGs:

Measures under axes 1 to 3

##### 4. Axes and measures covered by TNC projects: in general:

Measures under axes 1 to 3

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

EUR 10,984,168,680

##### Total budget for Leader axis:

EUR 750,253,053

Of which:

a. EU Funding: EUR 214,064,528

b. Public funding: EUR 423,023,975

c. Private funding: EUR 327,229,077

## SECTION B: PROGRAMMING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION PROJECTS

### 1. FINANCIAL ASPECTS

Budget for TNC projects (Total public funding: EU + public)	Undefined, i.e. the budget allocated for TNC projects will depend on actual TNC applications made in the future.
Responsibility for the management of the Budget (MAs or LAGs)	The TNC budget is managed by the MAs.
Special budget for the preparatory technical support of TNC projects	No specific budget has been put in place for the preparation of TNC projects.

### 2. PROGRAMMING ASPECTS

Local Development Strategies and TNC	LAGs were asked to include Cooperation in their local development strategy (LDS). If the LAG would like to engage in Cooperation but the LDS does not foresee TNC, the strategy needs to be adapted.
Way of selecting cooperation projects	Cooperation projects are selected by the LAGs themselves. The same selection procedure as for regular projects applies. TNC project applications are made via the LAGs to the regional branches of the managing authority. The application needs to identify the coordinating LAG. Each partner LAG has to apply separately for its own part of the project (own costs are eligible only).
Main topics of TNC proposed for the 2007-2013 programming period	LAGs have identified the main TNC topics of interest in their Local Development Strategy. Among the most frequently proposed themes are tourism, culture and knowledge/information exchange.
Cooperation with third countries	There are no restrictions defined regarding Cooperation with third countries. Funding is normally made available for LAGs to undertake TNC projects with another Leader group, or with a group taking a similar approach, in another region, Member State, or even a third country.
Maximum/minimum number of TNC projects per LAG	No restriction 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	The approval of TNC projects follows the same procedure as applied for other Leader axis projects. The full procedures concerning the approval and implementation of TNC projects are available (as part of the Austrian RDP's specific Leader guidelines) via the Ministry's website: <a href="http://land.lebensministerium.at/article/articleview/76891/1/21409/">http://land.lebensministerium.at/article/articleview/76891/1/21409/</a>
Eligibility criteria for cooperation projects	LAGs must consider the following in determining the eligibility of a project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cooperation shall involve at least one LAG selected under the Leader axis.</li> <li>• The TNC project shall be implemented under the responsibility of a coordinator LAG.</li> <li>• The actions shall be consistent with the LDS.</li> <li>• TNC projects also have to be consistent with the Austrian RDP.</li> </ul>
Selection criteria for cooperation projects	Cooperation project proposals need to address the local area's challenges identified in the local development strategies. The project shall generate positive effects for the participating Leader region, and will have a neutral or positive effect to environment and gender mainstreaming.
Eligible activities of measure 421 Cooperation	Eligible activities include the organisation of a meeting to start the Cooperation project and studies. Cooperation shall include the implementation of common actions and their evaluation.
Typical examples of eligible costs for TNC projects	Expenditures for project staff and technical support is considered eligible.
Specific documents concerning the cooperation partners required from LAGs	No other documents than those mentioned in the Guide for the implementation of the measure Cooperation under the Leader axis of rural development programmes 2007-2013 (RD12/10/2008 rev. 3) are required as part of the project application.
The approval process of TNC applications	Once the LAG has selected the TNC project, its approval follows the same process as for other projects. The selected project is approved by the regional branches of the managing authority.  No specific calls or deadlines for TNC applications are issued, i.e. projects are selected and approved as an ongoing process.  No maximum delay has been set by when Member States' authorities of the other TNC partners must issue their approval, once the Austrian application is approved.

#### 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