

PROGRAMMING PERIOD 2007-2013

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

SECTION A: COUNTRY SPECIFIC DETAILS

1. Name of the programme:

Rural Development Programme of Walloon Region

2. Number of LAGs:

15

3. Axes covered by LAGs:

Measures of axes 1, 2, and in particular of axis 3 can be implemented by the Leader approach

4. Axes covered by TNC projects:

Measures of axes 1, 2, and in particular of axis 3 can be implemented by the Leader approach

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

EUR 1,375,389,896

Total budget for Leader axis:

EUR 21,924,444

Of which:

- a. EU Funding: EUR 9,866,000
- b. Public funding: EUR 10,766,000
- c. Private funding: EUR 2,192,444

SECTION B: PROGRAMMING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION PROJECTS

1. FINANCIAL ASPECTS

<p>Budget for TNC projects (Total public funding: EU + public)</p>	<p>The total budget allocated for measure 421 is EUR 1,700,000 (the total budget including private funding is EUR 1,888,889 of which the minimum contribution of the Walloon Region will be EUR 675,000). This is 8.6% of the axis 4 public funding and 0.36% of the total public RDP budget. This amount includes funding both for inter-territorial and transnational cooperation.</p> <p>The maximum budget per LAG for TNC projects has not been defined, but it has been decided that each LAG has to use at least 10% of their total budget for TNC projects. The rate of contribution to TNC projects is the following: 45% EU, 45% regional and 10% private funding.</p>
<p>Responsibility for the management of the Budget (MAs or LAGs)</p>	<p>The Managing Authority is responsible for managing the budget.</p>
<p>Special budget for the preparatory technical support of TNC projects</p>	<p>A special budget for the preparation phase of TNC projects has been foreseen. The total amount per LAG cannot exceed EUR 3,000 (technical assistance).</p>

2. PROGRAMMING ASPECTS

<p>Local Development Strategies and TNC</p>	<p>LAGs may specify in their Local Development Strategy their project ideas in relation to TNC and identify the partners. In any case, LAGs can always apply for a TNC project, even if cooperation has not been mentioned in the LDS.</p>
<p>Way of selecting cooperation projects</p>	<p>The projects are approved by the Managing Authority, after suggestions of the Selection Committee.</p>
<p>Main topics of TNC proposed for the 2007-2013 programming period</p>	<p>One of the themes proposed in 2009 was using GIS as information and communication tool.</p>
<p>Cooperation with third countries</p>	<p>There are no restrictions established regarding cooperation with third countries.</p>
<p>Maximum/minimum number of TNC projects per LAG</p>	<p>No restrictions have been established regarding the maximum/minimum number of TNC projects per LAG.</p>

3.COMMON PROVISIONS FOR TNC PROJECT APPROVAL

Information about procedures of approval and implementation of TNC projects	A cooperation guide with full procedures of approval and implementation of TNC projects has been developed and is available on the website of the Walloon National Rural Network.
Eligibility criteria for cooperation projects	The main eligibility criterion for TNC is that the projects must be consistent with what has been established in the LDS.
Selection criteria for cooperation projects	The selection criteria are the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a common action, if possible carried out by a common structure; • Number of partners involved in the realisation of the project; • Quality of the preparatory activities of the project; • Clarity of the cooperation objectives; • Consistency with the LAG strategy and with other projects implemented in the area; • Level of involvement of local actors and the LAG; • No conflict with other EU co-financing.
Eligible activities of measure 421 Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples of eligible activities can be consulted in the Cooperation Guide . • Feasibility studies are not eligible.
Typical examples of eligible costs for TNC projects	<p>Travel abroad:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expenses must relate to persons mentioned in the TNC 'project fiche' (see specific documents below), for max. 3 persons for project, max. 2 for preparatory technical support) and must have obtained prior approval by Wallonie Bruxelles International (WBI); • The means of transport chosen must be the most economical one (flights are eligible); • Reimbursement on the basis of receipts (typical example: tickets, invoices). <p>Subsistence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reimbursement within the budget limits pre-agreed with WBI. • Typical example: restaurant bills covering costs to invite foreign partners or meet them abroad. <p>Meeting Costs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A clear relationship between costs and project must be indicated; • Specification required of date, type of meeting and participants; • Typical example: supermarket bill.
Specific documents concerning the cooperation partners required from LAGs	<p>More details are available in the Cooperation Guide .</p> <p>Walloon LAGs have to complete a specific document to describe their project. A model of this TNC 'project fiche' and the cooperation agreement between partners are available in the Cooperation Guide .</p>



The approval process of TNC applications

TNC applications may be sent twice during a year, by the 15th of February and by the 15th of September. They have to be submitted to “Direction des programmes européens” (DGARNE) and to WBI, the competent administration office.

Applications are then transferred to the Selection Committee, which evaluates them and sends them on to the Managing Authority. The Managing Authority issues the final approval for TNC projects, taking into account the opinion of the Selection Committee.

The duration of the application / approval process cannot be longer than three months, from the date of receipt of the application.

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