

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 for Cyprus

2. Number of Local Action Groups (LAGs):

The first round of the LAG selection process was completed in November 2009, and as a result 4 LAGs were selected. The next round of LAG selection is expected to start in early 2010, when it is expected that a further two LAGs will be selected.

3. Axes covered by LAGs:

LAGs can implement projects under all three axes. The following measures are implemented in this programme under the three axes:

Axis 1: 121, 123, 133

Axis 2: 214, 227

Axis 3: 313, 321, 322, 323

4. Axes covered by Transnational Cooperation (TNC) projects:

LAGs can implement projects under all three axes

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

EUR 443,970,614

Total budget for Leader axis:

EUR 12,367,847

Of which:

- a. EU Funding: EUR 4,313,090
- b. Public funding: EUR 4,313,090
- c. Private funding: EUR 3,741,667

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 326,180. This is 3.78% of the axis 4 public funding and 0.0991% of the total public RDP budget. This amount includes funding both for inter-territorial and transnational cooperation; there is no pre-division of this funding between the two types of cooperation.</p> <p>The budget per LAG differs:</p> <p>LAG Larnaca: EUR 140,000</p> <p>LAG Limassol: EUR 60,000</p> <p>LAG Pafos: EUR 76,179</p> <p>LAG Troodos: EUR 50,000</p>
<p>Responsibility for the management of the Budget (MAs or LAGs)</p>	<p>LAGs have a certain budget pre-allocated for cooperation which is managed by the Managing Authority. The budget for each TNC project is proposed by the LAG and approved by the Technical Committee.</p>
<p>Special budget for the preparatory technical support of TNC projects</p>	<p>Even though the cost for the preparation of TNC project is eligible, the exact amount is not predetermined.</p>

2. PROGRAMMING ASPECTS

<p>Local Development Strategies and TNC</p>	<p>LAGs have to mention in their Local Development Strategy (LDS) their intention to implement TNC projects without specifying concrete project ideas or potential cooperation partners. It is also possible for LAGs to apply for a TNC project, even if it has not been included in the LDS. So far all the LAGs (selected in the first round) included TNC in their LDS.</p>
<p>Way of selecting cooperation projects</p>	<p>The first selection of the projects to be financed is made by the Evaluation Committee of the LAG. When the LAG has decided about the projects to be funded, the applications should be sent to the Department of Agriculture, where applications will be considered by the Technical Evaluation Committee¹. Cooperation projects, which are not covered by the strategy of LAGs, will be selected and approved by the Department of Agriculture.</p>
<p>Main topics of TNC proposed for the 2007-2013 programming period</p>	<p>LAGs did not have to specify their project ideas in their LDS and consequently the main themes cannot be indicated.</p>

Cooperation with third countries	<p>Cooperation is open to all partnerships covered by the provision under Article 59(e) of the Commission Regulation (EC) 1698/2005 and to any other local groups that correspond to the provisions of the Article 39.2 of the Commission Regulation (EC) 1974/2006.</p> <p>There are no restrictions to cooperation with 3rd countries defined, but preference is given to those TNC projects which include EU MS with TNC experience.</p>
Maximum/minimum number of TNC projects per LAG	<p>Having taken into account the amount of budget approved, each LAG will be able to implement only one TNC project, however, there is no limitation in the number of TNC projects implemented by each LAG.</p>

3.COMMON PROVISIONS FOR TNC PROJECT APPROVAL

Information about procedures of approval and implementation of TNC projects	<p>The full procedures of approval and implementation of TNC projects have already been developed and are available on the website of the Ministry of Agriculture.</p>
Eligibility criteria for cooperation projects	<p>The eligibility criteria are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cooperation shall involve at least one LAG selected under the Leader Axis; • TNC projects shall be implemented under the responsibility of a coordinating LAG; • the aim of TNC projects should be to achieve the objectives of one of the three axes; • cooperation shall include the implementation of a joint action.
Selection criteria for cooperation projects	<p>Selection criteria and procedures for TNC projects are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the relevance of the proposed project as regards to the objectives defined in the strategy of the LAG; • the approach proposed for the management of the project; • the clarity of the budget.
Eligible activities of measure 421 Cooperation	<p>The measure aims to promote cooperation and innovation between LAGs. LAGs are invited to play an essential role in connecting people with new ideas and approaches, encouraging innovation and entrepreneurship, promote inclusiveness and the provision of local services.</p>
Typical examples of eligible costs for TNC projects	<p>Eligible costs for TNC projects include preparatory technical support (e.g. project feasibility study, travel and accommodation fees, consulting costs for specific issues, translation costs and staff costs) and the expenditure for the implementation of the joint action (e.g. organisation of training seminars) and costs for running any common structure.</p>
Specific documents concerning the cooperation partners required from LAGs	<p>No additional documents are needed in addition to 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).</p>



<p>The approval process of TNC applications</p>	<p>In the first phase the LAG selects the project proposals. Following the LAG's decision, applications are sent to the Department of Agriculture and they are considered by the Technical Evaluation Committee within one month after the submission of the application. The LAG, after having obtained the approval of the Technical Evaluation Committee, will submit an application to the Implementation Unit to handle the payments for the selected projects. If the application meets all the measure criteria, the LAG will be informed in writing by the Implementation Unit and asked to proceed to the implementation of the action.</p> <p>Cooperation projects, which are not covered by the strategy of LAGs, will be selected and approved by the Department of Agriculture.</p> <p>Theoretically, it is possible for LAGs to send applications any time to the Technical Committee.</p> <p>There is no maximum delay set for the approval from MS's authorities of the TNC partners.</p> <p>The Department of Agriculture will inform the European Commission for transnational cooperation projects were approved.</p>
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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