

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 Greece 2007-2013

2. Number of Local Action Groups (LAGs):

Three rounds of call for proposals have resulted in the selection of 43 LAGs.

3. Axes covered by LAGs:

Leader actions can be implemented via axis 4.

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

Axis 4 (measure 421)

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

EUR 5,945,107,516

Total budget for Axis 4:

EUR 474,570,000

Of which:

- a. EU Funding: EUR 268,708,222
- b. Public funding: EUR 290,000,000
- c. Private funding: EUR 184,570,000

SECTION B: PROGRAMMING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION PROJECTS

1. FINANCIAL ASPECTS

Budget for TNC projects (Total public funding: EU + public)	<p>The total budget allocated for measure 421 is EUR 5,000,000 (the total budget including private funding is EUR 5,000,000). 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>Each LAG allocates a part of its total available budget for the implementation of Measure 421.</p>
Responsibility for the management of the Budget (MAs or LAGs)	LAGs are responsible for managing their own budget. Administrative and on-the-spot checks are carried out by the Implementing Authority of RDP – Diversification (department managing the Leader axis).
Special budget for the preparatory technical support of TNC projects	There is no separate special budget for technical support. Nevertheless, actions for preparatory technical support are eligible.

2. PROGRAMMING ASPECTS

Local Development Strategies and TNC	<p>Co-operation as an integral part of and hence has to be included by LAGs into their Local Development Strategy (LDS). Project ideas and potential cooperation partners are to be specified.</p> <p>However, it is always possible for LAGs to apply for a TNC project, even if cooperation has not been included in the LDS.</p>
Way of selecting cooperation projects	Projects are selected by the LAGs and approved by the Implementing Authority of RDP – Diversification.. The approval of the LDS by the MA does not constitute an automatic approval of TNC projects. There is a separate procedure for the approval of TNC projects.
Main topics of TNC proposed for the 2007-2013 programming period	The main themes mentioned in the LDS of the LAGs are: tourism, culture, protection of the environment, local products.
Cooperation with third countries	There are no restrictions imposed on LAGs with regards to cooperation with third countries.
Maximum/minimum number of TNC projects per LAG	According to the current legal framework, no limit has been imposed on the number of cooperation projects per LAG.

3.COMMON PROVISIONS FOR TNC PROJECT APPROVAL

<p>Information about procedures of approval and implementation of TNC projects</p>	<p>The LAG or the national LAG coordinator of the project (in case several LAGs are participating in the same project) has to submit a specific application form for cooperation projects (budget, joint action, timetable etc.) to the Implementing Authority of the RDP – Diversification – which issues the approval of the project. Following approval, the partners can start the project.</p> <p>There is a kind of a grant contract only in case other actors (like cooperatives of the area etc.) are involved in the project. In this case, the LAG commits to an agreement with the other actor.</p> <p>LAGs can submit proposals until 31 December 2013 (as mentioned in section “the approval process of TNC applications.)</p>
<p>Eligibility criteria for cooperation projects</p>	<p>Finance can be granted in case the TNC project meets the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperation includes a joint action; • The project is not funded by another program and instrument for transnational or territorial cooperation; • The cooperation project shall involve at least one, but a maximum of six Greek LAGs. • If the plan has been submitted for funding previously under the implementation framework of LEADER, the project must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formulate new targets and / or • involve at least 50% of those partners who participated in the previous funding period of the project and / or • have additional actions in relation to the previous implementation of the project and / or • new actions should be introduced which are consistent with the previous implementation of the project plan.
<p>Selection criteria for cooperation projects</p>	<p>The following criteria should be taken into consideration for the TNC project selection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selection of partners / examination of the feasibility of the project / degree of involvement of partners and, ultimately, of beneficiaries; • Scope, objectives and results of the TNC project; • Feasibility of the project; <p><u>NOTE:</u> The above criteria are not listed by order of importance, but lead to revision and completion of projects submitted for approval to the Implementing Authority of RDP – Diversification.</p>
<p>Eligible activities of measure 421 Cooperation</p>	<p>Activities relating to the general objectives of RDP and specific objectives of the LDS can be considered eligible.</p>

<p>Typical examples of eligible costs for TNC projects</p>	<p>Specific eligible costs for TNC projects have been established. Actions and costs related to the preparation of a TNC project and to the implementation of a common action carried out by a LAG selected for axis 4 of the RDP are eligible for funding. However, the cost of preparatory actions is also eligible for partners from all the areas involved in the project.</p> <p>These costs are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remuneration of third parties for the technical support of the actions of the project; • Organisation of and participation in exhibitions, fairs, conferences, meetings, and other similar events; • Promotion and advertising expenditure, as well as invitations, announcement, and press releases; • Creation of websites and data bases; • Acquisition of necessary software related to the specific cooperation project; • Translation and interpretation costs; • Reception and hosting costs; • Costs for the establishment of the body responsible for the inter-territorial/transnational cooperation; • Travel costs; • Remuneration for LAG member when travelling abroad; • Project coordination expenses for the transnational project coordinator that cannot exceed 15% of the total cost of the project for all Greek LAGS involved in TNC projects.
<p>Specific documents concerning the cooperation partners required from LAGs</p>	<p>No further documentation is required in addition to the Cooperation Agreement foreseen 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>The approval of projects is the responsibility of the Managing Authority for Axis 4 of the RDP 2007-2013. LAGs may submit their applications to the MA for approval at any time, but no later than by 31 December 2013.</p> <p>There is no maximum time limit for the duration of the approval process by the Managing Authority.</p> <p>There is no maximum delay set for approval by the Member State's authorities of the TNC partners.</p>

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