

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

2. Number of LAGs:

5

3. Axes covered by LAGs:

Axis 1 – Measures 121, 122,123

Axis 2 – Measures- 216, 227

Axis 3 – Measures 311, 312, 313, 321, 322, 323

4. Axes covered by TNC projects:

Axis 1 – Measures 121, 122,123

Axis 2 – Measures- 216, 227

Axis 3 – Measures 311, 312, 313, 321, 322, 323

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

EUR 610,901,299

Total budget for Leader axis:

EUR 26,631,000

Of which:

a. EU Funding: EUR 9,445,000

b. Public funding: EUR 12,021,609

c. Private funding: EUR 5,164,215

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 "interterritorial and transnational cooperation" is EUR 3,232,450, which is 0.81% of the total RDP public funding budget. The funds have not been pre-allocated to TNC projects and to the LAGs.
Responsibility for the management of the Budget (MAs or LAGs)	The LAGs are responsible for managing the TNC budget.
Special budget for the preparatory technical support of TNC projects	A special budget for the preparation of TNC projects has been foreseen (12% of the total amount foreseen for measure 421).

2. PROGRAMMING ASPECTS

Local Development Strategies and TNC	<p>Modalities of implementation differ, depending on cooperation projects being promoted by the LAGs themselves or by the MA.</p> <p><i>a) Cooperation projects promoted directly by the LAGs</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LAGs present the cooperation strategy within their LDS, by indicating: • the typology of action they intend to implement; • the objectives they intend to pursue; • the amount of funding requested. <p><i>b) Cooperation projects promoted by the Managing Authority</i></p> <p>The Abruzzo Region reserves the right to allocate a part of the transnational cooperation funding to finance pilot projects on issues of international importance.</p>
Way of selecting cooperation projects	<p>The cooperation strategy, as well as the general plan of actions, are approved together with the LDS. The Managing Authority is responsible for issuing the call for "pilot projects". Pilot projects of regional interest are implemented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • following a call for proposals, subsequent to the final approval of the LDS, or • following direct negotiations with selected LAGs, which have previously defined suitable partnerships displaying the ability to fully achieve the objectives set for each pilot project.
Main topics of TNC proposed for the 2007-2013 programming period	<p>Topics of interest for transnational cooperation projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment; • Tourism development.
Cooperation with third countries	No specific restrictions have been indicated with regards to cooperation with third countries.
Maximum/minimum number of TNC projects per LAG	Not specified.

3.COMMON PROVISIONS FOR TNC PROJECT APPROVAL

Information about procedures of approval and implementation of TNC projects	The procedures of approval and implementation for TNC projects are indicated in the call for the selection of LAGs. Subsequently, LAGs shall present TNC project applications for each cooperation initiative they intend to implement. The eligibility requirements will be verified by the MA.
Eligibility criteria for cooperation projects	Participation of at least one LAG of the Abruzzo Region selected under the Leader axis, at least one LAG of another Italian region and at least one LAG of another Member State selected under Leader Axis.
Selection criteria for cooperation projects	The selection criteria are indicated in the call for the selection of LAGs. As a matter of principle, cooperation projects must consider the following aspects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistency with the strategies pursued in the LDS; • Technical feasibility and project quality; • Organisational model adopted; • Adequacy of expenditure.
Eligible activities of measure 421 Cooperation	The mostly immaterial activities eligible under this measure may only refer to the joint action. The measures addressed by cooperation define the intervention areas of cooperation projects, which are directly promoted by the LAGs. Cooperation projects must relate to axes 1, 2 and 3 of the RDP.
Typical examples of eligible costs for TNC projects	Only the following expenditure items are eligible for financing (with reference to the National Guide of eligible costs, approved by the Ministry of Agriculture of Italy): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animation costs for partnership development and definition of the joint actions, up to a limit of 12% of the total budget; • Costs related to the implementation of the joint action, for the operation of the common structure and for technical support to implement the cooperation project.
Specific documents concerning the cooperation partners required from LAGs	In addition to the requirement to complete an application form, the Managing Authority may require documents other than those suggested in the Guide for the implementation of the measure Cooperation under Leader axis of rural development programmes 2007-2013): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a declaration of the absence of overlapping with other cooperation projects; • the curriculum of the lead partner LAG which demonstrates experience in the field of Cooperation and in the thematic area of the project; • the curriculum of the other partnering LAG(s); • a declaration, from which the financial solidity of the partnering LAGs can be derived.
The approval process of TNC applications	The Abruzzo Region has completed the selection of LAGs. The assessment of respective LDSs has not been concluded yet.

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