

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 Basilicata Region

2. Number of LAGs:

8

3. Axes covered by LAGs:

Axis 1 – Measures 111, 121

Axis 2 – Measures 216, 227

Axis 3 – Measures 311, 312, 313, 321, 323, 331

4. Axes covered by TNC projects:

Axis 1 – Measures 111, 121

Axis 2 – Measures 216, 227

Axis 3 – Measures 311, 312, 313, 321, 323, 331

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

EUR 852,354,538

Total budget for Leader axis:

EUR 52,217,294

Of which:

a. EU Funding: EUR 22,359,001

b. Public funding: EUR 16,526,218

c. Private funding: EUR 13,332,000

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 1,944,261, which is 0.30% 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	No special budget for the preparation of TNC projects has been foreseen.

2. PROGRAMMING ASPECTS

Local Development Strategies and TNC	<p>During the LDS selection phase, LAG applicants were encouraged to express their cooperation strategies on a special application form prepared by the Region. LAGs may propose cooperation projects at different levels of advancement as regards the project and partnership definition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparatory projects, in the absence of established partnerships (minimum level); • Final projects, with already formed and operational partnerships (maximum level).
Way of selecting cooperation projects	<p>In the case of final projects LAGs may immediately proceed to the implementation of the selected projects.</p> <p>In the case of preparatory projects, the selection is subject to the approval of final documentation, to be submitted after the selection of the LDS.</p>
Main topics of TNC proposed for the 2007-2013 programming period	<p>The main themes proposed by LAGs refer to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local products; • Rural tourism.
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	<p>For preparatory projects, the selection is subject to the approval of final documentation, to be submitted after the selection of the LDS. The same procedure as for operations implemented under measure 4.1 "LAG direct coordination" applies. Therefore, within a maximum period of 18 months from the approval of the LDS, the selected LAG shall establish partnerships and present the Managing Authority the final projects. The MA will duly process and definitively approve applications within 24 months from the approval of the LDS.</p> <p>Any new cooperation project the LAGs would like to present following the approval of the LDS will be checked for consistency with the LDS strategy during the preliminary evaluation phase.</p>
Eligibility criteria for cooperation projects	The project must involve cooperation of at least a LAG from the Basilicata Region selected under the Leader Axis, with at least one LAG from another Italian region and at least one LAG from another EU Member State. All the cooperating LAGs must have been selected under the Leader Axis.
Selection criteria for cooperation projects	<p>The RDP indicates the following selection criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definition of the level of advancement of the proposed cooperation projects and consistency with the strategy of the LDS; • Definition of the level of advancement and quality of the proposed cooperation partnership.
Eligible activities of measure 421 Cooperation	Cooperation should cover operations in consistency with the local strategy. The projects must address RDP measures of axis 1, 2 and 3.
Typical examples of eligible costs for TNC projects	<p>The following categories of expenditure are eligible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costs relating to the implementation of information and communication actions • Costs relating to the implementation of activities for the exchange of best practice, including the use of third parties for research, evaluation and exchange of experience; • General costs (direct and indirect) for the organisation and implementation of project activities, including administration and secretariat, monitoring, the purchase of various utilities (telephone, electricity, heating, rental of premises, etc.); • Costs relating to coordination meetings between partners, including travel costs, accommodation, meals, local transport, subsistence allowance, renting of premises and equipment costs; • Costs incurred by the LAG or the lead partner for the coordination, monitoring and evaluation activities of the whole project; • Costs relating to the establishment and running of any common structure.
Specific documents concerning the cooperation partners required from LAGs	In addition to the requirements established by the Guide for the implementation of the measure Cooperation under the Leader axis of the RDP, LAGs will have to complete a specific application form issued by the MA, providing detailed information and data.
The approval process of TNC applications	Measure 421 has been activated. The MA has approved 10 transnational preliminary projects and is establishing the terms for the submission of the final projects.

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