

Italy - Autonomous Province of Bolzano

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 the Autonomous Province of Bolzano

2. Number of LAGs:

4

3. Axes covered by LAGs:

Axis 1 – Measures 111, 123, 124

Axis 3 – Measures 313, 321, 322

4. Axes covered by TNC projects:

Axis 1 – Measures 111, 123, 124

Axis 3 – Measures 313, 321, 322

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

EUR 423,750,688

Total budget for Leader axis:

EUR 19,175,029

Of which:

- a. EU Funding: EUR 6,915,050
- b. Public funding: EUR 8,800,973
- c. Private funding: EUR 3,459,006

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 300,000, which is 0.09% of the total RDP public funding budget. The funds have not been pre-allocated to TNC projects and to the LAGs. However, the costs per project cannot exceed 70,000 Euro.
Responsibility for the management of the Budget (MAs or LAGs)	The LAG is 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	LAGs can present their cooperation strategies in their local development strategy (LDS). Priority will be given to Groups that have integrated cooperation in their LDS.
Way of selecting cooperation projects	Following approval of the LDS and on an annual basis, the Province invites the LAGs to submit TNC project applications by 31.12.2013.
Main topics of TNC proposed for the 2007-2013 programming period	The main themes proposed by LAGs include: <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	Following approval of the LDS and on an annual basis, the Province invites the LAGs to submit TNC project applications. The approval procedure is not yet established, as it is still under consideration. However, LAGs will have to complete a specific application form, providing detailed information and data, in addition to the requirements established by the Guide for the implementation of the measure Cooperation under Leader axis of rural development programmes 2007-2013.
Eligibility criteria for cooperation projects	The project must meet the following requirements: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consistency with the local development strategy; project idea selected applying the bottom-up method and implemented integrating at least two areas of the local development strategy; 2. Generation of added value, compared to normal axis 4 projects; 3. Potential to facilitate the exchange of experience and knowledge, and to improve and enhance local professional skills; 4. Project costs will not exceed 70,000 Euro.

Selection criteria for cooperation projects	<p>Successful project applications will be selected on the basis of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • correspondence with the LEADER approach and the local strategy; • innovative nature – pilot profitability (not just in economic terms).
Eligible activities of measure 421 Cooperation	<p>The cooperation should cover operations implementing the local strategy. The projects must relate to RDP measures of Axis 1 and 3.</p>
Typical examples of eligible costs for TNC projects	<p>The maximum eligible expenditure for each operation cannot exceed 70,000 Euro.</p> <p>As indicated by the European Commission in the “Guide for the implementation of the measure cooperation”, financing can be given to expenditure related to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • preparatory technical support; • joint action and the management of common structures.
Specific documents concerning the cooperation partners required from LAGs	<p>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):</p> <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	<p>The call for submission of final project proposals has not been published yet.</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