

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 - PRODER

2. Number of Local Action Groups (LAGs):

47

3. Axes covered by LAGs:

All measures under axis 3

4. Axes and measures covered by TNC projects:

The LEADER approach is restricted to axis 3 and so is LEADER Cooperation, no matter if inter-territorial or transnational. Therefore, TNC projects cover the following measures of axis 3 (Quality of life in rural areas and diversification of the rural economy):

- Measures to diversify the rural economy
- Diversification into non - agricultural activities
- Support for the creation and development of micro - enterprises
- Encouragement of tourism activities
- Measures to improve the quality of life in rural areas
- Basic services for the economy and rural population
- Conservation and up grading of the rural heritage

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

6,424,427,312 EUR

Total budget for Leader axis:

818,210,005 EUR

Of which:

a. EU Funding: 360,606,500 EUR

b. Public funding: 452,934,033 EUR

c. Private funding: 365,275,972 EUR

SECTION B: PROGRAMMING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION PROJECTS

1. FINANCIAL ASPECTS

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| <p>Budget for TNC projects</p> <p>(Total public funding: EU + public)</p> | <p>The total budget allocated for measure 421 is EUR 4.396.119 (of which EU funding amounts to EUR 3.956.507), which is 0.3% of axis 4 public funding and 0.02% of the total public RDP budget.</p> <p>LEADER Cooperation funds were not pre-allocated to LAGs. Every month, between the 1st and the 10th, LAGs can submit their applications according to the type of Cooperation project and within the following funding limits:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Inter – territorial cooperation project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum funding per LAG – 100.000 EUR • % public funding – 85% 2. Transnational cooperation project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum funding per LAG – 100.000 EUR • % public funding – 90% |
| <p>Responsibility for the management of the Budget (MAs or LAGs)</p> | <p>LEADER Cooperation funds are managed by the Managing Authority (MA).</p> |
| <p>Special budget for the preparatory technical support of TNC projects</p> | <p>Every month, between the 1st and the 10th, LAGs can submit their applications within the following funding limits:</p> <p>Cooperation Plan – Preparatory technical support of cooperation projects (individual application)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum funding per Plan – 50.000 EUR • % public funding – 85% |

2. PROGRAMMING ASPECTS

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| <p>Local Development Strategies and TNC</p> | <p>The MA asked LAGs to include Cooperation in their local development strategies, as the Cooperation dimension can add value to the results the strategy aspires to achieve. No budget has been associated, implying that LAGs have to apply separately for cooperation projects.</p> |
| <p>Way of selecting cooperation projects</p> | <p>LEADER Cooperation funds are managed by the MA. Between the 1st and the 10th of every month, LAGs can submit their LEADER applications to the MA, which selects the Cooperation projects.</p> |

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| Main topics of TNC proposed for the 2007-2013 programming period | <p>The TNC project applications approved by October 2010 focused on the following themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism and promotion of the territories; • Qualification, participation and citizenship; • Empowerment; • Historical and cultural rural heritage; • Environment and natural resources. |
| Cooperation with third countries | There are no restrictions regarding Cooperation with with a group taking a similar approach, from countries other than the EU Member States. |
| Maximum/minimum number of TNC projects per LAG | No restriction has been established concerning the number of TNC projects a LAG may engage in. |

3. COMMON PROVISIONS FOR TNC PROJECT APPROVAL

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| Information about procedures of approval and implementation of TNC projects | <p>The application form for TNC projects is available for download from the PRODER website at: http://www.proder.pt/PresentationLayer/conteudo.aspx?menuid=337&exmenuid=-1</p> <p>The Lead coordinator LAG submits the completed TNC project application form on behalf of the cooperation partnership. The application is made jointly, i.e. it comprises of several applications (Example: 1 partnership = 1 cooperation project = 6 individual applications = 6 Portuguese LAG partners)¹. Each partner needs also to present a Letter of Intent. The Lead Coordinator LAG is responsible for presenting the Letter of Intent of the transnational partners.</p> <p>The applicant must present a cooperation protocol, which describes the obligations, the duties and the responsibilities of all the involved partners, and which assigns one LAG with the coordination of the cooperation project.</p> <p>By the time of signature of the financing agreement, all partners must present the approval of their respective project application issued by their MA. This principle applies whenever the partnership involves other LAGs than those recognised by PRODERAM and PRORURAL, or by other Member States of the European Union².</p> |
| Eligibility criteria for cooperation projects | <p>The eligibility criteria have been published as part of the national regulation (Portariano^o786-2009) and in the management guidelines. These are available for download at the PRODER web site: http://www.proder.pt/PresentationLayer/conteudo.aspx?menuid=476&exmenuid=388 and http://www.proder.pt/PresentationLayer/conteudo.aspx?menuid=1055&exmenuid=523</p> |
| Selection criteria for cooperation projects | <p>Project applications are evaluated against three criteria:</p> $VGO = 0,35 OE + 0,30 PR + 0,35 VTI$ <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strategic Objectives (OE): the relevance of the Cooperation project in relation to the strategic objectives that have been defined in the local development strategy; 2. Potential for development of networks (PR): contribution of the Cooperation project to the integration of economic actors in networks involved in local, regional and national-activities of strategic relevance; 3. Valuation of the intervention territory (VTI): contribution of the Cooperation project to the extension of the impact of the local development strategy and the visibility of the territorial intervention. |

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| <p>Eligible activities of measure 421 Cooperation</p> | <p>The joint action may cover a whole range of activities eligible under axis 3 and implemented through the Leader approach. Joint actions can focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Running a common structure to commercialise local products: tourism, handicraft, agro-transformed products; • Capacity building, transfer of experience on local development through e.g. common publications, training seminars, adoption of common methodological and working methods, promotion; • Running a common structure to support the creation and development of micro-enterprises; • Adoption of common methods and architectural intervention to promote similar conservation and up grading of the common rural heritage or natural resources. |
| <p>Typical examples of eligible costs for TNC projects</p> | <p>Among the types of expenditure that is typically considered eligible are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organisation of meetings and events; • Civil construction, workmanships in infrastructure; • Acquisition of equipments; • Publications; • Websites; • Travel expenses and accommodation; • Salaries and other general expenses related to managing a project team and animating the partnership; <i>Correcto, são despesas de funcionamento e salários das equipas técnicas dos GAL, imputados ao projecto.</i> • Studies. |
| <p>Specific documents concerning the cooperation partners required from LAGs</p> | <p>Each LAG must include a Letter of Intent as part of the application. The Coordinator is responsible for presenting the Letters of Intent of the transnational partners.</p> <p>By the time of signature of the financing agreement, all partners must present the approval of the cooperation project issued by their respective MA. This principle applies whenever the partnership involves other LAGs than those recognised by PRODERAM and PRORURAL, or by other Member States of the European Union³.</p> |
| <p>The approval process of TNC applications</p> | <p>Ongoing calls for Cooperation under Leader occur between the 1st and the 10th of every month. The maximum delay set for the MA's approval is 75 days from the end of each ongoing call. (60 days for analysis and 15 days for the selection and approval decision).</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

(¹) Only the Portuguese LAG partners are required to complete this specific application form.

(²) If LAGs from other EU MS are involved, operations will only be contracted to Portuguese LAGs once foreign LAGs have provided evidence of project approval issued by their respective MA.

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