

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 Republic of Slovenia

2. Number of Local Action Groups (LAGs):

33

3. Axes covered by LAGs:

Slovenian LAGs do cover all axes

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

Axis 4

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

EUR 1,566,844,244

Total budget for Leader axis:

EUR 65,590,867

Of which:

- a. EU Funding: EUR 27,008,005
- b. Public funding: EUR 6,752,001
- c. Private funding: EUR 31,830,861

SECTION B: PROGRAMMING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION PROJECTS

1. FINANCIAL ASPECTS

<p>Budget for TNC projects</p> <p>(Total public funding: EU + public)</p>	<p>The total budget allocated for measure 421 is EUR 3,376,002 (the total budget –including private funding– is EUR 4,822,860). This is 10% of the axis 4 public funding and 0.29% of the total public RDP budget. 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. Within this amount, there is no specific limit for TNC.</p> <p>The allocation of the resources for the cooperation projects per individual LAG is set on the basis of the number of inhabitants, LAG surface (km²) and the quality of the development strategy. The average budget for measure 421 is around EUR 40,000 per LAG, which can be between minimum of EUR 7,000 (public funding) and maximum of EUR 35,000 (public funding) or about 10% of a LAG's budget. This whole amount can be spent on TNC without any limitation. The minimum aid amount granted for an individual cooperation project shall be EUR 2,000 and the maximum amount EUR 30,000.</p>
<p>Responsibility for the management of the Budget (MAs or LAGs)</p>	<p>LAGs have a pre-allocated budget for cooperation, which they manage themselves.</p>
<p>Special budget for the preparatory technical support of TNC projects</p>	<p>A special budget for the preparation of TNC projects has not been foreseen.</p>

2. PROGRAMMING ASPECTS

<p>Local Development Strategies and TNC</p>	<p>LAGs have to mention in their Local Development Strategy (LDS) their intention to implement TNC projects without specifying concrete project ideas or potential cooperation partners. It is always possible for LAGs to modify their LDS so that they can apply for a TNC project, even if originally it has not been included in the LDS.</p>
<p>Way of selecting cooperation projects</p>	<p>The local plan of LAGs includes the selection criteria and selection procedures for cooperation projects. Following the submission of applications to the LAG, the board of the LAG processes the applications and provides its assessment. Prior to selection, projects must be confirmed by all LAGs intending to cooperate in the project.</p> <p>Once the LAG's board has selected the projects to be funded, the Managing Authority (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food) issues the official approval.</p>
<p>Main topics of TNC proposed for the 2007-2013 programming period</p>	<p>LAGs did not have to specify their project ideas in their LDS and consequently the main themes proposed cannot be indicated.</p>
<p>Cooperation with third countries</p>	<p>There are no restrictions defined regarding cooperation with third countries.</p>
<p>Maximum/minimum number of TNC projects per LAG</p>	<p>There is no limit set as regards the number of TNC projects that may be implemented by each LAG.</p>

3.COMMON PROVISIONS FOR TNC PROJECT APPROVAL

Information about procedures of approval and implementation of TNC projects	The full procedures of approval and implementation of TNC projects have already been developed and are available on the website of the Ministry of Agriculture.
Eligibility criteria for cooperation projects	<p>LAGs must consider the following when determining the eligibility of a TNC project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperation shall involve at least one LAG together with another LAG selected under the Leader axis or similarly formed groups; • Cooperation shall include the implementation of a joint action, with common results and goals; • The cooperation project must be in accordance with the local development strategy; • The projects also have to be consistent with the Rural Development Programme; • The projects must be part of the annual project plan, approved by the MA; • Eligible costs shall be between EUR 2,000 and EUR 30,000 per project; • There should be a clear demarcation of tasks and financial participation between partners; • All partners must have the project approved by its MA (or other relevant organisation) before starting the project.
Selection criteria for cooperation projects	Selection criteria and procedures for TNC projects are defined in each LAG's development strategy. LAGs make these criteria available to the public. Based on these, the selection of projects is carried out by the board of the LAG.
Eligible activities of measure 421 Cooperation	A general list of eligible activities has not been established. However, projects must comply with relevant provisions of RDP and LDS.
Typical examples of eligible costs for TNC projects	No specific eligible costs for TNC projects have been established. The eligibility of costs for all types of projects is defined in the Slovenian national legislation and the same rules apply to the TNC projects.
Specific documents concerning the cooperation partners required from LAGs	The lead LAG needs to establish an agreement between all project partners. No documents are needed in addition to those mentioned 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).
The approval process of TNC applications	<p>Once the LAG's board has selected the projects to be funded, the Leader Office within the Managing Authority checks the administrative compliance of the project and officially approves it. The Managing Authority informs the Commission via SFC about the approval of the TNC project.</p> <p>LAGs may send applications to the MA just once a year (by the end of September), since these applications are part of the annual implementation plan of a LAG, which is approved on annual basis.</p> <p>There is no specified maximum time limit for the duration of the application/approval process.</p> <p>There is no maximum delay set for approval from Member States' 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