

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 for Scotland

2. Number of Local Action Groups (LAGs):

20

3. Axes covered by LAGs:

All axes (1 to 4)

4. Axes and measures covered by TNC projects:

All measures under all axes can be covered by TNC

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

EUR 1,733,501,449

Of which:

a. Public funding: EUR 1,358,489,048

b. Private funding: EUR 375,012,401

Total budget for Leader axis:

EUR 239,628,642

Of which:

a. EU Funding: EUR 119,814,321

b. Public funding: EUR 79,650,758

c. Private funding: EUR 40,163,563

SECTION B: PROGRAMMING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION PROJECTS

1. FINANCIAL ASPECTS

Budget for TNC projects (Total public funding: EU + public)	An indicative allocation level of up to 15% of the LAGs' overall budget has been suggested by the Scottish Government (SG) for Cooperation projects. This was approved by the SG during the bid assessment process, however LAGs may decide to allocate more or less to Cooperation projects, as they see fit.
Responsibility for the management of the Budget (MAs or LAGs)	The TNC budget is managed by the respective LAGs.
Special budget for the preparatory technical support of TNC projects	No special budget for the preparatory technical support of TNC projects has been foreseen by the SG. Preparatory and technical support would be covered out of the 20% LAG administrative budget allocation.

2. PROGRAMMING ASPECTS

Local Development Strategies and TNC	LAGs included cooperation in their local development strategies. This usually includes the amount allocated for TNC, and not necessarily information about project themes, project ideas or tentative partnerships.
Way of selecting cooperation projects	LAGs select co-operation projects. If the TNC project does not fit the Local Development Strategy, LAGs are required to submit the project for approval to the Managing Authority.
Main topics of TNC proposed for the 2007-2013 programming period	The three main important topics proposed by LAGs to the Managing Authority for TNC are: Economic Development; Tourism and Community Development.
Cooperation with third countries	There are no restrictions on the countries LAGs are allowed to co-operate with.
Maximum/minimum number of TNC projects per LAG	No restrictions have been indicated, however an indicative level of up to 15% of LAG overall budget has been suggested by the Scottish Government (SG) for Cooperation projects. This was approved by the SG during the bid assessment process, however LAGs may decide to allocate more or less to co-operation projects as they see fit.

3. COMMON PROVISIONS FOR TNC PROJECT APPROVAL

<p>Information about procedures of approval and implementation of TNC projects</p>	<p>Information about procedures, can be found in the Guidance for LAG Co-ordinators and Administration Staff. This is accessible to all on the SG's website as well as on request. Link:</p> <p>http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/farmingrural/SRDP/LEADER/TechnicalGuidance3-2</p>
<p>Eligibility criteria for cooperation projects</p>	<p>The Guidance for LAG Co-ordinators and Administration Staff states that only a joint action, a shared structure and expenditure on technical support prior to projects will be financed under TNC. This information is accessible to all on the SG's website as well as on request.</p>
<p>Selection criteria for cooperation projects</p>	<p>Description of project objectives;</p> <p>Main project activities (including location and relevant dates);</p> <p>Beneficiaries of the action; its state of progress; expected results for the beneficiaries of the action and the areas involved;</p> <p>Approach, methods and procedures for implementing the project for which funding is requested;</p> <p>Duration of implementation of project;</p> <p>Role of each partner in relation to the main activities.</p>
<p>Eligible activities of measure 421 Cooperation</p>	<p>Typical examples of what may be considered a common action are: music festivals, food projects, training skills exchange.</p>
<p>Typical examples of eligible costs for TNC projects</p>	<p>LEADER grant funding may be payable in relation to the:</p> <p>costs of preparing collaborative projects;</p> <p>costs of implementing joint projects (including project design, staff costs attributable to the project and initial marketing and publicity).</p> <p>In accordance with Regulation 12(3) (f) and (g) of the 2008 Leader Grants (Scotland) Regulations, the following specific claims will <u>not</u> be eligible for LEADER grant funding:</p> <p>land and buildings which are to be used in a project involving cooperation not located in Scotland;</p> <p>unidentifiable costs of projects involving cooperation taking place outside Scotland.</p>
<p>Specific documents concerning the cooperation partners required from LAGs</p>	<p>The Guidance for LAG Co-ordinators and Administration Staff suggests that a formal memorandum of agreement with the other LAG(s) should be signed, so that all parties know their role which should avoid misunderstanding as to any part of the project.</p>

The approval process of TNC applications

LAGs have the authority to approve TNC projects. If not in their strategy, they must come to SG for approval. There is no requirement to set deadlines for sending applications to the national/regional authority for approval. There are no periodical calls for TNC project proposals.

No maximum delay has been set by when Member States' authorities of the other TNC partners must issue their approval, once the Scottish application is approved.

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