

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 Wales

2. Number of Local Action Groups (LAGs):

18

3. Axes covered by LAGs:

Measures under Axis 4

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

Axis 4 - 421

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

EUR 1,332,756,737

6. Total budget for Leader axis:

EUR 48,497,648

Of which:

a. EU Funding: EUR 25.65 million

b. Public funding: EUR 20.98 million

c. Private funding: EUR 1.87 million

SECTION B: PROGRAMMING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION PROJECTS

1. FINANCIAL ASPECTS

Budget for TNC projects (Total public funding: EU + public)	The total budget allocated for measure 421 is EUR 4.91 million. This is 10.12% of the axis 4 funding and 0.368% of the total RDP budget. This amount includes funding both for inter-territorial and transnational cooperation. Funds for TNC projects are not pre-allocated to LAGs. Allocations are made according to applications actually submitted.
Responsibility for the management of the Budget (MAs or LAGs)	The responsibility for the TNC budget lies with the Managing Authority (MA).
Special budget for the preparatory technical support of TNC projects	For each of the 18 LAGs a budget of EUR 5,000 is available for the preparation of TNC projects. A specific application process has been put in place for this funding.

2. PROGRAMMING ASPECTS

Local Development Strategies and TNC	LAGs did not necessarily include cooperation in their local development strategy (LDS). Those LAGs, which have not included cooperation in their LDS, are still allowed to submit an application for a TNC project to the Welsh Assembly Government (MA).
Way of selecting cooperation projects	The selection decision regarding Cooperation projects is taken at LAG level. Following the submission of TNC project applications by LAGs, the MA assesses and approves them, thus ensuring that they meet the minimum general eligibility criteria.
Main topics of TNC proposed for the 2007-2013 programming period	Key themes identified for Cooperation include (not all of these represent approved TNC projects): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting Community Enterprise; • Heritage and wildlife; • Culture and the Welsh language; • Local produce; • Child care facilities in the rural area; • Arts and events / open studios; • Development of improvements along a historic border area; • Developing Pubs as community service Hubs.
Cooperation with third countries	There are no restrictions defined regarding Cooperation with third countries. Funding is normally made available for LAGs to undertake TNC projects with another Leader group, or with a group taking a similar approach, in another region, Member State, or even a third country.
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	
Information about procedures of approval and implementation of TNC projects	<p>Procedures have been developed and forms are available on request.</p> <p>Further information will be made available shortly. Please consult http://wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/farmingandcountryside/ruraldevelopment/axes3and4/?lang=en</p>
Eligibility criteria for cooperation projects	<p>The following public criteria determine the eligibility of a project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the project more than merely an exchange of experiences and does it involve the implementation of a joint project; • How will the project encourage community or local stakeholder co-operation and participation in all stages of the project delivery? • Does the project achieve a critical mass for the project to be viable and/or does the project identify complementarities in the different regions? • Is there a clearly thought out set of actions and outcomes for the project, and are there clear plans to ensure the results are disseminated? • How significant is the project in delivering innovative action in the inter-territorial or transnational areas?
Selection criteria for cooperation projects	<p>Strategic nature:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How well does the project fit with the policies and objectives of the RDP, ministerial priorities, the Axis 4 and specific measure (421)? • Have key organisations active in the relevant thematic areas been consulted and are they supportive? <p>Value for Money:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the project demonstrate value for money? • Does the project avoid merely duplicating a set of costs per region? • If staffing is included is it at an appropriate level and salary band? <p>Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does the project contribute to helping the programme meet its targets, e.g. the key outcomes of gross job creation and/or increase in a number of community activities engaged/supported? <p>Cross Cutting Themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does the project demonstrate that it will contribute towards one or more of the cross-cutting themes of Equality of Opportunity, Welsh Language, ICT and Sustainable Development including Environmental Sustainability?
Eligible activities of measure 421 Cooperation	<p>Criteria and examples apply as above. LAGs may operate under any of the measures, as long as there is no duplication of existing activities.</p>
Typical examples of eligible costs for TNC projects	<p>No specific eligible costs for TNC projects have been established. Expenditure for the joint action and for preparatory technical support is considered eligible.</p>
Specific documents concerning the cooperation partners required from LAGs	<p>No specific documents about the partners are to be provided by the LAGs. There are also no national requirements concerning the aspects to be covered by a Letter of Intent or a Cooperation Agreement.</p>
The approval process of TNC applications	<p>There is currently no maximum delay established concerning the length of the application and approval process. There is also no maximum delay set for the approval to be issued by Member States' authorities of the TNC partners.</p> <p>Wales has now established two bidding rounds for LAGs to submit applications for TNC projects. The respective deadlines are at the end April 2011 and at the end of September 2011.</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