

PROGRAMMING PERIOD 2007-2013

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURE OF TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION (TNC) UNDER LEADER AXIS

SECTION A: COUNTRY SPECIFIC DETAILS

1. Name of the programme:

Plan der Freien und Hansestadt Hamburg zur Entwicklung des ländlichen Raums für den Zeitraum 2007 – 2013

2. Number of Local Action Groups (LAGs):

1

3. Axes covered by LAGs:

Certain measures under axes 1 and 2 may be implemented in the framework of Leader:

Axis 1 Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector

- Measure 111: Vocational training and information actions
- Measure 121: Modernisation of agricultural holdings
- Measure 123: Adding value to agricultural and forestry products
- Measure 125: Infrastructure related to the development & adaptation of agriculture and forestry

Axis 2 - Improving the environment and the countryside

- Measure 213: Natura 2000 payments and payments linked to Directive 2000/60/EC
- Measure 214: Agri-environment payments
- Measure 215: Animal welfare payments
- Measure 216: Non-productive investments

Axis 3 Quality of life in rural areas and diversification of rural economy

- Measure 311: Diversification into non-agricultural activities
 - » Measure 311A: Investment for diversification
 - » Measure 311B: Conversion of agricultural and forestry buildings
- Measure 312: Support for business creation and development
- Measure 313: Encouragement of tourism activities
- Measure 321: Basic services for the economy and rural population
- Measure 322: Village renewal and development
- Measure 323: Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage
 - » Measure 323A: Protection and development of areas with high natural value
 - » Measure 323B: Investments associated with the preservation and enhancement of natural heritage and development in areas of high natural value: protective plantations
 - » Measure 323C: Preservation of valuable, historic buildings

SECTION B: PROGRAMMING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION PROJECTS

- Measure 341: Skills-acquisition and animation measure with a view to preparing and implementing a local development strategy

Measures 311-322, 323B and 323C are preferably implemented in the framework of Leader. Measures 323A and 341 may be implemented in the framework of Leader.

Axis 4 Leader

- Measure 41: Implementing local development strategy
- Measure 41HC: Local development strategy – Health Check
- Measure 421: Implementing cooperation projects
- Measure 431: Running the local action group, skills acquisition, animation

4. Axes and measures covered by TNC projects:

No restrictions apply currently to transnational cooperation. A TNC project must be consistent with the objectives of the local development strategy.

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

EUR 123,188,006

Total budget for Leader axis:

EUR 20,963,941 (incl. Health Check)

Of which:

- EU Funding: EUR 3,208,091
- Public funding: EUR 1,977,063
- Private funding: EUR 15,778,787

1. FINANCIAL ASPECTS

Budget for TNC projects (Total public funding: EU + public)	The budget allocated to measure 421 amounts to EUR 120,000 of public and EUR 60,000 of EU funds. A maximum budget per TNC project has not been set, as only one LAG is operational in Hamburg,
Responsibility for the management of the Budget (MAs or LAGs)	The Department of Economics, Transport and Innovation is responsible for the management of the TNC budget.
Special budget for the preparatory technical support of TNC projects	No provision for a particular budget covering the preparation of transnational cooperation projects has been made. However, certain project preparation costs are considered eligible expenditure, e.g.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The organisation of a startup meeting; • Studies and research on implementing a joint action.

2. PROGRAMMING ASPECTS

Local Development Strategies and TNC	The local development strategy (LDS) identifies the fields of action and the goals for the promotion of Hamburg's rural areas. It includes a number of project ideas, which currently are or were partially implemented already. Cooperation projects have not been considered yet. As the LDS continues to evolve, the future implementation of transnational cooperation is not excluded.
Way of selecting cooperation projects	The selection of all projects is carried out by the LAG.
Main topics of TNC proposed for the 2007-2013 programming period	TNC projects have not yet been proposed.
Cooperation with third countries	No restrictions have been established concerning the possibility to cooperate with entities in third countries that follow an approach similar to Leader.
Maximum/minimum number of TNC projects per LAG	No specific plans for (a) TNC project(s) existed at the time of elaboration of the LDS. The Hamburg RDP notes that one transnational and one interregional cooperation project shall be aimed for.

3. COMMON PROVISIONS FOR TNC PROJECT APPROVAL

Information about procedures of approval and implementation of TNC projects	According to the MA for Hamburg the approval of TNC projects is subject to the budgetary provisions and the associated usual approval process. Any additional requirements for the implementation of TNC projects have not yet been provided.
Eligibility criteria for cooperation projects	The cooperation project must comply with the objectives and priorities of the LDS. It must be assigned to the above-mentioned measures of the RDP.
Selection criteria for cooperation projects	Projects must meet the above objectives and priorities, and as a principle must meet the applicable eligibility criteria. As there are no projects so far, a prioritisation is currently not considered necessary.
Eligible activities of measure 421 Cooperation	The LAG may engage in the context of interregional and transnational cooperation in the following future activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organisation of a startup meeting; • Studies and research on implementing a joint action; • Implementation of a joint action; • Evaluation of cooperation; • Public Relations.
Typical examples of eligible costs for TNC project	Future eligible expenditure includes project expenses committed for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Studies, planning, supervision, concepts, events, etc; • Material costs; • Share of administrative and staff costs of the LAG; • Project-related travel expenses.
Specific documents concerning the cooperation partners required from LAGs	Specific document requirements have not been defined yet, but could be established as a result of a specific case. There is no maximum time limit for acceptance of the approval by another Member State.



The approval process of
TNC applications

The LAG submits applications for projects, which were either initially proposed by itself or selected after brought to its attention. The application is to be received and approved by the Department of Economics, Transport and Innovation. TNC project applications may be submitted at any time.

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