

Germany – North Rhine-Westphalia

PROGRAMMING PERIOD 2007-2013

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

SECTION A: COUNTRY SPECIFIC DETAILS

1. Name of the programme:

NRW-Programm Ländlicher Raum 2007-2013

2. Number of Local Action Groups (LAGs):

12

3. Axes covered by LAGs:

Axis 4 Leader

- Measure 41 Local Development Strategies (LDS) to achieve the objectives:
 - » 411 / axis 1: Competitiveness
 - » 412 / axis 2: Environment / Land Management
 - » 413 / axis 3: Quality of life / diversification
- Measure 421 Cooperation projects for interregional and transnational co-operation
- Measure 431 Current costs of the LAG, acquiring skills, raising awareness

Moreover, Leader co-finances measures implemented under other axes of the RDP, thus increasing the financing granted:

Axis 1 Improving the competitiveness of agriculture and forestry

- Measure 125, Improving and expanding infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture and forestry (including forestry and rural road construction)'

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

- Measure 313, Promotion of tourism (infrastructure facilities)'
- Measure 321, Service facilities for basic services for the rural economy and population'
- Measure 322, Village renewal and development'

4. Axes and measures covered by TNC projects:

Measure 421, Cooperation projects for interregional and transnational cooperation'

SECTION B: PROGRAMMING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION PROJECTS

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

EUR 1,600,781,065 (indicative)

Total budget for Leader axis:

EUR 34,742,816 EUR (indicative)

Of which:

a. EU Funding: EUR 16,223,635

b. Public funding: EUR 16,223,635

c. Private funding: EUR 2,295,546

1. FINANCIAL ASPECTS

Budget for TNC projects (Total public funding: EU + public)	The budget allocated to measure 421 amounts to EUR 4,867,089. A pre-allocation of individual TNC budgets or maximum limit of TNC funds per LAG is not foreseen.
Responsibility for the management of the Budget (MAs or LAGs)	Managing authority / technical supervision: division II-6 of the Ministry of climate protection, environment, agriculture, science and consumer protection (MKULNV). Approval authorities: district governments of North Rhine-Westphalia, i.e. the departments for rural development and land management in Arnsberg, Detmold, Düsseldorf, Cologne and Münster.
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. Project preparation costs are, however, considered eligible expenditure.

2. PROGRAMMING ASPECTS

Local Development Strategies and TNC	LAGs have considered cooperation projects in their local development strategies (LDS). Those not having included cooperation in their LDS may still apply for and obtain approval for TNC projects.
Way of selecting cooperation project	Due to their exclusive project holder capacity, the selection of TNC projects is carried out by the LAGs. The approval of TNC projects is the responsibility of the above listed district government authorities.
Main topics of TNC proposed for the 2007-2013 programming period	TNC is considered for joint actions in the fields of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism; • Regional economy; • Wood and forestry business; • Knowledge transfer; • Exchange of information and experience; • Nature and climate protection; • Culture; • Understanding among people.
Cooperation with third countries	The state of North Rhine-Westphalia adheres to the provisions of the "Guidelines for the implementation of cooperation in accordance with the Leader axis in programs for the Rural Development 2007-2013" by the European Commission and the EAFRD regulations. Thus, transnational cooperation may be extended to third countries that follow an approach similar to Leader.
Maximum/minimum number of TNC projects per LAG	There is currently no information available concerning this point.

3. COMMON PROVISIONS FOR TNC PROJECT APPROVAL

Information about procedures of approval and implementation of TNC projects	According to the MA for North Rhine-Westphalia, the approval and implementation process for TNC projects has not been the subject of profound preparations or research yet.
Eligibility criteria for cooperation projects	There is currently no information available concerning this point.
Selection criteria for cooperation projects	There is currently no information available concerning this point.
Eligible activities of measure 421 Cooperation	A LAG may engage in the context of interregional and transnational cooperation in the following activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Studies and concepts; • Events; • Monitoring and evaluation of cooperation; • Public relations.



Typical examples of eligible costs for TNC projects	Eligible expenditure includes cost directly related to the above activities and in addition directly related TNC project expenses committed for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Planning and supervision;• Material costs;• Travel;• Initiation / preparation of cooperation.
Specific documents concerning the cooperation partners required from LAGs	There is currently no information available concerning this point.
The approval process of TNC applications	The above listed district government authorities are in charge of issuing TNC project approvals. 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