

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 Latvia 2007-2013

2. Number of Local Action Groups (LAGs):

40

3. Axes covered by LAGs:

- Axis 1: Measures 111, 121;
- Axis 3: Measures 311, 312, 313, 321, 323.

4. Axes and measures covered by TNC projects:

- Axis 1: Measures 111, 121;
- Axis 3: Measures 311, 312, 313, 321, 323.

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

EUR 2,315,815,619

Total budget for Leader axis:

EUR 45,814,721

Of which:

- a. EU Funding: EUR 26,027,838
- b. Public funding: EUR 6,511,027
- c. Private funding: EUR 13,275,856

SECTION B: PROGRAMMING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION PROJECTS

1. FINANCIAL ASPECTS

Budget for TNC projects (Total public funding: EU + public)	<p>The total budget for measure 421 „Inter-territorial and transnational cooperation” is 3,253,887 EUR. The amount is intended to cover the implementation of transnational projects.</p> <p>The maximum amount of funding for one Local Action Group (LAG) to implement a cooperation project is LVL 50,000.</p> <p>Once the approved funding for cooperation projects has reached 80% of the total available funding, the Rural Support Service (RSS) will continue to accept TNC applications for at least one month, summarising and ranking them according to certain selection criteria.</p>
Responsibility for the management of the Budget (MAs or LAGs)	The MA is responsible for the management of the TNC project budget.
Special budget for the preparatory technical support of TNC projects	<p>Expenditure related to the cooperation agreement cannot exceed LVL 2,000. This amount is included in the budget of LVL 50,000 foreseen for the implementation of one TNC project.</p> <p>If a LAG does not provide the cooperation contract within 6 months following the Rural Support Service's (RSS) decision to allocate aid for the establishment of a cooperation agreement, the LAG must return the public funds received.</p>

2. PROGRAMMING ASPECTS

Local Development Strategies and TNC	The objectives of the cooperation project must comply with and facilitate the development priorities established by the local development strategy (LDS).
Way of selecting cooperation projects	LAGs intending to implement a TNC project submit an application for the establishment of a cooperation agreement with partners from another EU or third country. The RSS is the body that selects and approves the cooperation project applications.
Main topics of TNC proposed for the 2007-2013 programming period	In their LDSs LAGs did not specify proposals for cooperation project themes. Cooperation projects should promote the accomplishment of the objectives of axes 1 and 3.
Cooperation with third countries	LAGs may cooperate with organisations receiving funds for LDS implementation from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and operating in other EU Member States. The cooperation with partners from third countries is eligible, provided they cover their own participation costs.
Maximum/minimum number of TNC projects per LAG	Within the budgetary limits of the allocated funding, a LAG may engage in one or more cooperation projects.

3. COMMON PROVISIONS FOR TNC PROJECT APPROVAL

<p>Information about procedures of approval and implementation of TNC projects</p>	<p>It is the competence of the Ministry of Agriculture of Latvia to establish the laws and regulations governing the conditions for granting to LAGs state and EU aid for TNC.</p> <p>Information on relevant approved laws and regulations is available on the websites of Ministry of Agriculture of Latvia (http://www.zm.gov.lv) and of the Rural Support Service (http://www.lad.gov.lv).</p>
<p>Eligibility criteria for cooperation projects</p>	<p>Funding allocation criteria and selection criteria for cooperation projects are publicly available.</p> <p>Financial support to LAGs for implementing cooperation projects may be granted if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The partners have signed a cooperation agreement; • The cooperation project will be implemented in both the territories of the Republic of Latvia / the partner country, creating benefit for the population living within the areas covered by the participating LAGs; • The exchange of experience supports the local population with the identification of solutions to problematic issues, as well as with the implementation of new and innovative cooperation ideas; • The aim of the cooperation project is consistent with one of the priorities defined in the LDS and it facilitates the achievement of its objectives; • The cooperation project foresees joint activities.
<p>Selection criteria for cooperation projects</p>	<p>Should the approved funding for the implementation of cooperation projects reach 80% of the total available funding, the RSS will apply the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • co-financing made available by the partner for project implementation; • number of participating countries; • publicity and information campaign activities planned.
<p>Eligible activities of measure 421 Cooperation</p>	<p>Cooperation projects must comply with the objectives of axis 1 and 3. LAGs may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • implement new or develop future joint projects and services including e-services and data bases; • organise meetings, seminars, conferences, trainings, exhibitions and camps.
<p>Typical examples of eligible costs for TNC projects</p>	<p>Eligible expenditure includes project expenses committed for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • travel by the project supervisor; • transportation and accommodation; • hosting of partners; • travel insurance; • translation services.
<p>Specific documents concerning the cooperation partners required from LAGs</p>	<p>A LAG is entitled to launch the cooperation project upon receipt of the approval by the competent partner institution (no later than six months following submission of the cooperation agreement to the RSS). The LAG submits to the RSS the decision of the cooperation partner's competent authority that approves the cooperation project.</p> <p>No funding support for the implementation of the cooperation project will be granted, if the LAG fails to submit evidence of the partner country's competent authority decision of approval of the cooperation project within 6 months following the submission of the cooperation agreement to the RSS.</p> <p>Should the competent authority of the partner country not approve the cooperation project, the funding received for establishing the cooperation agreement is not refundable.</p>
<p>The approval process of TNC applications</p>	<p>Cooperation projects are approved by the RSS. A continuous application process is planned for the submission of TNC project proposals.</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