

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 the Region of Åland

2. Number of Local Action Groups (LAGs):

1

3. Axes covered by LAGs:

Measures under axes 3 and 4.

4. Axes and measures covered by TNC projects:

TNC is restricted to axis 4 and measure 421 'Cooperation projects for interregional and transnational cooperation'.

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

EUR 83,201,127

Total budget for Leader axis:

EUR 2,868,480

Of which:

- a. EU Funding: EUR 1,224,627
- b. Public funding: EUR 904,119
- c. Private funding: EUR 739,734

SECTION B: PROGRAMMING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION PROJECTS

1. FINANCIAL ASPECTS

Budget for TNC projects (Total public funding: EU + public)	The budget allocated to measure 421 amounts to EUR 50,000 i.e. 0.06% of the total RDP budget. With a single LAG in place, a maximum budget for TNC projects has not been foreseen.
Responsibility for the management of the Budget (MAs or LAGs)	The government of Åland (Ålands Landskapsregering = MA) 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.

2. PROGRAMMING ASPECTS

Local Development Strategies and TNC	There is currently no information available concerning this point.
Way of selecting cooperation projects	Applications are to be submitted by the LAG (Leader Åland) to the MA, which selects and approves TNC projects.
Main topics of TNC proposed for the 2007-2013 programming period	No projects have been implemented under measure 421 yet. Examples of possible cooperation topics include projects addressing the youth and projects considering environmental issues.
Cooperation with third countries	Cooperation with other Leader areas and organisations following a Leader-type approach, which are located in the archipelagos of Finland, Sweden and Europe.
Maximum/minimum number of TNC projects per LAG	No restrictions have been established concerning the number of TNC projects the LAG may engage in.

3. COMMON PROVISIONS FOR TNC PROJECT APPROVAL

Information about procedures of approval and implementation of TNC projects	Project approval is subject to a technical control by the MA. To date, no projects have been approved under measure 421.
Eligibility criteria for cooperation projects	The proposed TNC projects should be consistent with the local development strategy (LDS) of the LAG (Leader Åland). Furthermore, the proposed project budget must comply with the LAG's approved eligible cost document.
Selection criteria for cooperation projects	The LDS of Leader Åland specifies for each of its three sections the following criteria as relevant for the selection of projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 1 (Entrepreneurship): demand, project capacity, innovation and competition. • Section 2 (Cooperation): equality and integration • Section 3 (Ecological thinking): environmental matters, cost effectiveness and sustainability.
Eligible activities of measure 421 Cooperation	Joint activities may concern the collection of ideas, the exchange of experiences and project work related to the development of the countryside.
Typical examples of eligible costs for TNC projects	Eligible costs include e.g. travel expenditure directly related to the eligible activities stated above.
Specific documents concerning the cooperation partners required from LAGs	No such documentation is required at this stage.
The approval process of TNC applications	The government of Åland (MA) is in charge of approving TNC projects. Applications may be submitted at any time, as the MA practices an ongoing call for TNC project proposals. The processing of applications and the preparation of the approval decision should not exceed 3 months (for any type of project including TNC applications). No other time limits apply.

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

