

Germany – Baden Württemberg

PROGRAMMING PERIOD 2007-2013

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

SECTION A: **COUNTRY SPECIFIC DETAILS**

1. Name of the programme:

Maßnahmen und Entwicklungsplan Ländlicher Raum 2007-2013 (MEPL II)

2. Number of Local Action Groups (LAGs):

8

3. Axes covered by LAGs:

- LAGs cover predominantly axis 3 measures concerning:
 - » Support to company start-up and development;
 - » Tourism;
 - » Institutions for supply of basic services for the rural economy and population;
 - » Village renewal and development;
 - » Generating economic value from rural heritage;
 - » Nature conservation – Preservation and enhancement of natural heritage and development of the cultural landscape;
- Establishment and running of the Leader management office;
- Development of the concept, preparation and implementation of Cooperation projects between Leader LAGs in the context of inter-regional and transnational cooperation;
- In addition, innovative Cooperation projects and actions not covered by measures 312, 313, 321, 322 and 323, which aim for the improvement of the quality of life in rural areas, taking into account the promotion of diversification of the local economy.

4. Axes and measures covered by TNC projects:

Both non-investments and investments (not limited to these measures):

- 312-1: Promoting micro-enterprises upstream/downstream agriculture;
- 313-1: Enhancing the economic significance of tourism;
- 321: Institutions for supply of basic services;
- 322: Village renewal and development;
- 323-2: Generating economic value from rural heritage;
- 323-3: Nature conservation – and preservation and enhancement of natural heritage;
- 413: In addition, innovative Cooperation projects and actions not covered by measures 312, 313, 321, 322 and 323, which aim for the improvement of the quality of life in rural areas, taking into account the promotion of diversification of the local economy.

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

EUR 610.7 million

Total budget for Leader axis:

EUR 58.5 million

Of which:

- a. EU Funding: EUR 31.5 million
- b. Public funding: EUR 25 million (minimum)
- c. Private funding: n/a

SECTION B: PROGRAMMING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION PROJECTS

1. FINANCIAL ASPECTS

Budget for TNC projects (Total public funding: EU + public)	There is no specific TNC budget, i.e. funds have neither been pre-allocated to TNC projects nor to the LAGs.
Responsibility for the management of the Budget (MAs or LAGs)	The TNC budget is managed by the Paying Authority (PA).
Special budget for the preparatory technical support of TNC projects	No specific budget has been put in place for the preparation of TNC projects. Preparatory actions may be financed via the Leader management office's budget (material costs, measure 431).

2. PROGRAMMING ASPECTS

Local Development Strategies and TNC	All LAGs of Baden Württemberg have included Cooperation in their local development strategy (LDS).
Way of selecting cooperation projects	Cooperation projects are selected by the LAGs themselves. Projects are approved by the regional administrative authority (MA).
Main topics of TNC proposed for the 2007-2013 programming period	Among the most frequently proposed themes are demographic change, tourism and the preservation of natural and cultural heritage.

Cooperation with third countries	The sole restriction regarding Cooperation with third countries establishes the requirement that one of the partners must originate from an EU Member State.
Maximum/minimum number of TNC projects per LAG	LAG must engage in at least one Cooperation project.

3. COMMON PROVISIONS FOR TNC PROJECT APPROVAL

Information about procedures of approval and implementation of TNC projects	Information concerning the approval and implementation of TNC projects has been made available for consultation on the website http://www.leader.baden-wuerttemberg.de
Eligibility criteria for cooperation projects	LAGs must consider either of the following in determining the eligibility of a project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It relates to one of the measures addressed by Leader (311 – 323); • It aims at the improvement of the quality of life in rural areas, taking into account the promotion of diversification of the rural economy.
Selection criteria for cooperation projects	Cooperation with another EU Member State.
Eligible activities of measure 421 Cooperation	Eligible activities include the participation in seminars and events and the elaboration of studies and concepts.
Typical examples of eligible costs for TNC projects	Typical expenditure examples include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel expenses for visiting partner projects; • Interpretation costs; • Investments directly related to the project.
Specific documents concerning the cooperation partners required from LAGs	In addition to the cooperation agreement, which includes the general conditions, a supplementary sheet describing the project is required. The project description includes project objectives, activities and also the specific roles of the individual partners during project implementation.
The approval process of TNC applications	Project applications may be submitted at any time. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Step 1: the LAG submits the TNC project application at the MA's Leader coordination unit. The MA issues formal approval in case of positive pre-assessment by the LAG. The approval expires within nine months, unless the cooperation partners obtain and present approvals issued by their respective MAs. • Step 2: the MA's Leader coordination unit informs the EU about the approval of the TNC project using the information exchange form • Schritt 3: The information exchange form is uploaded by the MEPL II responsible(SFC system).

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