

PROGRAMMING PERIOD 2007-2013

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

SECTION A: **COUNTRY SPECIFIC DETAILS**

1. **Name of the programme:**

Bayerisches Zukunftsprogramm für Agrarwirtschaft und ländlichen Raum (BayZAL)

2. **Number of Local Action Groups (LAGs):**

58

3. **Axes covered by LAGs:**

LAGs may address by means of the Leader approach axes 1, 3 and 4:

Axis 1:

- Land consolidation (FinR-LE).

Axis 3:

- Village renewal;
- Investment in agricultural holdings: promotion of investments for diversification;
- Activities of species and nature protection, landscape management and ecologically compatible recreation in nature parks.

Axis 4:

- Projects implementing the LDS, meeting the objectives of axes 1, 2 and 3 of regulation (EC) 1698/2005 and not eligible for other EAFRD funding;
- Inter-regional or transnational cooperation between LAGs / of LAGs with similar regional partnerships (including, for example in Switzerland);
- LAG management, which includes the LAG administration, activities serving the development of the Leader area and all activities within the framework of inter-territorial and transnational cooperation projects.

4. **Axes and measures covered by TNC projects:**

Axis 4: implementation of measures of the Leader directive to implement the LDS in fields outside main (i.e. axes 1 and 3) measures.

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

EUR 4,354,933,580

Total budget for Leader axis:

EUR 183.1 million

Of which:

- a. EU Funding: EUR 73.4 million
- b. Public funding: EUR 73.4 million
- c. Private funding: EUR 36.3 million

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. TNC projects may obtain a maximum of 70% (inter-regional projects 60%) of funding.
Responsibility for the management of the Budget (MAs or LAGs)	The TNC budget is managed by subordinate agencies of the Managing Authority (MA), i.e. the structural development units of the nine offices for Food, Agriculture and Forestry.
Special budget for the preparatory technical support of TNC projects	No specific budget has been put in place for the preparation of TNC projects. However, preparatory actions may be financed as part of a cooperation project which emerged from these activities

2. PROGRAMMING ASPECTS

Local Development Strategies and TNC	LAGs were obliged to state their intention to cooperate in their local development strategy (LDS). Cooperation was also among the assessment criteria during the LAG selection process. Beyond those included LAGs may also implement Cooperation projects not included in their LDS.
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Way of selecting cooperation projects	Cooperation projects are selected by the LAGs themselves, on the basis of criteria they have included in their LDS. Projects are formally approved by subordinate agencies of the Managing Authority (MA), i.e. the structural development units of the nine offices for Food, Agriculture and Forestry. They examine whether the project meets the eligibility conditions of the Leader directive.
Main topics of TNC proposed for the 2007-2013 programming period	Among the proposed themes are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preservation and enhancement of cultural heritage; • Pilgrimage trails; • Marketing of regional products / Regional Marketing; • Youth / Social affairs; • Energy / Resource Conservation.
Cooperation with third countries	There are no restrictions defined regarding Cooperation with third countries. Funding is normally made available for LAGs to undertake TNC projects with another Leader group, or with a group taking a similar approach, in another region, Member State, or even a third country (e.g. Switzerland).
Maximum/minimum number of TNC projects per LAG	No requirement has been established concerning the number of TNC projects a LAG may engage in.

3. COMMON PROVISIONS FOR TNC PROJECT APPROVAL

Information about procedures of approval and implementation of TNC projects	<p>Projects are formally approved by subordinate agencies of the Managing Authority (MA), i.e. the structural development units of the nine offices for Food, Agriculture and Forestry. Within each of these approval authorities an appointed Leader-Manager is the contact point providing coordination and advisory support. This is where Bavarian LAGs apply for their part of the Cooperation project (N.B. in case several Bavarian LAGs participate, one application may be submitted with one Bavarian approval authority only).</p> <p>Once approved, the required documentation is transferred to the MA (Bavarian State Ministry for Food, Agriculture and Forestry), which notifies the approval to the EU (SFC system).</p> <p>Detailed information is available on the website of the Bavarian State Ministry at http://www.stmelf.bayern.de/agrarpolitik/programme/foerderwegweiser/12813/</p>
Eligibility criteria for cooperation projects	TNC projects must comply with the requirements of the Leader directive, which is available via the above website link.
Selection criteria for cooperation projects	TNC projects may be run under the Leader directive within axis 4 to implement the LDS in fields outside main (i.e. axes 1 and 3) measures. The application for Leader TNC funding is a decision taken by the LAG on the basis of selection criteria formulated in its LDS. These criteria are to be made public by the LAG.
Eligible activities of measure 421 Cooperation	<p>Reference is made to the Leader project requirements of the Leader directive for the implementation of the LDS in fields outside main (i.e. axes 1 and 3) measures</p> <p>http://www.stmelf.bayern.de/agrarpolitik/programme/foerderwegweiser/12813/richtlinie.pdf</p>

<p>Typical examples of eligible costs for TNC projects</p>	<p>Funding may be granted for preparatory actions (project initiation costs) and project costs (preparatory studies/concepts, implementation of concrete projects, project-related staff costs, initial public relations):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costs for the initiation of cooperation projects are eligible only as part of a cooperation project, which emerged from these activities. No funding will be granted if the activities do not result in a cooperation project; • Eligible project initiation costs for preparatory meetings include interpretation, documentation, room hire, transportation costs; • Additional eligible costs, exclusively for the purpose of project initiation, are accommodation and subsistence expenses; • Above project initiation cost funding requires the existence of receipts issued to the project applicant and proof of actual payment for the purpose of the future cooperation project.
<p>Specific documents concerning the cooperation partners required from LAGs</p>	<p>Apart from the required cooperation agreement template, additional information about requirements is provided in the supplementary sheet 'K: Cooperation' and the leaflet 'Leader payment claims and report on expenditure of funds'. These documents can be downloaded at http://www.stmelf.bayern.de/agrarpolitik/programme/foerderwegweiser/12813/</p>
<p>The approval process of TNC applications</p>	<p>Project applications may be submitted at any time.</p> <p>No maximum delay has been set by when Member States' authorities of the other TNC partners must issue their approval, once the Bavarian application is approved.</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