

Germany – Lower Saxony and Bremen

PROGRAMMING PERIOD 2007-2013

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

SECTION A: **COUNTRY SPECIFIC DETAILS**

1. Name of the programme:

Programm zur Förderung im Ländlichen Raum Niedersachsen/Bremen
(PROFIL 2007-2013)

2. Number of Local Action Groups (LAGs):

32

3. Axes covered by LAGs:

All axes

4. Axes and measures covered by TNC projects:

All axes

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

EUR 975 million

Total budget for Leader axis:

EUR 99.3 million

Of which:

a. EU Funding: EUR 64.0 million

b. Public funding: EUR 35.3 million

c. Private funding: EUR 00.0 million

SECTION B: PROGRAMMING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION PROJECTS

1. FINANCIAL ASPECTS

Budget for TNC projects (Total public funding: EU + public)	Overall, an amount of EUR 11.7 million has been allocated to Cooperation, which is 11.78% of the axis 4 budget. Specific budgets have neither been pre-allocated per LAG nor per TNC project.
Responsibility for the management of the Budget (MAs or LAGs)	The Managing Authority is responsible for the TNC budget administration.
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, financing of preparatory actions to initiate a TNC project may be applied for as part of the TNC project application itself.

2. PROGRAMMING ASPECTS

Local Development Strategies and TNC	LAGs have included Cooperation in their local development strategy. Those LAGs, which have not included Cooperation in their local development strategy, may still submit TNC project applications.
Way of selecting cooperation projects	The LAG is in charge of project selection. The approval is issued by the relevant subordinate approval authority of the Ministry (MA), i.e. the authorities for Geoinformation, Land Development and Real Estate (GLL).
Main topics of TNC proposed for the 2007-2013 programming period	Cooperation projects relate primarily to the tourism theme.
Cooperation with third countries	There are no restrictions defined regarding cooperation with third countries. In accordance with the EARDF regulation, funding is 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.
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>The procedures for TNC projects follow to a large extent those applied for other measures of axis 4 (M411 – M413).</p> <p>More information is available via the RDP document on the MA's website: http://www.ml.niedersachsen.de/download/4067</p>
Eligibility criteria for cooperation projects	<p>(consult from page 393, section 5.3.4 of the document)</p> <p>TNC projects must comply with the requirements for M421 described in the program document (cf. above website link, section 5.3.4.2, page 400). Most importantly, cooperation actions must be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent with the LDS • go beyond the exchange of information and implement join projects instead • generate real added value to the implementation of the LDS
Selection criteria for cooperation projects	<p>Project selection criteria are determined by the LAGs, which are also in charge of carrying out the project selection.</p>
Eligible activities of measure 421 Cooperation	<p>All measures of the RDP may be addressed by means of Cooperation. Activities supporting the implementation of the joint project include joint seminars, events, studies, research/analyses, public relations and evaluation of results. A basic guideline providing orientation can be downloaded from the MA's website:</p> <p>http://www.ml.niedersachsen.de/download/53792</p>
Typical examples of eligible costs for TNC projects	<p>Eligible joint project costs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project initiation and contact meetings; • Costs directly linked to the activities listed above.
Specific documents concerning the cooperation partners required from LAGs	<p>No specific document requirements have been put in place. See also the basic guideline providing orientation, which can be downloaded from the MA's website: http://www.ml.niedersachsen.de/download/53792</p>
The approval process of TNC applications	<p>TNC project applications may be submitted at any time to the subordinate approval authority of the Ministry (MA), i.e. the authorities for Geoinformation, Land Development and Real Estate (GLL).</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