

Germany – Schleswig-Holstein

PROGRAMMING PERIOD 2007-2013

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

SECTION A: **COUNTRY SPECIFIC DETAILS**

1. **Name of the programme:**

Entwicklungsprogramm für den ländlichen Raum des Landes Schleswig-Holstein
(ZPLR) für den Programmplanungszeitraum 2007 – 2013

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

21

3. **Axes covered by LAGs:**

Axes 1, 2 and 3

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

TNC projects may address all measures of all axes

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

EUR 1,133,486,030

Total budget for Leader axis:

EUR 123,504,196

Of which:

a. EU Funding: EUR 61,708,474

b. Public funding: EUR 43,909,358

c. Private funding: EUR 17,886,364

SECTION B: PROGRAMMING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION PROJECTS

1. FINANCIAL ASPECTS

Budget for TNC projects	Overall, an amount of EUR 1,818,683 has been allocated to Cooperation, which is 2.8% of the axis 4 budget.
(Total public funding: EU + public)	The MA has neither determined a specific budget split between nor has it imposed a budget limit on transnational and interregional cooperation. The LAGs themselves have decided how to use axis 4 funds.
Responsibility for the management of the Budget (MAs or LAGs)	The agreement of the Ministry for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Areas (MA) is required for the implementation of Cooperation projects. The respective budget is managed by the PA, which is located within the MA.
Special budget for the preparatory technical support of TNC projects	<p>No specific budget has been put in place for the preparation / initiation of TNC projects. Depending on the nature of expenditure, claims may be made either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Via the LAG's management budget respecting article 38 of regulation (EC) 1974/2006, or • in the context of claims made under a measure 421 project that emerged from the preparatory activity.

2. PROGRAMMING ASPECTS

Local Development Strategies and TNC	LAGs have included Cooperation in their local development strategy (LDS). Some of them have already provided concrete project descriptions or notified thematic areas for Cooperation in their LDS. Some LAGs named potential cooperation partners and German federal states / EU Member States.
Way of selecting cooperation projects	The LAG is in charge of project selection. Applications are processed and approvals are issued by the relevant subordinate authority of the Ministry (MA), i.e. the district authorities for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Areas.
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 the LAGs of Schleswig-Holstein 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. Approval by the partnering region is required and integral part of the approval process.
Maximum/minimum number of TNC projects per LAG	It is foreseen that each LAG implements at least one inter-regional cooperation project. The implementation of TNC projects is not required.

3. COMMON PROVISIONS FOR TNC PROJECT APPROVAL

<p>Information about procedures of approval and implementation of TNC projects</p>	<p>The following sources of information have been made available:</p> <p>RDP document of Schleswig-Holstein: http://www.schleswig-holstein.de/cae/servlet/content-blob/845622/publicationFile/zplr_programm_komplett.pdf</p> <p>Handbook on inter-regional and transnational cooperation entitled, '1+1 is greater than 2' of the Network Unit of the German NRN:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English language version http://www.netzwerk-laendlicher-raum.de/fileadmin/sites/ELER/Dateien/05_Service/Publikationen/Kooperation/Reader_englisch_internet.pdf • German language version http://www.netzwerk-laendlicher-raum.de/fileadmin/sites/ELER/Dateien/05_Service/Publikationen/Kooperation/Kooperationshandbuch.pdf <p>EC Guide for the implementation of the measure Cooperation under the Leader axis of rural development programmes 2007-2013 (RD12/10/2008 rev. 3): http://www.netzwerk-laendlicher-raum.de/fileadmin/sites/ELER/Dateien/05_Service/Publikationen/Kooperation/Guide_Koop_EN.pdf</p> <p>Above information was also communicated to the LAGs. Additional information is provided upon request.</p>
<p>Eligibility criteria for cooperation projects</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TNC partnerships and projects must serve the implementation of the LDS. • Interregional and transnational cooperation must generate additional benefit for the LAG. • Cooperation optimises the competence and effectiveness of the LAG.
<p>Selection criteria for cooperation projects</p>	<p>Cooperation can only be supported if the following minimum criteria apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The cooperating regions must have (as closely as possible) a similar starting position and issue(s); • Cooperation cannot be limited to exchange of experience and information, but must focus on the implementation of joint projects. Exchange of experience about the method of area-based local development will be supported, provided its results is a jointly elaborated concept. • Joint projects must be consistent with the area-based LDS of the participating LAG. • Joint projects must generate additional benefit for the implementation of the LDS.
<p>Eligible activities of measure 421 Cooperation</p>	<p>In general cooperation projects involve the following development actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organisation of a meeting to launch the activity; • Studies or research/analyses for the implementation of a cooperation project; • Implementation of the joint cooperation project; • Evaluation of the cooperation; • Public Relations.
<p>Typical examples of eligible costs for TNC projects</p>	<p>Cooperation projects relate to the totality of the joint action, including its preparation. As long as clearly related to the cooperation project and linked to a LAG from Schleswig-Holstein, the following expenditure is considered eligible for funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Studies, planning, supervision, concepts, events, etc.; • Material costs; • Part of the LAG's administrative and staff costs, under the condition that such costs are based on calculations clearly separated from the basic costs for the LAG's management; • Travel expenses directly related to the project.

<p>Specific documents concerning the cooperation partners required from LAGs</p>	<p>Cooperation agreement, in accordance with the Guide for the implementation of the measure Cooperation under the Leader axis of rural development programmes 2007-2013 (RD12/10/2008 rev. 3).</p>
<p>The approval process of TNC applications</p>	<p>Applications are processed and approvals are issued by the relevant subordinate authority of the Ministry (MA), i.e. the district authorities for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Areas.</p> <p>Following completion of the internal selection process, Local Action Groups must submit project applications for inter-regional and/or transnational cooperation as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project description; • Description of project holder and decision making structure/process; • Implementation responsibility and other contributors; • Organisation of project implementation; • Time schedule; • Indicative Budget. <p>Step 1: The approval authority checks projects selected by the LAGs first for formal compliance with legal requirements, then refers it to the relevant specialist department for approval. Validity of the approval is subject to approval issued by the competent authorities of all other cooperation partners.</p> <p>Step 2: The MA informs EC about its approval, in accordance with article 39 section 5 of regulation (EC) 1974/2006, submitting the respective TNC project information exchange form via the SFC system.</p> <p>Step 3: The MA checks the approval status by means of the European Database. The TNC project's approval is confirmed as definitive by the approval authority, once the TNC project displays as approved by the competent MAs of all cooperation partners. A maximum delay for approval by other MAs has not been established.</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