

PROGRAMMING PERIOD 2007-2013

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

SECTION A: **COUNTRY SPECIFIC DETAILS**

1. Name of the programme:

Entwicklungsplan für den ländlichen Raum des Landes Hessen 2007 - 2013

2. Number of Local Action Groups (LAGs):

20

3. Axes covered by LAGs:

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

4. Axes and measures covered by TNC projects:

Axis 3: measures 323, 313 and 331. In addition, possibly measures 311 b, 312, 321 and 322, although these are considered practically irrelevant due to their objectives).

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

EUR 985,503,523

Total budget for Leader axis:

EUR 94,234,786

Of which:

- a. EU Funding: EUR 22,400,000
- b. Public funding: EUR 22,400,000
- c. Private funding: EUR 49,434,786

SECTION B: PROGRAMMING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION PROJECTS

1. FINANCIAL ASPECTS

Budget for TNC projects (Total public funding: EU + public)	<p>There is no specific TNC budget, i.e. funds have neither been pre-allocated to TNC projects nor to the LAGs.</p> <p>At the moment their local development strategy (LDS) and LAG status was approved, LAGs basically were equipped with an envisaged overall budget estimate for the entire programme period. This budget is the basis for employing measures to implement the LDS, including TNC projects (measure 421 and the measures of axis 3 referred to above).</p>
Responsibility for the management of the Budget (MAs or LAGs)	Not applicable.
Special budget for the preparatory technical support of TNC projects	<p>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.</p> <p>Eligible project initiation expenditure (excluding VAT) may be financed up to 80%, within a total support limit of EUR 50,000 per project.</p>

2. PROGRAMMING ASPECTS

Local Development Strategies and TNC	<p>Given the federal state of Hessen's central geographic location in Germany and the resulting absence of external borders with other EU Member States, LAGs were not obliged to implement TNC projects.</p> <p>The RDP foresees inter-regional cooperation projects and several LAGs have stated their intention to cooperate in their local development strategy (LDS) accordingly.</p> <p>It is, however, generally possible to apply and obtain approval for TNC projects throughout the programme period. Agreement is achieved between the LAGs concerned, the competent administrative district as approval authority and the Ministry of Economy, Transport and Regional Development at federal state level (MA).</p>
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 competent administrative district authority.
Main topics of TNC proposed for the 2007-2013 programming period	<p>So far implementation activities follow up on a previous cooperation project, the 'Hugenotten- and Waldenser trail'. This illustrates that cooperation projects usually relate to themes, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Touristic routes and trails; • Historical, e.g. former Intra-German (east/west) border; • Joint development of cultural landscapes across borders.
Cooperation with third countries	Cooperation with third countries is not foreseen.
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>Other than the EU Cooperation guidelines the procedure follows a supplementary guide issued by the MA, which provides additional information about the management of the project approval and implementation process.</p> <p>The information is part of the Federal State of Hessen's general guidelines to promote regional development, available for download at:</p> <p>http://www.hessen.de/irj/servlet/prt/portal/prtroot/slimp.CMReader/HMWVL_15/HMWVL_Internet/med/04b/04b6cff6-be41-e217-9cda-ae2389e48185,22222222-2222-2222-2222-222222222222,true</p>
Eligibility criteria for cooperation projects	TNC projects must comply with the requirements of the supplementar guidelines issued by the MA (cf. above website link).
Selection criteria for cooperation projects	The application for Leader TNC funding is a decision taken by the LAG.
Eligible activities of measure 421 Cooperation	Eligible activities for TNC project implementation are of non-investment character and include, e.g. feasibility studies and analyses.
Typical examples of eligible costs for TNC projects	Funding may be granted for services and material costs supporting or directly related project implementation, e.g. for above study and analytical work and to cover translation and travel expenses.
Specific documents concerning the cooperation partners required from LAGs	Apart from the cooperation agreement according to EU guideline, additional requirements relate to the obligation of the partnering LAGs to provide data and information concerning their joint participation in / financing of the TNC project. The latter includes also the requirement to ensure compliance with regulation (EC) Nr. 1975/2006 (control).
The approval process of TNC applications	<p>Project applications may be submitted to the competent administrative district authority at any time.</p> <p>LAGs apply separately for their share of the overall budget of the TNC project, taking into account the budget provision they have been envisaged for the programme period.</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