

PROGRAMMING PERIOD 2007-2013

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

SECTION A: **COUNTRY SPECIFIC DETAILS**

Name of the programme:

Rural Development Programme for Sweden 2007-2013

Number of Local Action Groups (LAGs):

63

Axes covered by LAGs:

Measures under axes 1 to 3

Axes and measures covered by TNC projects:

Measures under axes 1 to 3

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

EUR 5,732,645,841

Total budget for Axis 4: EUR 356,226,976

Of which:

a. EU Funding: EUR 105,548,733

b. Public funding: EUR 158,323,101

c. Private funding: EUR 92,355,142

SECTION B: PROGRAMMING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION PROJECTS

1. FINANCIAL ASPECTS

Budget for TNC projects (Total public funding: EU + public)	The total amount budgeted for Cooperation (including inter-territorial cooperation projects) is EUR 11,111,110, which equals approximately 4.2% of the total axis 4 public funding. This percentage also represents the pro-rata of TNC funding applied to each LAG-specific budget. A possible increase up to 6.2% is currently under discussion.
Responsibility for the management of the Budget (MAs or LAGs)	The LAG is responsible for the management of the TNC budget.
Special budget for the preparatory technical support of TNC projects	25% of the LAG's TNC budget can be used during 'phase 1', i.e. the preparatory part of the project. Furthermore the NRN has reserved up to a maximum of EUR 5,000 to each LAG as a global grant, to support the preparatory phase (finding new partners, making contact and holding a first meeting). The global grant can be accessed once to support the preparation of a first TNC project. It cannot be used for several attempts, even if the total sum would not exceed EUR 5,000.

2. PROGRAMMING ASPECTS

Local Development Strategies and TNC	The inclusion of Cooperation in the local development strategy (LDS) entitled LAGs to claim the TNC-part of the budget. All Swedish LAGs have included TNC in their LDS as an option, in case they would manage to identify a partner to work with on a theme of relevance to their LDS.
Way of selecting cooperation projects	The same process as to any other Leader project applies. The LAG maintains decision power over the selection of TNC projects. The regional authority (i.e. the county administration) formally approves the decision.
Main topics of TNC proposed for the 2007-2013 programming period	The topics addressed by LAGs so far via measure 421 / TNC projects (source: Swedish NRN's project database) include: Preparation and feasibility studies; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism; • Entrepreneurship; • Youth; • Culture • Food.
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.
Maximum/minimum number of TNC projects per LAG	No restriction 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	The approval of TNC projects follows the same procedure applied for other Leader axis projects. Further information is available for consultation on the web sites of each of the Swedish LAGs.
Eligibility criteria for cooperation projects	The LAG has to be the owner of every TNC project. The management of the project can be outsourced but the ownership has always to stay within the LAG.
Selection criteria for cooperation projects	Apart from the general objectives of the RDP axis concerned, the selection criteria are determined by the LAG, in accordance with their individual LDS.
Eligible activities of measure 421 Cooperation	Common actions supported within the framework of the measure typically include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for the preparation phase to establish contact and plan a TNC project with potential partners; • Capacity building for LAGs in TNC, i.e. training courses.
Typical examples of eligible costs for TNC projects	Examples of costs typically considered <u>not</u> eligible include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct support to the benefit of private owned enterprises; • Costs not according to public procurement (purchasing).
Specific documents concerning the cooperation partners required from LAGs	The TNC application must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a project plan describing the joint activities involving the partnering LAGs; • a joint budget for the whole TNC project and a budget distribution (share of costs) for each participating LAG; • a list of participating LAGs and their contact details; the coordinating LAG is required to provide complete identification and contact details of all other project partners (for the purpose of registration in the EC cooperation database via the EC's SFC system).
The approval process of TNC applications	The LAG communicates its project selection to the regional MA (i.e. the county administration), which issues formal approval. This is continuously managed process, without involvement of specific deadlines.

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