

PROGRAMMING PERIOD 2007-2013

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

SECTION A: **COUNTRY SPECIFIC DETAILS**

1. 1. Name of the programme:

Rural Development Programme 2007-2013

2. 2. Number of LAGs:

16

3. 3. Axes covered by LAGs:

Axis 1 – Measures 111, 112, 114, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 132, 133

Axis 2 – Measures 211, 214, 216, 221, 223

Axis 3 – Measures 311, 312, 313, 321, 323, 331

4. 4. Axes covered by TNC projects:

Axis 1 – Measures 111, 112, 114, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 132, 133

Axis 2 – Measures 211, 214, 216, 221, 223

Axis 3 – Measures 311, 312, 313, 321, 323, 331

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

EUR 1,614,623,400

Total budget for Leader axis:

EUR 84,184,000

Of which:

a. EU Funding: EUR 20,455,700

b. Public funding: EUR 26.034.527

c. Private funding: EUR 37,694,197

SECTION B: PROGRAMMING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION PROJECTS

1. FINANCIAL ASPECTS

Budget for TNC projects (Total public funding: EU + public)	The budget allocated to measure 421 - "interterritorial and transnational cooperation" is EUR 1,470,682, which is 0.15% of the total RDP public funding budget. The funds have not been pre-allocated to TNC projects.
Responsibility for the management of the Budget (MAs or LAGs)	LAGs are responsible for managing the TNC budget.
Special budget for the preparatory technical support of TNC projects	A special budget for the preparation of TNC projects has been foreseen (10% of the public funds foreseen for measure 421).

2. PROGRAMMING ASPECTS

Local Development Strategies and TNC	LAGs are expected to present their cooperation project ideas in the local development strategy (LDS). Proposals should clarify how the cooperation projects fit with the LDS.
Way of selecting cooperation projects	The regional MA will publish a call for the submission of cooperation project proposals within one year from the selection of the LDS.
Main topics of TNC proposed for the 2007-2013 programming period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural development; • Quality of life; • Exchange of experiences and know-how.
Cooperation with third countries	No specific restrictions have been indicated with regards to cooperation with third countries.
Maximum/minimum number of TNC projects per LAG	Not specified.

3. COMMON PROVISIONS FOR TNC PROJECT APPROVAL

Information about procedures of approval and implementation of TNC projects	The approach to launch a call for proposals within one year following LDS selection aims to give the LAGs time to establish cooperation partnerships. It is assumed that the definition of concrete joint projects requires time to ensure a true commitment of the territories to the initiatives. When doing so, LAGs must adopt selection procedures compliant with implementation provisions and measure fiches approved by the regional MA for axes 1, 2 and 3.
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Eligible activities of measure 421 Cooperation	Cooperation project actions implementing measures under axes 1, 2 and 3 of the RDP are considered eligible.
Eligibility criteria for cooperation projects	<p>The involvement of at least two different countries, including at least one EU Member State, is mandatory. Besides, project partners can be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public-private partnerships according to art. 59, letter e) of the Reg. (EC) 1698/05 and other rural groups organized according the Leader approach • Other partners (cultural associations, Universities, Provinces) which can participate giving their contribute in financial and operative terms.
Typical examples of eligible costs for TNC projects	<p>The typologies of intervention which are foreseen by the measure are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical assistance supporting preliminary activities to define partnerships and content of TNC projects; • Animation and management; • Joint action e local action in relation to the central theme developed in the LDS. <p>Eligible expenditure for a transnational cooperation project cannot be lower than 40,000 Euro and cannot exceed 300,000 Euro of public funds.</p> <p>Reference is made to the National Guide of eligible costs, approved by the Ministry of Agriculture of Italy (for more details see: www.reterurale.it/speseammissibili).</p>
Specific documents concerning the cooperation partners required from LAGs	In addition to the requirements established by the Guide for the implementation of the measure Cooperation under the Leader axis of rural development programmes 2007-2013, LAGs will have to complete a specific application form, providing detailed information and data.
The approval process of TNC applications	<p>The Lombardia region has issued its call for LDS submission in June 2008. The MA has completed its assessment procedure on 30 October 2009.</p> <p>On 14.06.2011, the MA published the call to submit cooperation project proposals. On 18 January 2012, it approved 2 transnational cooperation projects.</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