

PROGRAMMING PERIOD 2007-2013

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

SECTION A: **COUNTRY SPECIFIC DETAILS**

1. Name of the programme:

Rural Development Programme 2007-2013

2. Number of LAGs:

6

3. Axes covered by LAGs:

Axis 3 – Measures 311, 312, 313, 321, 322, 323, 331

4. Axes covered by TNC projects:

Axis 3 – Measures 311, 312, 313, 321, 322, 323, 331

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

EUR 769,264,238

Total budget for Leader axis:

EUR 39,821,224

Of which:

- a. EU Funding: EUR 12,139,200
- b. Public funding: EUR 15,449,891
- c. Private funding: EUR 12,232,133

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 2,270,000, which is 0.48% 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 total amount 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). The presentation must include the themes they intend to address in cooperation with others and describe the actions deemed appropriate in light of an analysis of context and previous experience (if any) in these areas.
Way of selecting cooperation projects	The presence of cooperation initiatives in the LDS is accounted for in the evaluation score during the LDS selection and approval process.
Main topics of TNC proposed for the 2007-2013 programming period	Among the topics addressed particular relevance is given to the commercialisation of local products.
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	Final cooperation project proposals will be collected following approval of the LDS. Their evaluation will be the task of a specific committee, which comprises of various professionals. The assessment of the proposals follows the same terms and arrangements as the procedure leading to the approval of the LDS.
Eligibility criteria for cooperation projects	The participation of territories from at least two EU Member States is mandatory.

<p>Selection criteria for cooperation projects</p>	<p>The MA selects from the cooperation project proposals submitted by the LAG, applying among others the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thematic relevance and consistency of the TNC project proposal with RDP and LDS; • Size of the project and the impact expected on participating territories; • Presence of a concrete, jointly implemented action. <p>The specific committee referred to above will determine and further detail the selection criteria to be applied to final project proposals. The committee will submit these criteria prior to their use for approval to the Monitoring Committee.</p>
<p>Eligible activities of measure 421 Cooperation</p>	<p>Cooperation project actions implementing measures under axis 3 of the RDP are considered eligible.</p>
<p>Typical examples of eligible costs for TNC projects</p>	<p>Eligibility of expenses for implementing actions is determined by criteria described in specific measure fiches. Reference is made to the National Guide of eligible costs, approved by the Ministry of Agriculture of Italy (for more detail see: www.reterurale.it/speseammissibili). Besides, the following expenditure items are eligible for financing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animation costs for partnership development and definition of the joint actions, up to a limit of 10% of the total budget; • Costs related to the implementation of the joint action, for the operation of the common structure and for technical support to implement the cooperation project.
<p>Specific documents concerning the cooperation partners required from LAGs</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>The approval process of TNC applications</p>	<p>The MA has completed the selection of six LAGs on December 30th, 2010.</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