

## 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

##### 2. Number of LAGs:

15

##### 3. Axes covered by LAGs:

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

##### 4. Axes covered by TNC projects:

Axis 1 – Measures 111, 112, 114, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 132, 133

Axis 2 – Measures 211, 212, 214, 216, 221, 222, 223, 224, 226, 227

Axis 3 – Measures 311, 312, 313, 321, 322, 323, 331, 341

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

EUR 2,915,846,301

##### Total budget for Leader axis:

EUR 164,675,319

Of which:

- |                     |     |            |
|---------------------|-----|------------|
| a. EU Funding:      | EUR | 73,471,685 |
| b. Public funding:  | EUR | 53,203,634 |
| c. Private funding: | EUR | 38,000,000 |

## 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 - "inter-territorial and transnational cooperation" is EUR 19,039,310, which is 0.89% of the total RDP public funding budget. The funds have neither been pre-allocated to TNC projects nor to the LAGs.
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 (2% of the total amount of each project and no more than 50.000).

2. PROGRAMMING ASPECTS	
Local Development Strategies and TNC	LAGs are invited to submit their cooperation ideas and to specify the areas of intervention as part of the Local Development Strategy (LDS).
Way of selecting cooperation projects	The selection of cooperation projects is the responsibility of the Managing Authority (MA) (Assessorato Regionale Agricoltura e Foreste – Dipartimento Interventi Infrastrutturali – Servizio LEADER). The MA will issue a specific call, inviting the LAGs to submit cooperation project proposals.
Main topics of TNC proposed for the 2007-2013 programming period	The main themes addressed by the selected LDS include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rural tourism;</li> <li>• Local products;</li> <li>• Quality of life.</li> </ul>
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	Each selected LAG cannot participate in more than 3 TNC projects and can submit only one TNC as lead partner <sup>1</sup> .

1. The lead partner in the project has the final responsibility for implementing the project and is the channel of communication with the national and/or regional authorities for giving the information required on the progress of applications for finance and actual achievements.

3.COMMON PROVISIONS FOR TNC PROJECT APPROVAL	
Information about procedures of approval and implementation of TNC projects	<p>The MA will first give a provisional approval to the submitted TNC projects, which will then be on a reserve list waiting for the approval of MAs of other Member States. These other approvals need to be received by the Sicilian MA within 45 days from the day when the project approval communication was sent out by the Sicilian Region. Otherwise after this deadline, the Sicilian MA could cancel the approval.</p> <p>Since transnational cooperation needs to involve partners from at least two Member States, in this case applications have to be approved by both Managing Authorities. In case partners are from more than 2 Member States, the project can already be started with the approval of minimum two MAs of different Member States.</p> <p>The participation of at least 5 Sicilian LAGs is mandatory.</p>
Eligibility criteria for cooperation projects	<p>The TNC cooperation projects will be selected on the basis of the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. grade of compliance of the project with the RDP objectives and added value of the proposed strategy;</li> <li>2. prosecution of the cooperation projects implemented in the former programming period;</li> <li>3. grade of feasibility of the project;</li> <li>4. grade of concreteness of the project;</li> <li>5. managing modalities of the project;</li> <li>6. extension of the partnership, expressed in number of participants, over than the Sicilian LAGs;</li> <li>7. grade of portability of the methodologies selected.</li> </ol>
Selection criteria for cooperation projects	<p>During LDS evaluation the assessment is limited to the description of themes the LAGs intend to address through cooperation initiatives.</p> <p>Following LAG selection and LDS approval, a specific call for TNC project proposals will be prepared, which will provide detailed information about the selection criteria. TNC project proposals will be subject to examination by the Monitoring Committee.</p>
Eligible activities of measure 421 Cooperation	<p>Cooperation projects must not be limited to a mere exchange of experience. TNC project partners must implement specific common actions constituting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Added value for local products,</li> <li>• Improvement of the quality of life through the distribution of new services to the population,</li> <li>• Improvement of the competitiveness of enterprises,</li> <li>• Valorisation of natural and cultural resources,</li> <li>• Use of new know how and new technologies.</li> </ul> <p>The constitution of cooperation networks promoting synergy and collaboration among different LAGs will be considered advantageous (realisation of common projects integrating the local resources of partnering territories).</p>
Typical examples of eligible costs for TNC projects	<p>The following are the only items eligible for financing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Animation and technical assistance supporting the definition of partnerships, cooperation agreement and project plan.</li> <li>• Implementation of the joint action, operation of the common structure and technical support for the implementation of joint actions foreseen by the cooperation project.</li> <li>• Managing and coordination of the Sicilian lead partner LAG.</li> </ul>



Specific documents concerning the cooperation partners required from LAGs	In addition to the requirements established by the Guide for the implementation of the measure 421 on 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	The call for proposals has been published on 18 November 2011. The deadline to submit project proposals is 27 February 2012.

### 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