

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:

14

3. Axes covered by LAGs:

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

Axis 2 – Measures 216, 221, 227

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

4. Axes covered by TNC projects:

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

Axis 2 – Measures 216, 221, 227

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

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

EUR 1,726,604,473

Total budget for Leader axis:

EUR 189,188,144

Of which:

a. EU Funding: EUR 44,270,270

b. Public funding: EUR 56,343,980

c. Private funding: EUR 88,573,894

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 9,000,000, which is 0.88% 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 is not foreseen.

2. PROGRAMMING ASPECTS

Local Development Strategies and TNC	LAGs may include cooperation in a specific section of their Local Development Strategy (LDS), entitled "General Plan of Cooperation Actions", in which they are expected to summarise their project ideas. The inclusion of cooperation in the LDS is not mandatory; yet, it constitutes one of the selection criteria when applicant LAGs and their LDS are assessed. Evaluators pay particular attention to the quantity of projects foreseen, the degree of their definition and the level of completion of the entitled "General Plan of Cooperation Actions."
Way of selecting cooperation projects	The MA assesses the General Plan of Cooperation Actions along with the proposed LDS. Approval of the LDS constitutes eligibility of the cooperation actions, which must be transformed into detailed project proposals. Additional TNC projects may be selected through specific calls organised by the regional MA.
Main topics of TNC proposed for the 2007-2013 programming period	The main themes addressed by selected LDS include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy; • Rural tourism; • Local products; • Quality of life.
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	<p>Once the LDS has been approved, LAGs submit detailed cooperation project proposals to the MA, which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assesses the project proposal for compliance with the LDS, RDP, NSP and EC, as well as with national and regional regulations; • Invites the LAG to review and adapt the project proposal; • Approves the project and notifies the LAG.
Eligibility criteria for cooperation projects	<p>Rural areas belonging to one or more Member States and/or territories of third Countries shall participate.</p>
Selection criteria for cooperation projects	<p>In order to assess the proposal's consistency with the LDS, RDP, NSP and EC, as well as with national and regional regulations, the MA will consider the following aspects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completeness and conformity of documentation; • Eligibility of subjects and territories involved; • Eligibility of planned operations that must, as far as the Veneto region is concerned, correspond to the actions/measures which may be implemented under axis 4; • Solidity of planned operations; • Respect of expense limits (see below under eligible costs); • Consistency and conformity with the project ideas foreseen by the General Plan of Cooperation of the LDS; • Consistency of objectives of the cooperation project with LDS objectives, considering its thematic focus and strategic priorities; • Conformity of the cooperation agreement with the general scheme (Technical Annex A) linked to the application form for the selection of LDSs (identification of a lead partner and task division among cooperating partners). <p>Additional cooperation project proposals, submitted following calls issued by the regional MA, will be assessed on the basis of the following criteria: overall quality, nature of the partnership, financial involvement of partners, management modalities and feasibility of the cooperation projects.</p>
Eligible activities of measure 421 Cooperation	<p>Cooperation projects must be based on solid actions, i.e. deemed appropriate to produce visible benefits for the territories concerned. Projects aiming at mere sharing of experience are not admissible. Projects must aim for the development of common actions, jointly implemented by all partners.</p>
Typical examples of eligible costs for TNC projects	<p>Eligible expenses include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animation to define the partnership and to plan the common action; • Interventions linked to the proper implementation of the common project, in accordance with competences and commitments defined in the cooperation agreement. These include: management, coordination, technical support, promotion, operational control, operation of a possible common structure; • Development of the common action: all actions foreseen by the project must comply with those foreseen under axis 4 and must respect the same conditions. <p>Eligible projects may claim public funding support for expenditure within a range of EUR 50,000 to EUR 250,000.</p>



Specific documents concerning the cooperation partners required from LAGs	Cooperation project proposals are submitted using specific application forms, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• a cooperation agreement;• a draft project outline, related maps and technical annexes;• a declaration of the absence of overlapping with other cooperation projects funded by other programmes.
The approval process of TNC applications	The approval process is still under consideration.

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