

Italy – Valle d'Aosta Autonomous Region

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:

3

3. Axes covered by LAGs:

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

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 133,088,667

Total budget for Leader axis:

EUR 11,117,500

Of which:

- | | | |
|---------------------|-----|-----------|
| a. EU Funding: | EUR | 3,905,000 |
| b. Public funding: | EUR | 4,970,000 |
| c. Private funding: | EUR | 2,242,500 |

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 909,091, which is 0.75% of the total RDP public funding budget. An indicative TNC grant of EUR 303,000 is reserved for each LAG.
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 intending to pursue cooperation must specify their project ideas in the LDS. LAGs open to cooperation initiatives will undergo favourable assessment. Particular importance will be given to activities undertaken within the framework of cooperation projects implemented during previous programme periods.
Way of selecting cooperation projects	In the context of the LDS evaluation, cooperation is assessed with regards to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality of the cooperation strategy. The evaluation focuses on the analysis of consistency with the LDS. • Analysis of the degree of complementarity and consistency with the cooperation strategy with the cooperation initiatives undertaken under Leader+ during the 2000-2006 period.
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"> • 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>Detailed TNC project proposals must be submitted within nine months following LDS approval. In accordance with the provisions of the RDP, LAGs may access cooperation funds following positive evaluation of TNC applications by the MA.</p> <p>The MA may publish further calls for submission of TNC project proposals, depending on the availability of resources remaining upon completion of the first round of cooperation projects.</p>
Eligibility criteria for cooperation projects	<p>Rural areas belonging to one or more Member States and/or territories of third Countries shall participate.</p> <p>All cooperation projects must ensure and foresee concrete actions, possibly integrated with each other (new products, services or organisational models, etc.). Non-material activities may be added (training and exchange of experience etc.).</p>
Selection criteria for cooperation projects	<p>The main selection criteria include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The level of consistency of the TNC project with the priorities of RDP and LDS. • Continuation of cooperation projects already implemented during previous programme periods. • The level of project "practical feasibility". • Projects of local interest addressing environmental issues.
Eligible activities of measure 421 Cooperation	<p>Cooperation projects must relate to axis 3 of the RDP.</p>
Typical examples of eligible costs for TNC projects	<p>Eligible expenses include costs for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animation to define the partnership and to implement cooperation projects; • Operating a common structure that acts as technical support for the implementation of the cooperation project; • Implementation of inter-territorial cooperation projects in partnership with rural areas located within national territory; • Implementation of transnational cooperation projects in partnership with rural areas belonging to one or more Member States and/or territories of third countries.
Specific documents concerning the cooperation partners required from LAGs	<p>The procedure is still under consideration. However, 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>
The approval process of TNC applications	<p>The approval process is still under consideration.</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