

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 of Toscana Region

2. Number of LAGs:

7

3. Axes covered by LAGs:

Axis 1 – Measures 124, 133

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

4. Axes covered by TNC projects:

Axis 1 – Measures 124, 133

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

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

EUR 1,346,394,623

Total budget for Leader axis:

EUR 106,439,077

Of which:

- | | | |
|---------------------|-----|------------|
| a. EU Funding: | EUR | 39,186,742 |
| b. Public funding: | EUR | 46,727,734 |
| c. Private funding: | EUR | 20,524,601 |

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 7,366,186, which is 0.85% 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 is not foreseen.

2. PROGRAMMING ASPECTS

Local Development Strategies and TNC	The inclusion of cooperation initiatives into the Local Development Strategy (LDS) is optional. However, programming cooperation is considered advantageous in the course of the evaluation of the LDS.
Way of selecting cooperation projects	Following the publication of a public notice, the MA selects on an annual basis from the cooperation project proposals submitted by interested LAGs.
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"> • Energy; • Local products; • Exchange of experiences and know-how; • 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 indicated.

3. COMMON PROVISIONS FOR TNC PROJECT APPROVAL

Information about procedures of approval and implementation of TNC projects	The approval process is still under consideration.
Eligibility criteria for cooperation projects	The participation of partners originating from at least two countries, including at least one from an EU Member State, is mandatory.

<p>Selection criteria for cooperation projects</p>	<p>The following selection criteria are applied to TNC project proposals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The degree of consistency with the strategic priorities of the RDP and the LDS; • The critical mass of the project (needed to guarantee its viability); • The requirement to undertake a concrete, joint activity (the cooperation should not result in a mere exchange of knowledge and experience, it must aim at the implementation of a common operation); • The level of feasibility of the project ; • The number of regional and non-regional partner LAGs participating in the project.
<p>Eligible activities of measure 421 Cooperation</p>	<p>The participation of territories belonging to different Member States or third countries is mandatory.</p>
<p>Typical examples of eligible costs for TNC projects</p>	<p>Eligibility of expenses for implementing cooperation actions is determined by criteria described in the relevant specific measure fiches.</p>
<p>Specific documents concerning the cooperation partners required from LAGs</p>	<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>
<p>The approval process of TNC applications</p>	<p>The call for proposal has not been published yet.</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