

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 for the Netherlands

2. Number of Local Action Groups (LAGs):

30

3. Axes covered by LAGs:

Axis 3 & 4

4. Axes and measures covered by TNC projects:

Measures under axis 3 & 4

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

EUR 970,400,000

6. Total budget for Axis 4:

EUR 145,200,000

Of which:

a. EU Funding: EUR 48,400,000

b. Public funding: EUR 48,400,000

c. Private funding: EUR 48,400,000

SECTION B: PROGRAMMING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION PROJECTS

1. FINANCIAL ASPECTS

Budget for TNC projects (Total public funding: EU + public)	The total budget allocated to transnational cooperation (TNC) amounts to EUR 19,600,000. Fund allocations will be made according to future applications actually submitted by LAGs. Note this is information relates to project implementation. Project preparation is dealt with separately below.
Responsibility for the management of the Budget (MAs or LAGs)	The TNC budget is managed by the LAGs.
Special budget for the preparatory technical support of TNC projects	LAGs can apply for a special budget to finance the preparatory technical support of TNC projects. No maximum amount has been set. The same procedure as for LEADER project implementation proposals applies.

2. PROGRAMMING ASPECTS

Local Development Strategies and TNC	LAGs have provisionally included cooperation topics in their local development strategies (LDS). LAGs submit their applications for TNC projects to the provincial authority (MA).
Way of selecting cooperation projects	TNC projects are selected by the LAGs and formally approved by the MA.
Main topics of TNC proposed for the 2007-2013 programming period	LAGs have provisionally included the following cooperation topics in their LDS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local food, • Local heritage, • Tourism, • Renewable energy.
Cooperation with third countries	Cooperation with partners from third countries is allowed, provided they feature the characteristics of a LAG (application of principles similar to the Leader approach).
Maximum/minimum number of TNC projects per LAG	No maximum number of TNC projects per LAG has been set.

3. COMMON PROVISIONS FOR TNC PROJECT APPROVAL

Information about procedures of approval and implementation of TNC projects	A guide providing information about current TNC approval and implementation procedures is available in Dutch language. The guide can be obtained upon request from the Support Unit of the Dutch Rural Network: info@netwerkplatteland.nl
Eligibility criteria for cooperation projects	TNC project proposals that are in conformity with the LDS are considered eligible.
Selection criteria for cooperation projects	According to the NRN support unit, no specific selection criteria have been put in place.
Eligible activities of measure 421 Cooperation	<p>Previous TNC activities aimed at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • joint development of knowledge (training, education), • joint development of methods and tools, • joint capacity building, • the combination of joint publications or investments.
Typical examples of eligible costs for TNC projects	The same criteria as those for national LEADER projects apply. In principle, any expenses planned for in a cooperation project and actually implemented in the course of a cooperation project are eligible to be covered by the planned budget.
Specific documents concerning the cooperation partners required from LAGs	A Letter of Intent or a Cooperation Agreement, as provided by the EC Guidelines on the application of cooperation under Leader is required.
The approval process of TNC applications	Following the LAG's selection of cooperation projects, the LAG may submit at any time (there are no periodical calls) applications to its provincial authority (MA). The MA is in charge to formally approve the TNC project applications. As part of the approval process, the paying agency checks their conformity with EU-level provisions.

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