

Germany – Rhineland-Palatinate

PROGRAMMING PERIOD 2007-2013

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURE OF TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION (TNC) UNDER LEADER AXIS

SECTION A: **COUNTRY SPECIFIC DETAILS**

1. Name of the programme:

Entwicklungsprogramm „Agrarwirtschaft, Umweltmaßnahmen, Landentwicklung“ (PAUL)

2. Number of Local Action Groups (LAGs):

12

3. Axes covered by LAGs:

All measures of axes 1-3 (measures 111, 112, 123, 125, 126, 132, 212, 214, 216, 227, 311, 312, 313, 321, 322, 323, 331, 341), as well as complementary Leader measures 411-413 (actions not corresponding to axes 1-3 measures, but compliant with the objectives of the EAFRD regulation).

4. Axes and measures covered by TNC projects:

All measures of axes 1-3, as well as the above-mentioned complementary Leader measures.

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

EUR 886,164,000

Total budget for Leader axis:

EUR 60,324,242

Of which:

a. EU Funding: EUR 26.199.515

b. Public funding: EUR 21.435.968

c. Private funding: EUR 12.688.759

SECTION B: PROGRAMMING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION PROJECTS

1. FINANCIAL ASPECTS

Budget for TNC projects (Total public funding: EU + public)	Overall, an amount of EUR 4.856.755 has been allocated to inter-regional and transnational cooperation (TNC), which is 10.2% of the axis 4 budget. The MA has not determined a specific budget split between transnational and interregional cooperation. LAGs may spend a maximum amount of EUR 300,000 per cooperation project.
Responsibility for the management of the Budget (MAs or LAGs)	TNC funding is managed by the LAGs as part of their overall budget. In terms of administrative responsibility the respective budget is overseen by the MA.
Special budget for the preparatory technical support of TNC projects	No specific budget has been put in place for the preparation / initiation of TNC projects. Such expenses may be covered in the context of claims made under a measure 421 project that emerged from the preparatory activity.

2. PROGRAMMING ASPECTS

Local Development Strategies and TNC	LAGs have included Cooperation in their local development strategy (LDS). However, LAGs may further or newly determine cooperation ideas at any time.
Way of selecting cooperation projects	The LAG is in charge of project selection. Submission of cooperation project applications for administrative approval to the MA's directorate for supervision and services (ADD) is required.
Main topics of TNC proposed for the 2007-2013 programming period	Cooperation projects relate primarily to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural tourism; • Cultural wine landscapes; • Renewable energy.
Cooperation with third countries	There are no restrictions defined regarding cooperation with third countries. In accordance with the EARDF regulation, funding is available for the LAGs of Rhineland-Palatinate to undertake TNC projects with another Leader group, or with a group taking a similar approach, in another region, Member State, or even a third country. Approval by the partnering region is required and integral part of the approval process.
Maximum/minimum number of TNC projects per LAG	It is foreseen that each LAG implements at least one transnational cooperation project. A limit concerning the number of TNC projects has not been established.

3. COMMON PROVISIONS FOR TNC PROJECT APPROVAL	
Information about procedures of approval and implementation of TNC projects	<p>LAG managers have obtained information about approval and implementation of TNC projects in workshops. Main issues covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperation agreement to be presented to MA; • TNC project application to be submitted, • Payment claims to be prepared. <p>Further information is provided in the handbook on inter-regional and transnational cooperation entitled, '1+1 is greater than 2', published by the Network Unit of the German NRN:</p> <p>English language version http://www.netzwerk-laendlicher-raum.de/fileadmin/sites/ELER/Dateien/05_Service/Publikationen/Kooperation/Reader_englisch_internet.pdf</p> <p>German language version http://www.netzwerk-laendlicher-raum.de/fileadmin/sites/ELER/Dateien/05_Service/Publikationen/Kooperation/Kooperationshandbuch.pdf</p> <p>The MA has also issued specific guidelines concerning the preparation of payment claims for Cooperation projects.</p>
Eligibility criteria for cooperation projects	<p>Compliance with the objectives of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the EAFRD regulation; • the objectives of the RDP (PAUL); • the LDS. <p>In addition: Prior decision of project selection made by LAG; Prior determination of partner region and their national funding.</p>
Selection criteria for cooperation projects	<p>The LAG is in charge of project selection. The decision made by the LAG must be based on a verification of the TNC project's objectives, i.e. consistency with the LDS and the other objectives listed above (eligibility criteria) must be ensured.</p>
Eligible activities of measure 421 Cooperation	<p>In general Cooperation project activities are not subject to particular restrictions. They typically involve the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshops / exchange of experience; • Joint studies; • Marketing concepts.
Typical examples of eligible costs for TNC projects	<p>The following expenditure is considered eligible for funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing contacts; • Mutual information and the exchange of programme- and project-specific experiences between LAGs and the preparation and implementation of joint projects; • Setting up networks; • Participation in seminars and events, as well as the preparation of studies and concepts for the preparation of cooperation projects; • Travel expenses for visits to partner projects; • Expenses for interpreters and the translation of information material; • Expenses for cooperation projects in general (share of costs of the LAG from Rhineland-Palatinate).



Specific documents concerning the cooperation partners required from LAGs	The presentation of a Cooperation agreement is considered sufficient, no other documentation additional to the application is required.
The approval process of TNC applications	Cooperation project applications may be submitted for administrative approval to the MA's directorate for supervision and services (ADD) at any time (but no later than 31/12/2013). The MA issues approvals both for the cooperation agreement and the project application.

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