

Germany – Saxony-Anhalt

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 für den ländlichen Raum (EPLR) des Landes Sachsen-Anhalt, Förderzeitraum 2007 bis 2013

2. Number of Local Action Groups (LAGs):

23

3. Axes covered by LAGs:

Leader actions may address measures under axes 1 and 3 of the RDP

4. Axes and measures covered by TNC projects:

TNC may address measures under axes 1, 3 and 4

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

EUR 1,371,000,000

Total budget for Leader axis:

EUR 101,786,000

Of which:

a. EU Funding: EUR 77,674,000

b. Public funding: EUR 19,418,000

c. Private funding: EUR 4,694,000

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 360,000 has been allocated to Cooperation. The amount may be increased, through reallocation within the axis 4 budget. Project budgets are limited to a maximum amount of EUR 20,000 per TNC project.
Responsibility for the management of the Budget (MAs or LAGs)	Budget responsibility is shared by the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry for Agriculture and Environment (MA); • State Administration Office (Approval Authority); • District authorities.
Special budget for the preparatory technical support of TNC projects	Specific applications may be submitted for the preparation / initiation of TNC projects. A maximum amount of EUR 3,500 per project can be made available. Funding may be granted even if the activity does finally not result (for justifiable reasons) in a concrete joint action.

2. PROGRAMMING ASPECTS

Local Development Strategies and TNC	LAGs have included Cooperation in their local development strategy (LDS). However, Cooperation project applications may still be submitted to the State Administration Office, if Cooperation was not expressly provided for in the LDS.
Way of selecting cooperation projects	Projects are selected by the LAG.
Main topics of TNC proposed for the 2007-2013 programming period	The main themes proposed for TNC (currently at project-initiation stage) concern: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turnover plantations on devastated fields; • Initiation of education and nutrition projects; • Implementation of renewable energy projects; • Development of regional brands; • Cooperation in geothermal energy and mining tourism; • International expansion of the 'sky-way' tourist route ('Himmelswege'); • Nature conservation and environmental education; • Appreciation of common historical highlights; • Social projects. <p>A concrete joint action concerning nature conservation and the environmental education theme is under preparation.</p>
Cooperation with third countries	Special arrangements will be made if necessary (so far not needed).
Maximum/minimum number of TNC projects per LAG	A maximum of 3 TNC projects per LAG may be implemented. Additional projects may be considered following examination by the approval authority (i.e. the State Administration Office).

3. COMMON PROVISIONS FOR TNC PROJECT APPROVAL

Information about procedures of approval and implementation of TNC projects	TNC procedures were published (the current version dates 27/01/2010) by the approval authority in the form of an instruction leaflet and are available for download on a number of LAG websites (e.g. LAG Mittlere Altmark, LAG Mittlere Elbe-Flaeming).
Eligibility criteria for cooperation projects	<p>In accordance with section 4 of the instruction leaflet, the TNC project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • has been selected by the LAG for implementation; • supports the implementation of an approved LDS; • is based on a cooperation agreement, agreed to by the approval authority (in the case of elaboration and implementation of joint actions); • is based on a letter of intent, agreed to by the approval authority (in the case of actions initiating/preparing a TNC project); • is a cooperation with partner areas in the EU and/or third countries (another Leader group, or a group taking a similar approach).
Selection criteria for cooperation projects	<p>The LAG is in charge of the project selection. Pre-conditions additional to the LAG's specific selection criteria for TNC projects include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistency with the objectives of the RDP; • Reliability / capacity of project / project promoter; • No artificial creation of conditions to obtain funding; • Joint action has not started yet; • Evidence of cost effectiveness and utility of the project, including the appropriateness of the project's costs; • Secured financing; • The project and the (partial) activity are located in the LAG area.
Eligible activities of measure 421 Cooperation	<p>Project preparation / initiation activity to determine the focus of cooperation;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of a concrete joint cooperation project addressing e.g. the exchange of experience concerning the potential of regional marketing, the exploitation of renewable energy, the networking of tourism activities and social issues.

<p>Typical examples of eligible costs for TNC projects</p>	<p>In accordance with section 2.2 of the instruction leaflet, the following costs are considered eligible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expenditure related to the initiation / preparation of TNC projects: partner search costs (travel expenses, translation costs, participation in seminars) for up to two representatives of the project promoter; <p>Expenditure related to the elaboration, implementation and coordination of TNC actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elaboration of joint actions, such as preliminary studies and research to carry out a joint action, holding meetings, • Holding joint events, • Development of a joint internet presence, • Joint public relations work, • Support for joint actions (fee-based technical support, translation scost, interpretation fees, travel costs), • Coordination costs, if the cooperation agreement tasked the project promoter with the coordination of all partners. <p>The following costs are <u>not</u> eligible</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Value added tax; • Staff costs; • Office equipment, consumables, rent and other related additional costs; • Costs not directly related to the implementation of the TNC project (e.g. excursions, cultural events etc.); • Non-cash equity services; • Measures performed by third parties due to legal, contractual or other obligation.
<p>Specific documents concerning the cooperation partners required from LAGs</p>	<p>The application for project initiation activities must include a letter of intent for agreement by the approval authority, which states:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prospective cooperation partners, • Objective of the planned actions, • Estimated costs, • Framework conditions, • Previous activities. <p>The TNC project application must include a cooperation agreement for agreement by the approval authority, which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • States the objectives of the cooperation, • Identifies the partners and their contact details, • Determines the tasks of the lead partner, • Briefly describes the project, • Describes the roles and responsibilities of the project partners, • Details the financial framework (breakdown of costs by EAFRD as well as national public and private funds). <p>They cooperation agreement must be accompanied by a confirming decision of the LAG and a statement of the LAG Manager.</p>



<p>The approval process of TNC applications</p>	<p>Following project selection by the LAG, individual project applications may be submitted by LAG Managers at any time for approval to the approval authority (State Administration Office: Landesverwaltungsamt, Referat 409).</p> <p>Separate applications are to be submitted, depending whether actions of project initiation or of project elaboration and implementation are applied for.</p> <p>Applications may be submitted by LAG Managers to the State Administration Office at any time. Applications concerning the next calendar year shall be submitted by August 31st of the current year and shall obtain approval by October 31st of the current year. Exceptions may be granted by the approval authority.</p> <p>The TNC project approval decision is provisional. Final approval is issued, provided approval decisions issued by the relevant authorities of the other project partners are presented within a duration of max. 6 to 9 months.</p> <p>The project may not start prior to approval by all partner authorities involved. The LAG from Saxony-Anhalt is responsible to present copies of all other approvals to the State Administration Office.</p>
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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