

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 France Hexagone

2. Number of Local Action Groups (LAGs):

203

3. Axes covered by LAGs:

All measures under axis 1, axis 2 and axis 3. LAGs specify the axes and measures for their territory in their local development strategy (LDS).

4. Axes covered by Transnational Cooperation (TNC) projects:

Axis 1, axis 2 and axis 3.

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

EUR 16,335,308,664

Total budget for Leader axis:

EUR 767,063,636

Of which:

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| a. EU Funding: | EUR 307,991,000 |
| b. National funding: | EUR 251,992,636 |
| c. Private funding: | EUR 207,080,000 |

SECTION B: PROGRAMMING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION PROJECTS

1. FINANCIAL ASPECTS

Budget for TNC projects (Total public funding: EU + public) Responsibility for the management of the Budget (MAs or LAGs)	<p>The total budget allocated to measure 421 is EUR 34,261,818 (the total budget including private funding is EUR 40,199,818), which is 6.1% of the axis 4 public funding. This amount includes funding both for inter-territorial and transnational cooperation, no distinction has been made for funding between these two types of cooperation.</p> <p>The funds are pre-allocated to LAGs. The cooperation budget per LAG differs, depending on what has been planned for in the LDS. It may range between a minimum of EUR 4,000 and a maximum of EUR 260,000 of public funding.</p> <p>As part of their LDS implementation duties, LAGs are responsible for managing their financial envelope for all measures, including the measure 421.</p>
Special budget for the preparatory technical support of TNC projects	<p>Special financial support for the preparation of TNC projects is foreseen for every LAG starting a new cooperation project.</p> <p>Under the title 'From the idea to the project', EUR 6,000 are made available (55% EAFRD / 45% national funding) to pay expenses related to the first meeting with potential cooperation partners.</p>

2. PROGRAMMING ASPECTS

Local Development Strategies and TNC	<p>LAGs had to specify their TNC project ideas in general terms in the Local Development Strategy (LDS), in order to display their intention to cooperate.</p> <p>It is always possible for LAGs to apply for a TNC project, provided the project is clearly linked with the LAG's local strategy.</p>
Way of selecting cooperation projects	<p>At the local level, LAGs establish general guidelines concerning the implementation of cooperation projects. On this basis, territorial stakeholders may make proposals to their LAG at any time. The LAG's programme committee processes the applications and selects the projects.</p> <p>Once a project has been selected by the LAG, a regional administration's desk officer shall verify its eligibility.</p>
Main topics of TNC proposed for the 2007-2013 programming period	<p>LAGs are free to choose any cooperation topic consistent with their LDS. Among the main topics are: tourism, alternative energies, promotion of local resources, cultural and natural heritage, innovation...</p>
Cooperation with third countries	<p>LAGs may cooperate with third countries without restriction. Nevertheless, a coherent cooperation agreement shall be established (as far as possible, with partners operating under programmes such as TACIS, MEDA...)</p>
Maximum/minimum number of TNC projects per LAG	<p>No restriction has been established concerning the number of TNC projects a LAG may engage in.</p>

3.COMMON PROVISIONS FOR TNC PROJECT APPROVAL	
Information on procedures of approval and implementation of TNC projects	In most cases, a project promoter's TNC proposal following its submission is discussed twice by the LAG's local committee: once before and once after a partnership agreement has been signed. If the LAG selects the TNC project proposal, the project promoter has to prepare an administrative file, with the support of the LAG. This file is required by the MA and constitutes the grant contract between the parties involved.
Eligibility criteria for cooperation projects	Project selection by LAG and establishment of an administrative file in accordance with the requirements of the MA, verified by a regional administration's desk officer.
Selection criteria for cooperation projects	Cooperation projects must meet: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the objectives of the LDS of the LAG, • the principles of the RDP, • the principles of LEADER.
Eligible activities of measure 421 Cooperation	A restriction concerning eligible cooperation project activities is not possible within the framework of the RDP.
Specific eligible costs for TNC projects	A restriction concerning eligible cooperation project costs is not possible within the framework of the RDP. Eligible costs shall directly concern the common action.
Specific document concerning the cooperation partners required from LAGs	No other documents than the Cooperation partnership agreement, provided in the Guide for the implementation of the measure Cooperation under the Leader axis of rural development programmes 2007-2013 (RD12/10/2008 rev. 3), are required as part of the project application.
The approval process of TNC applications	Following project selection by the LAG (i.e. the proposal was considered appropriate in relation to above mentioned selection criteria) the Managing Authority is responsible to ensure project eligibility. This includes verification of correctly established administrative agreements (grant contract between different parties) and controls prior to payment execution by the Paying Agency.

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