

## 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 Autonomous Region of the Azores - PRORURAL

##### 2. Number of Local Action Groups (LAGs):

4

##### 3. Axes covered by LAGs:

Axes 3 and 4

##### 4. Axes and measures covered by TNC projects:

Measure 4.2 Cooperation

Action 4.2.2 - Transnational Cooperation (TNC) - increased promotion and enhancement of territories in the Azores in the international context, with regards to actions that relate to measures under axis 3 of the PRORURAL RDP:

3.1 diversifying the rural economy,  
3.2 improving the quality of life,  
3.3 training and information.

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

EUR 405,878,592

##### 6. Total budget for Leader axis:

EUR 35,182,125

Of which:

a. EU Funding: EUR 18,722,884

b. Public funding: EUR 3,304,038

c. Private funding: EUR 13,155,203

## SECTION B: PROGRAMMING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION PROJECTS

### 1. FINANCIAL ASPECTS

Budget for TNC projects  (Total public funding: EU + public)	<p>The total budget allocated for measure 421 is EUR 235,294, which is 0.06% of the total public spending of the PRORURAL RDP.</p> <p>The amount was pre-allocated to LAGs upon approval of their Local Development Strategies (LDS), dividing it among the 4 LAGs, i.e. each of them equally obtained EUR 58,823.50.</p> <p>The budget a LAG may spend per TNC project is limited to the amount of EUR 50,000.</p>
Responsibility for the management of the Budget (MAs or LAGs)	Each LAG manages its own budget, within the limits of the total amount obtained.
Special budget for the preparatory technical support of TNC projects	A maximum of EUR 8,823.50 may be spent by each LAG in relation to technical support, to prepare for TNC. This amount is not for a project, but for the preparation of a plan. To access this amount the LAG needs to submit a funding application.

### 2. PROGRAMMING ASPECTS

Local Development Strategies and TNC	LAGs have included Cooperation in their LDS. As a matter of fact it was mandatory to include a TNC component in the LDS to access respective funding.
Way of selecting cooperation projects	TNC projects are selected by the MA.
Main topics of TNC proposed for the 2007-2013 programming period	<p>Among the main proposed themes are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cultural tourism;</li> <li>• Environment and natural resources;</li> <li>• Routes associated with the cultural promotion of local products.</li> </ul>
Cooperation with third countries	Cooperation may take place with groups taking a similar approach, from any country.
Maximum/minimum number of TNC projects per LAG	Each LAG shall engage in at least one TNC project. A maximum number of TNC projects a LAG may engage in has not been established.

3. COMMON PROVISIONS FOR TNC PROJECT APPROVAL	
Information about procedures of approval and implementation of TNC projects	The procedures are defined in regional decree no. 28/2010 of 12 March 2010. The PRORURAL website <a href="http://prorural.azores.gov.pt/">http://prorural.azores.gov.pt/</a> provides all information about these procedures.
Eligibility criteria for cooperation projects	<p>A cooperation project proposal must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economic and financial consistency;</li> <li>• Detailed information about the cooperation project partners, the territories involved, the respective activities and objectives, and the specific relation to the LDS;</li> <li>• The methods and the material and human resources allocated to the project;</li> <li>• The annual financial plan;</li> <li>• The approach and the implementation schedule;</li> <li>• The history of cooperation under LEADER II, LEADER + and other programs;</li> <li>• A cooperation agreement.</li> </ul> <p>These criteria are public and published in regional decree and advertised on the website <a href="http://prorural.azores.gov.pt/">http://prorural.azores.gov.pt/</a></p>
Selection criteria for cooperation projects	<p>The decision of selection is made among funding applications that meet all eligibility requirements, ranked in descending order of scores calculated by applying the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic Objectives: the relevance of the Cooperation project in relation to the strategic objectives that have been defined in the LDS;</li> <li>• Valuation of the intervention territory: contribution of the Cooperation project to the extension of the impact of the LDS and the visibility of the territorial intervention.</li> </ul> <p>The ranking of funding applications results from the calculation of their overall added value of transaction (VGO), in application of the following formula:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <math>VGO = 55\% \text{ Strategic Objectives} + 45\% \text{ Valuation of the intervention territory}</math>.</li> <li>• Funding applications not obtaining a minimum of 10 points obtain a negative decision. These criteria are public and published in the regional decree no. 28/2010 of 12 March 2010 and advertised on the site <a href="http://prorural.azores.gov.pt/">http://prorural.azores.gov.pt/</a></li> </ul>
Eligible activities of measure 421 Cooperation	<p>The joint action may cover a whole range of activities eligible under axis 3. Joint actions can focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tourism;</li> <li>• Environment;</li> <li>• Promotion of local products;</li> <li>• Training and information.</li> </ul>
Typical examples of eligible costs for TNC projects	<p>In accordance with decree No. 28/2010 of 12 March 2010 those expenses for the joint action and the operation of joint structures are considered eligible, which are directly and exclusively attributable to implementation of cooperation projects, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Works for rehabilitation and upgrading of buildings;</li> <li>• Purchase of new machinery and equipment;</li> <li>• Overhead costs;</li> <li>• Purchase of standard and specific software;</li> <li>• Promotion and dissemination of products and services;</li> <li>• Animation costs.</li> </ul>
Specific documents concerning the cooperation partners required from LAGs	The application must include a cooperation agreement, which explicitly determines the obligations, duties and responsibilities of all partners involved. The document establishes the cooperation partnership, through which the project promoters mutually agree the responsibilities of management, coordination, monitoring and evaluation of the cooperation project.



<p>The approval process of TNC applications</p>	<p>TNC projects are approved by the Managing Authority of the PRORURAL RDP.</p> <p>Recurrent calls are opened by notice every six months, indicating the deadline for submission of applications relating to the cooperation plan.</p> <p>Once the decision has been endorsed and notified, the LAG has 180 days to present the TNC projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the candidate has 60 days, from the date of the notice to submit an application;</li><li>• once the application is submitted, the PRORURAL managing authority has 180 days to approve it.</li></ul>
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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