

Latvia - Rural Development Programme 2014-2020

19.3. Inter-territorial and cross border cooperation

Sub-measure:

- 19.3 - Preparation and implementation of cooperation activities of the local action

Description of the type of operation

One of the conditions of sustainable and success-oriented local development shall be the detection of positive changes encouraging the society for innovations and new solutions of problems. Such a detection of positive changes shall be possible by transferring operational experience to others, by obtaining similar experience in solutions of problems elsewhere, as well as by combining various experiences for search of common solutions. Previous experience shows that the information and knowledge obtained as a result of experience exchange shall provide the highest effect for search and implementation of new approaches.

Support to the cooperation projects at national (inter-territorial) and international (cross border) level shall promote good quality experience transfer and acquirement of the Local action groups for the solution of matters topical for the local residents, as well as implementation of new and innovative cooperation ideas in the rural territories thus promoting development of entrepreneurship and employment opportunities in the rural territories and achieving the objectives set by the Local development strategy and creation of added value for the territories involved in cooperation.

In order to increase the importance of cooperation projects in the development of rural territories, the supported projects must promote achievement of the objectives of LEADER measure.

Following activities shall be supported within the sub-measure:

- technical preparation support for the inter-territorial and cross border cooperation projects;
- Inter-territorial cooperation among Local action groups at national level;
- Cross border cooperation among Local action groups and similar organizations in the member states of the European Union and in the territories with organizations implementing activities similar to LEADER approach.

Type of support

Investment support for the completed activities.

Links to other legislation

Not applicable

Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries shall be:

- Local action groups;
- Associations and foundations

Eligible costs

Eligible costs shall be as follows:

- for the purpose of technical preparation support costs related to, for example, meeting of the potential partners, conducting of surveys, translation services, legal services during preparation of cooperation contract should be supported;
- for the purpose of implementation of the cooperation project, for example, costs of common activities (including purchase of fixed assets), costs related to public relations, administrative costs directly related to coordination and supervision of the cooperation project and costs for translation and legal services should be supported.

Costs are eligible, if they are not financed under the measure 19.4 “Support for running costs and animation”.

Within two years after approval of the RDP the Rural Support Service shall post the selection procedure for the inter-territorial cooperation projects and list of eligible costs on its website

Eligibility conditions

Support for the technical preparation shall be granted provided the LAG shall be able to prove their plans of implementation of particular cooperation project.

LAG implementing CLLD within the RDP shall be eligible for support.

Inter-territorial cooperation projects shall be based on the agreement of mutual cooperation among partners including determination of the coordinating LAG.

Cross border cooperation projects shall include at least one partner beyond the territory of Latvia.

Eligibility criteria within the inter-territorial and cross border cooperation projects shall be as follows:

- at least two partners shall be required;
- common actions shall be determined in the project application;
- obligations of each partner of the project shall be determined.

LAG shall not be eligible for support from other financial resources of the European Union and state budget in relation to the same activities of cooperation projects.

Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Choice of project selection criteria shall be tightly connected with achievement of the objectives of sub-measure. Selection criteria shall be defined by the national regulatory enactments. Projects including maximum wide range of beneficiaries and causing sustainable consequences and innovative projects should be correspondingly preferred.

(Applicable) amounts and support rates

Support intensity **shall be 100%**.

Sum of the eligible costs per each project to be supported shall not exceed 100 000 within the sub-measure.

Description of the obligatory Community Led Local Development (hereafter "CLLD") elements of which the LEADER measure is composed: i.e. preparatory support; implementation of operations under the CLLD strategy; preparation and implementation of co-operation activities of the Local Action Group (LAG); running costs; and animation referred to in Article 35(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013

Preparation and implementation elements for the activities of LAG cooperation sub-measure:

- technical preparation support for the inter-territorial and cross border cooperation projects;
- inter-territorial cooperation among LAG at national level;
- cross border cooperation among LAG and similar organizations in the member states of the European Union and the territories with organizations implementing activities similar to the LEADER approach.

As regards LEADER cooperation referred to in Article 44 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013: Description of the system for ongoing application for co-operation projects in cases where co-operation projects are not selected by the LAGs

Reception, selection and assessment of the cooperation projects shall be organized by the Rural Support Service according to the procedure defined by the regulatory enactments providing uninterrupted reception of project applications and observing the following conditions:

- phase of reception of projects with duration exceeding 30 calendar days at least three times a year;
- after reception of cooperation project applications their assessment shall be commenced according to the national regulatory enactments; decision regarding support to the cooperation project shall be adopted not later than within 4 months as of the moment of reception of the cooperation project;
- posting of information on the balance of the public funding granted for the announced phase on its website restoring the information at least once a week;
- as of the day, when the public funding applied for implementation of the submitted cooperation projects shall reach 80 per cent of the public funding available within the particular phase, the Rural Support Service shall keep accepting applications of cooperation projects for at least another 30 calendar days summarizing and arranging them according to the cooperation project selection criteria in

accordance with the national regulatory enactments.

The managing authority shall notify the European Commission on approved cross border cooperation projects.