

Brief 'title' of simplification example (if relevant)	Simplification of LAG procedures
Relevant theme <i>(Please select the relevant option from the drop-down menu in the adjacent cell.)</i>	simplification of LAG operation
LAG name (if relevant)	Tartu Rural Development Association
Country / region	Estonia
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Summary of the issue/initiative/example related to LEADER simplification <i>(Please describe the key issue which was 'solved' by the simplification solution and the actual simplification 'method'/approach, also including who were involved and in how the solution was developed.)</i>	<p>In Estonia it is very simple to start Transnational Cooperation projects because these are only required to get confirmation in advance from the LAG's own General Assembly. Immediately following decision making by the General Assembly the LAG can submit the TNC project application (in the Estonian case, to the Paying Agency) and from the day following submission the expenses related to the TNC project are eligible. The LAGs are responsible for checking the eligibility of TNC projects.</p> <p>This is a very easy and flexible way to handle the TNC projects start up process. LAGs can make decisions about how many and what kind of TNC projects they implement. In Estonia cooperation is also very well promoted by the Managing Authority.</p> <p>LAGs in Estonia are NGOs (non-governmental organisations) and the main structure of the NGO is defined by the Law. The highest decision making body of each LAG is the General Assembly meeting where all LAG members can participate in decision making process.</p> <p>General Assembly functions are: to confirm the Local Development Strategy; to confirm the annual budget and action plan; auditing report and also the approval of LEADER projects where the LAG is a beneficiary.</p>
Possible relevance to other LAGs / EU MSs - transferable experiences or elements	This approach is completely transferable to other Member States if it is decided to give more flexibility to LAGs in this respect. The precondition for this solution is that TNC is well promoted in the corresponding Member States and seen as a great advantage at LAG level. Otherwise this solution can lead to rejection of TNC projects and priority being given only to local projects.