The Global Triangular Cooperation Ecosystem and the Role of MÁS QUE TRES

Last updated:
September 2024

The design of MÁS QUE TRES, during its initial concept phase, was informed by an analysis of spaces aimed at fostering dialogue, concept development, capacity building, and knowledge sharing in global Triangular Cooperation (TC). This analysis focused on bilateral, regional, and international initiatives in which Ibero-American countries have participated.

While the global ecosystem of actors and initiatives is broader, this snapshot emphasizes those with strong ties to the region. These include Germany, Japan, the European Union, the Global Partnership Initiative (GPI) on Effective Triangular Cooperation, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB), and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC). Each was examined regarding project support, training opportunities, dialogue platforms, knowledge generation, TC management tools, and organizational strengthening.

The development of MÁS QUE TRES coincided with Brazil's G20 presidency and the VII Regional Conference on Trilateral Cooperation with Latin America and the Caribbean (May 2024, Salvador de Bahía, Brazil). It also overlapped with preparations for the 8th International Meeting on Triangular Cooperation (October 2024, Lisbon, Portugal).

This analysis uncovered numerous opportunities for experience exchange, as well as key differences between initiatives, potential connections, risks of duplication, and gaps in the TC ecosystem. Based on these insights, MÁS QUE TRES aims to offer a unique contribution as a space for technical collaboration, built by a diverse group of countries that play different roles in TC. In line with the principles of TC, its value lies in connecting actors, initiatives, resources, and knowledge. With an agile, horizontal, and flexible approach, MÁS QUE TRES is well-positioned to facilitate the co-creation of innovative solutions, fostering experience-sharing, mutual learning, and bridging the technical and strategic levels.

Ongoing Reflection

This mapping can be expanded and updated as new initiatives emerge and evolve, contributing to the global development and strengthening of TC as a tool for sustainable development.

Share your initiatives!

Overview of TC Partner Contributions in the Ibero-American Space

Dimensions of TC Support	Germany	Japan	EU	SEGIB	OECD	UNOSSC	GPI
Mechanisms for Supporting Initiatives/ Ongoing Projects	Regional Fund for TC with Latin American and Caribbean partners through GIZ, with biannual calls for project support	- Strategic partnership programs. - Training programs for third countries initiated by the lead/donor country.	- "Adelante" initiatives with annual multi-actor, multi-level calls. - Joint funds with Ibero-American countries including Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, and Uruguay. Partnerships with Spain and Germany for fund operations.	- Joint call with Portugal for TC projects and initiatives between Ibero-America and Portuguese-speaking African countries. - Two mechanisms under development: for decentralized TC and with indigenous populations.	--	- Management of funds for South-South and TC initiatives (e.g., Perez-Guerrero Fund, the facility established between India, Brazil, and South Africa, and the India-UN Partnership Fund. A specific UNOSSC window for TC is coming soon).	--
Dialogue and Exchange Platforms	- Biannual regional conference (alternating with TC Conference in Asia). - Regular political and technical dialogues (e.g., BMZ dialogue during Latin America and Caribbean Week, results from ex-post evaluations) or in partnership (e.g., Connecting Knowledge with AUCI; side event at Lisbon Conference).	- Collaboration with multilateral organizations to hold the Global South-South Expo. - Regional conferences to identify priorities.	- "Adelante" moments (three so far) and participation in global discussions and debates. - Technical-political dialogues (e.g., events held during "EU-LAC Days").	- Discussions on the methodology and results of the CSSyT Report in Ibero-America. - Technical discussions on registration, measurement, and the added value of TC.	- Various spaces for dialogue and reflection on TC with member and non-member DAC countries (reflection workshops, committee sessions, etc.). - Annual international TC meeting co-organized with Portugal.	- Two levels of meetings: i) political discussions between countries (SSC *Directors General Forum for Sustainable Development)*, ii) exchange and presentation of experiences (e.g., Global South-South Expo).	- On an ad hoc basis, depending on planned projects and collaborations, as well as selected priority forums. - Marketplace or side event held alongside the international TC meeting organized by the OECD and the Portuguese government.
Capacity Building for TC	- Regular TC training for project proponents and implementers from the Regional Fund, offered through both in-person sessions and virtual training modules	- Ad hoc in partnership with other actors, e.g., collaboration with UNOSSC and Brazil for peer exchange and TC training.	--	- Training primarily focused on data reporting and characterization of TC.	- E-learning modules for utilizing and identifying TC as part of the Knowledge Hub on Triangular Cooperation, currently under development.	- There are ad hoc efforts and collaborations with specific partners, including a peer learning initiative on TC with Brazil and Japan.	On demand, depending on planned projects and collaborations, such as training for partners from China and India connected to the German TC Fund with Asia.

Knowledge Generation/ Tools	- Post-project evaluations from the Regional Fund - Documentation of conferences and dialogues - Ad hoc studies (insights from evaluations) - DeVAL: Comprehensive evaluation of Germany's TC	- Series of TC studies by JICA's Ogata Institute (2014)	- Adelante Knowledge Bank (case studies, best practices, and key lessons learned) - Adelante Moments (focused on COVID-19, potential for EU countries, and opportunities for CSOs and national authorities) - Program systematization - Pilot testing of the OECD Toolbox for monitoring and evaluating the added value of TC - Analysis of TC in partnership with SEGIB	- A pioneer in defining methodologies, data recording, and analysis of TC through the Ibero-American South-South and Triangular Cooperation Report and the Ibero-American Integrated Data System on South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SIDICSS). - Two projects with the EU focused on generating knowledge and improving TC between Latin America and the European Union. These studies cover decentralized TC, indigenous populations, environmental concerns, inter-regional cooperation, science and technology, AI potential, as well as a study on statistical frameworks and their link to the SDGs.	- Tools for monitoring and evaluating the added value of TC (including pilot testing) and the effective use of the modality. - Analytical documents on TC trends: global perspective reports, regional analyses (e.g., TC with Africa; TC with MENA countries), and/or thematic analyses (e.g., green TC, TC with island nations, and other relevant products for DAC members). - Repository of global TC projects.	- Production of studies on South-South and Triangular Cooperation (e.g., TC report with Arab countries). - Technical tools for countries (e.g., Handbook on Integrating SSC and TC into the Voluntary National Reviews). - Dissemination of best practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation.	- Voluntary guidelines for effective triangular cooperation and pilot studies. - Analytical reports on the efforts of various actors in implementing BAPA+40 in TC. - Report: Leveraging triangular partnerships to respond to COVID-19 and rebuild better post-pandemic.
Internal Capacity Building for TC	- Updated TC policy (BMZ, 2022). - Creation of a marker in information systems to identify TC in internal systems. - Feminist development policy (BMZ, 2022).	- Exchanges between JICA country offices to learn best practices in TC implementation.	- Analysis and simplification of administrative processes to participate in "Adelante" calls.	--	- Guide for reporting TC in the Creditor Reporting System.	- An inter-agency mechanism to promote coordinated United Nations support for South-South and Triangular Cooperation initiatives and the UN System's strategy for South-South and Triangular Cooperation, along with guidance for country teams.	--

Source: Own elaboration.