Context

The adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) marks the path in the upcoming years with regard to the combination of international efforts and shared responsibility of the industrialized countries, emerging countries and developing countries in order to overcome obstacles to global development. Global changes in the architecture of international cooperation (IC) have boosted new development modalities and alliances between partner countries. The focus is now on triangular cooperation (TrC) as an effective instrument of IC. The objective of TrC is to bring together traditional DAC donors, donors from emerging economies (South provider countries) and recipient countries in a horizontal cooperation arrangement, while at the same time getting advantage of the complementary strengths of the respective partners and thereby generating added value for all. In the framework of the Agenda 2030, TrC contributes to the 17th SDG (partnerships) and also to other SDGs, depending on the content of the triangular cooperation project in question.

Project

Germany is one of the most committed DAC member countries in promoting TrC. This modality increasingly establishes itself as another efficient instrument of German international cooperation, especially in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). The Regional Fund for Triangular Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean, which is implemented on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, seeks to promote public policies for sustainable development by successfully implementing TrC projects. It provides the framework for cooperation of recipient countries, South providers in LAC and Germany as traditional provider. Since its inception, more than 45 TrC projects have been implemented with the participation of more than 20 countries in the LAC region and Africa.

The promotion of TrC projects is accompanied by a capacity development component by means of a training network (Red de Capacitación en Cooperación Triangular). This regional platform promotes the exchange of experience and knowledge by offering trainings and capacity building measures on various aspects of managing TrC projects. Furthermore, the Fund promotes dialogue on TrC at a political level in the region. High-ranking representatives from international cooperation and sectoral institutions, embassies, international and regional organisations, civil society and the private sector have participated so far at three regional conferences (Bogotá in 2012, Mexico City in 2013 and Santiago in 2015).
Criteria

A TrC project supported by the Regional Fund must meet specific criteria:

- It has to be a technical cooperation project that strengthens public policies for sustainable development (in recipient countries).
- All LAC countries can participate as South providers.
- Countries from the LAC and other regions sharing bilateral and regional cooperation relations with Germany may participate as beneficiaries.
- The support for TrC in the Regional Fund’s framework is based on the explicit demand of the beneficiary country in line with its development strategy and priorities. Planning and implementation take place jointly between all partners. Therefore, adequate institutional structures must be in place in the south provider and beneficiary country and the cooperation institutions (IC agencies or equivalent) of the respective countries must be involved.
- There are no sectoral or thematic restrictions.
- Germany’s net contribution may be up to EUR 300,000, whereas the contribution of the South provider must be as high as the German contribution or even higher. The beneficiary partner also makes an appropriate contribution.
- Thus, each TrC partner makes its own contribution – which may also be in kind but this must be specified and quantified in the project proposal.
- Objectives and impacts must be described in a clear, realistic and comprehensible way. The project proposal should provide information on the intended impact-oriented monitoring system.
- Each TrC project passes through an ex-post evaluation. In order to do so, sufficient financial resources have to be considered in the budget calculation.

Participation

Proposals for TrC projects can be submitted to BMZ via German embassies by 31 May and 30 November of each year. BMZ evaluates the potential for promotion in accordance with the predetermined criteria. It then commissions GIZ to implement the German contribution. The South provider also designates one or more implementing institutions. The implementing modalities are agreed in close collaboration with the beneficiary country, which will then take the steering role in so far as possible. Implementing organisations from the three countries will collaborate to produce progress and final reports on the triangular cooperation project and accompany jointly the ex-post evaluation.

Further information is available at the Regional Fund website: www.giz.de/fondo-triangular. Here, you can download the criteria and formats for project proposals in various languages. Alternatively, both documents can be inquired at the German embassies and at local GIZ offices. The website contains a range of additional information, including selected project descriptions and reports from regional conferences.