Regional Fund for Triangular Cooperation in Latin America und the Caribbean

Procedure and Criteria

I. Why Triangular Cooperation?

Triangular cooperation (TrC) is an innovative form of cooperation between three countries. It allows partner countries to deal in a practical way with values, standards and criteria of international development cooperation (IDC) and to learn from each other. Knowledge, experiences and institutional and financial resources of new and traditional IDC actors are exchanged and made available for sustainable development in beneficiary countries. On the other hand, the Latin American south provider and Germany benefit from the exchange about structures and procedures of IDC. For more information see BMZ position paper “Triangular cooperation in German development cooperation”, 2013.

II. What is the Regional Fund for triangular cooperation?

The Regional Fund for triangular cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean, financed by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, promotes triangular cooperation projects since 2011. The Regional Fund works on the basis of the explicit demand of the partner countries. Projects are planned, financed and implemented jointly by Latin American emerging or middle income countries acting as “south providers”, Germany as “traditional provider” and beneficiary countries. The Regional fund is oriented towards the Latin American and the Caribbean region.

It consists of three components: 1) Promotion and implementation of joint triangular cooperation projects, 2) Capacity development measures and professional training on project management and implementation, 3) Organization of high-level regional conferences.

The Fund supports cooperation between countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in the field of IDC. It is understood as a platform for mutual learning, knowledge-sharing and peer to peer-learning, practical exchange and political dialogue on TrC.
III. What are the criteria for the promotion of triangular cooperation projects?

- It is a joint project between Germany, a Latin American south provider and a beneficiary country.\(^1\) Planning and implementation take place jointly and are oriented towards the demand of the beneficiary country. Whenever possible, the beneficiary country should assume the coordinating role in the planning and implementation process.

- It is a technical cooperation project, meaning that mostly consultancy services and training measures are provided, and only to a lesser degree financial subsidies are granted.

- The project strengthens public policies for sustainable development and is aligned with development strategies of the beneficiary country. Quality criteria such as sustainability, effectiveness, relevance and efficiency are being considered.

- The project proposal describes the project in a clear, realistic and comprehensible way and defines objectives and impacts (impact indicators).

- The project is continuously accompanied by an impact-oriented monitoring, which is established and implemented by the project managers of each of the participating partner countries (Socios). An Ex-Post Evaluation of every triangular cooperation project is carried out. In order to do so, the project proposal has to allocate up to 5% of the total project’s budget to this evaluation.

- Generally, all Latin American countries can participate as south providers.\(^2\) As beneficiary countries are considered those countries (also outside Latin America and the Caribbean) which are partner countries of the German IDC, in the framework of bilateral or regional/thematic programs (especially Low-Income-Countries). The cooperation structure is based on international law.

- Each actor involved provides its own contribution which is specified and quantified in the project proposal. The contribution of Germany will be based on the amount of the contribution of the Latin American south provider.\(^3\) The beneficiary country also makes an appropriate contribution. Additional contributions by other traditional cooperation partners are possible and welcome.

- Adequate institutional structures for the preparation and steering of the implementation of projects must be in place in the country participating as south provider and in the beneficiary country. The cooperation institutions (IDC agencies or equivalent) of the respective countries must be involved.

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\(^1\) Within the framework of the fund, joint projects with one beneficiary country (not several) are promoted.

\(^2\) If this country is not a traditional partner country of the German IDC (or is a partner country in which the bilateral IDC is being phased out) the projects must be implemented in the beneficiary country.

\(^3\) The German contribution financed by the Regional Funds will generally not exceed EUR 300,000 net. When calculating the total project volume, in kind contributions are taken into account (for instance, consultancy services of a sector ministry). These need to be quantified.
- In principle, there are no sectorial or thematic restrictions for triangular cooperation. However, the beneficiary country must articulate a clear interest in the project. Priority may be given to measures in a sector with previous IDC experiences.

IV. Steps in the decision-making process:

1) Preparing project proposals: Interested countries develop joint project proposals according to the standard format, in which the main features of the planned project are presented (see format). It is strongly recommended to establish early contact with the local GIZ office; it advises the beneficiary country and/or the south provider country on the project idea. The corresponding international cooperation institutions (or equivalent) of the participating countries need to be informed at an early stage and, whenever possible, involved in the elaboration of the project.

2) Submitting the proposal to the German Embassy: Once the project has the consent of the involved cooperation institutions, the respective proposals are submitted to the German Embassy, depending on the case, due to the 31st of May or the 30th of November of every year (a copy of the project proposal is delivered to GIZ). Afterwards, the German Embassies inform BMZ.

3) Decision on promotion: On the basis of the previously described criteria as well as on the availability of funds, BMZ informs about the decision on project promotion (starting in June or December of the corresponding year). Partner countries will be informed about the decision of the promotion of the project by the respective German Embassy.

4) Implementing the project: BMZ commissions GIZ with the implementation of the German contribution. The Latin American south provider country also entrusts one or more implementing institution(s). Cooperation partners and the beneficiary country (or their respective implementing institutions) jointly agree on the modalities of implementation, formalize and operationalize the cooperation measure. Progress reports and final reports are jointly elaborated and the Ex-Post Evaluation of the project will be jointly accompanied.

The format for project proposals is available at the German Embassies and at the local GIZ Offices as well as on the homepage of the Regional Fund for triangular cooperation in different languages: [http://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/12942.html](http://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/12942.html). More information about the Fund is also available here.