



**Momentos
ADELANTE**
SHARING REFLECTIONS
ON TRIANGULAR COOPERATION

Momento ADELANTE 1

Challenges, role and potential of Triangular Cooperation in the fight against the effects of COVID-19

October 20, 2021



With the aim of promoting reflection and learning about Triangular Cooperation through dialogue between key actors, ADELANTE 2 launched the cycle of 'Momentos ADELANTE' in October 2021.

Rapporteur's Report *Momento ADELANTE* 1

Credits

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This first Momento ADELANTE was organised together with the [Regional Fund for Triangular Cooperation with Latin American and Caribbean Partners](#) of the German Cooperation Agency - GIZ.



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Under the slogan 'Challenges, role and potential of Triangular Cooperation in the fight against the effects of COVID-19,' this first *Momento* was attended virtually by more than 100 people from 30 countries in Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean.

As indicated by **Leticia Casañ Jensen** in her welcoming remarks, the ultimate goal of the *Momentos ADELANTE* is to contribute to the strengthening of Triangular Cooperation as a development cooperation modality, and highlighted its innovative, flexible and horizontal approach, which fosters partnerships and alliances between strategic partners. As an example, she noted the fact that in a just matter of weeks, 26 proposals for Triangular Cooperation Initiatives were presented through the [ADELANTE Window 2021](#), of which 15 were approved and are already under way. The Initiatives involve more than 80 entities from Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean, and all contribute to the achievement of 14 SDGs.

During his presentation, **Christof Kersting** emphasised the strategic partnership with ADELANTE 2 to continue promoting Triangular Cooperation with Latin America and the Caribbean. He added that the Fund has been in existence for ten years and currently has 30 projects under implementation. He also remarked that, in response to the effects of COVID-19, a specific call has been launched to provide support to 14 projects. As of June 2021, and for the next four years, the Fund will continue to foster flexible Triangular Cooperation initiatives with a multi-stakeholder approach, which will also enable the exchange of best practices from Latin America with other regions.

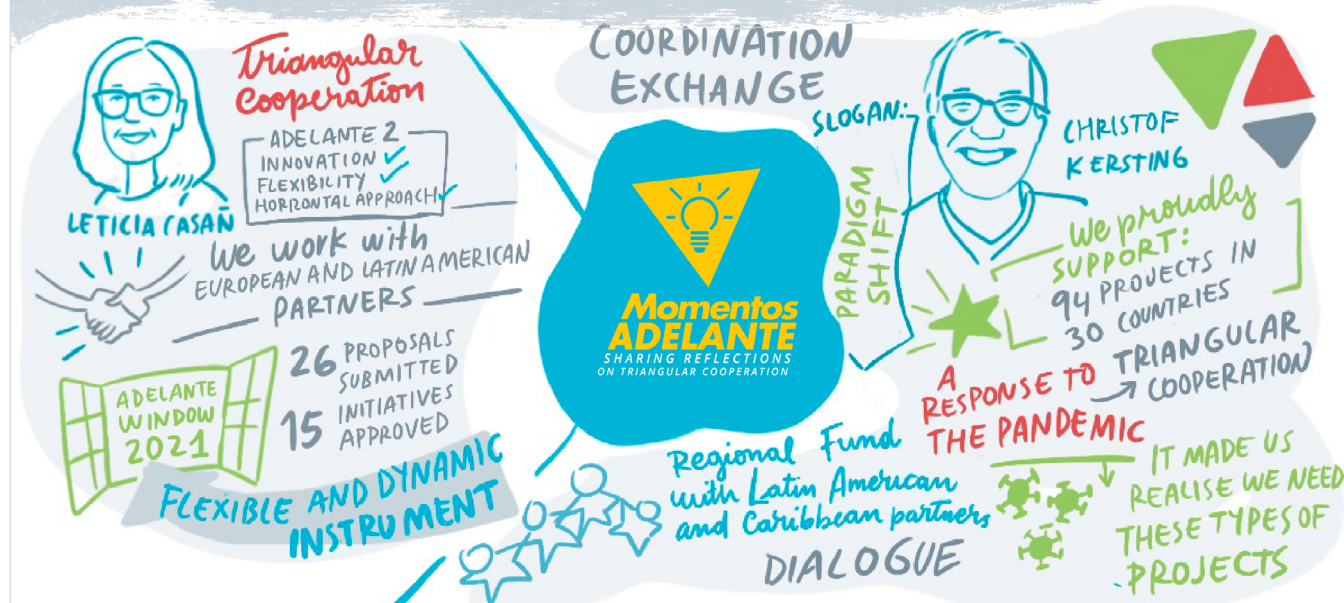


Leticia Casañ Jensen
*Programme Manager
of ADELANTE 2*



Christof Kersting
*Director of the Regional Fund
for Triangular Cooperation with
Latin American and Caribbean
Partners*

CHALLENGE, ROLE AND POTENTIAL OF TRIANGULAR COOPERATION IN THE FIGHT AGAINST THE EFFECTS OF COVID-19



Juan Pablo Lira
Ambassador and former Director of [AGCID](#)

Following his welcoming remarks, **Juan Pablo Lira**, moderator of this first *Momento ADELANTE*, highlighted the importance and necessity of having these spaces for joint reflection, together with the different development cooperation partners, on how to tackle the main structural challenges in Latin America and the Caribbean, which have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. In this regard, he noted that this region is home to 8% of the world's population and, at the same time, 30% of the people who have died as a result of the pandemic, revealing the weakness of the health systems and the lack of social public policies, among other issues.



Cristina Xalma
Head Researcher of the [SEGIB Report on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America](#)

The *Momento ADELANTE* featured a key presentation by **Cristina Xalma**, who proposed that Triangular Cooperation and the Ibero-American community address the search for innovative solutions that aim for multilateral coordination, in order to create and/or adapt different instruments to address the global and multidimensional impact of the crisis. This crisis has occurred in a context in which the International Development Cooperation system was already under great strain, which is why modalities like Triangular Cooperation are emerging as viable options, thanks to their flexibility, in achieving the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Regarding the added value of Triangular Cooperation, she stressed that although it is a complex modality, involving various actors with different roles, it is an enriching approach that is perfectly aligned with a multi-stakeholder and multi-level agenda. The Triangular Cooperation modality adopted in Ibero-America is a form of technical cooperation that is focused on multidimensional action in response to global challenges. It is centred on capacity building, and given its horizontal approach, demonstrates a strong capacity for adaptability and replicability, which also allows it to address local problems.

To conclude, Cristina Xalma reflected on the learning process between ADELANTE 2 and SEGIB, and the value of addressing the institutional and operational aspects from an analytical perspective, as a way of enhancing the added value of Triangular Cooperation.

“A horizontal approach means listening more to our partners, adapting and negotiating without conditionality, and respecting and empowering each of the roles within Triangular Cooperation”

CHALLENGE, ROLE AND POTENTIAL OF TRIANGULAR COOPERATION IN THE FIGHT AGAINST THE EFFECTS OF COVID-19



In turn, **Valeria Giacchino** reflected on the current global challenges, which affect all levels of society and which have an impact at the local level, directly affecting the capacity to respond. In this context, she highlighted the importance of dialogue between the different actors for a coordinated response to COVID-19, such as the provision of health supplies. She also stated that rebuilding the social fabric requires alliances and partners with a firm commitment to development, while fostering the exchange of experiences and know-how. In addition, she reflected on the important role of local governments, given their proximity to the actors operating on the ground in the different territories. In this sense, she emphasised the need to facilitate networks that would enable them to come together, establish closer ties, exchange knowledge and develop a horizontal approach, as well as having robust and effective instruments to achieve greater impact in the short term. She also provided information on the recently published [Buenos Aires Catalogue of Capacities for International Cooperation](#).



Valeria Giacchino
Provincial Director of Planning and International Cooperation of the [Province of Buenos Aires](#)

This was followed by a panel discussion with presentations by three speakers:



María Elena Alcaraz
Coordinator of International Forums for Development of AMEXCID, on behalf of the [Global Partnership Initiative on Effective Triangular Cooperation \(GPI\)](#)

First, **María Elena Alcaraz** shared the lessons learned in the recent GPI publication: [‘Leveraging triangular partnerships to respond to COVID-19 and build back better from the pandemic.’](#) This synthesis report analyses the importance of promoting effective, horizontal and flexible Triangular Cooperation through shared experiences, which contributes to the exchange of knowledge within the framework of multi-stakeholder partnerships, based on mutual trust between the different partners. She particularly emphasised the shared experiences in the field of Humanitarian Aid.

Lastly, **Julio Noguera** assured that, based on his experience as Technical Director of the Triangular Cooperation project with Paraguay, Brazil and Germany, ‘Strengthening integrity in times of crisis,’ this form of cooperation has been essential for sharing lessons learned and expertise among the different partners, thus enhancing the project’s objectives and building partnerships beyond the initial framework. He also emphasised that the positive impact on the participating entities is not only felt in terms of sectoral and specialised knowledge, but mutual learning is also achieved in terms of the management, organisation and processes.



Julio Noguera
Director-General for Prevention and Transparency of the [SENAC of Paraguay](#)

CHALLENGE, ROLE AND POTENTIAL OF TRIANGULAR COOPERATION IN THE FIGHT AGAINST THE EFFECTS OF COVID-19



As the panel discussion came to a close, a dialogue between the participants was initiated, which allowed for further reflection on some of the following concepts:

- A horizontal approach entails enabling spaces for negotiation without conditionality, which are based on trust and established on the basis of a relationship between partners, rather than the traditional donor-recipient roles.
- The exchange among different partners makes it possible to share both successful and unsuccessful practices and experiences, therefore fostering the spirit of co-creation.
- Humanitarian Aid can also be addressed through Triangular Cooperation, as has been proven during the COVID-19 crisis, thanks to triangular cooperation projects that have responded to different humanitarian emergencies, which have required horizontal collaboration between countries with a shared objective.

As a final reflection, **Christof Kersting** noted that both the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean have a flexible, horizontal Triangular Cooperation model, based on mutual respect, and which contributes effectively to tackling challenges like the COVID-19 pandemic. While not a universal remedy, Triangular Cooperation is a tool for finding solutions, while learning from both successes and mistakes.

Lastly, **Leticia Casañ Jensen** thanked all of the speakers for their contributions. She also called for the establishment of innovative partnerships within the framework of ADELANTE 2 that effectively incorporate the three roles of Triangular Cooperation, with the aim of responding to real needs. In this regard, the sum of knowledge of the First and Second Providers provides an added value, and all partner entities actively participate in the different phases of the project cycle.



Leticia Casañ Jensen
Programme Manager
of ADELANTE 2

“For the European Union, Triangular Cooperation will remain a priority in the coming years because of its innovative, flexible and horizontal approach, enabling all actors involved to enhance their knowledge, and fostering joint learning and capacity building.”

ADELANTE 2 seeks the participation and commitment (far beyond funding) of a greater number of European entities as development partners.

