



**Momentos
ADELANTE**
SHARING REFLECTIONS
ON TRIANGULAR COOPERATION

Momento ADELANTE 2

The potential of Triangular Cooperation for European Union countries

September 27, 2022



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 2*

Credits

RAPPORTEUR'S REPORT: Andrea Vignolo, with the support of the ADELANTE Team.

VISUAL REPORT: [La Cartográfica](#)

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This second Momento ADELANTE was led together with the [Ibero-American General Secretariat](#) - SEGIB



Secretaría General
Iberoamericana

Secretaria-Geral
Ibero-Americana

The second Momento ADELANTE, carried out together with the Ibero-American General Secretariat - SEGIB, provided a space for dialogue on the strategic potential of Triangular Cooperation for European Union countries in the framework of their International Development Cooperation policies and strategies.

This event focused on the study 'The strategic relevance of Triangular Cooperation for EU countries', developed within the framework of the project 'Innovative Triangular Cooperation for a new development agenda' and co-financed by the European Commission and SEGIB, through the European Regional Facility for Development in Transition.

Nearly 200 people from 25 countries in Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean were interested in the event. According to **Livia Galita** in her opening remarks, it is part of a series of meetings planned throughout ADELANTE to share reflections and lessons learnt on Triangular Cooperation, open to all actors committed to development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In his introduction, **Jorge de la Caballería** highlighted the growing interest in Triangular Cooperation, which is evident in the number and diversity (geographic and sectoral) of people and entities participating in this second Momento ADELANTE. Looking back, he recalled that the first phase of ADELANTE was a real milestone, which resulted in partnerships among various actors in both regions through the implementation of several Triangular Cooperation projects; thus overcoming the traditional donor-recipient scheme, with a positive impact on various strategic national and regional development processes.



Livia Galita
Coordinator of
[ADELANTE 2](#)



Jorge de la Caballería
Head of Unit B1 - South America
and Regional Operations.
[Directorate-General for
International Partnerships,
European Commission](#)

'Triangular Cooperation has been recognised as an effective modality for the European Union.'

He also stated that Triangular Cooperation has been recognised as an effective modality for the European Union, and especially in terms of the dialogue with Latin America and the Caribbean. This is primarily due to its ability to generate horizontal relationships between all parties involved, making it a key instrument in achieving the 2030 Agenda and each of the Sustainable Development Goals.

An example of this is the active participation of various entities from countries in both regions, in much higher numbers than expected and representing a variety of sectors, within the context of ADELANTE 2: the ADELANTE Triangular Cooperation Window, the bilateral Triangular Cooperation funds with Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba and Uruguay, and the analysis and studies.



María Salvadora Ortiz
Director of External Relations
[Ibero-American General Secretariat - SEGIB](#)

María Salvadora Ortiz then began by congratulating the European Commission on the progress made in the field of Triangular Cooperation, thanks to ADELANTE.

She emphasised that the study of reference is part of a strategic relationship between the European Commission and SEGIB, which began in 2019, and which, among other things, has resulted in a series of five high-quality knowledge products on the role of Triangular Cooperation in the cooperation system in the face of new challenges.

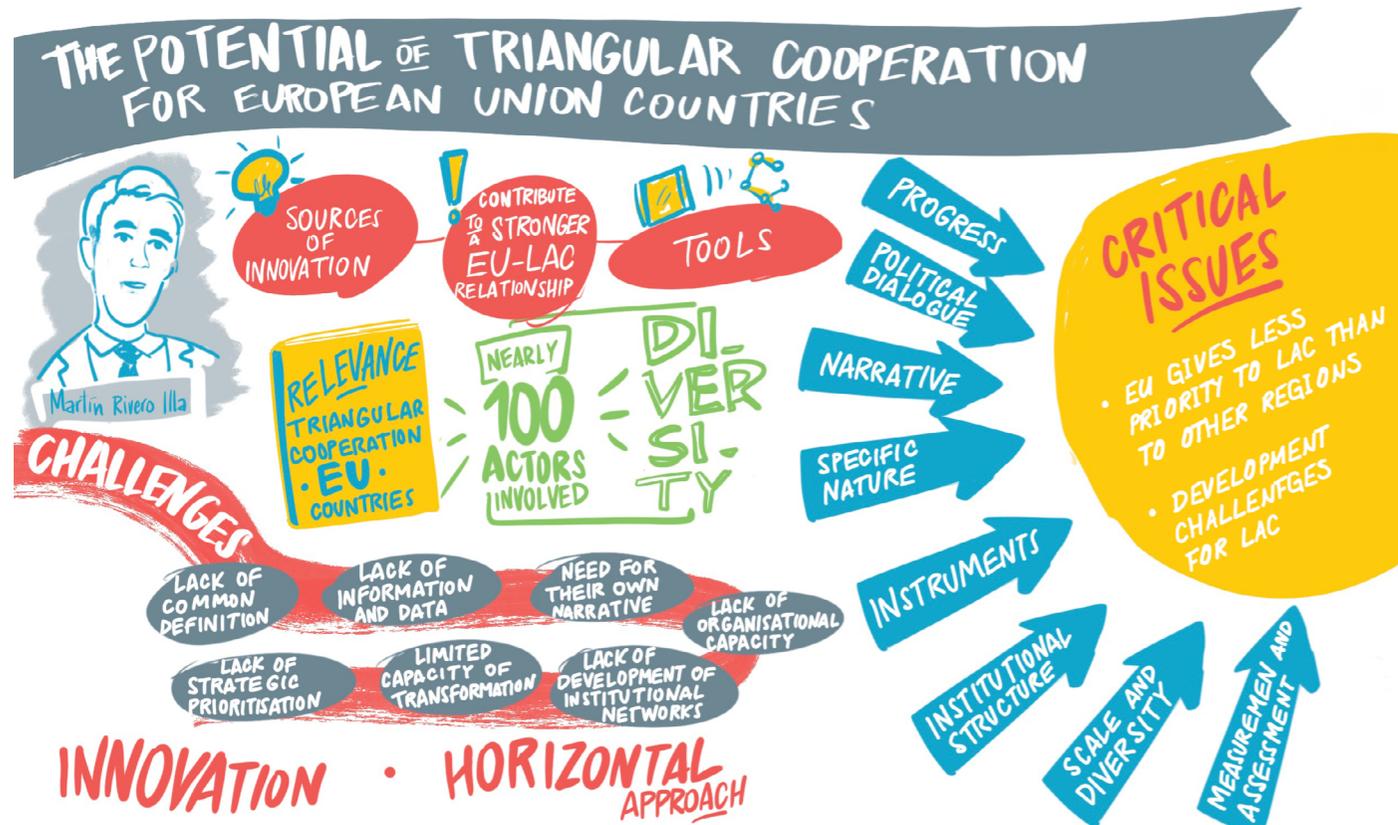
She also noted that Triangular Cooperation is a highly relevant tool for promoting specific interventions, with a direct impact on the lives of citizens in both regions.



Martín Rivero gave the main presentation discussing the highly relevant findings of the study 'The strategic relevance of Triangular Cooperation for EU countries', highlighting the research and analysis exercise carried out by researchers Iliana Olivié and María Santillán from the Real Instituto Elcano. The presentation was structured around three questions: What sources of innovation does Triangular Cooperation bring to the International Development Cooperation system? To what extent can it contribute to strengthening relations and dialogue between the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean? Which tools can be used to do this?



Martín Rivero Illa
Coordinator of the Department
of Social Cohesion and
South-South Cooperation
[Ibero-American General Secretariat - SEGIB](#)



At the beginning of his speech, he highlighted the importance of having systematised data available from the past decade. Thanks to the commitment of Ibero-American countries, this data is collected and published annually by SEGIB in the 'Report on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America'. One thing that this data makes clear is that several EU countries have long been participating in Triangular Cooperation initiatives between the two regions, with a significant increase in recent years.

Because of this long-standing tradition, which positions the European Union and some of its Member States as strategic partners of Triangular Cooperation in the region, he emphasised that the objective of the study and of this second Momento ADELANTE is to generate new inputs that contribute to supporting this modality, within the framework of the cooperation policies of a growing number of countries.

In terms of the different sectors, he presented data showing how projects that address energy, environmental and agricultural issues account for more than 30% of the total number of Triangular Cooperation projects carried out between the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean.

When presenting the strengths of Triangular Cooperation identified by the ten EU countries consulted¹, he highlighted the following three: its horizontal nature (which fosters strong partnerships with different types of actors, aligned with SDG 17 and with the potential to tackle each of the SDGs); the capacity for innovation (which allows for the implementation of pilot interventions and serves as a laboratory in which to seek new solutions); and the capacity to strengthen bi-regional dialogue (which allows traditional donor countries to liaise with the Global South through a horizontal approach, which sets it apart from other cooperation modalities).

With regard to the weaknesses and challenges, he highlighted the following: the absence of an approved, shared and clear definition of Triangular Cooperation, the lack of systematised and comparable information and data, the lack of strategic prioritisation, insufficient human resources or material organisational capacities at the institutional level, and even the perception by many key actors that the transformative capacity is

'The strengths of Triangular Cooperation: its horizontal nature, the capacity for innovation and the capacity to strengthen bi-regional dialogue.'

The presentation can be viewed in its entirety in the full video or consulted in the following document (Spanish).

¹ - Austria, Belgium, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Sweden.

limited since most of the interventions are minor, along with the perception that the transaction costs are quite high, among other aspects. To conclude the presentation, he proposed a number of considerations for the future, based on the conviction that Triangular Cooperation has evolved significantly in terms of the actors involved, the topics addressed and the instruments employed. 'Let's avoid being stuck in the past, Triangular Cooperation is constantly changing', he stated. He also highlighted the opportunity for political dialogue provided by Triangular Cooperation, since it is 'the scenario where different views converge' in order to promote actions with shared objectives, for which it is necessary to advance towards using specific instruments for Triangular Cooperation and avoid relying on those of other modalities.

The event continued with remarks from two commentators.

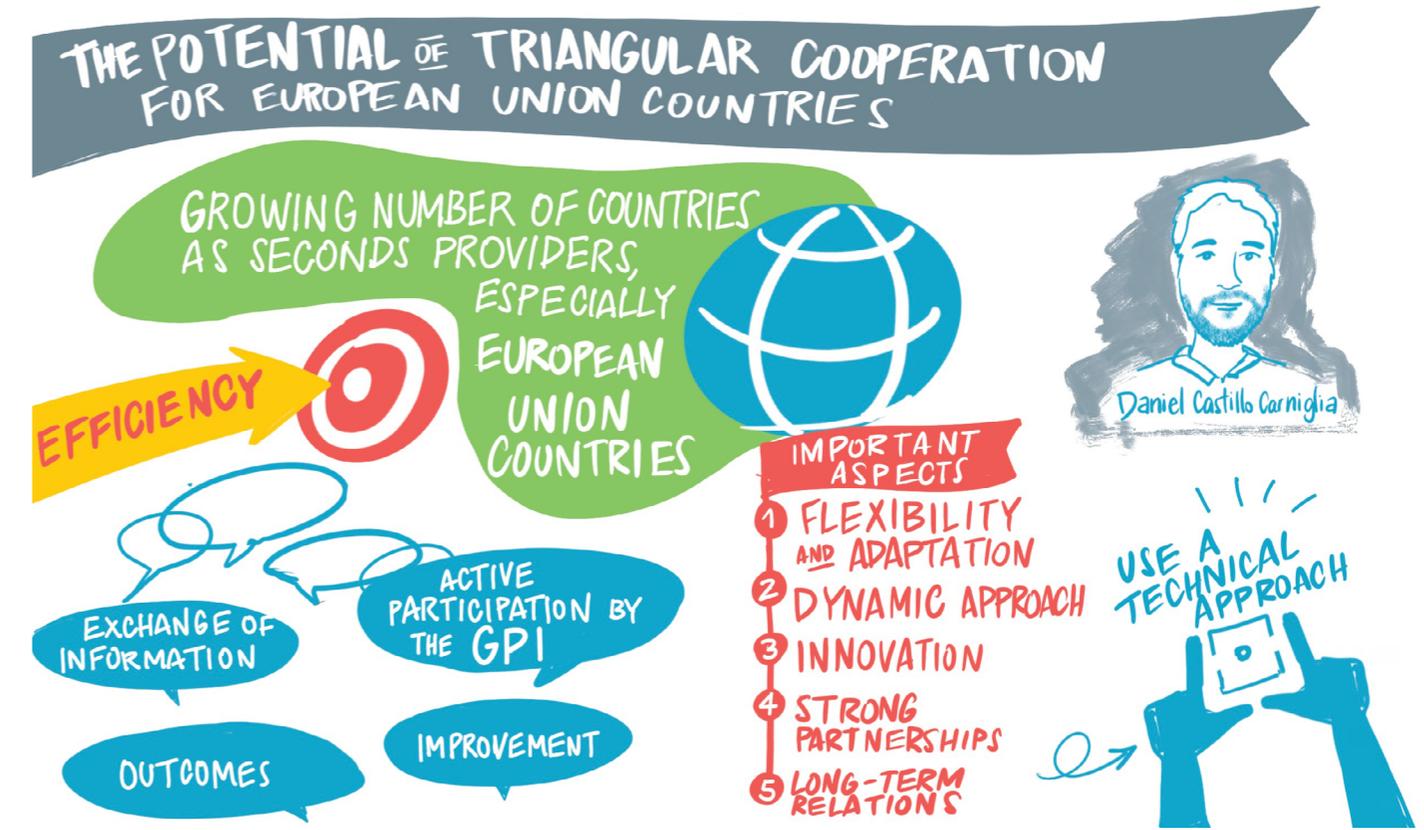


Daniel Castillo Carniglia

Technical Secretary of the Ibero-American Programme for the Strengthening of South-South Cooperation - PIFCSS

On behalf of the Global Partnership Initiative on Effective Triangular Co-operation - GPI

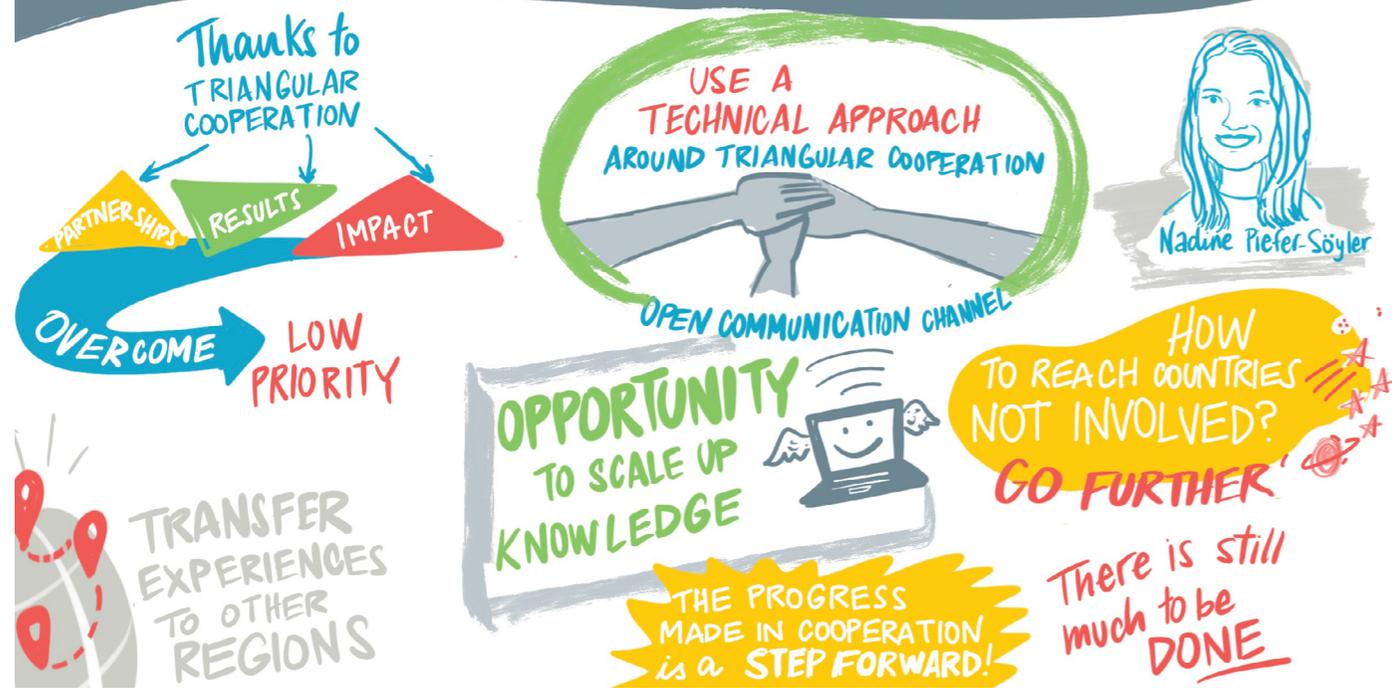
First, **Daniel Castillo**, adding to the main presentation, confirmed the growing interest of various countries, especially from the European Union, in becoming second providers within Triangular Cooperation. He added that this is primarily due to the flexible and dynamic nature of this modality, and perhaps its technical approach, as well as the capacity to establish strong partnerships between countries that lead to long-term ties between them. He explained that traditional donor countries view Triangular Cooperation as a less bureaucratic way of engaging with traditional beneficiary countries, for which they can adapt the type of relationship among them; providing space for the participation of more diverse actors, offering different capacities and generating new knowledge.



This gives Triangular Cooperation its own space to operate and even overcome geopolitical tensions, which is especially important today in addressing the current global challenges.

In response to some of the weaknesses mentioned, he clarified that while transaction costs may be high at first, it is important to understand them as an 'investment' that proves to be highly profitable over time, as long as the objective of building strong, long-term relationships remains, while allowing the traditional international cooperation framework to be scaled up.

THE POTENTIAL OF TRIANGULAR COOPERATION FOR EUROPEAN UNION COUNTRIES



Nadine Piefer-Söyler
Policy Analyst for the
Foresight, Outreach and
Policy Reform Unit of the
Development Co-operation
Directorate - DCD
Organisation for Economic
Co-operation and
Development - OECD

Second, **Nadine Piefer-Söyler** added an important strength of Triangular Cooperation, which is especially important in the dialogue between the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean: thanks to Triangular Cooperation, EU countries can build strong partnerships and achieve significant results in Latin America and the Caribbean, with real development impact. This makes it a key modality to overcome the traditionally lower priority given to the region in terms of budget.

In response to the weaknesses and challenges outlined above, she highlighted the need to create and promote political and technical working spaces for Triangular Cooperation, such as those led by the OECD and the GPI, to which all potential stakeholders from all regions of the world should be invited in order to improve the quality and effectiveness of this modality.

She also emphasised that joint efforts are needed to raise awareness and further promote Triangular Cooperation among EU Member States, especially among those who have used it the least and those reluctant to try it.

A question and answer session was held at the end of the second Momento ADELANTE, during which Martín Rivero expressed that Triangular Cooperation allows for greater flexibility and fosters key mechanisms for political dialogue.

In turn, Daniel Castillo pointed out that the challenges outlined in the study are shared by the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, which are working on resolving them, and in some cases have made significant progress. He emphasised that any challenge, objective or area for improvement within Triangular Cooperation must be addressed among all partners and stakeholders involved.

Lastly, Nadine Piefer-Söyler encouraged the European Union to continue to support specific Triangular Cooperation programmes that engage and motivate the Member States. She also encouraged European countries to demonstrate greater commitment to Triangular Cooperation, both in their cooperation endeavours with Latin America and the Caribbean and with other regions.

'The need to create and promote political and technical working spaces for Triangular Cooperation.'

'Any challenge, objective or area for improvement within Triangular Cooperation must be addressed among all partners and stakeholders involved.'

THE POTENTIAL OF TRIANGULAR COOPERATION FOR EUROPEAN UNION COUNTRIES

THE DIVERSITY OF ACTORS IS A DISTINGUISHING FEATURE OF TRIANGULAR COOPERATION

POLITICAL DIALOGUE
→ INCREASE THIS CAPACITY

ANY CHALLENGE SHOULD BE TACKLED BY ALL PARTNERS

THERE IS AGREEMENT AMONG LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES

WE NEED TO MOVE FORWARD WITH MAJOR PROJECTS

EXCHANGES BETWEEN MORE THAN ONE REGION

incorporate POLICIES AND STRATEGIES

BUILD REGIONAL PROGRAMMES

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

TRIANGULAR COOPERATION WILL CONTINUE TO BE A PRIORITY FOR THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

During his closing remarks, Martín Rivero acknowledged the opportunity to have this space for exchange, and reaffirmed **SEGIB's** commitment to strengthening the strategic collaboration with the European Commission, in order to generate spaces for dialogue and analysis that promote the strategic value of Triangular Cooperation. Livia Galita then thanked all of the participants for sharing this space for reflection, and confirmed that Triangular Cooperation will continue to be a priority for the **European Commission**, thanks to its ability to build multi-level and multi-stakeholder networks and partnerships, and to support the much needed capacities to reach the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

'Triangular Cooperation will continue to be a priority for the European Commission.'



Video of the Momento ADELANTE (Spanish) [1:52]



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