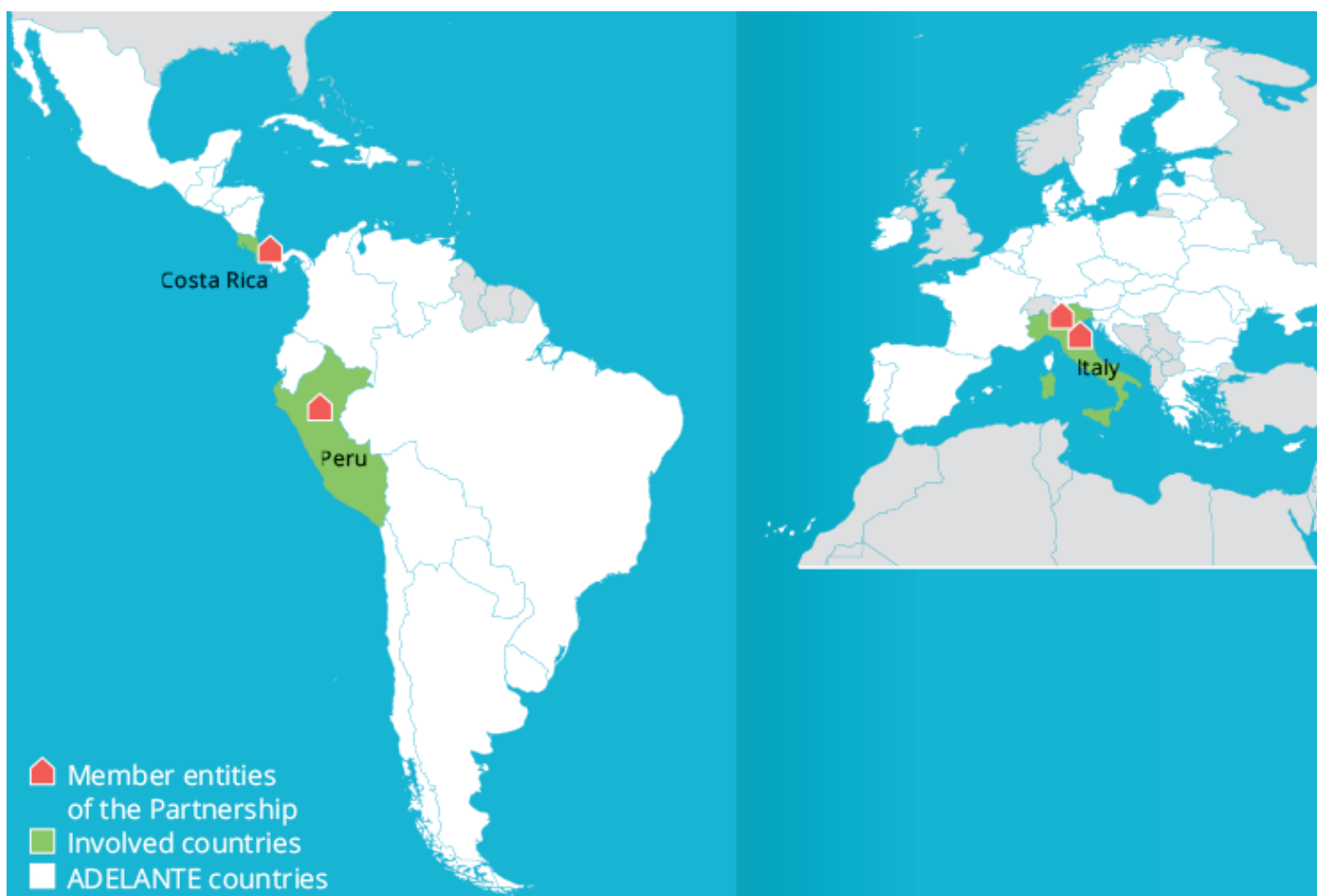


Contribution to green micro-entrepreneurship

PARTNERSHIP



Background

The **Federación Nacional de Cooperativas de Ahorro y Crédito del Perú** (National Federation of Peruvian Savings and Credit Cooperatives - Fenacrep) is responsible for providing technical assistance to its affiliated savings and credit cooperatives to improve the financial services they offer, incorporating strategies and tools to reach a greater number of beneficiaries with inclusive and innovative products that promote sustainable economic development. It has a long history of cooperation with **Sustinentes** and **Osel**, both Italian companies with an extensive track record in designing financial products and sustainable finance training programmes, as well as advising cooperative service providers on their transition to sustainable products.

The **Fundación para el Desarrollo de las Comunidades del Sur** (Foundation for the Development of Southern Communities - Fudecosur) in Costa Rica, works to promote economic and social development in the southern region of Costa Rica, offering micro-finance support and complementary services to family farming households with scarce resources.

These four entities share values and principles which, thanks to the coordination by Fenacrep, have led to the creation of a Triangular Cooperation Partnership that aims to harness the expertise of each one to generate tools in support of rural micro-entrepreneurship, with a focus on gender and sustainability. Not only can this be applied in rural areas in northern Peru, it can also be studied and adapted to other Latin American and Caribbean territories.

Entities and roles

BENEFICIARY ENTITIES



Federación Nacional de Cooperativas de Ahorro y Crédito del Perú - FENACREP

Peru

FIRST PROVIDER ENTITIES



Fundación para el Desarrollo de las Comunidades del Sur - FUDECOSUR

Costa Rica

SECOND PROVIDER ENTITIES



Osel

Sustinentes

Italy

Italy

Development challenges

Financial autonomy is one of the most significant barriers to women's economic, social and emotional development. There is consistent data on the gaps in income between men and women, which are more significant in rural areas, where access to credit is scarcer than in urban areas due to the lack of supply of financial products, lack of technical assistance and training.

Thanks to this Triangular Cooperation Initiative, the knowledge and experience of the Partnership member entities will be harnessed to develop a training protocol for rural micro-entrepreneurs and credit cooperative counselors, as well as to increase the provision of inclusive and sustainable financial products, in order to increase women's access to credit in northern Peru.

INITIATIVE

This Triangular Cooperation Initiative sought to share the knowledge of the Partnership entities to design and implement green finance tools that contribute to the growth of micro-entrepreneurs, with a focus on inclusion and sustainability.

Triangular approach

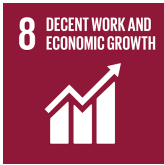
The effective sustainable development of rural women's micro-enterprises calls for a bottom-up approach, where the beneficiaries' capacities are first strengthened so that they can take ownership of the principles of sustainability and learn how these play in their favour in the medium- and long-term. It also involves equipping the entities offering financial services with the right tools to offer improved products that meet this criteria. This Initiative aimed to maximise the expertise of the Partnership member entities to jointly support the direct beneficiaries, while at the same time, receive capacity building in the process.

To this end, Fudecosur, which participated in the Rural Finance and Environment programme led by the Central American and Caribbean Microfinance Network (REDCAMIF), lent its expertise in developing more inclusive and innovative financial services for the rural sector. Efforts by Fudecosur to increase the productivity and income of rural producers, as well as generate social impact by improving quality of life for their families - with a focus on environmental protection and adaptation to climate change - caught the attention of Fenacrep, which seeks to remain at the forefront of the services it offers to its affiliated cooperatives. Additionally, the scope of action of Fudecosur in Costa Rica and Fenacrep in northern Peru is similar in terms of environmental, economic and social factors, which made it possible to analyse the case study through highly adaptable and replicable components.

The case study benefited from the expertise in Italian cooperative credit provided by Sustinentes and Osel, in addition to their experience in developing training content on sustainable enterprise management. All of this led to the creation of a financial product aimed at micro-enterprises, with social inclusion and environmental sustainability at its core. The aim was for credit unions in northern Peru to be able to make use of the product, while at the same time allowing it to be studied and adapted to other Latin American contexts and territories.

Sectoral approach - Contribution to the 2030 Agenda

PRIMARY SDG



Goal 8.4 Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, with developed countries taking the lead

Goal 8.10 Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all

SECONDARY SDG



Goal 5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decisionmaking in political, economic and public life

ADELANTE SDG

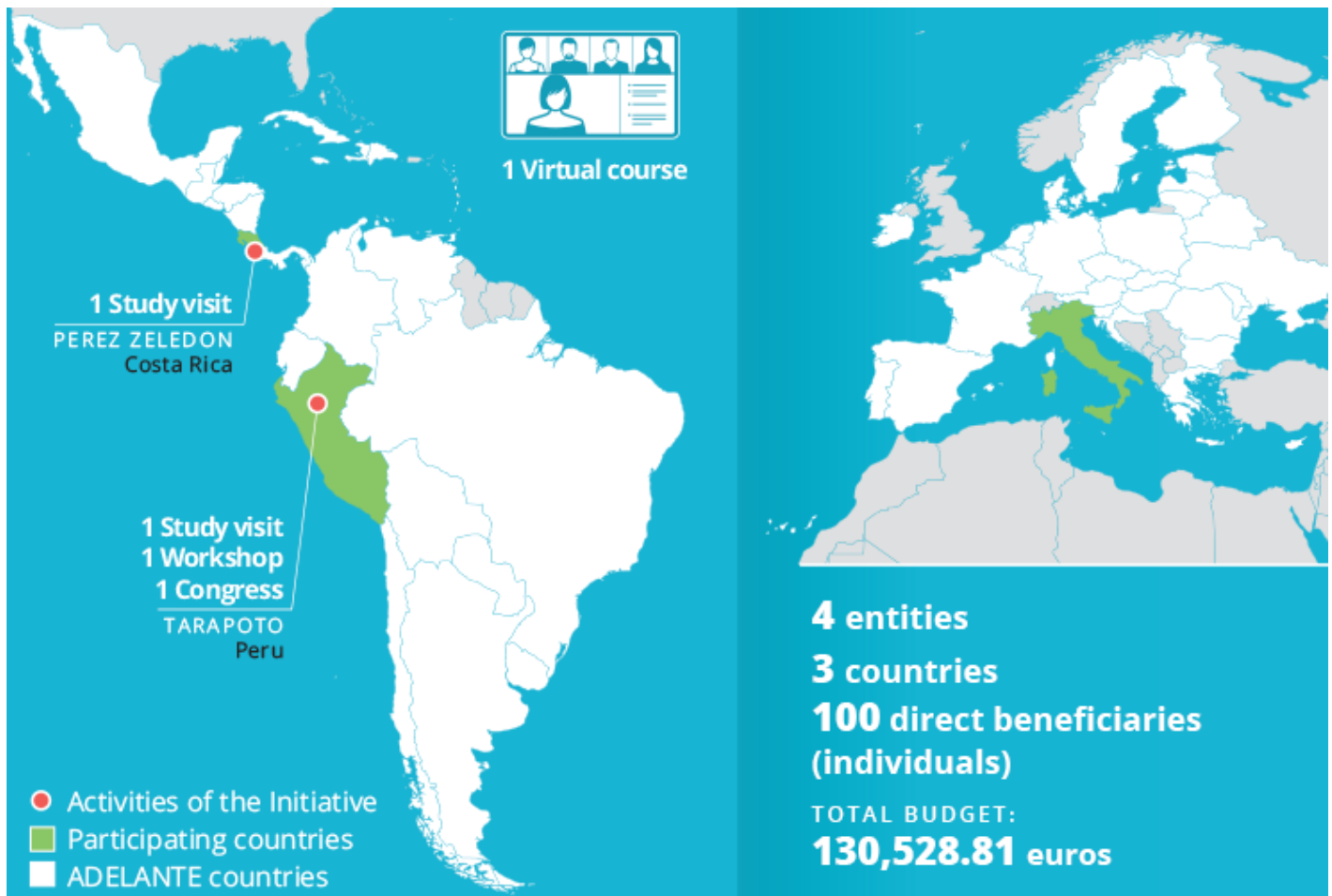


Goal 10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status



Goal 17.9 Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the sustainable development goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation

Territorial approach



Intervention methodology

Ten activities were carried out under the work plan of the Initiative, through courses, workshops, studies, congresses, study visits and consultancies, which enabled the collection of primary data through case studies, context analysis and gap analysis studies. A training programme on sustainable business management was also created to support the direct beneficiaries, and an inclusive and green financial product was developed that was tailored to local challenges and opportunities.

The Initiative began with **a study** that sought to identify social and environmental sustainability gaps in the agricultural sector and in rural areas of northern Peru. This study was an essential input for the development of **a course on sustainable business management** for rural micro-entrepreneurs and credit advisors of COOPAC - Peru, focused on climate change, financial education, cooperatives, entrepreneurship, business management, sustainability and gender equality. The course was attended by 60 women micro-entrepreneurs who acquired the knowledge to start or improve their businesses or manage a financial loan.

Two study visits were carried out in parallel to the course. The first visit took place in Costa Rica, where Fudecosur's experience in productive credit with a gender lens was closely studied, and the first steps were taken to design the financial product.

The second study visit took place in the north of Peru, where the Partnership member entities gained first-hand insights into the context of the intervention areas and women entrepreneurs. Work also continued on

the design of the financial product.

The work carried out by the Partnership member entities was enriched by **two consultancies**, which contributed to the analysis of environmental sustainability practices and to the development of a toolbox to launch the financial product.

Two studies were also carried out to support the design of the inclusive and green financial product. An initial feasibility study of the product was carried out to ensure all the essential elements for its design, adapted to the scope of action of the Initiative. A second study provided support through the systematisation of the knowledge generated throughout the Initiative, contributing to the design of the financial product. In addition to the study, a face-to-face workshop was held, where credit advisors from the savings and credit cooperatives were trained in the use of the new financial product.

The Initiative ended with **a congress in northern Peru** and the outcomes were shared, including the financial product. The event was attended by the Partnership member entities and the women micro-entrepreneurs who participated in the course, providing them with a forum to share their insights and present their business projects.

Closing Congress of the Initiative

Tarapoto, Peru | 25 April 2023

[@gallery:"galeriaict359-22-a3"@]

» [Download the Congress brochure](#) (Spanish)

Testimony of Partnership members

Direct beneficiaries (individuals)

According to Rule 9 of the Guidelines for Applicants: all persons participating in the activities of the Initiative.

There were approximately **100 direct beneficiaries** in the Initiative, including 60 women from rural areas in northern Peru who participated in the training cycle on sustainable micro-entrepreneurship and credit access. In addition, at least 16 advisors affiliated with the savings and credit cooperatives in northern Peru benefited from the training modules and the workshop on the use of the financial product.

Furthermore, approximately 25 people affiliated with the Partnership member entities benefited from participating in the activities.

Budget

EU contribution: 98,095.81 €

Co-financing - Triangular Cooperation Partnership: 32,433.00 €

Total budget: 130,528.81 €

