

IMPLEMENTING BAPA+40 THROUGH TRIANGULAR CO-OPERATION

CASE STORY: **ADELANTE 2** – the EU Triangular Co-operation Programme with Latin America and the Caribbean

April 2023

BAPA+40 and Triangular Co-operation

The BAPA+40 Outcome Document was a milestone for triangular co-operation. The Global Partnership Initiative on Effective Triangular Co-operation (GPI) has identified 53 recommendations related to the modality. Among those, four dimensions stand out: (i) triangular co-operation system, (ii) working methods and cross-cutting issues, (iii) partnerships, and (iv) sectoral focus.

The GPI Spotlight series are short, and informative, publications. It is an analytical exercise to identify how its members are using triangular co-operation to implement the BAPA+40 recommendations.

A glance at European Union's Triangular Co-operation

The European Union (EU) is a leading facilitating partner for triangular co-operation (TrC). The first technical co-operation initiatives that resemble triangular co-operation models and tactics date back to the late 1990s. The EU has reported its TrC initiatives to the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) since 2017 (2016 data). The EU institutions disbursed the largest volume of TrC funding between 2016-2020, amounting to USD 131 million, followed by Germany and Canada (OECD, 2022).

EU development programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), such as EUROCLIMA+, EUROsociAL, EI PAcCTO, and READI, have effectively addressed development challenges through components of triangular co-operation. They have contributed to changes in public policies through peer learning and the exchange of experiences between equivalent institutions in LAC and Europe, as well as among LAC countries.

The European Consensus on Development, adopted in 2017, highlighted TrC as an innovative

instrument to engage with developing countries in implementing the 2030 Agenda. The EU is convinced that solutions to today's sustainable development challenges can be found in all corners of the world. Within this framework, TrC facilitates the mobilisation of these diverse solutions and access to a wider pool of expertise, research, and capital; it also provides a greater incentive to learn and innovate than ever before. In this context, the Directorate General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA) took a step forward in creating ADELANTE.

ADELANTE 2 in focus

ADELANTE emerged from the EU's commitment to promoting horizontal, flexible, and innovative modalities of co-operation. It is a robust programme launched in 2015 as the EU flagship programme for TrC with the LAC region.

During the first phase - between 2016 and 2020 - ADELANTE co-financed eight triangular projects involving 93 organisations from 22 European and LAC countries. In 2021, building on lessons learned, the EU launched ADELANTE 2, which is grounded on three components:

- Support TrC initiatives through the ADELANTE Triangular Co-operation Window.
- Promote studies and analysis about TrC's added value and impact in partnership with the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB).
- Facilitate cost-shared Triangular Co-operation Funds with specific LAC and European partners.

Figure 1. ADELANTE 2 Components



Source: ADELANTE 2 website.

Highlights of ADELANTE 2 contributing to the implementation of BAPA+40

- ADELANTE 2 established innovative mechanisms to finance TrC: the [ADELANTE Co-operation Window](#) and the [Triangular Co-operation Funds](#). These mechanisms contribute to the systemic dimension.
- Through its engagement in international debates and strong collaboration with regional and multilateral organisations that belong to the TrC ecosystem (such as SEGIB and the Ibero-American Program for the Strengthening of South-South Co-operation, OECD and GPI, and the United Nations Office for South-South Co-operation), ADELANTE 2 contributes to data systematisation and promotes policy dialogue, knowledge exchange, and sharing of good practices.
- It leans on an inclusive, horizontal, and flexible approach and focuses on the 2030 Agenda and the national priorities of beneficiary countries, contributing to the working methods and cross-cutting issues dimension. Its transparent and pedagogical communication is an added value in this area.

- It encourages engagement with a wide range of actors from all areas (national co-operation agencies, public entities—national and sub-national level—, private entities, unions, social entities, universities, academic or research institutions and think tanks, multilateral, international and regional organisations and international financial institutions, among others), contributing to the partnership dimension.

Innovative instruments for triangular co-operation

ADELANTE Window: increasing accessibly, flexibility, and ownership

Based on the lessons learned during the first phase, ADELANTE 2 sought to expand partnerships with different actors, promoting shared responsibility and ownership. The ADELANTE Window aims to be accessible (minimising the barriers to creating a Triangular Partnership and starting a Triangular Initiative) and flexible (simplifying the administrative processes as much as possible and giving substantial support through the ADELANTE Team), thus enabling the promotion of effective partnerships with any entity from Europe and LAC.

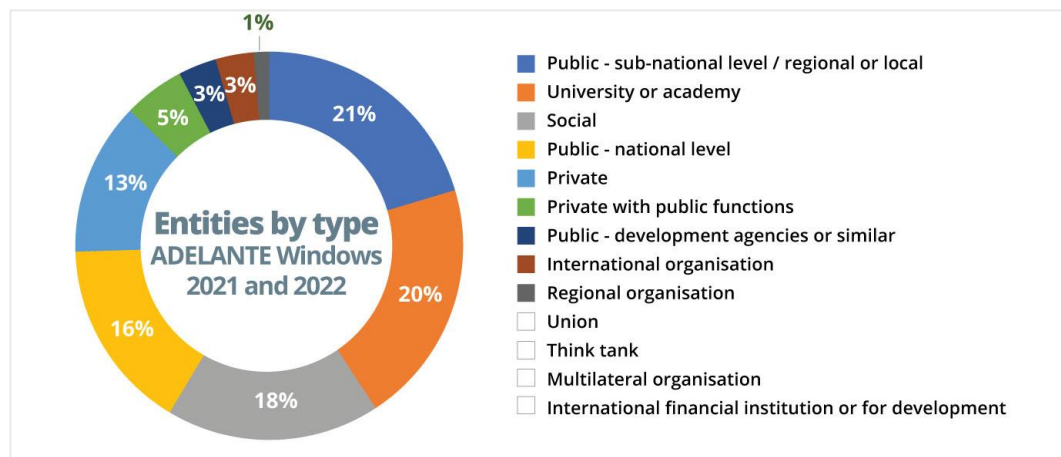
The EU allocated EUR 5 million for the ADELANTE Window. Through annual calls for proposals between 2021 and 2024, the mechanism channels and mobilises resources to Triangular Partnerships to implement Triangular Initiatives that tackle development challenges in LAC, aligned with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

During the first two editions (2021 and 2022), 26 Triangular Partnerships, mostly multi-stakeholder and multi-level engaged 157 entities from 21 European

and LAC countries. These partners worked together in a TrC approach that reached more than 5,700 direct beneficiaries participating in more than 170 activities with a strong capacity for 'knowledge triangulation' (workshops, seminars, congresses, consultancies, study visits, internships, studies, courses, etc.). These Triangular Initiatives directly contributed to achieving 14 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

In April 2023, the ADELANTE Window welcomed proposals for its third edition.

Figure 2. Type of entities participating in ADELANTE Window 2021 and 2022



Source: ADELANTE data 2021 and 2022.

Triangular Co-operation Funds: strengthening the triangular co-operation system

ADELANTE 2 also co-finances small-scale Triangular Co-operation Funds with six LAC partners: Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, and Uruguay. The EU and its partners jointly implement TrC project proposals derived from demands coming from the LAC countries with innovative and targeted responses that contribute to achieving the 2030 Agenda and the 17 SDGs.

The funds have an estimated combined budget of about EUR 9 million, of which the EU contributes EUR 5 million. The EU is providing funding for these six funds in three different ways:

- EU joint funding with Chile and Uruguay for TrC projects implemented by the respective South American co-operation agencies (ACGID in Chile

and AUCI in Uruguay).

- EU joint funding with Germany managed by the German development co-operation (GIZ) to implement TrC projects in Colombia and Brazil, to which the respective countries are contributing either monetary or in-kind.
- EU funding managed by the Spanish Co-operation Agency (AECID) with contributions from Costa Rica and Cuba.

Building evidence of the value-added of the modality

During the first phase, ADELANTE partnered with the OECD for a pilot exercise of the "[Toolkit for identifying, monitoring and evaluating the value added of triangular co-operation](#)", aiming to assess the results of the first eight projects. The paper "[The value added of triangular co-operation. Lessons learned from ADELANTE](#)" summarised the main

findings of the joint pilot exercise and presented recommendations that served as input for ADELANTE 2 and the second edition of the Toolkit. The efforts to build evidence were complemented by the [ADELANTE Knowledge Bank](#) and the [“Systematisation of the ADELANTE Programme 2016-2020”](#).

For the second phase of ADELANTE, the EU established a partnership with SEGIB to evaluate TrC and its impact on the international co-operation and development landscape, as well as enhance the value-added of its strategy to the modality. Through this partnership, SEGIB will produce studies to contribute to an innovative TrC model between the EU and the Latin American region in line with the 2030 Agenda.

Additionally, ADELANTE 2 annually publishes the ADELANTE Window systematisation documents and hosts the [“Momentos ADELANTE”](#), a space for promoting reflection and learning about TrC through dialogue between key actors.

The programme focuses on the LAC region but systematically shares its experience in international fora, such as the European Development Days, BAPA+40, the Global South-South Development Expos, and the GPI events and marketplaces, thus contributing to inter-regional collaboration, policy dialogue, and peer-learning to improve TrC systems and practices.

Recommendations to continue BAPA+40 implementation

- Deepen and encourage ADELANTE 2 partners to participate in cross-regional interactions to share the wealth of experience and knowledge ADELANTE 2 has on the modality. Future initiatives supported by the EU through the “The Partnerships and Policy Dialogue with Asia” can contribute to scale up triangular co-operation in other world regions.
- ADELANTE Window has mainstreamed SDG 10 (reduce inequalities) and 17 (partnerships for the goals) in all its initiatives, and it has a clear communication strategy focused on these SDGs, considered as ‘ADELANTE SDGs’. At the same time, it has a cross-cutting approach to Human Rights, Gender Equality and Environment and Climate Change. To align with BAPA+40 recommendations, the programme could consider also integrating SDG 5 (gender equality) in its communication strategy adding it to the ‘ADELANTE SDGs’ concept.

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For more references on triangular co-operation, visit the GPI Resource Library: www.triangular-cooperation.org/resources/

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