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HIGHLIGHTS

Report on South-South and Triangular
Cooperation in Ibero-America 2022

southsouth



Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB)

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Note:

With reference to the inclusion of the term Triangular in the title of the Report, Brazil “understands ‘Trilateral Cooperation’ is the most appropriate expression to refer to the type of cooperation that is executed between 3 international stakeholders”.

Front cover photo:

Project *Preserving memory and reconstructing human-nature relations*. This initiative is part of the Ibero-American Program Ibermemoria sonora y audiovisual and it works on the sound and audiovisual recording of 100 bird species in order to disseminate the natural heritage of Cuernavaca and Morelos (Mexico). Image bank on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America. SEGIB-PIFCSS. 2021.

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*prepared by Ibero-American Heads of Cooperation

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Photo: Through Bilateral SSC, Colombia and Costa Rica work on the management of marine protected areas in both territories. They also contribute to preserve biodiversity and protect fragile species and ecosystems. Image bank on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America. SEGIB-PIFCSS. 2022.

Foreword

This *Report on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America 2022* is a turning point in the history of this publication which has a track record of more than 15 years and has gone from being a pioneering exercise at the multilateral level to consolidating as an international benchmark in the field.

This 14th edition marks the beginning of a biennial series in which the Report will be published every two years. This innovation has a positive impact on two aspects: on the one hand, it will be possible to adapt the registration process, data analysis and the report's drafting to the natural cycle of SSC in its different modalities; on the other hand, this means its publication will coincide with each Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government, and that it will be possible to launch it in this framework; in this case, at the 28th Summit which will be held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, on March 24th and 25th, 2023.

The Report focuses on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in which Ibero-American countries participated during the 2020-2021 period. These two years are associated with an absolutely exceptional moment we all had to face since, in March 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 as a pandemic that resulted in a global crisis of unknown dimensions.

This situation, which began as a health emergency, rapidly became a multidimensional crisis that structurally overlapped with other vulnerabilities such as those derived from climate change and its effects on biodiversity or on food security, which affects millions of people globally. These topics cut across this edition of the *Report on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America 2022*.

An in-depth analysis of the 2020-2021 data provides the opportunity to compare the evolution of the different modalities with the previous two-year period, and to identify the impact of the pandemic on this cooperation. However, possibly the most important aspect of this report is that it also sheds light on the strategies Ibero-American countries adopted to cope with COVID-19 and, especially, on how they used and continue to use South-South and Triangular Cooperation as an instrument to respond to the challenges of this multidimensional crisis.

In this sense, all the accumulated experience and the enormous amount of information that has been gathered since the first Report in 2007, allow this 2022 edition to include more detailed analysis on the role this cooperation is playing in this critical context. The capacities South-South and Triangular Cooperation generated at the country level and its various instruments are definitely making a substantial contribution to overcome major challenges.

These reflections are combined with an approach to several examples through which this cooperation materializes, showing the "human face" of Ibero-American South-South and Triangular Cooperation. Thus, the different chapters combine data systematization and analysis with *Cases*, in order to illustrate some of the most emblematic projects and how these have an impact on people's lives.

This exercise is complemented by including photographs of the image bank on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America, which was compiled by SEGIB and the Ibero-American Program for the Strengthening of South-South Cooperation (PIFCCS by its Spanish acronym). In this sense, this 2022 edition contributes to build a new narrative on South-South and Triangular Cooperation, bringing it closer to people and making it more accessible by illustrating what it consists of, its purposes, its main stakeholders, its mechanisms and, above all, its outcomes and the positive impacts it has on sustainable human development and on the effective exercise of people's rights.

The Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB by its Spanish acronym) reaffirms its firm commitment to South-South and Triangular Cooperation, based on countries' efforts to continue promoting it and through this Report, which makes it visible at the regional and global level. We firmly believe this cooperation will help our peoples advance the achievement of the 2030 Agenda despite the challenges this new context imposes, and we are grateful to each and every one of our countries for making this possible.

We are particularly proud of this Report and of this edition, which confirms its importance as a flagship for this institution. We trust it will be useful for all the members of the Ibero-American Community and for the regions with which Ibero-America cooperates. As a multilateral organization, we are pleased to substantially contribute to coordinate and enhance our region's collective efforts to jointly respond to the national and regional challenges this *Report on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America* represents. We will continue to honor, with our best efforts, the responsibility that this means.



Andrés Allamand
IBERO-AMERICAN SECRETARY GENERAL



Lorena Laríos Rodríguez
SECRETARY FOR IBERO-AMERICAN COOPERATION



Photo: Daniel Hernández irrigates vegetable crops in the Armando López community in the municipality of Jiquilisco, Usulután. He participates in the Bilateral SSC project between Mexico and El Salvador *Sembrando vida*, combining traditional crops with a system that alternates fruit trees with vegetables and timber. Image bank on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America. SEGIB-PIFCSS. 2021.

Highlights

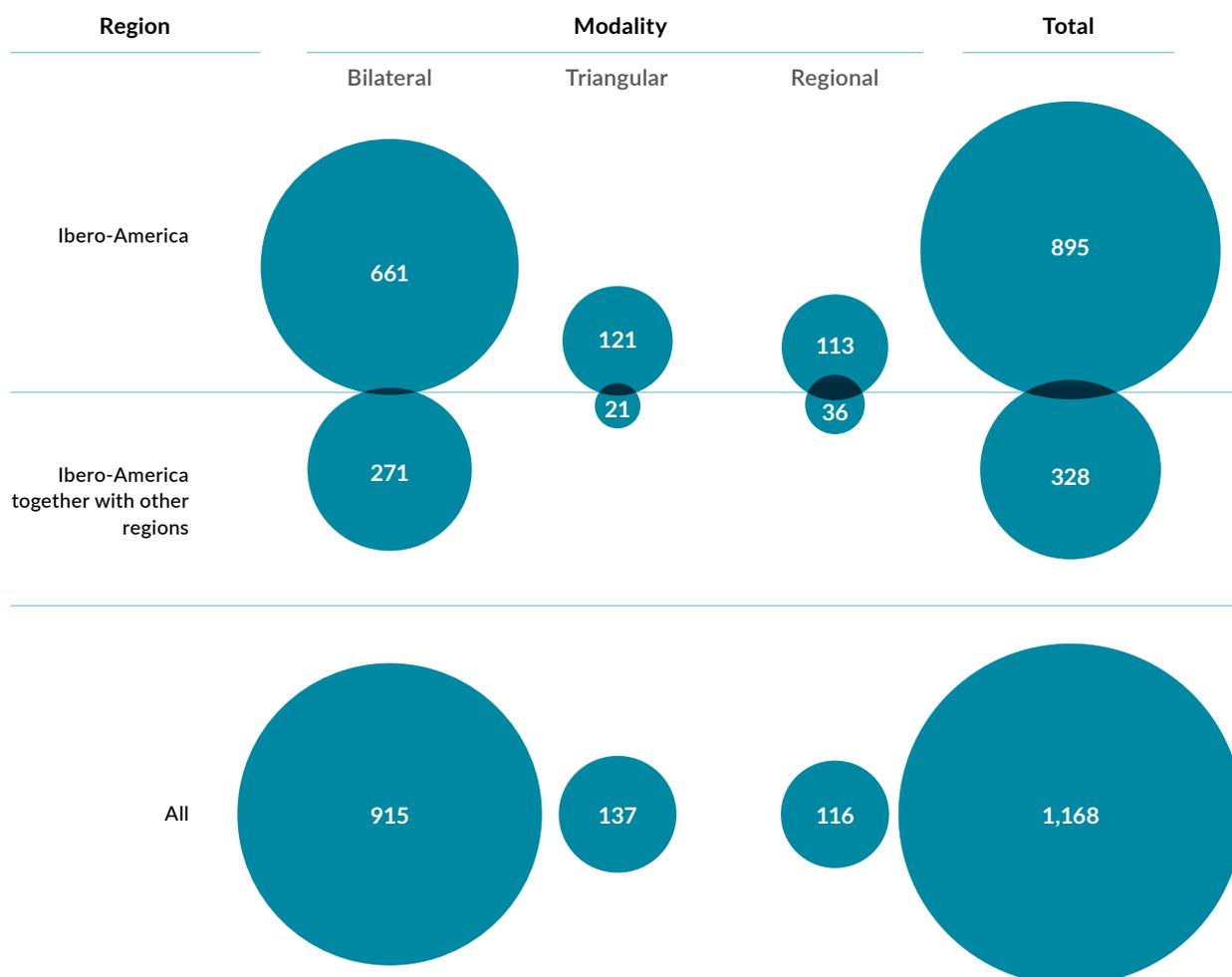
1

During the 2020-2021 period and in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis, Ibero-American countries are able to carry out 1,168 South-South and Triangular Cooperation initiatives

All Ibero-American countries participate in this cooperation, in addition to other regions' developing nations, which were involved in 328 actions, projects and programs. Almost 8 out of 10 initiatives (915) take place in the framework of Bilateral SSC.

→ **South-South and Triangular Cooperation initiatives exchanged between Ibero-American countries and with other regions' developing countries, by modality. 2020-2021**

In units



Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation

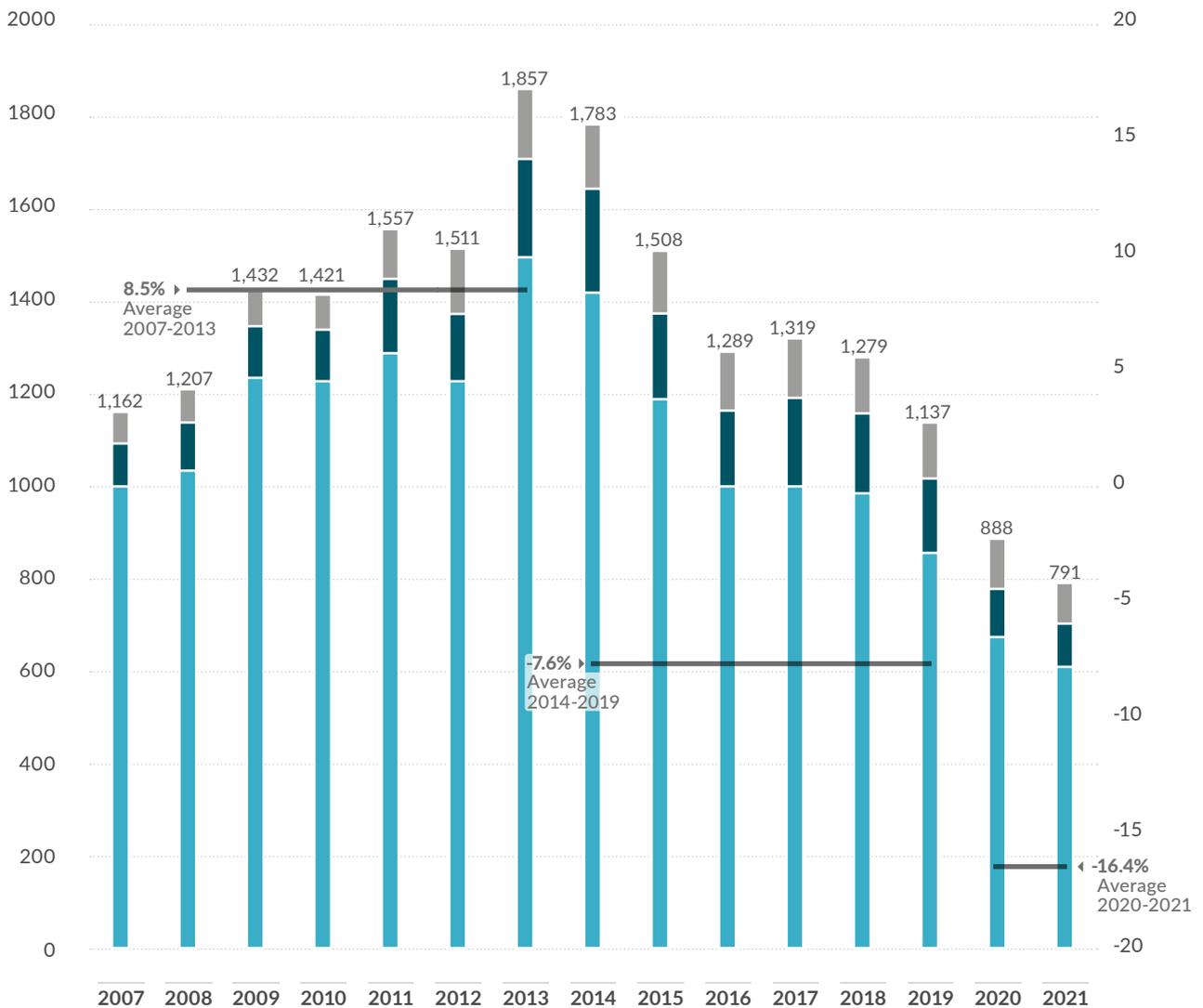
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In this context, and although the figure is 30% lower than in 2018-2019, the 1,168 South-South and Triangular Cooperation initiatives executed in the 2020-2021 period represent a remarkable volume

The COVID-19 crisis accentuates the decline that South-South and Triangular Cooperation was already showing. Three stages can be identified in this sense: between 2007 and 2013 initiatives increased at an average annual rate of 8.5%, reaching a maximum of 1,857 exchanges; from 2014 to 2019 the average annual drop was -7.6%; and, in 2020-2021, it reaches -16.4%.

→ Evolution of all Ibero-American South-South and Triangular Cooperation initiatives, by modality and by average growth rate at different times. 2007-2021

In units and percentage



● Bilateral SSC ● Triangular ● Regional SSC

Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation

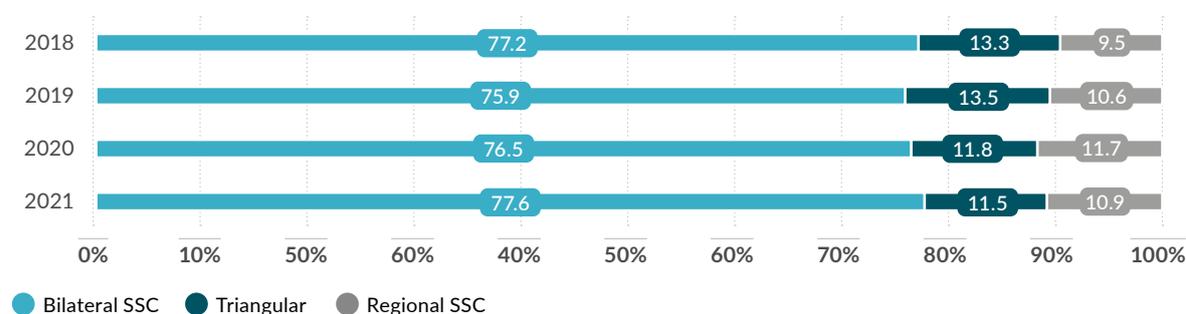
3

Countries develop strategies to dynamize and adapt South-South and Triangular Cooperation to pandemic times, in addition to making it an instrument to respond to the crisis caused by COVID-19

Actions' smaller relative size and their easier instrumentalization and adaptation to remote mechanisms has led to their growing importance in South-South and Triangular Cooperation initiatives as a whole. Most of these initiatives are promoted to face the COVID-19 crisis in its different dimensions. Specifically, the *Health* sector increases its importance over the total and, in 2021, accounts for 1 out of every 5 initiatives.

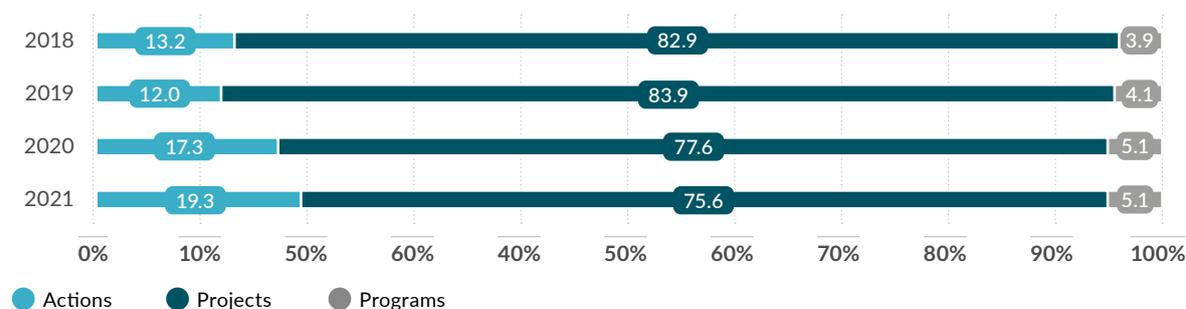
→ Distribution of initiatives in the COVID context, by modality. 2018-2021

In percentage



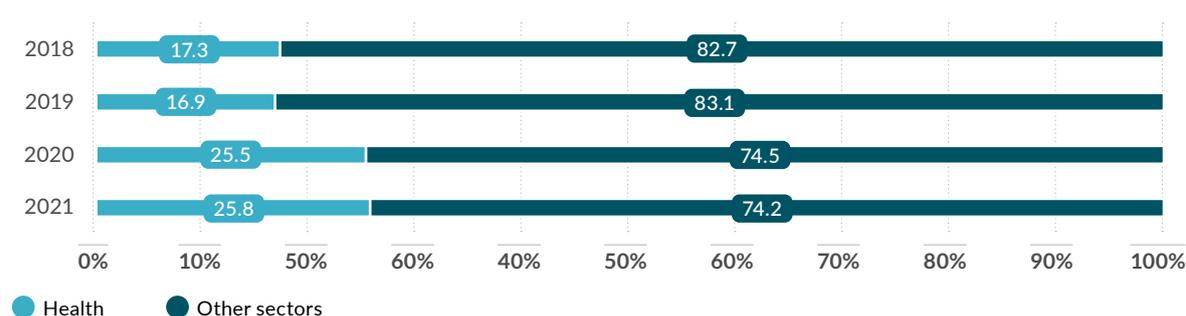
→ Distribution of initiatives in the COVID context, by instrument. 2018-2021

In percentage



→ The COVID context and the importance of the *Health* sector in the total number of initiatives. 2018-2021

In percentage



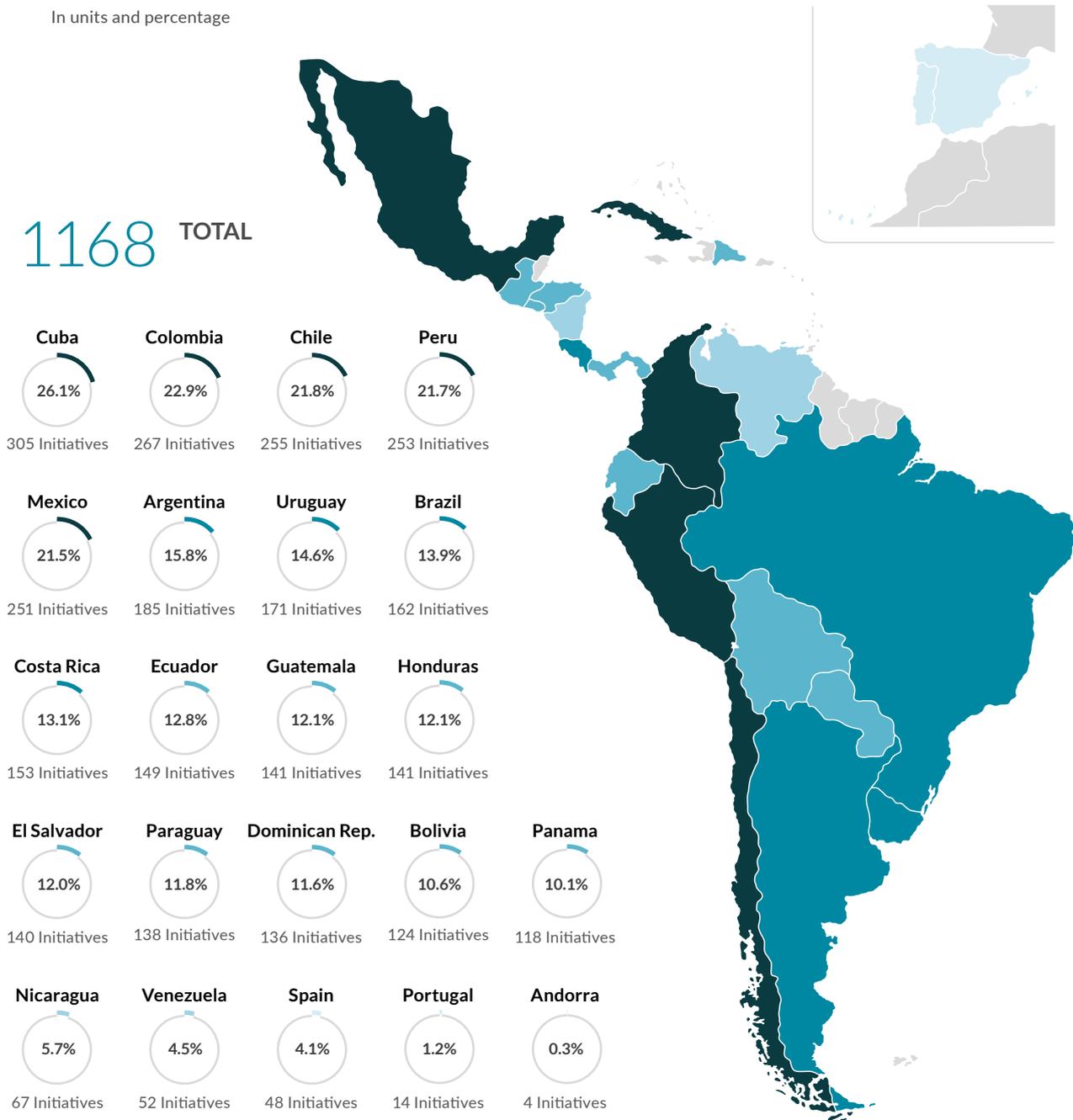


In the context of COVID-19, Cuba, Colombia, Chile, Peru and Mexico, all involved in more than 250 initiatives, stand out for their especially active role in South-South and Triangular Cooperation

Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil and Costa Rica participate in between 150 and 200 exchanges. Most countries (from Panama to Ecuador) also implement between 100 and 150 South-South and Triangular Cooperation actions, projects and programs.

→ Ibero-American countries' participation in all South-South and Triangular Cooperation initiatives. 2020-2021

In units and percentage



Number of initiatives in which each country participated in 2020-2021

- More than 200
- Between 150 and 199
- Between 100 and 149
- Between 50 and 99
- Up to 49

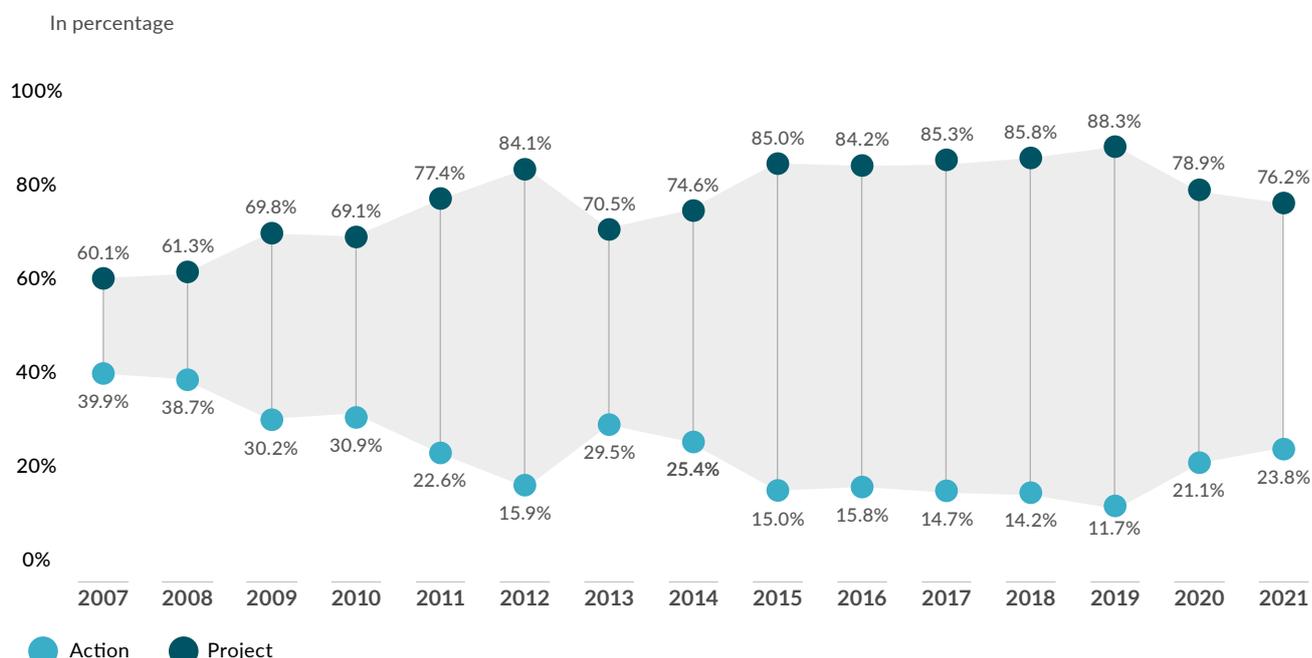
Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation

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Actions, which enable exchanges of a more specific nature and that can be easily executed online, play a dynamic role in the 915 South-South Cooperation (SSC) initiatives that were bilaterally exchanged with all partners

The COVID-19 crisis reverses the trend of recent years in which actions were being progressively displaced by projects. The projects-actions ratio peaked in 2019 getting close to 90%-10%. The outbreak of the pandemic, with the restrictions it imposed, boosted actions' importance once again, bringing the proportions closer together, although they still remain at a remarkable 76%-24%.

→ Evolution of projects' and actions' share in the total number of Ibero-American Bilateral SSC initiatives with all partners. 2007-2021



Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation



Photo: Bilateral SSC project *Strengthening the productive capacities of the bee value chain and beekeeping in the regions of Tenza Valley and Lengupá in Boyacá* between Colombia and Paraguay. Image bank on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America. SEGIB-PIFCSS. 2021.

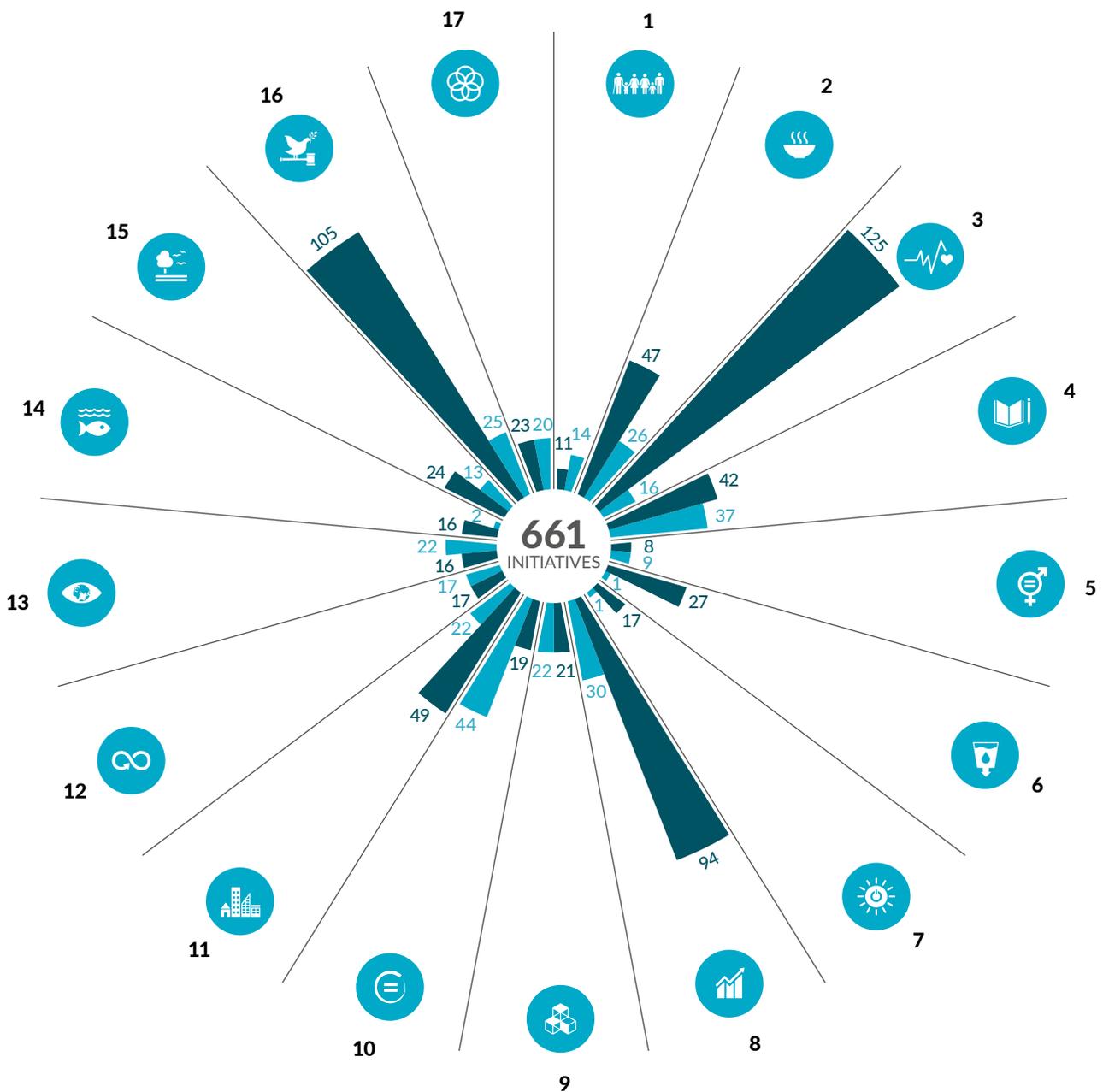


The topics addressed by the 661 SSC initiatives that were bilaterally exchanged confirm the region is still committed to the 2030 Agenda

During the 2020-2021 period, actions and projects combine the continuation of long-standing structural programs with the response to the COVID-19 crisis. As a result, SDG 3 (Good health and well-being), SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions) and SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth) stand out in these years.

→ Distribution of Bilateral SSC initiatives exchanged in Ibero-America, by their potential alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). 2020-2021

In units



● Main SDG ● Second SDG

Chile, Mexico and Costa Rica stand out as first providers in the 121 Triangular Cooperation (TC) initiatives carried out in Ibero-America in 2020-2021; Germany and Spain were the most active countries as second providers, while Paraguay and Bolivia were key players as recipients

The TC of the European Union (EU) and its member countries and, in short, the bi-regional partnership between the EU and Latin-America, is becoming increasingly important, accounting for 2 out of 3 (64.8%) of the 121 TC actions and projects carried out during those years.

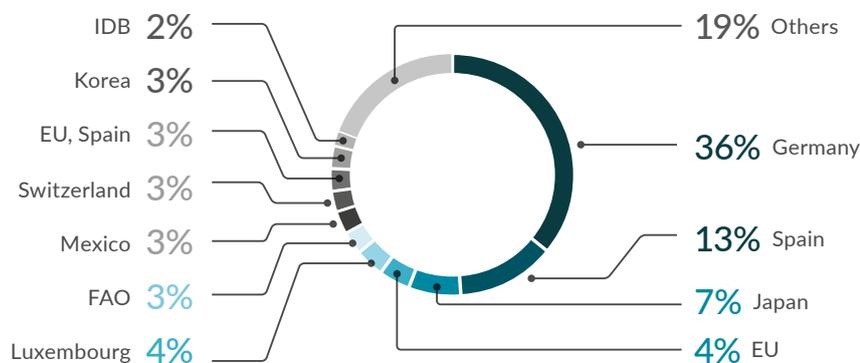
→ Distribution of Triangular Cooperation initiatives in Ibero-America, by roles and partners. 2020-2021

In percentage

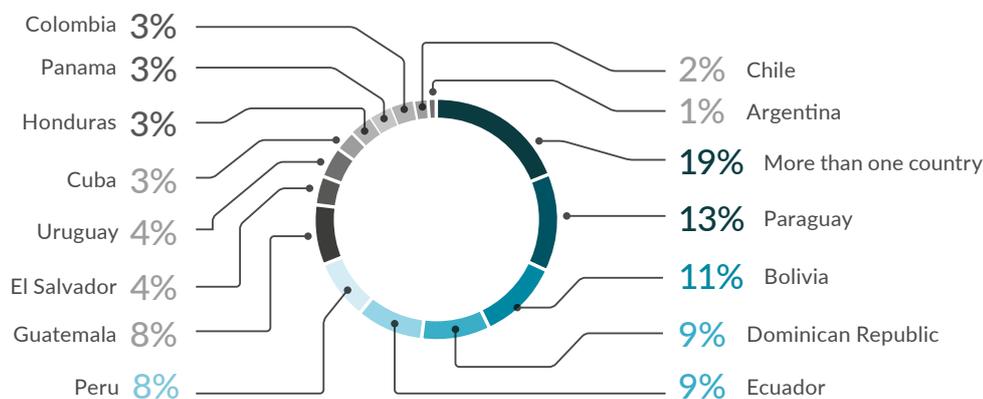
A. First provider



B. Second provider

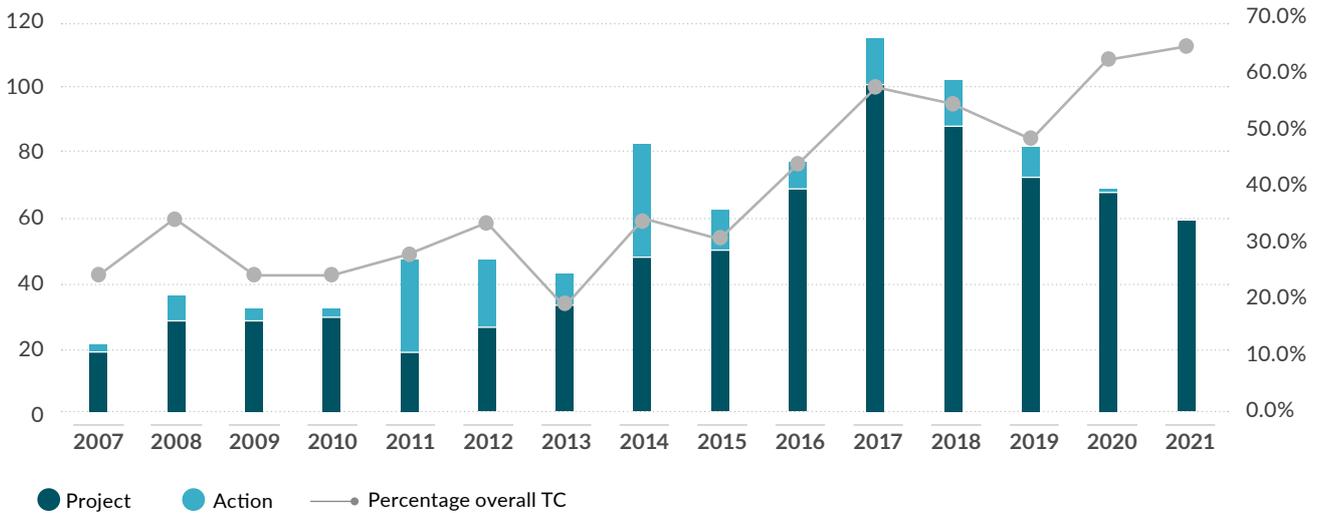


C. Recipient



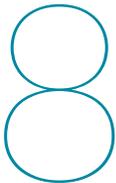
→ Evolution of EU-LAC Triangular Cooperation projects and actions and its percentage overall Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America. 2007-2021 (*)

In units and percentage



(*) EU-LAC initiatives are those in which at least one European Union member country, or the European Commission as such, and at least one country of Latin-America and the Caribbean participates.

Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation

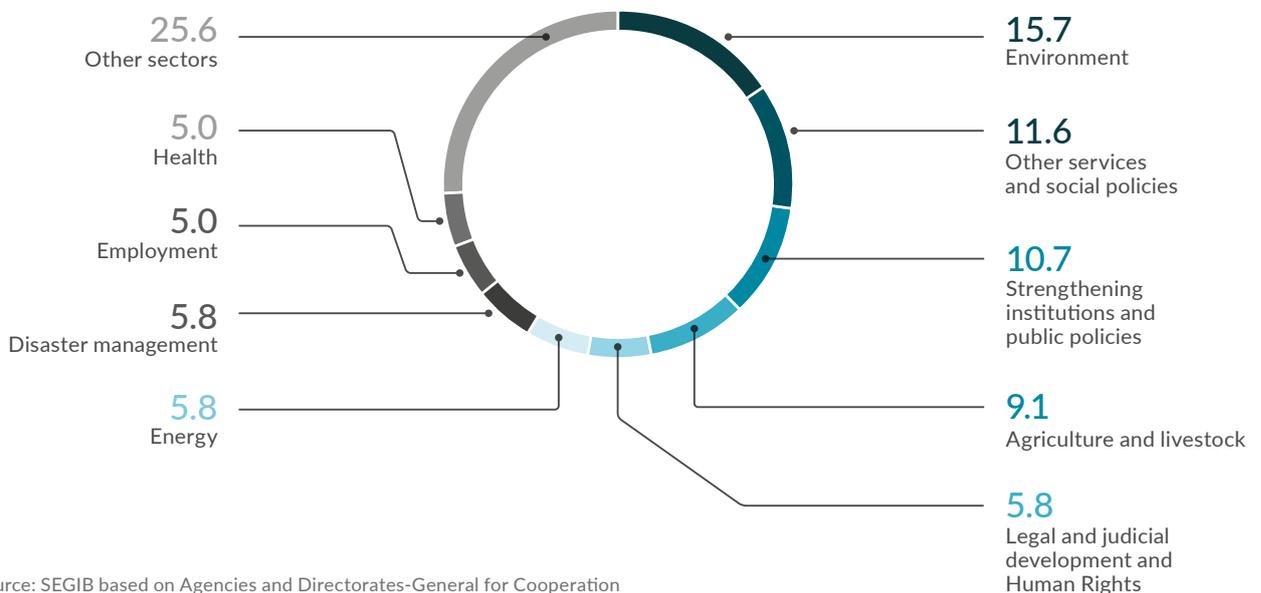


During the 2020-2021 period, Ibero-America continues to pay special attention to the protection and care of the *Environment*, which consolidates as the most important sector in this modality.

This trend suggests Triangular Cooperation - which over the years is increasingly involving a growing number of stakeholders - tends to address the provision of global public goods.

→ Distribution of Triangular Cooperation initiatives exchanged in Ibero-America, by the main activity sectors. 2020-2021

In percentage



Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation

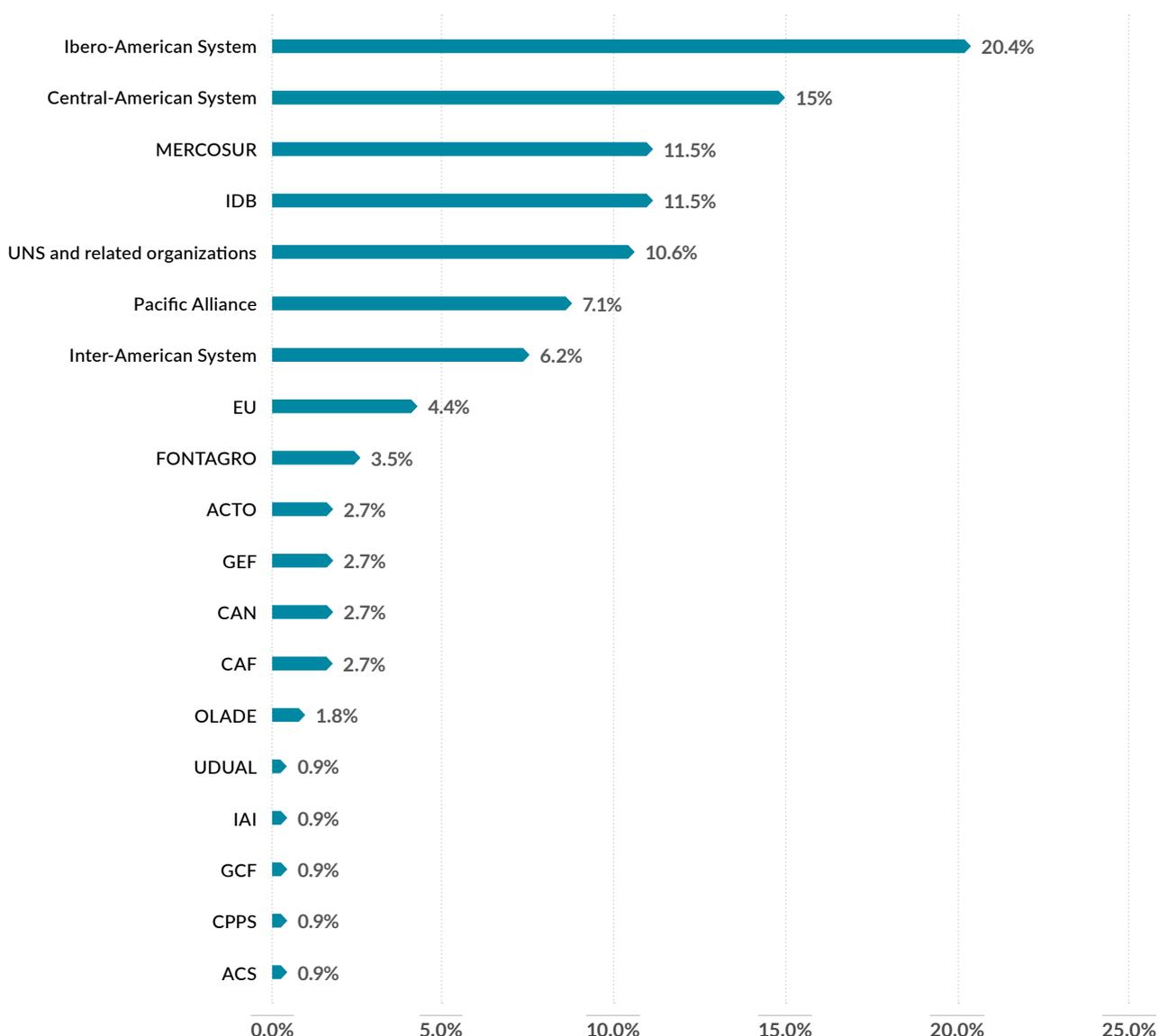


Multilateral organizations join Ibero-American countries in each and every one of the 113 Regional SSC initiatives that are implemented in the region in the 2020-2021 period

The organizations that make up the Ibero-American and Central-American systems participate in 20.4% and 15% of these 113 initiatives respectively. Special reference should also be made to the participation of the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the organizations of the United Nations System.

→ Multilateral organizations' participation in Regional SSC initiatives in Ibero-America. 2020-2021

In percentage



Methodological note: The analysis considers the number of initiatives in which each organization participates (both individually and when grouped with those of the system to which they belong) and their importance in the total. In this sense, and given that several organizations can simultaneously participate in the same initiative, some initiatives are counted more than once. This means the percentages associated with each organization and/or group cannot be aggregated and in no case can the total add up to 100%.

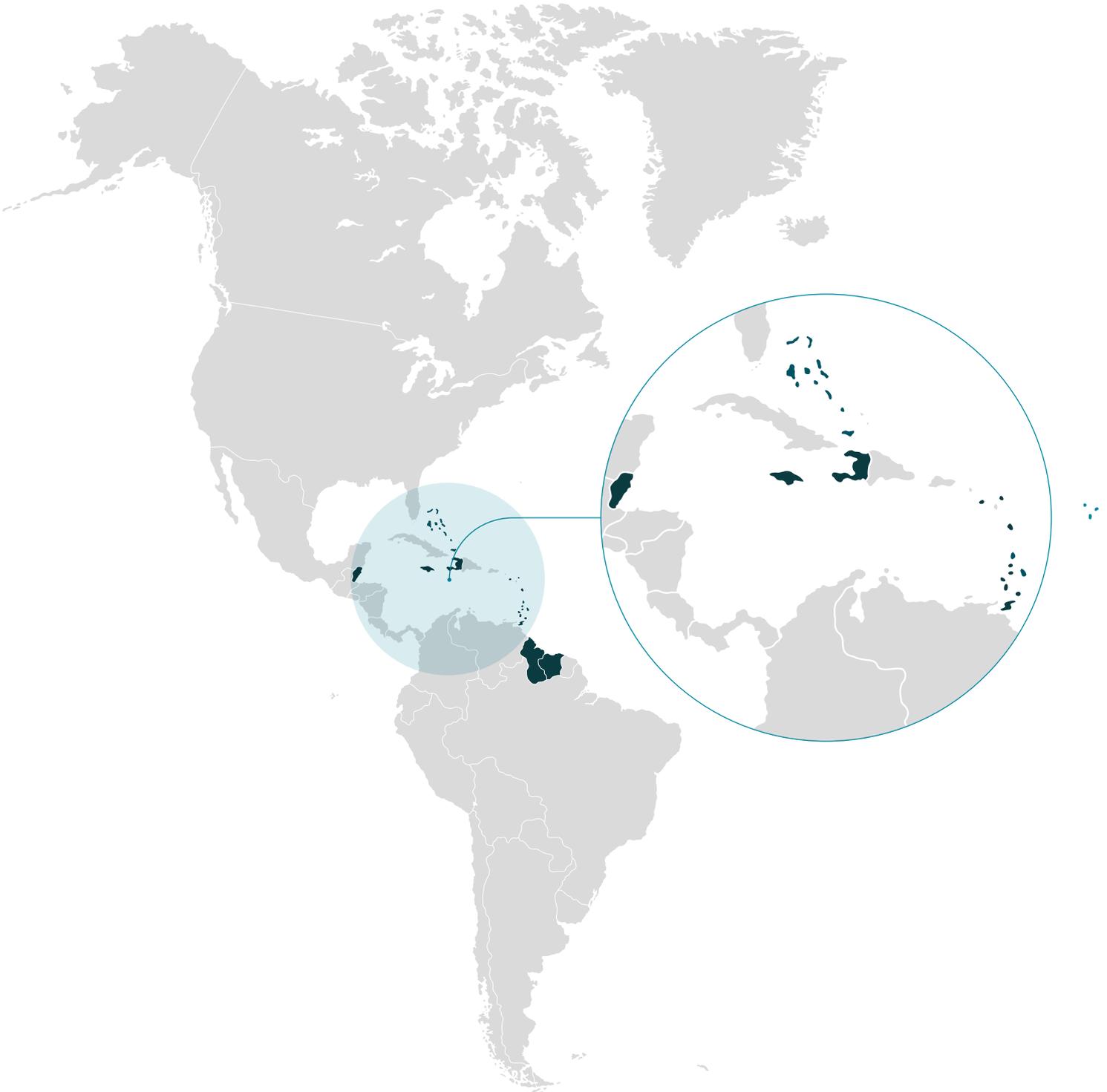
Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation

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In 2020-2021, Ibero-American countries promote 328 South-South and Triangular Cooperation initiatives in which 83 developing countries of other regions also participate

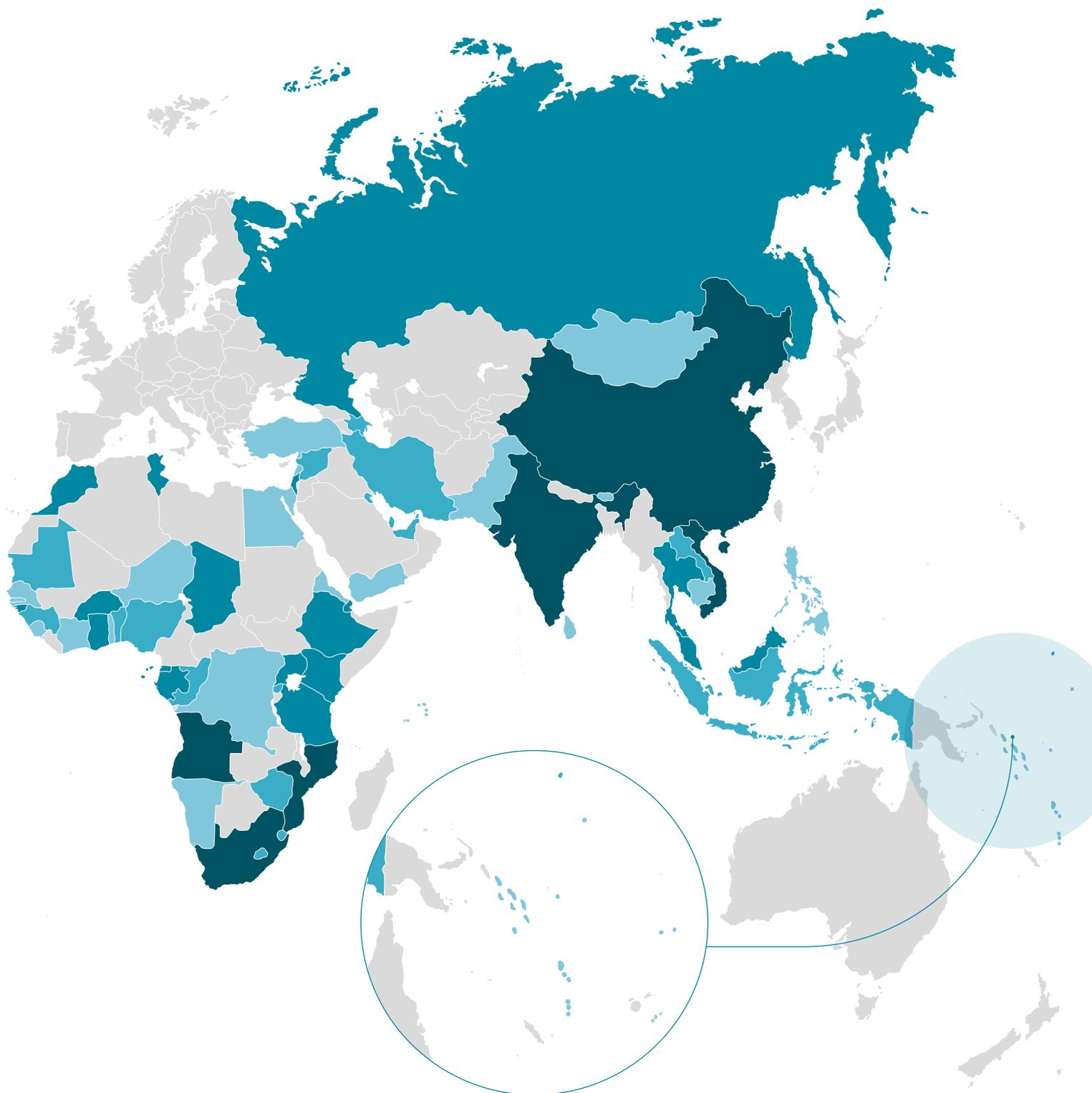
→ **Other regions' developing countries' participation in South-South and Triangular Cooperation initiatives carried out with Ibero-American countries. 2020-2021**

In units



In almost half of these, Ibero-America associates with the non-Ibero-American Caribbean. It is also possible to identify a preferential partnership with Africa (more than 100 initiatives, 1 out

of 3 of those exchanged), as well as with Asia (42 initiatives). These figures are explained, to a large extent, by Cuba's essential role to support the global fight against COVID-19.



Number of initiatives in which each country participated in 2020-2021, regardless of role and modality

- More than 15
- 6 to 15
- 3 to 5
- 2
- 1
- No initiatives registered

Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation



Photo: Artisanal fishermen work in the pink shrimp harvest in Castillos Lagoon, Rocha, in the East of Uruguay. Bilateral SSC project between Uruguay and Chile *Capacity strengthening to assess the vulnerability of pink shrimp fisheries to climate change in Uruguay's coastal areas*. Image bank on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America. SEGIB-PIFCSS. 2021.

The *Report on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America 2022* analyzes those cooperation initiatives in which the region participated in 2020-2021, a period that was marked by the outbreak of COVID-19. This has made the importance of strengthening multilateralism and cooperation to collaboratively and more efficiently address global challenges more evident than ever. South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America during this period has been able to adapt to the restrictions imposed by the pandemic and has tried to respond to the impacts of the multidimensional crisis it triggered, without neglecting other matters that are essential for sustainable development such as climate change and biodiversity.

The 2022 Report focuses on the importance of capacity building and the exchange of experiences in the search for shared solutions to development problems, in line with the 2030 Agenda and the principle to leave no one behind. This edition presents a series of cases and photographs on SSC initiatives developed by the region on various topics, such as the conservation of marine ecosystems, traditional gastronomy or the efficient use of water, among others, revealing the richness of these projects and the human face of this cooperation.

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