



Photo: The objective of the initiative *Escuela Calidad Mujer* between Chile and Peru was to support women's entrepreneurship as a tool to break the cycle of gender violence by promoting economic independence and the recognition of their role as heads of household. Image bank on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America. SEGIB-PIFCSS. 2021.

2 Ibero-American Triangular Cooperation and partnerships for development

Triangular Cooperation is a powerful tool to advance the achievement of Sustainable Development through associations with an increasing and diverse number of stakeholders. These partnerships, mostly based on different instruments, have given this modality an institutional framework and strength that have made it particularly resilient to the impact of the COVID-19 crisis. This chapter focuses on Triangular Cooperation in the 2022-2023 period; on the partners, associations and instruments that made it possible; and on its contribution to capacity strengthening for the region's progress towards sustainable and inclusive development. Identifying the network of stakeholders, instruments and thematic priorities that enabled this modality to continue to meet its commitment to development.

2.1 The 2022-2023 period: a resilient and growing Triangular Cooperation

Graph 2.1 was prepared to contextualize and analyze the evolution of Ibero-American Triangular Cooperation in this two-year period. This graph shows the total number of Triangular Cooperation actions, projects and initiatives annually exchanged between Ibero-American countries and all partners between 2007 and 2023.

// Graph 2.1

Evolution of the total number of Triangular Cooperation actions, projects and initiatives exchanged by Ibero-American countries with all partners. 2007-2023

In units



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

As the graph portrays, different stages have been identified in these more than 15 years:

- a) The first, from 2007 to 2014, when Triangular Cooperation had its most dynamic moment, the number of initiatives increasing 150%: from 88 in 2007 to 220 in 2014, an all-time record in the entire period.
- b) A second stage, since 2015, of successive falls — with the sole exception of the 2016-2017 period—, the most intense precisely being associated with the impact caused by the COVID-19 crisis. Thus, between 2015 and 2018, the number of Triangular Cooperation initiatives annually fell, on average, by -5.0%. Additionally, between 2019 and 2021, the rate of decline further intensifies to -20% on average per year, pushing the aggregate number of actions and projects from 164 in 2019 to just over 100 in 2021.
- c) A third stage (the 2022-2023 period), with a dynamic that suggests the beginning of a recovery and a turning point. In fact, during these last two years, a positive growth —12.9% on average per year—, was once again recorded. This result pushes the total number of Triangular Cooperation initiatives remarkably up to 135 in 2023, however still below the figure of 2019 (164).



The 2022-2023 period marks a turning point, with the beginning of a stage which dynamics suggest signs of recovery

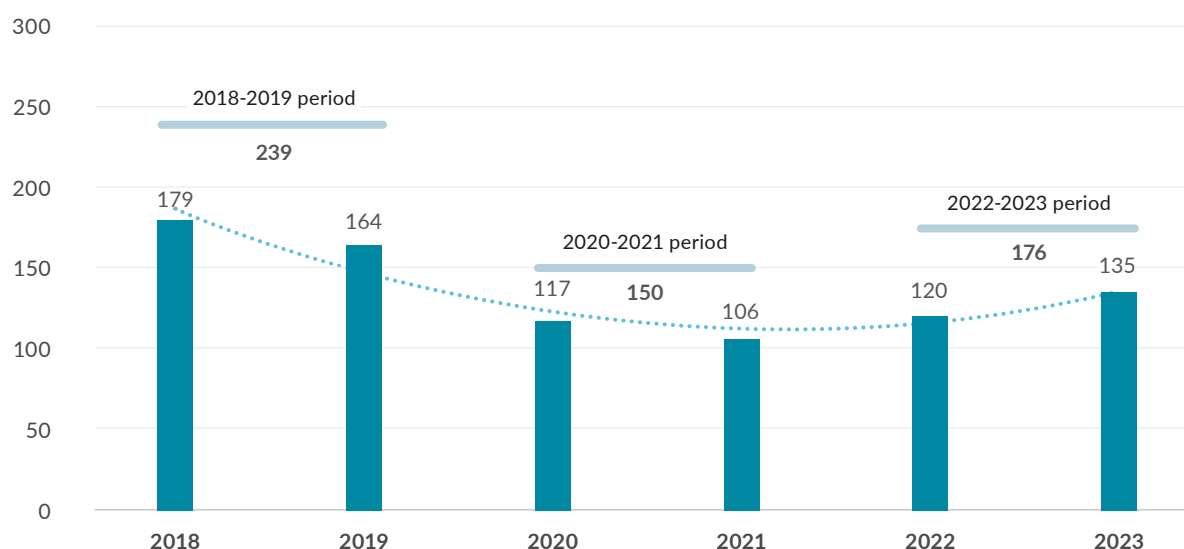


Graph 2.2, which narrows the period of analysis and focuses on the Triangular Cooperation initiatives that countries executed before, during and after the COVID-19 crisis, by year and by the different two-year periods, enables an in-depth examination of the above. The trend line confirms that an upward inflection is only visible after 2021, which, although significant, is still not enough to recover pre-crisis levels. This dynamic is the same in all the two-year periods. Hence, the drop caused by the pandemic (of -37.2%) pushes the total number of actions and projects from 239 in 2018-2019 to 150 in 2020-2021. Meanwhile, in 2022-2023, this number increases (17.3%) to 176, a remarkable figure, but still below that recorded in the preceding years.

// Graph 2.2

Ibero-American Triangular Cooperation initiatives implemented in the pre- and post-COVID crisis, by year and two-year periods. 2018-2023

In units



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

In addition, and as mentioned in the previous chapter, another indicator of the current state of cooperation and its potential capacity to overcome the impact of the crisis is related to the importance of projects and their implementation. In fact, it is understood that, over time, countries' growing commitment to projects —of a relatively more important scope— to the detriment of actions, reflects a greater capacity to execute their cooperation. Indeed, data available for 2022-2023 suggests that the average time needed to carry out a Triangular Cooperation action (as a dimension indicator) is 49 days, while ranging from 2 (695 days) to about 3.5 years in projects' case.¹

In line with the above, Graph 2.3 compares the relative importance that projects and actions had in the total number of Triangular Cooperation initiatives in which Ibero-American countries annually participated during the 2007-2023 period. As expected, and consistent with this process through which countries have strengthened their capacities, this graph confirms that, over time, the importance of these two instruments tend to diverge in favor of projects, the gap between the two ratios progressively widening.

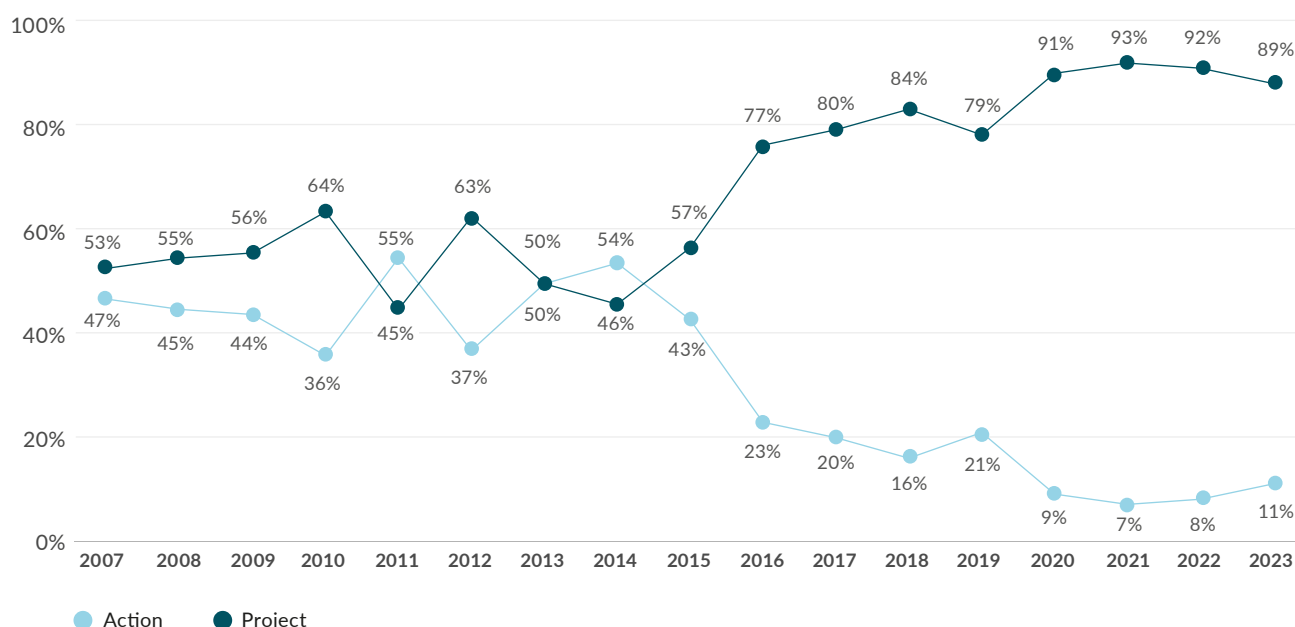
Specifically, in 2007, the ratio between projects' and actions' relative share in the total number of Triangular Cooperation initiatives was close to 53%-47%. In 2021, coinciding with the COVID-19 crisis, the gap widens to a maximum of 93%-7%. During the following two years, the two percentages slightly approached again up to 90% projects-10% actions, in 2023.

The way in which these relation behaved during the COVID-19 crisis and the contrast with that identified in the Bilateral SSC modality is of particular interest, as it suggests Triangular Cooperation adapted to and recovered from the impact of the pandemic in a different manner. During 2020 and 2021, Bilateral SSC was boosted by the implementation of actions and, in 2022-2023, these were again displaced in favor of projects, which consolidated as an instrument to overcome the crisis. Triangular Cooperation had an opposite dynamic: during the crisis — in the 2020-2021 period— projects withstood better than actions, registering respective average drops of -12.5% and -52.0%, respectively; meanwhile, at the beginning of the recovery stage —in 2022-2023—, actions had a greater momentum, with an annual average of 46.4% compared to projects' 10.1%. Triangular Cooperation's

// Graph 2.3

Evolution of projects' and actions' weight in the total number of Triangular Cooperation initiatives exchanged by Ibero-American countries with all partners. 2007-2023

In percentage



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

¹ Actions' average duration is estimated considering the starting and completion dates, which are available in 90% of those registered for 2022 and 2023. Two different estimations are carried out for projects: on the one hand, based on the dates; and, on the other, based on the difference between the starting and completion years. For both estimations, the available data involves 30% and 46% of the 151 projects systematized for the last two-year period, respectively.

different behavior can be explained, as will be analyzed in the following sections, by its institutional framework, which makes projects more resilient, but reduces the flexibility and dynamism of cooperation actions.

In short, Triangular Cooperation initiatives carried out by Ibero-American countries with all partners in 2022 and 2023, increase and show positive growth rates. In contrast to Bilateral SSC, however, this incipient recovery is based on a greater dynamization of actions compared to projects, which nevertheless continue to account for 90% of the exchanges carried out. This figure reveals indeed Triangular Cooperation's strength and resilience.

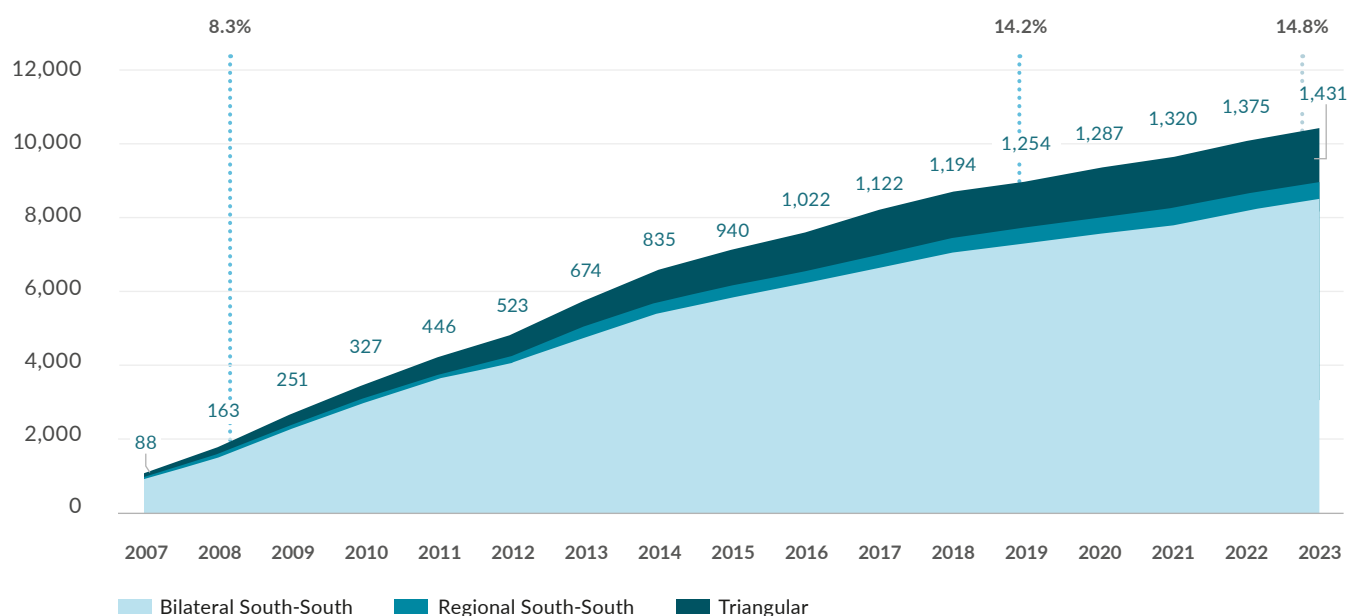
Triangular Cooperation is certainly the modality that has had the best performance in the last 15 years, as suggested by the fact that it is the only one that has gained relative importance overall in the region's exchanges. In this sense, Graph 2.4 portrays the evolution of Bilateral SSC, Regional SSC and Triangular Cooperation initiatives annually aggregated from 2007 to 2023. As shown, while 88 Triangular Cooperation initiatives had been implemented up to 2007, by 2023, this figure had risen to 1,431 actions and projects. This accumulation, at a higher rate than that of the other modalities, leads to an increase in Triangular Cooperation's relative importance in the region's exchanges: from 8.3% in 2008 to 14.2% in 2019, reaching the post-crisis threshold of 15% in 2023.

During 2022 and 2023, Triangular Cooperation initiatives carried out by Ibero-American countries with all partners increased and showed positive growth rates

// Graph 2.4

Evolution of the initiatives exchanged between Ibero-American countries with all partners, annually aggregated, by modality (Triangular Cooperation, Bilateral SSC and Regional SSC). 2007-2023

In units and in percentage



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

2.2

Stakeholders and partnerships for development in the framework of Triangular Cooperation

One of Triangular Cooperation's main strengths is that it facilitates the combined efforts of different countries, which, through a specific distribution of roles and complementing different resources and capacities, are able to search for innovative and shared solutions to common challenges. This feature explains its recognition as a means for the effective implementation of Sustainable Development, as well as its inclusion—in the framework the 2030 Agenda—in SDG 17, precisely dedicated to promote “Partnerships for the goals”.

This section precisely focuses on the associations that, in 2022-2023, enabled the implementation of 176

Ibero-American Triangular Cooperation initiatives. Specifically, the analysis will shed light on three aspects: Ibero-American countries' participation; their main partners and their roles; and, the instruments to materialize these partnerships since, as will be seen, the institutional framework on which Triangular Cooperation is based (Funds, Programs, Memoranda) is key to understand its working mechanisms.

2.2.1

Ibero-American countries' Triangular Cooperation between 2022 and 2023

In Graphs 2.5 and 2.6, Ibero-American countries are arranged according to the number of Triangular Cooperation initiatives in which they participated during the 2022-2023 period.² The former also shows initiatives' distribution by actions and projects, and



Photo: Lithium is a metal than can be found —among other places— in saline deposits, as is the case in Argentina, Bolivia and Chile. These countries have large reserves of this metal and are known as the “Lithium Triangle”. One of the ways to commercialize it is by processing it into lithium carbonate. Image bank on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America. SEGIB-PIFCSS. 2023.

² All graphs in this chapter include the 22 countries in the region, with the only exception of Andorra, which has not yet participated in this type of cooperation.

the latter provides information on the combination of roles (first provider, second provider and recipient) in which this participation took place.

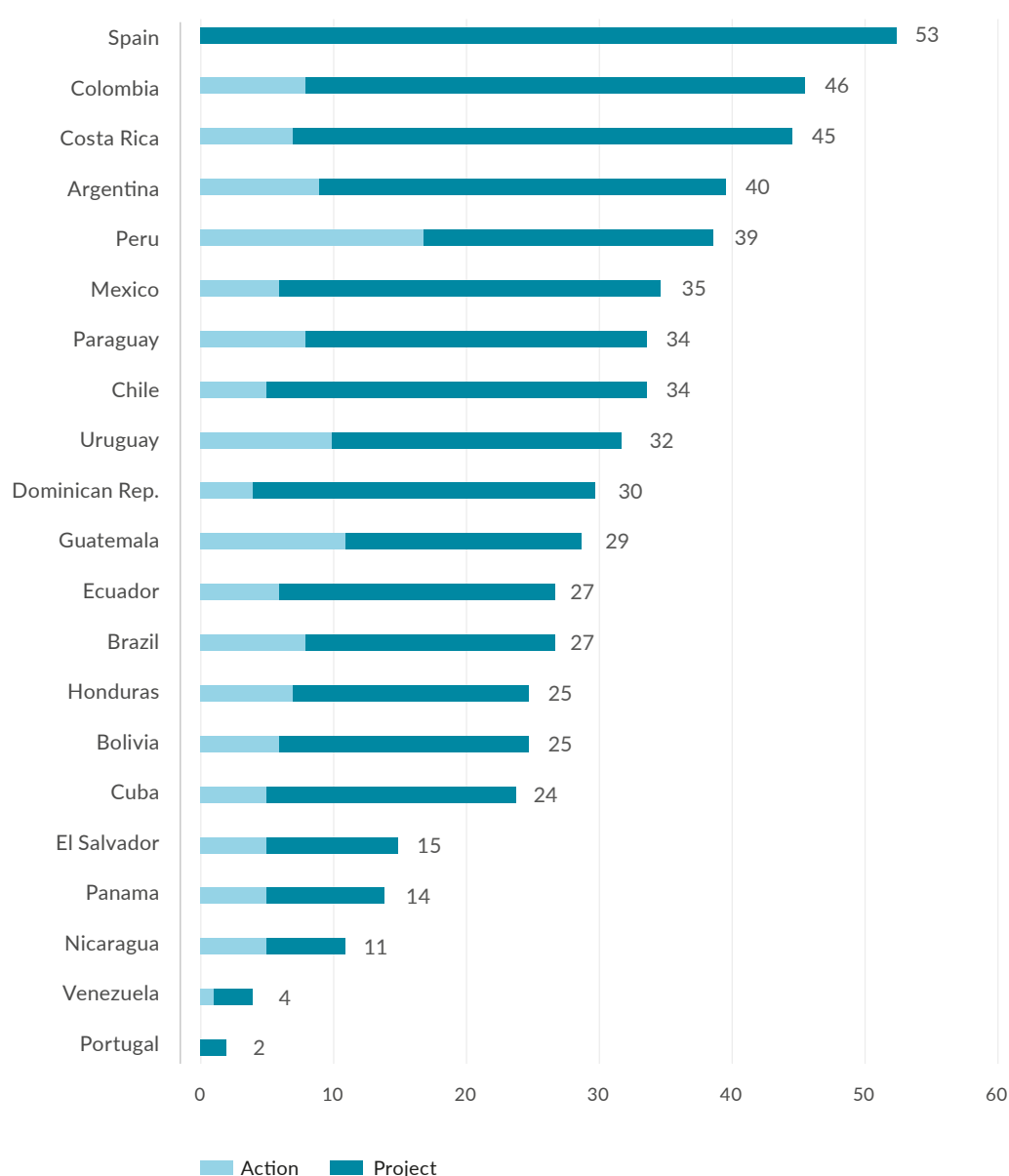
Thus, an initial combined analysis of Graphs 2.5 and 2.6 suggests very different intensities in terms of countries' participation, which, in fact, fluctuate between maximum and minimum values determined by the two Ibero-

American countries that, given their nature, can only participate in Triangular Cooperation as second providers: Spain, the only country that implemented more than 50 initiatives in this period; and Portugal, a country that —as will be seen below— is strongly committed to this modality, but which, in the post-pandemic two-year period, could only implement 2 projects.

// Graph 2.5

Triangular Cooperation initiatives in which Ibero-American countries participated with all partners, by action and project. 2022-2023

In units



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

Colombia, Costa Rica and Argentina have also been very active, each of them carrying out more than 40 Triangular Cooperation initiatives in 2022 and 2023. Below that figure —although above 30— are Peru, Paraguay, Chile and Uruguay, along with Mexico and the Dominican Republic. Another group of countries have exchanged between 24 to 29 initiatives (Guatemala and Honduras; and Ecuador, Brazil, Bolivia and Cuba). Finally, Nicaragua, Panama and El Salvador participated in between 10 and 15 actions

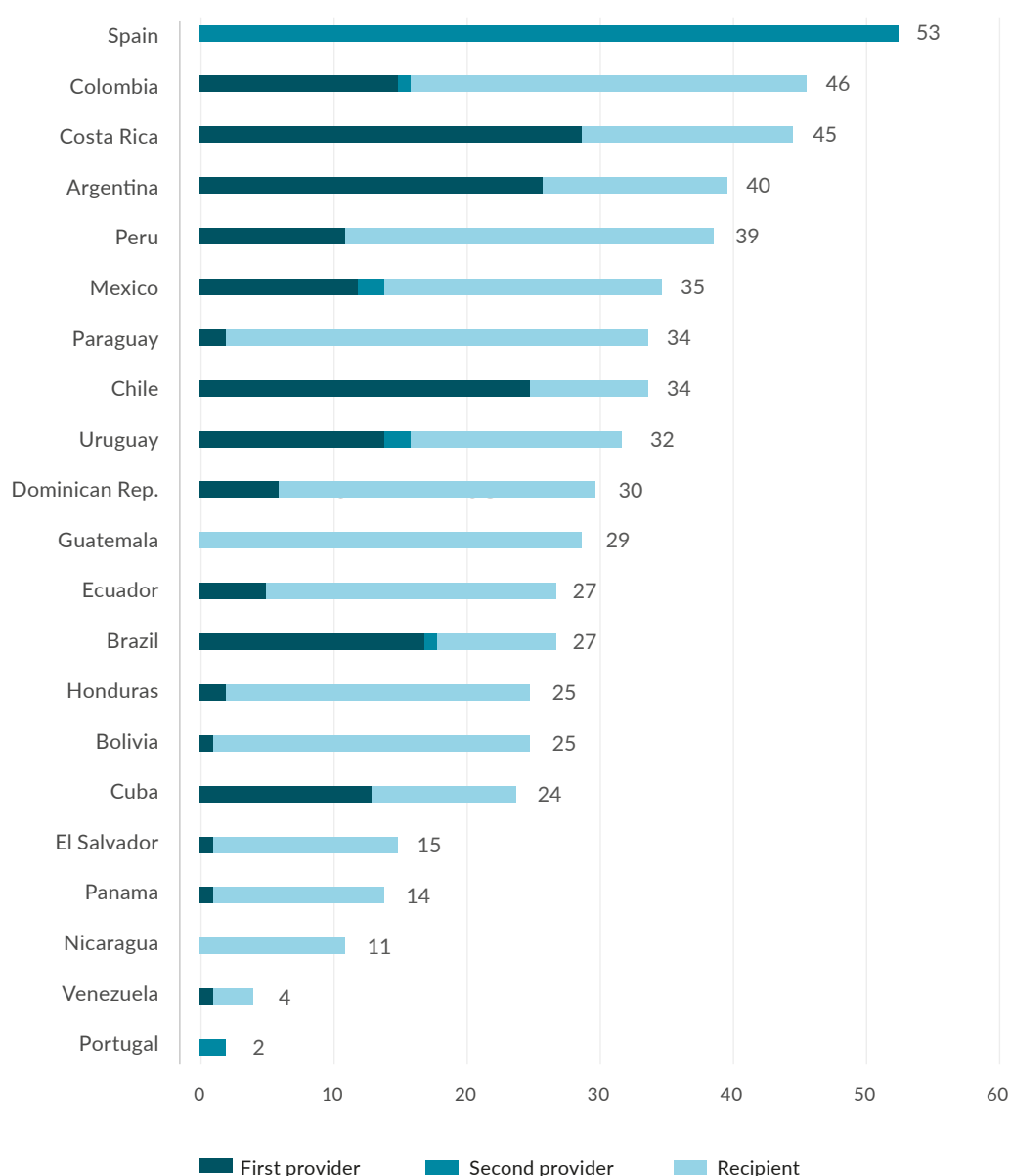
and projects, Venezuela being the only country that, together with Portugal, registered less than 10 exchanges.

In addition, Graph 2.7 was prepared by combining the information on the role in which each country participated (Graph 2.6) and that associated with the type of initiative (Graph 2.5). This scatter plot arranges the 19 Ibero-American countries by using a dispersion of dots. The specific position of each country results

// Graph 2.6

Triangular Cooperation initiatives in which Ibero-American countries participated with all partners, by role (first provider, second provider, recipient). 2022-2023

In units

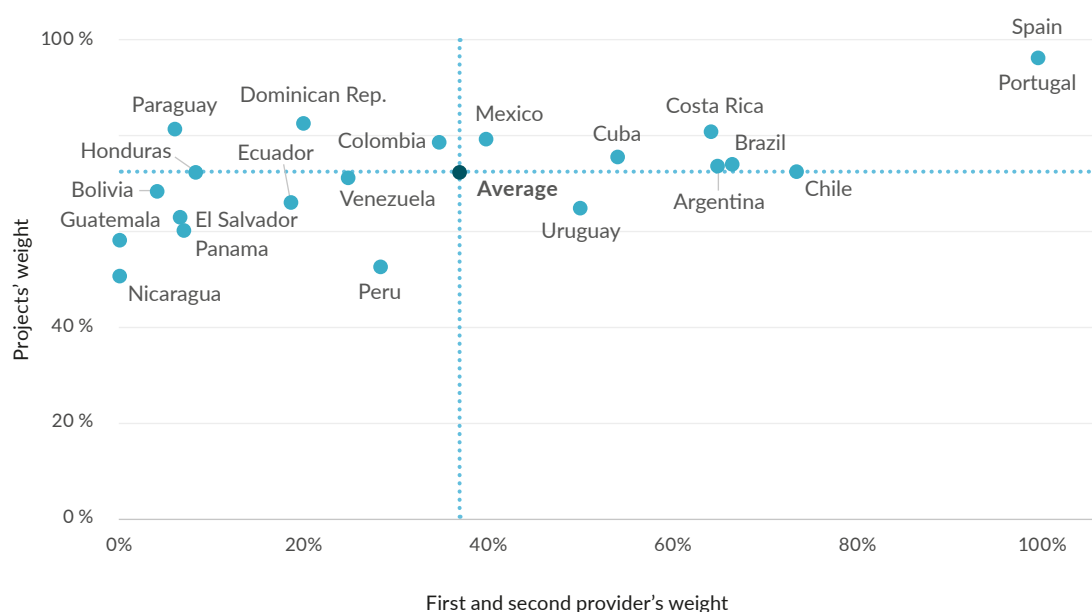


Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation

// Graph 2.7

Relation between the participation of the provider roles and projects' weight, by the Triangular Cooperation initiatives exchanged by each Ibero-American country. 2022-2023

In percentage



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

from the combination of two values: on the one hand, the importance of the first provider and second provider role in the total number of its initiatives —horizontal axis—; and, on the other hand, projects' share in this same total number of exchanges —vertical axis—.

As the graph shows, the resulting dispersion of dots has an upward trend, which suggests that providers tend to prioritize initiatives' execution through projects rather than actions. One dot is also added to represent the regions' average profile, according to which, 36.8% of the total number of initiatives are being promoted by first and/or second providers, and 76.1% of this total is carried out through projects. In addition, when taking this value as a reference, the graph can be divided into quadrants and countries can also be grouped according to different participation profiles.

Thus, the participation of almost 10 Ibero-American countries was above the regional average value (36%). In these cases, the range varies from 40% in Mexico's cooperation to 100% in the cases of Spain and Portugal. Specifically, these three countries, together with Cuba, Costa Rica, Argentina, Brazil and Chile, executed more than 76.1% of their Triangular Cooperation initiatives through projects, also above the average. Uruguay was the only exception, with a predominantly provider profile but a relatively lower project execution (68.8%).

Other 12 countries' participation as providers was below the regional average, and their profiles are partly diverse. On the one hand, Paraguay, the Dominican Republic and Colombia implemented more than 85% of their Triangular Cooperation as first providers through projects which, however, had very different relative shares: 5.9%, 20.0% and 34.8%, respectively. Of the remaining countries —all below-average— Nicaragua, Guatemala, Bolivia, El Salvador, Panama and Honduras can be distinguished from Ecuador and Venezuela, which differ in the number of times they participate as providers (less than 10% in the first cases; around 20%-25% in the second ones). Peru deserves a special mention within this group, as one of the countries with the highest participation ratio as a provider (28.2%) and one of the lowest in terms of project execution (56.5%).

It should be added that, for most Ibero-American countries, 2022-2023 figures were better than those of the previous two-year period, when the COVID-19 crisis was in its most severe moment. Specifically, in 2022-2023, almost all countries registered an increase in the number of the initiatives implemented, ranging from 3.8% in Brazil's case (from 26 to 27 Triangular Cooperation exchanges between the two periods) to 140.9% in Spain's, which projects more than doubled (from 22 in 2020-2021 to 53 in 2022-2023). Ecuador, which carried out the same number of initiatives (27), as

well as Panama, which exchanges dropped by -6.7%, along with El Salvador, Portugal and Venezuela (all three with falls of more than -20.0%), were the only exceptions.

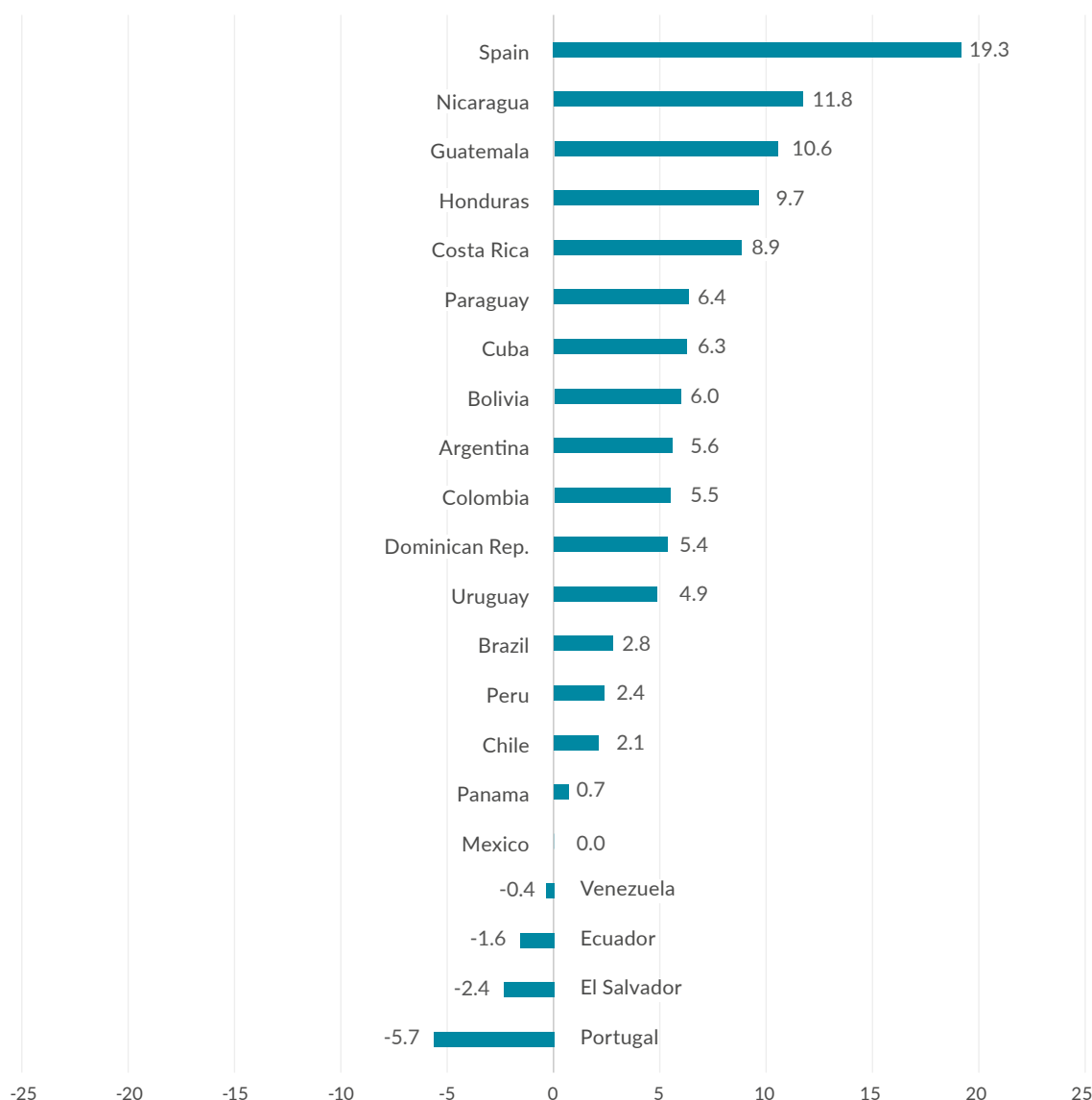
The above suggests that, after the pandemic, Ibero-American countries' Triangular Cooperation tends to recover. This dynamic contrasts with Bilateral SSC's,

in the framework of which only 5 countries (including Ecuador and Panama) registered an increase in their number of initiatives (Graph 1.8). This different behavior by modality can be summarized in one figure: the increase of Triangular Cooperation's share in the total number of exchanges. Indeed, Graph 2.8, shows the variation experienced by each country after the crisis.

// Graph 2.8

Variation in Triangular Cooperation's weight in the total number of initiatives, by Ibero-American country, between the pandemic and post-pandemic two-year periods. 2020-2021 and 2022-2023

In percentage points



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

In short, as Graph 2.8 shows, during the 2022-2023 period, the Triangular Cooperation of more than 15 countries increased its relative share in the total number of their initiatives. The most significant change corresponds to Spain, which Triangular Cooperation raised by almost 20 percentage points. Other remarkable cases were Costa Rica's, Honduras', Guatemala's and Nicaragua's, which growth was close to 10 percentage points (or higher). Uruguay, the Dominican Republic, Colombia, Argentina, Bolivia and Cuba had a 5-6 percentage point variation. Meanwhile, Panama, Chile, Peru and Brazil registered a still positive but rather smaller, increase. Finally, Triangular Cooperation's share remained unchanged for Mexico; while it is possible to identify negative variations in the cases of Venezuela, Ecuador, El Salvador and Portugal.

2.2.2 Partners and roles in Ibero-American Triangular Cooperation

Graphs 2.9, 2.10 and 2.11 were prepared to analyze the associations on which Ibero-American countries' Triangular Cooperation was based during the 2022-2023 period. Each of them shows the partners (Ibero-American countries; other regions' countries; and organizations) that participated in the 176 initiatives exchanged, in each of the possible roles (first provider, second provider and recipient).

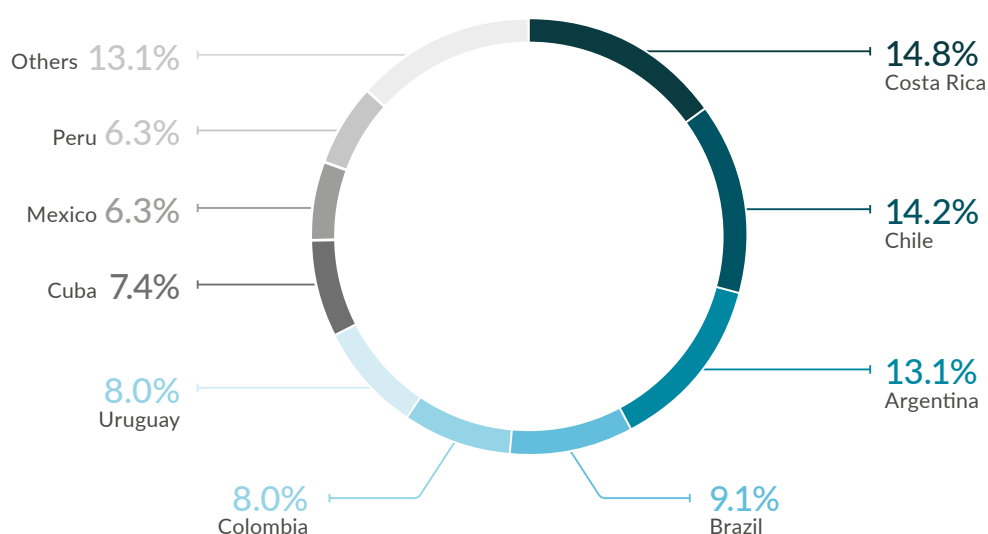
Thus, Graph 2.9 shows the countries that mainly acted as first providers. Costa Rica, Chile and Argentina were the most dynamic countries in these years, each with between 23 and 26 initiatives that aggregately account for 4 out of 10 of the total number of exchanges of 2022 and 2023. They were followed —at a certain distance— by Brazil (16 Triangular Cooperation actions and projects as first provider), as well as by Colombia, Uruguay and Cuba (13-14 in each case). Mexico and Peru also stood out in this role, participating in more than 10 initiatives. These countries accounted for another 45% of the 176 Triangular Cooperation exchanges in this period.

In order to complement the above, the remaining 13.1% corresponds to other different first providers. The Dominican Republic, Ecuador and Paraguay stood out among these, transferring their capacities in 5, 4 and 2 initiatives, respectively. Honduras', Panama's and Venezuela's interventions were more specific (1 initiative), in addition to those of other countries of the Global South, such as Cambodia and India. The case of seven (7) initiatives in which the role of first provider was simultaneously exercised by two countries of the region is also worthy of mention. This are interesting exchanges, as they involved the generation of more partnerships, for example: Costa Rica associated in different and initiatives with Argentina, Mexico and the Dominican Republic; Argentina did so with Brazil and Colombia; and Bolivia and Ecuador, and El Salvador and Honduras worked together through specific associations.

// Graph 2.9

Distribution of Triangular Cooperation initiatives, by the countries that participated as first providers. 2022-2023

In percentage

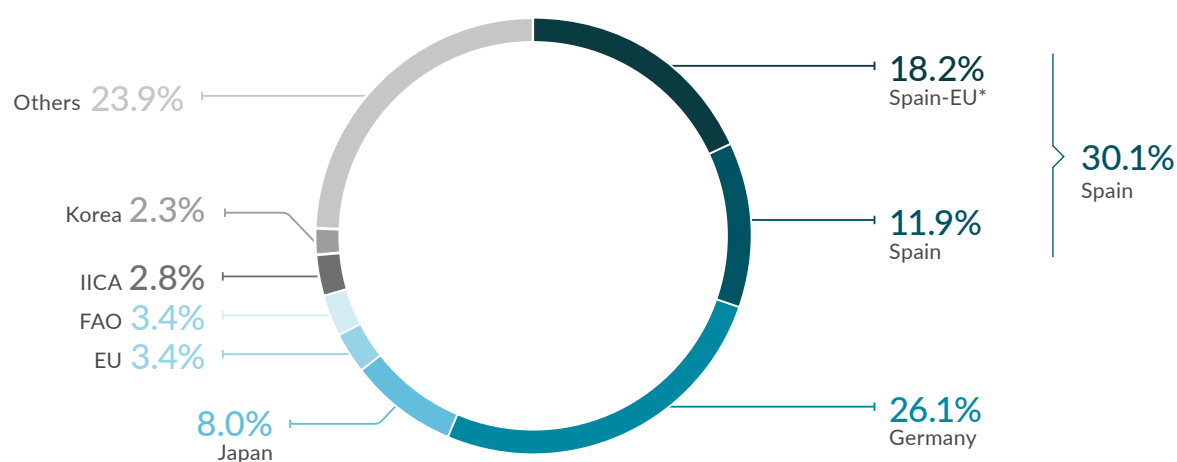


Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation

// Graph 2.10

Distribution of Triangular Cooperation initiatives, by the countries and organizations that participated as second providers. 2022-2023

In percentage



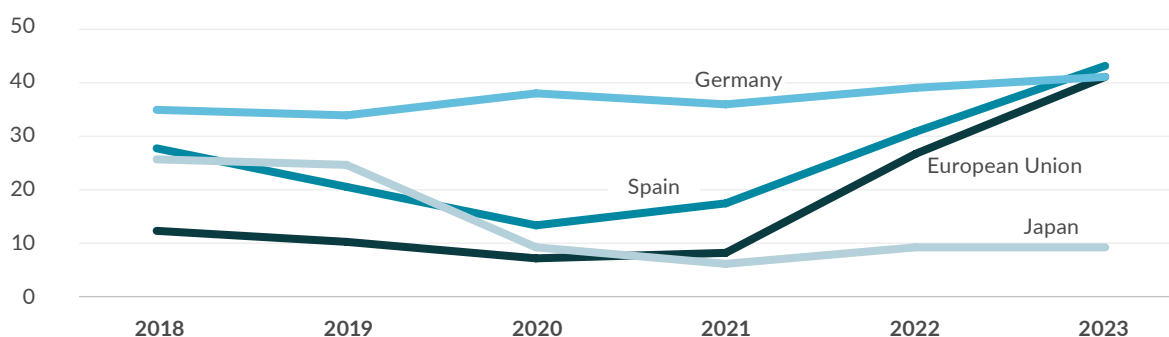
*Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Sweden and the Netherlands participate in 5 of these initiatives, respectively.

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

// Graph 2.11

Evolution of the participation of Triangular Cooperation's main second providers in the pre- and post-COVID crisis, by partner. 2018-2023

In units



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

Graph 2.10, in turn, distributes the 176 Triangular Cooperation initiatives implemented in 2022-2023 according to the partners (countries and organizations) that acted as second providers. In this case, and as can be seen, Spain (the only country with more than 50 initiatives) participates in this role in 30% of the total number of exchanges: in 4 out of 10 of these, it does so individually, while in the remaining 60%, it does so together with the European Union (EU). Germany closely follows, with 46 initiatives, corresponding to another 26% of the total. Japan is at a remarkably distance behind, participating as second provider in another 8% of the exchanges. Almost 70% of the

Triangular Cooperation implemented in 2022-2023 is explained when the 3.4% of the initiatives in which the EU plays this role without partnering with other stakeholders is added to the analysis.

In fact, the relative participation of these four main second providers in the 2022-2023 period results from a combination of very different dynamics as a consequence of the impact of the COVID-19 crisis, and their adaptation and response strategies. At least this is suggested by Graph 2.11, which shows the evolution of the total number of Triangular Cooperation initiatives in which Spain, the EU,

Germany and Japan participated in the role of second providers,³ between 2018 and 2023 (before, during and after the pandemic). Thus, Germany showed an enormous resilience in the face of the crisis, probably due to the strength of its Regional Fund for Triangular Cooperation in Latin-America and the Caribbean (LAC), in the framework of which—as will be seen—, most of its initiatives were implemented. Japan, on the other hand, suffered a sharp decline from which it slightly recovered in 2023 (reaching once again the level it had in 2020).

Spain and the EU, which combine declines (sharper for Spain) with a strong recovery, deserve a special mention. This rebound starts earlier in Spain's case which, between 2020 and 2021, registered an increase of 30.8% compared to the 14.3% of the EU. However, between 2021 and 2023, the increase of Spain's and the EU's exchanges tends to converge. This is probably explained—as will be further detailed in other sections—by the thrust of their association as second providers in several projects carried out in the framework of the Adelante Program for EU-LAC Triangular Cooperation.

Finally, Graph 2.10 also shows a sharp contrast between the fact that 68% of the 176 Triangular Cooperation exchanges carried out in 2022-2023 are concentrated in just 4 partners, while the remaining 32% suggests a

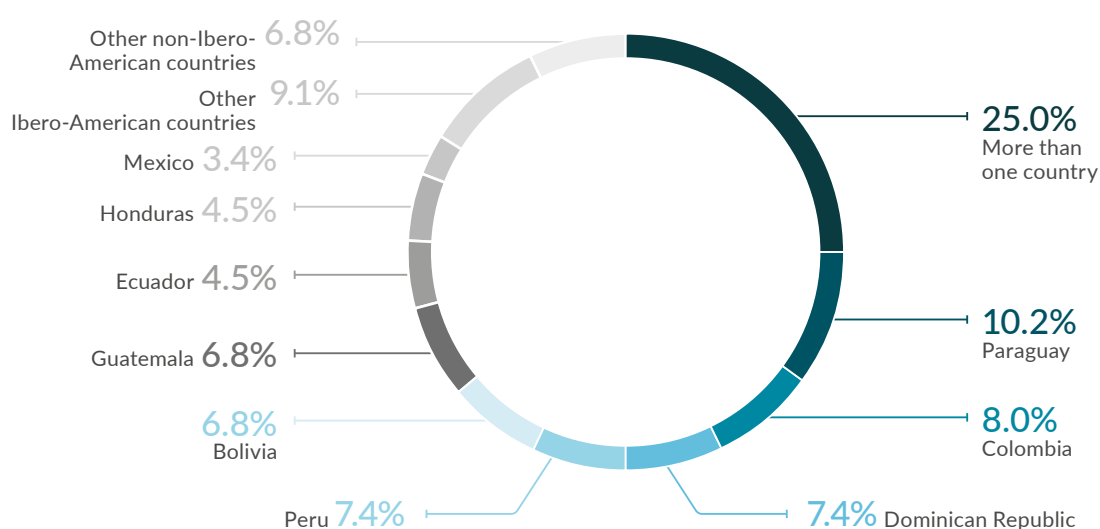
huge dispersion between more than 30 second providers, acting either individually or combining in pairs or even in groups of three. Some Ibero-American countries (Colombia, Mexico, Uruguay and Portugal) follow this pattern, as well as other regions' countries (from Belgium, France, Italy, the Netherlands and Switzerland to Canada, the United States and Korea); and several regional organizations (IICA, IDB, OAS) and different United Nations agencies and programs (FAO, WFP, UNICEF, UNESCO, UNFPA and UNDP), to name a few.

On the other hand, Graph 2.12 shows the distribution of recipient countries' participation. In fact, and as has been the case, Triangular Cooperation usually involves several recipients simultaneously, this being the case of 44 initiatives (25% of the total) in the 2022-2023 period. Likewise, up to 60% of the Triangular Cooperation initiatives carried out in these two years was distributed between 9 different Ibero-American countries which acted as recipients. Paraguay was the country that most often played this role individually,⁴ in 10% of the exchanges. Meanwhile, Bolivia, Colombia and Peru, together with Guatemala and the Dominican Republic, accounted for between 7% and 8% in each case. They were followed, in terms of relative importance, by Ecuador, Honduras and Mexico, which acted as recipients in between 3% and 5% of the initiatives.

// Graph 2.12

Distribution of Triangular Cooperation initiatives, by the countries that participated as recipients. 2022-2023

In percentage



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

³ In this case, initiatives are "individualized" for each partner, so that, for example, an initiative in which Spain and the EU are associated as second providers is counted once for each stakeholder.

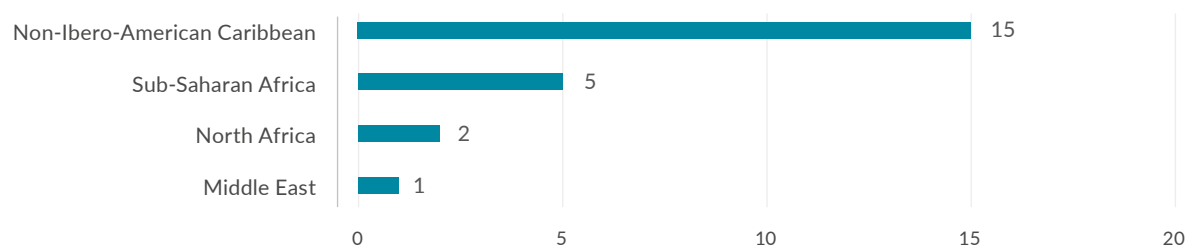
⁴ In methodological terms, it should be clarified that initiatives in which countries are associated with others in the exercise of the recipient role are considered in the "more than one country" category.

// Graph 2.13

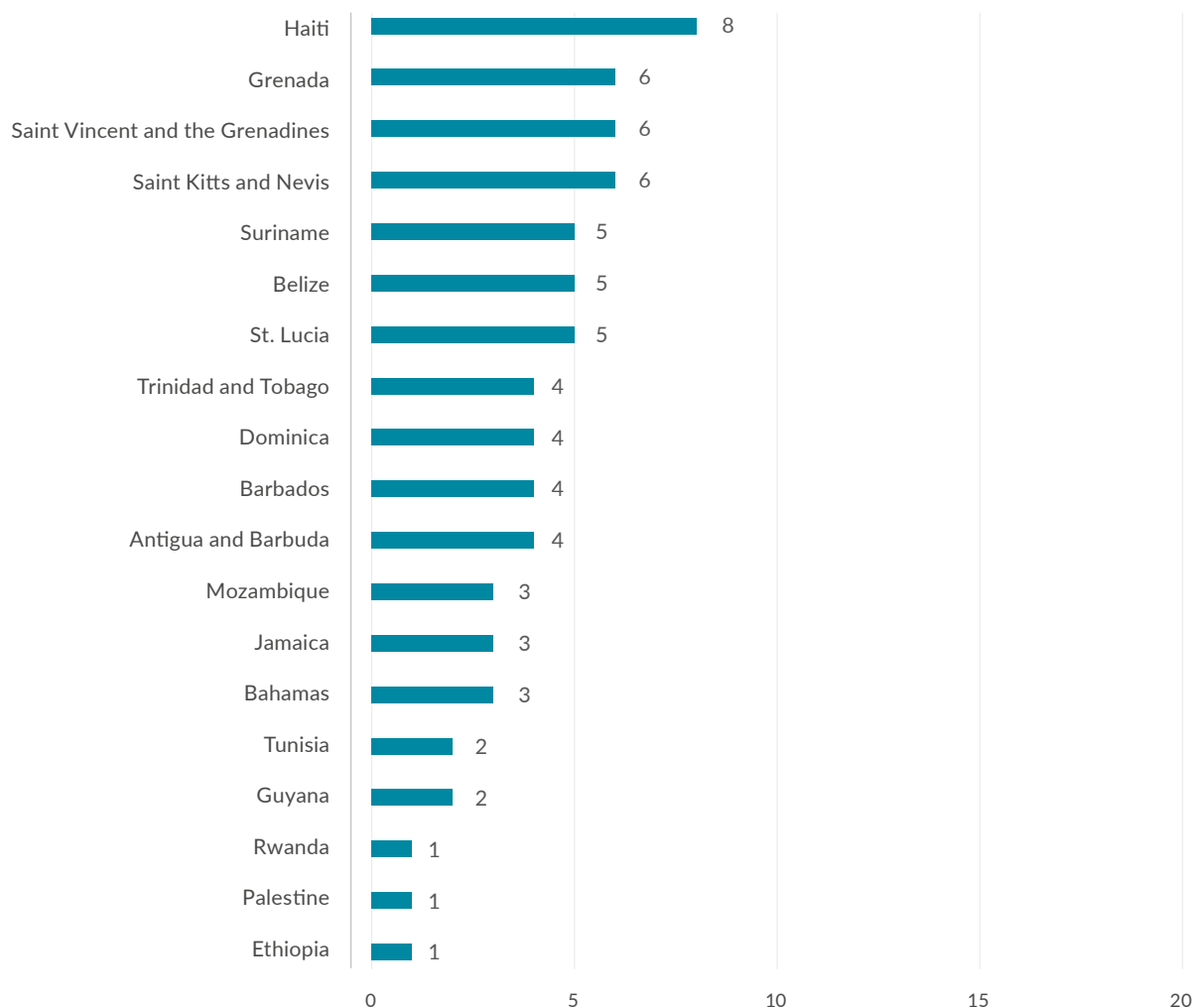
Participation of the Global South, as recipient, in Ibero-American Triangular Cooperation initiatives with all partners, by region and main countries. 2022-2023

In units

A. Regions



B. Countries



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



Photo: Lithium carbonate has many applications, from being an essential element for the manufacture of batteries (computers, telephones, electric cars) —due to its high energy storage capacity—, to being used in the pharmaceutical industry for certain drugs. Image bank on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America. SEGIB-PIFCSS. 2023.

The remaining 16% of the Triangular Cooperation initiatives carried out in 2022-2023 are distributed in two groups: those implemented by Ibero-American countries (16 exchanges) and those of other regions of the Global South (12). Within the first group, and considering the number of initiatives in which these countries individually participated without associating with others, some stood out: Argentina and El Salvador (3 each); Costa Rica, Cuba, Panama and Uruguay (2); and Brazil and Chile (1). Likewise, Graphs 2.13 A and B were prepared in order to better understand the participation of the Global South.

In fact, around twenty countries of other developing regions participated in 23 of the 176 Triangular Cooperation initiatives that were implemented in the 2022-2023 period. In 11 of these, they shared the recipient role with other Ibero-American partners (this explains the fact that, in Graph 2.12, they are included in the “more than one country” category), while they individually participated in the remaining 12 initiatives (the last 7% of the same graph).

Graph 2.13 distributes the 23 Triangular Cooperation initiatives according to the region of the South and the country of the South that acted as recipient (A and B, respectively). As shown, most of the exchanges (65%) involved non-Ibero-American Caribbean

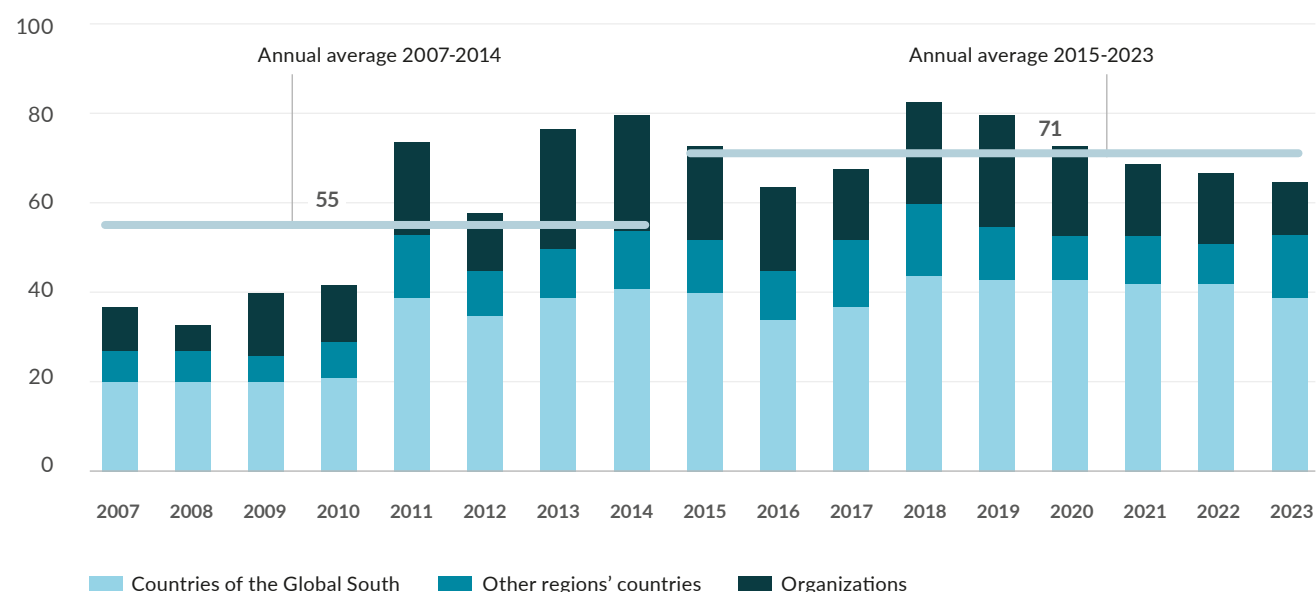
countries, among which Haiti was particularly active (8 initiatives); as well as Saint Kitts and Nevis and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, together with Grenada (6 in each case); and Saint Lucia, Belize and Suriname (5). The analysis should be completed with countries of Sub-Saharan Africa, North Africa and the Middle East, which participated in 8 initiatives involving Mozambique, Tunisia, Rwanda, Palestine and Ethiopia.

Finally, the dynamic of the participation described for each role confirms Triangular Cooperation’s great potential to generate associations between a growing number of stakeholders of diverse nature. Specifically, Graph 2.14, which refers to the 2007-2023 period, shows the number of partners (countries of the Global South; other regions’ countries; and multilateral organizations) that were annually participating in Triangular Cooperation initiatives. As can be seen, before the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, total annual exchanges tended to involve 55 stakeholders. Since 2015, this figure has risen to 71 stakeholders per year. In both phases, more than half of these exchanges were carried out by countries of the Global South, including the 19 Ibero-American countries. Also, and despite the impact of the pandemic, in 2022-2023, up to 74 different stakeholders participated in this modality (42 countries of the South, 14 from other regions and 18 multilateral organizations).

// Graph 2.14

Number of different partners (countries of the Global South; other regions’ countries; and organizations) that annually participated in Ibero-American Triangular Cooperation initiatives with all partners. 2007-2023

In units



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

2.2.3

Triangular Cooperation partnerships and instruments

More than the commitment of the parties is required to materialize the implementation of Triangular Cooperation initiatives through the association of a growing and diverse number of stakeholders. In fact, the evidence suggests that, on many occasions, these partnerships are possible due to the instruments/mechanisms that facilitate them. These are usually Cooperation Programs, Funds, Memoranda or Agreements which, promoted by a country or organization –or by a partnership between some of them–, set an action framework that contributes to enable and boost –also through financial resources– the implementation of exchanges.

Graph 2.15 was prepared to make an in depth analysis of the instruments on which Triangular Cooperation was based between 2022 and 2023. This graph distributes the 176 initiatives in which Ibero-America participated during the last two-year period according to the type of instrument (Program, Fund, Memo/Agreement) and the partners that were involved (Ibero-American, LAC or other regions' country or international organization).

As the graph portrays, more than half of the Triangular Cooperation initiatives carried out in the 2022-

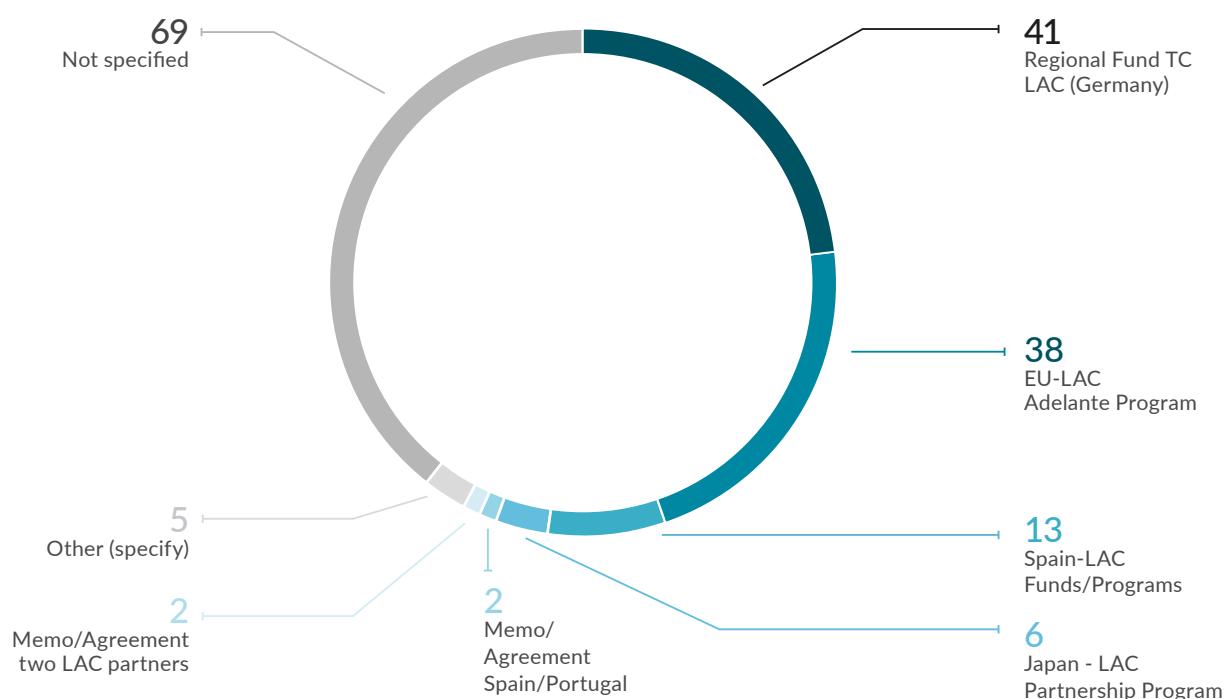
2023 period were institutionally facilitated by three instruments: Germany's Regional Fund for Triangular Cooperation in Latin-America and the Caribbean (41 projects, accounting for more than 23% of the total); the European Union Adelante Program for Triangular Cooperation with LAC (38 initiatives, corresponding to almost another 22%); and Spain's Mixed Funds and its Programs for Triangular Cooperation with LAC (specifically with Chile, Costa Rica and Uruguay) (7.4% of the total).

It should also be added that the initiatives related to the EU Adelante Program are associated with two different instruments: the so-called Adelante Window and the bilateral *Triangular Cooperation Funds* that the EU has signed with several countries of the region. Of the 38 initiatives registered in the 2022-2023 period in the framework of the Adelante Program (Graph 2.15), 20 were financed through the calls for proposals of the Adelante 2 Window; on the other hand, 18 correspond to projects carried out through the EU Funds with Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba and Uruguay. Box 2.1 was precisely prepared to provide a better understanding on the way this flagship Program works, as well as the mechanisms that facilitate the partnerships that are implemented in its framework with Latin-America. It provides detailed information on the partnerships between the EU, European countries (especially Germany and Spain, which act as implementing partners) and Latin-American countries,

// Graph 2.15

Distribution of Ibero-American Triangular Cooperation initiatives with all partners, by the instrument in the framework of which they were carried out (Program, Fund, Memorandum). 2022-2023

In units



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

and the way they are promoted; on prioritized areas of action or topics; and, in short, on the financial mechanisms that boost the Triangular Cooperation that is implemented through this bi-regional association.

Given the fact that countries are not necessarily required to register the information related to Triangular Cooperation mechanisms, the data on the other half of the 176 Triangular Cooperation initiatives carried out in the 2022-2023 period is only partial. For this reason,

in about 40% of the records, the possible instruments are "Not specified". However, and considering the stakeholders that were involved, it can be stated that some Triangular Cooperation initiatives are not framed in a specific instrument, for example: some Spanish and German cooperation projects outside the aforementioned mechanisms, and several initiatives promoted under the Brazil-FAO International Cooperation Program for Triangular Projects on food security, among others.

→ BOX 2.1

The European Union's Triangular Cooperation Program - ADELANTE: promoting EU-LAC bi-regional Triangular Cooperation

In 2015, the European Union (EU) created the ADELANTE Program to promote —through Triangular Cooperation— horizontal partnerships between Latin-American and Caribbean (LAC) countries, and between these and Europe, through the exchange of capacities and experiences in the search for solutions focused on sustainable development. This initiative had a budget of over €10 million and co-financed 8 projects between 2015 and 2020, involving 93 organizations from 22 countries in Europe and LAC.

Building on the lessons learnt during the first phase, in 2021, the EU launched ADELANTE 2 with the aim of "contributing to the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean, through interventions that reflect the most modern approaches to Triangular Cooperation" (ADELANTE 2, 2024). ADELANTE 2 is structured around three components:

a) Operational support component

This component is implemented through the ADELANTE Window, which seeks to mobilize and channel EU resources towards EU-LAC Triangular Cooperation partnerships or alliances, which ultimate goal is to achieve the 2030 Agenda and a more inclusive and sustainable development (ADELANTE 2, 2024).

Four annual Windows have been opened in the framework of ADELANTE 2 between 2021 and 2024, and each one had some different characteristics (in terms of budget, prioritized topics, duration) for multi-stakeholder and multilevel partnerships to apply. As this innovative program is intended to be agile and "responsive", one of its main features has been the approval of short-term initiatives. Over the past four years, the EU has mobilized more than €5 million in 47 Triangular Cooperation initiatives, involving 27 EU and LAC countries, as well as 258 different institutions (public, private, social, among others), having direct impact on 17 SDGs (ADELANTE 2, 2024).

b) Analytical support component

Through the analysis and thematic study of Triangular Cooperation, the UE aims to assess the impact of this modality between the European Union and LAC, and reflect on how to add more value to this bi-regional partnership. The Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB by its Spanish acronym) has led this component since 2020 by implementing two projects focused on knowledge generation on TC, the first of which was An Innovative Triangular Cooperation for a New Development Agenda.

Currently, SEGIB is carrying out the second project (Generation of Knowledge and New Instruments in EU-LAC Triangular Cooperation) and, through this initiative, it is developing specific analyses on TC (with other regions of the Global South, on environmental issues, artificial intelligence or science and technology). This project follows up on the results of the previous initiative (An Innovative Triangular Cooperation for a New Development Agenda) and of two of its thematic studies (Indigenous Peoples and Decentralized Cooperation), through the design of concrete instruments to materialize TC in these areas.

c) Institutional support component

This component consists of six funds between the EU, European stakeholders to manage financial resources (Germany through GIZ and Spain through AECID), and six Latin-American countries. All these funds co-finance TC projects in which six selected countries participate: Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba and Uruguay.

A particular feature of how this component works is that each fund has different characteristics and mechanisms, not only regarding the total budget, but also in terms of the areas that are prioritized for the applications. They may also differ

Continues >>

in the financial instrument adopted for the execution of resources.

The Trilateral Cooperation Instrument Brazil - European Union - Germany, is implemented through GIZ and three projects have been approved in its framework with the Dominican Republic, Honduras and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). In this case, projects always had to include Brazil, at least another partner of LAC, and one or more partners of the EU, but it had no thematic restrictions other than being aligned with national and global development agendas (GIZ, 2024).

On the other hand, the Chile-European Union Triangular Cooperation Fund is implemented by the Chilean Agency for International Development Cooperation (AGCID by its Spanish acronym). This fund finances projects in areas related to the European Green Deal and the fight against climate change. Its working mechanisms are based on the “partnership” principle, in which both parties equally contribute with the same budget, and two projects will be selected (AGCID, 2022).

Colombia, in turn, participates in this component through the Tripartite Triangular Cooperation Mechanism, with GIZ as the implementing partner. This instrument has received applications twice: in 2022 and 2023. Projects had no thematic restrictions, but should be focused on promoting multi-stakeholder partnerships (GIZ, 2022). This mechanism seeks to encourage horizontal management and has evolved in its two calls. In the first one, the EU and Germany participated in the role of facilitators, while Colombia could act as provider or beneficiary. However, in 2023, the three partners took on the same role as facilitators and made equal financial contributions.

The European Union - Costa Rica - Latin-America and the Caribbean Triangular Cooperation Fund is implemented by AECID. This fund had two calls for proposals, one in 2023 and the other launched in the summer of 2024. In the first one, six projects —aligned with the thematic areas specified in the call (ecological transition; green recovery and decarbonization; and digitalization and innovation – ADELANTE 2,

2024)— were financed. The evaluation of the final proposals of the last call was in progress by November 2024, and probably a maximum of 5 projects will be supported by this fund. Through this mechanism, Costa Rica aims to strengthen its dual role in Triangular Cooperation.

Cuba is also taking part in this component through the European Union - Cuba - Latin-America and the Caribbean Triangular Cooperation Fund, also implemented by AECID. This mechanism finances six projects focused on biotechnology and its uses for public health and food security. By promoting Triangular Cooperation projects, Cuba aims to promote its role as recipient and provider of technical cooperation (ADELANTE 2, 2024).

The sixth and last instrument is the Triangular Cooperation Fund Uruguay-European Union for Sustainable Development, which consists of four projects in which Uruguay is the first provider. The fund is focused on capacity building in public policies in terms of health, education, digitalization and environment (ADELANTE 2, 2024).

Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation, AGCID (2022), ADELANTE 2 (2024) and GIZ (2002, 2023 and 2024).

Finally, Japan's Partnership Programs with Argentina and Chile, dedicated to promoting cooperation with third countries, stand out in the remaining 8.5% of Triangular Cooperation exchanges between 2022 and 2023.

The institutional framework described above explains some countries' more active participation; their main roles; and their most common associations, among many other aspects. Graphs 2.16, 2.17 and 2.18 were prepared to illustrate the aforementioned and to better understand

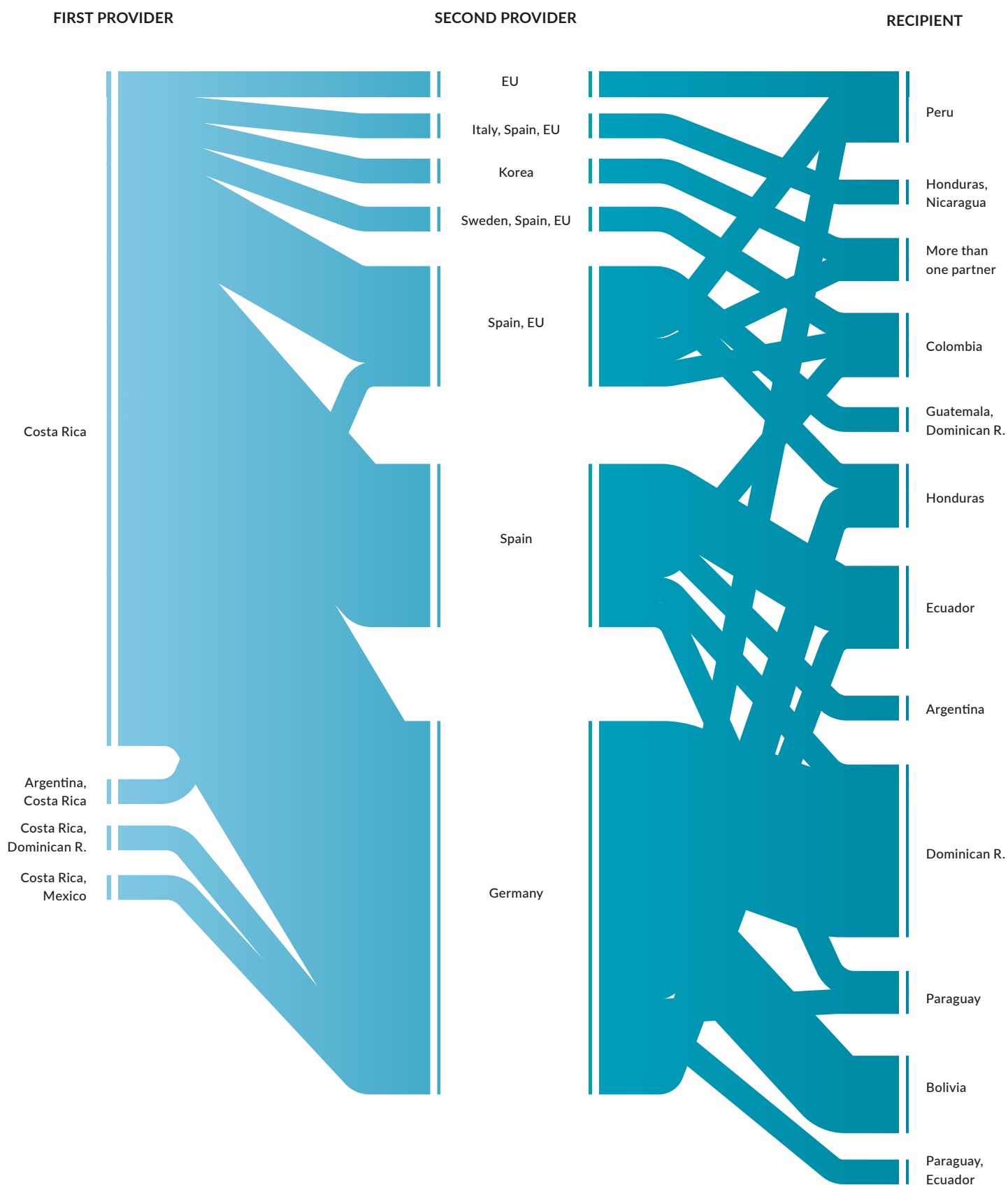
the positive correlation between the existence of Triangular Cooperation instruments, the materialization of certain partnerships, and the implementation of initiatives. These diagrams show the flow of exchanges of the three Ibero-American countries that, in 2022-2023, were most active in the roles of first provider (Costa Rica), second provider (Spain) and recipient (Paraguay).⁵ In each graph, the flow of initiatives connects the different partners according to their role: first provider (left flow), second provider (middle flow) and recipient (right flow).

⁵ In methodological terms, it should be noted that, Graphs 2.16, 2.17 and 2.18 are based on the following total number of initiatives: 29 for Costa Rica; 53 for Spain; and 32 for Paraguay. These figures are obtained by adding those in which each country plays their corresponding role individually (26, 21 and 18, respectively, as shown in Graphs 2.9, 2.10 and 2.12), with those in which they share these roles with other partners (3, 32 and 14, in each case).

// Graph 2.16

Distribution of Triangular Cooperation initiatives exchanged by Costa Rica as first provider, by partner and role. 2022-2023

In units

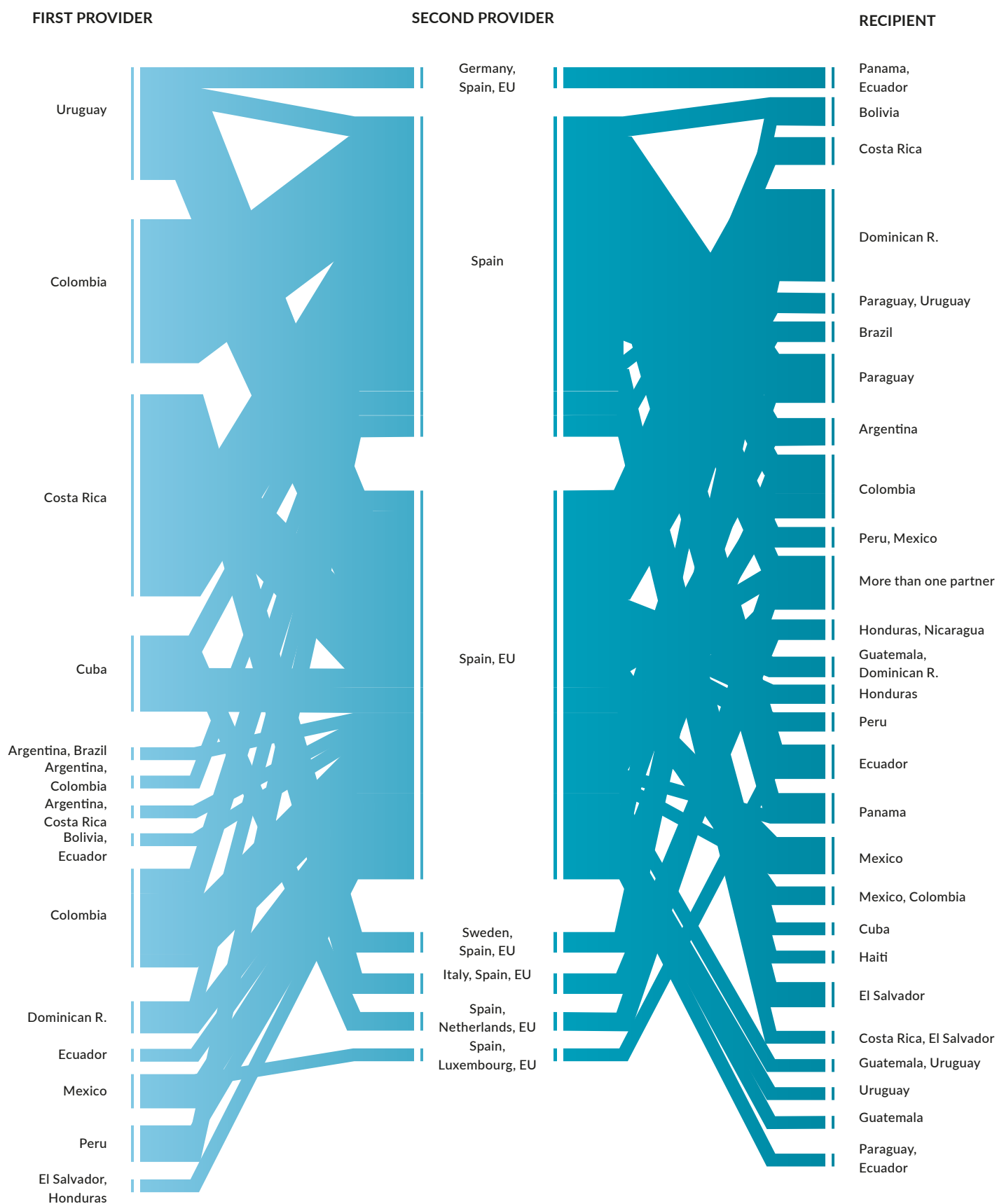


Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation

// Graph 2.17

Distribution of Triangular Cooperation initiatives exchanged by Spain as second provider, by partner and role. 2022-2023

In units

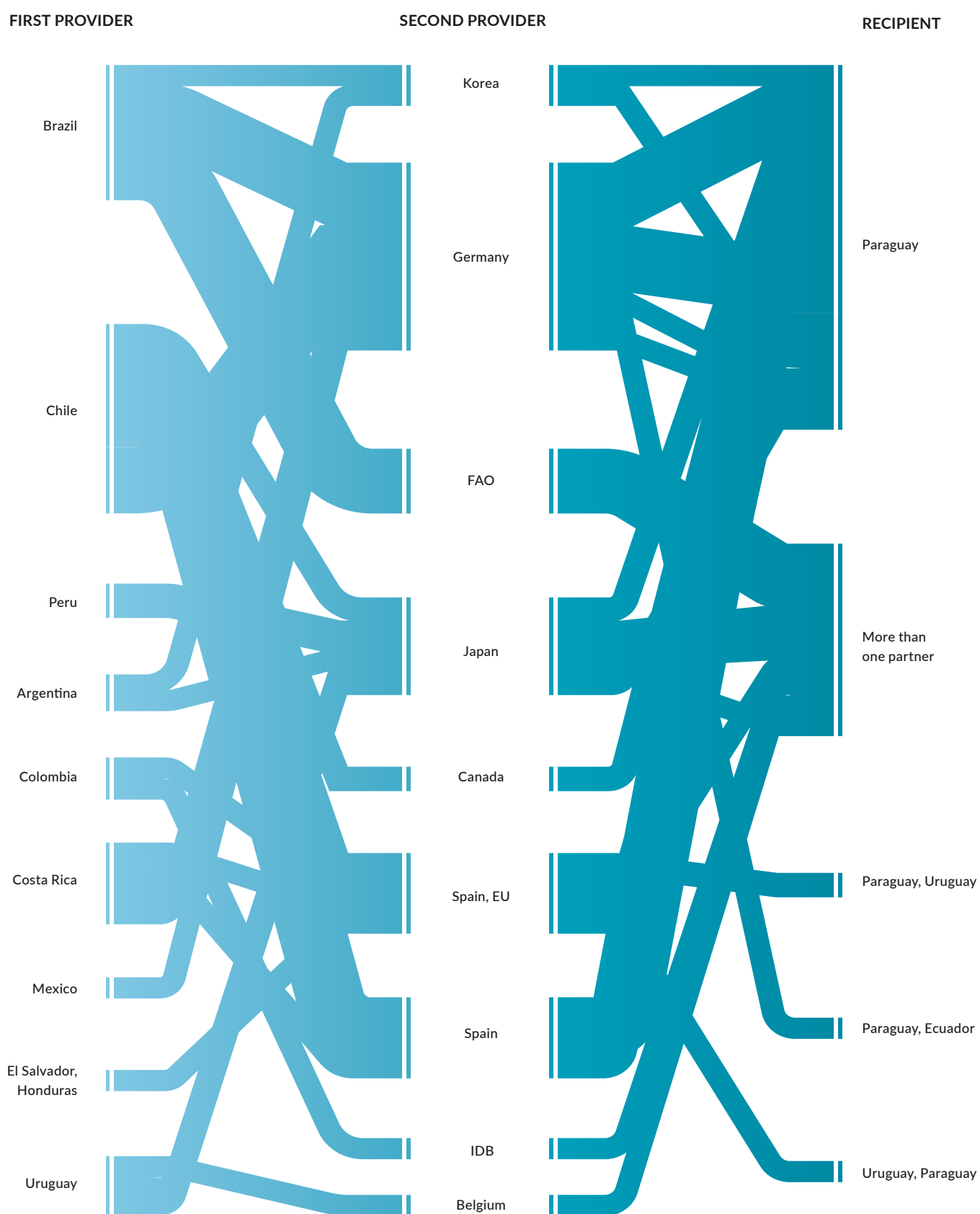


Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation

// Graph 2.18

Distribution of Triangular Cooperation initiatives exchanged by Paraguay as recipient, by partner and role.

In units



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

As Graphs 2.16, 2.17 and 2.18 show, most of the exchanges of each of these three countries are determined and explained by the instruments that were previously analyzed. For example, the Triangular Cooperation that Costa Rica carries out with Spain, the EU and Germany is facilitated by the Adelante Program and, especially, by its bilateral fund with the EU (which implementing partner is AECID); by its Program for Triangular Cooperation with LAC, with Spain; and by the German Regional Fund for Triangular Cooperation in LAC, in the framework of which it participates in several initiatives.

The partnerships between Costa Rica and Spain through the aforementioned instruments are also shown in Graph 2.17. Spain's Mixed Funds and its Programs for Triangular Cooperation with LAC —promoted over

the years with Chile and Uruguay—, as well as the rest of its partnerships fostered in the framework of the Adelante Program (individually or associated with the EU and other countries), are also key in this country's Triangular Cooperation as second provider.

In Paraguay's case, the role played by Germany's Regional Fund, the Spain-Chile Mixed Fund, Japan's Partnership Programs with Chile and Argentina, and the Brazil-FAO Triangular Cooperation Program for food security, among others, are particularly noteworthy.

Finally, new instruments have been promoted in 2024 that will certainly dynamize Triangular Cooperation in the coming years: for example, the Triangular Cooperation Program for Latin-America and the Caribbean of



Photo: The Armila Community in Guna Yala (Panama) is the fourth most important leatherbacks' nesting area in the world, a sanctuary for this endangered sea turtle species. Volunteers of the indigenous Guna community, together with the Ministry of the Environment, conserve and protect the nesting of this species on their beach and share their knowledge with El Salvador. Image bank on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America. SEGIB-PIFCSS. 2024.

the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID by its Spanish acronym), and the Portugal-LAC-Africa Triangular Cooperation Fund, financed by the *Instituto Camões da Cooperação e da Língua* and managed by SEGIB. Boxes 2.2 and 2.3

provide detailed information on how these instruments work, emphasizing the former's innovative features, and the capacity of the latter to create interregional partnerships with Portuguese-speaking African countries.

→ BOX 2.2

Spain's Triangular Cooperation Program for Latin-America and the Caribbean

In 2024, the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID by its Spanish acronym) has launched its Triangular Cooperation Program for Latin-America and the Caribbean, conceived as an instrument to generate partnerships in the framework this modality, which Spanish Cooperation has been supporting for years in the region. Spain is committed to this type of cooperation and will continue to strengthen it due to its enormous capacity to foster strategic and horizontal associations that, through dialogue and joint work, promote the region's inclusive and sustainable development.

This program was conceived on innovative bases and is also driven by Triangular Cooperation's capacity to simultaneously address the challenges of both Spanish and Latin-American cooperation, in the current context. Indeed:

a) On the one hand, this program is launched the year after Spain approved its new Law on Cooperation for Sustainable Development and Global Solidarity. This law reflects Spain's commitment to continue working with Latin-America and the Caribbean, as well as the importance of doing so with a focus on development in transition. This requires innovation and progress in terms of the cooperation modalities and instruments that have been traditionally used.

b) On the other hand, horizontal cooperation in Latin-America and the Caribbean is fully consolidated, and the region is demanding increasingly specialized technical cooperation, adapted to its development level and potential. The region needs new strategies and transforming partnerships that can materialize in technical cooperation, as well as in knowledge generation and transfer for sustainable development.

In this context, the future commitment of Spanish Cooperation with Latin-America and the Caribbean is to promote an advanced Triangular Cooperation, which supports the achievement of the SDGs, based on a more innovative work scheme, on processes, and on transforming elements, in order to be better aligned with the region's current needs and challenges.

This innovative approach—which resulted from reflection and from the identification of the different areas that needed to be improved in the framework of this modality—has determined the conception and design of the Triangular Cooperation Program for Latin-America and the Caribbean, as an instrument to facilitate the generation of alliances for mutual benefit, responsibility and learning.

Accordingly, the Program is based on the concept of PARTNERSHIP, pivoting on three key aspects:

a) Demand. Actions should originate in country's themselves and in their identification of their challenges, either through individual processes or through collaborative processes among the different partners.

b) Horizontality. Spain is considered to be a technical partner in this model; i.e. it does not only provide financial support but also actively participates in knowledge exchange and sharing, and benefits from the other partners' experience.

c) Knowledge management and innovation. These are key elements to disseminate, share, and improve, in addition to being essential tools to promote dialogue to design public policies.

In order to combine these purposes and principles, the program is designed based on two lines of action: the support to Triangular Cooperation exchanges that promote partnerships in the search for solutions to Sustainable Development challenges; and a cross-cutting component aimed at fostering and improving the modality and the program itself.

Twenty-four (24) initiatives were approved in the framework of its first call for proposals. These involve institutions from 18 Latin-American countries, and create and foster strategic associations with a participatory, horizontal, multi-stakeholder and multilevel approach. The table below provides a summary of these 24 projects (names, main partners, and roles).

Continues >>

Projects of Spain's Triangular Cooperation Program for Latin-America

PROJECT	PARTNERS*
Capacity strengthening for the monitoring, early warning and control of mosquito-borne diseases.	Argentina, Paraguay
Strengthening the sustainable tourism planning process of Valverde (Dominican Republic) and Pallcapampa (Bolivia).	Bolivia, Dominican Republic
Strengthening strategic partnerships to promote the creation of hydro-social territories in Colombia and Peru.	Colombia, Peru
Coffee Innovation Network for the implementation of regenerative agriculture practices in the Mocotíes River Basin, Mérida (Venezuela).	Colombia, Venezuela
Program for the generation of institutional capacities and to accelerate and promote intra-entrepreneurship among SMEs for the operationalization of innovation.	Costa Rica, Brazil
Capacity building for the management of international cooperation.	Cuba, Costa Rica, Mexico
Capacity building in mental health care with a specialized approach: an international collaboration model between Spain, Cuba and Mexico.	Cuba, Mexico
Strengthening institutional capacities in Chile and Costa Rica to improve the implementation of Sport for Development indicators.	Chile, Costa Rica
Cooperation program between Ecuador's and Peru's justice systems to prevent and eradicate human trafficking.	Ecuador, Peru
Local transboundary public strategy for the sustainable management of Carchi and Nariño natural protected areas (Colombia-Ecuador).	Ecuador, Colombia
Management of development cooperation with an innovation approach.	Guatemala, Chile
Strengthening the Honduran Standardized Curriculum and Qualification System for fire management.	Honduras, Guatemala
Strengthening the Honduran Coffee Tourism Product.	Honduras, Colombia
Strengthening the regulatory framework related to renal transplantation and organ donation in SICA member states.	El Salvador, Panama
Network of LAC experts for the effective implementation of the "One Health" approach at the human/animal/environmental interface in RIMAIS member countries.	Mexico, Chile, Paraguay
Strengthening "I+P+P" (Innovation + Promotion + Payment) capacities to restore degraded soils in the Western region of the Panama Canal.	Panama, Cuba
Sustainable development of coastal communities through climate-smart beekeeping in mangrove ecosystems.	Panama, Peru
Integration of data and practices for the development and environmental sustainability of the Paraguayan Chaco.	Paraguay, Costa Rica
Triangular Cooperation for the management of early warnings to identify possible victims of femicide.	Peru, El Salvador
Transforming the food industry by applying biotechnology for production and consumption.	Peru, Brasil, Mexico
Strengthening human resources to address climate change / Capacity building for teachers to address climate change.	Dominican Republic, CARICOM
Strengthening dialogue and knowledge exchange on public policy for Dominican Republic's and Ecuador's export of sustainable, deforestation-free cocoa.	Dominican Republic, Ecuador
Strengthening mental health services in Uruguay, Guatemala and Honduras, based on the ECHO methodology and on Spanish experiences.	Uruguay, Guatemala, Honduras
Strengthening capacities for decision making in digital public policy: measurement, and impact and results assessment.	Uruguay, Guatemala

*According to the Program's terminology, the proposing partner is named first.
Source: SEGIB and AECID.

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



Photo: Colombia and Costa Rica have protected areas in the Eastern Tropical Pacific Marine Corridor (CMAR by its Spanish acronym). These countries are working together to protect and conserve the biodiversity and marine and coastal resources of these areas. Image bank on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America. SEGIB-PIFCSS. 2022.

→ BOX 2.3

Portugal and SEGIB: Facilitating Triangular Interregional Cooperation between Ibero-America and Africa

At the end of 2023, based on a Memorandum with SEGIB, Portugal launched the Portugal-Latin-America-Africa Triangular Cooperation Fund. The aim of this fund is to support projects that are focused on strategic capacity building and the exchange of experiences between Portuguese-speaking African Countries (PALOPs) and Ibero-American countries, in the following areas: education, health, gender equality, climate change, food security, culture, social cohesion, digital transformation and education for development. The budget of this

fund, for a two year period (2024-2025), amounts to €1,000,000.

This fund is considered to be innovative for two main features: on the one hand, for the way in which initiatives have a specific focus on knowledge; and, on the other, for its vocation to promote an interregional partnership between Europe, Latin-America and Africa. These projects must precisely address either *Knowledge generation and dissemination* (Category I), or *Training, capacity*

building and/or knowledge transfer (Category II). In addition, initiatives must have at least three partners (Portuguese, Latin-American, and African) which favor the integration between these geographic areas.

The call for proposals was open for two months, and both public and private entities applied. At the end of the period, 340 initiatives were evaluated. This not only demonstrates Ibero-America's great interest in Triangular Cooperation, but also in promoting partnerships

Projects of Portugal-LAC-Africa Fund (2024-2025)

PROJECT	PARTNERS
Cocoa biodiversity for conservation and climate resilience: research on good practices between Colombia, Portugal and São Tomé and Príncipe.	Colombia, Portugal, São Tomé and Príncipe
Creating partnerships: initiatives to strengthen Ibero-American and African professional nursing education.	Brazil, Cape Verde, Colombia, Colombia, Mexico, Mozambique, Peru, Portugal, Uruguay
Triangular Cooperation between Argentina, Portugal and Angola for innovation and for the exchange of good practices in Education for Development.	Angola, Argentina, Portugal
Global circuits for the sale of second-hand clothing: sustainability, greenwashing and circular economy.	Mexico, Mozambique, Portugal
Triangular partnership for Príncipe's digital transformation.	Argentina, Portugal, São Tomé and Príncipe
Cities of knowledge.	Argentina, Cape Verde, Mozambique, Portugal

Source: SEGIB and Camões-Instituto da Cooperação e da Língua

Six projects were selected in this first call (detailed in the table prepared for this purpose), which implementation must be completed by December 2025. These involve 30 institutions from Latin-America, Portugal and Africa and cover the following areas: Climate change (1); Digital transformation (1); Health (1); Education for Development (2) and Culture (1). Regarding the two mentioned categories, 4 projects are associated with Category I, and 2 projects with Category II.

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

2.3

Sectoral analysis of Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America in 2022-2023

A better understanding of Triangular Cooperation partners, their roles, associations and instruments is also decisive to explain the different capacities that have been strengthened in the 2022-2023 period and this modality's contribution for the region to advance sustainable and inclusive development.

Thus, the following section provides a detailed analysis of the Triangular Cooperation in which Ibero-America participated in the 2022-2023 period according to the sectoral purposes and challenges it addressed. This is carried out from a twofold perspective: the first one is related to the region as a whole; and the second one is related to the capacity profiles of the most active countries. Likewise, in order to draw better conclusions and to understand how the COVID-19 crisis and its response may still be impacting the region's priorities, this two-year period is, on some occasions, compared with the preceding ones.

2.3.1

Strengthened capacities

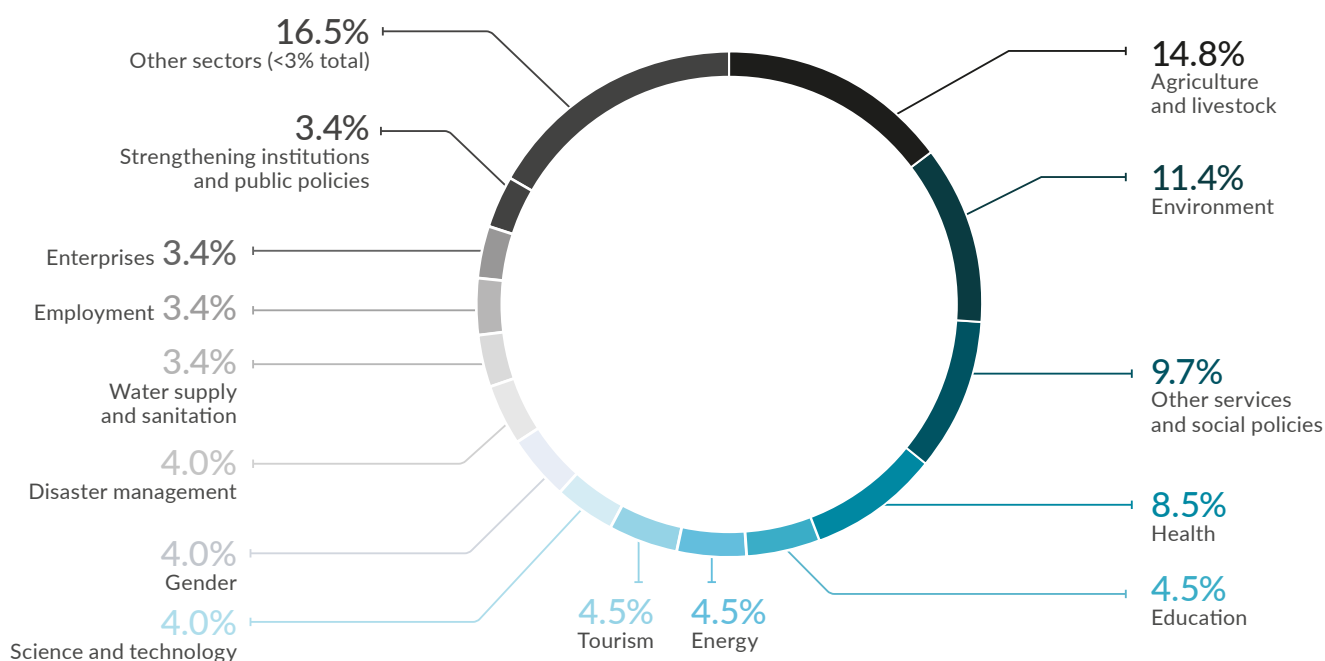
Graph 2.19 distributes the 176 Triangular Cooperation initiatives exchanged by Ibero-American countries with all partners during 2022 and 2023, by activity sector. As shown, in these two years, the region focused on challenges related to the *Agriculture and livestock* (26 initiatives, corresponding to 14.8% of the total) and the *Environment* (another 11.4%) sectors; as well as on those associated with the Social area, specifically related to *Other services and social policies, Health and Education* (each of these had relative shares of between 5% and 10% in the total number of exchanges). These five sectors together account for nearly 50% of all the initiatives.

The other 50% of the 2022-2023 initiatives are distributed in up to 20 different activity sectors. Among these, those that aim to strengthen economic areas, either because they contribute to the generation of Infrastructure and economic services (*Energy, Science and technology, Employment and Enterprises*) or to Productive sectors (*Tourism*), all with relative shares between 3% and 4.5%, should be highlighted. As Graph 2.19 shows, the remaining sectors with this relative importance place emphasis on different purposes, such as *Gender equality, Disaster management, Water supply and sanitation, and Strengthening institutions and public policies*. Below this threshold and

// Graph 2.19

Distribution of Ibero-American Triangular Cooperation initiatives with all partners, by the main activity sectors. 2022-2023

In percentage



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

with the same institutional focus, the *Legal and judicial development and Human Rights* sector should be highlighted, with 5 initiatives that account for another 2.8% of the total amount exchanged in the 2022-2023 period.

On the other hand, Graph 2.20 shows the extent to which the post-pandemic period has changed the priorities that were addressed in the framework of Triangular Cooperation. This graph portrays the evolution of the relative importance that the *Agriculture and livestock*, *Environment* and *Health* sectors have annually had in the total number of Triangular Cooperation initiatives implemented between 2018 and 2023; i.e. during the pandemic and in the pre- and post-COVID-19 periods. It also sheds light on another interesting aspect: it analyzes the same

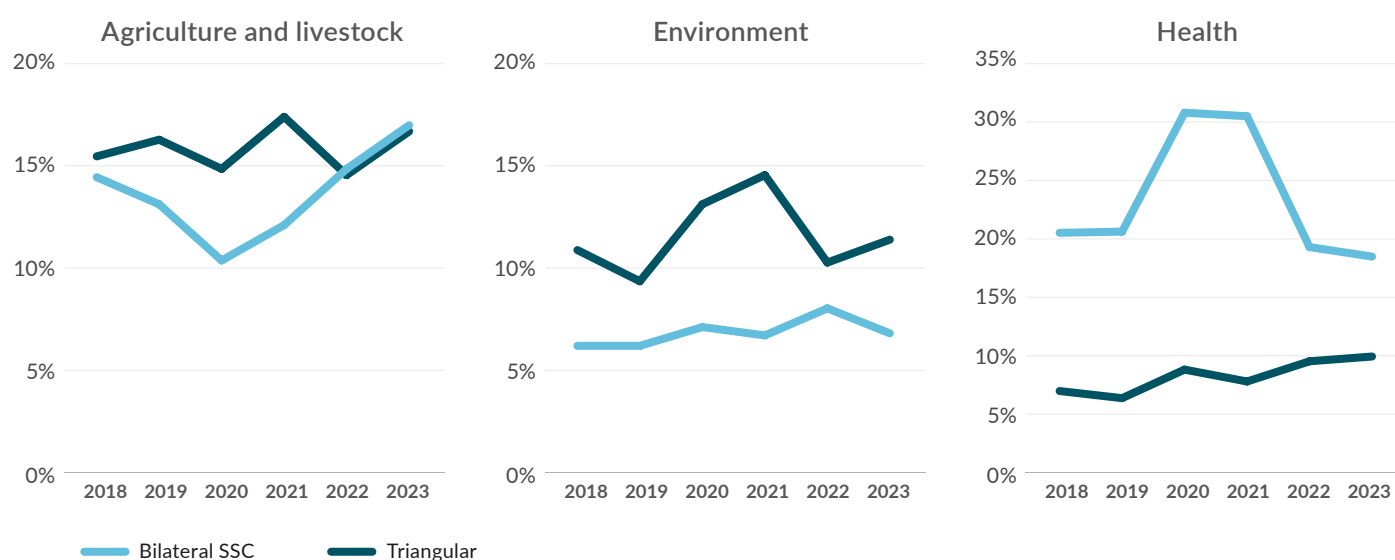
evolution in terms of Bilateral SSC. Hence, it is possible to compare both trajectories and conclude that these two cooperation modalities had different sectoral priorities.

The analysis reveals some important trends. First, the graphs show that each modality tends to address the challenges associated with each of the sectors in a different manner. Thus, Triangular Cooperation prioritizes *Agriculture and livestock* and *Environment*, while Bilateral SSC places more emphasis on *Health*. Specifically, the *Agriculture and livestock* and *Environment* sectors account for between 10% and 15%-17% of the Triangular Cooperation initiatives carried out each year, while the importance of *Health* in Bilateral SSC initiatives is in a higher range (20%-30% per year).

// Graph 2.20

Evolution of the weight of the *Agriculture and livestock*, *Environment* and *Health* sectors in the total number of initiatives exchanged during the pandemic and in the pre- and post-COVID periods, by modality. 2018-2023

In percentage



*Vertical axes range from 0-20%, except in the graph related to Health, where it ranges from 0-35%.

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

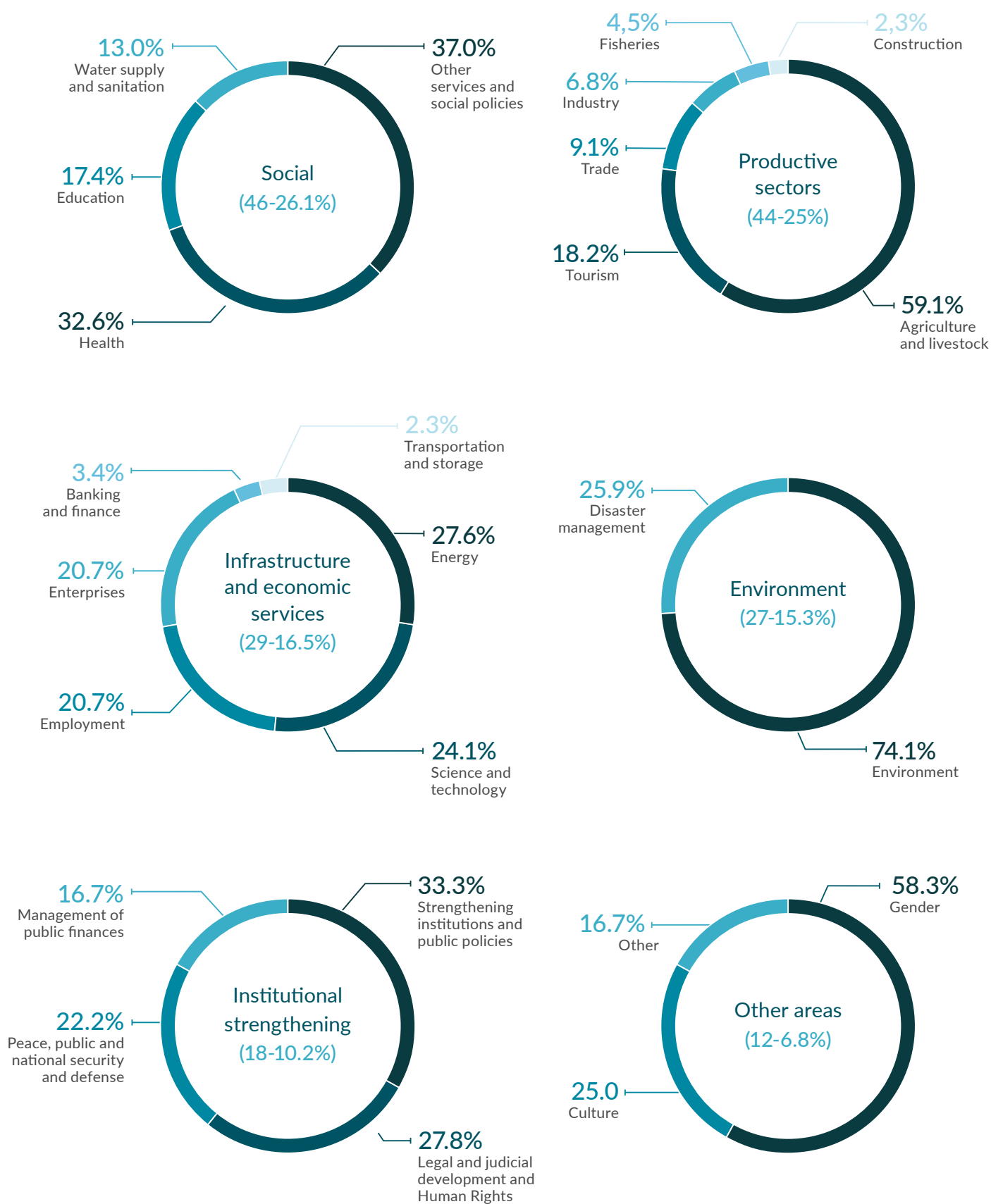
This different behavior by modality is also explained by a second trend, related to the gap between the two lines that illustrate the evolution of Triangular Cooperation and Bilateral SSC in each of the considered sectors, which, indeed, differs in each case. In fact, the importance of the *Agriculture and livestock* sector in Triangular Cooperation is 2.2 percentage points higher than in Bilateral SSC. In the case of *Environment*, the gap between the two trajectories widens to almost 5 percentage points. On the other hand, Triangular Cooperation is below Bilateral SSC, at an average distance of up to 15 percentage points, in terms of *Health*.

Finally, Graph 2.20 also provides information on the evolution of Triangular Cooperation in these sectors during the post-pandemic period. In this regard, between 2021 and 2022, significant declines can be identified in terms of *Agriculture and livestock* and *Environment*. These declines are fully or partially offset, depending on the case, from 2022 to 2023. In addition, during the 2022-2023 period, the number of *Health*-related initiatives increased—for two consecutive years—, which is also evident in terms of participation, although figures remain below the 10% threshold.

// Graph 2.21

Distribution of Ibero-American Triangular Cooperation initiatives with all partners, by area of action and activity sectors. 2022-2023

In percentage



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

This first analysis of the capacities that were prioritized in the framework of Triangular Cooperation in the 2022-2023 period is completed with Graph 2.21, which shows the distribution of the 176 initiatives by activity sector, according to their relative importance in terms of the area of action in which they are classified. It is also possible to make a detailed examination of the main topics addressed during these years.

Specifically, Graph 2.21 shows that more than half of the 176 Triangular Cooperation initiatives in 2022-2023 aimed to strengthen the Social (46 exchanges, 26.1% of the total) and Productive Sectors (44, corresponding to another 25.0%) areas. Likewise, and in line with what has already been advanced, two thirds of the exchanges

in the Social area are explained by the strengthening of *Other services and social policies* (37.0%) and *Health* (32.6%). Meanwhile, almost 70% of the Triangular Cooperation dedicated to Productive Sectors is focused on *Agriculture and livestock* (59.1%) and *Tourism* (18.2%).

More than half of the 176 Triangular Cooperation initiatives carried out in 2022-2023 were aimed at strengthening matters related to the Social and Productive sectors areas

// CASE 2.1

The Creation of the National Network of Waste Collectors of Bolivia: linking employment and social protection



One of the major challenges brought about by the great growth of cities is waste management. Many Latin-American cities lack an effective recycling system; waste ends up in landfills and its life cycle is utterly reduced. In this context, it is important to highlight the work of waste collectors, who make profit of the small amount of recyclable waste, reducing pollution and contributing to a better use of these resources. However, the recognition of the economic activity of these workers is insufficient and it usually corresponds to a sector of the informal economy. This means that many families have no guaranteed access to basic social rights, as well as to care and social protection systems.

In order to tackle this issue, an initiative was approved—in the framework of the Adelante Window—for the formalization of a network of waste collectors in Bolivia, as an instrument for social action, political advocacy and the protection of their rights (Adelante 2, 2024). Thus, the

Association of Solid Waste Recyclers *Bolivia Unida*, as the recipient institution, led the coordination—with the country's different associations of recyclers—to generate the conditions for the formalization of the national network. The National Network of Recyclers of Ecuador (RENAREC by its Spanish acronym), in turn, as the first provider, provided training and capacity building based on its process, origins, formalization and first years of management. The Spanish institution Roots for Sustainability (R4S) also contributed, as second provider, to capacity strengthening through training.

The project was implemented between 2022 and 2023 and included eight activities, mostly onsite. A series of workshops were held in five Bolivian cities (Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Sucre, Potosí, Tarija and Cochabamba), where the benefits of associativity were presented. A seminar was then carried out in Sucre, where each city shared its expectations for this future network.

Following this exchange, another cycle of workshops was held in the five cities, which focused on the requirements for the formalization of associations, and on training for association management. A second seminar for leaders of the associations of waste collectors was organized in Cochabamba to complete the training process and in order to present the progress made for the formalization of the future national network. The entire activity was supported by two consultancies that provided legal support to set up the national network, and IT support for the creation of the network's web page and app.

The project concluded with a seminar in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, with all the associations that participated in the process and with relevant public and private stakeholders. The results of the initiative, which directly benefited 1,098 people, were socialized during this event, and the creation of the Bolivian Network of Waste Collectors was finally formalized.

Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation and Adelante 2 (2024).

// CASE 2.2

Triangular cooperation for sanitation in intermediate cities: the COTRISAN strategy



Ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all is one of the goals of the 2030 Agenda (UN, 2023) and one Ibero-American countries' top priorities.

In 2021, Bolivia and Costa Rica identified mutual learning opportunities related to sanitation that could be effectively addressed, within 3 years, through Triangular Cooperation. In this framework, the Andean country would strengthen its knowledge of solid waste management regulations, and the Central-American country would increase its capacity in wastewater and sanitary sewage.

With Germany's support —through the Regional Fund for Triangular Cooperation in Latin-America and the Caribbean— it was then proposed to “manage sanitation strategies in two intermediate cities in Costa Rica and one in Bolivia, as a disease detection and prevention measure; and improve sanitation through a comprehensive strategy that includes capacity building, regulation and social participation” (GIZ, 2022).

According to figures of the Regional Fund, the initiative *Sanitation strategy in intermediate cities: COTRISAN* had a total contribution of around one million euros, and it was developed through 4 lines of action (GIZ, 2023, p.3). Specifically:

1. The first was related to collecting information for the development and implementation of a strategy for the management of disposals from household septic tanks. In this regard, a pilot project on household fecal sludge management in Santa Cruz (Bolivia) was used as a reference; a technical sanitation roundtable was formed with entities from both countries; and courses on septic tanks and other related topics were implemented.
2. The second line of action contemplated the design of a proposal for leachate regulation, as a measure to protect water resources. Sampling was carried out in Bolivian localities for this purpose, resulting in the generation of two technical guideline documents on urban solid waste and urban sanitary landfills.

3. Third, given that the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus continues to be present in human waste for a long period of time, an inter-institutional committee was formed to set *Procedural Guidelines for the Detection of SARS-CoV-2 in Wastewater* for the generation of an *Early Warning System*. Moreover, laboratory equipment and materials were provided in addition to training in detection and biosafety techniques (GIZ, 2023, p. 5).

4. Finally, Costa Rica, through the Institute of Aqueducts and Sewage, supported the Vice-Ministry of Drinking Water and Basic Sanitation of Bolivia in the organization of the 6th LATINOSAN Conference. During the event, countries presented the outcomes of the diagnosis of the sanitary situation of excrement management in the canton of San Pablo de Heredia and the district of Liberia in Costa Rica, and they also presented the results of the application of the Bolivian model for the Management of Household Fecal Sludge (GLFD by its Spanish acronym) in two cities of the Central-American country (GIZ, 2023, p. 5).

Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation, Cedeño (2022), World Bank (2022), GIZ (2023) (2022) and UN (2023).

In the framework of *Other services and social policies*, is it possible to highlight those initiatives that, from complementary perspectives, focus on the inclusion of minors. These projects, for example, were dedicated to child care and attention; the use of sports as a tool for peaceful coexistence; income transfers; and school feeding programs. Initiatives to promote the development of housing and inclusive urban spaces also stood out. Another interesting experience, detailed in Case 2.1, refers to a project that, under the Adelante Window, allows Spain and Ecuador to support Bolivia in its experience to advance the labor formalization of people who work in the National Network of

Waste Collectors, understood as the best solution to guarantee social protection for many families.

In the *Health* sector, several Triangular Cooperation initiatives related to nutrition and food improvement have been identified, including a project for the comprehensive care of pregnant women and early childhood, which is considered a preventive intervention and key to make progress on the fight against child malnutrition. Exchanges in this modality also supported the development of different treatments and therapies for cancer, infectious and neurodegenerative diseases, as well as the early detection and rehabilitation of neurodevelopmental

disorders in breastfed infants. Likewise, and still as a result of the COVID-19 crisis, other exchanges promoted a network of laboratories to prepare the countries of the region to respond to potential epidemics and pandemics.

The remaining 30% of the 46 initiatives related to the Social area were carried out in the *Education* and *Water supply and sanitation* sectors. In this case, countries prioritized the improvement of teaching skills (recognition systems; technical-pedagogical innovations; virtual tools), as well integrated water resource management, universal access to drinking water and improved wastewater treatment. For example, Case 2.2 describes a Triangular Cooperation initiative between Costa Rica and Bolivia in the framework of the Regional Fund implemented by the German Cooperation Agency (GIZ by its German acronym) dedicated to the promotion of water sanitation in intermediate cities.

On the other hand, most of the Triangular Cooperation initiatives in the Productive Sectors area, associated with the *Agriculture and livestock* sector, gave priority to agriculture, those that aimed to strengthen livestock and beekeeping being more specific. The exchanges that focused on improving the management of the sector's resources, including water, soil, technology and access to financing —through the specific development of more accessible credit formulas for small producers—, stood out. Some of these exchanges also placed emphasis on specific regional crops, such as avocado, coffee, cocoa and citrus. The added value of specialized multilateral organizations (IICA, IFAD and FAO) in this sectors' Triangular Cooperation is especially noteworthy, as they were able to tackle other topics, such as value chains or the transfer of advanced genetic manipulation techniques, in addition to providing a comprehensive approach to the link between agriculture and food security.



Photo: Artisanal fishermen work in the pink shrimp harvest in Castillos Lagoon, in Rocha, in the East of Uruguay. This community participated in a pilot experience of inclusive and sustainable development to improve their quality of life and ensure the sustainability of fishing, respecting the environment and mitigating the adverse effects that climate events have on the marine resources on which their income depends. Image bank on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America. SEGIB-PIFCSS. 2021.

// CASE 2.3

Dual training and MSMEs: the case of the furniture and wood industry in Peru



Dual training combines technical and theoretical learning in the training center with practical and applied learning in a company (German Technical Cooperation – GIZ, 2020). Thus, the use of this type of training becomes key for certain industries to be able to count on qualified human capital. Applied in micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), it also has the advantage of reducing training costs which, under other formulas, tend to be very high (Single Digital Platform of the Peruvian State for Citizen Orientation, 2022).

In this regard, with the support of German cooperation, the Triangular Cooperation project *Strengthening the ecosystem of the wood and furniture industry: knowledge transfer for dual training stakeholders* was approved in 2021, in response to a strong demand for qualified people in the wood and furniture industry in Peru. At the institutional level, the

Technological Institute of Production (ITP by its Spanish acronym) through the Center for Productive Innovation and Technology Transfer in wood (CITEmadera by its Spanish acronym) of Peru, the Trainers Corporation of Ecuador, the Ecuadorian Association of Wood Manufacturers (AIMA by its Spanish acronym) and GIZ (Germany), participated in this experience.

The initiative, implemented between 2022 and 2024, was based on the dual training program for operators in the wood and furniture industry (at auxiliary, technical and professional levels), implemented by the Program *Contribution to the Environmental Goals of Peru - ProAmbiente II*, from 2019 to 2021 (Single Digital Platform of the Peruvian State for Citizen Orientation, 2022). During those years, CITEmadera and other institutions of the forestry sector learned about dual training in carpentry in Germany and Ecuador. In addition, they

designed the program's curriculum, study plans and implementation methodologies for companies (German Technical Cooperation - GIZ, 2020).

In addition, in June 2023, representatives of public institutions, associations and companies from the two Ibero-American countries traveled to Bonn, Stuttgart and Reutlingen (Germany) to learn about the opportunities and challenges of dual training in technological and sustainable development in the wood industry (Single Digital Platform of the Peruvian State for Citizen Orientation, 2023). Furthermore, in August that year, CITEmadera Lima held an event on *Progress and challenges of dual technical and professional training in the wood and furniture industry*, in the framework of EXPODECO 2023, where students and entrepreneurs shared their experiences and lessons learned.

Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation, GIZ (2020) and Single Digital Platform of the Peruvian State for Citizen Orientation (2022) (2023).

Exchanges in *Tourism* were also remarkable in the framework of the Productive sectors area. In this sense, initiatives aimed to develop and improve the management of different tourism products, mainly based on nature and culture. These collaborations also focused on mainstreaming the sustainability and resilience of this important activity. In addition, and even more specifically, several initiatives to strengthen *Fisheries and Industry* are worthy of mention. Indeed, one of these experiences is detailed in Case 2.3, concerning a dual training project between Peru, Ecuador and Germany in the wood and furniture industry.

Still from an economic perspective, as Graph 2.21 portrays, the support for the generation of Infrastructure and economic services accounts for another 16.5%

of the 176 Triangular Cooperation initiatives of the 2022-2023 period. These exchanges were focused, in close respective proportions, on *Energy, Science and technology, Employment and Enterprises*, including a wide range of topics such as energy transition (with a special focus on solar energy and electric mobility); green recovery after the COVID-19 crisis; the development of geospatial information platforms for economic purposes; employment and entrepreneurship; support for MSMEs; and aspects related to business conduct and competitiveness. Additionally, as explained in Case 2.4 below, the development of statistics to guide business decision-making was also addressed by two experiences involving Spain, Guatemala, the Dominican Republic, Uruguay and the EU.

// CASE 2.4

Triangular Cooperation to strengthen business statistics with a gender approach



During the 2022-2023 period, and in the framework of the EU Triangular Cooperation Program Adelante 2, Uruguay, the Dominican Republic and Spain identified a partnership opportunity through the project *Strengthening Business Statistics* (Adelante 2, 2024). This initiative highlighted the value of generating data and statistics, not only to advise decision-making in the design, implementation and evaluation of any public policy, but also to guide the strategies of any economic stakeholder, in this case, focusing on companies.

As a result of its successful outcomes, the three countries decided to promote a new project, which was also joined by the National Institute of Statistics (INE by its Spanish acronym) of Guatemala, in order to tackle the importance of applying a gender perspective in statistics measurement. In this regard, for example, it is difficult to have access to reliable information to use and interpret economic statistics properly (ONE, 2024, p. 7). This jeopardizes

the possibility of making differences and inequalities visible and of generating comprehensive responses that contribute to close gaps.

Thus, this second project, dedicated to *Promoting business statistics with gender indicators*, was approved in 2023. In this initiative, the National Statistics Institutes of Uruguay and Guatemala act as recipients and the National Office of Statistics (ONE by its Spanish acronym) of the Dominican Republic as the first provider. The Foundation for the Strategic Analysis and Development of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises of Spain (FAEDPYME by its Spanish acronym), in turn, participates as the second provider.

In this case, ONE has long-term experience in measuring the gender approach in statistics. On the other hand, since 2020, FAEDPYME has been working on the use of data to generate business indicators with a gender and youth perspective, also making its environmental

impact visible (Adelante 2, 2024).

Finally, to achieve its objective, between 2023 and 2024, six visits were carried out to the Latin-American countries to learn first-hand about the needs of the recipients, and to design a clear and effective roadmap. In addition, two specialized studies were completed, one of which included the design of a *Methodology to measure business statistics with a gender perspective* (ONE, 2024). Finally, the project concluded with an international seminar in the Dominican Republic, in March 2024, where the objectives and outcomes of this triangular experience, which directly benefited approximately 120 people, were presented.

Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation, Adelante 2 (2024), IDB (2021), ECLAC (2024) and ONE (2024).

A similar proportion of initiatives (27, corresponding to another 15.3% of the total) were aimed at strengthening countries' capacities to face challenges related to the Environment. Three (3) out of 4 of the exchanges in this area focused on nature protection, while the remaining 25% addressed *Disaster management*. In fact, two different but interconnected main topics have been identified: the preservation of biodiversity (genetic resources; germplasm banks; biological corridors; conservation and restoration of marine-coastal areas and coral reefs); and the fight against climate change and the mitigation of and adaptation to its worst effects (monitoring of the atmosphere; glaciers; environmental impact assessment and follow-up, among others). The analysis of this area is completed by projects dedicated to strengthen risk management (especially seismic risks); to combat forest fires; and to promote Early Warning Systems (EWS).

The remaining 30 initiatives (another 17% of the total) are associated with Institutional strengthening (18 exchanges) and Other areas (12). In terms of the former, as Graph 2.21 shows, exchanges are distributed in four different activity sectors, with emphasis on issues related to access to justice; the promotion of Human Rights; the exchange



Two different but interrelated main aims were identified in the Environment area: the preservation of biodiversity and the fight against climate change, specifically its mitigation and the adaptation to its worst effects



of experiences in the management of public procurement; and the strengthening of development cooperation itself. Meanwhile, most of the experiences classified in Other areas are dedicated to *Gender* equality. In this case, initiatives that promote the economic empowerment of women; those that seek to prevent and combat all forms of violence against them; as well as those that work for the full incorporation of gender approaches to different dimensions of public policies, stand out.

2.3.2

Profile of the main stakeholders

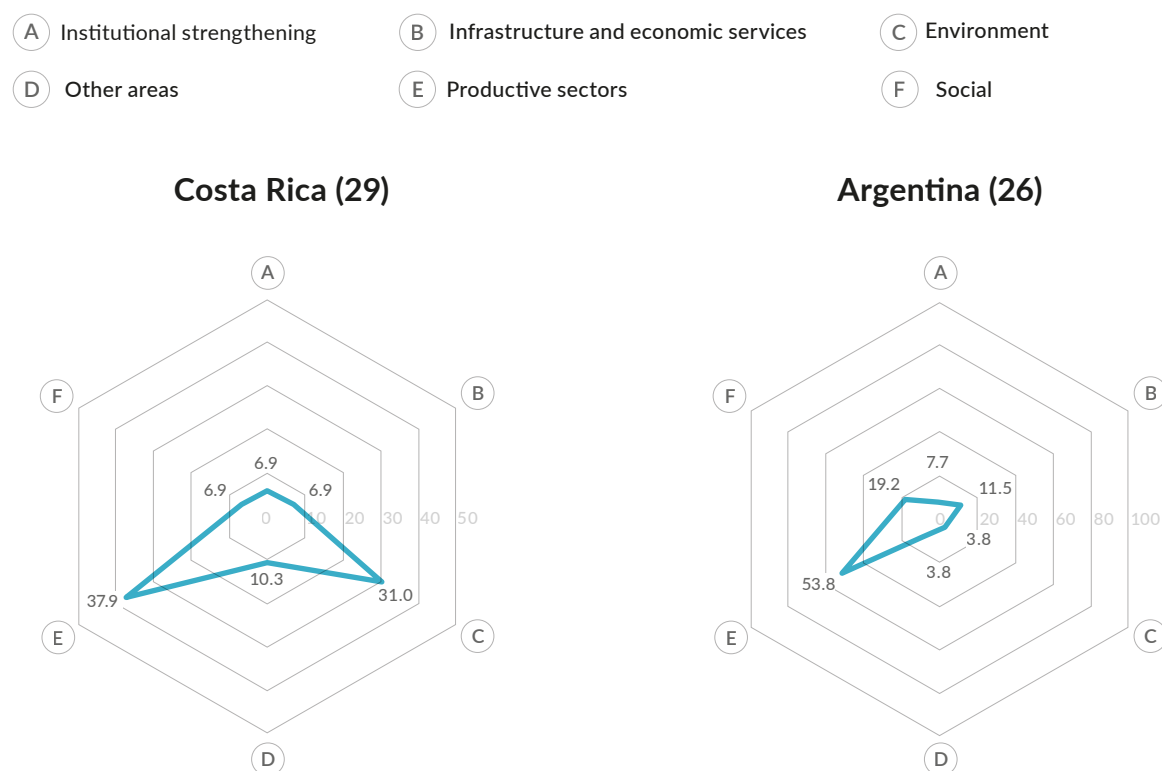
The analysis of the capacities that were strengthened through the Triangular Cooperation in which Ibero-America participated in the 2022-2023 period can be complemented with a second perspective which identifies the combination of the different partners' specific contributions.

Graphs 2.22, 2.23 and 2.24 were prepared for this purpose. The first shows the distribution of the Triangular Cooperation initiatives in which each of the most important first providers⁶ participated, by the area of action in which they were classified. A radial/radar chart with the shape of an hexagon was plotted to illustrate the aforementioned. In this charts, each vertex represents one of the six areas of action recognized in the Ibero-American space. Likewise, the percentage of the initiatives that were carried out by the different countries in each of these areas (over their total number of exchanges) is represented on the axes that go from the center to each of the vertices. The connection of the resulting values shapes a figure that defines each partners' profile. Since the same resource is used in all cases, the profiles of each partner are easily comparable. Graphs 2.23 and 2.24 correspond to second providers and recipients, respectively.

// Graph 2.22

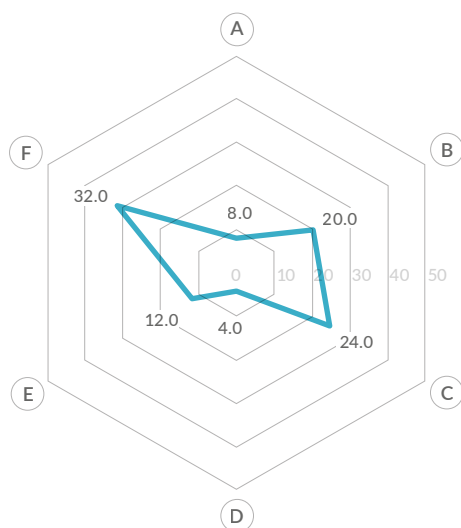
Distribution of the Triangular Cooperation initiatives of the main first providers, by area of action. 2022-2023

In percentage

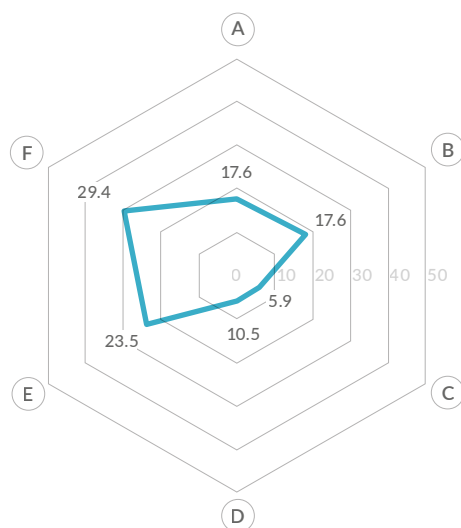


⁶ As explained in the methodological note of Graph 2.22 (as well as in that of Graphs 2.23 and 2.24), the eight countries that were selected have the highest participation in this role and have also implemented more than 10 initiatives.

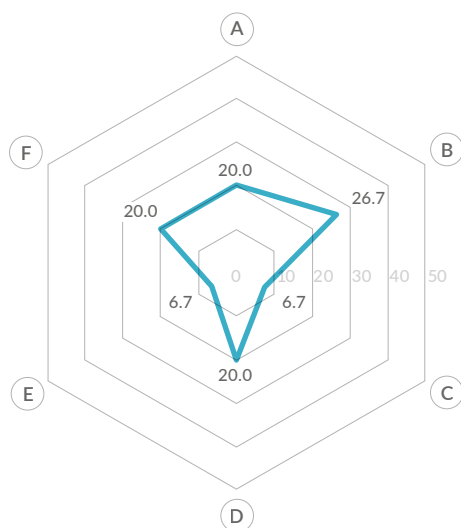
Chile (25)



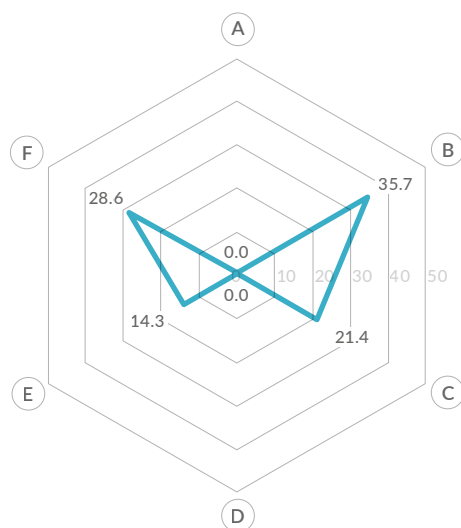
Brazil (17)



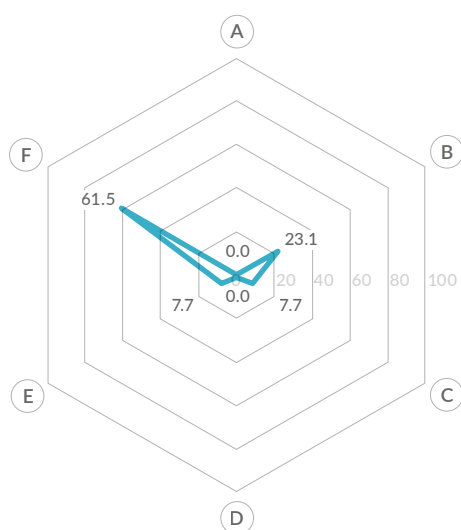
Colombia (15)



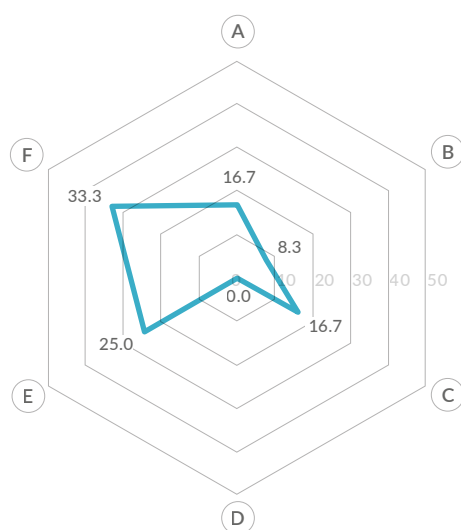
Uruguay (14)



Cuba (13)



Mexico (12)



Methodological note: The selected countries coincide with those that, in addition to being among the top 8 first providers, individually register more than 10 initiatives. The total number of initiatives of each first provider is obtained by adding those in which they participate individually and those in which they share this role with other partners. Likewise, all the axes range between 0-50%, with the exception of Argentina's and Cuba's, which range between 0-100%.

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

In this sense, Graph 2.22 suggests the coexistence of different profiles among the main first providers, depending on the area of action that was prioritized (social or economic) and the degree of specialization or diversification within these areas. Thus, through Triangular Cooperation, Costa Rica, Argentina, Colombia and Uruguay mainly transferred economic-related capacities; while Chile, Brazil, Mexico and Cuba focused on the Social area. Among these, Argentina and Cuba also showed a highly specialized profile in a single area, which contrasts with the diversification of the strengths of the rest of the first providers.

Specifically, Costa Rica dedicated most of its cooperation (nearly 40% of its initiatives) to transfer capacities in the Productive sectors area, mainly through the *Agriculture and livestock* and *Tourism* sectors. This country also had the opportunity to share its recognized experience in terms of *Environment*.

Colombia's and Uruguay's Triangular Cooperation (26.7% and 35.7% of their exchanges in this role, respectively) also prioritized the economic area, in this case focusing on supporting the generation of Infrastructure and economic services. The experience in *Employment* and *Enterprises* was noteworthy in Colombia's case, while Uruguay's initiatives stood out in terms of *Science and technology*. Colombia's Triangular Cooperation was also

diversified in the following sectors: *Education*, *Peace, public and national security and defense*, and *Culture*. Uruguay, in turn, placed emphasis on *Health and Environment*.

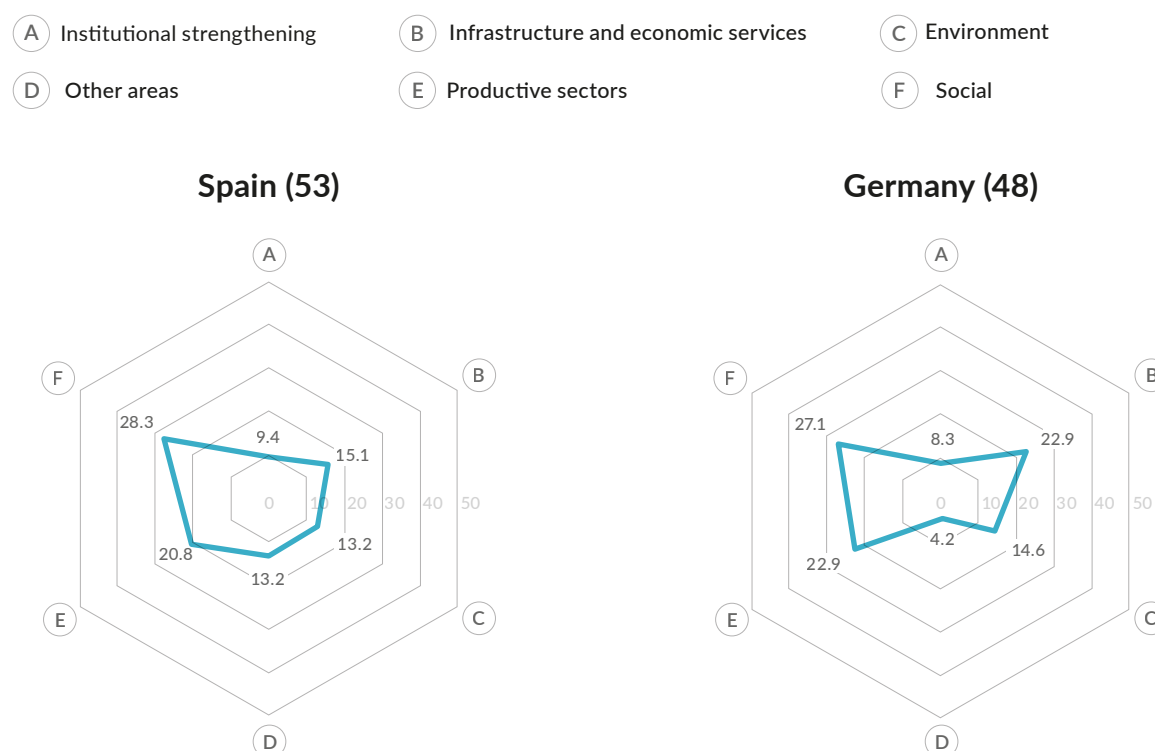
On the other hand, approximately one third of the Triangular Cooperation in which Chile, Brazil and Mexico participated as first providers was aimed at addressing Social issues. In the cases of Chile and Mexico, the profile is determined by their respective experiences in the *Other services and social policies* sector. Chilean cooperation also supported *Environment* and *Disaster management*, while Mexico's capacity in *Tourism* was of particular importance. In contrast, Brazil's Social initiatives were diversified in a wide range of sectors (*Education*, *Health*, *Water supply and sanitation* and *Other services and social policies*), *Agriculture and livestock* being the one that actually concentrated the largest number of exchanges in this country's cooperation.

Argentina's and Cuba's Triangular Cooperation as first providers deserves a special mention due to its high level of specialization. Precisely more than half of the exchanges in which Argentina participated were aimed at strengthening the Productive sectors area, while the initiatives that Cuba dedicated to support the Social area were over 60% of its total. These profiles are based on the recognized experiences of Argentina in the *Agriculture and livestock* sector (specifically, in beekeeping), and of Cuba in *Health*, especially in biotechnology applied to medicine.

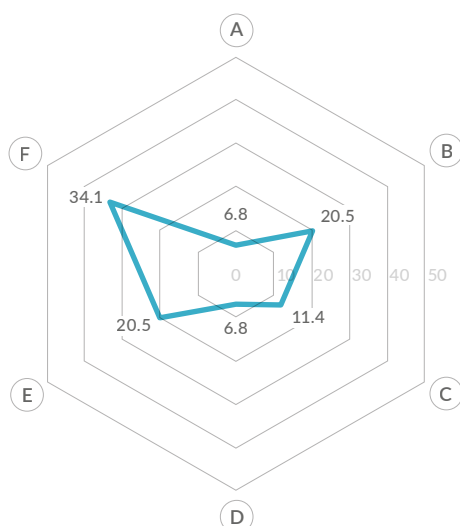
// Graph 2.23

Distribution of the Triangular Cooperation initiatives of the main second providers, by area of action. 2022-2023

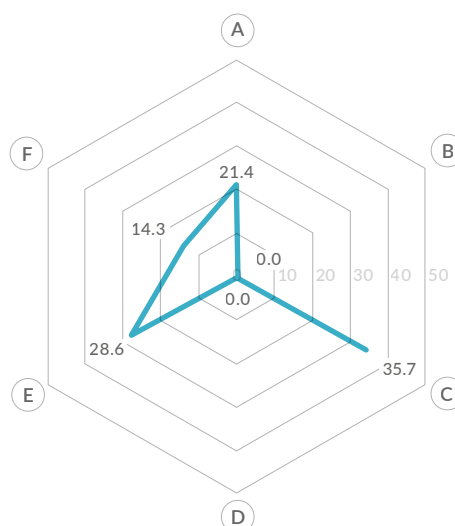
In percentage



European Union (UE) (44)



Japan (14)



Methodological note: The selected countries coincide with those that, in addition to being among the top 8 second providers, individually register more than 10 initiatives. The total number of initiatives of each second provider is obtained by adding those in which they participate individually and those in which they share this role with other partners. Likewise, all the axes range between 0-50%.

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

Graph 2.23 shows that, in 2022 and 2023, Spain's, Germany's and the EU's Triangular Cooperation prioritized supporting the Social area (all of them with more than 40 initiatives). Meanwhile, Japan —with less than 15 exchanges— placed emphasis on Environment. In all cases, the participation ratios of these main areas were in the 25%-35% range, a figure that also suggests the possibility of a significant sectoral diversification.

In fact, almost 30% of the 53 Triangular Cooperation initiatives in which Spain participated in 2022 and 2023 as second provider sought to support different purposes in the Social area, especially in terms of *Health*, *Other services and social policies*, and *Education*. Another 20% of the exchanges favored capacity transfer in the Productive sectors area, especially in the *Agriculture and livestock* and *Tourism* sectors. Other significant experiences of Spanish cooperation strengthened other countries in *Gender equality*, *Enterprises* and the protection of the *Environment*.

A first analysis of the sectoral composition of Germany's Triangular Cooperation, in turn, suggests it prioritized challenges of a Social nature (27.1% of the 48 initiatives in the 2022-2023 period), especially in the *Other*

services and social policies sector. However, when the initiatives associated with the Productive sectors and the Infrastructure and economic services areas are added, it is possible to state that 45% of Germany's total number of exchanges actually served to strengthen its partners' economic situation. In this sense, this country's experience in *Agriculture and livestock* and *Tourism* stood out, as well as in *Energy*, the latter being one of the most important sectors in Germany's cooperation (up to 8 projects).

As Graph 2.23 shows, the EU has a similar profile to Germany's in terms of the areas of action, but its sectoral diversification is different. Indeed, the Social area accounts for 34.1% of the 44 Triangular Cooperation initiatives in which the EU participated in 2022-2023 as second provider; but the total associated with economic-related matters rises to 41%. The EU's Triangular Cooperation in these areas is distributed in almost 15 different activity sectors, although the transfer of experiences in *Health* (50% of Social area), *Agriculture and livestock*, *Science and technology* and *Enterprises* (50% of economic-related matters) stand out.



Photo: One of the aims of this SSC project between Peru (INAIGEM) and Ecuador (FONAG) is to monitor research to assess the impacts of the interventions based on the restoration and management of natural grassland and wetland ecosystems implemented in INAIGEM research plots, on the provision of water services. Image bank on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America. SEGIB-PIFCSS. 2024.

Finally, more than one third of the Triangular Cooperation in which Japan participated in 2022 and 2023 as second provider mainly supported the Environment, specifically through its recognized expertise in *Disaster management*. Almost 60% of the 14 initiatives exchanged by Japan are explained when those initiatives related to the *Agriculture and livestock* sector are added.

Graph 2.24 completes the analysis of the profiles of the most dynamic Triangular Cooperation partners in the 2022-2023 period, in this case based on those which stood out as recipients. Once again, the different countries can be grouped according to the relative importance of each area of action in their respective total number of exchanges.

// Graph 2.24

Distribution of the Triangular Cooperation initiatives of the main recipients, by area of action. 2022-2023

In percentage

- A

 Institutional strengthening
- B

 Infrastructure and economic services
- C

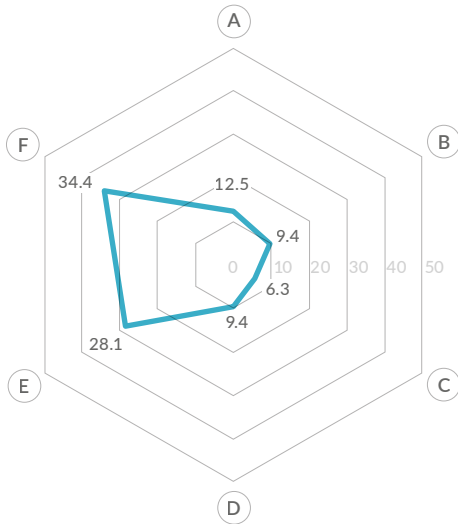
 Environment
- D

 Other areas
- E

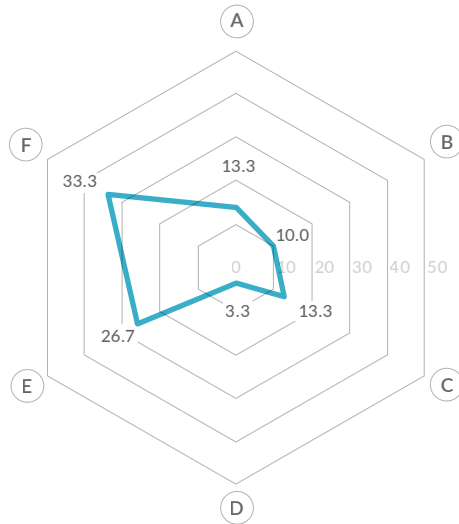
 Productive sectors
- F

 Social

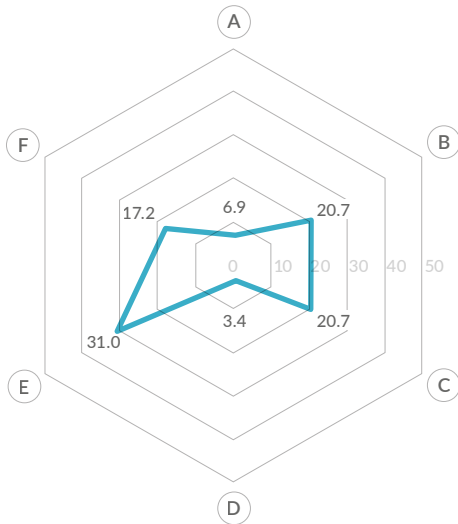
Paraguay (32)



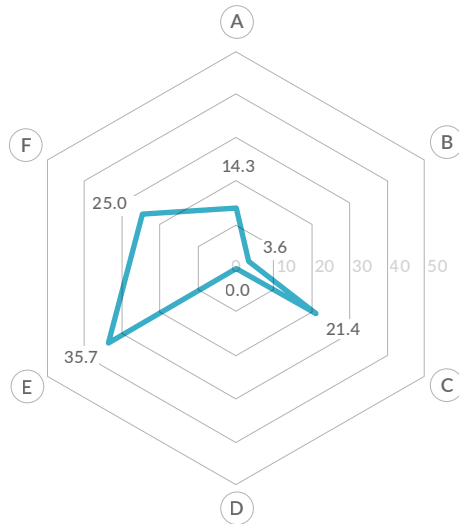
Colombia (30)



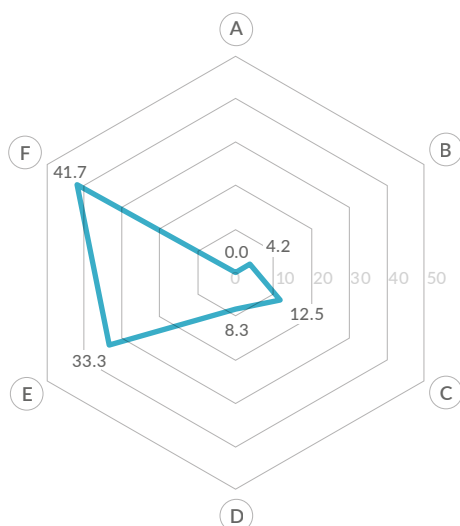
Guatemala (29)



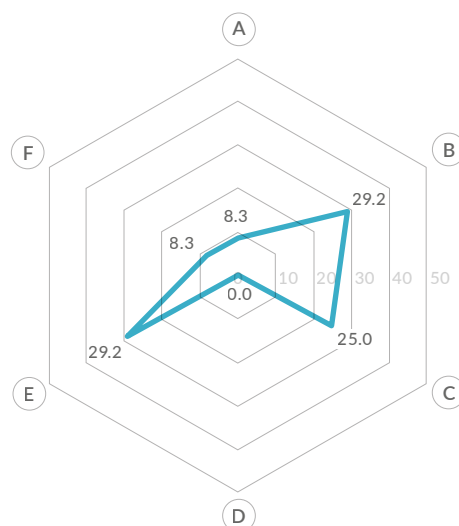
Peru (28)



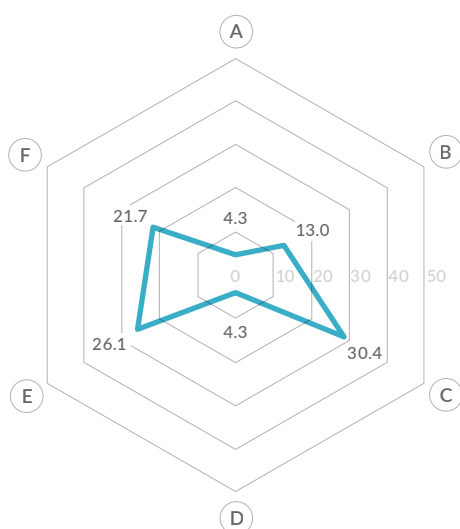
Bolivia (24)



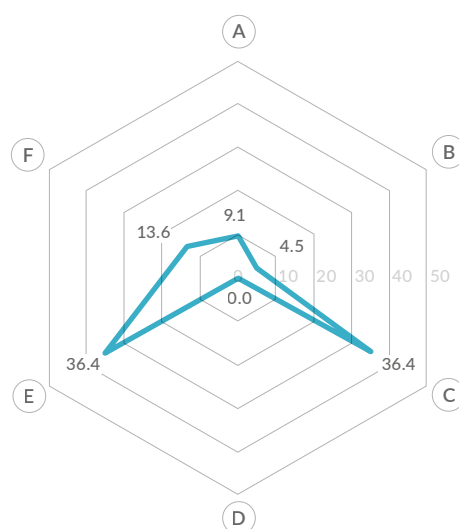
Dominican Rep. (24)



Honduras (23)



Ecuador (22)



Methodological note: The selected countries coincide with those that, in addition to being among the top 8 recipients, individually register more than 10 initiatives. The total number of initiatives of each recipient is obtained by adding those in which they participate individually and those in which they share this role with other partners. Likewise, all the axes range between 0-50%.

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

As Graph 2.24 illustrates, more than two-thirds of the Triangular Cooperation in which Paraguay, Colombia and Bolivia participated as recipients enabled these countries to strengthen their capacities in the Social (34.4%, 33.3% and 41.7% of these exchanges, respectively) and Productive Sectors (28.1%, 26.7% and 33.3%, respectively) areas. The *Agriculture and livestock* and *Other services and social policies* sectors were decisive in these profiles. The initiatives that aimed at improving *Water supply and sanitation* were also relevant for Bolivia.

Meanwhile, between 30%-35% of the nearly 30 Triangular Cooperation initiatives in which Guatemala and Peru participated as recipients strengthened the Productive sectors area, especially through those classified in the *Agriculture and livestock* sector. The rest of their respective exchanges were very dispersed, but Guatemala received cooperation in *Employment* and *Disaster management*, while Peru strengthened its capacities in the *Strengthening institutions and public policies* and *Environment* sectors.

The Productive sectors area is also the most important for the Dominican Republic and for Ecuador, accounting for around 30% and 36%, respectively, of the total number of Triangular Cooperation initiatives received by each of them. In both cases, this participation percentage is equal to that corresponding to Infrastructure and economic services, in the Dominican Republic's profile (closely followed by Environment); and to Environment, in Ecuador's case. Thus, the two countries share the reception of significant support in *Agriculture and livestock*, but also in *Environment* and *Disaster*

management. In the case of the Dominican Republic, the *Science and technology* and *Employment* sectors stand out, and *Tourism* is more significant for Ecuador.

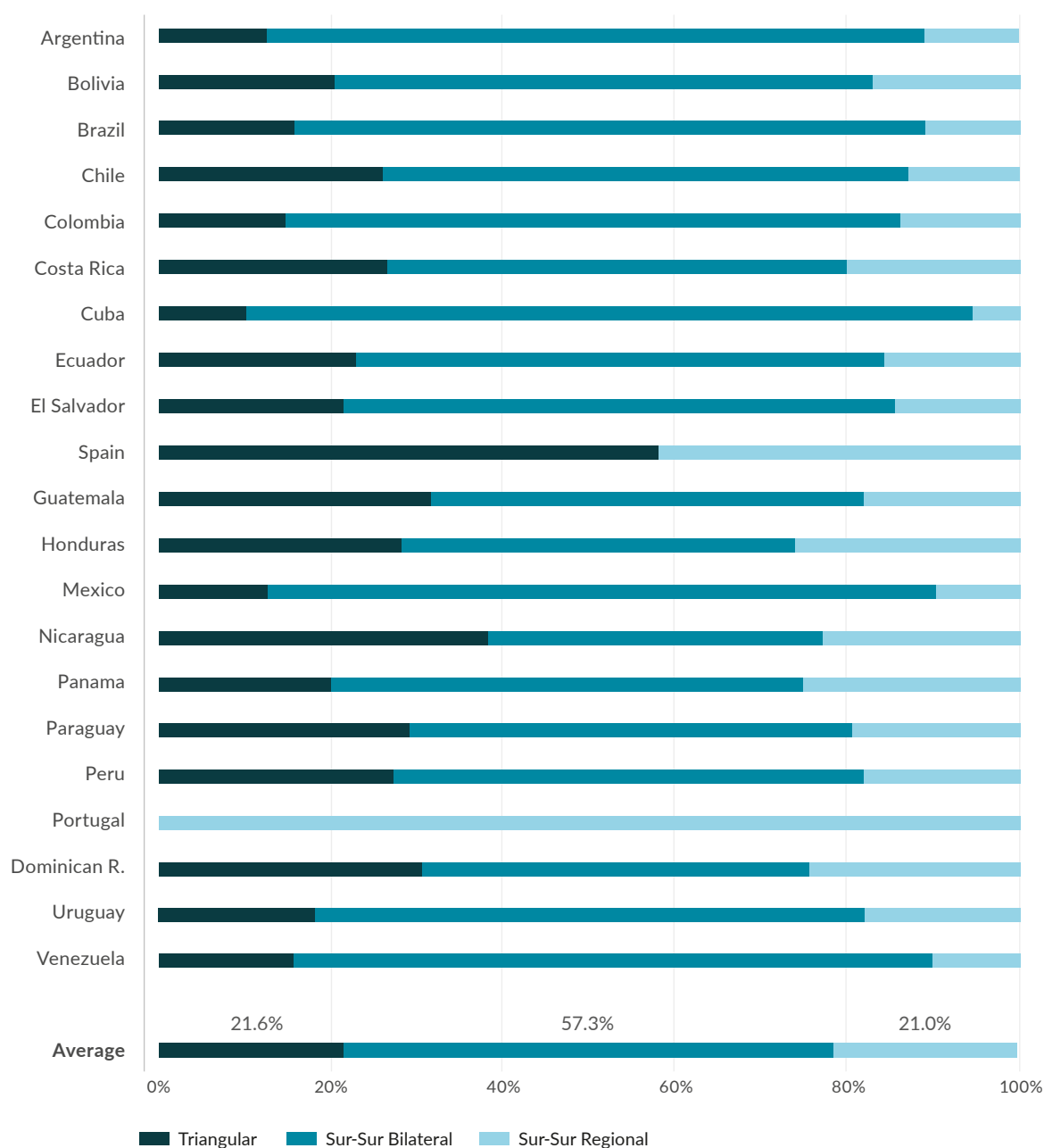
Finally, 75% of the Triangular Cooperation in which Honduras participated as recipient in 2022 and 2023 focused on (in order of relative importance) the Environment, Productive sectors, and Social areas. In terms of sectors, this country strengthened its capacities in *Agriculture and livestock*, *Energy*, *Environment*, *Disaster management* and *Water supply and sanitation*.

// Graph 2.25

Weight of Triangular Cooperation, Bilateral SSC and Regional SSC in the total number of initiatives exchanged by Ibero-American countries, before and after the approval of the 2030 Agenda. 2007-2014 and 2015-2023

In percentage

A. 2007-2014



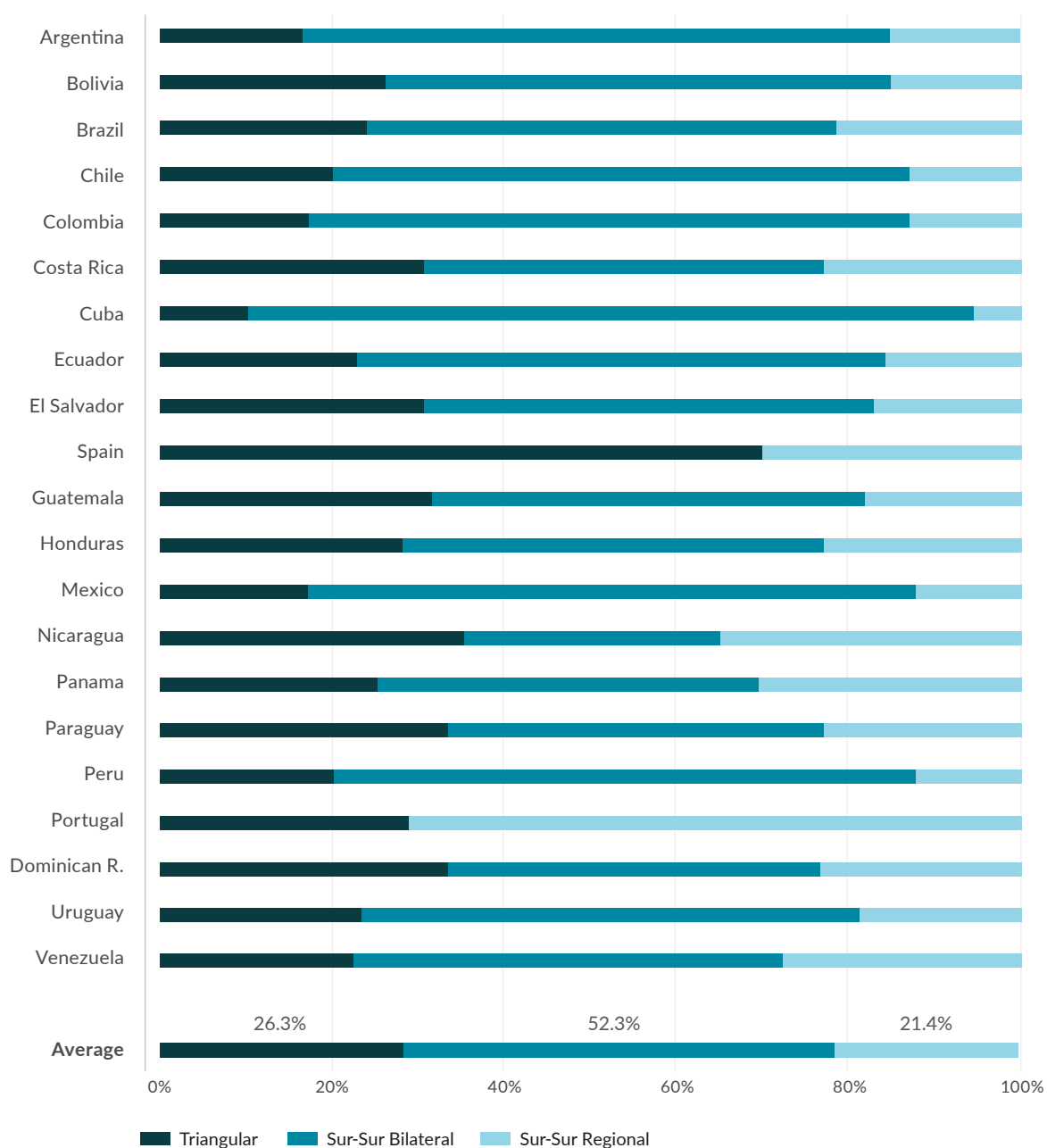
2.4

Triangular Cooperation in 2022-2023 and the Sustainable Development Goals

As it was previously mentioned, the approval of the 2030 Agenda in 2015 recognized Triangular Cooperation as a means to advance the implementation

of Sustainable Development through partnerships with an growing and diverse number of stakeholders. Since then, the commitment to Triangular Cooperation as an instrument for development has been reflected in an increase of this modality's relative importance in terms of the total number of exchanges carried out by the region in the three modalities recognized in the Ibero-American space. At least this is suggested by the combined analysis of Graphs 2.25 and 2.26.

B. 2015-2023



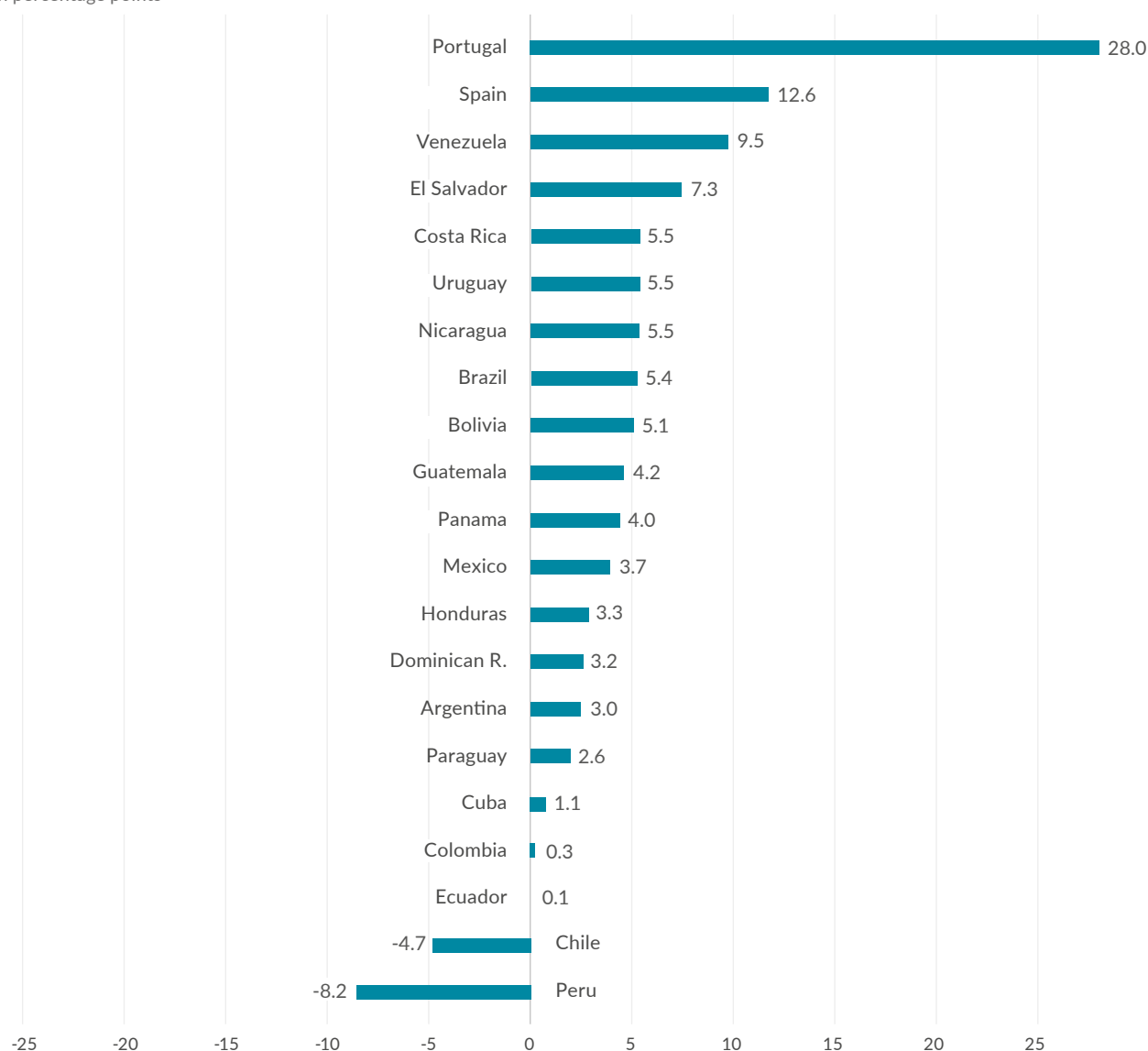
Indeed, Graphs 2.25 A and B show the distribution of the initiatives in which each Ibero-American country participated in the framework of Triangular Cooperation, Bilateral SSC or Regional SSC, before (2007-2014, 2.25 A) and after the approval of the 2030 Agenda (2015-2023, 2.25 B). The contrast between the two periods shows the variation of Triangular Cooperation's relative importance in the total number of initiatives exchanged. This difference, expressed in percentage points, is detailed in Graph 2.26, in which countries are arranged from highest to lowest, according to this variation.

The combined examination of both graphs confirms that, after the approval of the 2030 Agenda, Triangular Cooperation has gained importance in the total number of Ibero-American countries' exchanges to the detriment of Bilateral SSC, which has tended to be displaced. This increase is close to 5 percentage points on average for the region. In addition, and as the graphs show, almost all countries have a positive variation in terms of Triangular Cooperation's share, ranging from the highest levels of Portugal and Spain (28 and 12.6 percentage points, respectively) to the

// Graph 2.26

Variation in Triangular Cooperation's weight in the total number of initiatives exchanged by Ibero-American countries, before and after the approval of the 2030 Agenda. 2007-2014 and 2015-2023

In percentage points



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

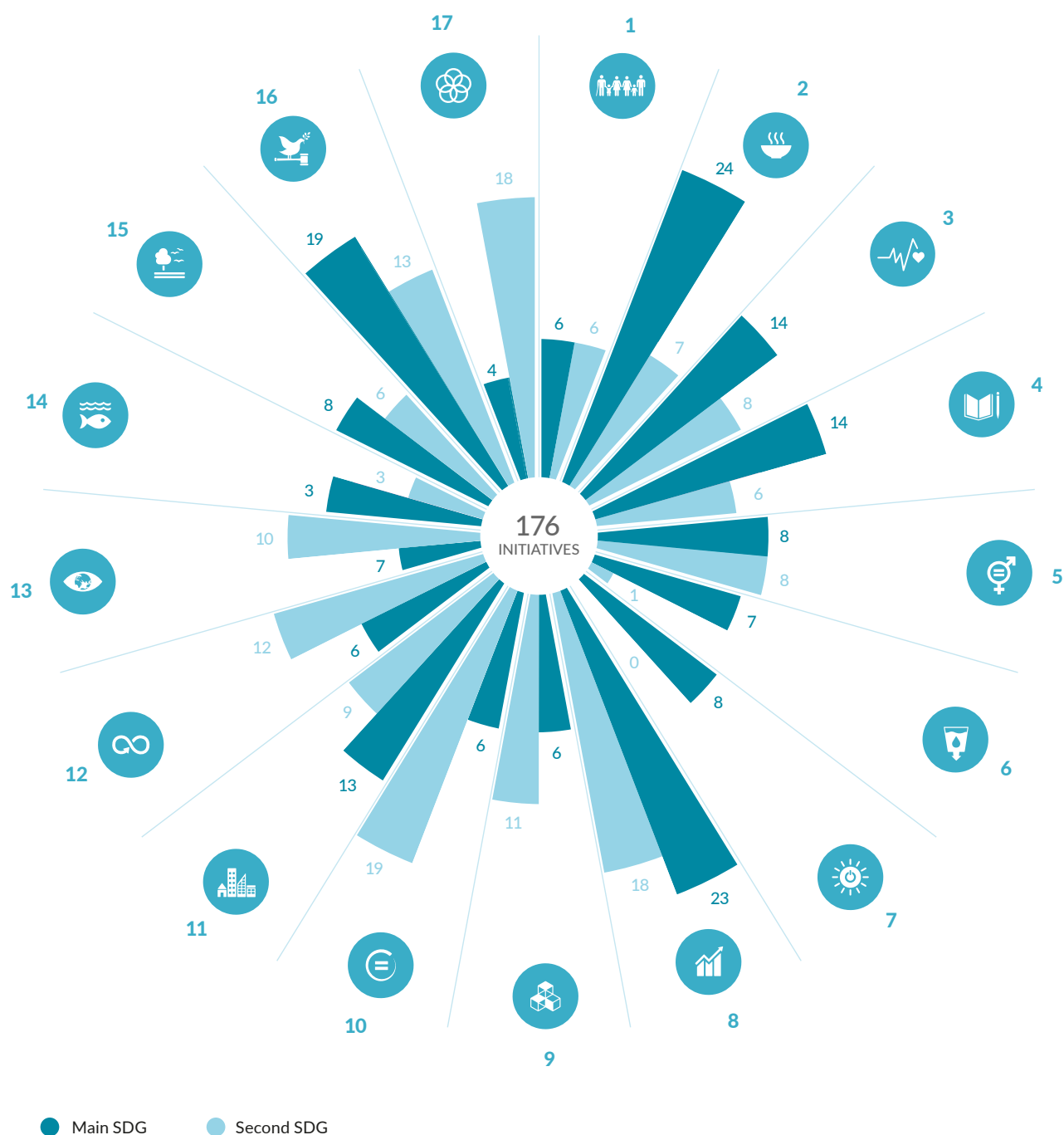
lowest figures in Ecuador's and Colombia's cases (both below one percentage point). Chile and Peru are the only exceptions since, in recent years, their Bilateral SSC has been particularly dynamic, gaining importance to the detriment of Triangular Cooperation, which still remains strong, its shares being above the 20% threshold.

In this context, it is also important to consider the way in which Ibero-American countries' Triangular Cooperation during the 2022-2023 period could have contributed to the region's commitment to implement the 2030 Agenda and achieve Sustainable Development. Graph 2.27 shows the distribution of the 176 initiatives that were carried

// Graph 2.27

Triangular Cooperation initiatives exchanged by Ibero-American countries with all partners, by their potential alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). 2022-2023

In units



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



Photo: Technicians and scientists from Brazil and Colombia exchanged experiences on animal welfare, environmental education and participatory conservation. Through SSC, these countries also aim to strengthen the social role of zoos as a key element to raise awareness of biodiversity and the importance of existing ecosystems, contributing to environmental preservation. Image bank on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America. SEGIB-PIFCSS. 2022.

out during these two years according to their potential alignment with one main Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) and with up to two second SDGs.

Thus, the analysis of the initiatives according to the main SDG with which they are potentially aligned reveals multidimensional results, consistent with the sectoral distribution described above. In this sense, and as shown in Graph 2.27, most of the Triangular Cooperation actions and projects executed between 2022 and 2023 (37.5%) were predominantly aligned with three main Development Goals: SDG 2 (Zero hunger); SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth); and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions); in all cases associated with 20-25 exchanges, with relative shares above 10%.

The diversification of topics and purposes suggested by the alignment with these SDGs seems to be confirmed when other 41 Triangular Cooperation

initiatives are added to the analysis. This cooperation is understood to be aimed at achieving three other goals that are also dimensionally different: SDG 3 (Good health and well-being); SDG 4 (Quality education); and SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities), all three associated with between 13-14 initiatives, with relative shares between 7.5% and 8% of the total.

The remaining 40% of the 176 Triangular Cooperation initiatives implemented by Ibero-American countries during 2022 and 2023 are distributed in up to 11 different SDGs. In this case, it should be noted that the number of initiatives potentially aligned with these other SDGs is in the range of 6 to 8, the highest value corresponding to SDG 5 (Gender equality); SDG 7 (Affordable and clean energy); and SDG 15 (Life on land). The only exceptions were SDG 17 (Partnerships for the goals); and SDG 14 (Life below water), with 4-3 exchanges each.

Case 2.5 precisely describes an experience that aims to advance SDG 7 in Honduras, through a Triangular Cooperation that promotes the use of solar thermal energy, 100% renewable and non-polluting, in this country's hospital system.



Most of the Triangular Cooperation actions and projects that were implemented in the 2022-2023 period were aligned with three main Development Goals: SDG 2 (Zero hunger), SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth) and SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions)



Finally, and with reference to the analysis of the “second” SDGs, Graph 2.27 confirms a trend that was also identified in the bilateral modality: some Development Goals, of a more cross-cutting nature, strongly increase their participation when considered second SDGs. This would be the case of SDG 10 (Reduced inequalities) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the goals), which values are 3 and 4 times higher when selected as second SDGs.

Other interesting cases involve SDG 9 (Industry, innovation and infrastructure), on the one hand; and SDG 12 (Responsible consumption and production) and SDG 13 (Climate action), on the other. Most of these goals are the second SDGs in initiatives associated with SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth) and SDG 7 (Affordable and clean energy), the main goals to which these would be contributing.

// CASE 2.5

Solar thermal energy and Honduras' progress on the achievement of SDG 7



During the COVID-19 crisis, Honduras' hospital system was strained by an increased energy demand. One option, with multiple advantages, was to promote the use of solar thermal energy. This is one of the most efficient alternatives for the production of domestic hot water (DHW) and heating. In addition, it is a 100% renewable, inexhaustible and free source of energy that does not release toxic or polluting substances (Baxi, 2024).

In this context, an opportunity was identified to implement a Triangular Cooperation project for Honduras (recipient) to take advantage of Panama's experience (first provider)

in the development of an entire solar thermal energy market, supported by Germany's cooperation (through GIZ) and the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) as second providers.

Based on the expertise of Panama's National Energy Secretariat and through UNEP's Regional Office for Latin-America and the Caribbean, three lines of action were proposed. First, review and strengthen the regulatory framework for solar thermal technology in Honduras to promote its implementation. Second, once this was done, provide training for the design and installation of water heating projects. Third and finally, reinforce energy security in the

hospital system by preparing studies to identify potential energy savings and develop pilot projects in emblematic hospitals and in the industrial sector (Project's document, 2020).

In this context, the Honduran Ministry of Health (SeSal in Spanish) selected six hospitals for the installation of solar collectors to meet the demand of hot water for sanitary use by patients in certain prioritized wards (*Energía Estratégica*, 2022). GIZ and UNDP, in turn, contributed to design, equipment acquisition and the installation of the systems in hospitals, reducing costs, optimizing processes and providing greater comfort to patients (*Energía Estratégica*, 2022).

Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation, Baxi (2024) and *Energía Estratégica* (2022).