



Photo: Considering the strategic importance of lithium production and commercialization for Latin-America, the National University of La Plata — through the Center for Inorganic Chemistry—reached a strategic SSC agreement to study the nucleation and growth of lithium carbonate crystals, in collaboration with the state-owned company Yacimientos de Litio Bolivianos. Image bank on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America. SEGIB-PIFCSS. 2023.

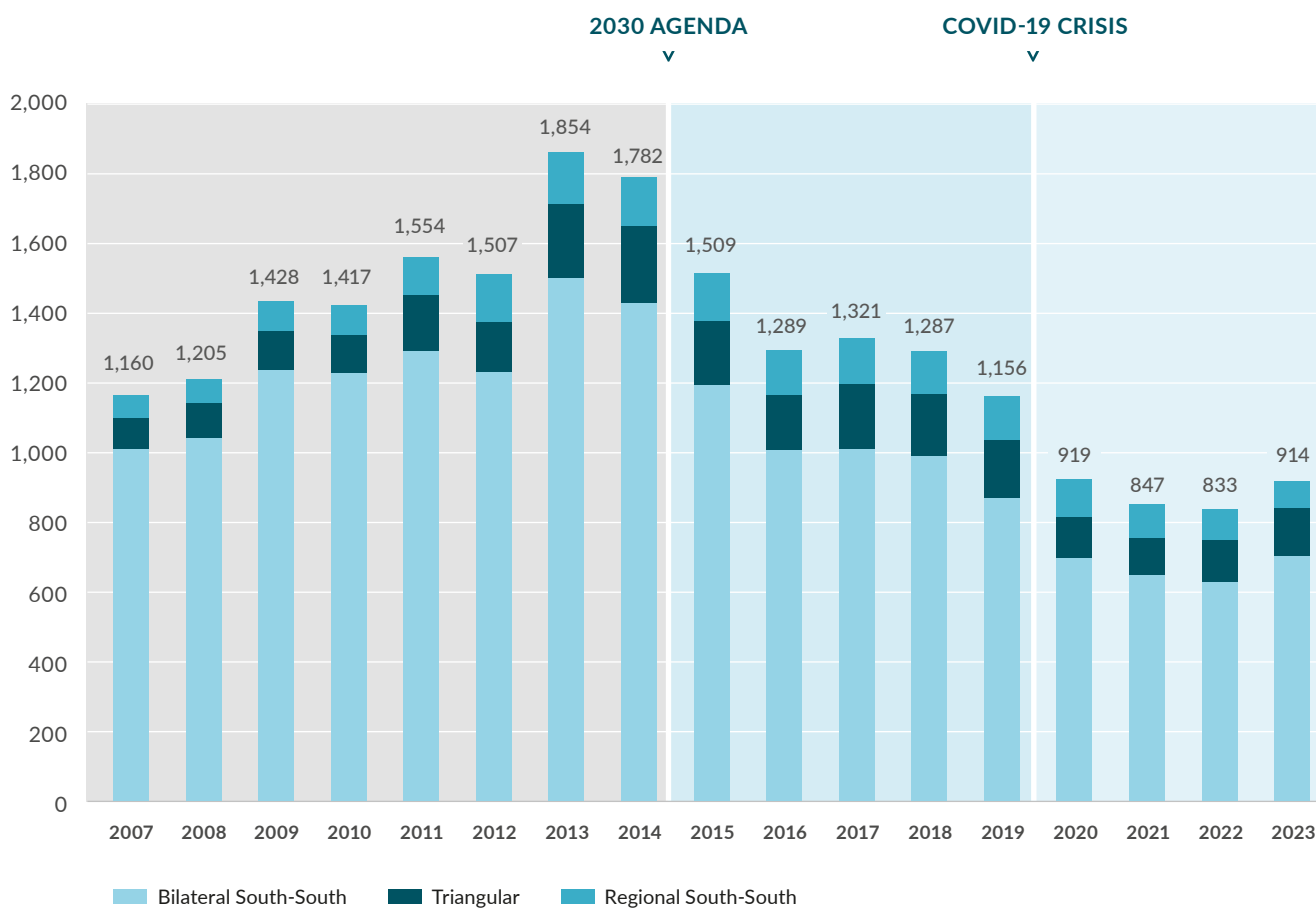
Highlights

1 Ibero-American South-South and Triangular Cooperation is growing again

In 2023, and after successive falls —intensified by the crisis caused by COVID-19— the total number of exchanges between Ibero-American countries is beginning to increase. The final figure (914), however, remains below 1,000 annual initiatives, still at a significant distance from pre-crisis levels and far from the maximum record of 2013 and 2014.

Evolution of the total number of Bilateral SSC, Triangular Cooperation and Regional SSC actions, projects and initiatives exchanged by Ibero-American countries. 2007-2023

In units



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

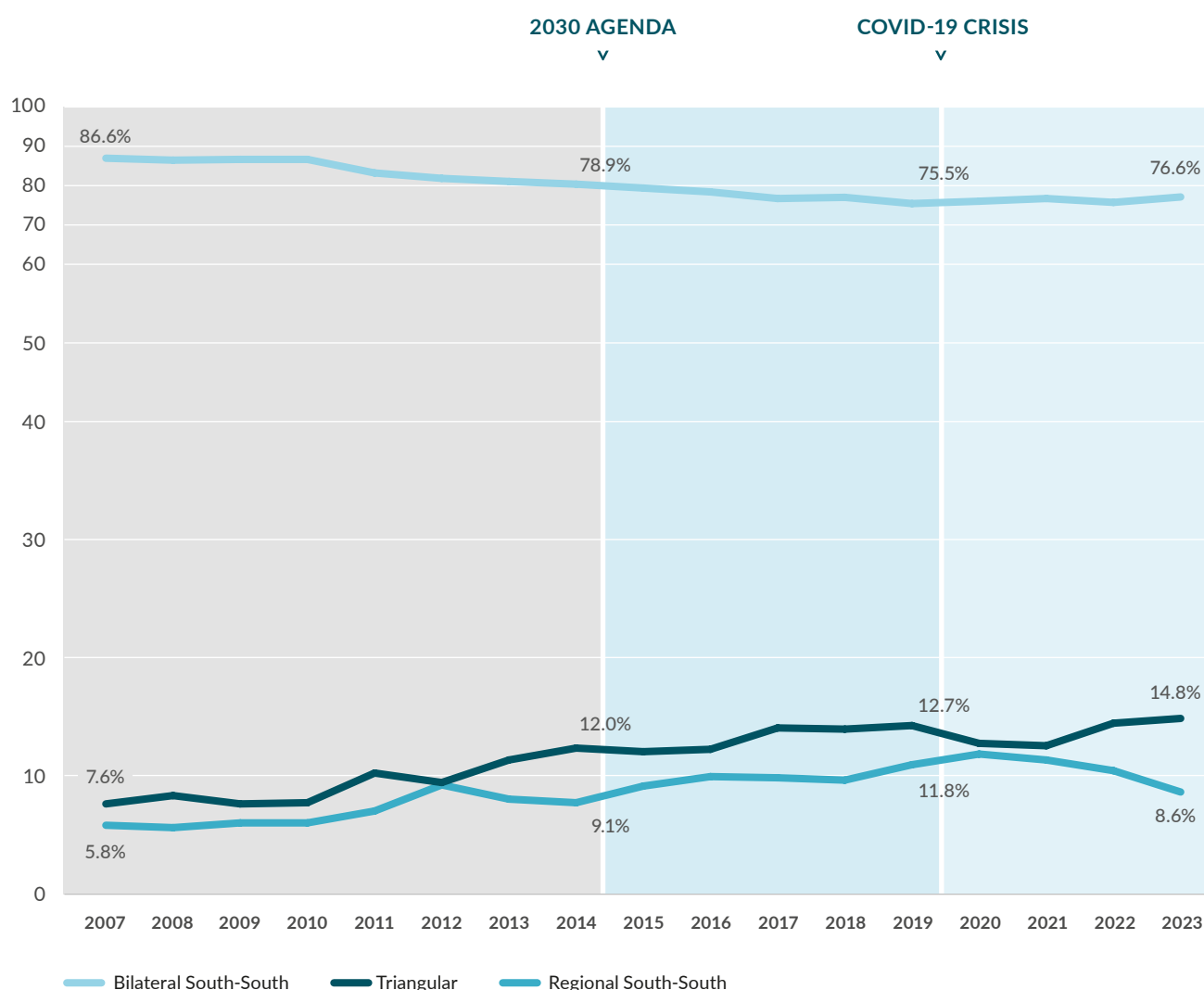
2 Bilateral SSC is still the most important modality (75% of the total), although Triangular Cooperation doubles its participation (to 15% in 2023)

Between 2007 and 2023, the importance of Triangular Cooperation in the total number of exchanges rises from 7.6% to 14.8%. Until the COVID-19 crisis, this increase undermined that of Bilateral SSC, which participation fell by 10 points. After the pandemic, Triangular Cooperation began to displace Regional SSC, which importance fell from 11.8% in 2020 to 8.6% in 2023.



Evolution of the weight of Bilateral SSC, Triangular Cooperation and Regional SSC in the total number of initiatives exchanged by Ibero-American countries, by two-year period. 2007-2023

In units



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

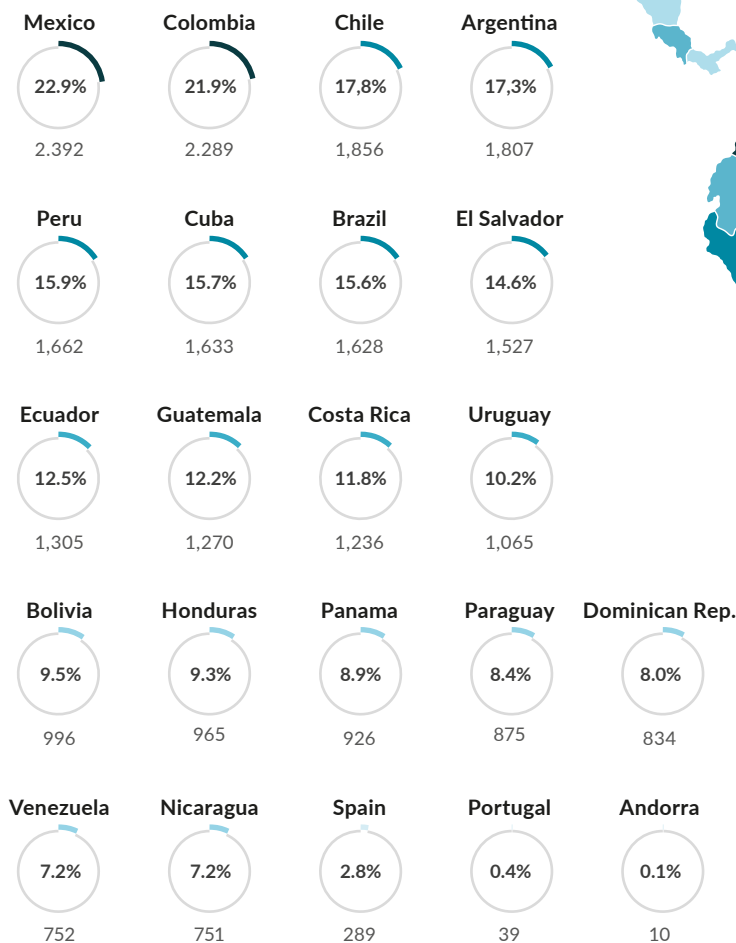
3 More than half of the Ibero-American countries carried out over 1,000 exchanges

Between 2007 and 2023, Mexico and Colombia have participated in more than 2,200 initiatives, while six countries —Chile, Argentina, Peru, Cuba, Brazil and El Salvador— have implemented over 1,500. Another four —Ecuador, Guatemala, Costa Rica and Uruguay— surpassed the 1,000 threshold. Spain also deserves a special mention, with approximately to 300 Regional SSC and Triangular Cooperation initiatives.

Initiatives in which each Ibero-American country has participated, by modality. 2007-2023

In units

10,432
TOTAL



More than 2,000 From 1,500 to 1,999 From 1,000 to 1,499 From 500 to 999 From 250 to 499 Less than 250



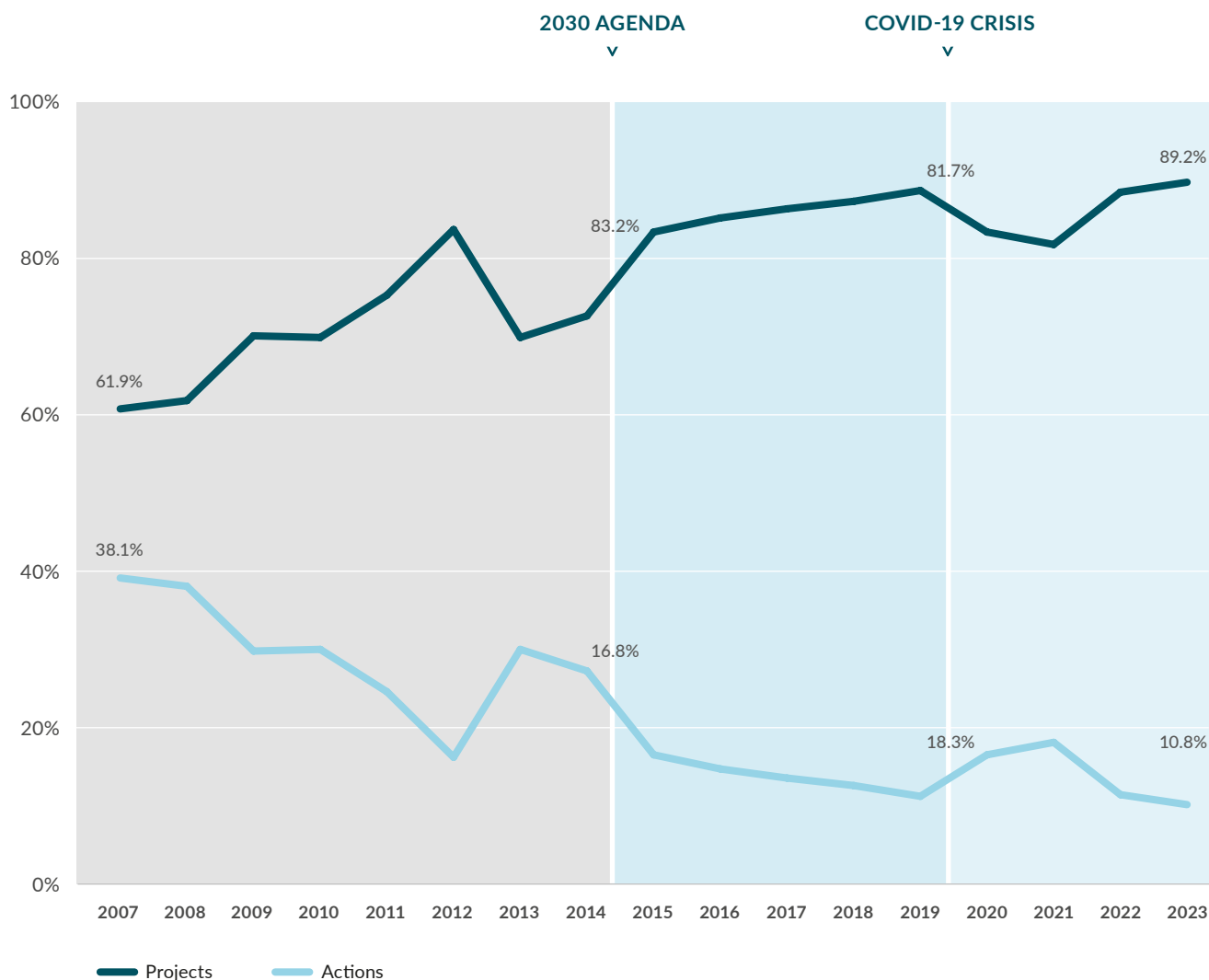
Ibero-American SSC and Triangular Cooperation is consolidating, becoming more stable, of a long-term nature and less specific

Between 2007 and 2023, projects (which average execution takes about 2 years), have become increasingly important as an instrument for SSC and Triangular Cooperation, to the detriment of actions (more specific, and with an average duration of about one month). In 2007, projects accounted for 60% of the total number of exchanges, and actions for 40%. Nowadays, projects account for 90% of all initiatives.



Evolution of projects' and actions' weight in the total number of Bilateral SSC, Triangular Cooperation and Regional SSC initiatives exchanged by Ibero-American countries. 2007-2023

In percentage



Methodological note: Projects also include Regional CSS programs, which only account for 1.3% of the 10,432 initiatives carried out in this period.

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

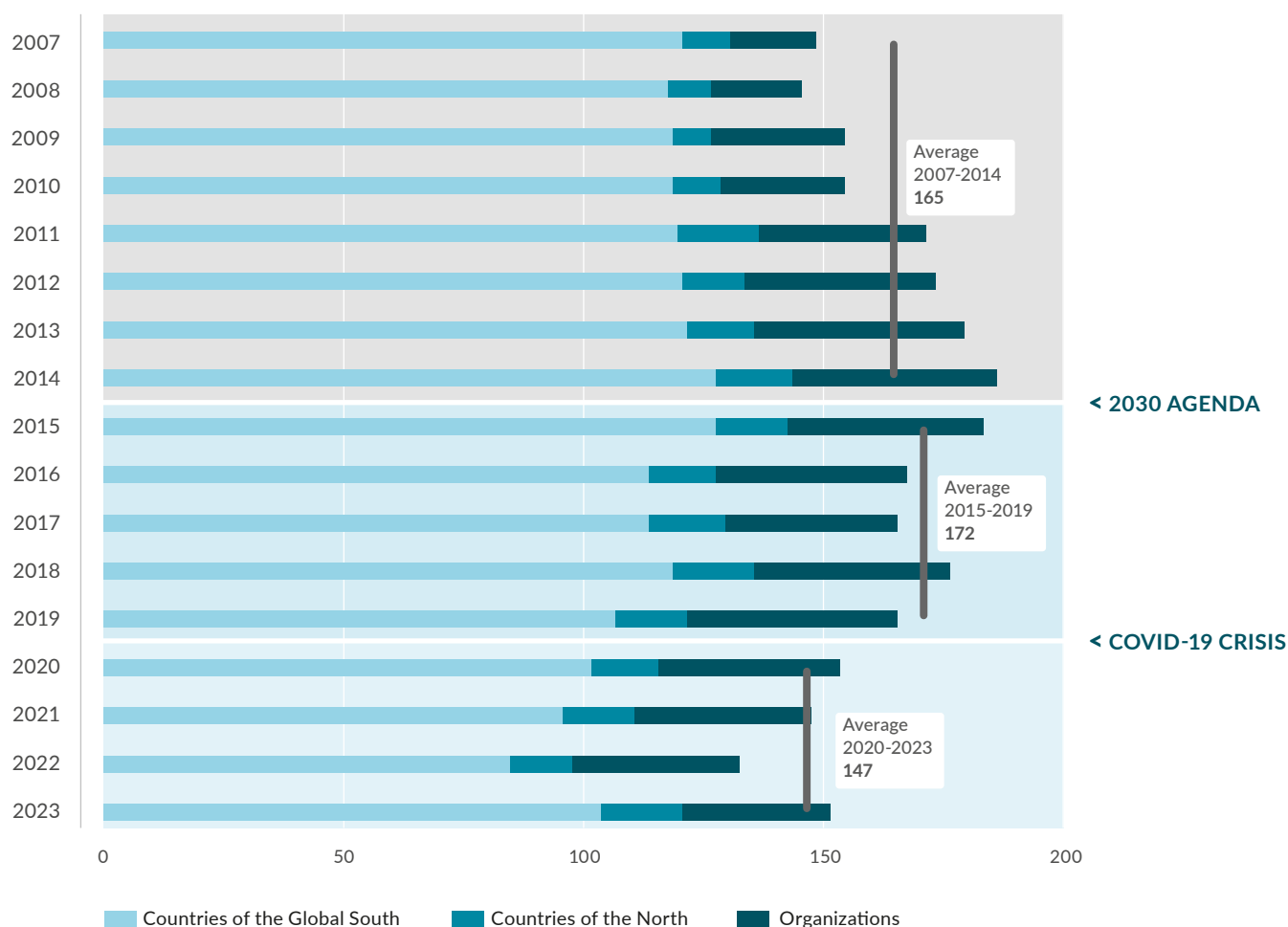
5 This cooperation has been based on the interaction of more than 200 countries and organizations

The 10,432 initiatives carried out between 2007 and 2023 have involved 239 stakeholders. The 22 Ibero-American countries have associated with 135 countries of other regions of the Global South; 37 countries of the North; and 81 multilateral organizations. After the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, the participation of different stakeholders increases. The impact of COVID-19 crisis reduces the average number, which is, nevertheless, around 150 per year.

Number of different partners (countries of the Global South; other regions' countries; and organizations) that annually participated in the total number of Ibero-American initiatives. 2007-2023

In units

Total 239 Countries of the Global South 154 Countries of the North 40 Organizations 81



Methodological note: Projects also include Regional CSS programs, which only account for 1.3% of the 10,432 initiatives carried out in this period.

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



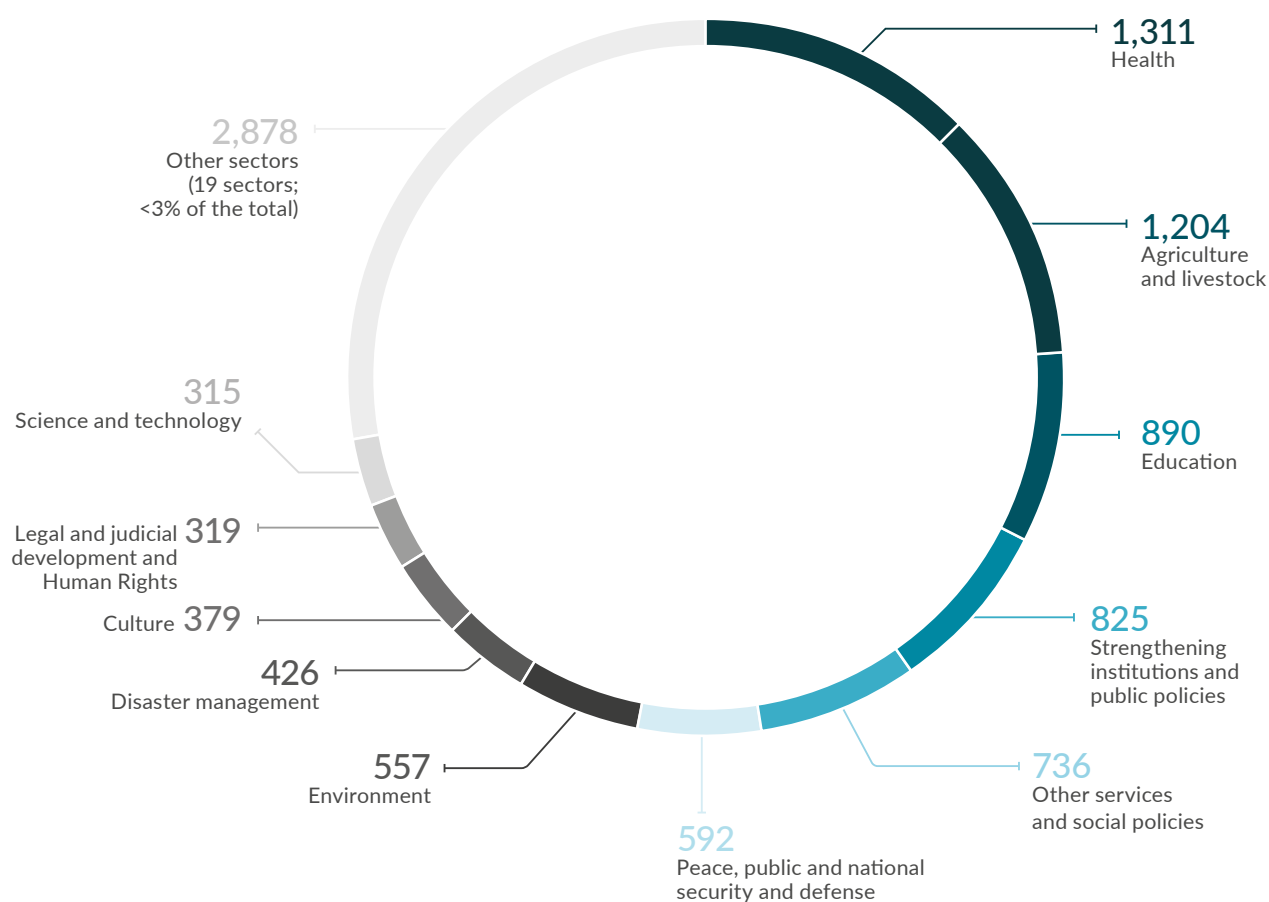
The largest number of initiatives focuses on the *Health and Agriculture and livestock sectors*, while exchanges in *Science and technology* barely reach 3%

Between 2007 and 2023, Ibero-American countries dedicated more than 1,200 initiatives—in each case—to strengthen the *Health* and *Agriculture and livestock* sectors. These were followed by exchanges in the Social (*Education* and social policies), Institutional strengthening and Environment areas. Efforts are still necessary in other important regional challenges, such as *Science and technology* (315 exchanges).



Distribution of the total number of Bilateral SSC, Triangular Cooperation and Regional SSC initiatives exchanged by Ibero-American countries, by activity sector. 2007-2023

In units



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

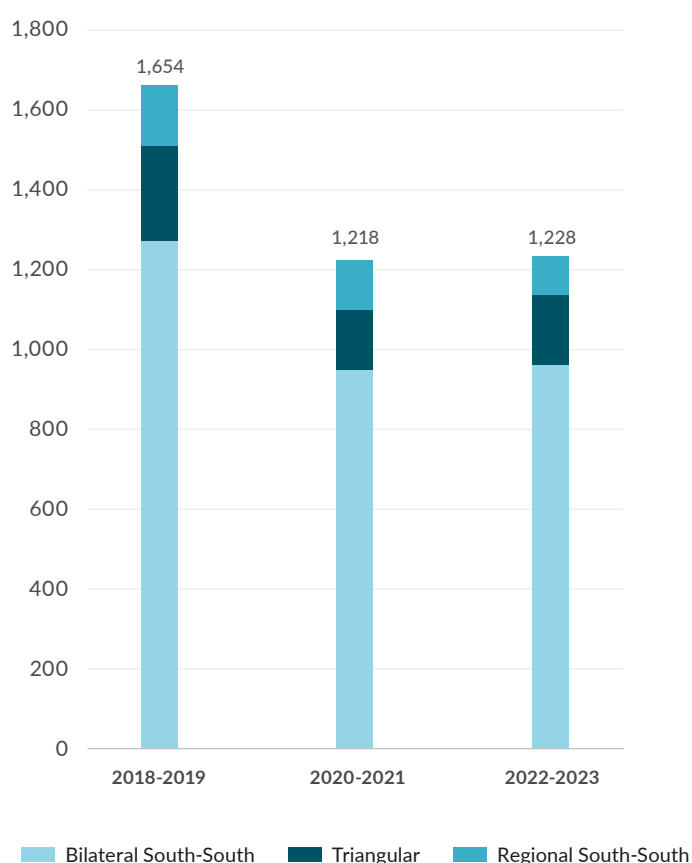
The 1,228 initiatives carried out in 2022-2023 suggest a positive, albeit still incipient, change in trend

In 2022-2023, the total number of initiatives increased by 0.8% (to 1,228) compared to the 2020-2021 period. This figure reveals a significant change in trend, especially after the sharp drop of -26.4% caused by the COVID-19 crisis. Bilateral SSC shows a similar dynamic. Triangular Cooperation seems to be the more resilient modality and Regional SSC fails to halt its decline.

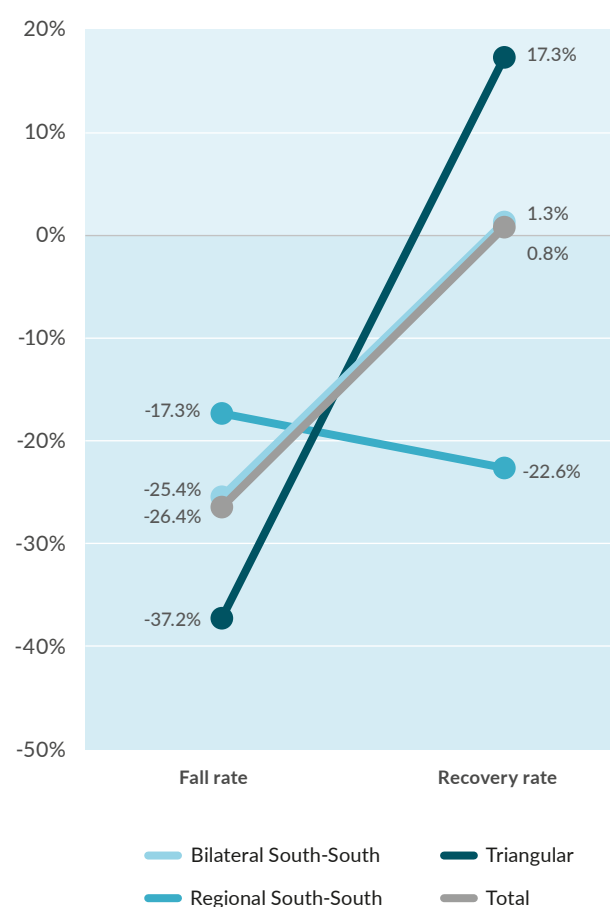
Evolution of the total number of initiatives exchanged by Ibero-American countries in the pre- and post-COVID crisis, by modality (Bilateral SSC, Triangular Cooperation and Regional SSC). 2018-2019, 2020-2021 and 2022-2023

In units and percentage

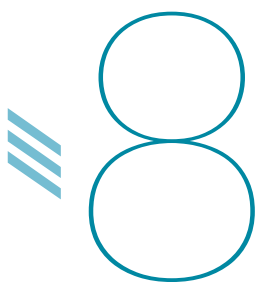
A. Initiatives



B. Variation between two-year periods



Methodological note: The “fall rate” refers to the variation in the number of initiatives implemented in 2020-2021 with respect to the preceding two-year period (2018-2019). The “recovery rate” refers to the variation in the number of initiatives implemented in 2022-2023 with respect to 2020-2021.
Source: SEGIB based on Agencies and Directorates-General for Cooperation



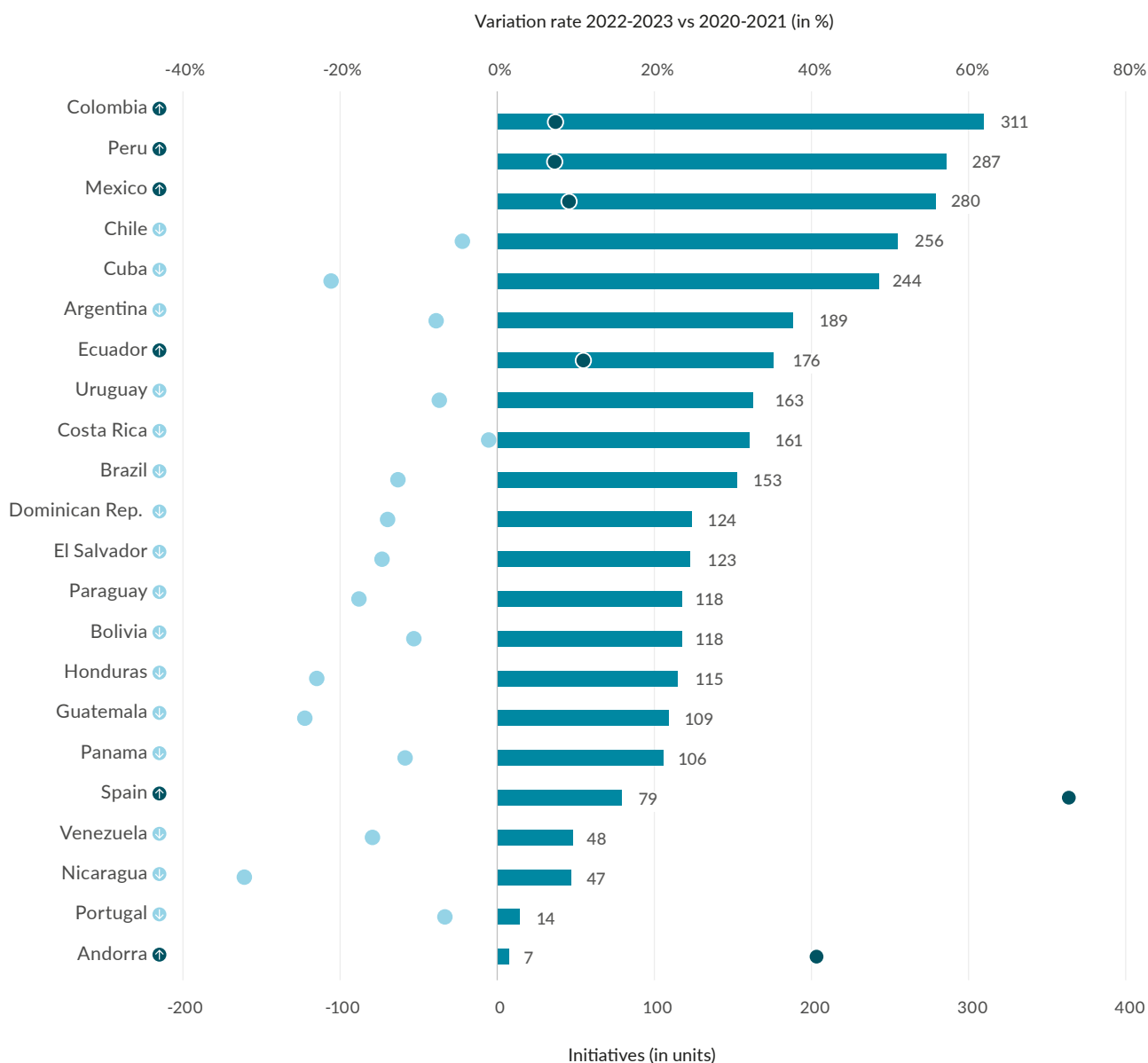
After the pandemic, 6 countries drive cooperation's growth

In the 2022-2023 period, most Ibero-American countries' SSC and Triangular Cooperation continues to fall. However, Mexico, Peru and Colombia regained dynamism, implementing around 300 initiatives, and their cooperation increased between 7%-9%, compared to 2020-2021. The cases of Ecuador (176 exchanges and a 10.7% increase) and Spain, which Triangular Cooperation pushes initiatives up by 71.7% (to 79), are also noteworthy.



Ibero-American countries' total number of initiatives and the variation rate with respect to the COVID-19 two-year period. 2022-2023 and 2022-2023 vs. 2020-2021

In units and percentage



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



Bilateral SSC is the preferred modality to address the *Health* sector while Triangular Cooperation is mainly chosen to tackle *Environment* matters

From 2018 to 2023 (before, during and after the COVID-19), Bilateral SSC and Triangular Cooperation continued to have a different profile with respect to thematic priorities, *Health* (between 20%-30% of bilateral exchanges) being the most important in the framework of the former, and *Environment* (from 10% to 15% of triangular exchanges) prevailing in terms of the latter. *Agriculture and livestock*, however, was equally significant for both modalities, accounting for another 10%-15% of the final number of initiatives.



Evolution of the weight of the *Agriculture and livestock*, *Environment* and *Health* sectors in the total number of initiatives exchanged before, during and after the COVID-19 crisis, by modality. 2018-2023

In percentage



*Vertical axes range between 0-20%, except in *Health's* case, in which it ranges between 0-35%.

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

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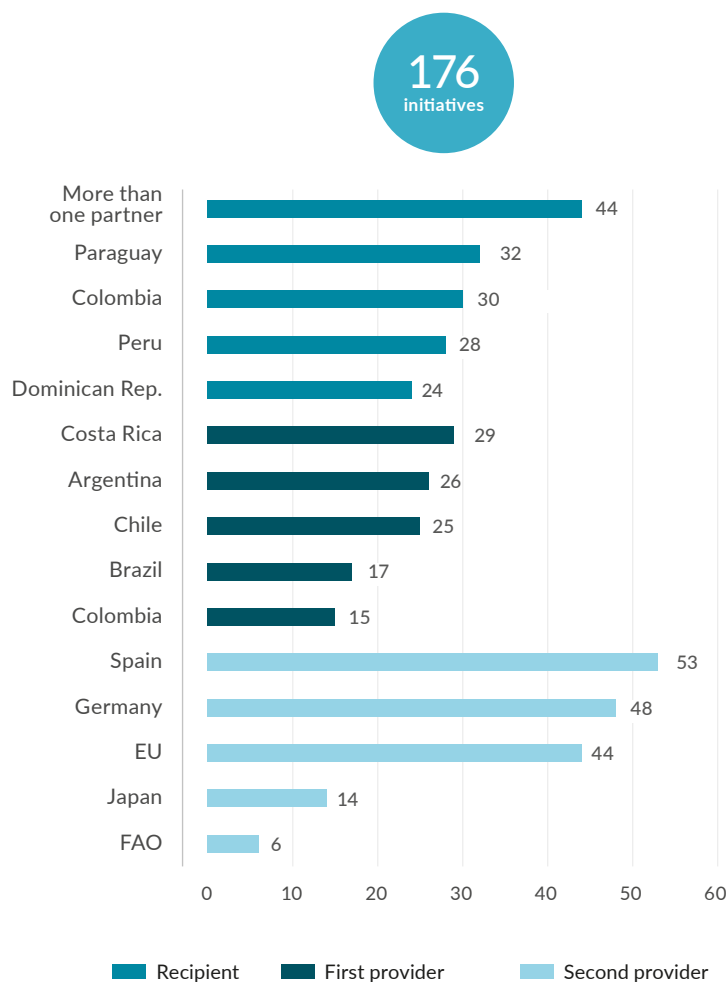
Spain's Triangular Cooperation is significantly growing, outperforming Germany's

After a sharp drop due to the impact of the pandemic, Spain's Triangular Cooperation has been successively increasing, raising to 53 initiatives in 2022-2023. As a result, this country has become the first second provider, followed by Germany and the EU. Costa Rica, Argentina and Chile are the most dynamic first providers. Paraguay, Colombia, Peru and the Dominican Republic stand out as recipients, although the most common case is still that in which several countries simultaneously participate in this role.



Triangular Cooperation initiatives of the main partners, by role (recipient, first and second provider). 2022-2023

In units

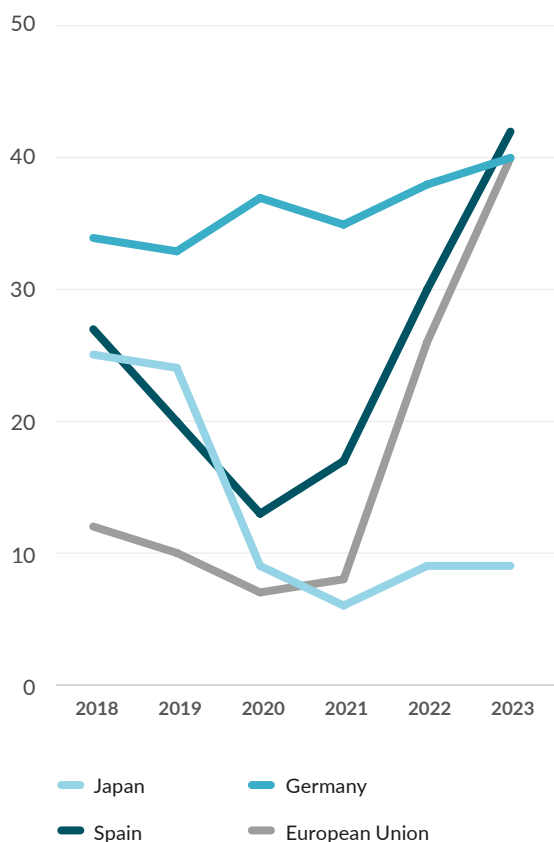


Methodological note: All the initiatives in which each partner participates in that role are counted, whether it participates individually or in association with others. For example, Spain and the EU share roles in 32 of their 53 and 44 initiatives.

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

Evolution of the participation of the main second providers in the Triangular Cooperation carried out in the pre- and post-COVID-19 crisis, by country. 2018-2023

In units



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

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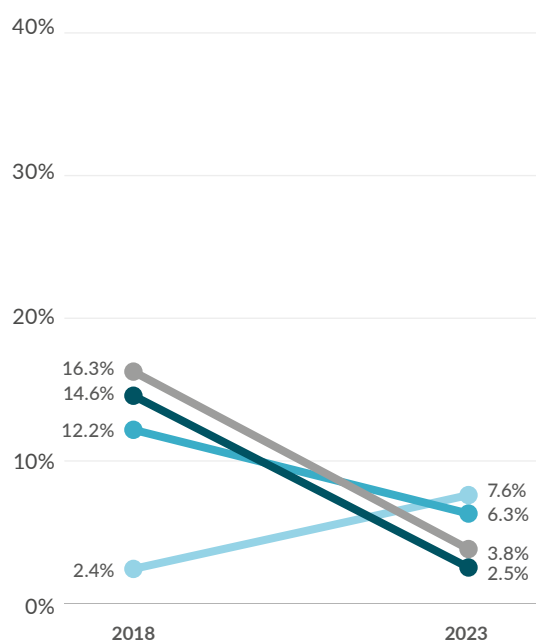
Regional SSC promoted by the Ibero-American System is strong and resilient

Between 2018 and 2023 (before, during and after the crisis), the Ibero-American System gains importance in Regional SSC as a whole, accounting for 22.8% of the initiatives in 2018 and for 36.7% in 2023. Its strength and resilience contrasts with that of other systems, such as the Central-American, Mesoamerican and MERCOSUR, each of which loses more than 10 percentage points, their importance being below 10% in 2023. The other system that shows great dynamism is the Pacific Alliance, which participation increases from 2.4% to 13.9%.

Evolution of the weight of multilateral cooperation systems in the total number of Regional SSC initiatives in the pre- and post-COVID-19 crisis, by system. 2018-2023

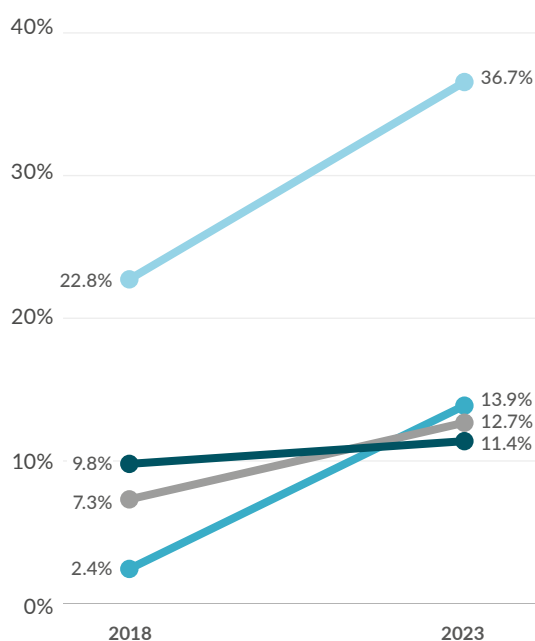
In percentage

A. Below 10% in 2023



Central-American System
MERCOSUR
Mesoamerican Initiatives
European Cooperation System

B. Above 10% in 2023



UN System
Inter-American System
Pacific Alliance
Ibero-American System

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



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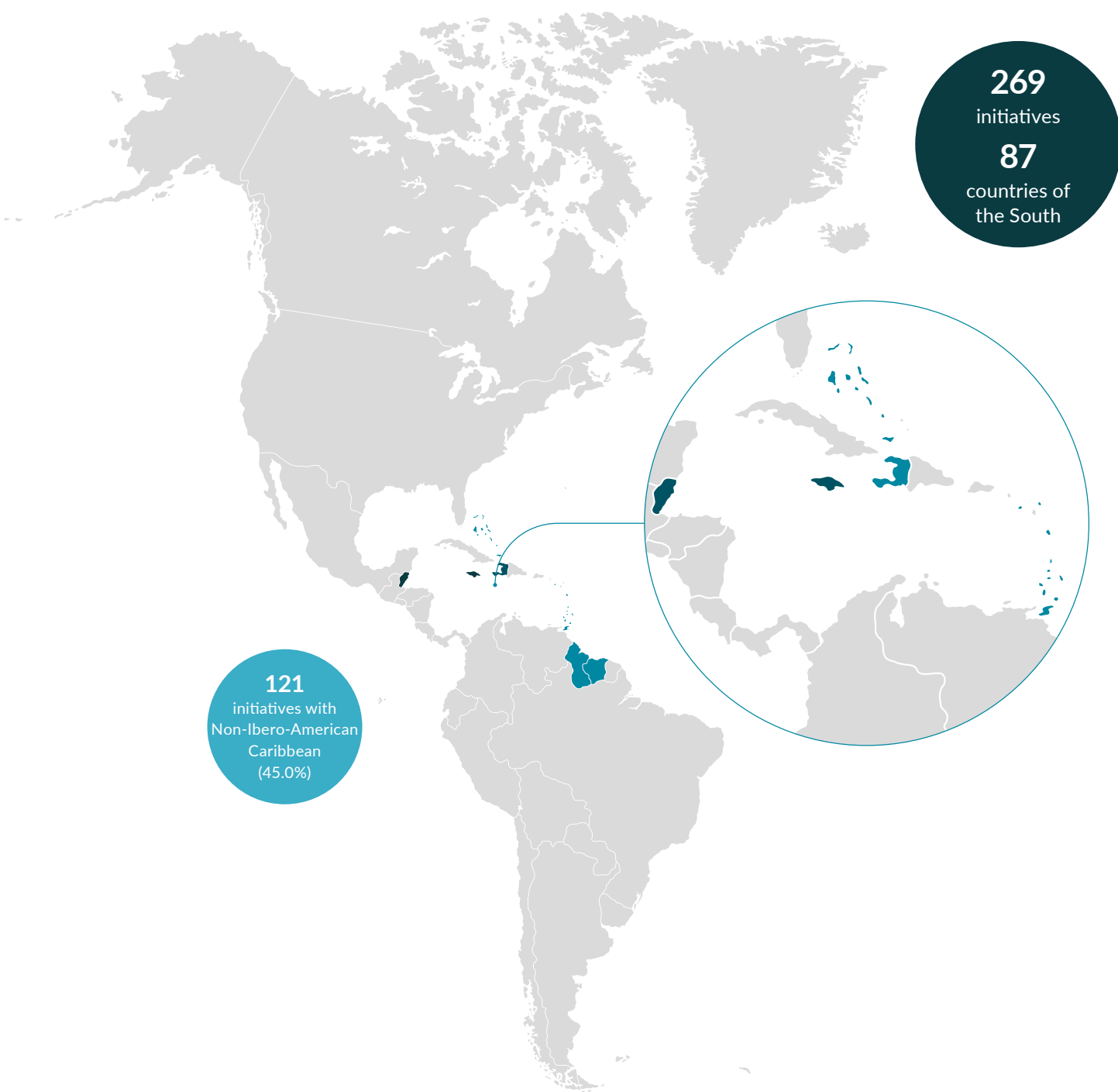
Partnerships are growing and cooperation is carried out with 87 other countries of the Global South

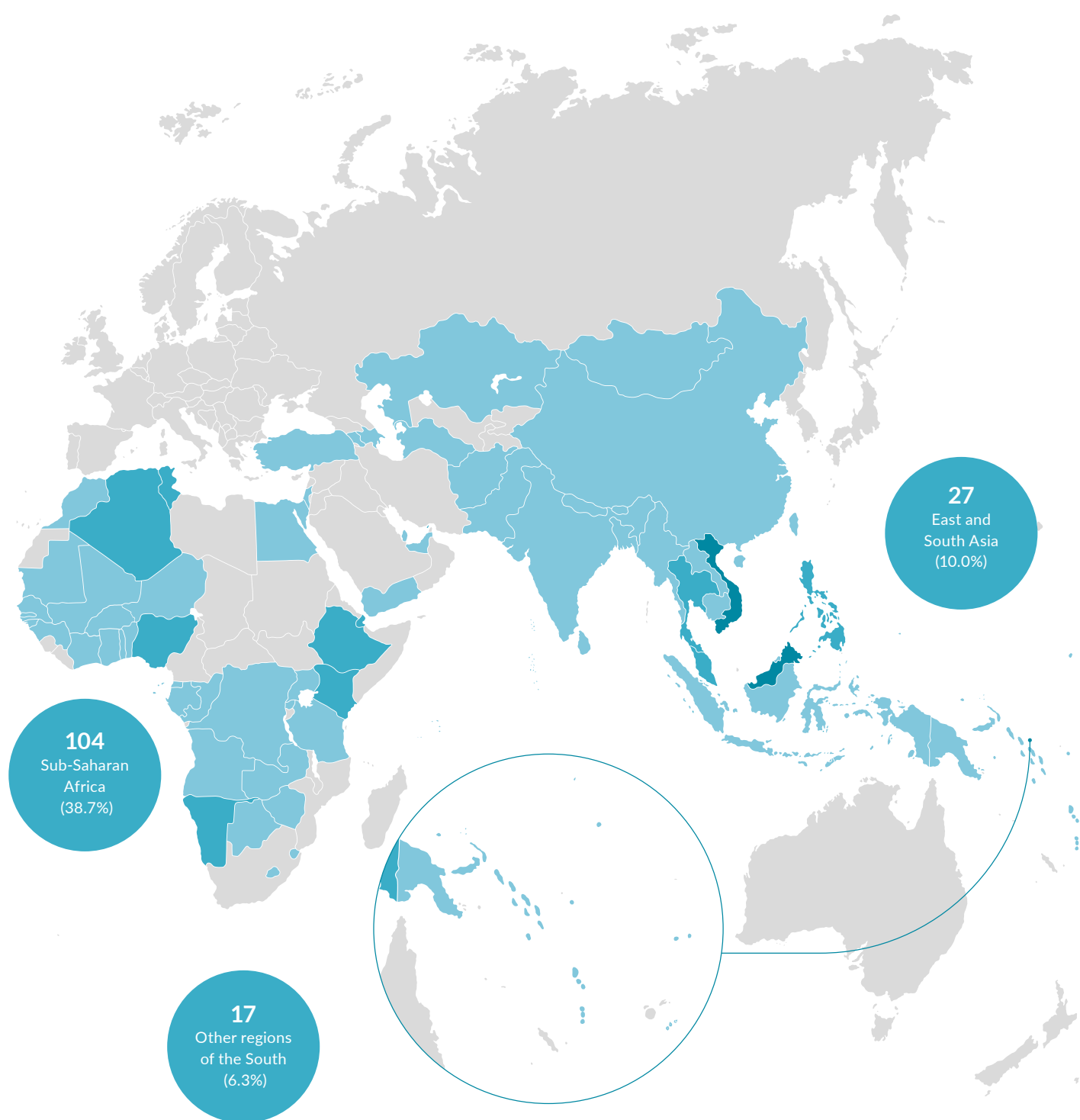
Up to 269 of the 1,228 initiatives that were implemented in the 2022-2023 period involved knowledge sharing with 87 other countries in other regions of the Global South. This reveals that the capacity of SSC and Triangular Cooperation to generate increased and diversified partnerships is intensifying. Associations with the non-Ibero-American Caribbean and Sub-Saharan Africa stand out, with over 100 exchanges with Ibero-America.



Participation of countries of other regions of the Global South in the total number of Bilateral SSC, Triangular Cooperation and Regional SSC initiatives exchanged by Ibero-American countries. 2022-2023

In units





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

More than 20 initiatives
 From 10 to 19
 From 5 to 9
 Less than 5