

Regional Fund for Triangular Cooperation with Partners in Latin America and the Caribbean – criteria and procedures

I. Why triangular cooperation?

Development cooperation is in a transformation stage. Regional and global challenges require countries to have a response capability based on strategic alliances to reach common objectives, increase effectiveness and better harmonise local actions. The global community needs innovative forms of cooperation that combine politics and action. Expanding and strengthening Triangular Cooperation (TrC) is one way of supporting this movement. TrC is a form of cooperation that supports projects that are planned, financed and executed collaboratively by a beneficiary/soliciting partner, a pivotal partner and a facilitating partner. TrC promotes the creation of alliances, mutual understanding and trust between the interested parties, thus contributing to strengthening the countries' cooperation ecosystems. The partners share their knowledge and, in turn, promote and strengthen the countries' horizontal relationships.

II. What is the Regional Fund for Triangular Cooperation?

The Regional Fund for Triangular Cooperation with partners in Latin America and the Caribbean is financed by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH. It has promoted TrC projects since 2011. The Fund operates on the basis of an express request from the beneficiary partners. The partners' roles are not necessarily limited to particular countries, nor are they fixed, therefore any counterpart can be the **beneficiary partner, pivotal partner or facilitating partner** of the different TrC projects. Partners that plan and implement a project together develop and define their roles flexibly during the course of the cooperation, while adapting to each project's context and objectives. The Regional Fund focuses on promoting TrC with countries and multilateral partners in and with Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). It seeks to strengthen exchanges in the LAC region and to promote alliances and joint projects with partners in other regions and specific areas of the world. The Fund supports the implementation of the TrC projects with the partners, collaborates with the development of strategic expertise and promotes political dialogue. It bolsters cooperation between partners in Latin America and the Caribbean and partners from other regions in the framework of international development cooperation (IDC), and is designed as a **platform for strengthening knowledge sharing** and peer-to-peer learning, practical exchange and political dialogue on TrC.



III. What are the criteria for promoting a triangular project?

For the TrC partners:

- The project must be **collaborative**, generally carried out between a facilitating partner, a pivotal partner and one (or more) beneficiary partner(s). It need not be limited to three countries. Planning and implementation must be carried out collaboratively and guided by the beneficiary partner. The beneficiary partner must adopt an active role in project coordination and other project stages. Please enquire about the possibilities with the Regional Fund team who will check the project proposals before submission.
- The Fund expressly encourages **projects with a multistakeholder focus**, which receive contributions from additional partners. Apart from the cooperation agencies in the participating countries, potential **TrC partners** include ministries, institutions and sector organisations linked to the projects according to their subject area. Local and regional administrations/authorities, the private sector, academia, civil society, regional and international organisations may also participate as project partners.
- The role of the **beneficiary partner** can be assumed by any partner entity of a German development cooperation partner country in the framework of bilateral, regional or global programmes, including outside LAC.
- At least one of the partners must be from the LAC region. The structure for cooperation is based on international law.
- Each of the participating partners must make their **own contribution**, which is **specified and quantified** in the project proposal. In general, the contribution from the partner entity of the facilitating country (in principle, Germany), is based on the amount offered by the pivotal partner.¹ The beneficiary partner will likewise provide a substantial contribution. Additional contributions may come from other partners and are welcome.
- The partner countries must be able to rely on an appropriate cooperation ecosystem for international cooperation. Institutional structures must be in place that are capable of preparing and implementing projects. The **cooperation institutions** (international cooperation authorities or ministerial divisions) in the respective countries must be **involved** and **support** the project.

¹ The German contribution financed by the Fund can generally be up to EUR 300,000 net. The calculation of the total project volume must also include contributions in kind (e.g. a sector ministry's consulting services). These must be quantified.



For the TrC project:

- It must be a **technical cooperation** project that mainly provides advisory and capacity-building services. The partners provide contributions in cash and/or in kind.
- The project must **strengthen public policies for sustainable development** and be aligned with the participating countries' development strategies. The standard criteria for implementation (impact, relevance, sustainability, effectiveness, coherence and efficiency) must be taken into account, along with specific triangular cooperation criteria.
- The project proposal must describe the initiative in a **clear, realistic and comprehensible manner and must present objectives and impact indicators**. The objectives, indicators and methodology being applied must be clearly described. Indicators of added value and that measure the 'SMART' criteria must be formulated.²
- **Systems must be in place for the continuous monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of the project's impact**, and must be established and implemented by the project's responsible persons/staff in the respective partner countries. The monitoring system must be accompanied by a **risk and gender equality planning matrix**, which must be taken into consideration during the project implementation.
- The project must promote inclusion and participatory processes for vulnerable groups (gender, minorities, ethnic groups), human rights and topics of relevance for post-pandemic recovery, such as green recovery and digital solutions.
- An **external ex-post evaluation** is carried out for all TrC projects after the project has been completed. Five per cent of the German contribution will be allocated to this purpose.
- In principle, **Triangular Cooperation is not subject to any sectoral or thematic restrictions**. Nonetheless, the project must respond to a beneficiary country's request, which must in turn play an active role in the project. Priority may be given to action in a sector which has previous cooperation experience. Support will be given to projects with innovative themes and a multistakeholder approach, provided at least one of the partners has previous relevant experience.
- The project should be focused on a systematic approach to lessons learned and to the collaborative preparation of knowledge products to disseminate knowledge in publications, or at events with a broad outreach (upscaling) and with the goal of mutual learning.

² SMART is an acronym made up of a series of criteria which the indicators must meet: specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-based.



IV. Decision-making stages

- 1) **Preparing the project proposals:** the interested countries develop project proposals using the Regional Fund application form to set out the planned project's basic characteristics. It is advisable to establish contact early with an available GIZ office so that the various counterparts can obtain advice on implementing the project. The respective government cooperation institutions in the participating countries must be informed in advance and involved in preparation where possible. The project proposal must be checked by the Regional Fund team before it is officially submitted to the embassy/embassies.
- 2) **Submitting the proposal to the German embassy/embassies:** once the project has been approved by the participating cooperation institutions, the respective proposals are submitted to the German embassy on 30 April or 31 October of each year, as applicable (with one copy of the project proposal sent to GIZ). The German embassies then inform BMZ.
- 3) **Decision on project funding:** based on the criteria described above and the available resources, BMZ will notify its decision on its support for a project (from June or December of the respective year). The relevant German embassy will inform the partners of the decision.
- 4) **Project implementation:** BMZ commissions GIZ to implement the German contribution. The pivotal partner and beneficiary partner also commission one or more implementing institutions. The project partners (or their respective implementing institutions) all agree on the modes of implementation and then formalise and implement the cooperation arrangement. They work together to prepare progress reports and final project reports and provide support in the ex-post project evaluation.

The project proposal form is available in several languages at German embassies and GIZ offices and on the [Regional Fund's website](#), where more information about the Regional Fund can be found.

