

**Momentos
ADELANTE**
SHARING REFLECTIONS
ON TRIANGULAR COOPERATION

Momento ADELANTE 3

The potential of Triangular Cooperation for civil society organisations and local authorities

July 14, 2023



With the aim of promoting reflection and learning about Triangular Cooperation through dialogue between key actors, ADELANTE 2 launched the cycle of 'Momentos ADELANTE' in October 2021

Rapporteur's Report **Momento ADELANTE 3**

Credits

RAPPORTEUR REPORT: ADELANTE Team

GRAPHIC REPORT: [La Cartográfica](#)

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: Nuria Carrero, Juan Fierro, Livia Galita, Antón Leis, Olivier Luyckx, Cecilia Olea, Laura Oroz, Manuel Enrique Trujillo y Geovana Zoccal

This third Momento ADELANTE was led together with the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation - AECID



The **Momentos ADELANTE** are a series of meetings aimed at sharing reflections and lessons learnt on Triangular Cooperation, open to all actors committed to development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The third Momento ADELANTE, jointly held with the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), proposed a dialogue on the strategic potential of Triangular Cooperation for civil society organisations and local authorities; actors with whom AECID and the European Union have a long-standing history of cooperation in all modalities, including Triangular Cooperation.

It was organised as one of the side events at the 'EU-Latin America and the Caribbean Forum: Partners for Change. Youth, Civil Society and Local Authorities', within the framework of the 'EU-LAC Days' as a preliminary activity leading up to the EU-CELAC Summit. Thanks to this approach, the conclusions of this Momento ADELANTE contributed to the recommendations from the Forum, with a view to the Summit, in order to establish even closer cooperation with non-state actors and youth organisations in both regions.

During the opening event, **Livia Galita** highlighted the progress of the Momentos ADELANTE, after welcoming and thanking the more than 40 people present in the room and more than 100 people following the live broadcast. She emphasised the value of the previous editions that had been organised together with GIZ (the potential of Triangular Cooperation in the fight against the effects of COVID-19) and with SEGIB (the potential of Triangular Cooperation for European Union countries).



Livia Galita
[ADELANTE 2](#)
Coordinator
[DG INTPA](#)

She also highlighted the symbolic importance of this third Momento ADELANTE, as it is part of the Forum and is taking place together with AECID, in the midst of Spain's presidency of the Council of the European Union.



Olivier Luyckx
Head of Unit B1
DG INTPA

For the European Union, civil society organisations and local authorities are 'key actors for change'.

Olivier Luyckx began by pointing out the role of AECID as a strategic partner for the EU in the field of Triangular Cooperation, also noting the importance of civil society organisations and local authorities as 'key actors for change'. After highlighting some of ADELANTE's particular characteristics (openness to all actors, promotion of multi-stakeholder and multi-level partnerships, multiplier effect, positive cost-benefit ratio, high prospects for impact, etc.), he emphasised the capacity of Triangular Cooperation to generate partnerships between all types of actors, which allows for a combination of different perspectives on development challenges and the ability to leverage different responses to address them. In addition, he highlighted the fact that investment in knowledge, as a key characteristic of Triangular Cooperation, does not entail major costs, but can provide significant benefits for the entities involved and for the development processes in which they participate.

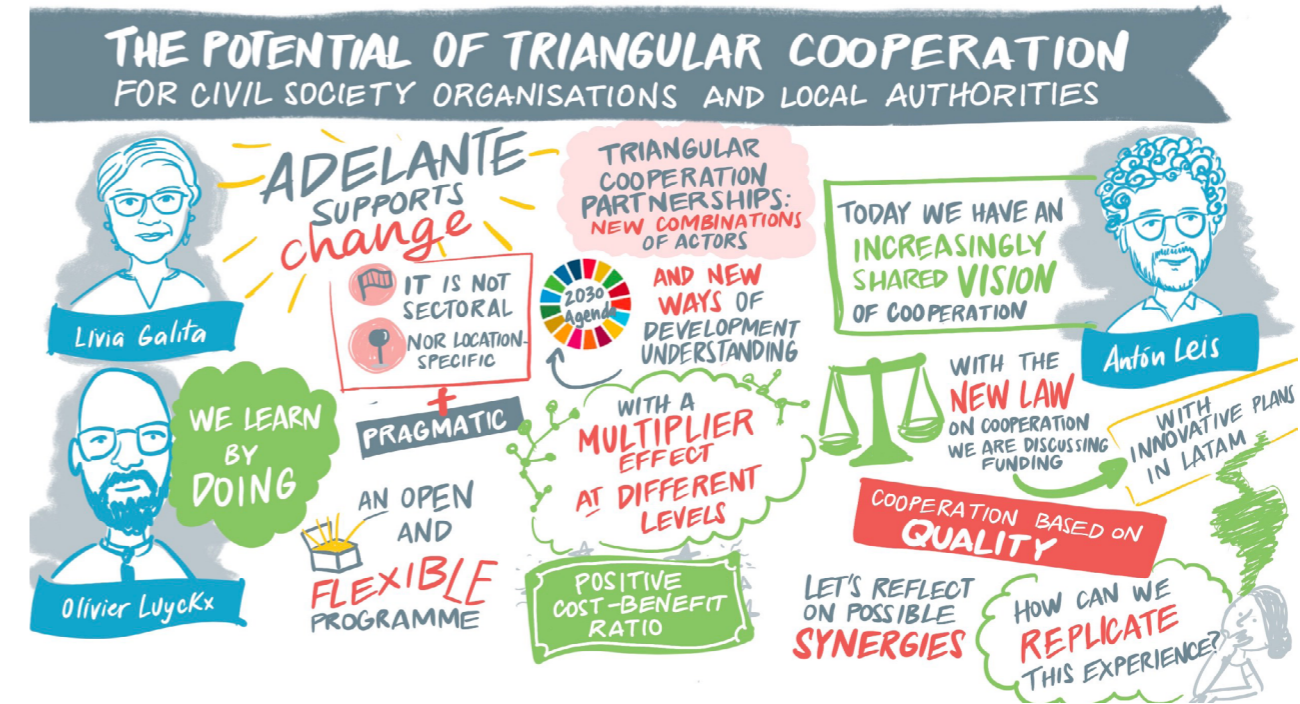


Antón Leis
Director
AECID

Triangular Cooperation is 'based on quality rather than quantity'.

Antón Leis then began by drawing attention to the significant potential of Triangular Cooperation in the dialogue and joint work with Latin America (without excluding other regions), based on a horizontal approach and common challenges. He emphasised that investment in knowledge represents cooperation based on quality rather than quantity, with a high potential for innovation. For this reason, he reaffirmed AECID's commitment to this modality and to further engage civil society organisations and local authorities, long-standing partners of AECID.

To conclude, he reflected on ways to better integrate Triangular Cooperation with other development modalities, with the hope that all of them will contribute effectively to the three key transitions: ecological, digital and social.



Following the introductory speeches, the keynote address was given by **Laura Oroz** (Director of Cooperation for Latin America and the Caribbean at AECID). After presenting a conceptual approach to the modality and analysing the evolution of the concept over the last few years, she highlighted the important role of AECID in this area, especially in the Ibero-American sphere and always applying a horizontal approach.



Laura Oroz
Director of Cooperation for Latin America and the Caribbean
AECID

AECID has been called upon to play a greater role 'beyond funding,' which should involve fostering a strong dialogue between providers, promoting new partnerships resulting and becoming a partner in the partnership itself.

She then continued by drawing attention to the fact that most Triangular Cooperation proposals received by AECID stem from projects previously co-financed by the Agency, in which the original beneficiary entity has now become the First provider. On this basis, AECID understands that it has been called upon to play a greater role 'beyond funding,' which should involve at least a) fostering a strong dialogue between providers, b) promoting these new partnerships resulting from the inclusion of the coordinating entity, and c) becoming a partner in the partnership itself to encourage joint reflection, as well as contribute its expertise and innovation.

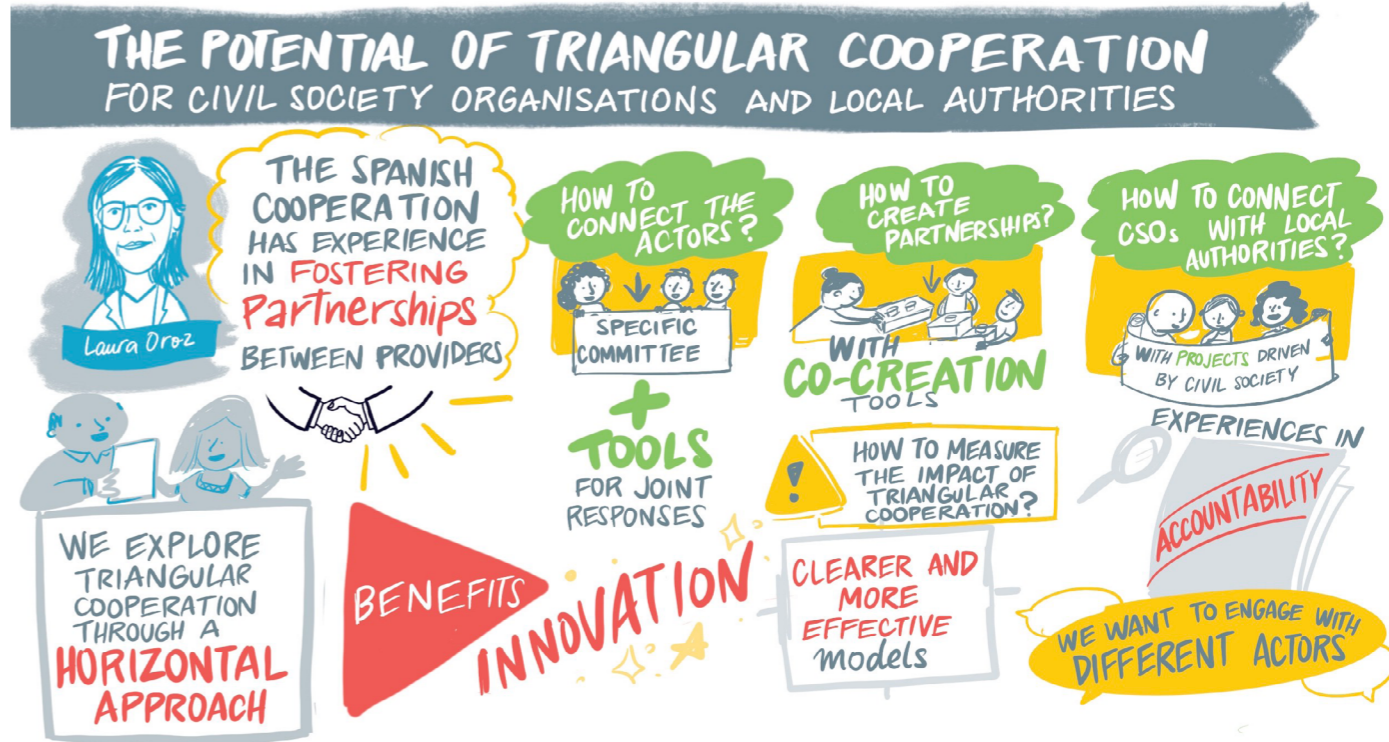
To reinforce this way of working, she pointed out that it is essential to engage all actors. The new Law on Cooperation recently approved in Spain proposes several mechanisms for this purpose, and it is vital to start developing them. This is particularly important for Triangular Cooperation, in order to identify the 'ideal capacities' in Spain to make them available to address the demands that may arise in the framework of Triangular Cooperation, together with those of other providers.

The next challenge identified by AECID is determining how to strengthen the partnerships themselves. To this end, the co-creation methodologies of the Interconecta programme are being adapted. On a needs-basis to address a challenge, the process of 'co-creation' aims to respond to the challenge, always striving to develop specific products that can be applied and replicated in other areas.

Referring to the involvement of all actors, she then focused on civil society organisations and local authorities. In this sense, the methodology outlined provides them with a significant role throughout the entire cycle: from presenting the need to respond to a specific

challenge, to becoming providers of 'ideal capacities'. For AECID, this aspect represents an important turning point, since Triangular Cooperation was originally focused on dialogue with the public sector at the national level. She also noted that these are actors with a high capacity for innovation, as well as transparency and accountability, which is a great benefit and adds value to the Triangular Cooperation modality.

Lastly, she reiterated the importance of capacity building among all actors in the management of Triangular Cooperation interventions, from the identification phase to evaluation, which is one of the main challenges for this modality in the short term.



The meeting continued with two commentators on behalf of the GPI (the main international forum for the promotion of Triangular Cooperation, a regular participant in the Momentos ADELANTE) and civil society, in addition to presenting a success story involving three local governments.



Juan Fierro

*The Chilean Cooperation Agency's Attaché to the European Union
Representing the Global Partnership Initiative on Effective Triangular Cooperation (GPI)*

Juan Fierro began by highlighting the important contribution of the GPI to strengthening Triangular Cooperation. He also expressed appreciation for the participation and the strong commitment shown by both ADELANTE and AECID in the partnership. He then focused his remarks on the advantages of the participation of civil society actors in Triangular Cooperation (their leadership and experience in several areas where the national public sector has been unable to act, their ability to work 'on the ground', their participation in peer-to-peer networks and the relationships derived from such participation, their flexibility and agility, their increasing expertise, etc.); calling on donors to consider them as key actors in Triangular Cooperation and encouraging them to take firm steps in this direction.



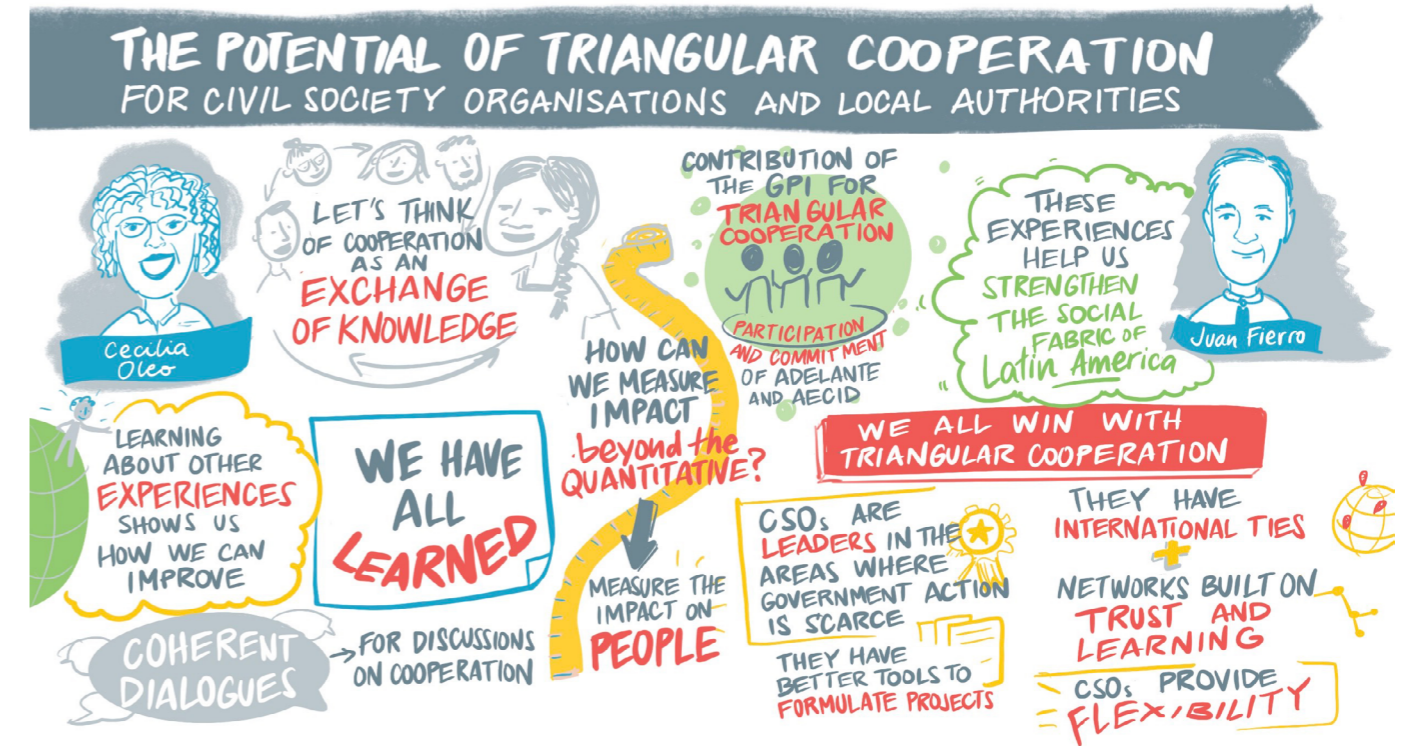
Cecilia Olea

President of the Board of Directors of the Centro de la Mujer Peruana Flora Tristán - Peruvian Women's Centre

Cecilia Olea highlighted the creation of spaces for the exchange of knowledge with all types of actors and from all types of countries as the main strength of Triangular Cooperation, generating particularly valuable insights with a high potential for replication. She also emphasised the horizontal nature of the relationships, in which all participants benefit in the short and long term, as was the case in the Triangular Cooperation Initiative 'Trenzando Cuidados' co-financed by the ADELANTE Window 2022, in which she was directly involved.

As a final reflection, she pointed out the importance of Triangular Cooperation interventions remaining committed to comprehensive capacity-building processes, especially when it comes to strengthening civil society organisations and local authorities, which is essential for the consolidation of democracy. On a final note, she reiterated the importance of the evaluation process, understood as 'measuring impact on people'.

The importance of the evaluation process, understood as 'measuring impact on people'.





Manuel Trujillo
Head of International
Relations of the Mayor's
Office of Barranquilla

Manuel Trujillo shared the Triangular Cooperation Initiative 'Historic Centres for Urban Equity' via video presentation, which is led by three local entities. The video provided a closer look at the successful triangular initiative, co-financed by the European Union through the ADELANTE Window 2022 between the Mayor's Office of Barranquilla (Colombia), the National District City Council in Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic) and the City Council of Málaga (Spain), with the participation of AECID. The initiative demonstrated the real potential of Triangular Cooperation for these entities.

THE POTENTIAL OF TRIANGULAR COOPERATION FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES

THANKS TO TRIANGULAR COOPERATION WE HAVE LEARNED FROM THE EXPERIENCES OF MÁLAGA AND SANTO DOMINGO

WE LOOK TO THESE CITIES AS BENCHMARKS

WE ATTAINED THESE PRODUCTS:

- METHODOLOGICAL GUIDE FOR REVITALISATION OF HISTORIC CENTRES IN CITIES
- INTEGRATED SOCIO-ECONOMIC RECOVERY PLAN IN BARRANQUILLA'S HISTORIC CENTRE
- WE ARE VERY HAPPY WITH THE RESULTS

CLOSING SESSION

Antón Leis: I APPRECIATE AND VALUE THIS OPPORTUNITY FOR EXCHANGE

I WISH TO REITERATE THE COMMITMENT OF AECID TO TRIANGULAR COOPERATION AND THE PARTICIPATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Olivier Luyckx: TRIANGULAR COOPERATION WILL CONTINUE TO BE A PRIORITY FOR THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION, THANKS TO ITS CAPACITY TO CREATE NETWORKS AND PARTNERSHIPS AND CAPACITY BUILDING THAT IS ESSENTIAL TO ACHIEVE THE 2030 AGENDA AND THE SDGs

At the end of the event, a Q&A session was held with the audience, which allowed them to express some of the concerns regarding the specific characteristics of non-state actors, which should be taken into account when working with them in Triangular Cooperation initiatives.

In closing, in addition to showing his commitment to the concerns expressed by the audience, **Antón Leis** expressed his gratitude and appreciation for the opportunity to exchange views. He also reaffirmed AECID's commitment to Triangular Cooperation and to the participation of civil society organisations and local authorities.

In turn, **Olivier Luyckx** confirmed that Triangular Cooperation will continue to be a priority for the European Commission, thanks to its ability to create networks and partnerships, as well as capacity building, which is key to achieving the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.





El potencial de la Cooperación Triangular para las organizaciones de la sociedad civil y las autoridades locales

Livia Galita - Coordinadora de ADELANTE 2. Unidad B1 -América del Sur y Operaciones Regionales.Dirección General de Asociaciones Internacionales (DG INTPA). Comisión Europea (Moderator)

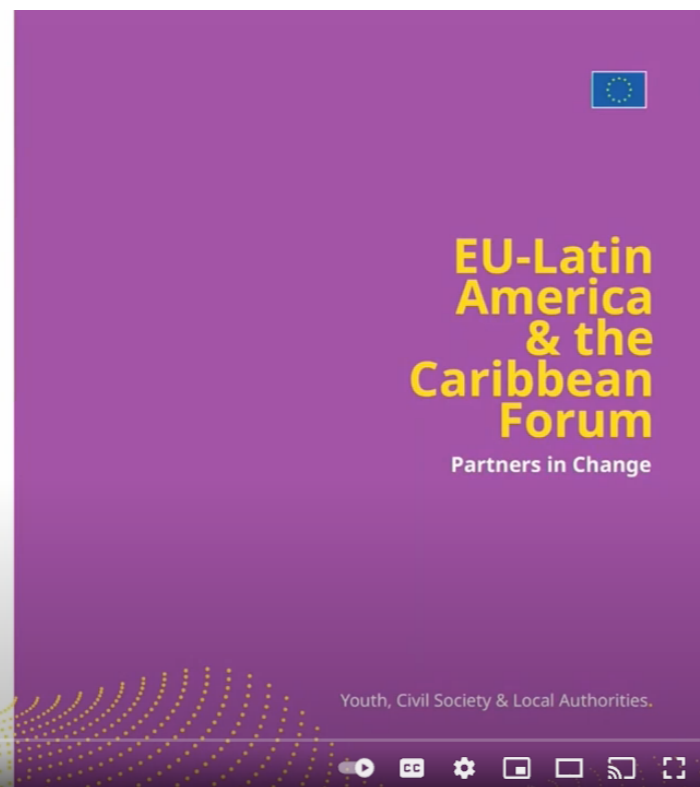
Speakers:
Olivier Luyckx - Jefe de Unidad. Unidad B1 - América del Sur y Operaciones Regionales.Dirección General de Asociaciones Internacionales (DG INTPA). Comisión Europea.

Antón Leis - Director. Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para del Desarrollo (AECID).

Laura Oroz - Directora de Cooperación para América Latina y El Caribe. Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AECID).

Cecilia Olea - Presidenta del Directorio. Centro de la Mujer Peruana Flora Tristán.

Juan Fierro - Agregado de Cooperación de Chile ante la Unión Europea.



Video of Momento ADELANTE [1:10]



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