

# Triangular Cooperation in times of Digital Transformation

#digitalcooperation #digitaltransformation  
#triangularcooperation

## Introduction

Triangular Cooperation (TrC) is a flexible and innovative international cooperation modality. At the same time, it can be applied in a variety of areas depending on the demand of the beneficiary country. Like all modalities, the TrC is also concerned with giving visibility and sharing its good experiences. With the adoption of Agenda 2030, highlighting the results and impacts of development initiatives has become even more important at international level. In this sense, TrC contributes through its multi-stakeholder approach to the fulfilment of SDG 17.

Digital transformation is a process compatible with TrC and its challenges: it is modern, contributes to the co-creation of alternative solutions bringing together avant-garde ideas and is present in all sectors. In addition, digital elements can contribute to achieving project objectives and giving visibility to TrC impacts more efficiently and quickly. Digital tools underline and complement the qualities of TrC by facilitating intersectoral alliances and allowing for more connected and efficient cooperation: they also have a renewing and practical potential, providing incentives to solve complex situations and contribute to knowledge sharing.

A selection of inspiring triangular projects of the Regional Fund for Triangular Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean will be presented below. These TrC projects cover a range of diverse uses of digital tools in different thematic areas, from virtual communication platforms for the prevention of natural disasters, to recycling and proper management of electronic waste.

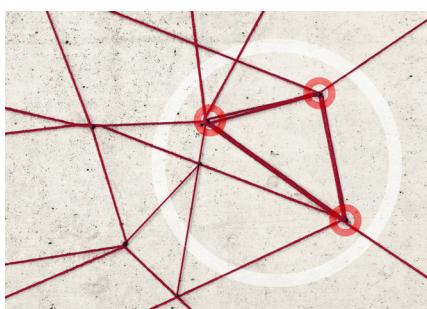
We wish you a good reading!

## Digital Systems in Water Resources Management

The department of Tarija in Bolivia, due to the effects of climate change, is located in an area with high temperature variation and acute desertification indicators, apart from being one of the most inefficient areas in per capita water consumption in the country. Tarija, in addition to concentrating a large population, is a highly agricultural area of Bolivia, where water management and an equal distribution of resources is essential.

Ongoing, up-to-date information on water flows in distribution networks is therefore very important. In this regard, the Governments of Argentina and Germany have been cooperating with Bolivia in the water and irrigation sector in the Tarija region since 2016. The objective of this TrC is to strengthen the capacities of the Bolivian wine sector to manage water and energy resources in a sustainable manner, thus promoting the integrated management of water resources. The General Department of Irrigation (DGI) of Mendoza has extensive experience in the technical management of water in the wine industry. Within the framework of this TrC, the Provincial Government of Tarija is advised in its institutional development, collaborating in the elaboration of a technical strategy for efficient water management in the sector.

Within the framework of the project, Argentina and Germany transferred the soft ware MIDO (Model of Operative Distribution Indications) to Bolivia so that it can be applied by Tarija's Provincial Government. Developed by Argentina, MIDO is a program that serves for the analysis of information sent by sensors to measure water flows. The measurement of flows through digital means of telemetry helps in the transparency of water management of the dam, decreases conflicts over water uses and helps in the hydric watershed planning.



## Recycling of Electronic Waste - Environmental Commitment in Digital Transformation

More and more people are taking advantage of the opportunities offered by the digital economy. However, the parallel digital revolution is generating an increasing amount of e-waste in many developing countries. Discarded equipment such as telephones, computers, refrigerators, sensors and televisions contain substances that can cause environmental and health risks. Most of this “electrical scrap” is not documented and is not treated through proper recycling methods and chains. At the same time, failure to collect waste challenges efforts towards a circular economy, as valuable resources are wasted.

According to the 2017 E-waste Report, the electronic waste generated on the planet in 2016 was 45 million metric tons, equivalent to 4,500 Eiffel towers of garbage. In Bolivia, each inhabitant generates at least 5 kilograms of electronic waste that is discarded. To address this challenge, Costa Rica, Bolivia and Germany have worked together to strengthen capacities to enhance Waste of Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) management in Bolivia. Following the German cooperation digital agenda, they have contributed to the implementation of the sustainable value chain for electronic waste after use. Until the end of the project (2017), the recycling of electronics achieved the collection of more than 1 ton of WEEE. By the end of 2018 (one year after the closure of the project) this value should already reach 5 Tons at the National level.

Through this TrC, it was possible to influence public policy by establishing strategies at the municipal and national levels for the management of WEEE. One of the most important results of the project was the support for the establishment of working groups, both in La Paz and in Santa Cruz, with representatives from different sectors, as well as the transfer of lessons learned in Extended Producer Responsibility from the Costa Rican experience and WEEE collection campaigns; by the end of 2017, the amount of WEEE recovered by these initiatives was estimated at 150 tons.

Another result is the creation of collection centers to gather electronic waste through pilot projects with the municipalities of Santa Cruz and La Paz in strategic alliance with private compa-

nies. In view of the involvement of the private sector, as well as the commitment of local authorities to the issue, it is hoped that this result will achieve broad sustainability in Bolivia. According to the managers of this TrC, an important change of mentality has been generated towards the concept that these wastes have an economic value, can generate work and strengthen the economy.

## Digital Media and tools for natural disaster Emergencies

Every year the population of the Dominican Republic is affected by floods and other natural disasters that increasingly occurred in the Caribbean region due to climate change. The fatal consequences, like loss of assets and infrastructure costs, demonstrate that an effective and population-oriented early warning system (EWS) is indispensable.

The TrC between Mexico, Dominican Republic and Germany is intended to strengthen the existing CWS in the Dominican Republic. It focuses mainly on communication with the population, as well as on institutional coordination applying new technologies. The Dominican Republic can learn in this sense from both Mexico and Germany. Mexico is a global reference in disaster risk management, specifically in the use of technology for early warnings about tropical cyclones, floods and earthquakes. In Germany, a digital platform called KatWarn has been developed which integrates local and national information for early warning and has the capacity to disseminate warnings through various channels.

This expertise is channeled into the triangular project: a platform is jointly developed with processes and products relevant to risk management and the content of an existing early warning application for portable devices is improved. The platform will make it possible to define in advance the mechanisms for generating early warning messages through different dissemination channels and thus delivering coherent and appropriate information to the population in order to take timely action. The application itself is an attractive dissemination channel, both at the political level and for the population, underlining the importance of coherent content in emergencies.



## Digital Platform for Regional Economic Cooperation

Since 2015, German cooperation has been providing Mexico, Guatemala and Honduras with a virtual platform for suppliers and buyers to connect through digital media. The Internet platform ANTAD.biz facilitates the task of offering and selling their products to potential buyers with a special focus on the promotion and dissemination of small and medium enterprises (SMEs). The ANTAD.biz platform was complemented by an environmental component, which in recent years has become a sustainable management component and offers SMEs an instrument that allows evaluating their knowledge and performance in terms of environmental protection and efficiency in the use of resources. Furthermore, according to the needs of SMEs, tailor-made consultancy or training are also offered.

The platform has demonstrated to be successful. In the first 2 years of the project, at least 450 SMEs from Guatemala and Honduras registered on the ANTAD.biz platform and applied the environmental component. The project partners support the SMEs in setting up their website and integrating it into the internet platform. They also help new participants to answer the questionnaire on environmental diagnosis. In this way, companies have an assessment of how environmentally friendly their production is, for example, in terms of energy and water consumption or recycling.

## Virtual Courses to improve the quality of Population Registration Services

The right to civil identity is a human right established primarily by governmental institutions. A person without an identity is limited in accessing formal labor relations, social and political participation. The triangular project between Peru, Honduras and Germany seeks to promote access and improve the quality of registration services and identity of the Honduran population throughout the country. The implementation of digital tools and virtual courses is key to this project.

With the support of German cooperation, the National Registry of Identification and Civil Status of Peru, RENIEC, has been able to improve its institutional processes, capacity building and development of materials by having a Training School for Registry. Through a virtual training platform, a nationwide network of teachers has been created and approximately 6,500 registrants were trained.

In the context of this triangular project, RENIEC, now a leader in identification at the Latin American level, has shared these experiences and knowledge with the National Registry of Persons, RNP, of Honduras. With the support of Peru and Germany, a virtual educational platform was jointly created, based on the training needs in Honduras. The platform contains audiovisual materials for registry practices of daily working life that complement the official registry guides. In addition, the platform has a forum to provide feedback and improve its content. It is, on the one hand, an efficient solution for providing coherent information and clarifying procedures to registry offices throughout the country. On the other hand, it creates a participatory space to consider suggestions from the practice of registrants





## Transparency through Government E-Control

Transparency is key to create and increase the trust of the population into the public body and feel part of democracy. Governmental e-control is an innovative mechanism to facilitate citizen participation in public processes. With the support of German cooperation, the Comptroller’s Office of Peru has developed the INFOBRAS platform and application (<https://apps.contraloria.gob.pe/ciudadano/>) that makes information about public works transparent to society. The application makes it possible to control the timely use of public resources with citizen participation. Within the framework of the TrC between Chile, Peru

and Germany, these innovative practices and experiences were exchanged between neighboring countries. The system for citizen control of construction, GEO-CGR (<http://www.contraloria.cl/geograppcgr/PORTALGEOCGR/index.jsp>) was created jointly for Chile based on the good practices of the Peruvian counterpart. The new Chilean system is mainly focused by its geographical location approach which was finally adapted in the INFOBRAS platform in Peru. To date, there have been high numbers of visits to both platforms, particularly in Peru after the introduction of the geographical location of public works.

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