



South-South good practices for the meeting of Directors of Cooperation Agencies during GSSD 2016

ILO Academy on South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC Academy)

February- December 2016 (face-to-face: July 2016)

Metadata

Project name: Academy for SSTC – ILO, ITC Turin 2016

The ILO organized a South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) Academy devoted to ILO staff and partners. The objectives included ensuring ILO staff and constituents can access tools and methodologies enabling them to implement new South-South and triangular cooperation projects. ILO staff and constituents will be able to follow up on their learning experience of SSTC by exchanging experience and deepening knowledge through an 'SSTC virtual meeting point' (www.southsouthpoint.net) and by tailor-made coaching and training sessions.

The development cooperation strategy also recognized the importance of South-South and triangular cooperation in the capacity building components of the ILO's development cooperation, especially in implementing national strategies to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. It affirmed that the outcomes endorsed and guidance provided by the Governing Body on the 2012 South-South and triangular cooperation strategy remain valid for the period 2016-17. The latter enables the ILO to continue promoting horizontal and peer-to-peer exchanges between least developed countries, middle-income countries, fragile countries, and regional and interregional groupings, and between least developed and middle-income countries, as well as through triangular cooperation.

South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC) can be defined as collaboration between two or more developing countries that is guided by the principles of solidarity and non-conditionality, aimed at implementing inclusive and distributive development models that are driven by demand. SSTC is based on the fundamental premise that developing countries should identify their own needs and address them in part by acquiring new expertise, knowledge and technology from other countries of the global South that have acquired experience from regular development cooperation initiatives funded by Official Development Assistance. In this sense, SSTC is a complement to North-South cooperation and a concerted effort to promote development opportunities.

<p>In the past decade, SSTC has become a consolidated practice through both the implementation of projects coordinated by developing countries' cooperation agencies, and commitments made at the international level to boost this type of cooperation. Such commitments include the recent 2015 Addis Ababa Action Agenda, as well as UN General Assembly commitments. From an ILO perspective, SSTC is a horizontal and solidarity-driven means to promote and implement the Decent Work Agenda in the context of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the 17 Goals that it comprises, in particular SDG 8: <i>to promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all</i>, and SDG 17, which includes capacity building as one of its targets: <i>"Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the Sustainable Development Goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation."</i></p>	
Dimensions	Points to consider
Horizontality	The academy was based in sharing peer-to-peer approaches to SSTC.
Objective(s)	<p>South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC) can be defined as collaboration between two or more developing countries that is guided by the principles of solidarity and non-conditionality, aimed at implementing inclusive and distributive development models that are driven by demand. In the past decade, SSTC has become a consolidated practice through both the implementation of projects coordinated by developing countries' cooperation agencies, and commitments made at the international level to boost this type of cooperation. Such commitments include the recent 2015 Addis Ababa Action Agenda, as well as UN General Assembly commitments. From an ILO perspective, SSTC is a horizontal and solidarity-driven means to promote and implement the Decent Work Agenda in the context of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the 17 Goals that it comprises, in particular SDG 8.</p> <p>Objectives for the Partnerships and Field Support Department:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Support participants to access tools and methodologies in order to have the means for implementation of new South-South and triangular cooperation projects. ✓ Support participants, including ILO staff and constituents will be able to follow up on their learning experience of SSTC by exchanging experiences and deepening knowledge through the 'virtual meeting point for SSTC' (www.southsouthpoint.net) and by tailor made coaching and training sessions. ✓ Support a larger number of stakeholders to engage in SSTC modalities with the ILO based on specific good practices and lessons learned presented through peer-to-peer approaches during the ILO SSTC Academy, including promoting alliance 8.7, green jobs, skills, PPPs, labour migration, social dialogue (workers' perspective), C2C cooperation and LED, triangular cooperation, and Fragile-to-Fragile Cooperation ✓ Facilitate and moderate 4 plenaries, 10 modules.
Stakeholders and Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperation agencies from the South and the North • work ministries and departments • missions in Geneva

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN agencies • local government • workers’ and employers’ organizations • think tanks • social and solidarity enterprises • PPPs • ILO staff.
<p>Methodological Approach*</p>	<p>The ILO Department of Partnerships and Field Support (PARDEV) has produced in recent years a considerable and extensive literature on South-South and triangular cooperation, in cooperation with technical departments, ILO Regions, and ILO Turin. There is hence already a set of comprehensive and well-prepared documents that underpin most of the topics that were covered in the ILO’s SSTC Academy. These publications can constitute the theoretical backbone of the Academy and be the references around which the training modules will be prepared. The contents to be covered in association with these existing documents will be distributed through panels and modules:</p> <p>Panels</p> <p>The Panels consisted in dynamic sessions to discuss around the Sustainable Development Goals, specifically Goal 8 on Decent Work. A session on good practices and lessons learned in key topics also took place.</p> <p><i>Panel 1 – Sustainable Development Goals and SSTC</i></p> <p>Panel 1 was significantly interactive. It covered a general discussion on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and the relevance of South-South and triangular cooperation and the contributions this type of cooperation can bring to their achievement, as ILO’s work and mission will be crucial to advancing the entire 2030 Agenda. It focused particularly on SDG 8: “Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all”. In addition, South-South and triangular cooperation is also explicitly mentioned in targets under SDG 17 (<i>Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development</i>) as a significant tool for implementing the 2030 Agenda.</p> <p><i>Panel 2 – Triangular cooperation: good practices</i></p> <p>South-South and Triangular Cooperation is a manifestation of solidarity among the countries and peoples of the South that contributes to their national well-being, national and collective self-reliance, and the attainment of internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals. South-South and Triangular Cooperation should not be seen as official development assistance, but as a partnership among equals based on solidarity, and it is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North–South cooperation. From this stems the concept of “triangular cooperation” which is defined as South–South cooperation supported by a Northern partner (GB, 2012).</p> <p>Panel involved discussions on good practices of triangular cooperation, which include and are not limited to traditional development partners with</p>

	<p>previous experience on triangular cooperation, including the United States, Portugal, Japan, Germany, Spain, France, Norway, and Ireland.</p> <p><i>Panel 3 – Gender mainstreaming and SSTC</i></p> <p>Participants were able to analyze how the ILO can make use of gender mainstreaming and women and girls’ empowerment as a means to achieve the SDGs, but also to promote South-South Cooperation, through community-to-community approaches and peer learning.</p> <p><i>Panel 4 – The Road to Buenos Aires + 40: From TCDC to SSTC</i></p> <p>The Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA) was adopted by the G77 and endorsed by the General Assembly in September 1978. It was an expression of the aspirations of developing countries and a reflection of their desire to promote economic cooperation among themselves as a complement to North-South cooperation and as an integral part of the collective action of the Group aimed at the promotion of international cooperation for development.</p> <p>The adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action marked the beginning of a new phase of such cooperation, providing a blueprint with a well-defined mechanism for implementation and follow-up, which initially was called “Technical cooperation between developing countries”, and nowadays is known as “South-South and triangular cooperation”. Today there is a need to find appropriate organizational modalities to tap effectively resources from various international organizations and financial institutions that could be directed towards supporting South-South cooperation activities and programmes and to outline a common strategy to foster international support for the regional and subregional economic cooperation. This panel examined the road from TCDC to SSTC, but, first and foremost, the challenges after 2018, when the UN system will celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Plan of Action. In this regard the key partnership with the UN Office for South-South Cooperation was reinforced, as with synergies with the UN system as a whole.</p>
Validation/Effectiveness*	<p>Structure of the ILO’s SSTC Academy</p> <p>Similarly to what already happens in other academies and training courses conducted by ITC-ILO, the SSTC Academy featured a virtual environment (available on the Internet) designed to complement and further its face-to-face period of one week. This environment comprised two main elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An introductory distance-learning package that launched basic principles and key questions regarding SSTC on decent work, available to participants 20 days before the face-to-face sessions. This package aimed at introducing participants to the content of the SSTC Academy and to its main issues, so as to reduce the time allocated to purely expositive activities during the face-to-face period and as such maximize its interactive aspect. • A virtual meeting point for South-South and triangular cooperation on decent work (www.southsouthpoint.net), in which participants (as well as their communities and networks) could engage among themselves and exchange and cooperate through the Internet, overcoming geographical distances and language barriers.

<p>Innovation*</p>	<p>The SSTC Academy has been a window of opportunity to boost its cooperation strategies, including South-South and triangular cooperation. This commitment is reflected in the ten policy outcomes established in the ILO Programme and Budget for 2016-17, which foresees South-South networks and cross-disciplinary learning, including interregional cooperation and partnerships as key elements to implement its development cooperation strategy. These policy outcomes will help the ILO to address key areas of concern to constituents, and will support functions to put the Decent Work Agenda into practice through the implementation of the ILO's four strategic objectives: promoting jobs, guaranteeing rights at work, extending social protection, and promoting social dialogue. Equally important, the policy outcomes will guide the work of the ILO to take follow-up decisions in the context of implementing the centenary initiatives,¹ more specifically in the implementation of the Future of Work Centenary Initiative.²</p> <p>In this context, South-South and triangular cooperation will play a key role, as recognized in the ILO development cooperation strategy for 2015-17, which underlined the need to explore more innovative financing and cooperation mechanisms for development that recognize the importance of SSTC in this sense. The Strategy acknowledges sharing good practices – including policy experience – and creating partnerships, including those with the private sector as the key principles underpinning South-South and triangular cooperation.</p> <p>Innovation mainly came from the virtual spaces, and as such it was organized as follows:</p> <p>Pre-learning: This phase happened through the internet from February to May 2016 and was done through Internet and the e-Campus. Besides introducing basic principles and key questions, this phase also functioned as a pre-assessment of participants' practical needs and gaps concerning the subjects covered by the SSTC Academy and provided elements to increase the efficiency of the face-to-face period.</p> <p>The South-South and Triangular Cooperation Academy (Face-to-face period): This phase lasted week (July 2016) and required the full-time availability of participants. This was organized in Panels (high-level sessions); Mandatory Modules; and Elective Modules (elective learning paths to be selected early on by the participants). The specific activities were detailed jointly with the experts and resource people, who were responsible for conducting the learning modules and will be of the following types: expository presentations, sections of questions and answers, group works, fishbowls, world café and co-creation sections.</p> <p>Post-learning (ongoing): After the face-to-face phase, participants were able to keep interacting, exchanging experiences and deepening knowledge through the Internet by means of the 'virtual meeting point for SSTC on Decent Work' (www.southsouthpoint.net). Since the face-to-face period is insufficient to exhaust the full potential of exchanges and synergic complementarities among participants, this interactive environment will</p>
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¹ Available at:

http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@ed_norm/@relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_213836.pdf

² Available at:

http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@ed_norm/@relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_369026.pdf

	<p>allow that they continue through the Internet the most meaningful conversations initiated in person. Although the success this phase will partly depend on the interest and commitment of participants, activities of animation and facilitation will be performed in order to encourage and foster interaction, exchange of experiences and deepening of knowledge (including the provision of feedback from the general assessment conducted in the end of the face-to-face phase, as well as complementary elements concerning the identified gaps).</p> <p>Regarding the evaluation of the SSTC Academy, in addition to the general assessment performed by the end of the face-to-face phase, an impact assessment will also be carried out four months after. This second assessment will be done through an electronic survey sent to all participants and by interviews (made by videoconference) with participants who mentioned in the survey relevant SSTC initiatives directly linked to their participation in the SSTC Academy. The impact assessment will try to outline the extension of the overall impact of the Academy, including also the effectiveness of the post-learning phase</p>
Sustainability*	<p>The SSC Academy plays an important role in the sustainability as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It makes it more cost effective for countries to replicate/ adapt a successful and validated model once they have shared or learned it in the Academy. • It builds on a well-documented, systematised data base of good practices that has been created through a consultative process. • The strategy for exchange is based on high quality information • The Post-Learning platforms are active in the internet in southsouthpoint.net, Facebook, Twitter, etc.
Replicability*	<p>The Academy provides an excellent platform to scale up South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives amongst member countries and other regions, and has the potential to be replicated in other regions of the world.</p> <p>The conditions that need to be met to replicate are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The institutional environment has to be conducive and strong in the countries. • Commitment of ILO-PARDEV, ILO-REGIONS; HRD; and the support of UNOSSC • A driving force of a selected group of countries has to be created that can start this type of Initiative and attract others. • Sufficient information technology has to be in place that allows for a fluid and continuous communication amongst the countries.
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URL of the practice	<p>www.southsouthpoint.net</p> <p>http://www.ilo.org/pardev/partnerships/south-south/lang--en/index.htm http://www.ilo.org/pardev/partnerships/south-south/WCMS_497521/lang--en/index.htm</p>

