

## Workshop: **The European Union's Triangular Cooperation in the context of aid effectiveness**

Organized by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID)  
In the framework of the Practitioners' Network for European Development  
Cooperation

AECID, Madrid, 8 March 2010

### Background

Over the past few years South-South Cooperation (SSC) has undergone a notable revival since it began some decades ago. This process has coincided with changes in traditional aid donors, including new approaches in support to middle income countries. One result of both phenomena is that a number of Southern partner countries are increasing their collaboration with donors to support other developing countries through schemes which include triangular cooperation.

A few donors such as Japan have engaged in triangular cooperation for many years, and several European countries have developed some experience recently. However, this modality has yet to become fully consolidated in the European Union.

One of the reasons for this situation is that it remains a conceptually unclear concept. In addition, triangular cooperation has significant—not always positive—implications for efforts to advance in the aid effectiveness agenda.

### Objectives and focus of the workshop

In this context, this one-day workshop on 8 March 2010 aims *to provide a venue for an initial exchange of information and viewpoints on experiences of Member states and the Commission in triangular cooperation and implications for aid effectiveness efforts.*

The workshop is organized by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) in the framework of the Practitioners' Network for European Development Cooperation, a network which seeks to promote exchange on issues of practical interest between its members and other organizations from across Europe.<sup>1</sup>

As such, the workshop focuses on practical challenges and issues for EU Member States and the Commission as they become more active in triangular cooperation over the coming years. It also complements the efforts of the Spanish Presidency of the EU to develop an EU approach on this issue, and the results will be communicated to the High Level Event on South-South Cooperation and Capacity Development to be held in Bogotá, Colombia on 24-26 march 2010.

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<sup>1</sup> For more information, see: <http://www.dev-practitioners.eu/> . From May 2009 to May 2010, AECID presides this network.

## Preliminary agenda

Time	Session	Speakers, moderators
9:00	Welcome and introduction	Director AECID (tbc)
9:30	Background: Triangular cooperation in the context of aid effectiveness – Towards a European vision	<p>- Guido Ashoff, Head of Development Cooperation Department, Researcher, German Development Institute, Bonn</p> <p>- Nils-Sjard Schulz, Researcher on Development Policies, FRIDE, Madrid</p>
	<p><i>Researchers will make brief presentations on the context and a conceptual approach to triangular cooperation in the light of the Accra Agenda for Action. Ample time will be available for open discussion.</i></p>	
11:00	Coffee break	
11:30	The practices thus far <i>Several EU agencies engaged in triangular cooperation will kick off the debate on practices reflecting self-critically on their practical experiences</i>	Germany, AECID + MS*
14:00	Lunch	
15:30	Challenges and the way ahead <i>The technical and practical aspects of triangular cooperation will be explored from the perspective of the day-to-day reality of this relatively new modality, aiming to agree on next steps to be taken in the EU context</i>	EC + MS*
18:00	Closing	AECID

\* These member states have yet to be defined.

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