

Spotlight viii: Scaling up South-South and triangular cooperation through digital technologies – the UN’s South-South Galaxy as an example of knowledge sharing

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South-South and triangular cooperation have been recognised as effective means of achieving development and alleviating poverty in the South. In today’s era, digital technologies are offering transformational opportunities for development cooperation and new tools for addressing persistent development challenges. By enhancing knowledge sharing and collaboration, and by opening new opportunities for business and entrepreneurial activity, digital technology is becoming a key driver of growth and development in the Global South and can further bolster South-South cooperation.

To build on this potential, the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) launched the “South-South Galaxy”¹²⁸ – a global knowledge sharing and partnership brokering platform – together with its development partners in September 2019. It represents UNOSSC’s recognition of the exceptional potential presented by new digital technologies and offers transformational cooperation opportunities for enhanced knowledge sharing and collaboration across borders, as well as a chance for businesses and social entrepreneurs to access overseas markets and engage in global e-value chains.

The platform complements, rather than substitutes or duplicates existing national and regional institutional arrangements. It acts both as a one-stop shop for all partners to communicate and share solutions in order to address common challenges, and as a matchmaker by connecting solution providers and seekers. Southern countries and interested development partners will be able to locate concrete cases, share their knowledge and initiatives, collaborate with potential partners digitally and explore funding opportunities. Through its research arm, the platform is connecting governments, experts and think tanks to ensure that southern perspectives and insights are included in mainstream policy dialogue.

The Galaxy platform makes South-South cooperation more of a reality by eliminating a significant barrier to entry through digital technology and ensuring that southern partners can easily access and navigate a wide range of

128 See here: <https://www.southsouth-galaxy.org/> (15.04.2020).

knowledge and information. Thereby, it will strengthen the integration of the sharing of southern knowledge, expertise and technologies into regional and national capacities. The Galaxy is all about placing the great range of experiences, practices and exchanges of South-South and triangular cooperation across the world in a single digital space. By building bridges and connections irrespective of distance and the development stages of partners, the South-South Galaxy has the potential to contribute to improving the quality of people's lives across the Global South.