



**Faculty of Legal Sciences**

**School of International Studies**

**ANALYSIS OF THE IMPACT OF  
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE  
SOCIAL SPHERE MANAGED BY THE  
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND  
COOPERATION DEPARTMENT OF THE GAD  
OF CUENCA, PERIOD 2014-2022.**

**GRADUATION WORK PRIOR TO  
OBTAINING THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR  
IN INTERNATIONAL STUDIES.**

**Author:**

Christian Andrés Castro Álvarez.

**Director:**

Diana Alexandra García Orellana.

**Cuenca – Ecuador**

**2023**

## **DEDICATION**

To my grandparents Rolando and Humberto, my  
beacons in life.

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

I would like to express my profound gratitude and recognition to those who have been instrumental in my journey towards achieving this goal.

To my beloved mother, for her unwavering love and unconditional support in every step I have taken.

To my dear siblings, for their constant encouragement and for being my source of inspiration during challenging times.

To my thesis advisor, whose wisdom and guidance have been fundamental pillars in this project.

To my university colleagues, for the exchange of knowledge, camaraderie, and mutual encouragement throughout this academic journey.

Without you all, this achievement would not have been possible. My eternal gratitude.

## Table of Contents

Dedication .....	i
Acknowledgments.....	ii
Table of Contents.....	iii
Index of tables, figures and annexes .....	iv
Table index.....	iv
Figure index .....	iv
Annexes index.....	iv
1. Introduction .....	1
1.1 Objectives .....	1
1.2 Theoretical Framework .....	1
2. Literature Review.....	5
3. Methods.....	7
4. Results and Discussion.....	8
5. Conclusions .....	15
6. Bibliography.....	16

## INDEX OF TABLES, FIGURES AND ANNEXES

### Table index

<b>Table 1</b> Classification of international cooperation .....	4
<b>Table 2</b> Total amounts of cooperation with respect to its origin (2014-2022).....	9
<b>Table 3</b> SDGs and main themes of DRIC cooperation actions (2014-2022) .....	12

### Figure index

<b>Figure 1</b> Disaggregated SDG's .....	3
<b>Figure 2</b> Ecuadorian regulations on International Cooperation .....	6
<b>Figure 3</b> Research methods and design.....	8
<b>Figure 4</b> Origin of the funds of the different cooperation proposals (2014-2022).....	9
<b>Figure 5</b> International cooperation activities by modality (2014-2022) .....	10
<b>Figure 6</b> Total contribution of cooperation actions USD, according to modality (2014-2022)..	11
<b>Figure 7</b> SDGs of the different DRIC cooperation actions (2014-2022).....	12

### Annexes index

<b>Anexx 1</b> Comparative Report.....	19
<b>Anexx 2</b> Management Report 2014-2019.....	19
<b>Anexx 3</b> Management Report 2019-2023.....	19
<b>Anexx 4</b> Territorial Planning and Development Plan 2015.....	19
<b>Anexx 5</b> Matrix of International Cooperation. ....	19
<b>Anexx 6</b> Interviews. ....	19
<b>Anexx 7</b> Final Reports Projects and Programs.....	19
<b>Anexx 8</b> SDG targets.....	19
<b>Anexx 9</b> Interview request.....	19

**Error!**



### **Resumen:**

La cooperación internacional es fundamental para el desarrollo de los países. En este estudio, se examinó la cooperación internacional gestionada por la Dirección de Relaciones Internacionales y Cooperación (DRIC) en la ciudad de Cuenca, Ecuador. Se analizó la gestión de la DRIC y la planificación de las acciones de cooperación ejecutadas, así como la percepción de su impacto social. La metodología aplicada consta de un estudio comparativo y encuestas a los equipos técnicos de la DRIC. Las principales temáticas de proyectos de cooperación encontradas son la igualdad de género, servicios públicos y asistencia a grupos vulnerables. Se identificaron limitaciones en la formulación de proyectos, la evaluación de resultados y la capacidad técnica de la DRIC. Aunque se percibe un alto impacto social en proyectos como "Ciudades Seguras", faltan indicadores de evaluación a largo plazo. Se concluye la importancia de mejorar la planificación, evaluación y seguimiento de las acciones de cooperación.

**Palabras clave:** Ayuda Externa, Ayuda Oficial no reembolsable, Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo, Desarrollo Social, Proyectos de Cooperación Internacional, Sistemas de gestión.

### **Abstract:**

International cooperation is crucial for the development of countries. This study examined international cooperation managed by the International Relations and Cooperation Department (DRIC) in the city of Cuenca, Ecuador. The management of DRIC and the planning of executed cooperation actions, as well as the perception of their social impact, were analyzed. The applied methodology consisted of a comparative study and surveys conducted with the technical teams of DRIC. The main themes of the identified cooperation projects are gender equality, public services, and assistance to vulnerable groups. Limitations were identified in project formulation, results evaluation, and the technical capacity of DRIC. Although projects like "Safe Cities" are perceived to have a high social impact, long-term evaluation indicators are lacking. In conclusion, it is important to improve the planning, evaluation, and follow-up of cooperation actions.

**Keywords:** Foreign Aid, International Cooperation for Development, International Decentralized Cooperation, International Development Projects, International Non-Reimbursable Aid.



Este certificado se encuentra en el repositorio digital de la Universidad del Azuay, para verificar su autenticidad escanee el código QR

Este certificado consta de: 1 página