

BILATERAL COOPERATION THROUGH THE INTER-AMERICAN NETWORK FOR LABOR ADMINISTRATION (RIAL)

RESULTS OF THE TWELFTH CALL FOR PROPOSALS

April 12th, 2018

INTRODUCTION

Bilateral cooperation, which has also taken the form of south-south and triangular cooperation, has been one of the most powerful tools of the Inter-American Network for Labor Administration (RIAL) in supporting the institutional strengthening of Ministries of Labor. This tool functions through open Calls where Ministries of Labor present previously negotiated proposals to the Technical Secretariat (Dpt. of Human Development, Education and Employment/SEDI/OAS) consisting of on-site or experts visits, according to the place where they are held—whether in the country requesting assistance or in the one providing it. To date, 106 bilateral cooperation activities have been carried out with excellent results.

The 12th RIAL Call for Bilateral Cooperation was open between January 15th and March 15th, 2019, and received 47 proposals involving 17 Ministries of Labor (see Table 2).

As can be seen in Table 3, proposals covered practically all areas of labor administration, although employment issues continue to be the most prominent. It is worthy to highlight, as aspects unique to this 12th Call, that, in comparison with previous Calls, more requests were submitted on individual and collective conflict resolution, and most of the providing institutions were identified through the RIAL Portfolio of Programs.

SELECTED PROPOSALS

In the 12th Call (2019) 8 cooperation proposals were selected, in accordance with the resources available in the RIAL Voluntary Contribution Fund and as decided by the authorities of the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (IACML) in the Virtual Meeting of Authorities in January 2019.

Table No. 1 - Selected proposals

<i>Requesting Ministry</i>	<i>Providing Ministry</i>	<i>Theme</i>	<i>Type of Activity</i>
Barbados	Panama	Enforcement and awareness of labor legislation	On-Site
Costa Rica	Uruguay	Labor inspection / Domestic work	On-Site
Ecuador	Colombia	Labor Migration	Experts
El Salvador	Argentina	Individual and collective conflict resolution	Experts
Honduras	Peru	Employment Services	On-Site
Mexico	Argentina	Training of labor inspectors in Child Labor	Experts
Paraguay	Argentina	Professional Training	On-site
Peru	Mexico	Enforcement and awareness of labor legislation	Experts

The proposals were evaluated and selected using the following criteria:

- Pertinence and timeliness of the cooperation – the justification/rationale for the activity shows why cooperation is required at the time. The needs and challenges of the beneficiary institution, as well as the expected results are explicit.
- Clarity of objectives
- Clarity and relevance of the participants' profiles
- Explicit commitment of the involved parties
- Degree of relevance of the topic for the IACML
- Priority will be given to proposals arising from activities of the RIAL and the IACML, and to those that are receiving co-financing from the requesting institution

In the first round of evaluation, each of the proposals was graded based on these criteria and from a strictly technical standpoint. This grading put special emphasis on the potential impact of the cooperation; that is, on proposals where a concrete result could be anticipated that would result in improved capacities and improvements in the operations of Ministries of Labor. Subsequently, the most solid proposals were taken into consideration; it was verified that there was broad representation of countries, and special consideration was given to relatively less-developed countries.

The Technical Secretariat held two webinars to address questions about the 12th Call, to assist countries in presenting their proposals and help them in the match-making process. A total of 20 countries participated and active communication and collaboration among the Ministries was evident.

PORTFOLIO OF PROGRAMS

The RIAL Portfolio of Programs was the tool through which most Ministries identified their partners. Out of the 47 received proposals, 34 of the providing institutions were identified through this online and open platform. This shows the value of this database, as well as the importance of keeping it updated. All Ministries are welcome to upload new programs and update existing ones. Inquiries regarding this matter can be addressed to trabajo@oas.org.

PROPOSALS RECEIVED

As shown in Table No. 2, 47 proposals were received involving 17 Ministries of Labor: 5 requesting, 3 providing, and 9 requesting and providing simultaneously.

Table No. 2 - Proposals received by country

Propuestas recibidas por país <i>Proposals received by country</i>			
	Min.Trabajo <i>Labor Min.</i>	Solicitante <i>Requestor</i>	Proveedor <i>Provider</i>
1	Argentina	2	16
2	Barbados	1	0
3	Chile	2	3
4	Canada	0	4
5	Colombia	5	4
6	Costa Rica	1	0
7	Dominican Republic	1	0
8	Ecuador	10	1
9	El Salvador	2	1
10	Guatemala	10	3
11	Guyana	3	0
12	Honduras	1	0
13	Mexico	2	6
14	Panama	0	1
15	Paraguay	4	1
16	Peru	3	2
17	Uruguay	0	1
	Not identified	0	4
TOTAL		47	47

Of the proposals received, 34 complied with the established requirements: 1) Request form, 2) Letter from the requesting institution and 3) Letter from the providing institution, and as such were entered into the selection process. The topics of the proposals received and selected can be found in Table 3.

Table No. 3 - Proposals received and selected by topic

Tema / Subtema	Propuestas recibidas / Proposals received	Propuestas seleccionadas / Proposals selected
Trabajo / Labor	11	4
Cumplimiento y difusión de la legislación laboral / <i>Enforcement and awareness of Labor Legislation</i>	4	2
Trabajo Infantil / <i>Child Labor</i>	3	1
Condiciones de trabajo / <i>Working conditions</i>	1	
Salud y seguridad ocupacional / <i>Occupational safety and health</i>	2	
Inspección del Trabajo / <i>Labor inspection</i>	1	1
Empleo / Employment	22	3
Formación profesional y certificación de competencias / <i>Professional training and skills certification</i>	2	1
Servicios de Empleo / <i>Employment services</i>	4	1
Sistemas de Información y observatorios de mercado laboral / <i>Labor market information systems and observatories</i>	6	
Migración Laboral / <i>Labor Migration</i>	3	1
Equidad de género / <i>Gender equity</i>	3	
Inclusión laboral de grupos en situación de vulnerabilidad / <i>Labor Inclusion of vulnerable groups</i>	4	
Relaciones Laborales / Labor Relations	8	1
Solución de conflictos individuales y colectivos / <i>Individual and collective conflict resolution</i>	7	1
Diálogo Social / <i>Social Dialogue</i>	1	
Seguridad social / Social Security	4	
Mejoramiento del sistema de seguridad social / <i>Improvement of Social Security Systems</i>	1	
Políticas y programas de seguridad social / <i>Social security programs and policies</i>	3	
Gestión Interna / Management and Operations	2	
Organización y funcionamiento / <i>Structure and operations</i>	1	
Cooperación Internacional / <i>International Cooperation</i>	1	
TOTAL	47	8

NOTE ON FUNDING

The selected proposals will be funded by the RIAL Voluntary Contribution Fund, as decided by the authorities of the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (IACML) at its Virtual Meeting of Authorities in January 2019. The activities between Barbados – Panama, Peru – Mexico, Costa Rica – Uruguay, and Mexico – Argentina will be financed specifically by the Canadian Project to support the RIAL.

According to the Guidelines of the Call for Proposals, the RIAL covers the travel expenses –airfare, accommodation and meals- of officers of the Ministries of Labor. That said, the participation of other actors in the activities, where applicable, must be covered by their organizations or by the Ministries involved. Furthermore, the costs of interpretation, where applicable, must be covered by the participating Ministries.

NEXT STEPS

The activities of the 12th Call must take place between June and December 2019, and those that are not completed at the end of this period will be canceled.

The Technical Secretariat (DHDEE/SEDI/OAS) will send formal letters to the selected Ministries and their counterparts in order to start planning each activity, jointly set the dates, draft the agendas and coordinate the logistical and technical aspects.

Each activity's agenda should correspond to the interests and needs of the requesting institution and to the strengths of the providing institution; therefore, it should be drafted jointly by the officers that will participate in the cooperation activity from both institutions, in coordination with the RIAL focal point of each Ministry and the Technical Secretariat.

Ministries are encouraged to explore the possibility of carrying out the cooperation activities that were not selected. The Secretariat will explore the possibility of taking up some of these proposals with other support mechanisms, such as the RED SEALC of the IDB in the area of employment services and ILO's Initiative on Child Labor.

All information about this Call for proposals is available on the RIAL website: www.rialnet.org, which is frequently updated.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions:

Labor and Employment Section, Department of Human Development, Education & Employment, SEDI, OAS
Inter-American Network for Labor Administration
Tel: (1202) 370-4952, 370-9717 – trabajo@oas.org

Maria Claudia Camacho
Labor and Employment Section Chief, RIAL Coordinator – mcamacho@oas.org