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

RESULTS OF THE FOURTEENTH CALL FOR PROPOSALS

April 7th, 2021

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 specialized technical assistance. Until the twelfth call (2019), the activities were carried out face-to-face by means of on-site visits or expert visits according to the place where they were held. In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic required rethinking the channels of cooperation and opened the opportunity to conduct some of the selected activities virtually, by decision of the Ministries involved. It is worth mentioning that to date, 115 RIAL bilateral cooperation activities have been carried out with excellent impact; two of them took place virtually.

The 14th RIAL Call for Bilateral Cooperation was open between February 5th and March 15th, 2021, and 28 proposals were received, involving more than 15 Ministries of Labor. Of these, 16 proposals met all the requirements and entered the selection process.

As can be seen in Table 3, most of the proposals (75%) covered the issue of eradication of child labor, as a result of a strong alliance with the ILO and the Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Initiative for the Elimination of Child Labor. Proposals were also received on Labor Relations (social dialogue and union registration) and Employment. This is a marked difference with previous calls for proposals, where proposals were concentrated in the area of Employment.

SELECTED PROPOSALS

In the 14th Call, 5 cooperation proposals were selected, in accordance with what was decided by IACML authorities.

Table No. 1 – Selected proposals

Requesting Ministry	Providing Ministry	Theme
Peru	Chile	Labor Relations - Trade Union Training
Costa Rica	Peru	Child Labor - Seal of Good Practice in the Private Sector
Trinidad and Tobago	Canada	Prevention and eradication of harassment and violence at work
Guatemala	Panama	Child labor - Prevention and eradication of child labor in sugarcane production
Panama	Argentina	Child Labor - Business Network Against Child Labor

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, and congruence with a virtual cooperation.
- Clarity and relevance of the participants' profiles
- Explicit commitment of the involved parties
- Degree of relevance of the topic for the IACML
- Priority was 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. Special consideration was also given to the fact that the objectives could be achieved through virtual cooperation. 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 a bilingual webinar to address questions about the 14th Call, to assist countries in presenting their proposals and help them find the best partner for their cooperation requests (Matchmaking process). A total of 14 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 16 proposals received, 10 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 exiting ones. Inquiries regarding this matter can be addressed to trabajo@oas.org.

PROPOSALS RECEIVED

As shown in Table No. 2, 16 proposals were received involving 13 Ministries of Labor: 4 requesting, 5 providing, and 4 requesting and providing simultaneously.

Table No. 2 – Proposals received by country

	Min.Trabajo *Labor Min.*	Solicitante *Requestor*	Proveedor *Provider**
	Propuestas recibidas por país *Proposals received by country*		
1	Argentina		7
2	Canada		1
3	Chile		2
4	Colombia	2	1
5	Costa Rica	1	1
6	Ecuador	2	
7	Guatemala	1	
8	México		1
9	Panama	1	1
10	Paraguay	2	
11	Perú	6	1
12	Trinidad and Tobago	1	
13	Uruguay		1
	TOTAL	**16**	**16**
	Incomplete proposals - Did not enter to the selection process	**12**	**12**
	TOTAL	**28**	**28**

Of the 28 proposals received, 16 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*	12	**4**
Trabajo Infantil / *Child Labor*	11	3
Salud y seguridad ocupacional / *Occupational safety and health*	1	1
Empleo / *Employment*	2	
Equidad de género / *Gender equity*	1	
Inclusión laboral de grupos en situación de vulnerabilidad / *Labor Inclusion of vulnerable groups*	1	
Relaciones Laborales / *Labor Relations*	2	1
Organizaciones Sociales / Social organizations	1	1
Registro Sindical / Labor Union Registration	1	
TOTAL	**16**	**5**

NEXT STEPS AND EXECUTION OF THE VIRTUAL ACTIVITIES

The activities of this 14th Call must take place virtually between the months of May to December 2021 and those that cannot be completed in this period will be cancelled.

The Technical Secretariat (DHDEE/SEDI/OAS) will send formal letters to the selected Ministries and their counterparts to initiate the planning of each activity, jointly define the dates of the activities, and draft the agendas.

The agenda for each activity should correspond to the interests and needs of the requesting institution and the strengths of the providing institution; therefore, it should be drafted by the technical staff of both institutions that will participate in the activity, in coordination with the RIAL focal point of each Ministry and the Technical Secretariat.

The activities will be carried out using the "ZOOM" platform of the OAS Department of Human Development, Education and Employment. The Technical Secretariat will provide technical and logistical support for the activities.

Ministries are encouraged to explore the possibility of carrying out the cooperation activities that were not selected. The RIAL/OAS Secretariat will explore the possibility of carrying out other activities, such as virtual meetings and hemispheric dialogues, to address the cooperation needs raised in this Call for Proposals that were not selected.

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:

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