



Organización de los
Estados Americanos



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

RESULTS OF THE SEVENTH CALL FOR PROPOSALS

April 21, 2014

INTRODUCTION

Bilateral cooperation, which in some cases has 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 (DHDEE/SEDI/OAS) consisting of on-site visits or visits of experts, according to the place where they are held—whether in the country requesting assistance or in the one providing it. To date, 74 bilateral cooperation activities have been carried out, with excellent results.

The Seventh RIAL Call for bilateral cooperation was open between February 7 and April 1, 2014, and received 35 proposals involving 17 Ministries of Labor (see Table 2).

SELECTED PROPOSALS

In the Seventh Call (2014), 8 cooperation proposals were selected in accordance with the decision of the authorities of the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (IACML) made at the Planning Meeting in February 2014.

Table No. 1 – Selected proposals

Ministerio solicitante/ <i>Requesting Min.</i>	Ministerio proveedor/ <i>Providing Min.</i>	Tema / <i>Theme</i>	Tipo de actividad / <i>Type of Activity</i>
St. Lucia	Jamaica	Sistema de información del mercado de trabajo / <i>Labor market information system</i>	In situ / On-site
Mexico	Argentina	Conciliación laboral / <i>Labor conciliation</i>	In situ / On-site
Colombia	Guatemala	Prevención de trabajo infantil doméstico en poblaciones indígenas / <i>Prevention of domestic child labor in indigenous communities</i>	In situ / On-site
Costa Rica	Ecuador	Alianza público – privada para combatir el trabajo infantil / <i>Public-private partnerships to combat child labor</i>	Expertos / Experts visit
Ecuador	Panamá	Erradicación del trabajo infantil y protección de adolescente trabajador / <i>Eradication of child labor and protection of adolescent workers</i>	In situ / On-site
Peru	Colombia	Prevención y solución de conflictos / <i>Conflict prevention and resolution</i>	In situ / On-site
Guatemala	Mexico	Control y supervisión de la inspección del trabajo / <i>Control and oversight of labor inspection</i>	In situ / On-site
Paraguay	Argentina	Planificación estratégica – organización y funcionamiento / <i>Strategic planning – organization and functioning</i>	In situ / On-site

These 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
- 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 received 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.

In this call, the quality of the proposals presented was considerably enhanced. In particular, the justifications were more solid, clearly showing what cooperation was required and why, and detailing the current situation within the Ministry in terms of the topic being addressed; furthermore, the stated objectives were in general more relevant and achievable.

The Technical Secretariat held two webinars to answer questions about the 7th Call and to assist countries in presenting their proposals. Seventeen countries participated in total, and active communication and collaboration among the Ministries was seen.

In regard to the proposals that were not selected, it is suggested that the Ministries explore the possibility of carrying out these cooperation activities directly, given that the commitment to providing them has already been explicitly made. The Secretariat will explore with other support mechanisms, such as the RED SEALC of the IDB in the area of employment services, the possibility of taking up some of these proposals again.

PROPOSALS RECEIVED

As shown in Table No. 2, 35 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 Proposals received by country			
	Min. Trabajo Labor Min.	Solicitante Requestor	Proveedor Provider*
1	Argentina		8
2	Bolivia	1	
3	Brazil		3
4	Canada		2
5	Chile	1	6
6	Colombia	4	2
7	Costa Rica	2	2
8	Ecuador	5	1
9	Guatemala	4	2
10	Jamaica	1	1
11	Mexico	7	4
12	Nicaragua	2	
13	Panama	1	1
14	Paraguay	1	
15	Peru	3	1
16	Rep. Dominicana / DR	2	
17	St. Lucia	1	
TOTAL		35	33

*2 propuestas no incluyeron institución proveedora / 2 proposals did not specify providing institution

Of the 35 proposals received, 32 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

Area y Tema / Area and Theme	Propuestas recibidas / Proposals received	Propuestas seleccionadas / Proposals selected
Trabajo / Labor	10	4
Seguridad y salud en el trabajo / <i>Occupational safety and health</i>	2	
Combate al trabajo infantil / <i>Combating child labor</i>	5	3
Condiciones de Trabajo / Working conditions	1	
Inspección del trabajo / <i>Labor inspection</i>	2	1
Empleo / Employment	6	0
Servicios de empleo / <i>Employment services</i>	1	
Formación prof. y certificación de competencias / <i>Vocational training and skills certification</i>	2	
Política y programas de empleo / <i>Employment policy and programmes</i>	1	
Programas de género / Gender programs	1	
Regímenes de seguro de desempleo / <i>Unemployment benefit schemes</i>	1	
Fortalecimiento institucional / Institutional strengthening	6	1
Organización y funcionamiento / <i>Organization and operation</i>	5	1
Recursos Humanos / <i>Human resources</i>	1	
Información e investigación / Information and research	8	1
Recopilación de informaciones / <i>Data collection</i>	7	1
Estudios y análisis/ Studies and analyses	1	
Relaciones de trabajo / Labor relations	5	2
Diálogo social / <i>Social dialogue</i>		
Registro sindical / <i>Trade union registration</i>	1	
Solución de los conflictos individuales y colectivos / <i>Individual and collective dispute settlement</i>	4	2
TOTAL	35	8

NOTE ON FUNDING

The selected proposals will be funded by the RIAL Voluntary Contribution Fund, as was decided by the authorities of the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (IACML) at its Planning Meeting in February 2014.

The government of Argentina will co-finance the activities that take place in its territory, covering the costs of participants' accommodation and meals.

According to the Guidelines of the Call for Proposals, the RIAL only covers the travel expenses 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.

NEXT STEPS

The activities of the Seventh Call must take place between May and December 2014, 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.

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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