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



RESULTS OF THE NINTH CALL FOR PROPOSALS

May 5th, 2016

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 (Department Human Development, Education and Labor/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, 90 bilateral cooperation activities have been carried out with excellent results.

The 9th RIAL Call for Bilateral Cooperation was open between February 1st and April 15th, 2016, and received 45 proposals involving 21 Ministries of Labor (see Table 2).

The quality of proposals received is worth highlighting. This year, the percentage of proposals with high scores was higher than in previous years. Further, countries from all sub-regions of the Hemisphere participated. Topics of greater emphasis were Labor Inclusion of Vulnerable Groups, Professional Training, Labor Migration and Occupational Safety and Health.

SELECTED PROPOSALS

In the 9th Call (2016), 5 cooperation proposals were selected in accordance with available resources in the RIAL Voluntary Contribution Fund and with the decision of the authorities of the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (IACML) made at the Planning Meeting in February 2016.

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>
Grenada	Jamaica	Sistemas de información en los Mercados Laborales / <i>Labor Market Information Systems</i>	In-situ
Jamaica	United States	Legislación y cumplimiento de leyes a favor de las personas con discapacidad / <i>Disability Legislation and Enforcement</i>	In-situ
Honduras	Costa Rica	Cumplimiento de pago de salario mínimo / <i>Minimum Wage Enforcement</i>	In-situ
Peru	Mexico	Observatorio Laboral y Servicio Público de Información / <i>Labor Observatory and Public Information System</i>	In-situ
Colombia	Dominican Republic	Empleo Juvenil / <i>Youth Employment</i>	In-situ

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.

The Technical Secretariat held two webinars to address questions about the 9th Call, to assist countries in presenting their proposals and help them in the match-making process. A total of 17 countries participated and active communication and collaboration among the Ministries was evident.

Considering the high quality of the proposals, 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.

PROPOSALS RECEIVED

As shown in Table No. 2, 45 proposals were received involving 21 Ministries of Labor: 9 requesting, 5 providing and 7 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	1	9
2	Bolivia	2	
3	Brazil		3
4	Canada		1
5	Costa Rica	3	2
6	Chile	3	3
7	Colombia	3	4
8	Dominican Republic		1
9	Ecuador	4	
10	El Salvador	1	
11	Grenada	2	
12	Guatemala	3	
13	Honduras	1	
14	Jamaica	2	2
15	Mexico	5	9
16	Panama	1	
17	Peru	11	1
18	St. Kitts	1	
19	St. Vincent	2	
20	United States		8
21	Uruguay		2
	TOTAL	45	45

All of the received proposals 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	14	1
Trabajo Infantil / <i>Child Labor</i>	2	
Condiciones de trabajo / <i>Working Ccnditions</i>	1	
Salarios / <i>Salaries</i>	1	1
Salud y seguridad ocupacional / <i>Occupational Safety and Health</i>	7	
Inspección del Trabajo / <i>Labor Inspection</i>	3	
Empleo / Employment	23	4
Formación profesional y certificación de competencias / <i>Professional Training and Skills Certification</i>	2	
Servicios de Empleo / <i>Employment Services</i>	3	
Sistemas de información y observatorios del mercado laboral / <i>Labor Market Information Systems and Observatories</i>	3	2
Migración Laboral / <i>Labor Migration</i>	4	
Estrategias para promover la equidad de género / <i>Strategies to Promote Gender Equity</i>	2	
Empleo Juvenil / <i>Youth Employment</i>	3	1
Inclusión laboral de grupos en situación de vulnerabilidad / <i>Labor Inclusion of Vulnerable Groups</i>	4	1
Regímenes de seguro de desempleo / <i>Unemployment Benefit Schemes</i>	1	
Estrategias de empleo enfocadas al medio ambiente / <i>Employment Strategies Focused on the Environment</i>	1	
Seguridad social / Social Security	2	
Políticas y programas de seguridad social / <i>Social Security Programs and Policies</i>	1	
Mejoramiento del sistema de seguridad social / <i>Improvement of Social Security Systems</i>	1	
Gestión Internal / Internal Management	6	
Recursos Humanos / <i>Human Resources</i>	4	
Cooperación Internacional / <i>International Cooperation</i>	2	
TOTAL	45	5

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 Planning Meeting in February 2016.

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. Furthermore, the costs of interpretation, where applicable, must be covered by the participating Ministries.

NEXT STEPS

The activities of the 9th Call must take place between July and December 2016, 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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