



Organización de los  
Estados Americanos



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

### RESULTS OF THE FIFTH CALL FOR PROPOSALS

May 15, 2012

## INTRODUCTION

One of the most powerful tools of the RIAL is Bilateral Cooperation, which promotes the institutional strengthening of the Ministries of Labor through direct cooperation and technical assistance among them. Through open calls for proposals, Ministries of Labor submit to the Technical Secretariat (DSDE/OAS) cooperation proposals that they have previously negotiated. These proposals may consist of on-site advising or expert visits, depending on where they are carried out – whether at the Ministry that has requested assistance or at the one providing it.

The RIAL Fifth Call for Proposals for bilateral cooperation opened between March 8<sup>th</sup> and May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012 and 37 proposals involving 18 Ministries of Labor were received (see Table 2).

## SELECTED PROPOSALS

Ten (10) cooperation proposals were selected during the Fifth Call for Proposals, as decided by the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (IACML) authorities in the Planning Meeting of February 2012.

**Table No. 1 – Selected proposals**

Requesting Ministry	Providing Ministry	Topic	Type of Activity
Paraguay	Guatemala	Strengthening the Assistance Center for domestic workers	On-site advising
Colombia	Argentina	Telework as an instrument to generate employment	On-site advising
Argentina	Canada	Public Employment Service – Linkages with local employers and older persons	On-site advising
Trinidad & Tobago	Brazil	Youth Entrepreneurship: Development of business incubators and non-financial cooperatives	On-site advising
Guatemala	Argentina	Employment Service: Use of new technologies	On-site advising
Grenada	United States	Labor Market Information System	Expert visit
Costa Rica	Argentina	Employment promotion: customer service	Expert visit
Peru	Brazil	Methodology to design employment and wage indicators based on an Electronic Form.	On-site advising
El Salvador	Argentina	Gender mainstreaming in the Ministry of Labor	On-site advising
Bolivia	Argentina	Child Labor	Expert visit

These proposals were 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 a first round of evaluation, each of the received proposals was graded based on these criteria and strictly on a technical standpoint. Subsequently, the most solid proposals were taken into consideration; it was verified that as many countries as possible were selected and that the less developed countries receive RIAL's support.

It is important to mention that in this Call the quality of the proposals improved greatly; mainly because of better justifications, clearer objectives, and better communication between the ministries involved. During the months that the Call for proposals remained open, as well as in the submission of proposals, we were able to observe that communication and collaboration among various ministries had been strengthened.

## RECEIVED PROPOSALS

Thirty seven proposals were received involving 18 Ministries of Labor: 7 as requesting institutions, 5 as providers and 6 participated as requesting and providing institutions simultaneously.

**Table No. 2 – Proposals received by country**

	Ministry of Labor	Requesting	Providing
1	Argentina	1	15
2	Bolivia	2	
3	Brazil		5
4	Canada		4
5	Chile		2
6	Colombia	5	2
7	Costa Rica	1	2
8	El Salvador	1	
9	United States		1
10	Grenada	1	
11	Guatemala	1	1
12	Honduras	1	
13	Mexico	2	2
14	Panama		1
15	Paraguay	2	
16	Peru	13	1
17	Dominican Republic	6	
18	Trinidad & Tobago	1	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>36*</b>

\*One proposal didn't specify a providing institution

Of the 37 proposals received, 30 complied with the 3 requirements: 1) Request form, 2) Letter from the requesting institution and 3) Letter from the providing institution, as such, they entered into the selection process.

The topics of the proposals received and selected can be found on Table 3. There is a balance between the proposals received in the areas of labor and employment; although the quality of the employment proposals was higher. This is mainly due to the justification that supported the employment proposals, showing a greater need for cooperation and assistance due to the newness of some issues and/or challenges that exist in this area.

**Table No. 3 – Proposals received and selected by topic**

Areas	Topics	Proposals received	Proposals selected
Labor	Labor inspection	1	
	Occupational health and safety	3	
	Application of fundamental rights	1	
	Child Labor	4	1
	Labor rights of migrant workers	1	
Employment	Employment policy and programs	1	1
	Employment services	4	3
	Gender programs	3	2
	Training and skills certification	2	
	Youth employment programs	1	1
Labor relations	Individual and collective dispute settlement	2	
Social Security	Improvement of the social security system	1	
Information and research	Data collection (Labor Market Information Systems)	7	2
Institutional strengthening	Organization and operation	2	
	Human Resources	3	
Other	Corporate Social Responsibility	1	
<b>Total</b>		<b>37</b>	<b>10</b>

## FUNDING

The 10 selected proposals, as decided by IACML authorities in 2012 Planning Meeting, will be funded by the RIAL Voluntary Contribution Fund, which as of today has received contributions from: Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Canada, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Suriname and Trinidad & Tobago. The Fund will cover travel expenses (airfare, accommodations and meals).

The governments of Argentina and Brazil will co-finance the activities that take place in their territory, covering costs for accommodations and meals.

The governments of Peru and Trinidad & Tobago will cover simultaneous interpretation costs of the on-site advising activities they will undertake in Brazil.

## NEXT STEPS

The activities of this fifth call for proposals must take place between June and December, 2012; and those that are not completed at the end of this period will be canceled.

The Technical Secretariat (DSDE/OAS) will send formal letters to the selected Ministries and their counterparts before May 25<sup>th</sup>, 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 respond 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 DSDE/OAS.

All information on this Call for proposals, is available in the RIAL's webpage: [www.rialnet.org](http://www.rialnet.org), which is permanently updated.

For any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us:

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