



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

### RESULTS OF THE 16<sup>th</sup> CALL FOR PROPOSALS

April 12, 2023

#### 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 a new exchange channel: virtual cooperations. As of 2023, the possibility of carrying out an in-person cooperation was opened on an exceptional basis and only for those cases in which the need for it could be justified.

To date, there have been 128 bilateral cooperation activities of the RIAL carried out with excellent impacts; 14 of them took place virtually.

The 16<sup>th</sup> RIAL Call for Bilateral Cooperation was open between January 20 and March 10, 2023, and 59 proposals were received, involving 16 Ministries of Labor. Out of these, 55 proposals met all the requirements and entered the selection process.

This document presents the selected proposals, details the selection criteria and the highlights of this Call, reviews the proposals received and the topics they cover, and presents next steps to undertake the virtual cooperation activities.

#### SELECTED PROPOSALS

In the 16<sup>th</sup> Call, 5 cooperation proposals were selected, to be carried out on-line.

Table No. 1 - Selected Proposals

<i>Requesting Ministry</i>	<i>Providing Ministry</i>	<i>Theme</i>
Dominican Republic	Argentina	Child Labor
Ecuador	México	Public Employment Services
Chile	Panamá	First Job " <i>Aprender Haciendo</i> "
St. Kitts and Nevis	Jamaica	Research and Statistics
Colombia	Uruguay	Formalization of paid domestic work



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
- Expected final product is clear and achievable through a virtual activity\*\*
- 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.

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 a broad representation of countries, and special consideration was given to relatively less-developed countries.

\*\* It should be noted that in this Call the possibility of carrying out a bilateral cooperation in-situ was once again opened, exceptionally and only for those cases in which the need for an in-person activity was justified, i.e. it was demonstrated that the objectives could not be achieved virtually. To this end, the Request Form included the following instruction in the objectives section: "if you consider the objectives can only be achieved through an in-person cooperation, please justify." Regardless of the answer to this question, the Secretariat evaluated the objectives and the final product of all the proposals received considering the possibility of fulfilling them in virtual cooperations. All the selected cooperations can achieve the expected product through virtual cooperations, following the methodology already established by the RIAL/OAS.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS CALL

- More proposals were received than the average of previous calls, 59 proposals vs. 47 on average, and involving a large number of countries. Also, the vast majority of proposals met all the requirements (93%) and entered the evaluation and selection process.
- The proposals presented covered a large number of the issues addressed by the labor administrations, as can be seen in Table No. 3. The number of requests received under Employment (25) issues stands out, reflecting the wide concern in the region for the consolidation of employment services, gender equality, and professional training, in line with the priorities expressed in the Declaration and Plan of Action of Buenos Aires, adopted in the XXI Inter-American Conference of Ministries of Labor of the OAS in 2021. It is worth mentioning that there



has been an increase in the proposals received related to gender equity (6), in comparison to previous years, which highlights the importance and work of the RIAL/GENDER in the region. Finally, there was an increase in interest in Labor issues (23) in relation to labor inspection together with occupational health and safety.

- In the proposals submitted, more than 92% of the provider institutions were identified through the RIAL Portfolio of Programs, which is online and open to the public at [www.rialnet.org](http://www.rialnet.org), demonstrating an increase of 2% compared to the previous Call.
- The Technical Secretariat held a bilingual webinar to address questions about the 16<sup>th</sup> Call, to assist countries in presenting their proposals and help them find the best partner for their cooperation requests (Matchmaking process). This time, we highlight the participation of 93 officials from 24 countries and the ILO.
- Among the Ministries of Labor that submitted proposals in this Call are some that in previous years have received virtual technical assistance, which reflects that their institutions have found this modality pertinent and useful.
- Finally, among the selected proposals, it is worth noting that the Caribbean is once again represented by the Ministry of Labor of St. Kitts and Nevis, which will receive a bilateral cooperation after 5 years, together with the Ministry of Labor and Social Security of Jamaica, who has participated as a provider institution most recently in 2018. On the other hand, the Ministry of Labor of the Dominican Republic will once again receive a bilateral cooperation after 13 years, together with the Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security of Argentina. Congratulations to these Ministries.

## PORTFOLIO OF PROGRAMS

The RIAL Portfolio of Programs was the tool through which most Ministries identified their partners; as it was highlighted previously, 92% of the providing institutions were identified through this platform. This shows the value of this database, as well as the importance of keeping it updated. It is important to highlight that the Portfolio currently counts with more than 200 programs from a great majority of the Ministries of Labor in the region and covering all of the areas of labor administration. All Ministries are welcome to upload new programs and update exiting ones. Inquiries regarding this matter can be addressed to [trabajo@oas.org](mailto:trabajo@oas.org).



## PROPOSALS RECEIVED

Table No.2 shows that 55 complete proposals were received involving 16 Ministries of Labor: 5 requesting, 4 providing, and 7 simultaneously requesting and providing.

Table No. 2 - Proposals received by country

<b>Propuestas recibidas por país</b> <i>Proposals received by country</i>			
	<i>Min.Trabajo Labor Min.</i>	<i>Solicitante Requestor</i>	<i>Proveedor Provider*</i>
1	Argentina	8	19
2	Chile	1	6
3	Colombia	5	7
4	Costa Rica	0	2
5	Ecuador	5	6
6	El Salvador	5	0
7	Guatemala	4	1
8	Honduras	3	0
9	Jamaica	0	2
10	México	0	7
11	Panamá	3	1
12	Paraguay	0	3
13	Perú	8	0
14	República Dominicana	10	0
15	St. Kitts and Nevis	2	0
16	Uruguay	1	1
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>55</b>
	Incomplete proposals (did not enter the selection process)	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>59</b>



Of the 59 proposals received, 55 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

<b>Tema / Subtema Topic / Subtopic</b>	<b>Propuestas recibidas / Proposals received</b>	<b>Propuestas seleccionadas / Proposals selected</b>
<b>Trabajo / Labor</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>2</b>
Inspección del Trabajo / <i>Labor Inspection</i>	8	
Trabajo Forzoso u Obligatorio / <i>Forced Labor</i>	2	
Salud y Seguridad Ocupacional / <i>Occupational Safety and Health</i>	8	
Trabajo infantil / <i>Child Labor</i>	3	1
Informalidad laboral y el trabajo no registrado / <i>Informality and non-registered work</i>	2	1
<b>Empleo / Employment</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>2</b>
Equidad de género / <i>Gender equity</i>	6	
Formación profesional y certificación de competencias / <i>Professional Training and Skills Certification</i>	4	
Inclusión Laboral de Grupos en Situación de Vulnerabilidad / <i>Labor Inclusion of Vulnerable Populations</i>	3	
Políticas y programas de empleo / <i>Employment policies and programs</i>	1	
Sistemas de información y observatorios de mercado laboral / <i>Labor market information systems and observatories</i>	1	
Servicios de Empleo / <i>Employment Services</i>	10	2
<b>Relaciones Laborales / Labor Relations</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>
Solución de conflictos individuales y colectivos / <i>Individual and collective conflict resolution</i>	2	
Negociación colectiva y libertad sindical / <i>Collective bargaining and freedom of association</i>	1	
<b>Gestión interna / Operations and management</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>
Organización y funcionamiento / <i>Operations and management</i>	3	1
Planeación estratégica / <i>Strategic Planning</i>	1	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>5</b>



## NEXT STEPS AND EXECUTION OF THE VIRTUAL ACTIVITIES

The activities of this 16<sup>th</sup> Call must take place virtually between the months of May to December 2023 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 sessions, the contents to be addressed, and the steps to prepare the final product.

The contents of each activity must respond to the objectives and the final product proposed by 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](http://www.rialnet.org), which is frequently updated.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions:

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