



VIRTUAL MEETING – Q&A SUMMARY

Introduction

The webinar of the **18th Call for Bilateral Cooperation of the RIAL-OAS** was held on January 24th, 2025, with the participation of more than 70 officials from 21 Ministries of Labor of the Americas.

The webinar focused on the requirements for the preparation of proposals, the contents of the request form, the selection criteria, as well as the steps to follow of the Call. There was also a match-making space, where Ministries could identify potential cooperation partners and establish links to develop and present proposals. Each Ministry and the Technical Secretariat will be following up on this particular aspect.

During the event, there were broad spaces for questions and answers. Below is a summary of the main points covered, as well as other matters that might be useful.

Questions & Answers

- 1. Is there a limit for the number of proposals per institution, either requesting or providing?**

There is no limit to the number of proposals per requesting or providing institution. Likewise, there is no limit regarding the language: the proposals could be in Spanish, English or bilingual.

- 2. Is it possible to request cooperation on a program that is not in the RIAL-OAS Portfolio of Programs?**

Of course! The RIAL-OAS Portfolio of Programs is just one of the tools for finding cooperation offers. To identify programs or providing institutions, please consult **point #2** of the [Guidelines of the 18th Call](#).

We encourage Ministries to upload new programs and/or update the existing ones in the Portfolio of Programs, using their username and password.

3. Is there a deadline for uploading new programs to the RIAL Portfolio or updating existing ones? Who is the official in charge of uploading/updating programs?

There is no deadline for uploading since it is open all year round. We encourage the focal points of each Ministry to make additions or modifications with their account and user (any questions can be directed to trabajo@oas.org).

4. Which official of the requesting Ministry oversees contacting the provider institution to evaluate the possibility of receiving assistance?

The focal points of each requesting Ministry are the ones who must communicate with the focal points of the provider Ministries. You can consult the List of focal points [here](#).

5. Can a requesting institution submit a proposal without the providing institution confirming its participation?

No, in case the application does not contain the letter of confirmation of cooperation by the providing institution, **the application will be considered incomplete and cannot enter the selection process.**

The Call seeks that Ministries cooperate from the moment they are completing the Request Form. It is crucial that the providing institution comprehends the needs and objectives, in order to decide if it is possible to support the requesting institution. To achieve this, the requesting institutions should complete a preliminary version of the Request Form and share it with the potential providing institutions.

6. Once the Request Form has been submitted, is there a 'remedy period'? For example, if we want to add/specify an objective of the proposal.

Once the application has been submitted (through the requesting country's Permanent Mission to the OAS), it immediately enters the evaluation process by the OAS. Therefore, **no changes can be made.** However, **during the Call period**, the Secretariat is fully available to resolve any inquiries via email trabajo@oas.org.

7. Are there only virtual activities or can they be hybrid? Is there any criteria to determine whether some activities are virtual and others in-person?

For this call, the cooperation activities will be **virtual**, considering the advantages that this modality presents. Only in exceptional cases, in-person or hybrid activities could be undertaken. It will be necessary to justify why the objectives could **only** be accomplished through this modality.

8. If the cooperation is in person or hybrid, does the RIAL help with travel expenses?

Yes, the RIAL has some resources to finance expenses.

9. If selected, is the number of virtual cooperation sessions restricted to 3 sessions? Could additional sessions be provided?

Yes, additional meetings can be provided depending on the needs of the cooperation and the elaboration of the final product.

10. How many Ministry officials can participate in each bilateral cooperation?

One of the advantages of virtual cooperation is that there is no maximum number of officials who can benefit of the sessions. However, for in-person cooperation, due to available resources, the maximum is limited to 3 participants.

We hope this webinar has helped clear up your doubts.

We are looking forward to receiving your cooperation proposals!