

RESULTS OF THE TENTH CALL FOR PROPOSALS

March 31st, 2017

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 Employment/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, 95 bilateral cooperation activities have been carried out with excellent results.

The tenth RIAL Call for Bilateral Cooperation was open between January 18th and March 15th, 2017, and received 41 proposals involving 20 Ministries of Labor (see Table 2).

Noteworthy in this Call, countries from all sub-regions of the Hemisphere participated and some countries that had not been active in previous years submitted proposals. In addition, new connections were made among Ministries, as countries that had not presented joint proposals in the past, did so during this Call. Proposals were, on average, technically very sound and very well supported, which shows an important learning curve on RIAL procedures. Proposals covered practically all areas of labor administration, as can be seen in Table 3. In the area of Employment, many proposals were submitted on active labor market policies.

SELECTED PROPOSALS

In the tenth Call (2017), 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

<i>Requesting Ministry</i>	<i>Providing Ministry</i>	<i>Theme</i>	<i>Type of Activity</i>
St. Kitts and Nevis	United States	Youth employment	On-site
El Salvador	Uruguay	Working conditions – Domestic work	Experts visit
Ecuador	Trinidad & Tobago	Employment services - Entrepreneurship	On-site
Paraguay	Argentina	Professional training	On-site
Chile	Costa Rica	Protection of migrant workers	Experts visit

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
- 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 10th Call, to assist countries in presenting their proposals and help them in the match-making process. A total of 18 countries participated and active communication and collaboration among the Ministries was evident.

PROPOSALS RECEIVED

As shown in Table No. 2, 41 proposals were received involving 20 Ministries of Labor: 6 requesting, 7 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		16
2	Brazil		3
3	Chile	2	2
4	Colombia	6	2
5	Costa Rica		1
6	Ecuador	6	3
7	El Salvador	1	
8	United States		2
9	Guatemala	1	
10	Honduras	1	
11	Jamaica	1	1
12	Mexico	6	3
13	Panama	3	1
14	Paraguay	3	2
15	Peru	9	
16	Dominican Republic		1
17	St. Kitts and Nevis	1	
18	Suriname	1	
19	Trinidad and Tobago		1
20	Uruguay		3
	TOTAL	41	41

Of the proposals received, 38 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	16	1
Combate la Discriminación / <i>Fight against discrimination</i>	2	
Condiciones de Trabajo / <i>Working conditions</i>	3	1
Informalidad laboral y trabajo no registrado / <i>Informality and non-registered work</i>	1	
Inspección del Trabajo / <i>Labor inspection</i>	3	
Salarios / <i>Salaries</i>	1	
Salud y seguridad ocupacional / <i>Occupational safety and health</i>	2	
Trabajo Infantil / <i>Child Labor</i>	4	
Empleo / Employment	15	4
Apoyo a la micro, pequeña y mediana empresa y otras unidades productivas / <i>Support to micro, small and medium enterprises and other production units</i>	1	
Empleo Juvenil / <i>Youth Employment</i>	3	1
Equidad de género / <i>Gender equity</i>	1	
Formación profesional y certificación de competencias / <i>Professional training and skills certification</i>	2	1
Migración Laboral / <i>Labor Migration</i>	1	1
Políticas y programas de empleo / <i>Employment policies and programs</i>	1	
Regímenes de seguro de desempleo / <i>Unemployment Benefit Schemes</i>	1	
Servicios de Empleo / <i>Employment services</i>	2	1
Sistemas de Información y observatorios de mercado laboral / <i>Labor market information systems and observatories</i>	3	
Seguridad social / Social Security	4	
Mejoramiento del sistema de seguridad social / <i>Improvement of Social Security Systems</i>	1	
Políticas y programas de seguridad social / <i>Social Security Programs and Policies</i>	3	
Relaciones Laborales / Labor Relations	6	
Negociación colectiva y libertad sindical / <i>Collective bargaining and freedom of association</i>	2	
Solución de conflictos individuales y colectivos / <i>Individual and collective conflict resolution</i>	4	
TOTAL	41	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 –airfare, accommodation and meals- 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 10th Call must take place between June and December 2017, 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.

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.

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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