



**ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES**  
Inter-American Council for Integral Development  
(CIDI)



**PLANNING MEETING OF THE AUTHORITIES**

**CIDI Ministerial Process - Labor**

May 22, 2020

Washington, D.C.

(Virtual Meeting)

OEA/Ser. L/XIX

CIDI/CIMT/RPA/doc.22/20

30 March 2020

Original: Spanish

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RESULTS OF THE THIRTEENTH CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR BILATERAL COOPERATION OF  
THE INTER-AMERICAN NETWORK FOR LABOR ADMINISTRATION (RIAL)

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

### RESULTS OF THE THIRTEENTH CALL FOR PROPOSALS

March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020

#### INTRODUCTION

*\*\*\* This RIAL Call finds the OAS member states and the world in general in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic. From the OAS we send our solidarity and support to all the members of the Network and their families. Likewise, with the approval of the authorities of the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (IACML), it was decided to adjust the number of proposals selected for 2020 to five (5) and make them during the second semester of 2020. If this could not be accomplished, the activities will be held in 2021, lifting the restriction imposed in other Calls to cancel activities that cannot be carried out within the year in which they were selected.*

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 on-site or experts visits, according to the place where they are held—whether in the country requesting assistance or in the one providing it. To date, 113 bilateral cooperation activities have been carried out with excellent results.

The 13<sup>th</sup> RIAL Call for Bilateral Cooperation was open between January 15<sup>th</sup> and March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020, and received 45 proposals involving 20 Ministries of Labor (see Table 2).

As can be seen in Table 3, the proposals covered practically all areas of labor administration, with an emphasis on issues related to the Labor area, especially the eradication of child labor and occupational health and safety. This is a marked difference with previous Calls, where the proposals were concentrated in the Employment area. Another important aspect of this Call is that more countries joined, with a greater presence of the English-speaking Caribbean

#### SELECTED PROPOSALS

In the 13<sup>th</sup> Call, 5 cooperation proposals were selected, in accordance with the resources available in the RIAL Voluntary Contribution Fund and as decided by IACML authorities.

Table No. 1 - Selected proposals

Requesting Ministry	Providing Ministry	Theme	Type of Activity
Bolivia	Colombia	Internal management – Monitoring and performance system	On-Site
Belize	Barbados	Occupational health and safety	Experts
Guatemala	Ecuador	Labor inclusion of people with disabilities	On-Site
Panama	Chile	Labor inspection and occupational safety in mining	On-Site
Argentina	Canada	Social security system	Experts

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
- Clarity and relevance of the participants' profiles
- 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, and to those that are receiving co-financing from the requesting institution

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 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 13<sup>th</sup> Call, to assist countries in presenting their proposals and help them in the match-making process. A total of 16 countries participated and active communication and collaboration among the Ministries was evident.

## PORTFOLIO OF PROGRAMS

The RIAL Portfolio of Programs was the tool through which most Ministries identified their partners. Out of the 45 proposals received, 28 of the providing institutions were identified through this online and open platform. This shows the value of this database, as well as the importance of keeping it updated. 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

As shown in Table No. 2, 45 proposals were received involving 20 Ministries of Labor: 6 requesting, 3 providing, and 11 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</i> <i>Min.</i>	Solicitante <i>Requestor</i>	Proveedor <i>Provider*</i>
1	Argentina	1	7
2	Barbados	2	1
3	Belize	1	-
4	Bolivia	2	-
5	Canada	-	2
6	Chile	1	4
7	Colombia	-	7
8	Costa Rica	2	2
9	Dominican Republic	4	-
10	Ecuador	7	3
11	Guatemala	3	1
12	Honduras	2	-
13	Jamaica	1	3
14	Mexico	2	9
15	Panama	1	3
16	Paraguay	6	1
17	Peru	7	-
18	St. Kitts & Nevis	2	-
19	Trinidad and Tobago	1	1
20	Uruguay	-	1
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>45</b>

Of the 45 proposals received, the broad majority (42) 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. This is an important advance compared to other Calls where a larger number of proposals was incomplete. 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</b>	<b>Propuestas recibidas / Proposals received</b>	<b>Propuestas seleccionadas / Proposals selected</b>
<b>Trabajo / Labor</b>	22	
Cumplimiento y difusión de la legislación laboral / <i>Enforcement and awareness of Labor Legislation</i>	1	
Trabajo Infantil / <i>Child Labor</i>	10	
Informalidad Laboral y trabajo no registrado / <i>Informality and non-registered work</i>	1	
Salud y seguridad ocupacional / <i>Occupational safety and health</i>	8	1
Inspección del Trabajo / <i>Labor inspection</i>	2	1
<b>Empleo / Employment</b>	15	
Formación profesional y certificación de competencias / <i>Professional training and skills certification</i>	4	
Servicios de Empleo / <i>Employment services</i>	3	
Sistemas de Información y observatorios de mercado laboral / <i>Labor market information systems and observatories</i>	3	
Migración Laboral / <i>Labor Migration</i>	1	
Equidad de género / <i>Gender equity</i>	2	
Inclusión laboral de grupos en situación de vulnerabilidad / <i>Labor Inclusion of vulnerable groups</i>	1	1
Empleo Juvenil / <i>Youth Employment</i>	1	
<b>Relaciones Laborales / Labor Relations</b>	5	
Solución de conflictos individuales y colectivos / <i>Individual and collective conflict resolution</i>	4	
Negociación Colectiva y Libertad Sindical / <i>Collective bargaining and freedom of association</i>	1	
<b>Seguridad social / Social Security</b>	2	
Mejoramiento del sistema de seguridad social / <i>Improvement of Social Security Systems</i>	1	1
Políticas y programas de seguridad social / <i>Social security programs and policies</i>	1	
<b>Gestión Interna / Management and Operations</b>	1	
Organización y funcionamiento / <i>Structure and operations</i>	1	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>5</b>

## 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 Virtual Meeting of Authorities in January 2019. The activities between Belize-Barbados and Panama-Chile will be financed specifically by the Canadian Project to support the RIAL.

According to the Guidelines of the Call for Proposals, the RIAL 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

*\*\*Steps indicated in this section may vary according to how the world emergency against Covid-19 continues to unfold.*

It is expected that activities of the 13<sup>th</sup> Call take place between August and December 2020, and, as indicated in the Introduction, those that cannot be completed, would take place in 2021.

Once the situation has returned to normal and there is certainty about the possibility of traveling between the countries of the region, 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. The activities are expected to include knowledge sharing on the responses given by the Ministries to the Covid-19 pandemic.

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](http://www.rialnet.org), which is frequently updated.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions:

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