

Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI)
Department of Social Development and Employment



Organización de los
Estados Americanos



Labor cooperation in the Americas

1. From traditional donor/recipient technical assistance to a broader concept of cooperation

**South-South
Cooperation**

Triangular Cooperation

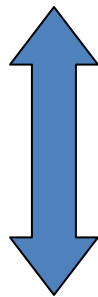
Partnerships

Mutual learning

Networks

2. Greater professionalization and strategic character

- Offices or areas of cooperation within Ministries of Labor
 - Recent creation / strengthening



How is this relationship
taking place?

CHALLENGE

- Cooperation agencies at the central level of government

3. Expanding horizon of providers and donors. Intra-regional emphasis

BEFORE (10 – 5 years)

- **Traditional**: Spain, U.S., Canada, Europe (GTZ)
- **Intraregional**: Sub-regional blocs (Mercosur, CAN)

TODAY

Traditional



Brazil, Argentina, Mexico,
and others in the Americas

Determined by:

- Labor cooperation agreements, FTAs (Canada, U.S.)
- Hemispheric cooperation and integration

4. Emphasis on institutional strengthening and capacity building

- **Consultation and ownership**: Institutions that request/receive cooperation participate in design and conception of project or assistance.
- **Resource allocation**: Before, more equipment and infrastructure. Now, more training, processes, systems, services.
- **Focus on results**: Measurable, tangible. **CHALLENGE**
- **Monitoring and sustainability**: Greater support and attention to sustainability in the medium and short term. **CHALLENGE**

5. Areas of cooperation: strategic or sporadic?

Traditionally defined by incumbent government without regard to institutional goals or planning

Today cooperation is intended to respond to planning and strategic priorities.

CHALLENGE



- Exchange allows the detection of programs' strengths and weaknesses – Make adjustments and improvements
- Increased human capital
- Improved technical skills and technologies
- Improved processes and services
- Structural design and redesign



Recommendations

How can labor cooperation promote more tangible and sustainable results, and how to make better use of assistance resources?

- Improved monitoring, maintaining partnerships in the medium term
- Achieve ownership of participating institutions (beyond the traditional critique of “recipe”-type solutions)
- Retention and promotion of staff involved.
- Align cooperation with national priorities – strategic goals