

More Decent Jobs in Peru: Strengthening Research and Policymaking Capacities

Centro de Investigaciones Sociales, Económicas, Políticas y Antropológicas (CISEPA) of the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú (PUCP)

Executive Summary

The main purpose of the project was to aid in strengthening the information-generating capacities for undertaking research and public policy decision-making in the field of labor. To this end, specific objectives were set in relation to a research agenda, the development of a labor information system, the opening up of spaces for the debate between the state and academia, and the development of research skills, especially in younger generations of economists specialized in labor issues.

During the course of the project, the involvement of the government featured extensively through coordination with the Ministry of Labor and Employment Promotion (MTPE) and the National Institute of Statistics and Information (INEI). In the case of the MTPE, this was undertaken directly through the Vice Ministry of Employment Promotion and Labor Training and the National Employment Directorate, while for the INEI, coordination occurred through with the Institute Management and the National Survey Directorate. Throughout the project, the Economic and Social Research Consortium (Consortio de Investigación Económica y Social - CIES) provided technical and administrative assistance in certain activities.

As regards the research agenda, the space for exchange between the MTPE and academia allowed for the establishment of research priorities that succeeded in placing emphasis on youth employment, to the extent that this became the overriding theme for three studies that were launched on request (following the CIES methodology). These studies were made possible by the resources that the IDRC (through the project) and the OIT (additional funding) put up. The three studies have now been completed, and are to be published in Peru's foremost specialist economics journal, the *Revista Economía*.

With respect to the spaces for exchange between academia and those in charge of public policies and programs, the project also contributed to the provision of a workshop on youth organized by IDRC and IPEA, in which numerous public officials from several countries in the region and from academia participated.

Training in applied research techniques was given to a significant number of young economists in the public sector and academia, thanks to the collaboration of CEDLAS and the Universidad de la Plata. Eight of the eighteen participants were MTPE technicians, while the remainder were young researchers from the most important research centers in Peru.

The project contributed to a Consultative Commission on Employment Promotion established by the MTPE, where the aim was to discuss priority themes for labor

policy, including the labor information system. With the INEI, the prospect of forming a Technical Committee on labor indicators was discussed. Though this has yet to be followed through, the interest and willingness on the part of the INEI could well result in its fruition. To this end, the set of indicators that the MTPE's Employment Directorate prepared a several months ago would constitute a significant input.

Dissemination products include a volume of *Revista Economía* in which three of the afore-mentioned studies and one of the papers from the Fourth CEL are published. Moreover, all of the materials from the Fourth CEL, as well as the workshop on youth held in Lima, are available online, while a video on youth will be submitted to the MTPE and the National Youth Council (Consejo Nacional de la Juventud).