Input Statement for Working Group 2:
“Sustainable Funding Mechanisms for Regional QA – Obstacles and Options”

Enhancing Quality Across Borders –
Regional Cooperation in Quality Assurance in Higher Education

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RPG Program
Key Features of the RPG Program

- **Innovative:** Only MFI to finance RPG projects.
- **New:** Created in 2004.
- **Demand-driven:** Countries can present proposals in ANY sector they consider important for cross-border cooperation.
- **Funding Mechanism:** Competitively through an annual Call For Proposals.
- **Size of Fund:** US$10 million per year (grants).
Objective of the RPG PROGRAM

Support the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in the collective design of solutions to issues that can only or more effectively and efficiently be addressed through regional cooperation.
How does the RPG PROGRAM promote regional cooperation?

Intervention in the Critical = Initial Stage

The Program:

✓ tries to correct disincentives for cooperation:
  ✓ lack of coordination
  ✓ adversity to risk investment (financial and human resources)
  ✓ free-riding;

✓ promotes and rewards dialogue among countries;

✓ serves as a clearinghouse for RPG ideas;

✓ supports the incubation of ideas.
What does the RPG Program finance?

- regional decision-making: meetings (present or virtual), workshops; technical inputs (studies).

- regional products: design of policy tools, institutional frameworks, and training modules; communication and dissemination mechanisms (websites).

- regional training (on a pilot base) to test regional products;

- regional coordination to ensure progress in regional decision-making.
Examples of RPGs

✓ regional protocol (to control Chagas disease in 8 countries of Latin America)

✓ regional framework (to conduct population censuses in the Caribbean)

✓ regional system (for food fortification in Central America)

✓ regional system (for disaster risk management in the Caribbean tourism sector).
Sustainability of RPG Projects

RPG Program:

✓ Aims at being the “spark plug” for regional cooperation;

✓ supports cooperation up to a point where benefits become clear, so as to keep the process going;

✓ helps create the institutional/regulatory framework for cooperation.

✓ mainstreams regional solutions inside and outside the IDB for further financing.
RPG PROGRAM: Education

Consolidation of the Network of Latin American Education Portals – US$2,150,000
Argentina, Bolivia, Brasil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, México, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela

Regional System to Assess and Develop Citizenship Competencies – US$1,500,000
Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama

Regional Engineering Accreditation System for the Greater Caribbean (in preparation- US$350,000)
Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Panama
Our Website

http://www.iadb.org/int/bpr