IDB
Inter-American Development Bank

Competitiveness, Technology and Innovation Division (IFD/CTI)

RG-E1546

Green Innovation in LAC: Patterns and Policies CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Title of the study:
Case studies on the diffusion of specific Green Innovation technologies in LAC

January, 2018

1. Justification and background

Green Innovation (GI) can play a central role to foster a new model of economic growth and development, where natural assets could continue to provide the resources and environmental services necessary for the well-being of present and future generations. GI (also referred to as eco-innovation, environmental innovation, or sustainable innovation) includes both the creation and commercialization of new frontier technologies more environmentally benign than relevant alternatives (on a life cycle basis), as well as the diffusion and adoption of greener technologies new to the firm (World Bank, 2012). The environmental benefit may be the primary goal or an unintended side-effect (OECD, 2011).

In Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), GI policy initiatives have been sporadic and heterogeneous in their form and execution (ECLAC, 2017), generally failing to achieve significant results. One of the reasons underlying this situation is the presence of various knowledge gaps in the area which limits the capacity of regional policymakers to design and implement effective interventions. LAC currently appears lagging behind other global regions with respect to monitoring and studying GI.

With the aim of generating new evidence on the magnitude of GI in the region and on relevant policy initiatives triggering GI, the IDB has launched the research project ESW RG-E1546 “Green innovation in LAC: patterns and policies”. The general objective of this project is to increase the understanding of green innovation (GI) creation, commercialization and diffusion in LAC, of its specific determinants and economic impact, as well as of the best

policy practices to trigger and promote GI. The project will finance the development of a research proposal and subsequent analysis of the diffusion of specific GI technologies (e.g. solar tiles, electric cars, etc.) in the LAC and the role of public policies in its commercial deployment.

2. Objectives

The general objective of this call for proposals is to better understand how green technologies have diffused in the region and to disentangle the role that public policies have had in their commercial deployment.

More specifically, this call for proposals aims at:

(1) Identifying at least 2 specific GI technologies with significant potential to impact environmental quality which have diffused widely (but have not nearly saturated the population of potential adoptees) in (one or more countries of) the region;

(2) Analyzing where and how these technologies have originated (e.g. if they are inside or outside the environmental domain), and if and how they have been readapted and tailored to the needs of the region;

(3) Understanding and characterizing the main drivers or obstacles to their diffusion;

(4) Pinpointing the positive (or negative) effects that environmental public policies have had in their commercial deployment, paying particular attention on how these policies have interacted with other policies developed in other domains;

(5) Understanding the institutional mechanisms, policies, and any other relevant mechanisms which can explain the observed GI technology diffusion patterns. The above-mentioned objectives must be addressed in different case studies, using sound qualitative research methods able to thoroughly identify the key drivers and barriers to the diffusion of specific GI technologies, catching nuances which quantitative exercises cannot fully disentangle.

3. Content of the proposals

In order to participate in this project, interested researchers and consultants should submit a technical proposal, in English, no longer than 5 pages, including:

1. A descriptive section that includes: (i) the specific GI technology and LAC country/ies of analysis; (ii) a general conceptual framework briefly explaining the mechanisms,

drivers and barriers of this GI technology diffusion; and (iii) how the investigation of the proposed GI technology diffusion is relevant to this call for proposals.

2. A background section that includes: i) the proposed methodological approach which will be used to conduct the case-study; and ii) the data to be used. A thorough description of the research design as well as of the methods used for data collection must be included in the proposal.

   If the data collection relies on interviews, it should include a description of the interview method, a list of topics to be covered and a preliminary list of potential interviewees. If the data is to be collected through a survey, the proposal should include a draft of the questionnaire and how this will be accomplished within the time frame of the current project. If the data to be used relies (fully or in part) on data already available, the proposal should include a description of the its content, details on the access status, and any other relevant information.

3. A final section providing a preliminary view to the nature of the findings that the study will yield and potential policy applications.

4. CV of the research team (in a separate annex) indicating a team leader, showing current affiliation and publication record and highlighting any publications that are relevant to the topic at hand (2 pages maximum per researcher).

5. A budget and timeframe (in a separate annex) indicating the resources that will be used within the context of the research work plan. The proposed budget should distinguish between items financed by the IDB (the Bank) and those financed by the research team. The proposed timeframe should take into account that a first draft of the paper, containing preliminary results, should be ready by June 2018.

Final papers will be disseminated as IDB technical notes or working papers and are expected by September/October 2018.

4. Products and Schedule of activities

The tentative schedule of activities is as follows:

January 22, 2018: Call for research proposals issued.

February 25, 2018: Due date for receiving proposals. Proponents should ensure that complete documentation is submitted. Complete documentation includes: the research proposal (up to five pages), CVs (up to two pages per researcher involved), budget and timeframe. Send proposals electronically to *greeninnovationinlac@iadb.org*. Any inquiries

relative to this call can also be sent to the same e-mail address.

March 5, 2018: Announcement of selected research proposals.

June 30, 2018: Due date for receiving a 1st draft of the research paper.

September 30, 2018: Due date for receiving the 2nd draft including comments to the first draft.

October/November, 2018: Seminar in a venue and day to be determined to present and discuss the different studies and findings.

5. Evaluation of the proposals

The evaluation team will be coordinated by Matteo Grazzi (IFD/CTI) and Simone Sasso (IFD/CTI), with the collaboration of an external principal scientific advisor.

6. IDB Contribution

The IDB will contribute **up to US$12,000** for each selected study proposal. The payment schedule will be structured as follows:

10% at the signature of the formal agreement between the IDB and the researcher/s.

50% upon approval by the Bank of the first draft of the research paper.

40% upon approval by the Bank of the final research paper.

7. References

World Bank, 2012. *Green growth, technology and innovation*. Washington, DC: World Bank.

OECD, 2011. *Better Policies to Support Eco-innovation. OECD Studies on Environmental Innovation*. Paris: OECD Publishing.

ECLAC, 2017. *Ecoinnovación y producción verde. Una revisión sobre las políticas de América Latina y el Caribe.* Santiago: United Nations Publications.