

## **REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

### **Consulting Services: Skills analysis on the Circular Economy, Creative Economy and Construction Sector in Latin America and the Caribbean**

Selection #: RG-T3688-P001

Selection Method: Simplified Competitive Process

Country: *Regional*

Sector: *Science and Technology*

Funding – TC #: *ATN/OC-18268-RG*

Project #: *RG-T3688*

TC name: *Supporting LAC Creative Industries to Recover from the COVID-19 Pandemic.*

Description of Services: *The objective of this consultancy is to provide a skills analysis in the Circular Economy, Creative Economy and Construction Sector, in at least three countries of Latin America and the Caribbean including Chile.*

Link to Technical Cooperation document: <https://www.iadb.org/en/project/RG-T3688>

#### *Services Description:*

In that context, the objective of this consultancy is to provide a skills analysis in the Circular Economy, Creative Economy and Construction Sector, in at least three countries of Latin America and the Caribbean including Chile.

The consulting firm will for the three selected set of industries:

- (i) identify and segment relevant skills,
- (ii) quantify demand for those skills from the industry and the public sector over the past five years, and
- (iii) compare the results to a benchmark composed of leading countries, identifying relevant gaps.

The study may rely on online job ads data available throughout the region, to measure the skill demand.

For the development of this project, the Competitiveness, Technology and Innovation Division (“CTI”) of the Inter-American Development Bank is looking for a firm with international experience in job market analytics and knowledge in the relevant sectors.

Important: the firm will have the support of local public programs involved in promoting all three sectors for the roll out of activities and coordination of interactions with key stakeholders of the sector if needed.

Amount of the contract: USD\$ 90,000

## Context:

### Creative Economy

The creative economy is defined as the group of activities through which ideas are transformed into cultural and creative goods and services, whose value is or could be protected by intellectual property rights.

Therefore, the creative economy includes activities related to three main concepts: (i) traditional and artistic activities, which preserve and transmit the material and immaterial cultural heritage of a society (e.g., visual arts, performing arts, crafts, publishing, etc.); (ii) creative industries, where the value of the final output is mainly due to its creative content (e.g., interior design, videogames, advertising, fashion, etc.); and (iii) activities of creative support, which are part of the value chains of other industries (e.g., product design, marketing, etc.).

There is increasing consensus among policymakers and practitioners of the potential of the creative economy as a development tool. However, statistics and research available on the creative economy in LAC are still scarce and often insufficient to design solid policy to promote the sector. Demand for skills in these industries is very changing, generating a constant mismatch between knowledge and training provided by formal education and those needed in the market. Fine-grained information to better understand the gap existing between the demand and offer of human capital for these industries is crucial to design fine-tuned policies and facilitate the generation and adoption of new business models for the post-COVID-19 scenarios.

### Circular Economy

The circular economy can be defined as an economy where the value of products, materials and resources is maintained (or regenerated) for as long as possible, and the generation of waste is minimized. In contrast to the 'take-make-waste' linear model, the circular one is regenerative by design and aims to gradually decouple growth from the consumption of finite resources. Therefore, the circular economy approach fosters green innovation and encourages the development of business models which reduce inputs and re-use products and materials, creating value instead of (non-recyclable) waste.

The environmental goods and services industry consists of activities which produce goods and services to measure, prevent, limit, minimize or correct environmental damage to water, air and soil, as well as problems related to waste, noise and eco-systems. This includes cleaner technologies, products and services that reduce environmental risk and minimize pollution and resource use.<sup>1</sup>

Despite the traction that the circular economy concept has recently gained, significant work is required to move from idea to action, especially in Latin America and the Caribbean. In particular, there is still a lack of data and studies as to what skills are most needed to promote circular activities which is central to maximize the potentials of the circular economy and design appropriate policy instruments.

### Construction Sector

The construction sector<sup>2</sup> contributes USD 338,000 million to the regional GDP of Latin America<sup>3</sup> and is

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<sup>1</sup> See [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/enveco/eco\\_industry/pdf/annex1.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/enveco/eco_industry/pdf/annex1.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> The construction sector includes housing, social infrastructure and economic infrastructure

<sup>3</sup> [Study](#) of the Interamerican Federation of the Construction Industry (FIIC) 2019 based on 2017 data from the International Monetary Fund and ECLAC

a sector of great economic importance in the countries of the region with an average contribution to national GDP reaching 6.2% and around 20 million people employed. Nonetheless, despite its economic and strategic importance, the sector suffers from a serious problem of productivity and growth while it is estimated that the investment in productive infrastructure in LAC requires an additional 2% to 2.5% of GDP per year to close the existing gap with developed economies.

The introduction of new processes, mostly based on digital technology and collaborative methodology, is critical to make this industry more productive and therefore help close the infrastructure gap more efficiently. One example is the introduction of the Building Information Modeling methodology 4 (“BIM”), as the cornerstone of construction digitization. It has demonstrated significant impacts in terms of costs and overrun reduction, productivity increase, transparency improvement and traceability of processes, as well as a substantial improvement in the quality and sustainability of built assets and processes of assets operation.<sup>5</sup>

Reaching a fast and nimble modernization of the construction sector, depends heavily on the ability of countries to upskill and reskill their workforce. While traditional construction methods rely on paper based and segmented work, new processes demand digital and collaborative skills. Identifying those skills and aligning training programs to supply at scale the industry needs is crucial for countries to enter the construction 4.0 area.

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) is executing the above-mentioned operation. For this operation, the IDB intends to contract consulting services described in this Request for Expressions of Interest. Expressions of interest must be delivered using the IDB Portal for Bank Executed Operations ( <http://beo-procurement.iadb.org/home> ) by: **May 26<sup>th</sup> 2021, at 5:00 P.M. (Washington D.C. Time)**.

Eligible consulting firms will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the Inter-American Development Bank: [Policy for the Selection and Contracting of Consulting firms for Bank-executed Operational Work](#) - GN-2765-1. All eligible consulting firms, as defined in the Policy may express an interest. If the Consulting Firm is presented in a Consortium, it will designate one of them as a representative, and the latter will be responsible for the communications, the registration in the portal and for submitting the corresponding documents.

The IDB now invites eligible consulting firms to indicate their interest in providing the services described below in the [draft summary](#) of the intended Terms of Reference for the assignment. Interested consulting firms must provide information establishing that they are qualified to perform the Services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.). Eligible consulting firms may associate in a form of a Joint Venture or a sub-consultancy agreement to enhance their qualifications. Such association or Joint Venture shall appoint one of the firms as the representative.

Interested eligible consulting firms may obtain further information during office hours, 09:00 AM to 05:00

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<sup>4</sup> The BIM is a set of methodologies, technologies and standards that allow to design, build and operate a building or infrastructure collaboratively in a virtual space. That is, on the one hand, technologies allow generating and managing information through three-dimensional models throughout the life cycle of a project. On the other hand, the methodologies, based on standards, allow to share this information in a structured way among all the involved actors, promoting collaborative and interdisciplinary work, thus adding value to the processes of the industry

<sup>5</sup> In 2011, the United Kingdom set a goal of reducing the cost of public sector assets by up to 20% through a mandate that requires a minimum BIM Level 2 in all public projects. It is estimated that a cost reduction of US \$ 3 billion was achieved in the 2011/2015 period. The goals for 2025 include a cost reduction of 33%, construction times of 50% and a productivity improvement of 20%.

PM, (Washington D.C. Time) by sending an email to: Pauline Henriquez, ([paulineh@iadb.org](mailto:paulineh@iadb.org)), Specialist of the Competitiveness, Technology and Innovation Division (IFD/CTI).

Inter-American Development Bank

Division: Competitiveness, Technology, and Innovation Division (IFD/CTI).

Attn: *Pauline Henriquez, Team Leader*

1300 New York Ave, NW, Washington DC 20577, USA

E-mail: [paulineh@iadb.org](mailto:paulineh@iadb.org)

Web site: [www.iadb.org](http://www.iadb.org)

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

### **Skills analysis on the Circular Economy, Creative Economy and Construction Sector in Latin America and the Caribbean**

#### **1. Scope of services**

The objective of this consultancy is to provide a skills analysis in the Circular Economy, Creative Economy and Construction Sector, in at least three countries of Latin America and the Caribbean including Chile.

#### **2. Key activities**

**Work Plan.** Submit a work plan, describing activities, tasks, and allocation of resources over a gantt chart or calendar.

**Define the scope of the analysis.** Provide a framework of jobs and related occupations in the three industries. Note: this framework will be developed and validated with/by relevant local public institutions and the CTI team.

**Identify, select and segment skills.** Selected skills will combine technical skills most relevant to specific industries and soft skills. It will entail cross-cutting skills and occupation-specific skills. Note: the selection and segmentation of skills will be developed and validated with/by relevant local public institutions and the CTI team.

**Assess skills demand and gaps.** Analyze the evolution of demand for the selected skills over the past five years and quantify current demand gaps in selected countries.

**International comparison.** Compare previous results with an international benchmark of at least two countries leaders in the specific industries (such as the United States and UK for the construction sector and creative industry, Canada and Scandinavian countries for the circular economy and the US).

### **3. Experience**

For the development of this project, the Competitiveness, Technology and Innovation Division (“CTI”) of the Inter-American Development Bank is looking for a firm with at least 4 years of relevant experience in job market analytics and specific knowledge in the relevant sectors.