

TERMS OF REFERENCE

METHODOLOGIES TO MEASURE PRODUCTIVITY IN SURINAME

I. BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION

The purpose of the work under the Terms of Reference is to produce a methodological framework that will support the measurement of productivity in the Surinamese economy. The framework will provide practical guidance to Suriname's Centre for Innovation and Productivity (CIP) on how to measure productivity.¹ The CIP is seeking to organize an integrated and coherent approach to the measurement of productivity and to promote awareness and a better understanding of productivity issues. The CIP will also support the formulation of evidence-based policy recommendations concerning productivity improvements, particularly for firms in Suriname. This framework will also address the urgent need to fill the gap for gathering relevant data that is needed to measure productivity in Suriname.

The work to be performed under the Terms of Reference is part of the technical assistance that the International Labour Organisation (ILO) is providing to Suriname for the implementation of the Centre for Innovation on productivity (CIP). This work started in 2019 when the ILO prepared an assessment of the enabling business environment (EASE) that addressed external factors affecting business productivity in Suriname. In June 2021 the Monitoring Committee of the Suriname Decent Work Country Programme adopted the findings of the EASE assessment and Tripartite constituents agreed on action plans. In this context, the Government of Suriname requested the ILO technical assistance to support the implementation of the CIP. The topic of productivity also forms part of the 3d Decent Work Country Program (DWCP) which is currently under preparation by national stakeholders and the ILO. Productivity has thus become a strategic topic in the DWCP for Surinam.

The ILO has already started to discuss, with the tripartite stakeholders of the Board of the CIP, the initial activities of this support programme. A key activity will be the definition of the methodologies to measure productivity.

II. GOAL

The goal is to produce a framework to define the measurement of productivity in the Surinamese economy, according to the main measures that are used for such purpose. The framework will present practical approaches to measure productivity and identify the variables that are needed to make estimations of productivity, including overall estimations for the national economy and relevant sector-level estimations according to the structure of the economy. It will articulate a framework that is based on best international best practices and recognize its implementation within the institutional characteristics and capacity of Suriname. It will propose a clear, practical, and technically consistent definition of productivity, and define the measuring of productivity in consistency with the definition of productivity.

The practical use of the methodology is to provide input for the preparation of annual reports and different materials concerning productivity in Suriname.

¹ It should be noted that other actors within the ecosystem of institutions and programmes have important tasks and responsibilities over certain issues that will be addressed under this work, including, for example, the data collection, analysis, and publication. Coordination will be established with such institutions and players to ensure coherence and close cooperation.

III. RESULTS TO BE DELIVERED

i. A full framework to measure productivity issues for Suriname.

The framework will be presented in the form of a well-structured manual for practical use by the CIP. It will be accompanied with clear and explicit technical annexes, describing the methodologies with clarity, explicit and detailed technical specifications, and will be tested to ensure that it is feasible and implementable.

The basic tasks to be performed should consider a focalized literature review concerning the measurement of productivity in developing countries, with the purpose only of identifying the practical background for the consideration of proposing an adequate and suitable approach for Suriname. The proposal should consider key lay groundwork that has been produced on the topic, for example, the OECD's Manual on Measuring Productivity of Aggregate and Industry-Level², the OECD Compendium of Productivity Indicators³, and Towards Improved and Comparable Productivity Statistics - A Set of Recommendations for Statistical Policy.⁴ It will also be important to take into consideration key practical examples of countries implementing approaches to measure productivity⁵ and propose a framework that considers these issues.

The framework that will be proposed will be based on the examination of Suriname's economic structure, available data from the National Bureau of Statistics, an assessment of the need to produce additional data based on the insufficiency of national statistical data, an evaluation of a few selected and relevant best practices of other developing countries, consultations with key domestic stakeholders, and any other technical matters that need to be considered. Emphasis needs to be placed on the different aspects and feasibility of the collection of data (approaches, periodicity, responsible agencies, among other issues) based on the local capacities, and progressive capacity building over time.

Additional deliverables will also include:

- ii. a full PowerPoint presentation of the methodological framework.
- iii. a virtual (e.g., Zoom) presentation of the framework to domestic and international stakeholders.
- iv. all necessary software to make the framework operational in electronic form.

IV. ACTIVITIES OF THIS PROJECT

The work to be performed under this project will be focused on twelve weeks of work with high-level milestones and activities. The work will be adapted to take into consideration intermediary progress and learnings from what is adding the most value to the effort in terms of both process (e.g., meetings) and substance (e.g., focus areas to go deeper into).

² See <https://www.oecd.org/sdd/productivity-stats/2352458.pdf>

³ See <https://www.oecd.org/employment/oecd-compendium-of-productivity-indicators-22252126.htm>

⁴ See <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/docserver/1ae0ec74-en.pdf?expires=1666099255&id=id&accname=guest&checksum=5FBCCFF33F69A758946A7E0973A456B>

⁵ The following provides only few illustrations:

https://cmsignition.co.za/download/files_1268/2021_Productivity_Statistics_Presentation.pdf

<https://www.singstat.gov.sg/find-data/search-by-theme/economy/labour-employment-wages-and-productivity/latest-data>

<http://kostat.go.kr/attach/journal/9-2-8.PDF>

V. ENGAGEMENT MODEL AND TEAM STRUCTURE

To drive this effort the Service Provider team will leverage the resources of a technical team and leadership that includes professionals with qualifications in quantitative methods, economics, and productivity issues. The staff of the Service Provider will have a hands-on review of the content on a weekly basis to drive the thinking and bring forward the resources to produce insights into the effort ensuring quality and stress-testing the frameworks and recommendations on an ongoing basis.

The ILO will accompany the work indicated above through discussions, exchanges, comments and any suggestions of inputs that may consider useful.

DURATION OF THE CONTRACT

Start date: TBD

End date: TBD

WHAT IS REQUESTED AND EXPECTED FROM THE OFFERS

In applying for this consultancy, it is expected to receive:

- A technical offer outlining the understanding of the assignment and timeframe**
- A financial offer with details on daily fees and number of days**
- The CV(s) of the participant(s)**

The application is to be sent to by 25 November 2022, to Mario Berrios at the following email address berrios@ilo.org