CALL FOR PAPERS

IV REDLAS CONFERENCE
SERVICES, NATURAL RESOURCES AND TRADE PATTERNS IN LATIN AMERICA
27-28 May 2015, Montevideo, Uruguay

Local organisers: dECON, FCS, UdelaR, ORT University
In co-operation with ECLAC, IADB and UNCTAD

Deadline: April 1st, 2015

The Latin American Network for Research on Services (REDLAS) (www.redlas.net) is a community of researchers and specialists who are actively involved in services research and policy making. Members come from a wide range of backgrounds (business administration, economics, political science and sociology). The majority are based at universities or research institutions whilst others work in the government, international organizations or private sector. REDLAS has organised three conferences in Brazil (2010), Chile (2012) and Mexico (2014). REDLAS is an Association with legal standing in Chile and is supported by the European Association for REsearch on SERvices (RESER) (www.reser.net).

The central theme for the fourth REDLAS conference is to analyse how services can add value to the production and exports of natural resources in Latin America and the Caribbean. Incorporating services into goods trade allows for differentiation and consolidation in accessing new markets and providing growth in domestic value-added with higher skills and employment. It is a productive strategy that can achieve similar results in terms of creating greater domestic employment compared with conventional alternatives that focus on increasing production levels and industrial processing.

Incorporating value from services is particularly relevant for products intensive in natural resources, as these products dominate exports of Latin American countries, especially those in South America. The region plays a key role in the world market of several of these products (in particular mining and food), providing a sufficient scale for incorporating service related activities (specialised business services) and creating new types of trade specialisation. The incorporation of services into commodities (“servicification”) is a complementary approach to their industrial processing. Both strategies yield simultaneous benefits in terms of employment creation, technical progress, product diversification and
quality improvement. Services also play a key role in the technological upgrading of value chains created in or around natural resources.

Within this context, this Call for Papers invites researchers to submit a paper for one of the four following tracks (see Annex A), which may be considered as maturity stages regarding the incorporation of services into natural resources:

a) **Infrastructure services and commodity exports.**

b) **Incorporation of specialised services to upgrade (processed) natural resources.**

c) **Development of specialised services linked to exports of (processed) commodities.**

d) **Public policies for the development of specialized service providers.**

Papers must be submitted electronically before April 1st, 2015 (redlas@decon.edu.uy). The best papers will receive partial financial support to participate at the conference. On April 15th we will notify the authors on the accepted papers for presentation at the conference.

On the day after the conference, PhD and Master’s students working on themes related to the conference will have the opportunity to present their work. Special consideration will be given to papers which focus on the main themes B) and C). Papers should be submitted before March 15th to dolopez@uchile.cl. The best presentation will receive an award.

The academic selection committee for the papers of the main conference includes: Jorge Arbache (University of Brasilia); Pablo García (IADB); Gabriel Gari (Queen Mary, London); Alfredo Hualde (Colegio de la Frontera Norte, Mexico); Nanno Mulder (CEPAL); Maria Savona (University of Sussex), Karina Stark (Duke University); Marcel Vaillant (Universidad de la República, Uruguay) and Isidoro Hodara (Universidad ORT, Uruguay).

The selection committee for student presentations includes Dorotea Lopez (University of Chile); Felipe Muñoz (University of Chile) and Francisco Prieto (University of Chile).

Local organizers: Marcel Vaillant (dECON, Universidad de la República); Isidoro Hodara (Universidad ORT).