



## Latin America and the Caribbean

# Quality Infrastructure for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

**Objective** The project aims to strengthen the capabilities of regional Quality Infrastructure (QI) organizations, namely the InterAmerican Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC), the InterAmerican Metrology System (SIM) and the Pan American Standards Commission (COPANT) along with their national members to provide demand orientated services in selected fields of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency and contribute to the implementation of national and regional energy policies.

**Approach** The project implements activities in Latin America and the Caribbean. It includes particular components to support partner institutions in Central America and the Andean region. The focus is set on four core topics that reflect the jointly identified priorities: quality assurance for photovoltaic and solar thermal energy, capacity building for smart grids, strengthening of reliable determination and certification (e.g. labelling) of the energy efficiency of electrical household appliances and raising awareness of the significant role of QI services in this field.

The key means of capacity and institutional building are the provision of short term experts for consultancy work and training measures, the support of seminars and awareness raising events and the facilitation of dialogues to support know-how transfer between regional and national QI institutions, policy makers and international experts.

**Impact** In order for governments, companies and consumers to invest in renewable energies and energy-efficient appliances, these technologies need to be reliable and of assured quality. Therefore, a functioning QI with trustworthy and internationally recognized capabilities and certification and testing services is an important prerequisite for the use of renewable energy sources and the implementation of energy efficiency programs. It enables technology improvement based on reliable measurements and helps to increase confidence in the efficiency, reliability and endurance of new technologies such as photovoltaic and solar thermal power plants. The consumer will benefit from more reliable information on the energy consumption of electrical appliances. Enhanced capacities to measure energy characteristics enable more efficient management of the grids for the transmission and distribution of electrical energy.

Harmonized regulations (mandatory) and standards (voluntary) on the energy efficiency of appliances or renewable energy equipment reduce technical barriers to trade, promote regional integration as well as cross-border trade in products, and facilitate the integration of Latin American and Caribbean countries into global markets.

Increased availability of recognized QI services contributes to the competitiveness of industry in the region, especially for small and medium-sized enterprises by making it easier for manufacturers to produce and to market more reliable energy-efficient appliances and renewable energy equipment.

**Cooperation** The project is supported by strategic partners with regard to energy policy issues, namely the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and the Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE).

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**Contact** Organization of American States (OAS)

César Parga  
+1 202 458 6195  
cparga@oas.org

Comisión Panamericana de Normas Técnicas (COPANT)  
Kory Eguino  
+591 2 277 4517  
keguino@copant.org

InterAmerican Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC)  
Victor Gandy  
+52 155 3901 5749  
secretariat@iaac.org.mx

Sistema Interamericano de Metrología (SIM)  
Claire Saundry  
+301 975-2386  
claire.saundry@nist.gov

Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt

Franziska Kamm                      Regina Pöhlmann  
+49 531 592-8267                      +49 531 592-8258  
franziska.kamm@ptb.de              regina.poehlmann@ptb.de

Strategic Partners

