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Technology Screening

Instruction manual for exploring and assessing the potential for societal value creation of a technology in relation to the UN SDG Goals

Full access to the complete toolkit is provided to members of our Clearing House community. Join our Community of Practitioners to learn more: https://impactlicensing.eu/cop-registration-form

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Table of contents

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1 Introduction

The technology screening instrument is designed to assess a technology's potential to generate societal value. It follows a structured methodology through four workshops with the technology holder. The instrument serves two main purposes: first, to inform the decision-making process between the clearing house and the technology holder on whether to pursue a technology transfer agreement; and second, to lay the groundwork for a collaborative design process with stakeholders to develop an intervention logic and theory of change. This approach integrates two paradigms: a deficit paradigm, which addresses societal needs through technological solutions, and an emergence paradigm, which supports collaborative learning and discovery of how the technology might create value in the future. As such, the technology screening instrument and its methodology live up to the ethos of the Impact Licensing Initiative: embedding technology into a flourishing society while ensuring that communities themselves decide how this should unfold.

2 Objectives of the Technology Screening Instrument

The technology screening instrument is designed to explore the societal value creation potential of a technology by assessing its capability to address challenges outlined in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs). It provides a structured approach for technology holders to align their technological innovations with societal needs, ensuring effective deployment and creating societal value.

The key objectives of the screening tool include:

1. Comprehensive Asset Assessment

    - Identify and analyse both tangible and intangible assets within the organisation of the technology holder that can support the deployment of the technology to create societal value in an economic sustainable way
    - Ensure a full understanding the resources available for value creation, including technical know-how, financial assets, intellectual property (IP), and resourceful humans.

2. Technology Capability and Materiality Analysis

    - Assess the materiality of the technology in relation to pressing UN SDG challenges, determining its potential to drive societal value creation and systems change.
    - Establish a clear causal link between the technology's functionalities and its ability to address critical global challenges defined within impact domains, such as climate change, healthcare, education, or digital inclusion.

3. Market Segmentation for Societal Value Creation

    - Identify potential market segments where the technology can be effectively deployed for societal value creation, considering both commercial and non-commercial pathways.
    - Evaluate high-level opportunities for public-private partnerships, policy integration, and impact-driven investment to facilitate large-scale embedding through society driven adoption and continued innovation.

4. Strategic Alignment with Technology Owner's Goals

    - Clarify the technology owner's intentions when engaging in a societal value creation strategy, whether it be policy influence, social impact, financial sustainability, enhanced stakeholder engagement, or other
    - Provide a decision-support framework to guide strategic choices in licensing, partnerships, and deployment models for maximum societal return.

By leveraging this technology screening instrument, technology holders can ensure that their technologies are not only commercially viable but also contribute meaningfully to global sustainability efforts, optimising their Social Return on Asset (SROA) through targeted impact licensing strategies.

3 Structure of the Technology Screening Instrument

The technology screening instrument is structured around three workshops focused on assessing the societal value creation potential of the technology, followed by a final workshop in which the strategic interest for a technology owner in societal value creation is evaluated. Each workshop follows its own distinct methodological framework.

Workshop 1: Technology

The **Technology & IP Asset Identification Framework (TIAIF)** is a structured methodology for identifying, categorising, and evaluating all tangible and intangible assets acquired by an organisation to develop and advance a technology. This framework encompasses a wide range of assets, including patents, trade secrets, prototypes, software, technical documentation, data, proprietary methods, and research findings. TIAIF aims to provide a comprehensive view of the organisation's technological and intellectual property holdings, mapping these assets to their Technology Readiness Levels (TRL) to assess their stage of development and technology transfer potential.

Workshop 2: Intentionality

An SDG Solution-Set Map for a technology in impact licensing constitutes a strategic framework that systematically aligns the technology with pertinent Sustainable Development Goals and addresses critical societal challenges. It provides an analytical approach to identifying the potential applications of the technology in mitigating global issues. Functioning as a decision-support tool, the map delineates the technology's capacity to contribute to the advancement of the SDGs, thereby informing the formulation of social impact licensing strategies and societal value creation initiatives.

Workshop 3: Additionality

The **Target Group Scoping Analysis** is a comprehensive tool designed to evaluate and identify the most suitable market segments for a technology's impact licensing strategy. It systematically examines the technology's potential to address societal needs, assesses market segmentation, and determines the relevant target groups for social impact. This tool helps organisations understand the unmet needs of different populations, ensuring that the technology is directed towards those who will benefit most. By mapping these groups and their specific requirements, the tool enables the development of a targeted, tiered market strategy that promotes equal access and maximises social impact through licensing opportunities.

In the final workshop, the goal is to present the outcomes of the three technology workshops and evaluate the strategic alignment between technology owners and the societal value creation of their technologies, with a focus on working for good, impact and fair economic returns. The workshop will assess how effectively the technology owners' goals align with the opportunities and strategies for licensing their intellectual property, based on the insights gained from the previous technology workshops.

Workshop 4: Return on Asset

The **Strategic Fit Assessment Framework for Technology Valorisation** is designed to evaluate the alignment between a technology owner's goals and the potential for creating shared value through impact licensing, ensuring consistency with both business and societal impact objectives. The framework aims to optimise Return on Assets (ROA) while promoting shared value through frugal and open innovation, where the technology is adapted or enhanced to deliver both societal benefits and economic returns.
Additionally, the assessment identifies how well the strategy aligns with Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) trends within the organisation, ensuring that impact licensing not only supports business goals but also advances broader societal objectives. The framework also examines how the licensing strategy can strengthen stakeholder relationships by enhancing brand loyalty, boosting employee satisfaction, and fostering a sense of purpose within the organization. Furthermore, it explores the potential benefits of designing incentives that effectively balance risk and reward, encouraging technology valorisation in new, untapped markets beyond the organization's core strategy.

Together, the four workshops will contribute to the development of two key outputs:
The **Term Sheet for the Impact Licensing Agreement**, and the **Technology Intervention Profile**.

Impact Licensing Term Sheet	**The impact licensing term sheet** allows to indicate all conclusions from the workshop that have materiality with the impact licensing agreement. The term sheet follows the same structure as the impact licensing builder (see instrument 2).
The Target Intervention Profile	**The Target Intervention Profile (TIP)** Framework is a structured framework for identifying the design requirements necessary for innovation and product development that drive societal impact. It identifies the design requirements that solutions are developed with a deep understanding of societal needs, a robust theory of change, and adaptability to the user settings of the societal market while aligning with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. (See Annex II)

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