Over the last two decades, the offshoring of manufactures has taken a back seat to that of services, since the demand for more advanced services has grown substantially in technical and administrative areas. Reasons behind the rise of service offshoring are the liberalization of trade, economic and regulatory reforms, technological advances in communication and digitalization, and the new commercialization of certain goods. Nowadays, an important proportion of exchanges of knowledge-intensive services corresponds to the offshoring of research, development and innovation (R&D&I) activities, which are decisive for the economic growth and development of countries. In this respect, the March 2005 OECD Forum on the Internationalization of R&D already recognized the internationalization of R&D as a crucial feature of globalization with a major impact on economic development and public policy.

From a firm’s point of view, the internationalization of R&D activities implies substantial potential benefits: a more cost-efficient innovation process, better ability to learn about R&D conducted by other companies/institutions, a quicker road to commercialization, and a positive impact on the firm’s own innovation capacity (OCDE, 2008). In this analysis, large multinational enterprises (MNEs) are key actors because they benefit from knowledge generated in other countries by both domestic firms and foreign subsidiaries, which are in many instances worldwide centers of knowledge. In addition to MNEs, an important part of R&D offshoring is undertaken by independent-domestic firms with a very different decisional context.

The internationalization of R&D&I is also part of the broader process of firms’ internationalization, which includes exporting activities or cooperative agreements with foreign suppliers, customers and even competitors. The recent economic crisis along with the intensified global competition has forced companies to accelerate the internationalization of R&D&I. As a consequence, from a public policy perspective, the globalization of R&D&I has led to the reformulation of national innovation and
industrial policies, which have to coexist in global markets with policies developed by supra-national institutions.

The purpose of this special issue is to provide new empirical evidence on the increasing phenomenon of globalization of R&D&I. The Editorial Committee will particularly welcome papers on topics such as:

- Multinationals’ Technology Transfers
- Trends in the internationalization of firms’ R&D&I strategies
- Policies to encourage the internationalization of R&D&I
- Drivers, motivations and impacts of foreign direct investment in R&D
- Firms’ R&D offshoring: determinants and effects
- R&D and export activities
- International technological cooperation

The papers must include brand new empirical evidence and/or theoretical analysis of the issue at stake. The Editorial Committee, composed of the Guest Editors and the Managing Editors (Floriana Cerniglia and Sandro Montresor), will pre-select the papers which meet the requirements of the Special Issue and the Journal, and will send the papers to two anonymous referees.

Submissions should be sent through the online system at the link https://www.editorialmanager.com/epol/default.aspx, selecting “Special Issue” from the Menu.

**Deadline for Submissions: November 15th, 2017**

**Proposed Timeline**

- **Submission:** November 15th, 2017
- **First revision:** December 30th, 2017
- **Reply and Second revision:** April 10th, 2018
- **Finalization:** May 15th, 2018