

Oslo Manual 2018

Guidelines for collecting, reporting and using data on innovation

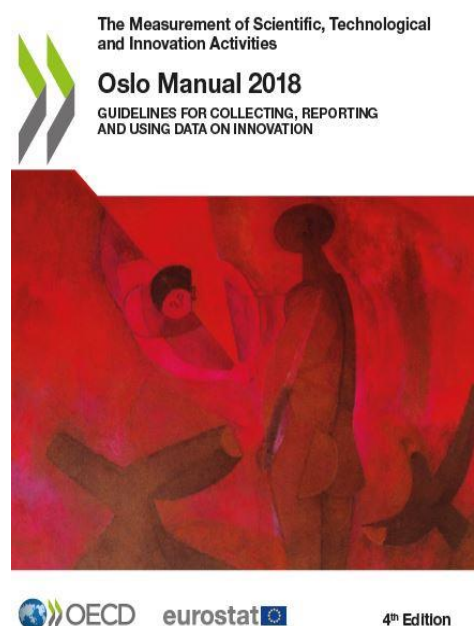
<http://oe.cd/oslomanual>

As the internationally recognised methodology for collecting and using innovation statistics, the Oslo Manual is an essential worldwide tool for statisticians and policy makers concerned with innovation. It includes definitions of basic concepts, data collection guidelines, and classifications for compiling innovation statistics. The 2018 edition contains improved guidance reflecting evolving user interests and accumulated practical experience. It includes new material dedicated to supporting the measurement of innovation outside the business sector, understanding the internal and external drivers of business innovation as well as a firm's most important innovation, and facilitating better use of innovation data for statistics and analysis.

Why an OECD and Eurostat manual on innovation statistics?

Addressing current and emerging economic, social and environmental challenges requires new ideas to be put into practice. It is key to understand how ideas go from being developed to transforming organisations, local markets, countries, the global economy and society. The *Oslo Manual*, published jointly by OECD and Eurostat, aims to support evidence-based policy-making needs through guidance that facilitates the co-ordinated production and use of internationally comparable statistics, based on a shared approach and a common language.

Although the manual is a technical document, it is a cornerstone of efforts by OECD, its members and partnering international organisations, to increase our understanding of the role played by innovation in our societies and to analyse national systems of research and innovation. Furthermore, by providing internationally-accepted definitions of innovation and related concepts, the manual contributes to intergovernmental discussions on good practices for innovation policies.



How is innovation defined?

The *Oslo Manual* distinguishes between innovation as an outcome (an innovation) and the activities by which innovations come about (innovation activities). This edition defines an innovation as “a new or improved product or process (or combination thereof) that differs significantly from the unit's previous products or processes and that has been made available to potential users (product) or brought into use by the unit (process)”. This general definition is given a more precise formulation for use with businesses, which represent the main focus of this manual.

What are the main novelties?

This new edition contains a number of major novelties compared to the 2005 edition. The new manual:

- Provides a core set of guidelines that extend the measurement of innovation from businesses to other organisations and individuals.
- Updates core definitions and taxonomies to facilitate reporting and interpretation across the entire business sector, incorporating concepts and terms consistent with the System of National Accounts and with other statistical manuals, such as the Frascati Manual on R&D.
- Takes better account of globalisation and digitalisation trends and supports the measurement of investment in intangible assets.
- Provides guidance on measuring internal and external factors influencing business innovation, integrating previous guidance on measuring innovation in developing countries.
- Prioritises the measurement of government policies' influence on business innovation.
- Expands methodological guidelines to cover the entire data lifecycle and extends guidance on the use of surveys to other sources (e.g. administrative records) and complementary methods for collecting data on a firm's most important innovation.
- Contains guidance on the use of innovation data not only for indicators but also for analysis and policy evaluation.
- Includes a new glossary of terms for reference.

Where to find business innovation data and related guidance

The Oslo Manual provides the basis for collecting and reporting innovation data in countries. The OECD, Eurostat and other international organisations collect and publish statistics on business innovation. Key innovation indicators are published by OECD at <http://oe.cd/inno-stats>. Links to the manual's content and other complementary information can be found in the manual's main page <http://oe.cd/oslomanual>. Potential adaptations of this manual to other contexts will also be found there. A community space for survey practitioners is available at <http://oe.cd/oslo-review> for discussing manual implementation experiences.

Next steps

Following the launch of the manual, its implementation requires the redesign of OECD data collection methods and databases. Countries will progressively implement changes to their surveys and methods. To support this process, *Oslo Manual* seminars will be scheduled in different countries.

Did you know?

This manual owes its name to the city where the OECD Working Party of National Experts on Science and Technology Indicators (NESTI) first agreed on a common approach to measure and report statistics on innovation in the early 1990s. Business innovation surveys based on the Oslo Manual have been carried out in at least 80 countries. The Oslo Manual approach has also been adapted by other organisations and researchers worldwide.

What does the manual cover?

Part I. Introduction to the measurement of innovation

1. Introduction to innovation statistics and the Oslo Manual
2. Concepts for measuring innovation

Part II. Framework and guidelines for measuring business innovation

3. Concepts and definitions for measuring business innovation
4. Measuring business innovation activities
5. Measuring business capabilities for innovation
6. Business innovation and knowledge flows
7. Measuring external factors influencing innovation in firms
8. Objectives and outcomes of business innovation

Part III. Methods for collecting, analysing and reporting statistics on business innovation

9. Methods for collecting data on business innovation
10. The object method for innovation measurement
11. Use of innovation data for statistical indicators and analysis

Glossary of terms

How was the manual revised?

The *Oslo Manual* is based on the experience gained from collecting innovation statistics in both OECD and EU countries and non-member economies. It is the result of the collective work of NESTI and Eurostat's Community Innovation Survey (CIS) Task Force, involving experts from nearly 45 countries and international organisations. The revision took place over nearly three years, and was supported by an expert consultation and workshops involving key stakeholders. The manual has been endorsed by the OECD Committee for Scientific and Technological Policy (CSTP) and the OECD Committee for Statistics and Statistical Policy (CSSP).

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