

Innovation activities are all scientific, technological, organisational, financial and commercial steps which actually, or are intended to, lead to the implementation of [innovations](#) . Some innovation activities are themselves innovative, others are not novel activities but are necessary for the implementation of innovations. Innovation activities also include [research and development \(R & D\)](#) that is not directly related to the development of a specific innovation.

A common feature of an innovation is that it must have been implemented. A new or improved product is implemented when it is introduced on the market. New [processes](#) , [marketing](#) methods or [organisational methods](#) are implemented when they are brought into actual use in the firm's operations.

Innovation activities vary greatly in their nature from firm to firm. Some firms engage in well-defined innovation projects, such as the development and introduction of a new product, whereas others primarily make continuous improvements to their products, processes and operations. Both types of firms can be [innovative](#) : an innovation can consist of the implementation of a single significant change, or of a series of smaller incremental changes that together constitute a significant change.

Statistical data

- [SDG 9 - Industry, innovation and infrastructure](#)

Source

- OECD/Eurostat, "The measurement of scientific and technological activities: guidelines for collecting and interpreting innovation data: Oslo manual", Third Edition, Paris, 2005 - [pdf](#)