

# Policy Research Alert

FROM FLASH-IT, A DISSEMINATION PROJECT RELATING EUROPEAN POLICY PRIORITIES TO EU-FUNDED RESEARCH IN SOCIO-ECONOMIC SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

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## Joint database on intangible assets unveiled: EU research playing vital role

**A groundbreaking international database on intangibles has been launched, giving analysts and policymakers an additional resource for assessing business activity. Two EU-funded research projects - INNODRIVE and COINVEST - played decisive roles in developing the database.**

Called INTAN-Invest, the joint database on intangibles provides harmonised estimates of macro intangible investment for 27 European Union Member States plus Norway and the US. According to European Research Area Director Octavio Quintana Trias, the researchers who created the database have laid the foundation for a 'common European understanding of how intangibles contribute to innovation and Smart Growth, thereby helping to eliminate fragmentation in measurement, data and policymaking'. Information attached to the database is already supporting efforts by the European Commission's High-Level Panel on Measuring Innovation to develop an innovation indicator.

The database was jointly developed by The Conference Board (a global research association) and two European research projects: INNODRIVE and COINVEST. Both projects were funded under the Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities (SSH) theme of the EU's Seventh Framework Programme for research (FP7).

INTAN-Invest is a publically accessible database that features downloadable files on nominal investment, net capital stocks, price deflators and other data. The intangible assets covered include: computerised information (software and databases); innovative property (R&D, design and product development in financial services); and economic competencies (market research, advertising, training and organisational capital). All the data is accessible online at <http://www.intan-invest.net>

Explaining the benefits of the database, the partners who developed it note that traditional capital estimates are significantly understated because many of the inputs to innovation are not counted as investment. The new database on intangibles, they say, could help policymakers develop a more complete understanding of business activity, particularly innovation and productivity.

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