

Intellectual property assets : R&D and other

Francis Malherbe, Eurostat

The decision to capitalize the expenditures of research and development is the main novelty of the ESA 2010 in terms of impact on GDP (about 2% in Europe). It results in the appearance of new assets corresponding to the research results not covered by patents, i.e. an increase of the net value of firms.

The Task Force Eurostat identified a number of practical and conceptual difficulties: estimates of GFCF from Frascati surveys, imports and exports, lifetime assets, mortality function, freely available research and development, measurement of prices and volumes, measurement of productivity, capital services.

Globalization exacerbates these difficulties, particularly on issues of economic and boundary between property income and services.

These difficulties related to research and development also occur in the case of all intellectual property products, so they are indicative of the challenges that will meet not only the national accounts, but also economic theory and even economic policy.