

The Innovation Management Standard An Executive Summary



Why have an innovation standard?

Any organization, in order to stay alive, needs to continually adapt itself to its environment. Many of those changes are small, some changes and developments are significant and radical. This standard describes precisely what it takes for an organization to be truly innovative, to make those changes big and small.

It helps organizations get better at creating new and different services, products and processes and thereby stay relevant. Saves time, cost, and effort. Get smarter and better at innovating.

What is this standard?

What you have in front of you is a truly international and universal innovation management standard. It is the first of its kind. Utmost care has been given to make this standard available and accessible to all organizations, whatever their nature, whatever their purpose and activity. The standard consists of seven main documents:

1. The Innovation Management Standard itself
2. The Assessment Checklist
3. The Interpretation Guideline, containing assessment notes
4. A Basic Implementation Guideline
5. Innovation Definitions
6. The Accreditation and Certification Program
7. Innovation Metrics

A whole range of further support documents is available, such as e.g. a special guideline for using this standard in smaller organizations, a guideline for sustainability, and many internal tools which help auditors and consultants make innovation assessments and provide advice respectively.

What does this standard cover?

It describes the ideal situation or norm of any organization's measures to be truly innovative. This is done according to three overarching criteria that determine an organization's innovation capability: innovation planning, innovation execution, and innovation deployment. The standard covers six major areas: Culture, Leadership, Resources, Processes, Monitoring and Measuring, and Improvement.

How does an assessment work?

With this standard, organizations can create self-assessments, which gives them the possibility to opt for a self-declaration to reach level 1. They can aim for higher levels of capability by asking a professional auditing organization to rate them against the 3 dimensions mentioned above, which give them a score, but more importantly: a detailed report on where improvements could be made, so as to be able to continuously improve their capabilities to innovate and increase overall performance. Attention has been given to incorporate principles of sustainability.

Can you innovate with a standard process?

Absolutely. Every implementation is geared to the individual organization's needs. There is no single process. Although you cannot manage every aspect of innovation, you can facilitate innovation, and you can give direction, and manage the facilitation process. It is very different from existing quality management standards, that always use the existing situation and the present organization as their departure point, and assume you can manage everything from within.

More information? Check out www.timfoundation.org.