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**Innovation management – Fundamentals and vocabulary (ISO 56000:2020)**

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## **Innovation management — Fundamentals and vocabulary**

*Management de l'innovation — Principes essentiels et vocabulaire*



Reference number  
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**ISO 56000:2020(E)****Foreword**

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see [www.iso.org/directives](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see [www.iso.org/patents](http://www.iso.org/patents)).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see [www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 279, *Innovation management*.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at [www.iso.org/members.html](http://www.iso.org/members.html).

# Introduction

## 0.1 General

An organization's ability to innovate is recognized as a key factor for sustained growth, economic viability, increased well-being and the development of society.

The innovation capabilities of an organization include the ability to understand and respond to changing conditions of its context, to pursue new opportunities and to leverage the knowledge and creativity of people within the organization in collaboration with external interested parties.

This document is intended to help the user by establishing a coherent, consistent and common framework to:

- a) understand the main terms, definitions, concepts and principles of innovation management;
- b) support an organization to establish, implement, maintain and continually improve an innovation management system and other innovation management standards; and
- c) facilitate communication and create awareness of innovation activities internally and across organizations.

[Clause 3](#) specifies the terms and definitions that are necessary to understand innovation management and an innovation management system.

[Clause 4](#) provides the fundamental concepts and innovation management principles, describing why organizations should engage in innovation activities, the main concepts regarding innovation and the principles that an organization should consider as the basis for the effective management of innovation activities as well as the foundation of the innovation management system.

[Annex A](#) presents the concept relationships graphically.

[Annex B](#) presents the relationship between the definitions within this document and those provided by other policy-setting organizations.

## 0.2 Relationships with other innovation management standards

This document relates to the ISO 56000 family of standards, developed by ISO/TC 279, as follows:

- a) ISO 56002 *Innovation management — Innovation management system — Guidance*, provides guidance for organizations to establish, implement, maintain and continually improve an innovation management system;
- b) ISO 56003 *Innovation management — Tools and methods for innovation partnership — Guidance*, provides guidance for organizations working together to innovate;
- c) ISO TR 56004 *Innovation management assessment — Guidance*, provides guidance for organizations to plan, implement and follow-up on an innovation management assessment;
- d) ISO 56005<sup>1)</sup> and subsequent standards provide further guidance on tools and methods to support the implementation of an innovation management system.

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1) Under preparation. Stage at the time of publication: ISO/DIS 56005.





# Innovation management — Fundamentals and vocabulary

## 1 Scope

**1.1** This document provides the vocabulary, fundamental concepts and principles of innovation management and its systematic implementation. It is applicable to:

- a) organizations implementing an innovation management system or performing innovation management assessments;
- b) organizations that need to improve their ability to effectively manage innovation activities;
- c) users, customers and other relevant interested parties (e.g. suppliers, partners, funding organizations, investors, universities and public authorities) seeking confidence in the innovation capabilities of an organization;
- d) organizations and interested parties seeking to improve communication through a common understanding of the vocabulary used in innovation management;
- e) providers of training in, assessment of, or consultancy for, innovation management and innovation management systems;
- f) developers of innovation management and related standards.

**1.2** This document is intended to be applicable to:

- a) all types of organizations, regardless of type, sector, maturity-level or size;
- b) all types of innovations, e.g. product, service, process, model and method, ranging from incremental to radical;
- c) all types of approaches, e.g. internal and open innovation, user-, market-, technology- and design-driven innovation activities.

This document specifies the terms and definitions applicable to all innovation management and innovation management system standards developed by ISO/TC 279.

## 2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

## 3 Terms and definitions

### 3.1 General terms related to innovation

#### 3.1.1

##### **innovation**

new or changed *entity* (3.2.5), realizing or redistributing *value* (3.7.6)

Note 1 to entry: Novelty and value are relative to, and determined by, the perception of the *organization* (3.2.2) and relevant *interested parties* (3.2.4).

Note 2 to entry: An innovation can be a product, service, *process* (3.1.5), model, method, etc.