

CHAPTER 3: MEASURING ORGANISATIONAL INNOVATION – THE EXAMPLE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY INNOVATION SURVEY (CIS)

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Introduction

In the last decade, not only has innovation become one of the most generally used “buzzwords” or a “new hype” of policy makers in the developed countries, but there is a growing consent in the business and academic community that technological and non-technological innovations have a crucial role in a country’s sustainable competitiveness and in creating new paths for economic development. The mainstream accounts of innovation deal predominantly with technological (product or process) innovation, neglecting the role and impacts of organisational innovation or socio-cultural changes as well as the social, cultural, and psychological acceptance of new working practices and adaptation to them. This oversight is not just a feature of the Hungarian but also the European research and practice on innovation.

According to the European Competitiveness Report, the productivity growth advantage of the US over Europe is not just the consequence of higher standards of technological innovation. US companies are also at the forefront in terms of new organisational and management methods and governance. New business models, innovative supply methods, etc. play a key role in the introduction of technological innovations to new markets and in supporting entrepreneurship. Innovations referred to as non-technological (social-institutional) represent the “missing link” that hinders European companies in their exploitation of opportunities offered by new technologies and European integration. In this regard it is worth noting the decisive role of the workplace which is strongly influenced by existing managerial and organisational practices. However, “[t]he bottleneck in improving innovation capabilities of European firms might not lie in the low levels of R&D expenditure, which are strongly determined by industry structures and therefore difficult to change, but the widespread existence of working environments that are unable

to provide a fertile environment for innovation.” (Arundel et. al. 2006, cited by Alasoini, 2011b:13)

Within the European countries we may identify visible differences in the distribution of the kind of organisational forms or models that facilitate or constrain innovation or the learning capabilities of firms. According to the 2005 data from the European Working Conditions Survey (EWCS), in comparison to the EU average, the Post-Socialist countries where work organisations with the greatest innovation and learning potential can be found are Estonia and Hungary. These two countries outperform the other Post-Socialist member states. Unfortunately, however, Taylorism/Fordism – the work organisation of mass production which has the lowest learning and innovation capability – also has a strong presence in these countries. The Hungarian economy, therefore, is characterised by a dual (asymmetric) model of work organisation: front-runner companies (even measured by international standards) co-existing with companies with very restricted innovation and learning potential. In the context of the EU-27 countries, the following six contrasting country profiles can be distinguished globally, according to the dominant model of work organisation²⁷:

- The Scandinavian countries of Denmark and Sweden, as well as the Netherlands: here the discretionary learning forms of work organisation with high innovation capabilities predominate.

- The Anglo-Saxon countries (Ireland and the UK), some Eastern European countries (Estonia, Latvia, Poland and Slovenia), Finland, Luxemburg and Malta: characterised by a relatively high development of lean production work organisation forms. The discretionary learning forms are also slightly overrepresented in Finland, Luxemburg and Malta.

- Portugal and Romania: overrepresentation of lean production and Taylorist work organisation forms.

- Bulgaria and Slovakia: the Taylorist forms of work organisation are quite widely diffused.

- Certain Mediterranean countries (Cyprus, Greece and Spain) and some Eastern European countries (the Czech Republic and Lithuania): an overrepresentation of the Taylorist and traditional or simple structure forms of work organisation.

²⁷ Valeyre et. al., 2009: 23.

– Most Continental countries (Austria, Belgium, France and Germany): a less contrasting distribution of the different forms of work organisation and a slight overrepresentation of the discretionary learning forms. A midpoint situation is also observed in Hungary and Italy.

This model is aligned with the findings of other research results which demonstrate that foreign companies and firms with mixed ownership are at the forefront of both technological and non-technological innovation. These firms emerge like cathedrals in the Hungarian economy. At the same time, fully Hungarian owned enterprises (primarily micro, small and medium-sized) pursue innovation activities of significantly less intensity (Dallago, 2010; Szerb, 2010; Chikán–Czakó–Kazainé, 2006). *Table 1.* highlights the relationship between firms' ownership and innovation performance.

*Table 1: Ownership and Innovation Activity of Firms in the Hungarian Economy: 1999–2005**

Ownership structure	Share of innovative firms			
	Innovative firms		Non-innovative firms	
	1991-2001**	2004-2005***	1991-2001**	2004-2005***
100% Hungarian ownership	13.4%	17.3%	84.9%	82.7%
Mixed- ownership	31.5%	30.5%	65.8%	69.5%
100% foreign ownership	17.6%	30.1%	78.5%	69.9%

*Technological “product” and “process” (TPP) innovation

**Iwasaki, I., 2004: 111.

*** Calculation by Szunyogh Zsuzsa (Central Statistical Office–KSH).
(Makó–Illéssy–Csizmadia, 2008: 1076)

Unfortunately, a great majority of the Hungarian innovation research focuses on the diffusion of the technological product and process (TPP) innovations in the manufacturing sector. We have already argued that non-technological innovations also play a very important factor in a country's competitiveness. In addition, since the turn of the century, we have been witnessing a historical

shift from the manufacturing to the service economy in the developed countries of Europe, Asia and America. This shift is well reflected in the share of the economic sectors in the structure of employment. Therefore there is a growing need to address the importance of non-technological innovation: “Information and communication technologies (ICT) [are] sometimes presented as a phenomena that can completely replace human competence and interaction, through expert systems and internet connection. The belief in this myth has proven costly for firms and public authorities. All systematic empirical and historical research shows that an acceleration in the diffusion of a radically new technology results in more harm than benefits if it is not combined with new institutions, new modes of organization and new human competence.” (Lundvall, 2002:5).

The structure of the paper is organised as follows: the first section gives a brief overview of the organisational surveys carried out mainly on an international level that are useful for cross-country comparisons. The second section focuses on the theoretical foundation (OSLO Manuals) and measuring tools of non-technological innovations used in the various waves of the employer-oriented Community Innovation Survey (CIS) and presents Hungarian results for the diffusion of organisational innovation. This will be complemented with the experiences of the employee-focused European Working Condition Survey (EWCS). The final section discusses some criticisms of the concept of innovation adopted by the CIS and raises some issues for future research into social and organisational innovations.

THE BENCHMARKING EXERCISE OF THE ORGANISATIONAL SURVEYS: EUROPEAN AND NATIONAL PERSPECTIVES

Although organisational innovation is rather a new phenomenon in the statistical data collection on a European level, the first systematic analysis of the organisational surveys was elaborated by Benjamin Coriat.²⁸

Coriat distinguishes three groups of organisational surveys:

1) Seeking for various forms of division of labour and task coordination identified as representative forms of innovative working arrangements (e.g. teamwork, just-in-time, quality circles, etc.). This is typical of German questionnaires.

²⁸ Coriat, B. (2001). During the literature review, we used an earlier version of this paper available at http://www.lem.sssup.it/Dynacom/files/D04_0.pdf

2) Seeking for organisational traits reflecting that the firm surveyed is innovative, i.e. it is capable of dynamically adjusting to the demands of the changing environment (intra-organisational and inter-organisational coordination methods). This is the case in Danish questionnaires.

3) A mixture of the two former groups (British and French cases).

The interpretation of data gathered by organisational surveys is a core issue. In relation to the methodology and the indicators used, Coriat raises four main problems:

1) The questions are mostly too general and thus the answers are too vague. How to interpret and compare, for example, the introduction of teamwork in a Swedish and in a Japanese working environment? "In the same way, it is also impossible to have any idea about the nature and contents of the learning processes that take place within working teams, since they largely vary according to how those teams are coordinated, about the levels of the tasks and responsibilities those teams are entrusted with, and about the way they are inter-related and their relationships with their hierarchies." (ibid. p. 3)

2) The mere existence of some organisational forms or practices does not permit us to conclude that it works in an innovative way.

3) This leads us to the problem of defining organisational innovation and organisational change. The majority of the surveys detect only the latter without saying anything about the innovative characteristics, if any, of these organisational changes. "Indeed, the existence of such a process within a firm clearly testifies to changing organizational patterns, but nothing can be asserted as to the nature and orientation of those changes, or the new organizational patterns or traits themselves." (ibid. p. 4.)

4) Level of novelty: in the surveys it is only possible to measure already well-known and codified working practices; it is impossible to measure the radically new ones unidentified by the literature. This calls attention to the importance of such qualitative research methods as, for example, company case studies.

As can be seen, different surveys work with different (although) implicit notions of organisational innovation. Is it possible to give one sole and explicit definition of organisational innovation? According to Coriat, it is difficult to define organisational innovation because of its "multidimensional character" and thus it can only be identified as a "joint group of attributes". This relates to the

abovementioned categorisation of surveys aimed at measuring organisational innovation: patterns of division of labour, specificity of coordination or a combination of these two. As Coriat puts it: “...if we consider that organizational innovation consists of a cluster of changes affecting the labour division and coordination patterns that prevail within a given organization (or between several organizations), these very patterns possessing a triple dimension (information, knowledge and know-how, interests)²⁹, we then understand what each one of the implicit concepts of organizational innovation captures, and the difficulty to interpret the result of the confrontation of the information delivered by each one.” (ibid. p.6)

According to Coriat, organisational surveys inform us of the presence or absence of these working arrangements and thus on the potential of any organisational innovation, but the real content of these changes remain hidden. The analysis of different questionnaires does not give a definitive answer to the question of the difference between organisational change and organisational innovation. British surveys are agnostic as to whether the direction of organisational change, and consequently any organisational change, is considered innovation. In contrast, Danish surveys implicitly suppose that organisational change can only be innovative if it leads to more flexibility (defined as “the dynamic capacity to adjust to changing environments”, ibid. p. 3).

More recently, Ramioul and Huys made an inventory of the most significant organisational surveys of European countries, where the following selection principles were identified (Ramioul–Huys, 2007: 6):

(1) the possibility to measure a wide range of subjects covered by the organisational changes (e.g. innovation, working and employment conditions, labour relations, etc.);

(2) scope: the organisational survey must cover a wide range of sectors, preferably the structure of the whole economy;

(3) periodicity: the organisational surveys must be carried out in several waves over several years, applying the same or similar questions.

In the framework of a recent international project aimed at collecting and interpreting information on the process of organisational changes in the last two decades, twenty organisational surveys were carried out covering the

²⁹ Coriat refers here to the seminal work of March and Simon (1993) in which the authors defined the notion of co-ordination as managing and processing information, knowledge and (conflicting) interests.

selection principles presented above. These organisational surveys were carried out both on an international and a national level, and were characterised by a variety of methodological designs. In this respect the following four significant methodological orientations should be distinguished (Meadow, 2010:10):

1. Employer-focused survey,
2. Employee-focused survey,
3. Employer/employees survey (employer is sampled first - linked survey),
4. Employee/employer survey (employee is sampled first).

Table 2 summarises these surveys by their methodological orientation and time dimension.

Table 2: A Set of Possible Survey Designs (Meadow, 2010: 48)

Methodological orientation of the survey	Time dimension	Example of existing surveys
Employer only	Cross section*	CIS (Community Innovation Survey), ECS (European Company Survey), ESWT (Establishment Survey on Working Time and Work-Life Balance), EMS (European Manufacturing Survey).
	Panel option**	DISKO (Danish Innovation System: Comparative analysis), OSA Er (Labour demand panel – Arbeidsvraagpanel – The Netherlands), NUTEK (Technological and Organisational Change and Labour Demand - Sweden), PASO (Panel Survey of Organisations - Flanders)
Employee only	Cross section	EWCS (European Working Conditions Survey), ESS (European Social Survey), BSS (British Skills Survey)
	Panel option	NWCS (Netherlands Working Conditions Survey, OSA Ee (OSA Labour supply panel – Arbeidsaanbodpanel),

Linked employer/employee (or employer first approach)	Cross section	COI (Changements Organisationels et Informatisation, France), ESES (European Union Structure of Earnings Survey), MOA (The MOA method for assessment of Organisation – Sweden), TNO/WIS (TNO Work in the Information Society survey – the Netherlands),
	Panel option	LIAB (Institute für Arbeits- und Berufsforschung – IAB-Germany), RESPONSE (Relations professionnelles et negotiations d'entreprise-France), WES (Workplace and Employee Survey – Canada), WERS (Workplace Employment Relations Survey – UK)***
Linked employee/employer (or employer first approach)	Cross section	AES-CVTS (Adult Education Survey – Continuing Vocational Training Survey – France), EFE (Enquete famille employeurs – France), NOS (National Organization Study – USA).
	Panel option	-

* Cross section survey: measuring change through retrospective questions.

** Panel survey: measuring change through repeated measurements.

*** The methodology of the first Hungarian Employment Survey (2010) adopted the approach of the British WERS (Workplace Employment Relation Survey), carried out in the following waves: 1980, 1984, 1990, 1998 and 2004. (See in detail: <http://www.wers2004.info/index.php>). The highlighted surveys are cross-national, NOS and WES are national (North America), PASO is regional (Flemish region) and the other surveys are national (European countries).

Table 3. classifies the seven European organisational surveys from the total of 21 (international & national), according to their acronym, name, last wave of survey and producer/sponsor.

Table 3: Main Characteristics of the European Organisation Surveys
(Meadow, 2010: 91-92)

Acronym	Name of the survey	Last wave	Countries covered	Producer/sponsor
CIS (employer)	Community Innovation Survey	CIS-2010	EU-27, Iceland, Norway and Turkey	Eurostat
ECS (employer)	European Company Survey	2009	EU-27 + Croatia, Turkey and Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)	European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (EFLWC)
EMS (employer)	European Manufacturing Survey	2006	Germany, Austria, Croatia, France, UK, Italy, Slovenia, Turkey, Greece, Netherlands and Spain.	Coordinator: Fraunhofer Institute of Systems and Innovation Research (ISI)
ESES (linked employer/employee)	European Union Structure of Earnings Survey	2006	EU-27 + Iceland and Norway	Eurostat
ESS (persons over 15 years old in private households)	European Social Survey	2006 /2007	32 countries, including 22 EU countries	Coordinator: City University, UK, University Leuven, Belgium, NSD, Norway, ZUMA Germany, ESADE, Spain, Netherlands Sponsored by the European Commission and the European Science Foundation

ESWT (employer)	Establishment Survey on Working Time and Work-Life Balance	2010	EU-15 and Czech Republic, Cyprus, Hungary, Latvia, Poland, Slovenia	European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (EFILWC)
EWCS (employee)	European Working Conditions Survey	2010	EU-27 + Croatia, Turkey, Switzerland and Norway	European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (EFILWC)

Comparing the design and structure of surveys presented in *Table 3.* above, we may distinguish two forms of co-ordination. In the first case, the survey is designed and implemented centrally (e.g. the European Working Conditions Surveys). In the second case, the survey is carried out in a decentralised way. For example, the 2004 decree of the European Commission (1450/2004/EC) is an obligatory regulation requiring member states to carry out the Community Innovation Survey. Eurostat is responsible for the co-ordination of surveys in close co-operation with the National Statistical Offices that are responsible for the national design, fieldwork and data analysis in every four or two (light surveys) years.

The next section presents a brief history of the European innovation statistics with a special focus on the elaboration of questions aimed at measuring various dimensions of organisational innovation. Besides mapping organisational innovation-related questions of the CIS, this section will give a brief overview on the importance of the organisational innovations of the Hungarian firms participating in several waves of the survey. Due to the fact that the CIS is an employer-oriented survey, we use empirical experiences from an employee-oriented survey. For this purpose, the results of the various waves of the European Working Conditions Surveys (EWCS) on the learning and innovative character of the work organisation of Hungarian firms will be presented through an international comparison.

FROM NARROW TO BROADENING VIEWS OF INNOVATION: ATTEMPTS TO MEASURE ORGANISATIONAL INNOVATION (THE CASE OF THE EUROPEAN INNOVATION SURVEY)

Building on the innovation theory of Schumpeter (1950, 1966) and stressing his so-called Mark II. period on the importance of co-operation and collective efforts in producing innovation (in contrast to the key role of the individual entrepreneurs in the Mark I. period), we may assert in relation to the outcomes of innovation research "...that a firm does not innovate in isolation but depends on extensive interaction with its environment. Various concepts have been introduced to enhance our understanding of this phenomenon, most of them including the terms 'system' or the somewhat less ambitious 'network' " (Fagerberg, 2006:20). In recent years, the broadening view of innovation has characterised public thinking and innovation has become one of the most extensively used 'catch-words' even among policy makers. For example, the Finnish national innovation strategy elaborated half a decade ago (2008), "... is based on the idea that the focus of innovation policy should be shifted increasingly to demand and user-driven innovations and the promotion of non-technological innovations" (Alasoini, 2011a: 23–24). Besides such features of innovation as radical versus incremental, product versus process, open or disruptive, social and organisational innovation, etc., we intend to stress those theoretical concepts that question the validity of unidirectional approaches where innovation is shaped by one single group of factors (e.g. "science push" or "demand pull" views of innovation). In this perspective, not only the "locus" of innovation is changing (e.g. the increasing role of clients/customers and suppliers, the growing importance of environmental protection, the shift from manufacturing to the service sector, etc.) but the "focus" too. In this sense, we agree with the following statement: "... when we think about the changing focus of innovation, the issue is less one of a move away from conventional technological innovation to a much more thorough understanding of how technological and social change are both required for service innovation. This itself requires some rethinking of management practice and policy development; but such a shift in focus is required if the objectives of innovation efforts are to be focused more on meeting Grand Challenges." (Basset–Miles–Thénint, 2011: 5).

One of the most important "Grand Challenges" is the historical shift from manufacturing to the service economy. From the last decades of the 20th

century, we have witnessed an unprecedented growth of the service sector at the expense of the manufacturing and agricultural sectors. Some service sector scholars call this radical shift in the economic activities the “service sector revolution”. In the developed countries this sector produces 70–80% of GDP, while in the Post-Socialist countries of Central and Eastern Europe the share of service sector ranges from 58.4% to 62.9%. It is worth mentioning that in the case of Hungary between 1992 and 2006, the productivity growth in the service sector (measured by the share of gross value added/capital) was higher than in the manufacturing sector. In addition, the service sector played a crucial role in employment generation too. Between 1995 and 2006 every second new job (46%) was created in the service sector and, interestingly enough, an even higher percentage (57%) was established in the Knowledge-Intensive Business Services (KIBS). (Makó–Csizmadia–Illéssy–Iwasaki–Szanyi, 2011.)

This radical change in the economic structure raises the methodological problem of how to measure innovation in this sector. Some groups of scholars stress the difference between innovation realised in the manufacturing and in the service sectors. On the contrary, others tend to apply methods and knowledge accumulated about innovation in the manufacturing sector moving towards the service sector: this is the so-called assimilation view. However, the boundaries between the two sectors have been diminishing and “a newly proposed synthesis approach” (Miles–Boden, 2000) argues that studies conducted on service sector innovation are capable of broadening our understanding of innovation which is currently shaped by the traditional focus on manufacturing innovation. (Beyhan, et. al., 2009: 4). One of the most important lessons learned from this debate is that besides the discussion on how to improve statistical tools and other metrics, we have to reposition our interest to better understand the features of non-technological innovation, in spite of the fact that “this may not rely on conventional R&D, nor be manifest in new ideas that can be protected by [...] patent measures” (Basset–Miles–Thénint, 2011: 9).

Adopting the broadest view of organisational innovation according to which “... the term ‘organisational innovation’ refers to the creation or adoption of an idea or behaviour new to the organisation” (Lam, 2005: 115), we intend to analyse the theoretical foundations and empirical experiences of the development of statistical methods measuring organisational innovation

on a European level. For this purpose, the next section focuses on changes in the guidelines of the Oslo Manual on various forms of innovation, with special attention to the organisational forms and their measurement in the various waves of the Community Innovation Survey (CIS) from 1993 until today. As the CIS is an employer-oriented survey, we intend to complement its results with the experiences of the employee-oriented European Working Condition Survey (EWCS).

DESIGNING QUESTIONS TO MEASURE ORGANISATIONAL
INNOVATION: THE EXPERIENCES OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY
INNOVATION SURVEY (CIS)

From the end of the Second World War until the end of the 1970's, international surveys focused exclusively on data collection of the well-known Research and Development (R&D) activities. It required more than a decade of preparation co-ordinated by the OECD and empirical experiences acquired from the pilot studies carried out mainly in the Nordic countries, before the first edition of the so-called Oslo Manual was published in 1992. This manual became the theoretical and methodological foundation of the European Community Innovation Survey (CIS). So far, six waves of the CIS have been prepared. *Table 4.* summarises the most important characteristics of these surveys.

Table 4: History of the CIS and Organisational Innovation (Arundel, 2010: 1)

Survey	Survey year	Reference date ¹	Organisational innovation questions
CIS-1	1993	1990–1992	None
CIS-2	1997	1994–1996	None
CIS-3	2001	1998–2000	Whether the enterprise introduced a new or significantly changed: 1. Corporate strategy 2. Advanced management technique 3. Organisational structure
CIS-4	2005	2002–2004	Whether the enterprise introduced a new or significantly changed: 1. Knowledge management system 2. Change to the organisation of work 3. Change to relations with other firms Four types of effects of organisational innovation: 1. Reduced time to respond to customer needs 2. Improved quality of goods or services 3. Reduced costs per unit output 4. Improved employee satisfaction
CIS 2006	2007	2004–2006	Identical questions as in the CIS-4. New questions tested in an extended version of the CIS-2006, a pilot survey version, utilising face-to-face interviews.
CIS 2008	2009	2006–2008	Identical questions as in the CIS-6.

1: Questions refer to organisational innovations introduced during this time period.

In relation to the waves of the CIS, Arundel (2010: 2) indicated that in spite of the fact that the CIS-2006 adopted the same questionnaire as that used in the CIS-4, several additional questions were tested: “who developed” organisational

innovation, the type of organisational innovation (new business practices) and the “effects” of innovation (improved communication or information sharing). It is worth noting that in the case of the CIS survey the Central Statistical Office of each participating country has to prepare a so-called Quality Report for the country concerned. The structure of such a Quality Report is detailed in Annex 1.

The first edition of the Oslo Manual dealt mainly with the technological product and process (TPP) innovations in the manufacturing sector. These measurement tools were not designed to evaluate and map service sector innovation despite the rapidly growing importance of this economic sector. The Oslo Manual (1992) served as a guideline for such large scale surveys as the CIS which aimed at measuring factors shaping both innovation and its impact. The second edition of the Oslo Manual (1997) provided guidelines for both manufacturing and service sector activities. Unfortunately, the TTP approach used in this version of the Manual could not properly measure the particular characters of the service sector. It was only the third edition of the Oslo Manual (2005) that aimed to measure not only TPP innovation but marketing and organisational innovation as well. An innovation, according to this version of the Oslo Manual “... is the implementation of a new or significantly improved product (goods or services), or process, a new marketing method, or a new organisational method in business practices, workplace organisation or external relations.” (Oslo Manual, 2005: 46). The four types of innovations are the following (Oslo Manual, 2005: 46–51):

(1) A product innovation is the introduction of goods or services that are new or significantly improved with respect to their characteristics or intended use. This includes significant improvements in technical specifications, components and materials, incorporated software, user-friendliness or other functional characteristics.

(2) A process innovation is the implementation of new or significantly improved production or delivery methods. This includes significant changes in techniques, equipment and software.

(3) A marketing innovation is the implementation of a new marketing method involving significant changes in product design or packaging, product placement, product promotion or pricing.

(4) An organisational innovation is the implementation of a new organisational method in the firms’ business practices, workplace organisation or external relations.

Due to the core interest of the present study, in the following section we intend to focus on the questions designed to identify the various forms of organisational innovations and their impacts. For illustrative purposes, we will choose the latest wave of the CIS-10 (covering the period of 2008–2010) in which the following questions measured organisational innovation.

Q9. ORGANISATIONAL INNOVATION

An organisational innovation is a new organisational method in your enterprise's business practices (including knowledge management), workplace organisation or external relations that has not been previously used by your enterprise.

- It must be the result of strategic decisions taken by management.
- Exclude mergers or acquisitions, even if for the first time.

Q. 9.1 DURING THE THREE YEARS 2008 TO 2010, DID YOUR ENTERPRISE INTRODUCE:

	Yes	No
New business practices for organising procedures (i.e. supply chain management, business re-engineering, knowledge management, lean production, quality management, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New methods of organising work responsibilities and decision making (i.e. first use of a new system of employee responsibilities, team work, decentralisation, integration or de-integration of departments, education/training systems, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New methods of organising external relations with other firms or public institutions (i.e. first use of alliances, partnerships, outsourcing or sub-contracting, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q. 9.2 HOW IMPORTANT WERE EACH OF THE FOLLOWING OBJECTIVES FOR YOUR ENTERPRISE'S ORGANISATIONAL INNOVATIONS INTRODUCED DURING THE THREE YEARS 2008 TO 2010 INCLUSIVE?

If your enterprise introduced several organisational innovations, make an overall evaluation

	High	Medium	Low	Not relevant
Reduce time to respond to customer or supplier needs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improve ability to develop new products or processes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improve quality of your goods or services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reduce costs per unit output	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improve communication or information sharing within your enterprise or with other enterprises or institutions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Following a historical overview of the waves of the CIS and a revision of the questions elaborated with the aim of identifying both the forms and the effects of organisational innovations, some empirical data on trends will be presented related to innovation in the Hungarian economy. Table 3 indicated that the CIS survey was an employer-oriented type of survey, therefore it would be beneficial to complement the empirical experiences of the CIS with an employee-oriented type of survey. In order to do so, we will use the results of the European Working Conditions Survey (EWCS).

In the next section, combining the empirical information collected from both employers and employees, we may get a more balanced view on the trends and intensity of organisational innovation of firms operating in Hungary.³⁰

ORGANISATIONAL INNOVATION IN THE HUNGARIAN CONTEXT:
SOME LESSONS FROM THE CIS AND THE EWCS

By analysing the results of the surveys, we can identify the following international pattern in general: the intensity of innovation increases with the size of the firm. For example, a great majority of small enterprises (10–49 employees) did not implement any type of organisational or marketing innovations (see *Table 5*). In contrast, almost every second large firm implemented organisational and marketing innovations. The other pattern observed between the period of the CIS-6 and CIS-8 is that the share of these types of innovations has declined. The decrease in innovation activity was higher than the average especially in the category of small firms.

Table 5: Relationship Between the Firm's Size and All Types of Organisational (Including Marketing) Innovation in Hungary (Community Innovation Survey, CIS-4, CIS-6 and CIS-8)

Firm's size	CIS-4 (2002–2004)	CIS-6 (2004–2006)	CIS-8 (2006–2008)
10–49 employees	15%	16.5%	10.7%
50–249 employees	28.6%	24.9%	19.8%
250 and over	46.1%	49.0%	45.3%
Total:	18.3%	18.9%	13.3%

Note: Data based on the calculation by Zsuzsa Szunyogh, Deputy Head of Division, Central Statistical Office (KSH).

Dealing with the trends and intensity of “organisational innovation only”, we may say that firms only rarely rely on organisational development (from 4.1% to 13.1%) to improve their daily operations. The other interesting pattern is that a decrease in the intensity of organisational innovation has started in the CIS-4

³⁰ In spite of the fact that the questions were not the same, the comparison was methodologically correct as both are large-scale European cross-sector surveys measuring changes with retrospective questions.

(2002–2004). Between the CIS-6 and the CIS-8, the already rather modest share of organisational innovation halved within the small firms group (8.8% vs. 4.1%) and almost halved in the category of the medium-sized firms (8.4% vs. 5.5%) surveyed.

*Table 6: Relationship between Organisational Innovation Only
/All Firms in Hungary
(Community Innovation Survey, CIS-4, CIS-6 and CIS-8)*

Firm's size	CIS-4 (2002–2004)	CIS-6 (2004–2006)	CIS-8 (2006–2008)
10–49 employees	8.8%	8.8%	4.1%
50–249 employees	13.1%	8.4%	5.5%
250 and over	11.3%	10.8%	7.4%
Total:	9.5%	8.8%	4.5%

Note: The table based on the calculation by Zsuzsa Szunyogh, Deputy Head of Division, Central Statistical Office (KSH).

This pattern is quite familiar internationally. Organisational changes and innovation vary substantially according to the size of the firms. For example, according to the statistically best documented Danish company practice survey (DISKO³¹), organisational changes (innovation) are fairly frequent in large firms: nine out of every ten large firms – with more than 100 employees – have carried out organisational changes in one or both periods of the surveys. Among small firms – with less than 50 employees – almost every second firm (46%) did not introduce any organisational change.

It is worth noting the innovation propensity of firms, using the results of the employee-oriented surveys. The results of the last three waves of the European Working Conditions Surveys (EWCS) are particularly suggestive.³² Among the numerous questions aimed at measuring the characteristics of working practices,

31 DISKO is a Danish employer-oriented organisational survey designed to identify and assess the strengths and the weaknesses of the Danish Innovation System from an international perspective. So far, at least four waves of the survey have been carried out by the Aalborg University and Statistics Denmark. (Information provided by Peter Nielsen, Aalborg University)

32 The first EWCS was carried out in 1990–1991 covering 12 EU member states that made up the European Union at that time. Our analysis focuses on the following three waves of the surveys: 2000–2001, 2005 and 2010. The last three surveys covered the Post-Socialist countries, too. “The survey sample is representative of persons in employment (employees and self-employed), aged 15 years and over, resident in each of the surveyed countries. ... The survey sample followed a multi-stage, stratified and clustered design with a ‘random walk’ procedure for the selection of the respondents.” (Valeyre, et. al. 2009: ix.)

we intend to assess the results of the questions related to the “cognitive dimension” of jobs (i.e. learning new things at work, job rotation requiring different skills, autonomy in quality supervision) and forms of training (i.e. “formal” versus “on-the-job training”) in the EU–27 countries. In making cross-country comparison and applying an aggregated category such as the EU–27 countries, we intend to compare the results of the above mentioned dimensions of working practices according to the following country profiles:³³

1. Nordic countries,
2. Continental countries,
3. Anglo-Saxon countries,
4. Mediterranean countries,
5. Post-Socialist countries.

Comparing the cognitive dimension of jobs in the EU–27 countries, we can state that countries belonging to the Nordic country cluster perform visibly better than the EU average in all respects: at least 4 employees out of 5 can learn new things at work and have autonomy to assess quality and every second employee participates in task rotation requiring different skills. The Post-Socialist countries are at the other extreme pole of the country groups, where each cognitive dimension of the jobs has a lower value than the EU–27 average. This country group is followed by the Mediterranean countries which have a rather similar pattern of job characteristics. In addition, we should note the declining importance of the “job rotation requiring different skills” in the Post-Socialist countries in comparison not only with the Nordic countries but with the EU–27 average: less than one-third of these employees rotate jobs, as shown in *Table 7*. The Anglo-Saxon and the Continental countries occupy the middle position between the Nordic and the Mediterranean/Post-socialist country groups.

33 The county groups are as follows: 1). Nordic countries: Denmark, Finland, Netherlands and Sweden, 2). Continental countries: Austria, Belgium, Germany, France and Luxemburg, 3). Anglo-Saxon countries: United Kingdom and Ireland, 4). Mediterranean countries: Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Malta, Spain, Portugal, 5). Post-Socialist countries: Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, Romania, Slovenia and Slovakia. (Valeyre, et. al. 2009: 22). The “Varieties of Capitalism” (VoC) literature represents the theoretical foundation of the country classification.

Table 7: The Cognitive Dimension of Jobs: EU-27 versus Nordic and Post-Socialist Country Groups (2000–2010)

Features of job	2000			2005			2010		
	EU-27	Nordic countries	Post-Socialist countries	EU-27	Nordic countries	Post-Socialist countries	EU-27	Nordic countries	Post-Socialist countries
Self-assessment of quality	73.4%	82.8%	63.9%	71.9%	78.7%	63.5%	72.8%	82.9%	63.5%
Learning new things at work	69.9%	84.7%	66.8%	69.9%	87.4%	67.4%	68.0%	86.3%	66.7%
Tasks rotation that require different skills	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	33.7%	52.1%	32.8%	34.0%	54.1%	27.2%

Besides the cognitive characteristics of the jobs, the importance and structure of training or skill/knowledge formation indicates the learning/innovation capacity of an organisation. In this sense, again, it is worth noting the leading-edge position of the Nordic country group: the share of employees participating in (formal) training paid by the employer is significantly higher in this country group in comparison to both the EU-27 average and the Post-Socialist countries. However, as highlighted in *Table 8*, following a decline in the intensity of participation in formal training in the Post-Socialist countries between 2000 and 2005 (30.6% in 2000 versus 25.4% in 2005), this country group did improve its position remarkably from 2005 to 2010 (25.4% in 2005 versus 34.8% in 2010). Another interesting pattern to note is the importance of the “informal training” or “situated learning”. This kind of training represents the same share as formal training and its importance has increased in the last half decade. Once again, the highest share of informal training – almost every second employee surveyed – was registered in the Nordic countries. In this relation it is necessary to note that this knowledge development practice evolved faster in the Post-Socialist countries than in the EU-27 countries. The share of employees paying for their training has increased in all country groups between 2005 and 2010 (no EWCS 2000 data is available on training paid for by employees and on-the-job training).

Table 8: Company Training Practice: EU-27 versus Nordic and Post-Socialist Countries (2000–2010)

	2000			2005			2010		
	EU-27	Nordic countries	Post-Socialist countries	EU-27	Nordic countries	Post-Socialist countries	EU-27	Nordic countries	Post-Socialist countries
Training paid for by the employer	29.3%	47.85%	30.6%	26.24%	42.9%	25.4%	33.8%	48.13%	34.8%
On-the-job training (OTI)	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	26.3%	41.33%	28.6%	32.3%	48.13%	34.0%

The final chapter of the study focuses on the diffusion of organisational innovation and knowledge development practices, comparing Hungarian and Slovak firms operating in the so-called Knowledge-Intensive Business Service sector (KIBS). Therefore it is worth noting the position of these countries in relation to the cognitive dimension of jobs as well as to company training practices. As shown in Table 9, in each cognitive dimension of jobs Slovakia is better placed than Hungary. In relation to “self-assessment of quality” and “learning new things at work”, Slovakia performs around the average of the Post-Socialist countries. In the case of the “job rotation requiring different skills” dimension, Slovakia outperforms the country group of the Post-Socialist countries (38.2% versus 32.8% in 2005 and 33.6 % versus 27.2 % in 2010).

See in detail in *Table 9*.

In relation to company training practices, detailed in Table 10, we can state that the proportion of employees participating in formal training paid by the employers and especially the importance of informal training (on-the-job training - OJT) is noticeably higher in the case of Slovak firms compared to the Post-Socialist country group average and notably to Hungarian firms. Finally, it is worth mentioning that the share of informal training in these two countries – particularly in Slovakia – is higher in comparison to formal training. Both in the EU-27 and the Post-Socialist countries the share of formal and informal training is fairly balanced.

See in detail in *Table 10*.

Finally, it is worth noting that following the international financial and economic crisis (2007–2009) the share of both formal and informal training in Slovakia is similar or slightly higher than in the EU–27 country group average and that the share of employees participating in informal training is higher in Slovakia than in the Nordic country group.

Table 9: Cognitive Dimension of Jobs: Post-Socialist Countries versus Hungary and Slovakia (2000–2010)

Features of job	2000			2005			2010		
	Post-Socialist countries	Hungary	Slovakia	Post-Socialist countries	Hungary	Slovakia	Post-Socialist countries	Hungary	Slovakia
Self-assessment of quality	63.9%	43.3%	60.6%	63.5%	48.3%	52.2%	63.5%	43.0%	60.3%
Learning new things at work	66.8%	57.9%	67.2%	67.4%	58.9%	67.1%	66.7%	63.7%	64.0%
Tasks rotation that require different skills	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	32.8%	15.6%	38.2%	27.2%	17.5%	33.6%

Table 10: Company Training Practice: Post-Socialist Countries versus Hungary and Slovakia (2000–2010)

	2000			2005			2010		
	Post-Socialist countries	Hungary	Slovakia	Post-Socialist countries	Hungary	Slovakia	Post-Socialist countries	Hungary	Slovakia
Training paid for by the employer	30.0%	25.2%	40.2%	25.4%	15.7%	33.9%	34.8%	27.7%	36.2%
On-the-job training (OJT)	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	28.6%	18.6%	47.4%	34.0%	28.3%	50.5%

FURTHER CHALLENGES IN MEASURING ORGANISATIONAL INNOVATIONS: SOME REMARKS

In spite of the core importance of organisational innovation in exploiting the potential of other types of innovation (e.g. TPP), a generally accepted and consistent theoretical framework does not exist in the literature of organisational innovation. Due to the underdeveloped theoretical and methodological foundations, a generally accepted definition of this type of innovation does not prevail. The concepts and views of the following theoretical schools shape the various definitions of organisational innovation (Lam, 2005: 116):

1. Organisational design theory: this orientation focuses on the interrelation between structural forms and the willingness of an organisation to innovate.

2. Organisational cognition and learning: this strand of the literature deals with the capacity of organisations to explore and exploit the new knowledge necessary to innovate.

3. Organisational change and adaptation: this approach examines the firms' capacity/capability to develop adequate answers to changes in the external environment and how to influence it.

Another major weakness in the general definition of innovation – and especially in the case of organisational innovation – is “... to treat innovation as if it was a well-defined, homogeneous thing that could be identified as entering the economy at a precise date – or becoming available at a precise point in time ... The fact is that the most important innovations go through drastic changes in their lifetimes.” (Fagerberg, 2006: 5). In other words, the instruments (i.e. questionnaires) designed to identify or map the various types of innovation (including organisational innovation) do not realise the “continuous” character of innovation.

In addition, Coriat (2001) stresses the following weaknesses of survey methods aimed at identifying and assessing organisational innovation:

- 1) The definitions (implicit or explicit) used in surveys “do not generally encompass the whole dimension” of organisational innovations.

- 2) It is important to investigate the direction of organisational innovation because the most radical organisational changes themselves may lead to a reproduction of the Taylorist principles of work organisations.

3) European companies are engaged in implementing organisational innovation which results in a “self-fuelled dynamism”. However, there remain many possibilities to foster this process, partly by public policies which have been so far mainly concerned with technological innovation.

4) Organisational innovation always results in a better organisational performance and organisational efficiency influencing both the cost and non-cost related competitiveness of firms.

5) A more systematic comparison is needed between the theory of organisational innovation and the empirical results.

6) There is a contradiction between the obvious advantages offered by organisational innovation and the relative slowness of their diffusion. This can be explained by objective and subjective factors (i.e. the intensity of change in the environment varies by regions, sectors, etc., while the subjective dimension means the ability of firms to perceive changes and the necessity to react to them). Another factor contributing to the low rate of diffusion of organisational innovation is that the knowledge and know-how in this field is poorly codified with the exception – to some extent – of the most widespread organisational standards such as ISO and just-in-time. Finally, organisational innovations generally reshape the hierarchical and governance structure of firms and this often creates conflict of interest among the different levels of a firm’s hierarchy.

In summary, Coriat draws attention to the complex character of the implementation of organisational innovation: “Organizational innovation can only fully materialize if its systemic dimension is totally recalled and taken into account. We mean that a “local” change (concerning one aspect of the division and coordination of labour), may very well lead to no positive results, but even to supplementary disfunctions if the organization is not adapted and made coherent with the locally introduced changes.” (ibid. p.16)

We intend to stress the rather problematic character of the distinction between “product” and “process” innovation in the case of service sector innovation. In this sector, services are used or consumed at the point of the production. The various waves of the CIS do not pay attention to the significant differences between the manufacturing and the service sectors. (Beyhan–Dayar–Findik–Tandogan, 2009: 4). So far, there has been no consent among the representatives of the “assimilation”, “dissimilarity” or “synthesis” approaches aimed at a better understanding of innovation in the service sector.

In spite of the experiences of several national innovation surveys (e.g. the Danish DISKO surveys) on the key role of “knowledge absorptive capacity” in an innovative organisation, so far this dimension of innovation has been left out of the existing organisational innovation surveys (including the CIS). This capacity in an organisation is not identical with the formal qualification which is the by-product of “learning as acquisition”.³⁴ In relation to the knowledge absorptive capacity of the organisation, instead of insisting exclusively on the role of formal training “... what really matters is the ability to deploy qualifications in the job situation. This makes competence an important concept, especially when it relates to the qualities of social capital as cooperation capacity and communication skills internally between different functions, and externally towards various actors. What the learning organisation requires is a triad of formal education, competence and social capital” (Nielsen, 2006: 97).

34 For example, the so-called “labour process school” makes a distinction between “learning as acquisition” and “learning as participation”. “The former refers to a conceptualization, which views learning as a product with a visible, identifiable outcome, often accompanied by certification or proof of attendance. The latter perspective, on the other hand, views learning as a process in which learners improve their work performance by carrying out daily activities.” (Felstead, et al., 2008: 5). This classification is similar to the distinction between “formal education” and “competence development” or “situated learning”.

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Annex 1

STRUCTURE OF THE QUALITY REPORT FOR COUNTRY HUNGARY (COMMUNITY INNOVATION SURVEY 2008 (CIS 2008. REFERENCE PERIOD: 2008, OBSERVATION PERIOD: 2006–2008.))³⁵

1. OVERVIEW

2. SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE NATIONAL CIS 2008 METHODOLOGY USED

2.1. Target population (NACE Rev. 3), size-classes, statistical units (enterprise), the observations and reference period (2006–2008).

2.2. Survey type

2.3. Combination of sample survey and census data

2.4. Sampling design

2.5. Sampling frame

2.6. Sampling size (1856 enterprises with at least 100 employees and 4507 enterprises with less than 100 (but at least 10) employees)

2.7. Overall sample rate (100% for enterprises with at least 100 employees, 24.8% for enterprises with less than 100 (but at least 10) employees: 19.4% 10–19, 26.8% 20–49, 47.6% 50–99)

2.8. Weight calculation method (short description) – only for sample surveys

2.9. Data collection method (The enterprises are provided with questionnaires by mail and they also return the filled questionnaire by mail. HCSO provides an opportunity to download the questionnaire from our own web-site and to return to completed questionnaires by e-mail.)

2.10. Transmission (CIS 2008 data will be transmitted to Eurostat via EDAMIS.)

2.11. Overall assessment of national methodology (e.g. comments, main strengths of the survey, main weaknesses of the survey, the assessment of the survey according to each quality criteria is as follows: relevance, accuracy, timeliness and punctuality, accessibility and clarity, comparability, coherence, cost and burden).

³⁵ Source: Zsuzsa Szunyogh (Hungarian Central Statistical Office–HCSO), June, 2010.

3. RELEVANCE

3.1. Introduction

3.2. Description and classification of users and users' needs

3.3. User satisfaction

4. ACCURACY

4.1. Introduction

4.2. Sampling error

4.3. Non-sampling error

4.3.1. Coverage error

4.3.2. Measurement errors

4.3.3. Processing errors

4.3.4. Non-response errors

4.3.4.1. Unit response rate

4.3.4.2. Item response rate

4.3.4.3. Reasons for item non-response

4.3.4.5. Extent of imputation (Imputation is the method of creating plausible (but artificial) substitute values for all those missing).

4.3.4. Model assumption errors

5. TIMELINESS AND PUNCTUALITY

5.1. Introduction

5.2. Punctuality

5.3. Timeliness

6. ACCESSIBILITY AND CLARITY

6.1. Introduction

6.2. Accessibility

6.3. Clarity

7. COMPARABILITY

7.1. Introduction

7.2. Methodological deviation

7.3 Comparability over time

8. COHERENCE

8.1 Introduction

8.2. Coherence with Structural Business Statistics

Table 8.1: Comparison between SBS and CIS 2008 data (relative difference)

9. COSTS AND BURDEN

9.1. Costs

9.2. Burden under respondents

The overall cost of delivering the information depends on three components:

R = the number of respondents;

T = the time required to provide the information, including time spent assembling information prior to completing a form or taking part in interview and the time taken up by any subsequent contacts after receipt of the questionnaire ('Re-contact time');

C = the typical hourly cost of a respondent's time.

It is necessary to estimate the same components for the non-respondents, because we cannot assume a priori that the cost of the non-respondents equals zero. But for simplification it can be assumed that this cost either equals zero or is the same as that for the non-innovative enterprises.

Thus, if we neglect costs such as the start-up costs of creating systems to comply with the survey, computing costs or the use of consumables, etc., the cost on businesses should be estimated as follows:

Table 9.2: Burden

The Components	Innovative enterprises	Non innovative enterprises	Non-respondents
The number of respondents and non-respondents (R)	1 887	3503	972
The time required to provide the information (T) minute	94	48	.
The typical hourly cost (C)	7,4	7,4	.
Total costs	20 946	19 442	

T: the time required to provide the information: please try to calculate the average time needed, broken down into innovative and non-innovative enterprises

C: The typical hourly costs: Based on your knowledge of the average level of the individual responding to the questionnaire try to estimate average hourly costs of this category of person.