



## Intellectual Assets Inventory

Much knowledge is developed in research and packaged in such a way that it can be transferred to others: data, designs, inventions, models, methods and software. The trick is to see it and decide whom it could be useful to!

### What is an intellectual asset?

An intellectual asset is an objectifiable intangible asset.

- **Objectifiable** --- Defined, documented, transferable
- **Intangible** --- Knowledge, idea, solution, know---how

These 'assets' are formed from knowledge and research and surround us all the time. Examples are data sets, designs, inventions, methods, models and software.

### What is an Intellectual assets Inventory?

An intellectual asset inventory is a tool that aims at listing and categorising intellectual assets. Such a list makes it easier to highlight the assets that could be useful for others and to get an overview of the assets in a project. This also makes it easier to communicate them to others such as funding agencies, partners, research colleagues and students.

### USE IT WHEN?

- Planning an **article** in order to really think through what to publish and when
- Reporting or applying to **funding** agencies
- Reporting utilisation efforts to the **university**
- Discussing with partners or **colleagues** about who owns what asset
- Presenting to potential **partners**
- Writing an **contract** with authorities, companies or NGOs stipulating what you bring into the project (**background**) and what will be developed (**foreground**)
- Updating your **CV**
- Formulating an innovation **strategy** in the research group
- Speaking to **media**
- Thinking about **distributing** knowledge through the Internet



## HOW TO DO AN INVENTORY?



### How can I do an Intellectual Assets Inventory?

(1) Begin by picking a project to start with. (2) Identify the assets and characterise them by using the template. (3) Consider how the assets can be utilised and decide what the next step should be.

A little help might be a good idea the first time. Contact your local innovation advisor at your university for assistance!

### The Intellectual Assets Inventory Template

Types of assets: Data, Design, Invention, Method, Model, Software

Name of asset	Type of asset	Owner of asset	Description of asset	Relation to other assets	Description of utilisation of the asset2

Give the asset a **name** that makes it easier to refer to, for example the K---model, the Installation Process or the Evaluation Survey. Indicate the **type** of asset, e.g. Data, Design, Invention, Method, Model or Software. Categorising the assets makes the inventory easier to manage and understand. However, if an intellectual asset suits more than one or none of the categories then the important part is to just list the asset somewhere. Find out who is the **owner** of the asset based on the agreements and the policies that are applicable in the specific context.

Make a short **description** of the asset so it is possible to understand what it is, but make it general so that no secrets are revealed. Describe how you plan to **utilise** it in terms of what **value** the asset can bring to a particular **target group** and what the **innovation process** looks like including how you plan to or have protected the asset. For example making results available through the Internet, or publish it in a handbook to be used in a course, or protect an invention through patenting and license it, or describe a model in an article that will be published at a conference. Finally, describe any **relations** to other identified assets. For example, other assets might be prerequisites in order to use this asset in a meaningful way.

### When should I do an Intellectual Assets Inventory?

Do an inventory every time you consider publishing or presenting results from your research! Doing it often makes it a lot easier and you are less likely to say or write something that you will regret later.

Research by Dr Ulf Petrusson and his colleagues at University of Gothenburg provided inspiration for this tool!