Abstract for “Intangible Investment at the Industry Level: Growth Accounting”

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Intangible assets are considered to be key drivers for innovation and growth. In this paper, we contribute to the growing literature by constructing a unique cross-country, cross-sectoral database on intangible assets. We report on the estimation of these intangibles by 1-digit NACE industries for 14 EU countries, as part of the work for the FP7 project INDICSER. It gives an overview of the methodology employed to construct investment series at current prices. We also describe the necessary adjustments to the input and output variables of the EU KLEMS database as well as the calculation of intangible capital services. Furthermore, we present descriptive statistics and growth accounting results for 9 EU countries. In general the contribution of intangible investment to growth in labor productivity is higher in manufacturing than in services. The highest contributions in the service sector are found in the UK.