

**IPRs and Norwegian SMEs: Using registry data to analyze factors that shape innovative efforts and performance in Norwegian firms**

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1. During the 1990s the volume of patent applications increased substantially in many countries. In Norway the rate of patent applications grew on the order of 30%; growth in trademarks was even higher. This paper starts from the observation that the growth of this measure of innovative output was in gross terms highest among the country's many small and medium-sized enterprises. This suggests a rising tendency among this important population of the Norwegian economy to engage in risky innovative activities in the pursuit of commercially viable innovation. This appears to be good news, since such a tendency is expected to lead to a diversification of technological capabilities in the economy and ultimately to economic growth. But is this really a tendency? What do we really know about this relationship between firm-size and patenting? And is it leading to commercially viable innovation?

2. This paper:

A. Discusses what firm-level patenting activity reveals about the diversification of knowledge-generation in Norway

B. Examines if and how sector-specificities, firm-size, and the number and size of apparent competitors affect the propensity to patent.. And,

C. Follows patent applications and identify the correlation between firm-size and the success of the applications, allowing us to identify problems among certain firms in deriving value from their intangible knowledge. (as manifested in the propensity to withdraw applications)