



**How important are non-corporate patents?
A comparative analysis using patent citations data**
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This paper analyzes the innovative performances of non-corporate inventors using patent citations data for Denmark at the European Patent Office. I show that inventions patented outside an established corporate framework are, on average, less "important" than corporate patents, but with large variations across technology classes. Patents applied for by individual inventors and corporate firms are of comparable "quality" in the areas of "Electronics-electricity", "Instruments" and "Chemicals-pharmaceuticals", which are the fastest growing fields at the European and the Danish level. The results also highlight that in the "Chemicals and pharmaceuticals" area, non-corporate patents were more "radical" at the time this area established itself as the most patent intensive in Denmark, whereas corporations have been applying for an increasing share of marginal inventions.

Keywords: patent citations, intellectual property rights, entrepreneurship, individual inventors.

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