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Volume 27, Issue 2, June 2005, Pages 113-123

Independent inventors and public support measures: insights from 33 case studies in Finland

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wpi.2004.10.012>

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Abstract

This study explores the experiences of individual inventors trying to protect, patent, and utilize their inventions. The paper also examines the extent to which inventors received public support. Drawing on an analysis of 33 case studies of Finnish independent inventors, the study explores the extent to which the inventor types correspond with access to certain support measures and commercialization success. The findings suggest that different types of inventors and their patents concur with different levels of access to and use of support measures. Access to innovation support does not necessarily coincide with commercialization success. At times, inventor categories with some success in utilizing patented inventions coincided with little support and advice from public organizations.



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Keywords

Individual inventors; Patented inventions; Innovation support; Public support; Financial support; Commercialization success

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Finnish Institute for Enterprise Management and as a consultant for Technopolis Group. He holds a doctorate from the University of Sussex in Science and Technology Policy Studies. He served as an expert to the European Commission and Finnish Parliament. His research focuses on innovation in science-based technologies, commercialisation of university research and measuring science-technology interaction.

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