

Nordic Countries: Matching Exceptional Design and Creativity with Progressive Policy (Intellectual Assets and Innovation: The SME Dimension)

Sharing a number of cultural and legal traditions and a strong reputation for design excellence, the Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden) provide an interesting case to examine the similarities and differences in SMEs' management of intellectual assets. This chapter analyses the ways in which Nordic SMEs in the creative industries (publishing, design, film production and art) manage their intellectual assets using intellectual property rights (IPRs). Using information gathered through interviews with experts, case studies of firms in the film and design industries and a survey of firms across a number of industries, key challenges and obstacles to effective management of intellectual assets by SMEs are identified. The chapter presents an overview of the IP regulation landscape across the Nordic region, commenting on regulatory reforms and identifying innovative programmes and good practices. Finally, a series of recommendations are proposed for ways in which governments could contribute to improved management of intellectual assets by SMEs.

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