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Private equity and innovation

Assessing the impact of private equity investments on Scandinavian portfolio companies

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This thesis was written as a part of the Master of Science in Economics and Business Administration at NHH. Please note that neither the institution nor the examiners are responsible – through the approval of this thesis – for the theories and methods used, or results and conclusions drawn in this work.

Abstract

We investigate the impact private equity disbursements have on innovation in Scandinavia, using an empirical methodology developed by Kortum and Lerner (2000). Our sample consists of PE disbursements, R&D expenditures and granted patents in Norway, Sweden and Denmark from 1997-2009. Private equity accounted for 12% of patents granted in Scandinavia, while the ratio of private equity to R&D was above 20%. Our findings are contradictory to previous empirical studies and imply that private equity was less potent than R&D in creating innovation from 1997-2009.

Preface

This thesis is written as a part of the master's degree in finance at the Norwegian School of Economics (NHH).

Our common fascination for private equity initiated this thesis. The idea to investigate the relationship between private equity and innovation arose through discussions with Argentum Private Equity. Working with this thesis has been a demanding and rewarding experience. We hope that our work will be considered a positive contribution to the field of private equity research in Scandinavia.

There are certain people who deserve recognition for their contribution to this thesis. First and foremost, we would like to thank our supervisor Associate Professor Francisco Santos for valuable feedback throughout the semester. He was always available with advice and was essential in overcoming difficulties that we faced with the dataset. Secondly, we want to thank Argentum Private Equity for providing us with information on the Scandinavian private equity industry. In this regard, a special thanks goes to Ingibjörg Meyer-Myklestad for contributing with ideas and pointing us in the right direction at the beginning of the thesis. Finally, we want to thank Cornelius Mueller, research director and our contact at Invest Europe for clarifications concerning the data.

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1. Introduction

There has always been a certain degree of controversy surrounding the private equity (PE) industry. In the US, the asset class attracted attention during the presidential campaigns of Mitt Romney in 2008 and 2012. The co-founder of Bain Capital, one of the most influential PE firms in the US, was criticised for being part of an industry that destroyed companies rather than helping them create value. Romney on the other hand, claimed that PE in fact contributes to economic growth by referring to the number of jobs created by PE backed firms. The opinions have continued to be numerous and divided. Opponents claim that PE firms perform asset stripping and counteracts value creation in their own best interest. While proponents argue they provide needed capital and contribute to new business creation by allocating capital to the best ideas available. Thus, contributing to economic growth.

There are essentially two ways of ensuring economic growth. Either increase the number of inputs going into the production process, or explore new ways to better utilize the existing number of inputs. The latter is referred to as innovation. Moses Abramovitz (1956) was first to acknowledge that an increased output depends on more than simply the input of capital and labour. His findings laid the groundwork for understanding the importance of innovation, which is now recognized as the single most important component of long-term economic growth (Rosenberg, 2004).

This thesis attempts to investigate the impact of PE disbursements on innovation in Norway, Sweden and Denmark.¹ The relationship between PE and innovation was first investigated when Kortum and Lerner published their paper "*Assessing the Contribution of Venture Capital to Innovation*" in 2000. They studied the impact venture capital (VC) had on the number of patented innovations in the US manufacturing sector. As the PE sector has flourished over the last decades, similar studies have been conducted in Europe. In 2009, Popov and Roosenboom replicated the study of Kortum and Lerner (2000) for the European market in their paper "*Does private equity investment spur innovation? Evidence from Europe*".

¹ PE disbursements refer to all types of investments made by PE funds.

We apply the same methodology as Kortum and Lerner (2000) and Popov and Roosenboom (2009) to assess the relationship between PE and patenting activity in the Scandinavian countries from 1997-2009. In contrast to Kortum and Lerner (2000) we base our main analysis on PE disbursements rather than VC disbursements. Mainly, due to the fact that we had to extrapolate historical values, which turned out to be less accurate for VC than overall PE.

Our analysis contains reduced form regressions on the number of granted patents, research and development (R&D) expenditures and PE disbursements on a sample covering eight industries over 13 years in Norway, Sweden and Denmark. Additionally, we run the regressions on patent applications from 1997-2012 to examine PE disbursements' impact on the willingness to apply for patents. We address the Scandinavian market as a whole and compare PE's contribution to innovation in the countries separately. To our knowledge, this is the first time the Scandinavian PE market has been addressed in this matter.

PE disbursements average 20% of R&D expenditures and account for 12% of granted patents from 1997-2009. PE's contribution to granted patents is lower than the PE/R&D-ratio, implying that PE disbursements are less potent than R&D in creating innovation in Scandinavia. Similar findings are made for patent applications, with PE accounting for 10% of innovation from 1997-2012, while the PE/R&D-ratio averages 21%. In comparison Popov and Roosenboom (2009) found PE to be more potent than R&D in Europe from 1991-2004 as it accounted for 12% of industrial innovation, while averaging 8% of R&D expenditures. Hence, our findings indicate that PE is less potent in Scandinavia than Europe.

The largest impact is found in Norway where PE accounts for 19% of granted patents, while averaging 25% of R&D expenditures. PE seems to be least efficient in Denmark with PE disbursements accounting for 1% of granted patents compared to a PE/R&D-ratio of 21%.

The thesis is structured in the following way: Chapter 2 provides information on PE, a brief overview of the Scandinavian market and insight to previous studies on the topic. Chapter 3 presents the data and the estimations made to facilitate the analysis. Chapter 4 contains the methodology and analysis. Chapter 5 presents the findings, limitations and robustness of the analysis. The final chapter concludes.

2. Background

PE is risk capital outside the public markets. The PE market provides capital to unquoted companies including public companies that are de-listed as part of the transaction. PE firms attempt to increase shareholder value in their portfolio companies to achieve capital gains. Investments are made in businesses ranging from early-stage ventures to established companies. Funds investing in early-stage ventures are generalised to VC, while leveraged buyout funds (LBOs) invest in more mature companies (Gilligan and Wright, 2014).

American Research and Development Corporation (ARDC) was founded in 1946 and is commonly viewed as the world's first PE firm. The industry has grown tremendously and several American PE firms now have over \$100 billion under management. Although the Scandinavian PE sector is not comparable to its US counterpart in terms of assets under management, it has experienced a substantial growth over the last decades. PE investments by Norwegian, Swedish and Danish PE firms are over 23 times higher today compared to the early 1990s.² In 2014, Scandinavian PE firms had a total of €64,311 million under management, which constitutes 11.75% of the European market.

To investigate the impact of PE disbursements on innovation we need to measure the degree of innovation present. Hagedoorn and Cloodt (2003) present R&D input, patent counts, patent citations and counts of new product announcements as indicators of innovative performance. Furthermore, they state that the statistical overlap between the indicators is strong enough for them to be considered suitable on their own. Hence, patent counts are accepted as an appropriate indicator to assess a company's innovative performance.

The relationship between PE and innovation was not systematically scrutinized until Kortum and Lerner (200) examined the influence VC had on patented innovations in the United States between 1965 and 1992. They assume that VC and R&D are the only two sources of innovation, and compare the contribution of VC to the VC/R&D-ratio. Kortum and Lerner (2000) find that VC activity in an industry is associated with significantly higher patenting rates. Their findings suggest that VC may have accounted for as much as 8% of industrial

² Combined investments from Scandinavian PE funds averaged €154,193 from 1992-1994 and €3,550,323 from 2012-2014.

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innovation, while the VC/R&D-ratio averaged less than 3% from 1983-1992. Thus, VC is more potent than R&D in creating innovation.

Popov and Roosenboom (2009) later applied the same methodology on a cross-country sample to investigate the relationship between PE disbursements and innovation in Europe. In contrast to Kortum and Lerner (2000) they included later stage buy-outs rather than focusing solely on VC disbursements. Their findings suggest that European PE firms are less efficient in spurring innovation than their US counterparts. With PE accounting for 12% of industrial innovation from 1991-2004, while the average PE/R&D-ratio was 8%. The findings of Popov and Roosenboom (2009) are particularly relevant for our analysis as the Scandinavian countries are part of their sample. Furthermore, they operate with total PE values in their analysis, which we also do for our main analysis. Hence, if the European PE market is representative for Scandinavia our results should coincide with Popov and Roosenboom (2009).

Lerner, Sorensen and Strömberg (2011) explore the effect PE has on innovation with focus on LBOs. They explore whether LBO funds pursue short-term profit at the expense of long-term performance to please their investors. Assessing a sample of 472 LBO transactions, they find no such evidence. On the contrary, they find that LBO funds contribute to more innovation in their portfolio companies, just like Kortum and Lerner (2000) showed for VC funds. Although, they do not find evidence of a change in the number of patents, the patents applied for in the years after the LBO transactions are more frequently cited. Hence, the quality of the patents is perceived as improved. Amess, Stiebale and Wright (2015) made similar findings when investigating a sample of 407 buyout deals in the UK. They find that LBOs have a positive effect on the patent stock as well as the quality-adjusted patent stock.

3. Dataset

Our dataset contains annual PE disbursements, R&D expenditures and patents for Norway, Sweden and Denmark between 1997-2012. We divide the yearly data into industries in order to get a better picture of how investments in PE and R&D affect patenting activity. Furthermore, we expand the dataset and obtain 15 observations per year.

PE disbursements are collected from Invest Europe's yearbooks.³ R&D expenditures are obtained from each country's national bureau of statistics.⁴ Patenting activity is collected from Eurostat's database.⁵ Table 1 presents some descriptive statistics.

	Patents granted	Patent applications	R&D	PE disbursements	PE/R&D
1997	2 756	3 000	9 399 437	649 254	6.91 %
1998	2 680	3 205	9 949 256	572 265	5.75 %
1999	2 755	3 445	10 684 658	1 595 008	14.93 %
2000	2 844	3 684	12 465 596	2 429 121	19.49 %
2001	2 494	3 417	12 959 056	2 989 656	23.07 %
2002	2 276	3 409	12 755 227	1 313 861	10.30 %
2003	2 230	3 483	12 699 985	2 022 743	15.93 %
2004	2 196	3 732	12 270 195	2 569 182	20.94 %
2005	2 408	4 109	12 319 688	4 474 754	36.32 %
2006	2 606	4 243	12 729 450	4 545 498	35.71 %
2007	2 793	4 595	12 772 546	5 401 626	42.29 %
2008	2 621	4 506	11 417 763	3 751 001	32.85 %
2009	2 092	4 381	12 207 542	1 946 456	15.94 %
2010	_	4 570	12 807 040	4 441 400	34.68 %
2011		4 724	13 078 187	4 156 790	31.78 %
2012		3 772	13 646 631	2 807 600	20.57 %
Average	2 519	3 892	12 135 141	2 854 139	23.52 %

Table 1: Descriptive statistics for Scandinavia. Yearly patenting activity, R&D expenditures, PE disbursements and PE/R&D-ratio combined for Norway, Sweden and Denmark from 1997-2012.

³ All amounts are reported in thousands, and adjusted for inflation with 2009 as a basis year.

⁴ All amounts are converted from national currencies to Euros and adjusted for inflation with 2009 as a basis year.

⁵ Eurostat do not report granted patents after 2009.

To conduct the analysis, we are dependent on comparable numbers. Originally, the collected data is reported differently. Some values are missing, while others are reported in ways that are not comparable. We construct a framework to convert the collected data and make it applicable for the analysis.

Invest Europe is an institution that gathers detailed information from all the national venture capital associations and presents it on an annual basis. They report PE disbursements according to a proprietary industry split, while R&D expenditures and patents are reported according to NACE.⁶ Our main concern is to align these two classifications in a way that allows for comparison of our data. We undertake several adjustments to the data to facilitate the analysis. In the following section, we explain our methodology and the reasoning behind the different estimations.

3.1 Private equity disbursements

Invest Europe reports numbers on fundraising, investments, divestments and geographic trends for all European countries. The data relevant for our analysis are called Market Statistics and are based on the location of the portfolio company that receives PE disbursements. Market Statistics were first introduced when Invest Europe changed reporting standards in 2007. Prior to this they only reported data based on the location of the PE fund, or so called Industry Statistics.

Popov and Roosenboom (2009) also utilize the Invest Europe yearbooks. In contrast to our paper they conduct their analysis based on Industry Statistics rather than Market Statistics. They argue that the two amounts will be quite similar if all types of PE disbursements are included. However, when considering this approach, we discovered that the numbers did in fact deviate substantially. In 2007, Market Statistics were €480,013, €75,029 and €500,974 higher than Industry Statistics for Norway, Sweden and Denmark respectively (Appendix I). On the basis of this discovery, we decided to apply the accurate Market Statistics from 2007-2012 and extrapolate the values prior to this year. It should be noted that Popov and

^o Nomenclature générale des activités économiques dans les Communautés Européennes (NACE) is a statistical classification of economic activities in the European community that facilitate for comparison of a variety of economic activities (Ec.europa.eu, 2016).

Roosenboom (2009) only had two years of applicable Market Statistics when they conducted their analysis in 2009. Hence, they did not have a valid alternative to using Industry Statistics as two years of observations are not enough to estimate historical investments. We argue that eight years gives us sufficient insight to extrapolate values prior to 2007.

3.1.1 Estimation of Market Statistics

Market Statistics consists of investments made in national portfolio companies by domestic and foreign PE funds. Domestic investments are reported for every year in our sample, while investments made by foreign PE first started in 2007. To exemplify, in 2007 Invest Europe reports Market Statistics of \notin 1,178,505 in Norway. It is further reported that \notin 567,390 originates from domestic PE funds, while \notin 611,115 comes from foreign PE funds. In 2006, only domestic investments of \notin 426,731 is reported.

We have applicable data starting from 2007, but only a share of the total Market Statistics prior to this year. Thus, we need to estimate investments made by foreign PE funds in Scandinavian portfolio companies prior to 2007 on the basis of domestic investments. PE firms are best positioned to exploit opportunities available in their home country. Thus, we argue that domestic investments are good indicators of how attractive a market is to foreign investors. It is important to note that this methodology was only applied when we did not have accurate Market Statistics available. For the values after 2007, accurate values are applied.

Invest Europe started reporting main cross-border investments when they introduced Market Statistics in 2007. Most of the foreign PE investments coming into a country originate from PE funds in the same two or three countries. Once more we use Market Statistics in Norway to exemplify. Of the \notin 611,115 Norwegian companies received from foreign PE funds this year, \notin 464,063 and \notin 22,444 came from UK and Swedish funds respectively. If we include domestic investments of \notin 567,390 these three countries accounted for 89% of total Market Statistics in Norway in 2007. Thus, a large share of the Market Statistics can be explained from investments made by domestic PE funds and the inflow from foreign funds in the countries that appear to invest the most. Similar findings are made for the years following 2007.

In order to estimate Market Statistics prior to 2007, we compute a multiple that can be applied to domestic investments. To calculate this multiple, we collect investments made in Norwegian, Swedish and Danish portfolio companies by foreign PE funds. We proceed with the two or three countries that invest the most and compare the investments to domestic investments each year. We then consider the amount that is not yet explained by the largest investing countries, but is needed to make up the total Market Statistics. These investments are referred to as "Rest of the World". Finally, we compute an average of the investments made by the largest investing countries and "Rest of the world" as a percentage of domestic investments. Combined, these ratios make up the multiple that we apply to domestic investments prior to 2007.

We utilize the calculations for the Norwegian multiple as an example. First, we examine how Swedish and UK funds have invested in Norwegian portfolio companies from 2007-2014. Second, we compare the investments to domestic investments made by Norwegian PE funds in the same year. Third, we withdraw the Swedish and UK investments from the total Market Statistics to discover how much stems from "Rest of the world". Finally, we compute averages of Swedish, UK and "Rest of the world" investments as a percentage of domestic Norwegian investments between 2007-2014 and combine them to create the multiple (Table 2). We utilize the multiple to estimate Market Statistics before 2007 on the basis of Norwegian domestic investments.

Swedish and UK funds are the largest investors in Norwegian portfolio companies from 2007-2014. They average 20.45% and 50.12% of domestic Norwegian investments respectively. The remaining amount originates from "Rest of the world" and accounts for 7.44% of domestic investments over the same period. To estimate the foreign inflow before 2007, we add these percentages to the domestic investments and apply a multiple of 1.7801 (Table 2).

Norway	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Market Statistics	1 178 504	1 124 709	709 223	1 886 733	905 065	966 689	1 680 988	2 208 987
Domestic investments	567 390	656 668	596 468	809 915	639 136	733 033	752 941	1 124 137
Swedish investment	22 444	149 680	58 967	388 492	73 744	85 206	329 461	135 518
% Swedish investment by domestic investments	4 %	23 %	10 %	48 %	12 %	12 %	44 %	12 %
Average	20.45 %							
UK investment	464 063	288 673	47 588	673 670	187 844	88 634	532 878	807 204
% UK investment by domestic investments	82 %	44 %	8 %	83 %	29 %	12 %	71 %	72 %
Average	50.12 %							
Investment Rest of the world	124 607	29 688	6 200	14 657	4 342	59 816	65 707	142 129
Investment Rest of the world by domestic investments	22 %	5 %	1 %	2 %	1 %	8 %	9 %	13 %
Average	7.44 %							
Applied multiple	1.7801							

Table 2: Calculation of Norwegian multiple. Yearly investment in Norwegian portfolio companies relative to domestic Norwegian investment from 2007-2014.

Norwegian, UK and Danish funds are the largest investors in Swedish portfolio companies from 2007-2014. They average 2.54%, 26.95% and 2.60% of domestic Swedish investments respectively. The remaining amount originates from "Rest of the world" and accounts for 8.30% of domestic investments over the same period. To estimate the foreign inflow before 2007, we add these percentages to the domestic investments and apply a multiple of 1.4038 (Table 3).

Sweden	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Market Statistics	3 085 305	2 288 301	1 112 09	2 766 545	3 354 258	2 527 281	813 87	1 421 46
Domestic investments	2 179 688	1 975 306	860 313	2 218 243	1 556 676	1 796 337	662 02	1 072 13
Norwegian Investment	84 922	24 160	10 822	30 046	4 360	75 767	25 904	44 842
% Norwegian investment by domestic investments	3.90 %	1.22 %	1.6 %	1.35 %	0.28 %	4.22 %	3.91 %	4.18 %
Average	2.54 %							
UK investment	753 247	133 629	43 653	385 446	1 602 162	475 891	52 763	154 575
% UK investment by domestic investments	34.56 %	6.76 %	5.07 %	17.38 %	102.92 %	26.49 %	7.97 %	14.42 %
Average	26.95 %							
	33 775	22 574	3 947	60 473	22.245			
Danish investment	33773	22 374	3 947	60 473	32 345	78 468	46 072	16 006
Danish investment % Danish investment by domestic investments	1.55 %	1.14 %	0.46 %	2.73 %	2.08 %	78 468 4.37 %	46 072 6.96 %	16 006 1.49 %
% Danish investment by domestic investments	1.55 %							
% Danish investment by domestic investments Average	1.55 % 2.60 %	1.14 %	0.46 %	2.73 %	2.08 %	4.37 %	6.96 %	1.49 %
% Danish investment by domestic investments Average Investment Rest of the world	1.55 % 2.60 % 33 672 1.54 %	1.14 % 132 633	0.46 %	2.73 % 72 337	2.08 % 158 715	4.37 % 100 818	6.96 % 27 114	1.49 % 133 902

Table 3: Calculation of Swedish multiple. Yearly investment in Swedish portfolio companies relative to domestic Swedish investment from 2007-2014.

Swedish and UK funds are the largest investors in Danish portfolio companies from 2007-2014. They average 12.8% and 82.54% of domestic Danish investments respectively. The remaining amount originates from "Rest of the world" and accounts for 13.51% of domestic investments over the same period. To estimate the foreign inflow before 2007, we add these percentages to the domestic investments and apply a multiple of 2.0885.

Denmark	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Market Statistics	1 835 153	1 207 400	479 041	385 65	880 586	861 573	1 868 187	1 250 285
Domestic investments	1 175 265	419 760	391 732	241 67	279 551	426 379	1 248 046	449 133
Swedish investment	87 134	39 804	38 504	71 320	46 679	11 431	215 282	42 697
% Swedish investment by domestic investments	7.41 %	9.48 %	9.83 %	29.51	16.70 %	2.68 %	17.25 %	9.51 %
Average	12.80 %							
UK investment	500 717	557 443	17 788	49 089	538 049	386 666	224 263	714 019
% UK investment by domestic investments	43 %	133 %	5 %	20 %	192 %	91 %	18 %	159 %
Average	82.54%							
Investment Rest of the world	72 037	190 394	31 016	23 576	16 307	37 097	180 596	44 435
Investment Rest of the world by domestic investments	6.13 %	45.36 %	7.92 %	9.76 %	5.83 %	8.70 %	14.47 %	9.89 %
Average	13.51 %							
Applied multiple	2.0885							

Table 4: Calculation of Danish multiple. Yearly investment in Danish portfolio companies relative to domestic Danish investment from 2007-2014.

We also considered alternative approaches to extrapolate the Market Statistics prior to 2007. To decide on the most suitable approach, we apply the estimation methodologies to the year following 2007 and compare them to the accurate Market Statistics. The approach that deviate the least from the correct numbers is used to extrapolate values prior to 2007.

One approach was to construct a multiple based on foreign investments rather than domestic investments. Instead of computing UK and Swedish funds' investments in Norwegian portfolio companies as a share of domestic Norwegian investments, we considered these amounts as shares of total foreign investments. To exemplify with numbers, we previously mentioned that UK and Swedish PE funds invested ϵ 464,063 and ϵ 22,444 in Norwegian portfolio companies in 2007. This represents 3.00% and 2.48% of overall foreign investments made by PE funds in the respective countries that year. It would be reasonable to assume the average share of total foreign PE investments going into Norwegian portfolio companies between 2007 and 2014 would reflect the investments made prior to 2007. However, when applying this multiple to the years after 2007 the values deviate more from the actual Market Statistics than the case was for the approach with domestic investments. Table 5 shows the accurate Market Statistics from 2007-2014 and compare the numbers to the estimations resulting from the two approaches. The estimates based on domestic investments are most accurate for all years, except 2009 and 2010. This suggest that

domestic investments are better indicators than foreign investments to estimate Market Statistics prior to 2007. The findings support our assumption that domestic firms are best positioned to exploit opportunities in their home country.

Norway	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Market Statistics	1 178 504	1 124 709	709 223	1 886 733	905 065	966 689	1 680 988	2 208 987
Estimations based on domestic investments	1 010 014	1 168 937	1 061 775	1 441 733	1 137 728	1 304 877	1 340 315	2 001 082
Deviation from accurate Market Statistics	168 490	-44 229	-352 552	445 000	-232 663	-338 187	340 673	207 906
Estimations based on foreign investments	1 731 174	1 305 345	956 660	1 441 786	2 086 326	1 416 442	1 157 667	1 658 248
Deviation from accurate Market Statistics	-552 670	-180 636	-247 437	444 948	-1 181 261	-449 752	523 321	550 740

Table 5: Estimation approaches for Market Statistics. Two approaches for estimating Market Statistics in Norway, and deviations from accurate Market Statistics in 2007-2014. The most accurate method each year is highlighted.

Although our approaches suggest that domestic investments are the most suitable indicators for extrapolating Market Statistics prior to 2007 it should be emphasized that our eight-year sample does not provide a perfect picture of historical Market Statistics. Consequently, when applying the multiples to domestic investments after 2007 our results deviate from the accurate Market Statistics. To account for this limitation, we include an individual analysis on a sample starting in 2007. This analysis will have fewer observations, but have the benefit of accurate Market Statistics. Including such an analysis control the robustness of our initial results. If the results are robust we would expect to find similar results with the sample from 2007-2012.

After applying the multiples to estimate historical values we have obtained Market Statistics for Norway, Sweden and Denmark from 1997-2006 (Appendix II). In order to enlarge our sample, we have to allocate the Market Statistics to the industries created by Invest Europe.

3.1.2 Distribution of PE disbursements to industries

Invest Europe divides the data in 15 different industries. For the years after 2007 the Market Statistics are already allocated among these industries. However, for the beginning of our sample we do not have an accurate division. We utilize the observations we have between 2007-2014 to allocate our estimated Market Statistics. We use the average distribution for each country and assume that the industries have attracted the same relative amount prior to 2007. Table 6 shows how Market Statistics were divided among the 15 industries, the share

going into each industry in 2007 and the average from 2007-2014. Prior to 2007 the estimated Market Statistics are divided between the 15 industries based on the trends from 2007-2014.

	No	rway	
Industries	2007	2007 allocation	Average allocation 07-14
Agriculture	9 521	0.81 %	2.53 %
Business & industrial products	105 815	8.98 %	5.44 %
Business & industrial services	27 016	2.29 %	5.34 %
Chemicals & materials	0	0.00 %	0.35 %
Communications	368 187	31.24 %	10.26 %
Computer & consumer electronics	54 184	4.60 %	14.64 %
Construction	0	0.00 %	1.64 %
Consumer goods & retail	258 848	21.96 %	11.50 %
Consumer services	429	0.04 %	4.25 %
Energy & environment	237 880	20.18 %	28.71 %
Financial services	1 159	0.10 %	3.21 %
Life sciences	57 388	4.87 %	9.55 %
Real estate	4 842	0.41 %	0.27 %
Transportation	16 450	1.40 %	1.86 %
Unclassified	36 787	3.12 %	0.45 %
SUM	1 178 504	100.00 %	100.00 %

Table 6: Industry allocation of Market Statistics. Market Statistics allocated to Invest Europe's industries in 2007, and the average allocation from 2007-2014

We considered alternative approaches to allocate Market Statistics to the different industries. Again, we experimented with shifting the focus to the investing countries. Invest Europe provides information on the investments patterns for all European countries and we tried utilizing this for our distribution. We use Norway 2007 as an example, table 2 shows that the Norwegian Market Statistics of $\notin 1,178,505$ consists of $\notin 567,390$ from domestic PE funds, $\notin 464,063$ from UK funds, $\notin 22,444$ from Swedish funds and $\notin 124,607$ from "Rest of the World". We collect similar data for the following seven years and compare the investments to the total foreign PE investments made in Norway each year. It shows that Swedish PE funds account for 26%, UK funds account for 65% and funds from "Rest of the world" account for 9% of the foreign investments in Norwegian portfolio companies from 2007-2014. We investigate the effects of allocating the estimated Market Statistics based on these shares. In 2007 the domestic investments of $\notin 567,390$ was distributed based on the average

investment pattern of Norwegian PE funds. Foreign investments of $\in 611,115$ was divided with the aforementioned shares and distributed according to the investment patterns of the respective countries.

When comparing the estimated numbers to the actual ones in 2007, it proved more accurate to use the distribution based on average Market Statistics. This was also the case for the following years. Table 7 shows the largest deviation from the actual Market Statistics every year. It is clear that our chosen approach (MS) deviates the least when we apply the two distribution approaches to the numbers between 2007 and 2014.⁷ Although allocating the estimated Market Statistics based on the average allocation from 2007-2014 seems quite simplistic, it turned out to be the approach that presented us with the most realistic values when we apply the methodologies to the numbers after 2007.

Country	Nor	way	Swee	len	Denm	ark
Method	MS average	IS Average	MS average	IS Average	MS average	IS Average
2007	34 153		22 980		23 679	
2008	37 070			352 709	93 091	
2009	11 061	-		39 028		18 524
2010		131 791	282 471			299 420
2011		92 774		267 599		75 175
2012		80 134	114 046			195 660
2013		123 975		31 580	303 883	
2014	153 130		121 027			217 246
SUM	235 414	428 675	540 523	690 917	420 653	806 024

Table 7: Allocation approaches for Market Statistics. Yearly difference in absolute deviation from Market Statistics between the two methods considered in allocating to industries. No value implies that this method is the most accurate for a given year.

⁷ The preferred approach deviates \notin 193,261, \notin 150,394 and \notin 385,371 less than the alternative for Norway, Sweden and Denmark respectively.

3.2 Research and development expenditures

We extract the R&D expenditures from the national statistics bureaus. Two different classifications are used to categorize the economic activities. Prior to 2007 the R&D expenditures are reported according to NACE 1.1, while NACE 2.0 is used after 2007. Invest Europe bases its industry classification on NACE 2.0 (Sectorial Classification, 2007). A correspondence table created by Eurostat is used to allocate NACE 1.1 into suitable NACE 2.0 classes (Correspondence table NACE Rev. 1.1 - NACE Rev. 2, 2008). In the cases where one NACE 1.1 class becomes several NACE 2.0 classes, we apply a percentage based on how many subclasses that feature in each NACE 2.0 class (Appendix III). In 2007, values are reported according to both classifications. We utilize this overlapping year to control that the data has been converted as accurate as possible.

To conduct our analysis, we need PE disbursements, R&D expenditures and patents to be reported similarly. As Invest Europe does not give a finer split of their 15 industries, we need to convert the R&D expenditures from NACE 2.0 to Invest Europe's proprietary industry split. We develop a distribution system based on Eurostat's own metadata (Ec.europa.eu, 2016), and a sectorial classification form we received from Invest Europe (Sectorial Classification, 2007). For the matching process to be as accurate as possible we operate with the entire 4-digit codes from the NACE 2.0 classification. In the cases where one NACE 2.0 class falls completely into one Invest Europe industry, the transmission is made directly. However, if a class is divided between several different industries we assign a percentage to the respective industries involved. The share is based on the number of existing subclasses and how many observations we make of that specific class in each of Invest Europe's industries. This allows us to divide the R&D expenditures between multiple Invest Europe industries when it is necessary. To exemplify, the NACE 2.0 class "C10 -Manufacture of food products" falls entirely under "Consumer goods and retail", while "C31 – Manufacture of furniture" is allocated with ¹/₄ to "Business and industrial products" and ³/₄ to "Consumer goods and retail". The result is a comprehensive distribution system that accounts for the number of observations and splits up the clusters before allocating them appropriately (Appendix IV).

Four caveats are in place for the R&D expenditures. Firstly, certain values prior to 2007 are reported on a semi-annual basis in Norway and Sweden. In order to obtain a complete dataset we use an average of the previous and following year to estimate the missing values.

Secondly, there are differences in both the composition and completeness of the data. Especially the clustering of NACE 1.1 classes varies a lot. Consequently, we alter our correspondence table and make different trade-offs in each country. In addition, some of the clusters after 2007 have to be rearranged in order to fit our distribution system. We utilize the numbers prior to 2007 to calculate average shares, which we apply to split up the existing NACE 2.0 classes. To exemplify, "01-03 Agriculture, forestry and fishing" and "04-09 Mining and quarrying" fall in different Invest Europe industries but are classified together in NACE 2.0. Prior to 2007 these classes were reported separately, allowing us to compute the average share each class previously has accounted for and split the clusters in a way that is more suitable for our distribution system.

Thirdly, our distribution system is based on the assumption that each subclass represents an equal share of the parent class in NACE 2.0. An example will help clarify this concern. It was previously mentioned how the parent class "C31 - Manufacture of furniture" is divided in two different Invest Europe industries, with ¹/₄ and ³/₄. This is based on the observation of four subclasses, appearing in two different industries. In this case, "31.01 - Manufacture of office and shop furniture" belongs to "Business and industrial products", while the other three subclasses belong to "Consumer goods and retail". However, it is not given that the subclasses represents equal parts of the overall amount. On the contrary, the subclasses are likely to constitute different amounts. This could lead to some values being overestimated at the expense of others, but as there is no method to determine the actual share that belong to each subclass, we continue with this assumption.

Fourthly, the subdivision of industries presented by Statistics Denmark is not nearly as thorough as for Norway or Sweden. The overall R&D expenditures are only divided into a few large clusters and it is not possible to relocate the amounts to Invest Europe industries. We include a second source of information with a better division to be able to allocate the numbers. Eurostat presents a very thorough split from 2009-2012. Hence, we have four overlapping years from the two datasets. As the overall amounts for the four years are equal, we design a distribution system that we later apply to allocate the remaining years presented by Statistics Denmark.

3.3 Patents

Eurostat reports patents from two different sources. The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) gives information on patents granted, while the European Patent Office (EPO) provides patent applications. Granting patents is a time consuming process and reported with at least five years lag. Thus, it is not possible obtain data later than 2009. Patent applications are reported until 2012 and extend our sample with three years. Furthermore, the patent applications leaves us with six years (2007-2012) where we do not have to rely on our estimated Market Statistics, but can apply the accurate values and industry distribution.

Eurostat reports both types of patents according to NACE 2.0. The patents are divided into 27 different NACE 2.0 classes. In order to compare the patents to the industries created by Invest Europe we utilize the distribution system that we developed for the R&D expenditures (Appendix IV).

Five of the 15 Invest Europe industries are left without any patents. As a result, we remove "Agriculture", "Business and industrial services", "Consumer services", "Financial services" and "Real estate" from our sample. It is mainly service industries that are left out. Naturally, these industries do not have any products to patent. It should be noted that they attract quite substantial amounts of PE disbursements and by excluding them we might overestimate the effect PE has on innovation. Additionally, we leave out the sector "Unclassified" as it is not clear what it consists of. This leaves us with nine overlapping industries with values for PE disbursements, R&D expenditures and patents.

The final dataset includes values for Norway, Sweden and Denmark over a period of 13 years for patents granted (1997-2009) and 16 years in the case of patent applications (1997-2012). We have 117 and 144 observations covering nine industries, for patents granted and patent applications respectively. In addition, we conduct a separate analysis on a smaller sample with patent applications and accurate Market Statistics distribution.

3.4 Descriptive statistics

In this section we give a descriptive overview of our data. Patenting activity, R&D expenditures and PE disbursements are presented for every industry in Norway, Sweden and Denmark. We also include the ratio PE over R&D to give an indication of the relative relationship between the two sources of innovation. This is something we will return to when evaluating the impact PE disbursements have on innovation.

Norway	Patents granted	Patent applications	R&D	PE disbursements	PE/R&D
Business & industrial products	143	183	348 198	38 210	10.97 %
Chemicals & materials	26	42	110 072	2 113	1.92 %
Communications	10	10	334 010	84 680	25.35 %
Computer & consumer electronics	53	50	248 925	113 057	45.42 %
Construction	6	13	38 281	10 171	26.57 %
Consumer goods & retail	34	51	119 285	89 298	74.86 %
Energy & environment	1	2	155 627	193 229	124.16 %
Life sciences	37	53	101 160	75 619	74.75 %
Transportation	18	22	92 899	16 524	17.79 %
SUM	327	426	1 548 458	622 903	40.23 %

Table 8: Descriptive statistics for Norway. Yearly average of patenting activity, R&D expenditures, PE disbursements and PE/R&D-ratio for Norway from 1997-2012

As shown in table 8, "*Business & industrial products*" is the most active industry in regards of patenting in Norway. Nearly half of the patents belong to this industry. The other extreme is "*Energy & Environment*", with virtually no patenting activity. This is something we find surprising as we would assume patenting activity in the Norwegian offshore sector would be registered in this industry.

PE disbursements are large relative to R&D expenditures and accounts for 40.23% on average from 1997-2012. This number is mainly driven by *"Energy & environment"* and is fairly large in comparison to similar studies.⁸ An explanation for this could be that these

⁸ Kortum and Lerner (2000) reports a VC/R&D ratio of 3% in the US from 1983-1991 and Popov and Roosenboom (2009) reports a PE/R&D-ratio of 8% in Europe between 1991 and 2004.

Sweden	Patents granted	Patent applications	R&D expenditures	PE disbursements	PE/R&D
Business & industrial products	663	1 001	1 719 716	402 489	23.40 %
Chemicals & materials	57	92	201 016	83 348	41.46 %
Communications	66	87	511 530	150 459	29.41 %
Computer & consumer electronics	332	443	1 094 820	212 830	19.44 %
Construction	36	61	79 077	82 980	104.94 %
Consumer goods & retail	162	261	261 406	215 770	82.54 %
Energy & environment	1	2	45 527	93 618	205.63 %
Life sciences	192	273	1 850 537	361 584	19.54 %
Transportation	96	171	1 681 130	20 625	1.23 %
SUM	1 605	2 392	7 444 758	1 623 701	21.81 %

studies are conducted with an older data sample and PE has experienced an exponential growth in Scandinavia over the last decades.

Table 9: Descriptive statistics for Sweden. Yearly average of patenting activity, R&D expenditures, PE disbursements and PE/R&D-ratio for Sweden from 1997-2012.

Table 9 shows similar trends in the Swedish market. More than one third of the patenting activity stems from "*Business & industrial products*", while "*Energy & environment*" barely has any patents. In "*Energy & environment*" PE disbursements and R&D expenditures are lower compared to total investments, and the low count of patents seems more logical than in Norway. However, we still consider the patent count as surprisingly low.

The average PE/R&D-ratio in Sweden is 21.81%. Although R&D expenditures are relatively large in comparison to PE disbursements, the ratio is more in line with the data applied by Kortum and Lerner (2000) and Popov and Roosenboom (2009). Again, we discover that certain industries contribute to this high number. Particularly "*Energy & environment*" and "*Construction*" show a substantially higher PE/R&D-ratio than the average of 21.81%.

Denmark	Patents granted	Patents applied	R&D expenditures	PE disbursements	PE/R&D
Business & industrial products	199	417	703 514	83 097	11.81 %
Chemicals & materials	34	63	187 562	10 695	5.70 %
Communications	15	20	275 118	48 342	17.57 %
Computer & consumer electronics	77	104	520 204	133 052	25.58 %
Construction	13	44	28 663	47 799	166.76 %
Consumer goods & retail	82	169	238 882	89 328	37.39 %
Energy & environment	2	3	33 812	21 400	63.29 %
Life sciences	153	232	1 128 382	138 936	12.31 %
Transportation	12	22	25 788	34 886	135.28 %
SUM	587	1 074	3 141 925	607 535	19.34 %

Table 10: Descriptive statistics for Denmark. Yearly average of patenting activity, R&D expenditures, PE disbursements and PE/R&D-ratio for Denmark from 1997-2012.

From table 10 we see that patenting activity in Denmark is fairly similar to the other two Scandinavian countries. "*Business & industrial products*" contains the largest number of patents, while "*Energy & environment*" has very few yearly patents. "*Construction*" and "*Transportation*" stands out as the two most PE intensive industries, with "*Energy & environment*" still being quite large. The PE/R&D-ratio is 19.34%, and the lowest of the Scandinavian countries.

4. Methodology

In order to evaluate the impact PE disbursements have on innovation we conduct a series of reduced form regressions. We start by analysing a production function that assess patenting activity as a function of R&D expenditures and PE disbursements. Following this, we conduct an analysis under the assumption that PE and R&D are perfect substitutes as means of creating innovation analysing a linearized equation. The methodology follows the original work of Kortum and Lerner (2000) and the assumptions are explained and justified as we carry out the analysis. A more thorough interpretation of the results is presented in the next chapter.

It is important to emphasize that the model is based on certain simplifications. Patenting activity depends on more than PE disbursements and R&D expenditures, for example technological bursts or the behaviour of the patentee. We also assume that PE and R&D are substitutes in terms of creating patenting activity. However, R&D expenditures are likely to include some research financed by PE, making it less likely for us to find the isolated impact PE disbursements have on patenting conditional on R&D expenditures.

4.1 The patent production function

A patent production function is the starting point for the analysis. It provides a first look at the relationship between patenting activity, R&D expenditures and PE disbursements. This production function is later customized to assess the contribution of PE to innovation.

$$P_{it} = (RD_{it}^{\rho} + bPE_{it}^{\rho})^{\alpha/\rho}u_{it} \tag{1}$$

Patenting (P) is a function of privately funded industrial R&D expenditures (RD) and PE disbursements (PE). The error term (u) captures the effects that are not explained by the model, such as the arrival of new technological opportunities and the propensity to patent. All variables are indexed by industry (i) and year (t). The parameter b captures the role of PE in the function. Our main focus is on this parameter as any b > 0 suggest that PE has a positive impact on innovation. If b = 0 the patent production function is reduced to the standard form with R&D expenditures as its only input. The parameter (α) measures the percentage change in patenting brought about by a 1% change in both R&D and PE. The

parameter (ρ) measures the degree of substitutability between R&D and PE. If $\rho = 1$, the inputs are perfect substitutes and the function is reduced to

$$P_{it} = (RD_{it} + bPE_{it})^{\alpha}u_{it} \tag{2}$$

If $\rho = 0$, the function reduces to a Cobb-Douglas functional form

$$P_{it} = RD_{it}^{\alpha/(1+b)} + PE_{it}^{\alpha b/(1+b)}u_{it}$$
(3)

We will discuss the interpretation of the substitution parameter in greater length later in the analysis.

4.2 Estimates

To obtain estimates for the parameters in our production function, we start with a non-linear least squares regressions. We continue by linearizing the equation before we alter the dataset as a result of outliers and run the final regressions. The parameters are interpreted and explained as the analysis moves forward.

4.2.1 Non-linear least squares

Our first estimates are non-linear least squares of the patent production function. We log equation 1, to obtain equation 4 and run regressions for each country and Scandinavia. The dependent variables are the logarithms of the number of patent applications and patents granted. The two independent variables are the logarithm of R&D expenditures and the logarithm of PE disbursements in the same industry and year. Dummy variables for each industry and year are included as controls. We consider both patent applications and granted patents to see if PE disbursements affect the number of ultimately successful patents, or the willingness to apply.

$$\ln P_{it}^g = \frac{\alpha}{\rho} \ln \left(R D_{it}^\rho + b P E_{it}^\rho \right) + \ln u_{it} \tag{4}$$

In order to run the regressions we need the initial ρ -value to be somewhere between zero and one, we experiment with several different values for all the countries. We proceed with the ρ -values that show the best fit for the regression lines. The initial results of the non-linear least squares regressions can be found in table 11.

	Norway		Swe	den	Denr	mark	Scandinavia	
Parameter	Applied	Granted	Applied	Granted	Applied	Granted	Applied	Granted
Return to scale (α)	0.201 (0.180)	0.582 (0.179)***	1.085 (0.085)***	1.111 (0.093)***	0.798 (0.065)***	0.667 (0.121)***	0.926 (0.099)***	0.946 (0.106)***
Substitution parameter ($ ho$)	0.209 (0.153)	0.479 (0.128)***	0.164 (0.326)	0.100 (0.188)	0.000 (0.000)	0.068 (0.145)	0.643 (0.916)	0.982 (0.474)**
Private Equity parameter (b)	-0.664 (0.201)***	-0.601 (0.075)***	0.102 (0.120)	0.075 (0.115)	-0.000 (0.000)	-0.091 (0.178)	-0.160 (0.128)	-0.366 (0.106)***
R ²	0.88	0.88	0.96	0.96	0.95	0.84	0.97	0.97
N	144	117	144	117	144	117	144	117

Note: Standard errors in parentheses. Dependent variable is the logarithm of the number of patents, applied or granted. Year and industry dummy variables are included in all regressions but not presented in the table. *** denotes significance at the 1%, ** at the 5% and * at the 10% level

Table 11: Unconstrained non-linear least squares regressions. Non-linear least squares regressions analysis on the patent production function. Unconstrained case for Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Scandinavia.

First, we want to address the role of PE (*b*). The three coefficients that are significantly different from zero show a negative relationship between PE disbursements and innovation. This suggests that PE has a negative impact on patenting activity. However, these results are merely first estimates of PE's contribution to innovation and should be taken with a degree of caution. We will rather focus on the substitution parameter (ρ). Without any constraints in our regressions, we can estimate to what extent PE disbursements and R&D expenditures function as substitutes, as means of creating innovation. Granted patents in Norway and Scandinavia are the only two regressions that are significantly different from zero in this regard. For these two regressions, a likelihood ratio test also rejects the extreme case that $\rho = 0$ (at 1%-level). This implies that there is a certain degree of substitution between PE disbursements and R&D expenditures in creating innovation in Norway and Scandinavia.

Kortum and Lerner (2000) continue their analysis with the assumption that $\rho = 1$. To further investigate the role of ρ in our sample we take the natural logarithm of equation 2 and find equation 5

$$ln P_{it} = \alpha ln \left(RD_{it} + bPE_{it} \right) + ln u_{it}$$
(5)

We run non-linear least square regressions on the extreme case where PE disbursements and R&D expenditures are perfect substitutes. The results are shown in table 12.

	Norway		Swe	den	Den	mark	Scandinavia	
Parameter	Applied	Granted	Applied	Granted	Applied	Granted	Applied	Granted
Return to scale (α)	0.149 (0.176)	0.679 (0.180)***	1.019 (0.072)***	0.939 (0.071)***	0.840 (0.072)***	0.713 (0.114)***	0.952 (0.090)***	0.948 (0.085)***
Substitution parameter ($ ho$)	1.000 	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000 	1.000	1.000	1.000
Private Equity parameter (b)	-0.286 (0.239)	-0.359 (0.003)***	-0.003 (0.089)	-0.260 (0.052)***	0.361 (0.260)	0.154 (0.289)	-0.111 (0.116)	-0.362 (0.056)***
R^2	0.87	0.87	0.96	0.96	0.95	0.83	0.97	0.97
Ν	144	117	144	117	144	117	144	117
Prob > χ ^2	0.017	0.005	0.242	1.000	1.000	0.471	0.537	0.964

Note: Standard errors in parentheses. Dependent variable is the logarithm of the number of patents, applied or granted. Year and industry dummy variables are included. *** denotes significance at the 1%, ** at the 5% and * at the 10% level.

Table 12: Constrained non-linear least squares regressions. Non-linear least squares regressions analysis on the patent production function. $\rho = 1$ case for Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Scandinavia.

In the first regressions, only granted patents in Norway and Scandinavia had ρ significantly different from zero. A likelihood ratio test rejects $\rho = 1$ for Norway and indicates that the substitution parameter is somewhere between the two extremes. We are not able to reject $\rho = 1$ for Scandinavia.

Although constraining $\rho = 1$ is only supported in Scandinavia, we apply the restricted equation 5 for the remainder of the analysis in order to follow the methodology of Kortum and Lerner (2000). Hence, ρ is taken as exogenous and we assume that PE disbursements and R&D expenditures are perfect substitutes as means of creating innovation. It is important to note that while this restriction is supported by the findings for Scandinavia, none of the other regressions are able to reject $\rho = 0$ without also rejecting $\rho = 1$. This should be kept in mind when evaluating our final results.

4.2.2 Estimating a linear specification

Similar to Kortum and Lerner (2000) we continue by estimating b through a linear approximation of the patent production function, introduced by Griliches (1986). Griliches argues that a Taylor expansion of the logarithm of the function is reasonable when one input is considerably smaller than the other. Such an approximation has the virtue of providing a conservative result for the effect PE disbursements have on patenting.

Kortum and Lerner's (2000) sample dates back to the 1960s, when PE disbursements constituted a smaller share of R&D expenditures than today. Moreover, they operate with VC disbursements, which is only a share of the total PE disbursements. Consequently, their ratio averages less than 3%. In this case, the VC/R&D-ratio is small enough to justify the use of the Taylor expansion.

The PE/R&D-ratio for the Scandinavian countries from 1997-2012 is considerably larger than the 3% Kortum and Lerner (2000) observe for their sample.⁹ It is also larger than the 8% Popov and Roosenboom (2009) report for Europe from 1991-2004. This can partly be explained by the fact that we operate with more recent data.¹⁰ Popov and Roosenboom (2009) also operate with Industry Statistics, which we previously have shown to be smaller than Market Statistics in general. Hence, it will present them with a lower PE/R&D-ratio than if they had applied Market Statistics.

Although PE disbursements accounts for a larger share of R&D expenditures in our sample than for Kortum and Lerner (2000), we continue with the same approximations. We want to emphasize that this is likely to have an effect on our final results.

After linearizing equation 5, we get

$$\ln P_{it} = \alpha \ln RD_{it} + \alpha b(\frac{PE_{it}}{RD_{it}}) + \ln u_{it}$$
(6)

The potency of PE funding (*b*) is now found by dividing the coefficient on PE/RD by the coefficient on RD. Table 13 presents the results from the linearized specification, still with the substitution parameter constrained to one.

⁹ The PE/R&D-ratio is 40.23% in Norway, 21.81% in Sweden and 19.34% in Denmark.

¹⁰ From 2001-2004 Popov and Roosenboom (2009) found an average PE/R&D-ratio of 10%, 15% and 10% for Norway, Sweden and Denmark respectively.

	No	rway	Sweden		Denmark		Scandinavia	
Parameter	Applied	Granted	Applied	Granted	Applied	Granted	Applied	Granted
R&D Expenditure (α)	0.116 (0.173)	0.542 (0.183)***	1.019 (0.072)***	1.009 (0.089)***	0.823 (0.068)***	0.715 (0.110)***	0.923 (0.094)***	0.913 (0.102)***
PE/R&D (ab)	-0.508 (0.196)**	-1.314 (0.243)***	-0.003 (0.093)	-0.154 (0.191)	0.129 (0.054)**	0.085 (0.080)	-0.210 (0.170)	-0.641 (0.220)***
PE Parameter (b)	-4.379	-2.424	-0.003	-0.153	0.158	0.119	-0.228	-0.702
R^2	0.88	0.88	0.96	0.96	0.95	0.83	0.97	0.97
Ν	144	117	144	117	144	117	144	117

Note: Standard errors in parentheses. Dependent variable is the logarithm of the number of patents, applied or granted. Year and industry dummy variables are included. *** denotes significance at the 1%, ** at the 5% and * at the 10% level.

Table 13: Linearized regressions, full sample. Linearized regressions of the patent production function on the complete sample.

The findings of the linearized regressions show negative PE parameters for Norway, Sweden and Scandinavia. This infers that PE is not only less potent than R&D in creating patenting activity, but actually inhibits innovation. Denmark is the only country that shows a positive effect of PE that is statistically significant. We suggest that these results are treated carefully as we suspect the findings to be affected by outliers in the dataset.

4.2.3 Adjusting the dataset

From the descriptive statistics it becomes clear that some industries attract large amounts of PE disbursements relative to R&D expenditures. "*Energy & environment*" receives substantial investments from PE funds, in comparison to the R&D expenditures. There is also a very low patenting activity in this industry. As "*Energy & environment*" is an outlier we investigate the effect of excluding it from the analysis and run new regressions with eight industries over a period of 13 and 16 years. Leaving "*Energy & environment*" out of the analysis also lowers the PE/R&D-ratio making it more reasonable to proceed with the linearized equation and the assumption that PE/R&D goes towards zero.¹¹

¹¹ After excluding "*Energy & Environment*" from the dataset the PE/R&D-ratio is 30.85% in Norway, 20.68% in Sweden and 18.86% in Denmark.

	Norway		Sweden		Den	mark	Scandinavia	
Parameter	Applied	Granted	Applied	Granted	Applied	Granted	Applied	Granted
R&D Expenditure (α)	0.322 (0.122)***	0.614 (0.133)***	0.625 (0.053)***	0.737 (0.063)***	0.604 (0.057)***	0.726 (0.054)***	0.665 (0.065)***	0.797 (0.070)***
PE/R&D (ab)	0.258 (0.165)	0.571 (0.283)**	0.160 (0.080)**	0.594 (0.171)***	0.069 (0.042)	0.044 (0.036)	0.353 (0.129)***	0.553 (0.188)***
PE Parameter (b)	0.801	0.930	0.256	0.806	0.114	0.061	0.531	0.694
R^2	0.95	0.94	0.99	0.99	0.97	0.98	0.99	0.99
Ν	128	104	128	104	128	104	128	104

Table 14: Linearized regressions, adjusted sample. Linearized regressions analysis on the patent production function with adjusted sample.

Table 14 presents the results of the linearized regressions on the dataset excluding "*Energy* & *environment*". Although the number of observations is lower, the fit for the regression lines and the number of significant coefficients increase compared to the analysis on the entire dataset. Furthermore, the PE parameters are much more in line with previous empirical studies, suggesting that PE disbursements do in fact contribute to innovation.¹² The PE parameters are significantly different from zero for granted patents in all cases, except Denmark. It is also worth noting that PE disbursements show a larger potency for

granted patents than patent applications for all significant values. We will apply the same formula as Kortum and Lerner (2000) to interpret the results in the next chapter.

¹² Kortum and Lerner (2000) and Popov and Roosenboom (2009) obtain positive values for the PE parameter in their linearized regressions.

5. Results

In this chapter we interpret our results and compare them to the findings of Kortum and Lerner (2000) and Popov and Roosenboom (2009). We also highlight certain limitations in our work and run robustness tests to address the credibility of our findings.

5.1 Interpreting the findings

Kortum and Lerner (2000) utilize the formula b(PE/R&D)/(1+b(PE/R&D)) when assessing the impact PE disbursements have on innovation. It gives an indication of how innovation relates to PE and can be compared to the PE/R&D-ratio.

In contrast to Kortum and Lerner (2000) and Popov and Roosenboom (2009) PE disbursements seem to be less potent than R&D expenditures in our analysis. Hence, a Euro invested in R&D is more effective in promoting innovation than a Euro of PE disbursements. The potency of PE on patents in each country are shown in table 15.

	Pater	nt Applications ((1997-2012)	Patents Granted (1997-2009)				
	b	PE/R&D	PE potency	b	PE/R&D	PE potency		
Norway	0.801	30.85 %	19.81 %	0.93	24.58 %	18.61 %		
Sweden	0.256	20.68 %	5.03 %	0.806	19.19 %	13.40 %		
Denmark	0.114	18.86 %	2.10 %	0.061	21.46 %	1.29 %		
Scandinavia	0.531	21.39 %	10.20 %	0.694	20.10 %	12.24 %		

Table 15: Results, full sample. PE/R&D-ratio and potency of PE for patent applications and patents granted in Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Scandinavia.

We find that PE disbursements account for 10.20% of patent applications and 12.24% of granted patents in Scandinavia. The impact on granted patents is larger than the 8% Kortum and Lerner (2000) find in the US from 1983-1992. It is also larger than the 12% Popov and Roosenboom (2009) find in Europe from 1991-2004. However, the PE/R&D-ratio averages 20.10% from 1997-2009, which is considerably larger than the other studies. The fact that the impact is lower than the PE/R&D-ratio suggest that PE disbursements are less potent than R&D expenditures as means of creating innovation.

PE disbursements seem to have the strongest impact on innovation for Norwegian portfolio companies. We find that PE disbursements have accounted for 19.81% of patent applications and 18.61% of patents granted, while the ratio of PE/R&D averages 30.85% and 24.58% respectively.

In Swedish portfolio companies we find that PE disbursements have a larger impact on patents granted than patent applications. Interestingly this difference seems to be quite substantial with PE accounting for 5.03% of patent applications and 13.40% of granted patents. This implies that PE disbursements have a stronger effect on the number of ultimately successful patent applications than on the willingness to apply. Again, both findings are lower than the PE/R&D-ratios of 20.68% and 19.19%.

Our results in Denmark show that PE disbursements only account for 2.10% of patent applications and 1.29% of patents granted. Simultaneously R&D expenditures average 18.86% and 21.46% for the respective samples. This suggests that PE is particularly impotent when it comes to creating innovation in Denmark.

5.2 Limitations

It is important to acknowledge certain shortcomings in our research. Firstly, estimating historical Market Statistics prior to 2007 proved very challenging, both in regards to the overall PE disbursements and the distribution to industries. The assumption that investments from foreign PE funds represent a constant share of domestic investments is a simplification. We also assume that the share of PE disbursements going into each industry represents a constant share of Market Statistics. However, the attractiveness of an industry is likely to vary over time. Consequently, the deviations that we experienced when applying the calculations from 2007-2014 were quite substantial. In a couple of years, when Market Statistics are reported for a longer period and the analysis can be conducted without extrapolating values, the results might turn out to be quite different.

Secondly, there is uncertainty associated with the allocation of R&D expenditures and patents to the Invest Europe industries. The allocation is based on the assumption that all NACE 2.0 classes are distributed evenly to the industries (Appendix IV). Moreover, some R&D expenditures were missing and had to be estimated from the years before and after.

Finally, we follow the work of Kortum and Lerner (2000) although our parameters do not always support their methodology. Particularly, constraining the substitution parameters when only granted patents in Scandinavia showed results to justify this. We also argue that the PE/R&D-ratio is sufficiently small to linearize the regressions, even if it is substantially higher than the ratio presented by Kortum and Lerner (2000) and Popov and Roosenboom (2009).

It is important to keep these limitations in mind when assessing the final results, and we suggest that our findings are treated with caution.

5.3 Robustness

We conduct several analyses to investigate the robustness of our results. First, we run the linearized regressions on a sample of patent applications and accurate Market Statistics from 2007-2012. This way we eliminate the uncertainty associated with our estimations prior to 2007. Eight industries over six years leaves us with 48 observations for each country. The results are presented in table 16.

	Norway	Sweden	Denmark	Scandinavia
R&D Expenditure (a)	0.400 (0.203)*	0.677 (0.077)***	0.527 (0.097)***	0.668 (0.100)***
PE/R&D (αb)	0.105 (0.191)	0.051 (0.079)	0.044 (0.048)	0.187 (0.141)
PE Parameter (b)	0.263	0.075	0.083	0.280
R^2	0.95	0.99	0.97	0.99
Ν	48	48	48	48
Note: Standard errors in p patents, applied or grante significanc	d. Year and ind		ables are included	

Table 16: Linearized regressions, 2007-2012. Linearized regressions analysis on the patent production function on limited sample.

Although the PE parameters are lower than they were for the full sample, they are all positive, which suggest that PE disbursements have a certain effect on innovation. However, it is worth noting that none of the PE parameters are significantly different from zero. Table 17 presents the potency of PE in each country as well as the PE/R&D-ratio from 2007-2012.

	Paten	t Applications (20	007-2012)
	b	PE/R&D	PE potency
Norway	0.263	44.77 %	10.53 %
Sweden	0.075	26.00 %	1.91 %
Denmark	0.083	20.08 %	1.64 %
Scandinavia	0.28	26.73 %	6.96 %

Table 17: Results, 2007-2012. PE/R&D-ratio and potency of PE for patent applications in Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Scandinavia.

The findings from the sample with accurate Market Statistics are somewhat coinciding with previous results. The PE potencies are still positive, but generally lower than the case was for the entire sample. Simultaneously, the PE/R&D-ratio is higher than before. These findings suggest PE is even more inferior to R&D as means of creating innovation in recent years. We want to emphasize that the analysis is based on very few observations and the findings do not show any statistical significance.

To further assess the robustness, we conduct a differences analysis. If the errors in the function follow a random walk, the equation should be estimated in differences rather than in levels. We divide the dataset in period averages of the logarithm of each variable. For patent applications we obtain four 4-year periods and for granted patents we use one 4-year period and three 3-year periods. We compute the differences between periods that are 3-4 years apart and apply linearized regressions. The results of the regressions are shown in table 18.

	Norway		Swe	Sweden		Denmark		inavia
Parameter	Applied	Granted	Applied	Granted	Applied	Granted	Applied	Granted
R&D Expenditure	0.195	-0.457	0.056	-0.505	0.262	0.025	0.425	-0.959
(α)	(0.196)	(0.403)	(0.303)	(0.484)	(0.257)	(0.189)	(0.318)	(0.444)*
PE/R&D (ab)	-0.301	0.507	-0.098	-0.408	0.059	0.076	0.075	-0.272
	(0.251)	(0.440)	(0.151)	(0.306)	(0.061)	(0.055)	(0.178)	(0.194)
PE Parameter (b)	-1.544	-1.109	-1.75	0.808	0.225	3.04	0.176	0.284
R^2	0.68	0.15	0.42	0.35	0.46	0.14	0.58	0.50
Ν	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16

Note: Standard errors in parentheses. Dependent variable is the logarithm of the number of patents, applied or granted. Year and industry dummy variables are included. *** denotes significance at the 1%, ** at the 5% and * at the 10% level.

Table 18: Differences analysis. First difference analysis of the complete sample. Periods for granted patents are: 1997-2000, 2001-2003, 2004-2006, 2007-2009. Periods for patent applications are: 1997-2000, 2001-2004, 2005-2008, 2009-2012.

The PE parameters, are different from our previous results. Negative values imply that PE prevents innovation, which is contradictory to what we found in our main analysis. It is worth noting that a small number of initial observations leave us with just 16 observations when conducting the differences analysis. This might not be enough to present us with reliable results. Nevertheless, the results infer that our findings are not particularly robust.

Finally, we want to investigate the effect of changing the measures of PE. We replace the PE disbursements with VC disbursements and obtain a lower PE/R&D-ratio that is more in line with Kortum and Lerner (2000). As we do not have applicable VC disbursements prior to 2007 we conduct the linearized regressions on a sample of patent applications from 2007-2012.

	Norway	Sweden	Denmark	Scandinavia
Parameter	Applied	Applied	Applied	Applied
R&D Expenditure (α)	0.325 (0.213)	0.666 (0.071)***	0.606 (0.088)***	0.669 (0.093)***
PE/R&D (ab)	3.129 (2.633)	-2.292 (2.441)	-13.169 (3.949)***	-6.473 (3.460)*
PE Parameter (b)	9.828	-3.441	-21.731	-9.676
R^2	0.95	0.99	0.98	0.99
Ν	48	48	48	48
Note: Standard errors in parentheses. Dependen and industrv dummv variables are included.		0 0		8

Table 19: Linearized regressions, venture capital. Linearized regressions performed on VC disbursements, instead of PE disbursements from 2007-2012.

Table 19 shows that the PE parameters vary a lot from positive in Norway to strongly negative in Denmark, which is not coinciding with the findings in table 15. This inconsistency supports the findings from our differences analysis and suggests that our findings are not particularly robust.

Kortum and Lerner (2000) continue their analysis by addressing causalities to investigate whether the results are affected by any unobservable factors. In our case, the results are not robust enough for us to gain additional insight by addressing the causalities. Hence, we will treat our findings from the linearized regressions on the full sample as our final results. We want to emphasise that they should be treated with caution due to the low robustness.

6. Conclusion

This thesis examines the impact of PE on innovation in Norway, Sweden and Denmark. We investigate the contribution PE disbursements have on patents granted from 1997-2009 and patent applications from 1997-2012. Based on previous empirical studies we expected to find PE to be more potent than R&D in creating innovation.

PE disbursements have the largest impact on both patents granted and patent applications in Norwegian portfolio companies. In Sweden and Denmark, PE also shows a positive effect on patenting activity. However, the PE potency is lower than the PE/R&D-ratio in all cases, suggesting that PE disbursements are less potent than R&D expenditures in creating innovation in Scandinavia. We have controlled the robustness of our results by introducing different variations of our dataset. The results do not coincide with our initial results, which infer that our findings are not particularly robust.

Our findings are contradictory with previous empirical studies on the relationship between PE and innovation. Kortum and Lerner (2000) find that VC have accounted for 8% of innovation with a VC/R&D-ratio of 3% in the US from 1983-1992, while Popov and Roosenboom (2009) find that PE have accounted for 12% of innovation with a PE/R&D-ratio of 8%. Although we find that PE disbursements contribute more to innovation in Norway and Sweden, the potency of PE is lower due to a higher PE/R&D-ratio.

Our work should be seen as a first draft of PE's impact on innovation in Scandinavian portfolio companies. It is important to note that our results are affected by estimations and adjustments to the dataset. Although the findings did not show much robustness, we hope this thesis can initiate further research on the relationship between PE and innovation in Scandinavia. Lerner, Sorensen and Strömberg (2011) find that patents filed in the US from companies that are backed by PE funds tend to be more economically relevant, as measured by the number of citations. While this thesis is limited to the effect PE disbursements have on patenting activity, it would be interesting to investigate if the quality of the patents increase with involvement of PE firms.

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PE disbursements

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Patents

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- Patents granted by the USPTO by priority year by NACE Rev. 2 activity. (n.d.). [Table] Eurostat, pat_us_nnac2.

Appendix

Norway	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Market Statistics	1 178 504	1 124 709	709 223	1 886 733	905 065	966 689	1 680 988	2 208 987
Industry Statistics	698 490	770 121	641 737	936 284	706 154	879 930	882 790	1 285 460
Difference	480 013	354 588	67 486	950 450	198 911	86 759	798 197	923 527
Sweden	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Market Statistics	3 085 305	2 288 301	1 112 092	2 766 545	3 354 258	2 527 281	813 875	1 421 464
Industry Statistics	3 010 276	3 330 254	1 337 055	3 134 891	2 166 423	2 021 800	1 556 944	1 598 501
Difference	75 029	-1 041 952	-224 963	-368 346	1 187 835	505 481	-743 069	-177 037
Denmark	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Market Statistics	1 835 153	1 207 400	479 041	385 657	880 586	861 573	1 868 187	1 250 285
Industry Statistics	1 334 179	512 093	452 496	439 230	421 284	693 552	1 484 319	662 299
Difference	500 974	695 307	26 545	-53 572	459 303	168 021	383 868	587 987

I. Market Statistics vs. Industry Statistics

A comparison between Market and Industry Statistics reported by Invest Europe shows substantial differences in all countries.

II. Estimated Market Statistics 1997-2006

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Norway - Domestic investments	131 761	132 808	156 816	257 310	235 920	147 394	185 309	220 076	384 879	426 731
Multiple	1.7801									
Norway - estimated Market Statistics	234 548	236 412	279 149	458 039	419 962	262 377	329 869	391 758	685 125	759 626
Sweden - Domestic Investments	278 300	199 365	832 189	1 367 552	1 623 189	612 129	818 642	1 339 757	1 691 595	2 808 951
Multiple	1.4038									
Sweden - estimated Market Statistics	390 686	279 875	1 168 252	1 919 810	2 278 681	859 325	1 149 234	1 880 791	2 374 712	3 943 289
Denmark - Domestic Investments	17 344	30 185	112 756	112 756	280 674	161 383	381 639	320 935	982 833	319 851
Multiple	2.0885									
Denmark - estimated Market Statistics	36 223	63 041	235 489	235 489	586 184	337 046	797 048	670 268	2 052 633	668 004

Estimation of Market Statistics from 1997-2006. Showing the multiple used in each country in order to extrapolate the used Market Statistics prior to 2007.

III. Conversion tables - NACE 1.1 to NACE 2.0

	Norway			Sweden			Denmark	
NACE 1.1	Allocation	NACE 2.0	SNI92	Allocation	NACE 2.0	NACE 1.1	Allocation	NACE 2.0
5	100 %	A03	A+B	100 %	A03	15-16	100 %	C10-C12
11	100 %	B05-B09	10-14	100 %	B05 - B09	17-19	100 %	C13-C15
13-14	100 %	B05-B09	15+16	100 %	C10-C12	20	100 %	C16
15-16	100 %	C10-C11	17-19	100 %	C13-C15	21	100 %	C17
17	100 %	C13	20	100 %	C16	22	40 %	C18
18	100 %	C14-C15	21	100 %	C17	22	60 %	J58
19	100 %	C14-C15	22	40 %	C18	23+24 ex 24.4	100 %	C20
20	100 %	C16	22	60 %	J58	24.4	100 %	C21
21	100 %	C17	23+24 ex 24.42	100 %	C20	25	100 %	C22
22	40 %	C18	24.42	100 %	C21	26	100 %	C23
22	60 %	J58	25	100 %	C22	27	100 %	C24
23	100 %	C19-C20	26	100 %	C23	28	90 %	C25
24	65 %	C19-C20	27	100 %	C24	20	10 %	C33
24	35 %	C21	28	90 %	C25		20 %	C25
25	100 %	C22	20	10 %	C33		20 %	C27
26	100 %	C23		20 %	C25	29	40 %	C28
27	100 %	C24		20 %	C27		10 %	C32.5
	90 %	C25	29	40 %	C28		10 %	C33
28	10 %	C33		10 %	C32.5		50 %	C26
	20 %	C25		10 %	C33	30	50 %	C28
	20 %	C27		50 %	C26		50 %	C26.3
29	40 %	C28	30	50 %	C28		20 %	C26.5
29		C32.5			C28	31		C20.5
	10 %			50 %			20 %	
	10 %	C33	31	20 %	C26.5		10 %	C33
30	50 %	C26		20 %	C27	32	40 %	C26
	50 %	C28		10 %	C33		60 %	C26.3
	50 %	C26.3	32	40 %	C26	33	50 %	C26.5
31	20 %	C26.5		60 %	C26.3		50 %	C28
	20 %	C27	33	50 %	C26.5	34-35	40 %	C29
	10 %	C33		50 %	C28		60 %	C30
32	40 %	C26	34-35	40 %	C29	36-37	70 %	C31
	60 %	C26.3		60 %	C30		30 %	C32
33	50 %	C26.5	36-37	70 %	C31	E	90 %	D35
	50 %	C28		30 %	C32	F	10 %	E36-E39
34-35	40 % 60 %	C29 C30	E	90 % 10 %	D35 E36-E39	F	100 % 100 %	F41-F43 G46
			F		E36-E39 F41-F43	-		
36-37	70 % 30 %	C31 C32	F G	100 % 100 %	F41-F43 G46	60-63 64	100 % 100 %	H49-H53 J61
	30 % 90 %	D35	60-63	100 %	H49-H53	54 J	100 %	K64-K66
40-41	90 % 10 %	E36-E39	64	100 %	J61	,	37.50 %	J58
45	10 %	F41-F43	64 	100 %	K64-K66	72	60 %	J58 J62
			J	-		12		
51	100 %	G46		37.50 %	J58		2.50 %	J63
60-63	100 %	H49-H53	72	60 %	J62	73	100 %	M72
64.2	100 %	J61		2.50 %	J63	74	90 %	M71
65-67	100 %	K64-K66	73	100 %	M72		10 %	M74
	37.50 %	J58	74	90 %	M71			
72	60 %	J62	/4	10 %	M74			
	2.50 %	J63						
73	100 %	M71						

Conversion tables used in order to convert R&D expenditures prior to 2007 into NACE 2.0 in Norway, Sweden and Denmark.

M71

M74.9

90 %

10 %

74

	Observ	Observations										II	IVes	it Eu	Invest Europe industries	e in	qusi	tries									
NACE Code	# of ind	# Total	Agriculture	Ire	Business & Industrial Products		Business & Industrial Services		Chemical and Materi	cals erials	Communications	ations	Computer & Consumer Electronics	ter & mer mics	Construction	tion	Consumer Goods & Retail	ler &	Consumer Services		Energy and Environment		Financial Services	Life S	Life Sciences	Trans	Transportation
			Obs	w (Obs	w (Obs	w	Obs	w	Obs	w	Obs	w	Obs	w	Obs	w	Obs	w (Obs w	Obs	M	Obs	w	Obs	w
C22	4	5		-	2	0,4	-	-	-	0,2					-	0,2	1	0,2									
C23	4	24			2 0	0,083			5 (0,208					12	0,5	5 0	0,208									
C24	1	0																									
C25	2	17			15 0	0,882									2 0	0,118											
C27	2	10			8	0,8											2	0,2									
C31	2	4			1	0,25											3	0,75									
C32 / C32.5	2	8			1 0	0,125	<u> </u>						<u> </u>				7 0	0,875									
C32.5	1																			_							
G46 / G46.5	L	46	4 0	0,087			8 0	0,174	2 (0,043					2 0	0,043	18 0	0,391			3 0,065	6 2	0,196				
G46.5	2	2									1	0,5	1	0,5													
K64, K65, K66	2	0 18							<u> </u>				<u> </u>						1 0	0,056		17	0,944				
M / M72	1	0																									
M72	2	3		\vdash			\vdash	\vdash											1 0	0,333				2	0,667		
Distribution table used in order to distribute R&D expenditures and patent observations to Invest Europe's industries. Real estate and Unclassified are missing Each industry are divided by Obs, and w. Obs denotes the number of observations within the specified NACE code. w denotes the weight the industry is given	ble used in are divided	order to di by Obs, an	stribute R&D 1d w. Obs den	expendi otes the 1	tures and number (d patent c of observ	bservati ations w	ons to Invithin the :	vest Euro specified	pe's indu NACE c	s industries. Real estate and Unclassified are missing as there were nothing to distribute. ACE code. w denotes the weight the industry is given.	state and UI s the weigh	nclassifie at the indu	d are mis: ustry is gi	sing as the ven.	ere were n	othing to	distribute									

n - NACE 2.0 to Invest Europe industries	
. Distribution system - I	
>	