

Nordic VNR Services

VNR Statistics of the Year 2013

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Introduction

Vnr statistics of the year is a summary of last year's Vnr statistics. The statistics is published annually in January.

The most significant changes in 2013 were

- the new terms *locked* and *unlocked* Vnrs were launched. These specify for which markets a certain Vnr can be used and they replace the old terms national and common Vnrs.
- The status MA was taken off use in other Nordic countries but Finland. Most of the Vnrs with status MA in 2012 in other Nordic countries but Finland, were changed to status *assigned* in 2013.
- Compared to 2012 the amount of Vnrs changed to status withdrawn decreased 22 %. This was mostly due to the significant change in Sweden, where the decrease was 45 %.

Pharmaceutical Information Centre Ltd serves customers as the Nordic Number Centre

The Nordic Article Number (Vnr) administration was transferred to Pharmaceutical Information Centre (PIC) in April 2010.

During 2013, 2012 and 2011 collaboration and communication with pharmaceutical companies have been running well. Companies have learned to take advantage of PIC's services.

The Vnr extranet service

Pharmaceutical companies can order Nordic Article Numbers (Vnrs) electronically 24/7 by using the Vnr extranet service. Vnr orders are handled within three working days. Companies can also see the real-time situation of their Vnr data in all Nordic countries. Companies can also get different kind of reports of their products.

Vnr extranet service requires a user-specific username and password, which can be obtained by filling out the registration form on www.vnr.fi. Username and password are for personal use only.

Vnr services are offered in three languages, English, Swedish and Finnish.

Compared to 2012, there were fewer users 2013 in Vnr extranet service, but the average user visited the service more often:

- In 2013 there were 567 users in the service from 212 different marketing companies. The average user visited the Vnr extranet service 44 times during the year 2013.

There were 11 285 trade names with valid Vnrs. These Vnrs belonged to 968 different marketing authorization holders.

VnrWiki

The VnrWiki site (<http://wiki.vnr.fi>) was established in April 2013. Nordic guidelines and country specific information have been published there for easy access.

Feedback

Following pages present the basic Vnr statistics from the year 2013. Only the valid Vnr-numbers (valid = all, but withdrawn) are taken into notice unless otherwise mentioned. All suggestions and comments are important and welcome in developing the document further.

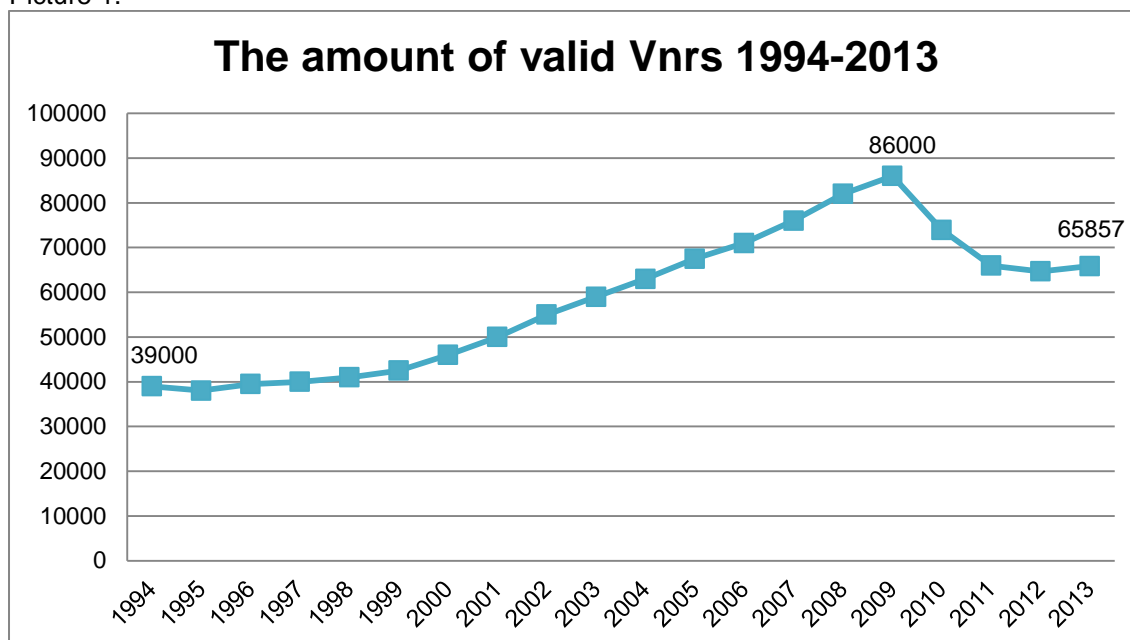
Please send all possible feedback and questions to vnur@vnr.fi.

Statistics of the year 2013

The amount of valid Vnrs

The amount of valid Vnrs (valid = all, but withdrawn) increased evenly until 2009 (picture 1.). When the Vnr administration was transferred to Pharmaceutical Information Centre in 2010, companies were asked to check their Vnr data. During 2010 the status of not needed Vnrs was changed to withdrawn. The revision of Vnr data and status information continued thereafter, which led to the decreasing trend in the amount of valid Vnrs. After 2011 the decrease has evened out and in 2013 the amount of valid Vnrs turned back to slight increase (2 %, 1182 Vnrs).

Picture 1.



Status distribution

2010-2013 there were 4 different Vnr statuses:

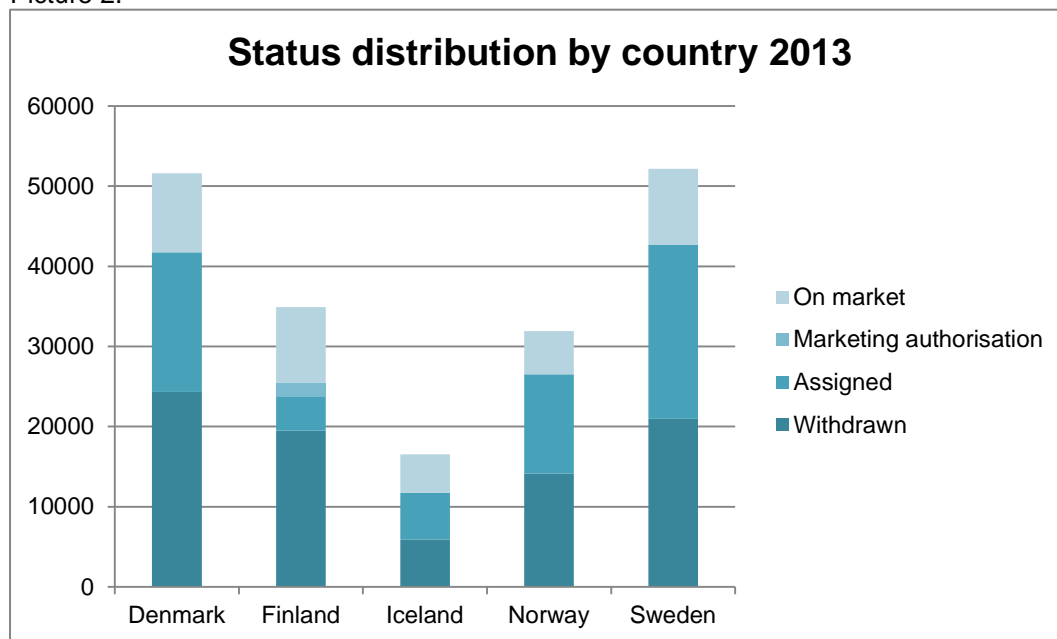
- **Assigned:** assigned Vnr is valid.
- **MA:** Vnr has marketing authorisation but is not yet or not anymore on market.
 - Since 2013 status MA has only been used in Finland.
- **On market:** Vnr is on market.
- **Withdrawn:** Vnr cannot be used anymore. Vnr is not valid. Information for withdrawn Vnrs is not updated.

The status of a valid Vnr can be *assigned*, *MA* or *on market*. The status of the Vnrs used in several Nordic countries can differ between the countries.

At the end of 2013 44 % of the valid Vnrs had the status *on market* in one or more countries. There were 42 802 Vnrs in the database which were withdrawn from all countries.

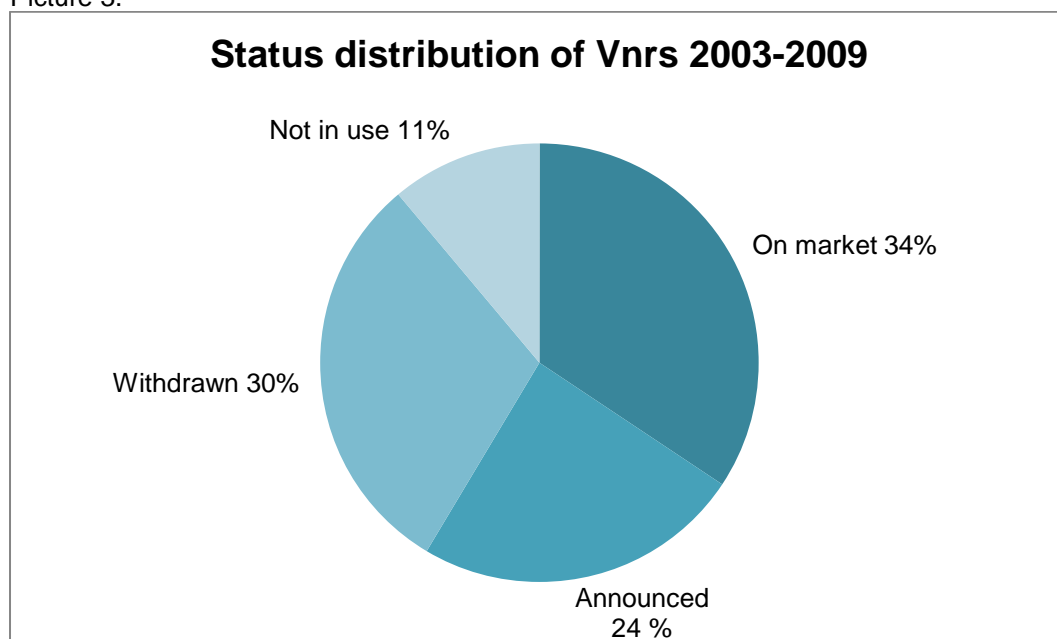
In 2013 most of the Vnrs were in use in Denmark and Sweden, least Vnrs in Iceland (picture 2.). Status distribution of Vnrs varies slightly by country. Country specific data is shown starting from page 10.

Picture 2.



Until 2009 the status administration was different (picture 3.).

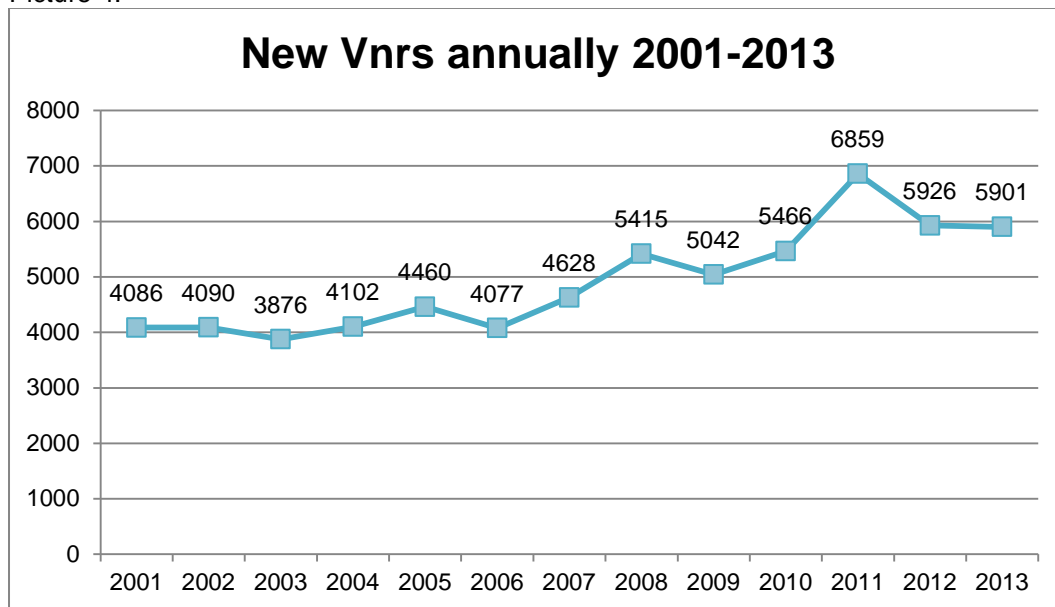
Picture 3.



New and withdrawn Vnrs and status changes

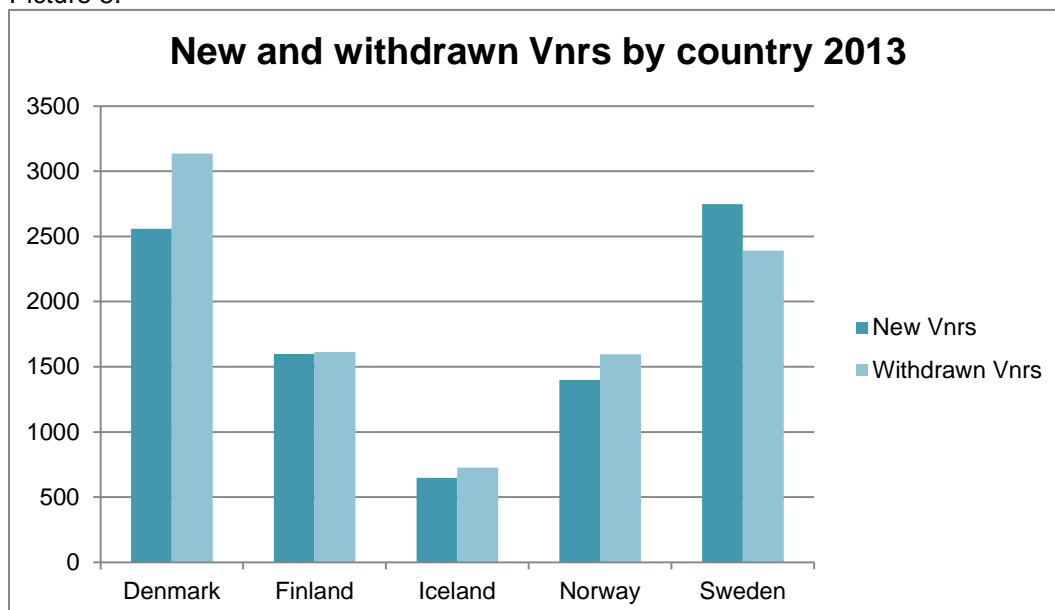
The amount of new Vnrs started to increase in 2006 (picture 4.). Between 2006 and 2011 the yearly amount of valid new Vnrs increased 68 %. In 2012 the amount decreased 14 %. In 2013 there was no significant change in the amount of new valid Vnrs.

Picture 4.



8953 new Vnrs were assigned in 2013. Most of the new Vnrs were assigned to be used in Sweden and in Denmark (picture 5.). 9463 Vnrs were changed to the status withdrawn during 2013. As well as most of the new Vnrs also most of the withdrawals were made in Sweden and Denmark (picture 5.). Compared to 2012 the amount of withdrawn Vnrs decreased in every other country but Iceland, and the amount of new Vnrs decreased in every other country but Finland.

Picture 5.

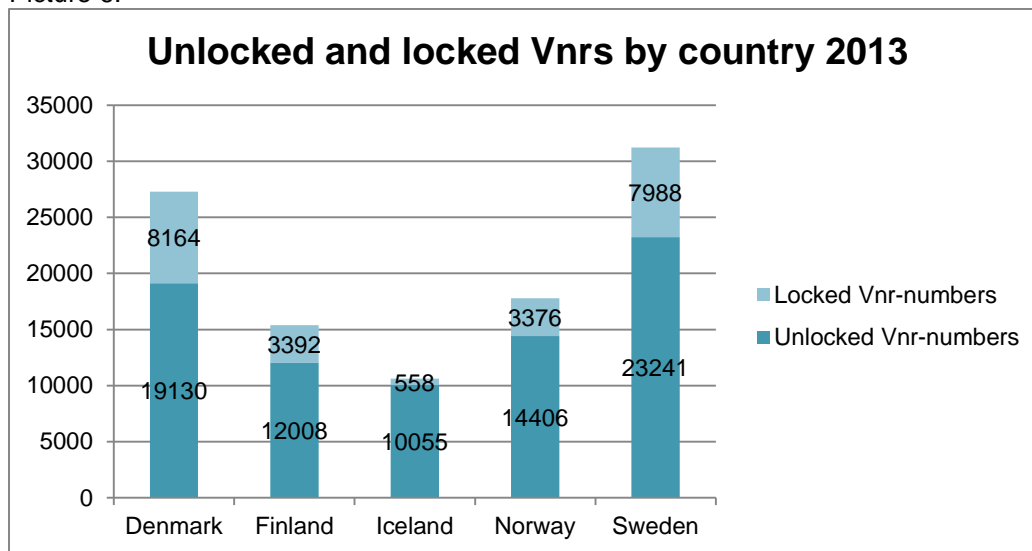


Locked and unlocked Vnrs

In 2013 the new terms *locked* and *unlocked* Vnrs were launched. These specify for which markets a certain Vnr can be used and replace the old terms national and common Vnrs.

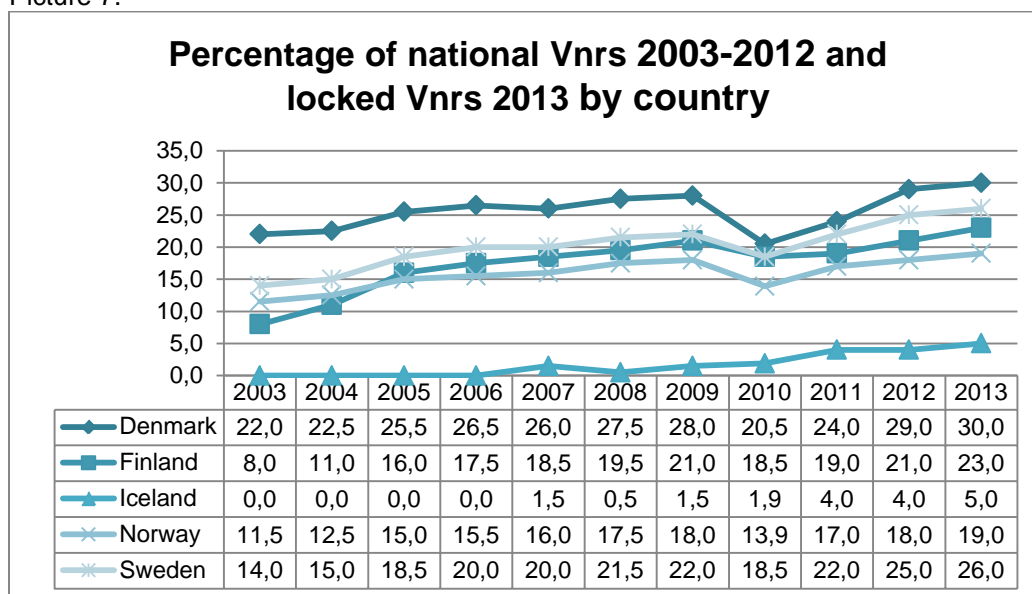
The launch of the new terms turned the amount of the Vnr combinations to slight increase: when before 2013 only common Vnrs could be used in several countries, now both locked and unlocked Vnrs can be used in several countries.

Picture 6.



The percentage of valid national Vnrs increased until 2009 (picture 7.). The percentage decreased slightly in 2010, but turned back to increase in 2011. The only exception was Iceland where there was no decrease in the share of national Vnrs in 2010.

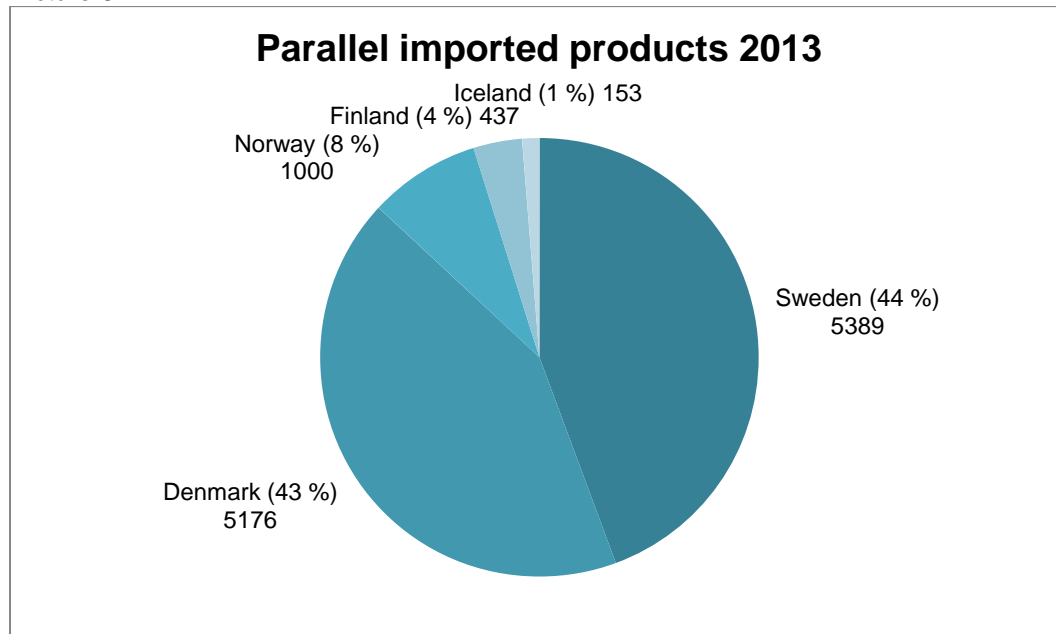
Picture 7.



Parallel imported products

There were 11061 Vnrs for parallel imported products in the Nordic countries in 2013. Most of the parallel imported products were Swedish (Picture 8.).

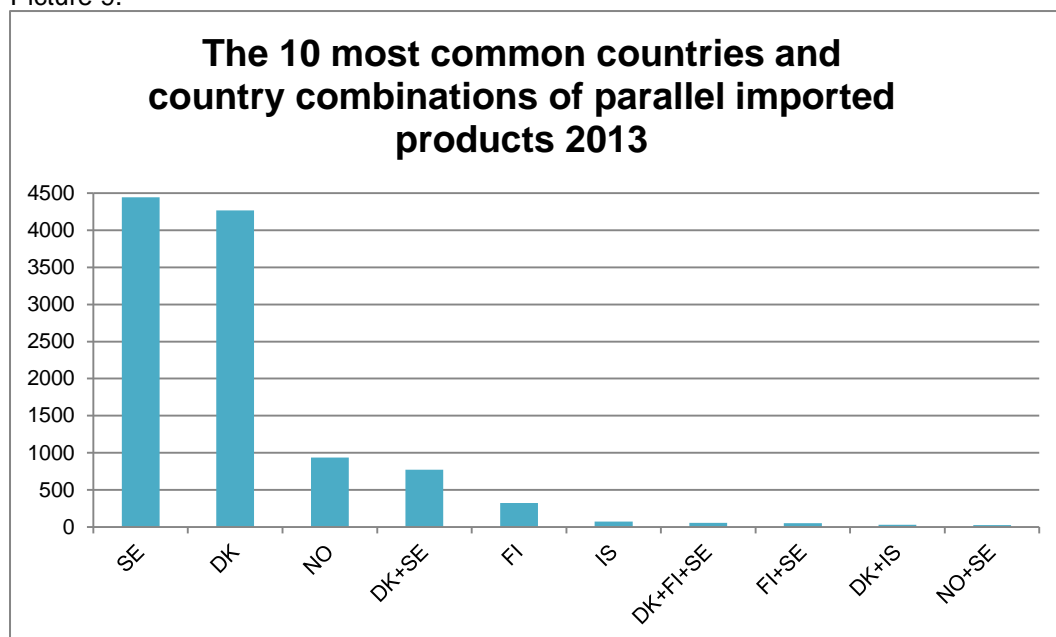
Picture 8.



The most common countries and country combinations for Vnrs of parallel imported products

In 2013 there were most parallel imported products in Sweden, least in Iceland (Picture 9.).

Picture 9.

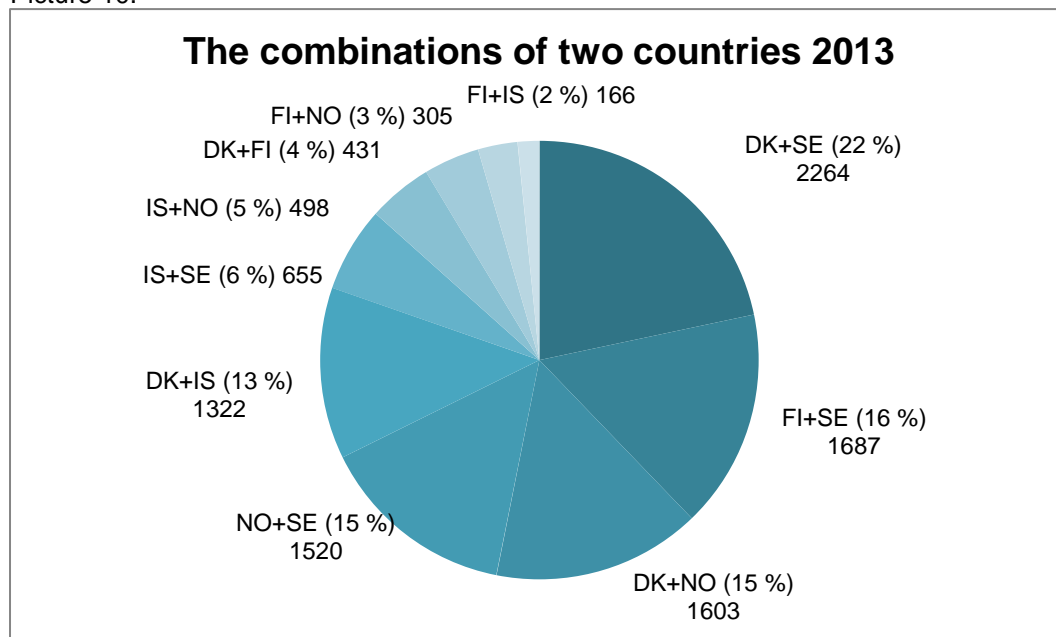


Country combinations of Vnrs

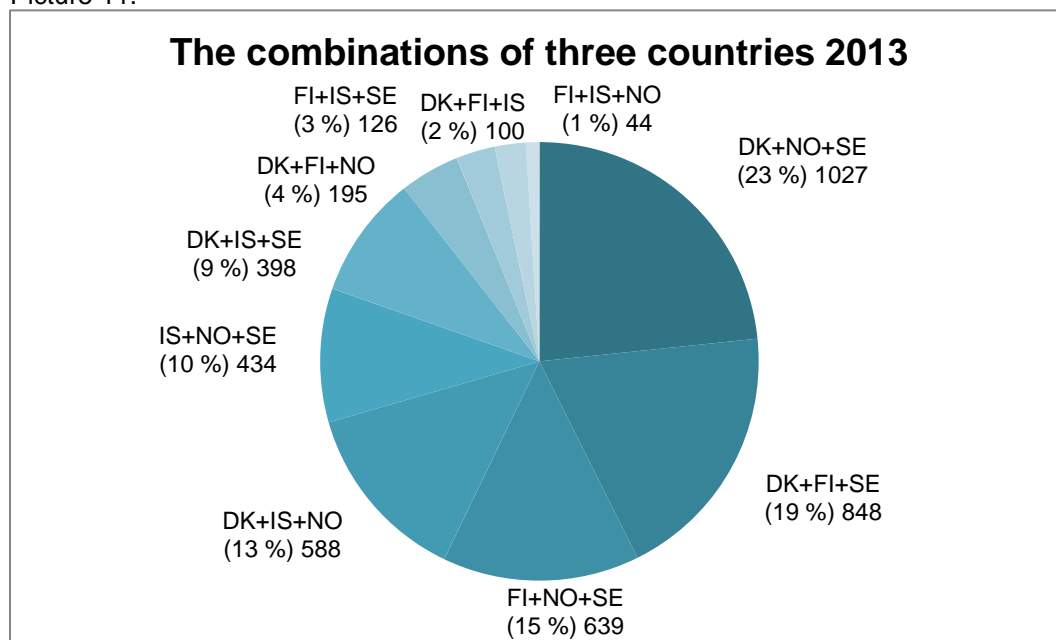
Sweden and Denmark was the most common country combination of two countries (Picture 10.). The most used combination of three countries was Sweden, Denmark and Norway (Picture 11.). The amount of combinations of four and five countries is visualized in Picture 12.

N.B. The Vnr combinations don't reflect the situation regarding the packages. They can be the same or different regardless of a common Vnr.

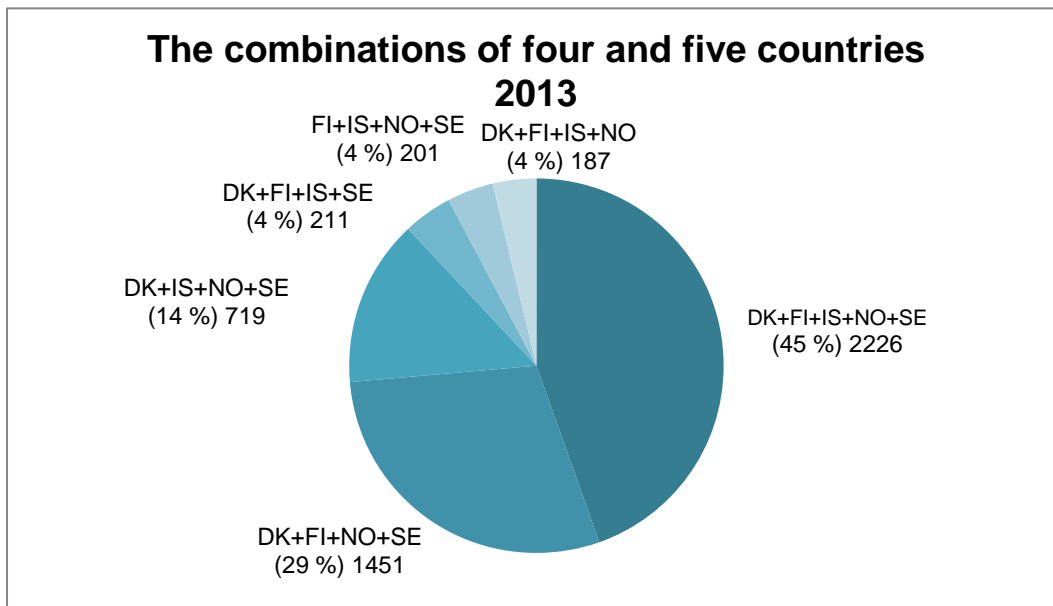
Picture 10.



Picture 11.

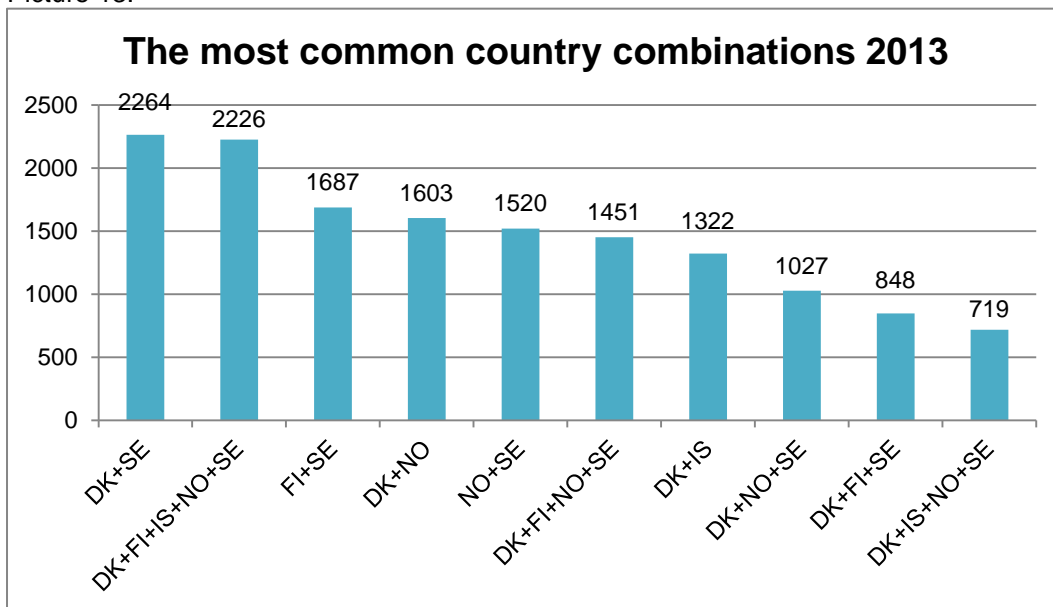


Picture 12.



The most common country combination was Sweden and Denmark. The 10 most common country combinations of Vnrs can be seen in picture 13.

Picture 13.



The amount of Vnrs with country combinations of two, three, four and five countries 2013 (Table 1.).

Table 1.

The amount of country combinations of two, three, four and five countries 2013	
2 countries	10451
3 countries	4399
4 countries	2769
5 countries	2226

Vnr Data country by country

Denmark

In Denmark there were 27 294 valid Vnrs and 5176 valid Vnrs for parallel imported products at the end of 2013. More detailed information can be found in the following tables and the pictures. In 2013 the amount of assigned Vnrs increased 65 %, since most of the Vnrs that were on status MA in 2012, were changed to status Assigned in 2013.

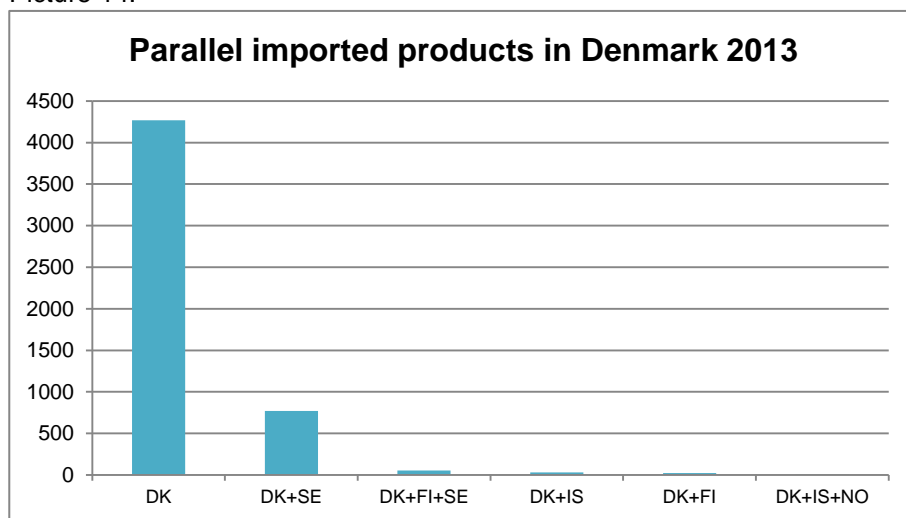
Table 2.

Vnrs in Denmark 2013	
All	27294
Unlocked	19130 (76 %)
Locked	8164 (24 %)
Parallel imported	5176 (20 %)

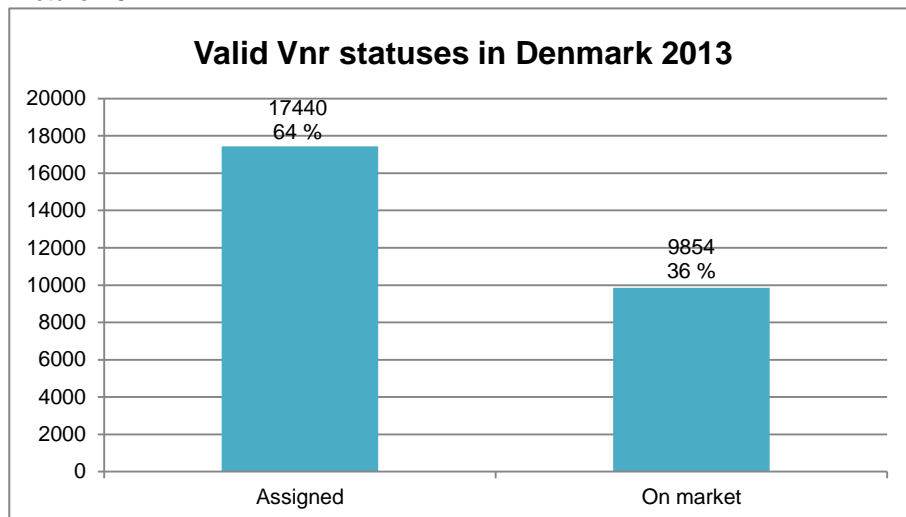
Table 3.

Human and veterinary medicines in Denmark 2013	
Human	24668 (90 %)
Veterinary	2638 (10 %)
Human and veterinary	13 (0 %)

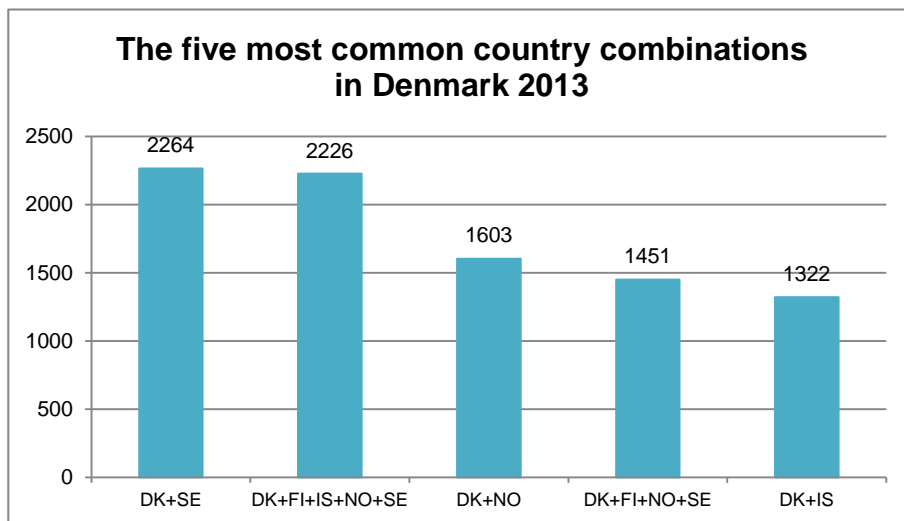
Picture 14.



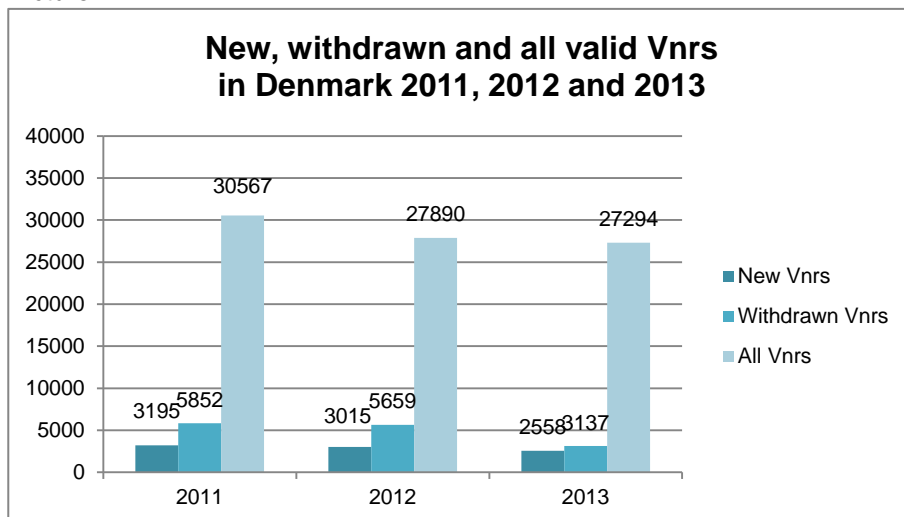
Picture 15.



Picture 16.



Picture 17.



Finland

In Finland there were 15 400 valid Vnrs and 437 valid Vnrs for parallel imported products in the end of 2013. More detailed information can be found in the following tables and the pictures. In table 5. only Vnrs on status MA and on market has been taken into account.

Table 4.

Vnrs in Finland 2013	
All	15400
Unlocked	12008 (78 %)
Locked	3392 (22 %)
Parallel imported	437 (3 %)

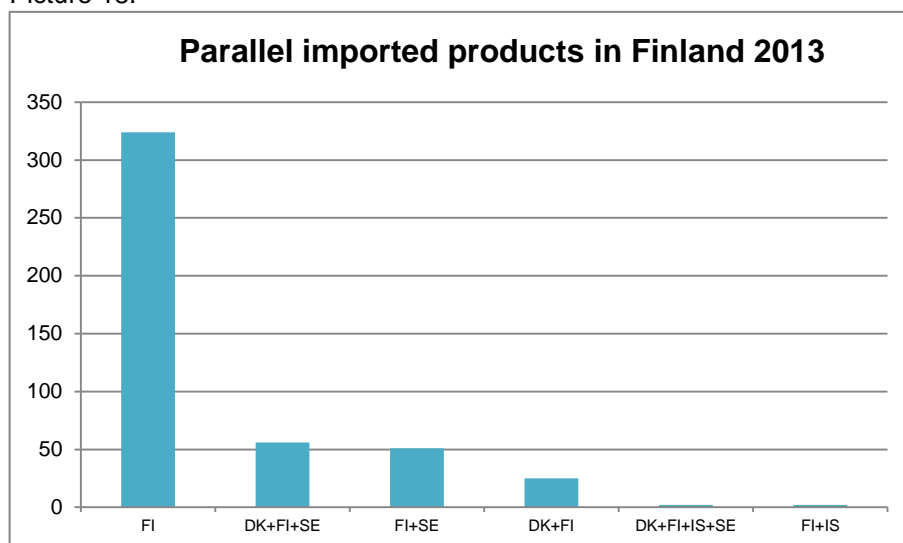
Table 5.

Prescription only, harmful in traffic and narcotic medicines in Finland 2013	
Prescription only	9677 (86 %)
Harmful in traffic	890 (8 %)
Narcotic	238 (2 %)

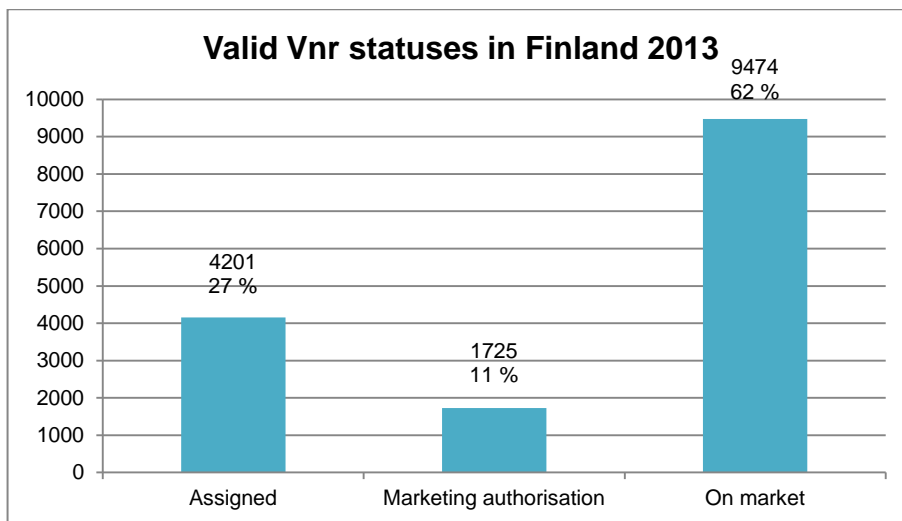
Table 6.

Human and veterinary medicines in Finland 2013	
Human	13718 (89 %)
Veterinary	1692 (11 %)
Human and veterinary	21 (0 %)

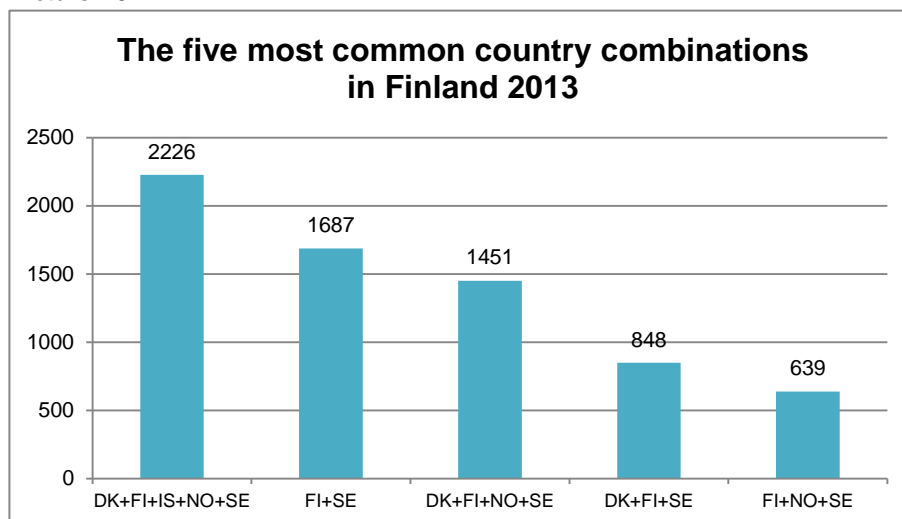
Picture 18.



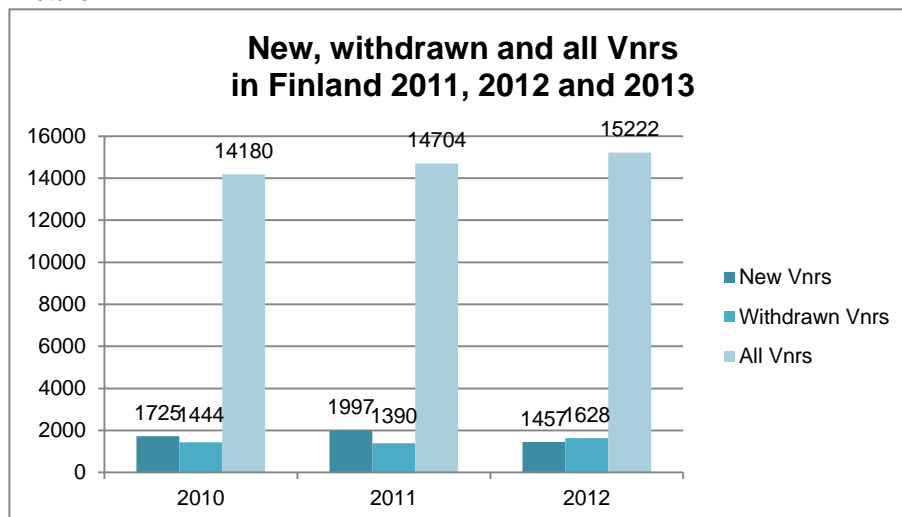
Picture 19.



Picture 20.



Picture 21.



Iceland

In Iceland there were 10 613 valid Vnrs and 153 valid Vnrs for parallel imported products in the end of 2013. More detailed information can be found in the following tables and the pictures. In 2013 the amount of assigned Vnrs increased 13 %, since most of the Vnrs that were on status MA in 2012, were changed to status Assigned in 2013.

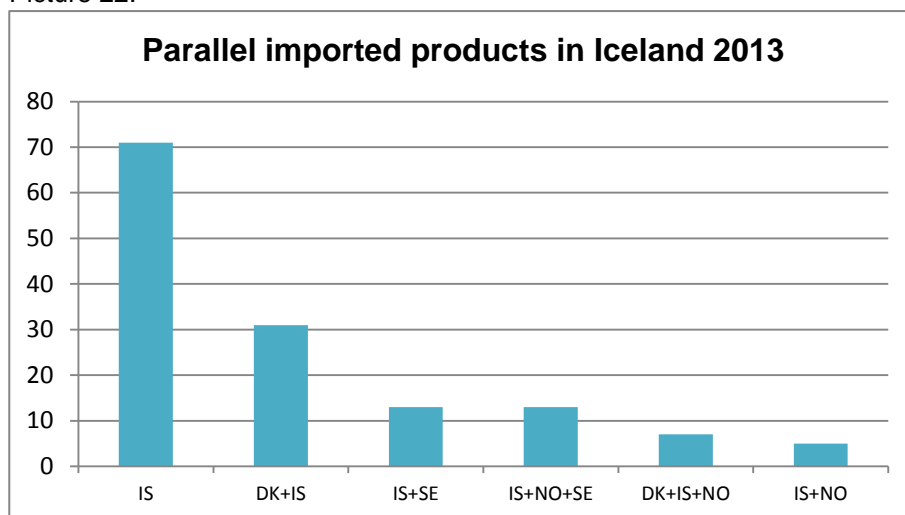
Table 7.

Vnrs in Iceland 2013	
All	10613
Unlocked	10055 (95 %)
Locked	558 (5 %)
Parallel imported	153 (0 %)

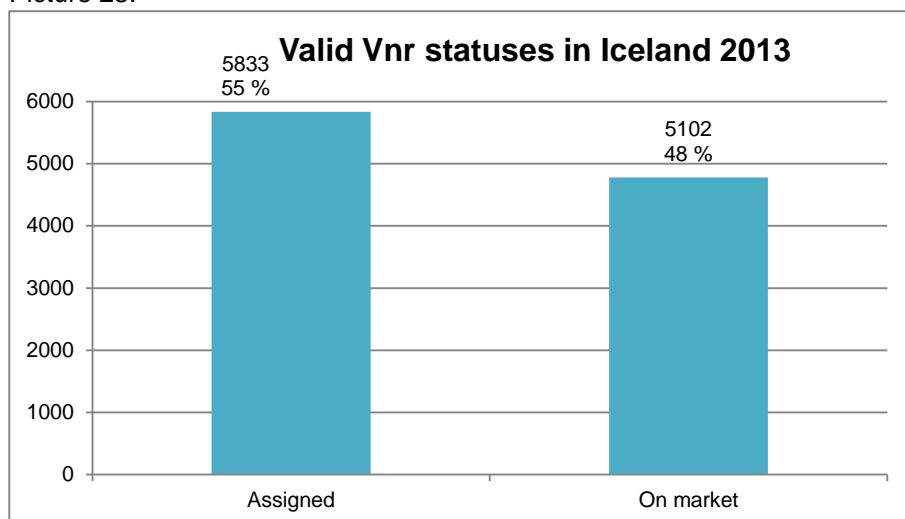
Table 8.

Human and veterinary medicines in Iceland 2013	
Human	10056 (95 %)
Veterinary	563 (5 %)
Human and veterinary	11 (0 %)

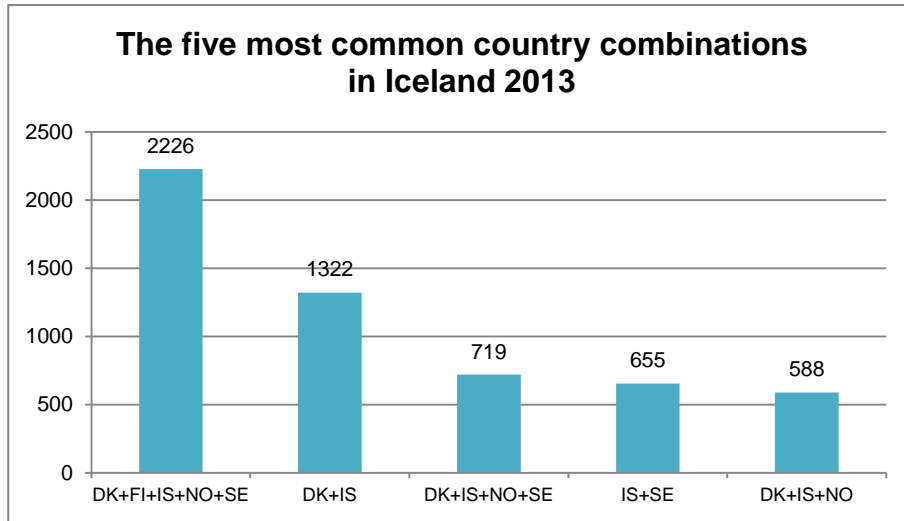
Picture 22.



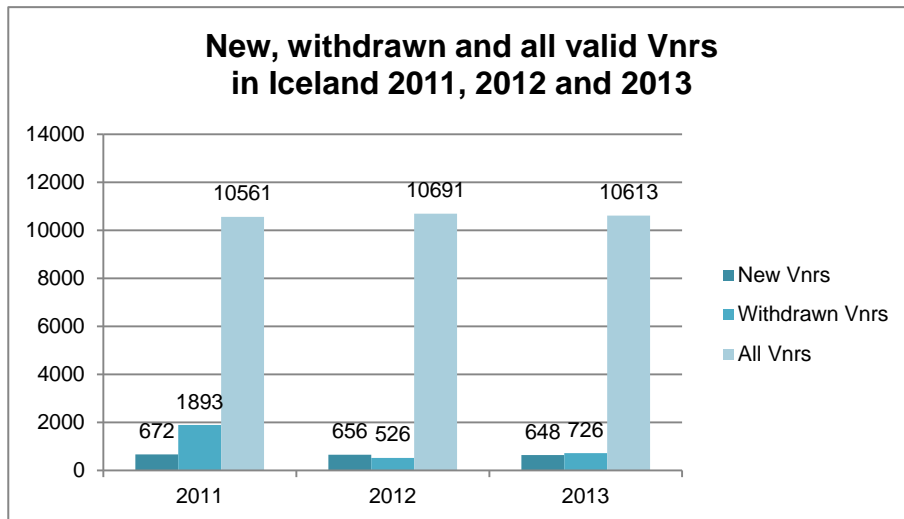
Picture 23.



Picture 24.



Picture 25.



Norway

In Norway there were 17 782 valid Vnrs and 1000 valid Vnrs for parallel imported products in the end of 2013. More detailed information can be found in the following tables and the pictures. In 2013 the amount of assigned Vnrs increased 29 %, since most of the Vnrs that were on status MA in 2012, were changed to status Assigned in 2013.

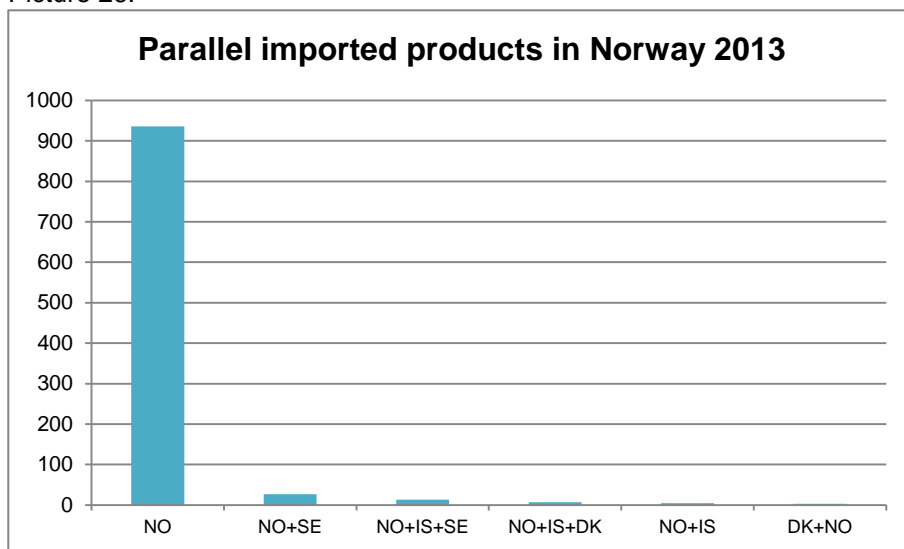
Table 9

Vnrs in Norway 2013	
All	17782
Unlocked	14406 (81 %)
Locked	3376 (19 %)
Parallel imported	1000 (6 %)

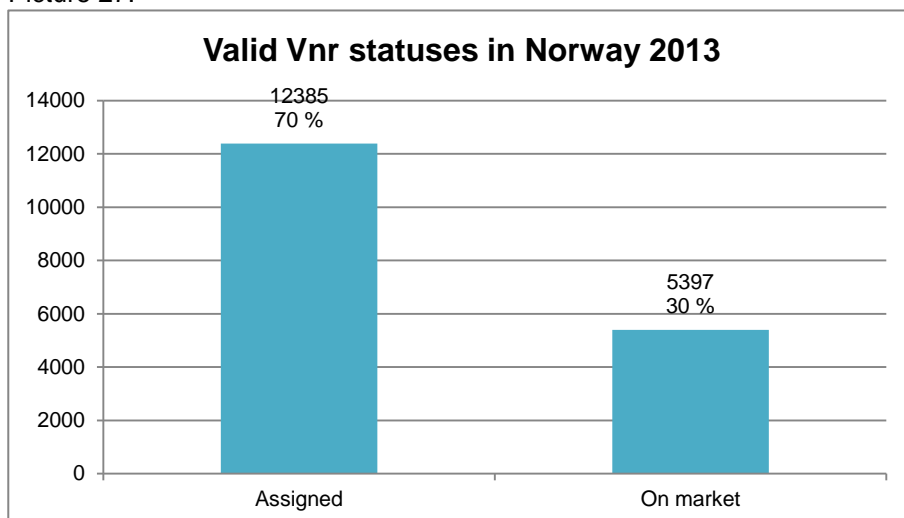
Table 10

Human and veterinary medicines in Norway 2013	
Human	16583 (93 %)
Veterinary	1212 (7 %)
Human and veterinary	19 (0 %)

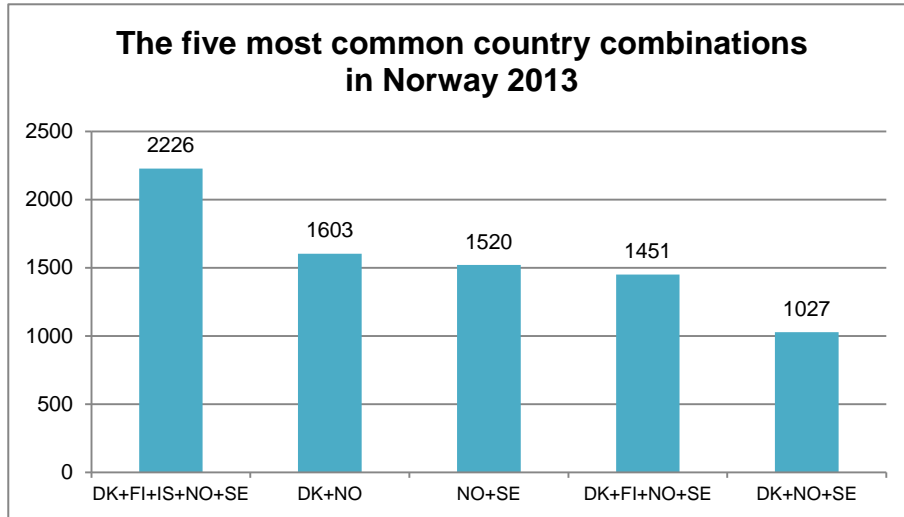
Picture 26.



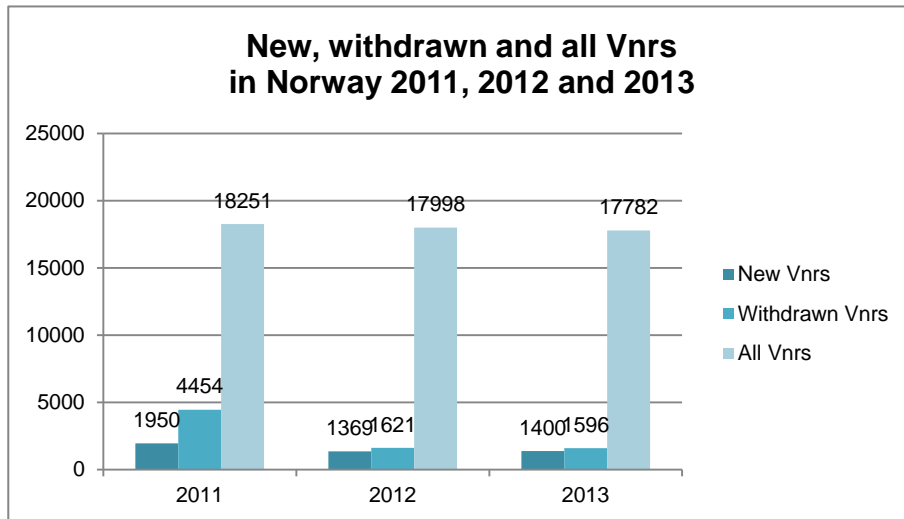
Picture 27.



Picture 28.



Picture 29.



Sweden

In Sweden there were all together 31 229 Vnrs and 5389 Vnrs for parallel imported products in the end of 2013. More detailed information can be found in the tables and the pictures below. In 2013 the amount of assigned Vnrs increased 44 %, since most of the Vnrs that were on status MA in 2012, were changed to status Assigned in 2013.

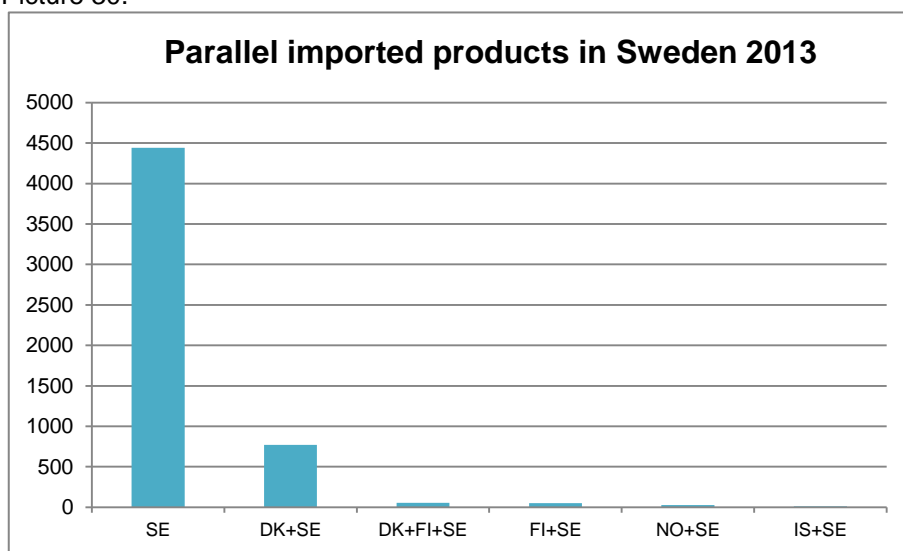
Table 11.

Vnrs in Sweden 2013	
All	31229
Common	23241 (74 %)
National	7988 (26 %)
Parallel imported	5389 (17 %)

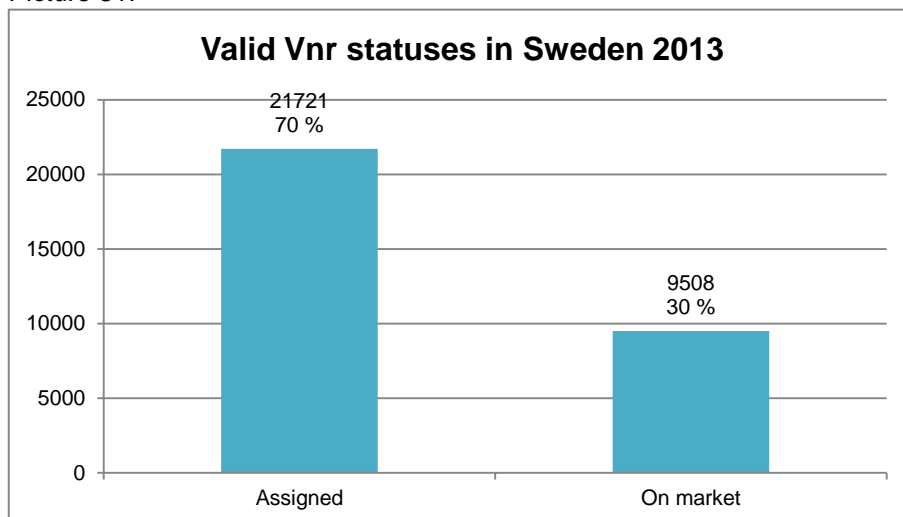
Table 12.

Human and veterinary medicines in Sweden 2013	
Human	29395 (94 %)
Veterinary	1834 (6 %)
Human and veterinary	14 (0 %)

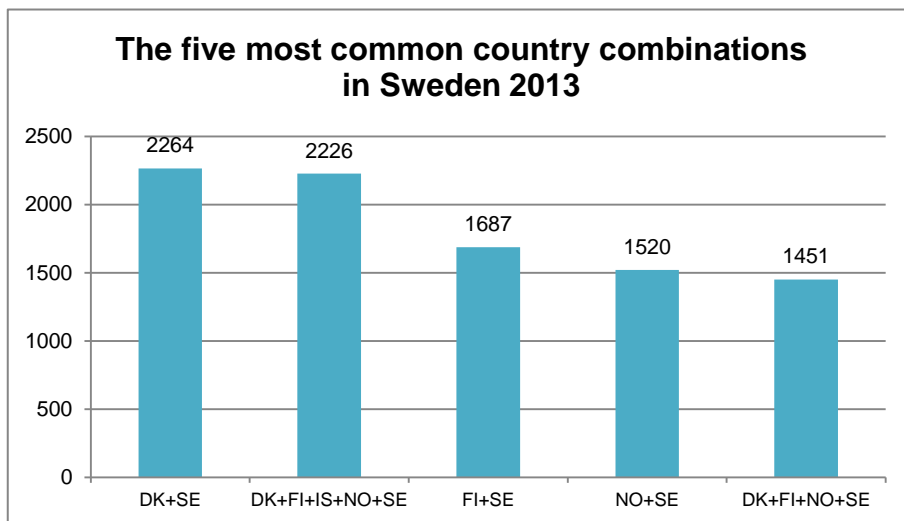
Picture 30.



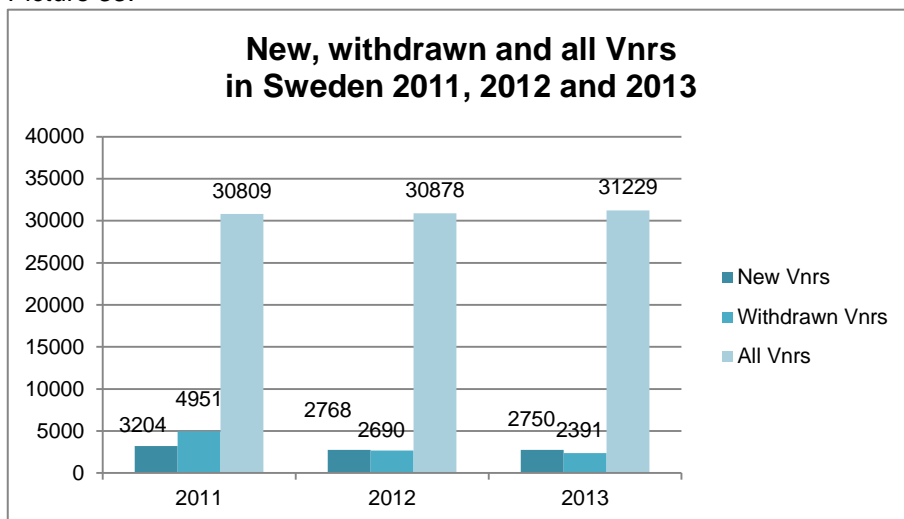
Picture 31.



Picture 32.



Picture 33.



Pharmaceutical Information Centre shortly

Pharmaceutical Information Centre Ltd (Lääketietokeskus Oy) is a modern drug information and skills development company. We maintain up to date drug information databases for consumers, healthcare professionals, companies and healthcare IT providers. Our best-known services and products are Pharmaca Fennica[®], Kodin Lääkeopas[™], Lääkekortti.fi, Lääkeinfo.fi and pharmaceutical seminars.

We carry out corporate social responsibility by providing ePrescription pharmaceutical database for the Social Insurance Institution (Kela). We work together with our partners every day to ensure medication safety in Finland, and also strengthen patient safety internationally by providing Nordic Article Number (Vnr) service.

All 8 professionals working with Vnr information in Pharmaceutical Information Centre have pharmaceutical education. Two IT-specialists work to maintain and further improve our databases and other services.