

Nordic Vnr Services

Vnr Statistics of the Year 2014

Contents

Introduction.....	1
The Vnr extranet service	1
VnrWiki.....	1
Feedback	1
Statistics of the year 2014.....	2
The amount of valid Vnrs.....	2
Status distribution.....	2
New and withdrawn Vnrs and status changes	4
Locked and unlocked Vnrs	5
Parallel imported products.....	6
The most common countries and country combinations of Vnrs of parallel imported products	6
Country combinations of Vnrs	7
Vnr Data country by country.....	9
Denmark	9
Finland	11
Iceland	13
Norway.....	15
Sweden	17
Pharmaceutical Information Centre shortly	19
Pharmaceutical Information Centre Ltd serves customers as the Nordic Number Centre	19

Introduction

Vnr statistics of the year is a summary of the the Vnr data of the year 2014. The statistics is published annually in the beginning of the year. The document contains information about all Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden). Country specific data is presented starting from page 9.

The year 2014 was exceptional because there were no significant changes compared to the year 2013. The most significant change was the 20 % increase in the amount of the Vnrs of parallel imported products.

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 see the real-time situation of their Vnr data in all Nordic countries. Companies can 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 vnr.fi. Username and password are for personal use only. The Vnr extranet service has over 1 800 registered users from 515 different companies at the end of 2014. Appr. 5 new user IDs are ordered weekly and 2-3 are deleted/updated (e.g. change of company) monthly. The mailbox vnr@vnr.fi receives about 15 emails daily, requesting changes to existing Vnrs or other Vnr related questions.

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

There were 14 387 trade names with valid Vnrs at the end of 2014. These Vnrs belonged to 930 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.

There have been around 300 users monthly. Most of the users are from Finland 26 % and Sweden 17 %. Germany and Norway have each 7 % of the users and Denmark and United States 6 %.

Feedback

All suggestions and comments are important and welcome in developing this annual statistics document further. Please send all possible feedback and questions to vnr@vnr.fi.

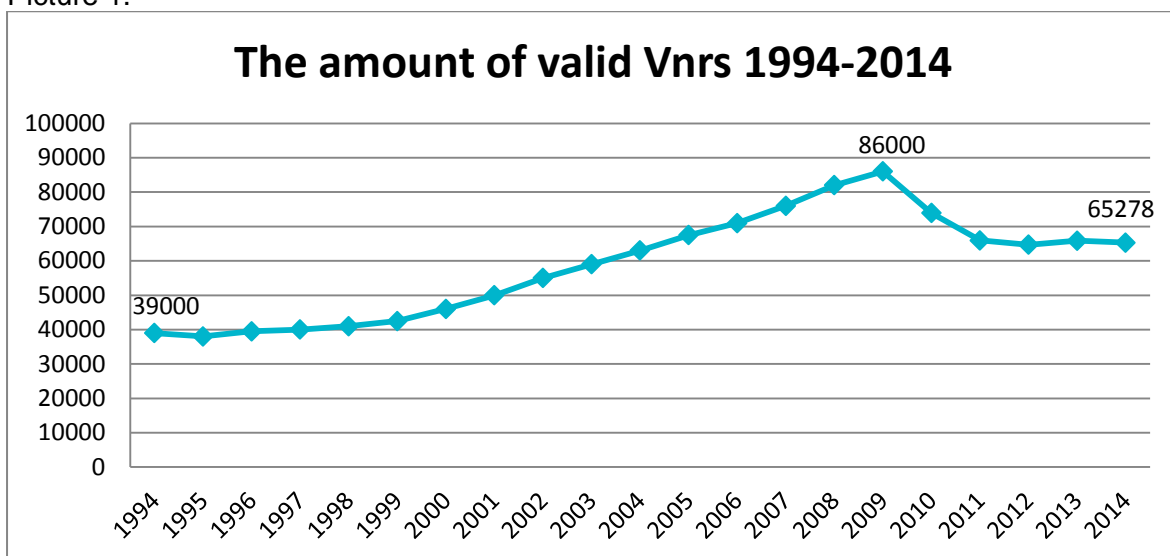
Statistics of the year 2014

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.

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 to a 2 % increase 2013 (1182 Vnrs) and 1 % decrease in 2014 (579 Vnrs). At the end of 2014 there were 65 278 valid Vnrs.

Picture 1.



Status distribution

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

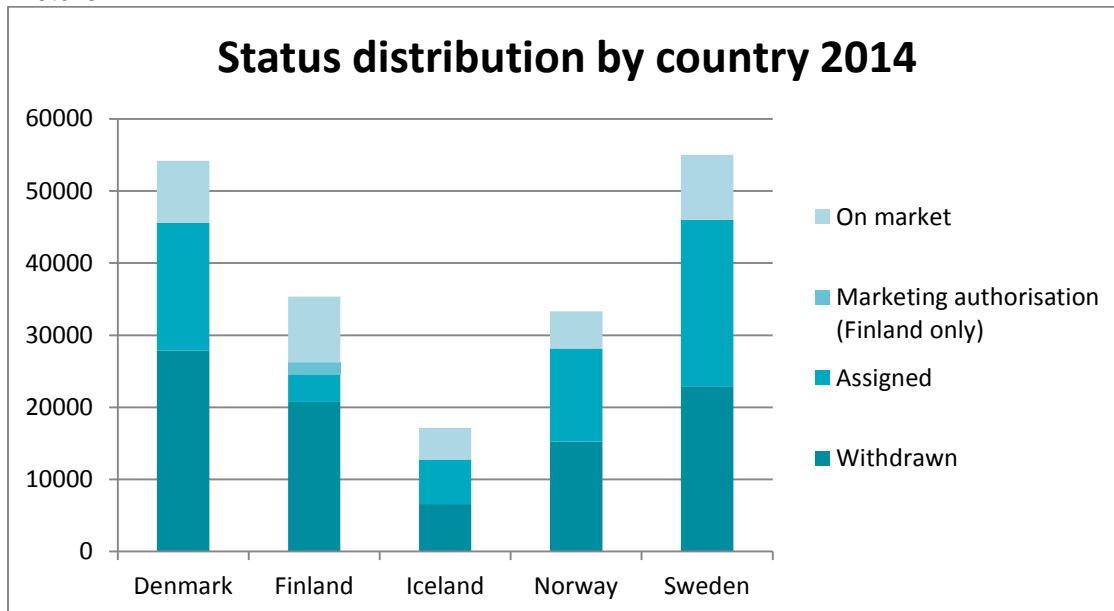
2010-2013 there were 4 different Vnr statuses:

- **Assigned:** assigned Vnr is valid.
- **MA:** Vnr has a 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.

At the end of 2014 41 % of the valid Vnrs had the status on market in one or more countries (26 682 Vnrs). There were 47 590 Vnrs in the database which were withdrawn from all countries, which is 11 % more than in 2013.

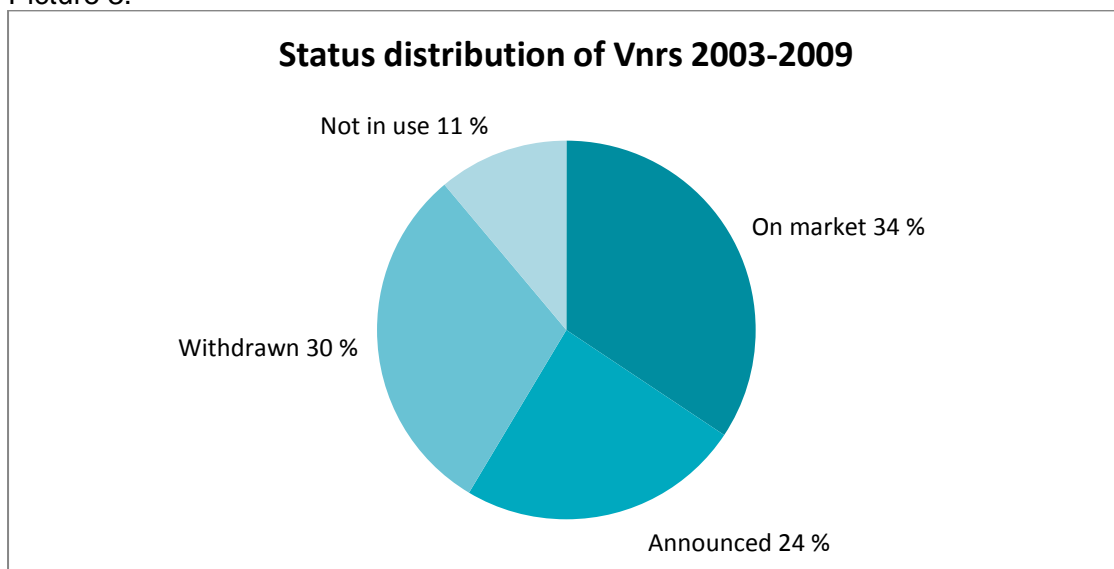
In 2014 most of the Vnrs were in use (On market or Assigned) in Sweden (32 047 Vnrs) and Denmark (26 284 Vnrs), least Vnrs in Iceland (10 595 Vnrs) (Picture 2.). Status distribution of Vnrs varies slightly by country. Country specific data is presented starting from page 9.

Picture 2.



Until 2009 the status administration was different (picture 3.). During 2010 the status of not needed Vnrs was changed to withdrawn, and announced was changed to assigned.

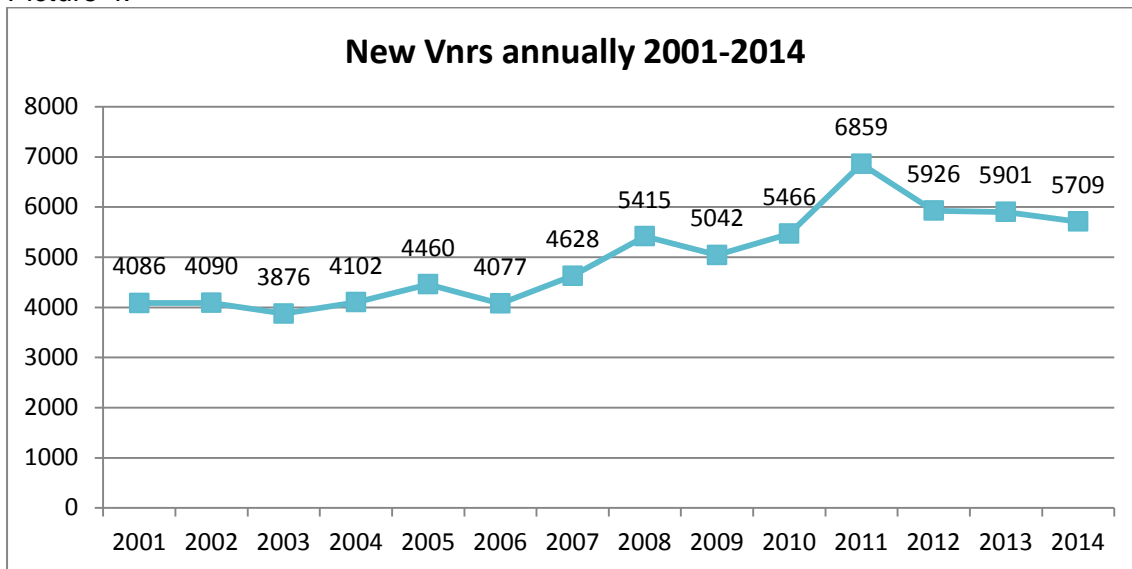
Picture 3.



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 % and it was almost the same in 2013. In 2014 there was a slight decrease in the amount of new Vnrs.

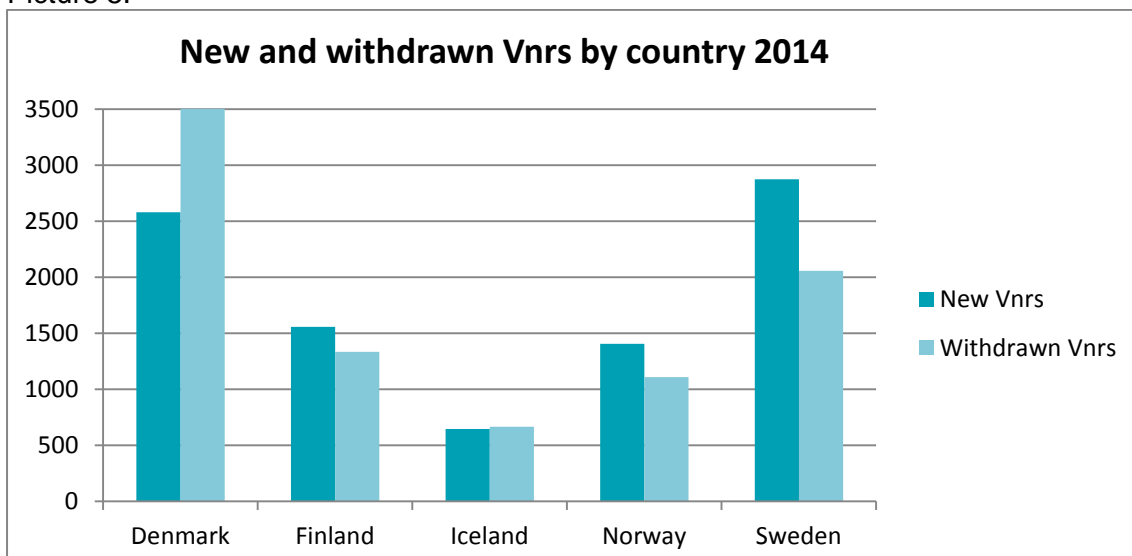
Picture 4.



9068 new Vnrs were assigned in 2014. Most of the new Vnrs were assigned to be used in Sweden and in Denmark (picture 5.). 8750 Vnrs were changed to the status withdrawn during 2014. As well as most of the new Vnrs also most of the withdrawals were made in Sweden and Denmark (picture 5.).

Compared to 2013 there was a slight increase in the amount of new Vnrs and a slight decrease of withdrawn Vnrs almost in every country. Finland was the only country which had less new Vnrs in 2014 compared to 2013. Denmark was the only country which had more withdrawn Vnrs in 2014 than in 2013.

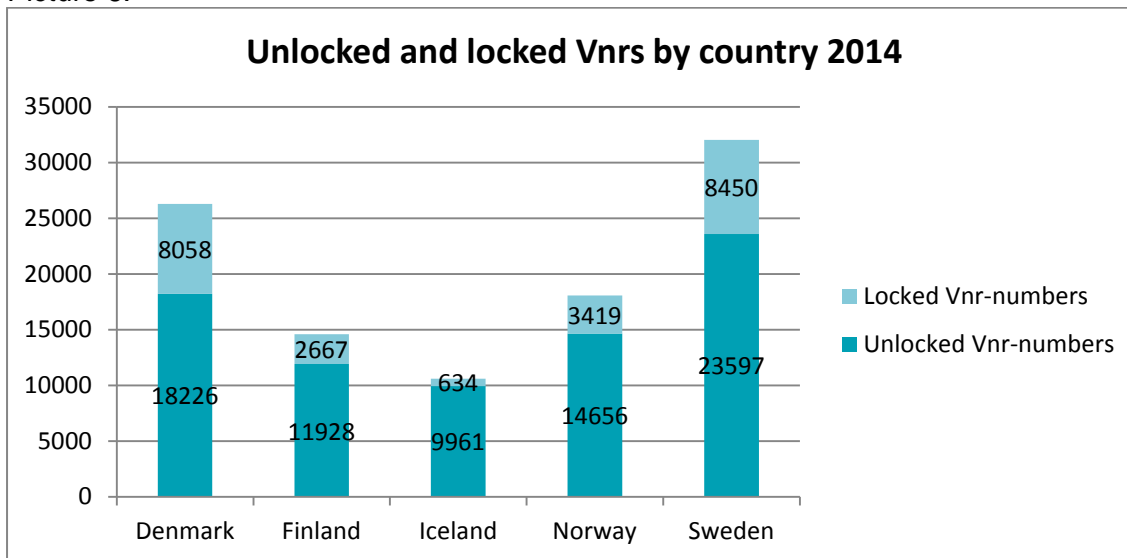
Picture 5.



Locked and unlocked Vnrs

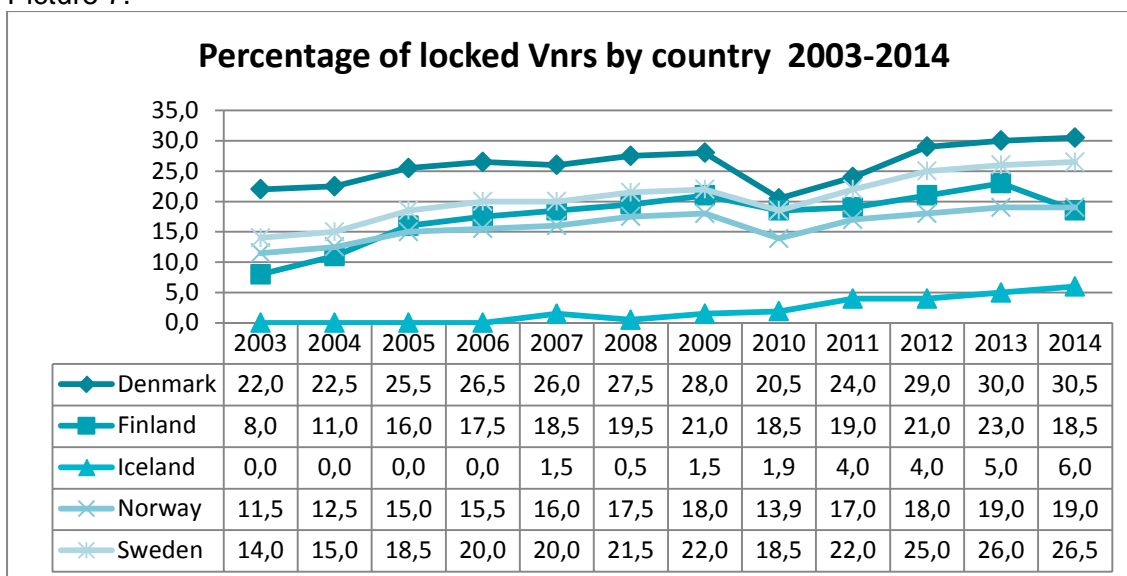
In 2013 the new terms locked and unlocked Vnrs were launched. These specify for which markets a certain Vnr can be used and replace the old terms national and common Vnrs. The launch of the new terms turned the amount of the Vnr combinations to a slight increase: before 2013 only common Vnrs could be used in several countries, now both locked and unlocked Vnrs can be used in several countries. The ratio between locked and unlocked Vnrs has not changed between 2013 and 2014.

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. The changes have been only 0-1 % in each country but Finland.

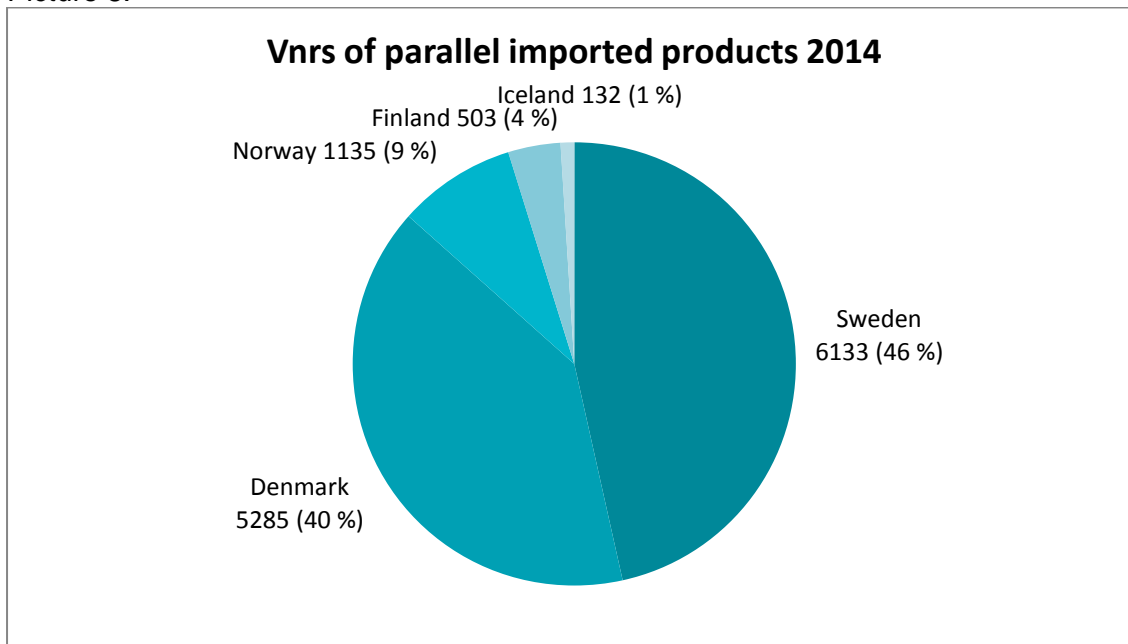
Picture 7.



Parallel imported products

There were 13 188 Vnrs of parallel imported products in the Nordic countries in 2014. That means 20 % increase from 2013. Between 2012 and 2013 the increase was 13 %. Just like 2013 most of the parallel imported products in 2014 were Swedish 46 % (Picture 8.).

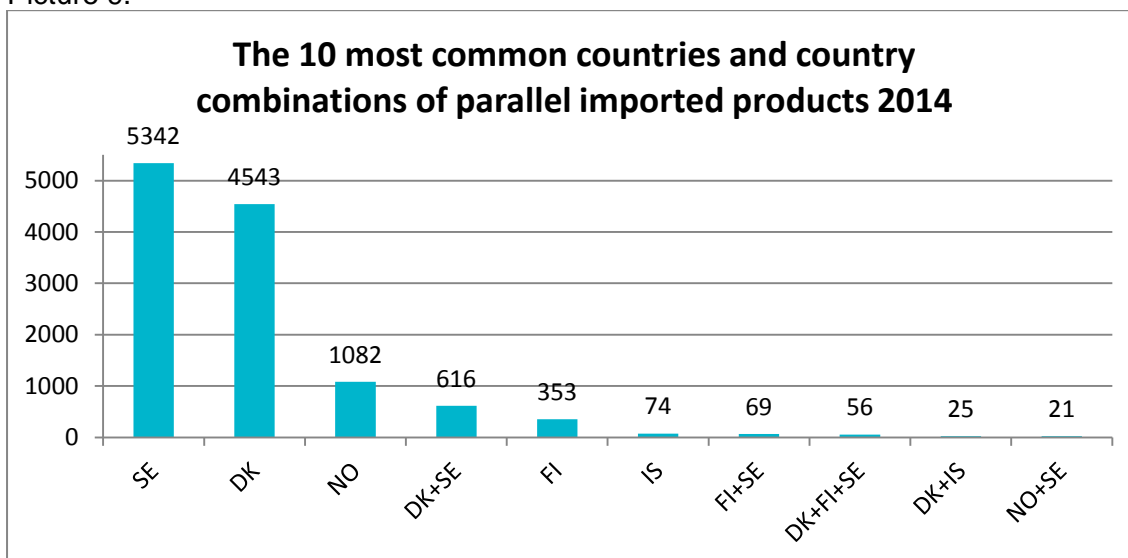
Picture 8.



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

Most of the parallel imported products are country specific (Picture 9.). In 2014 the most common country combination was the combination of Denmark and Sweden.

Picture 9.

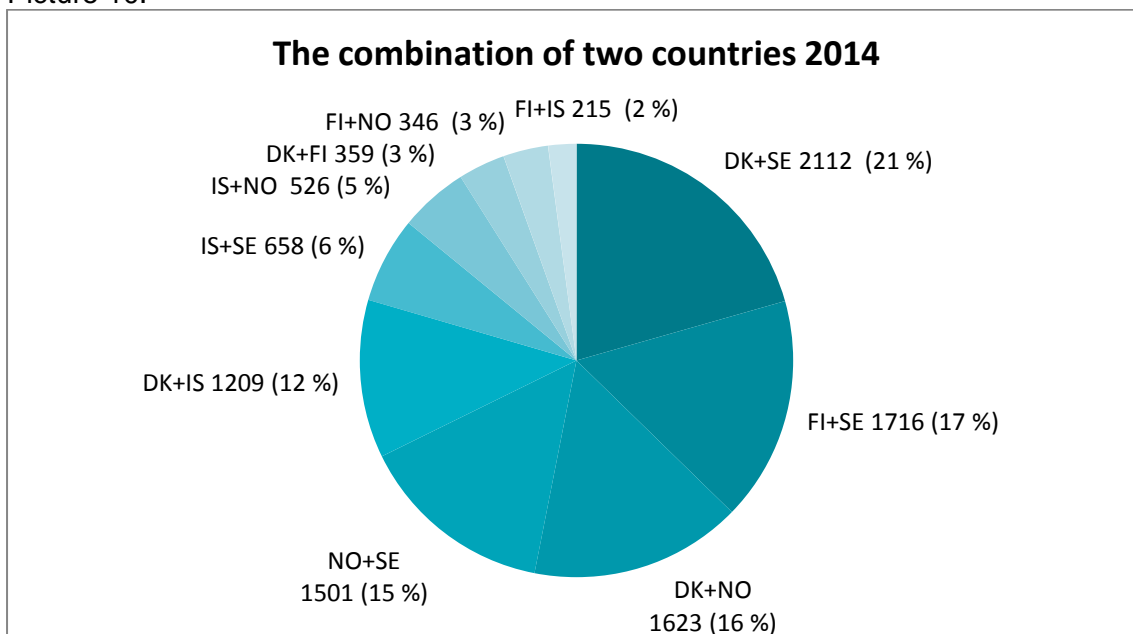


Country combinations of Vnrs

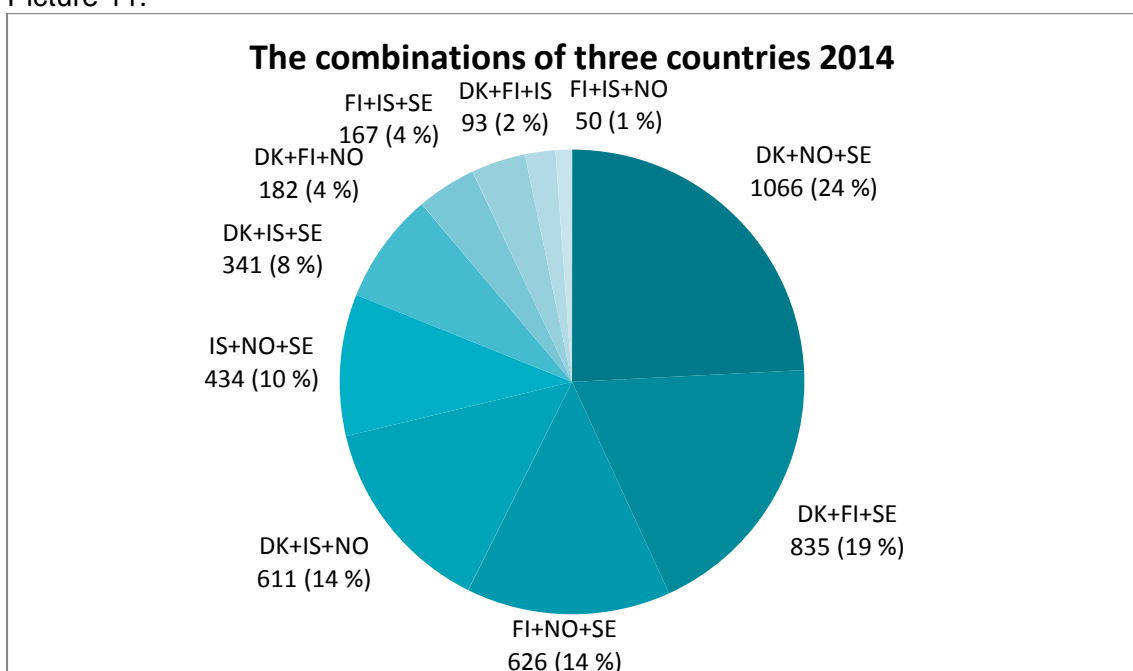
There were almost no changes between 2013 and 2014 in the most common country combinations. Sweden and Denmark was the most common combination of two countries (Picture 10.). The most used combination of three countries was Sweden, Denmark and Norway (Picture 11.). The amount of combinations of four 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.

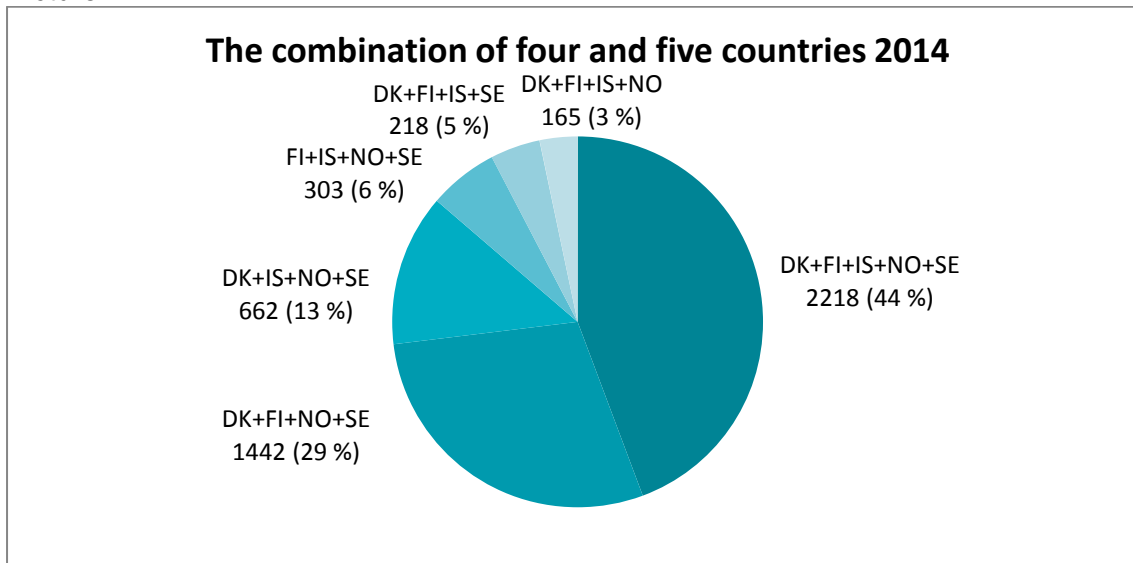
Picture 10.



Picture 11.

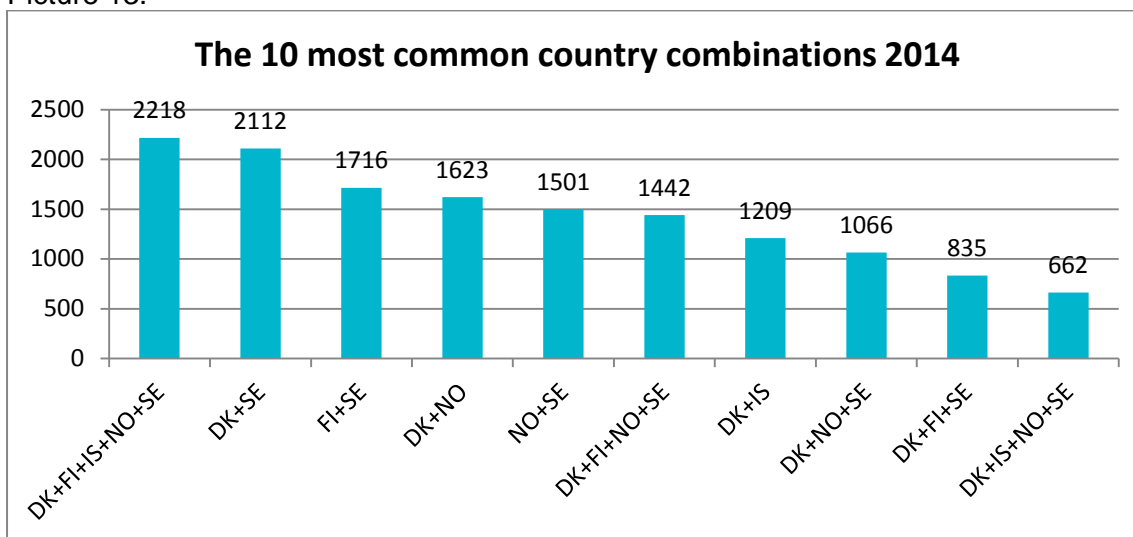


Picture 12.



The 10 most common country combinations of Vnrs can be seen in picture 13. The most common country combination was the combination of all Nordic countries. The amount of Vnrs have decreased in almost every country combination between 2013 and 2014.

Picture 13.



The amount of Vnrs with country combinations of two, three, four and five countries 2014 are shown in Table 1. There has been a 2 % decrease in the combination of two countries between 2013 and 2014. There are no significant changes in the amount of Vnrs of the other combinations.

Table 1.

The amount of different country combinations 2014	
2 countries	10265
3 countries	4405
4 countries	2790
5 countries	2218

Vnr Data country by country

In this section you can find the country specific information. There is the amount of Vnrs in different statuses, the portion of locked, unlocked, parallel imported, human and veterinary products. There is also a picture of the most common country combinations of all Vnrs and of the parallel imported products.

Denmark

In Denmark there were 26 284 valid Vnrs at the end of 2014 which is 1010 less than the year before. 20 % of the products were parallel imported. More detailed information can be found in the following tables and pictures.

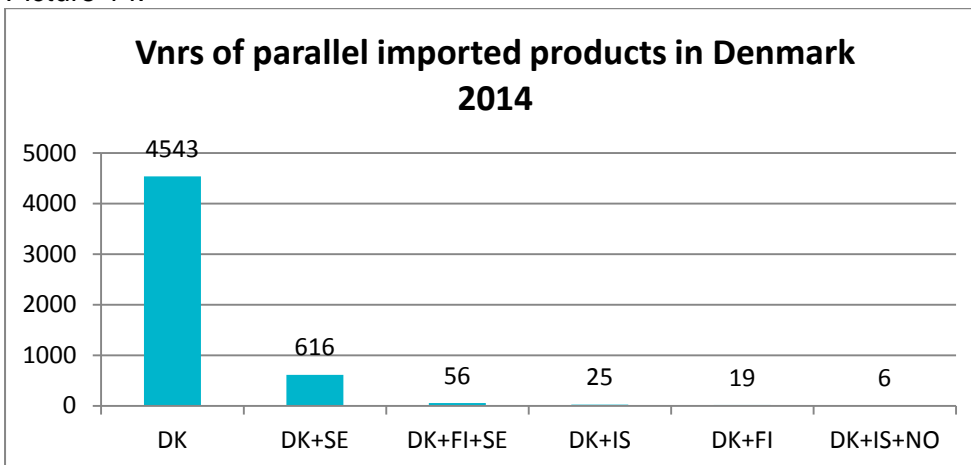
Table 2.

Vnrs in Denmark 2014	
All	26284
Unlocked	18226 (69 %)
Locked	8058 (31%)
Parallel imported	5285 (20 %)

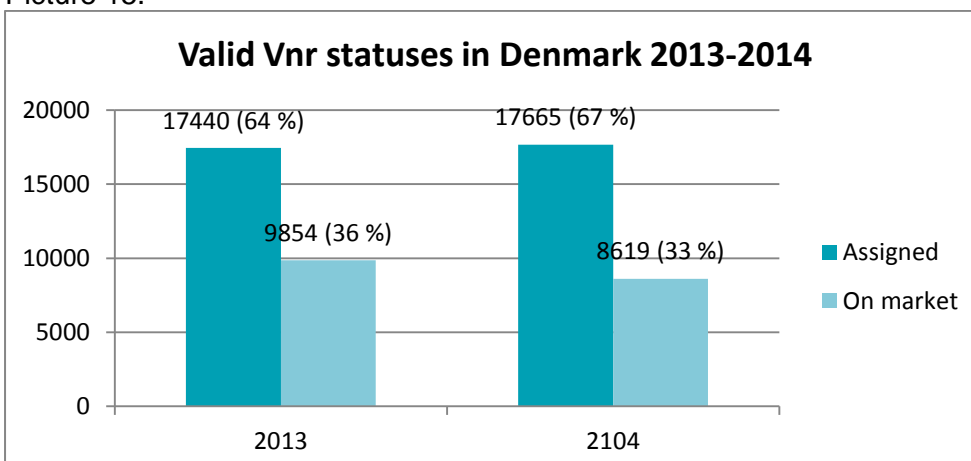
Table 3.

Human and veterinary medicines in Denmark 2014	
Human	23889 (91 %)
Veterinary	2376 (9 %)
Human and veterinary	19 (0 %)

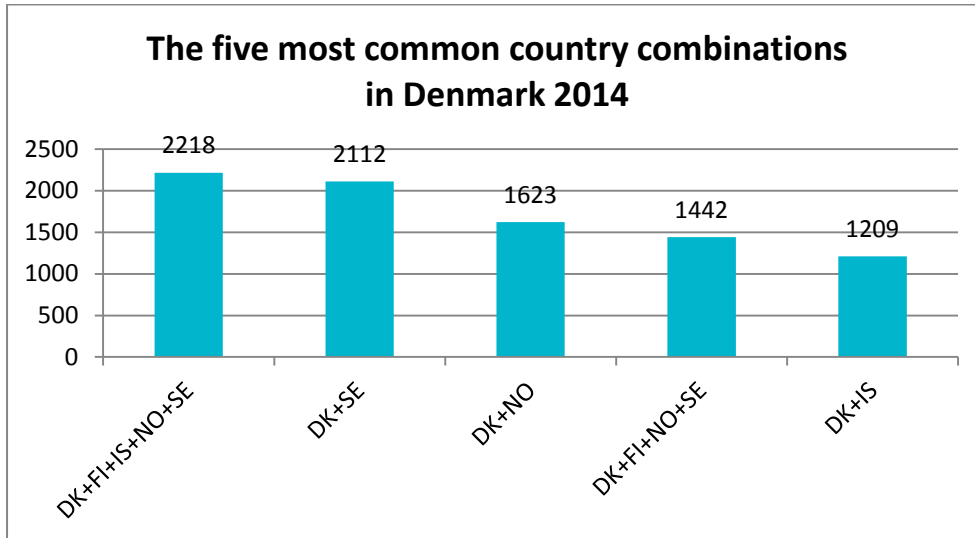
Picture 14.



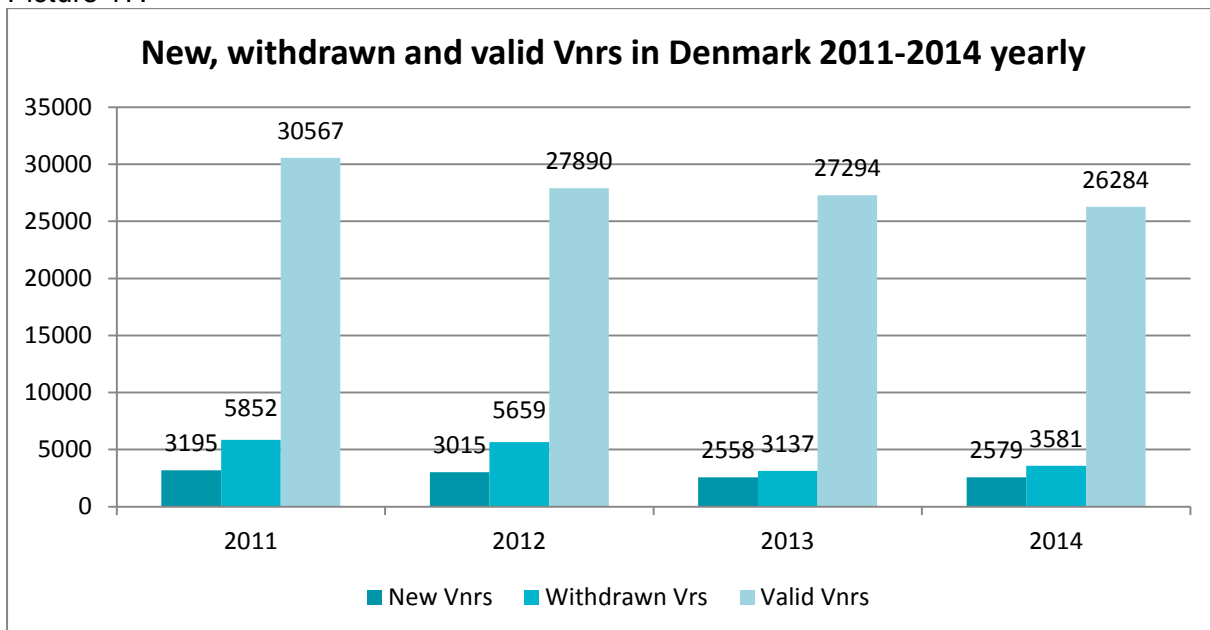
Picture 15.



Picture 16.



Picture 17.



Finland

In Finland there were 14595 valid Vnrs at the end of 2014, which is 805 less than in 2013. This is the first year after 2010 when the amount of the valid Vnrs in Finland has decreased. There are also less packages on the market in Finland than the year before. More detailed information can be found in the following tables and pictures. In the table 6. only Vnrs with status MA and On market have been taken into account.

Table 4.

Vnrs in Finland 2014	
All	14595
Unlocked	11928 (82 %)
Locked	2667 (18 %)
Parallel imported	503 (3 %)

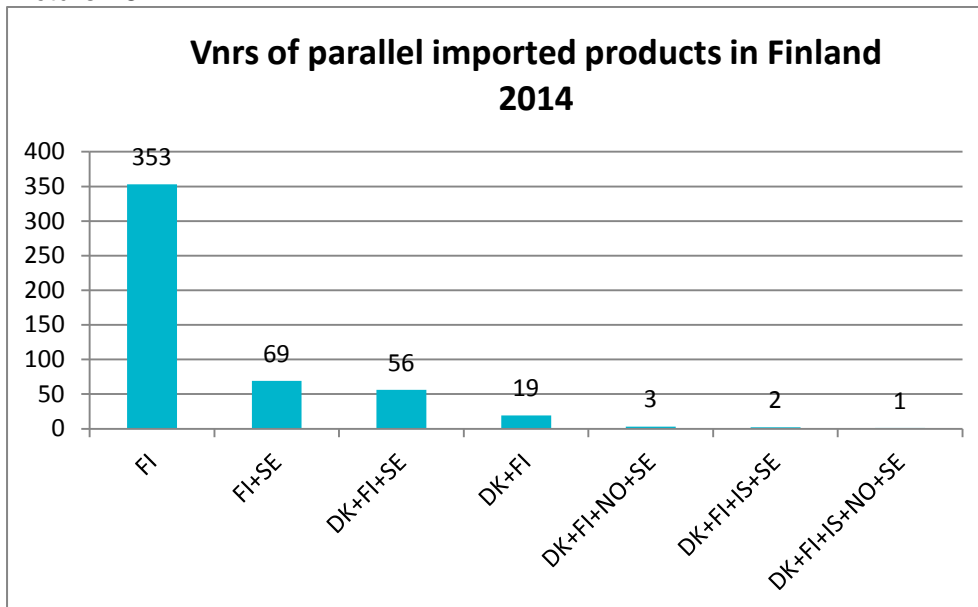
Table 5.

Human and veterinary medicines in Finland 2014	
Human	13213 (91 %)
Veterinary	1369 (9 %)
Human and veterinary	13 (0 %)

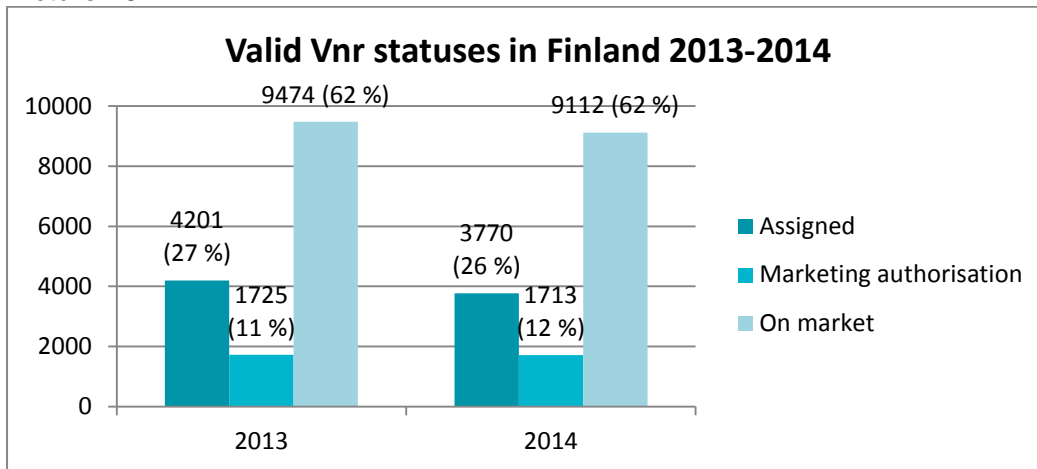
Table 6.

Prescription only, harmful in traffic and narcotic medicines in Finland 2014	
Prescription only	9718 (90 %)
Harmful in traffic	920 (6 %)
Narcotic	251 (2 %)

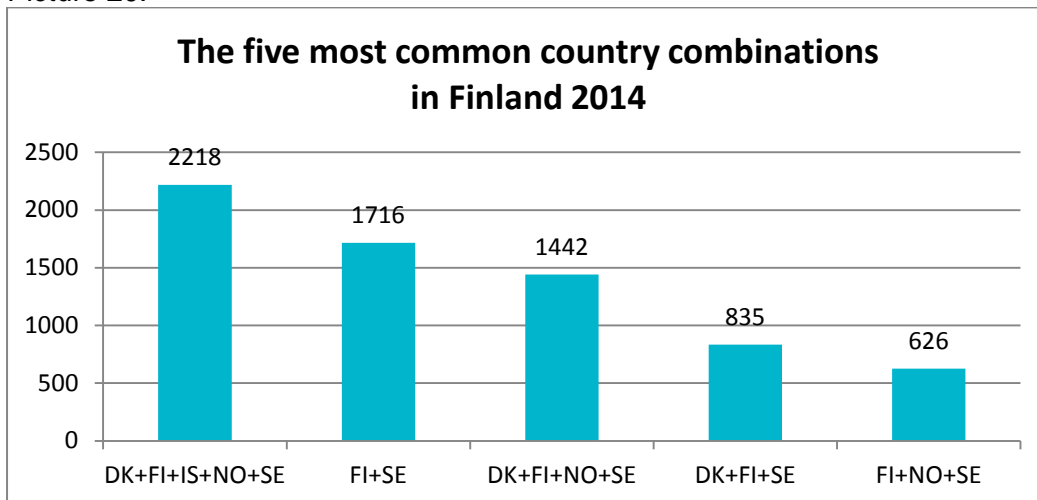
Picture 18.



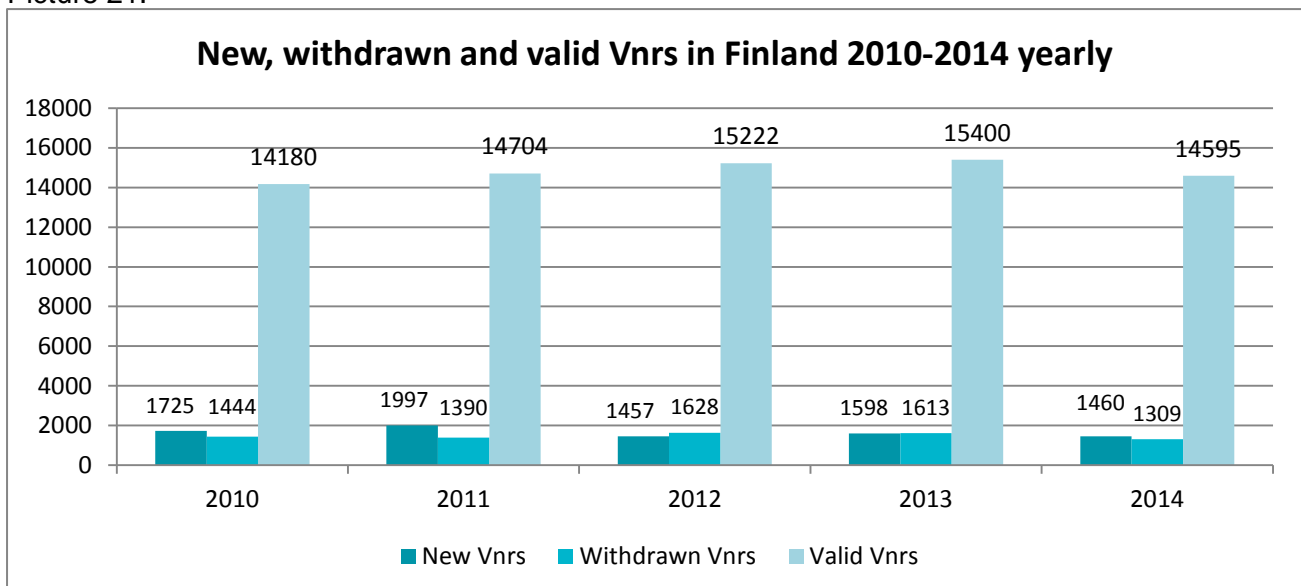
Picture 19.



Picture 20.



Picture 21.



Iceland

In Iceland there were 10 595 valid Vnrs in 2014. Only 1 % of the products were parallel imported. More detailed information can be found in the following tables and pictures.

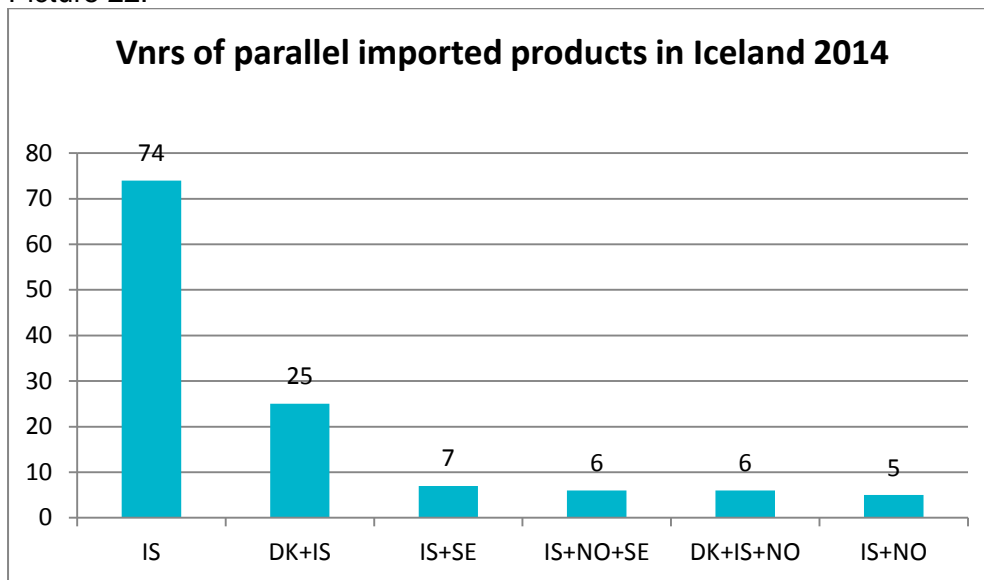
Table 7.

Vnrs in Iceland 2014	
All	10595
Unlocked	9961 (94 %)
Locked	634 (6 %)
Parallel imported	132 (1 %)

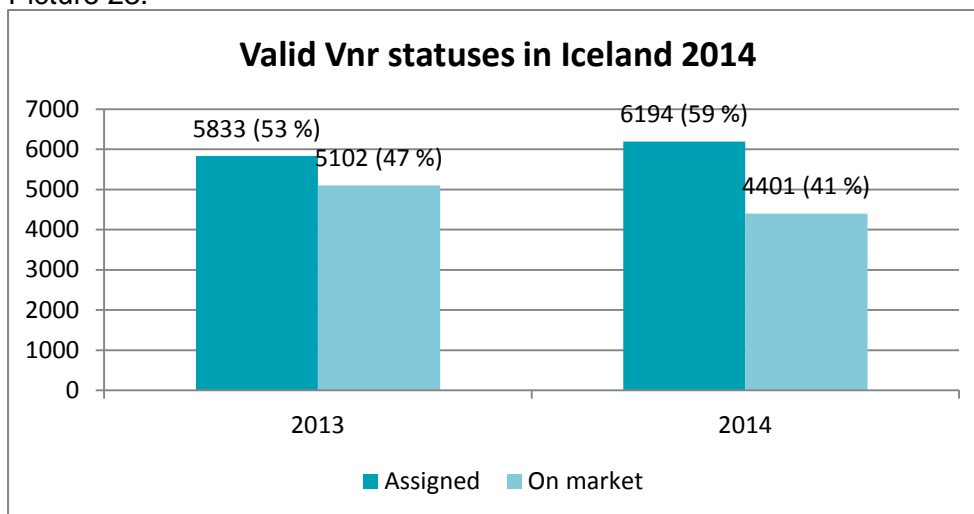
Table 8.

Human and veterinary medicines in Iceland 2014	
Human	10020 (95 %)
Veterinary	561 (5 %)
Human and veterinary	14 (0 %)

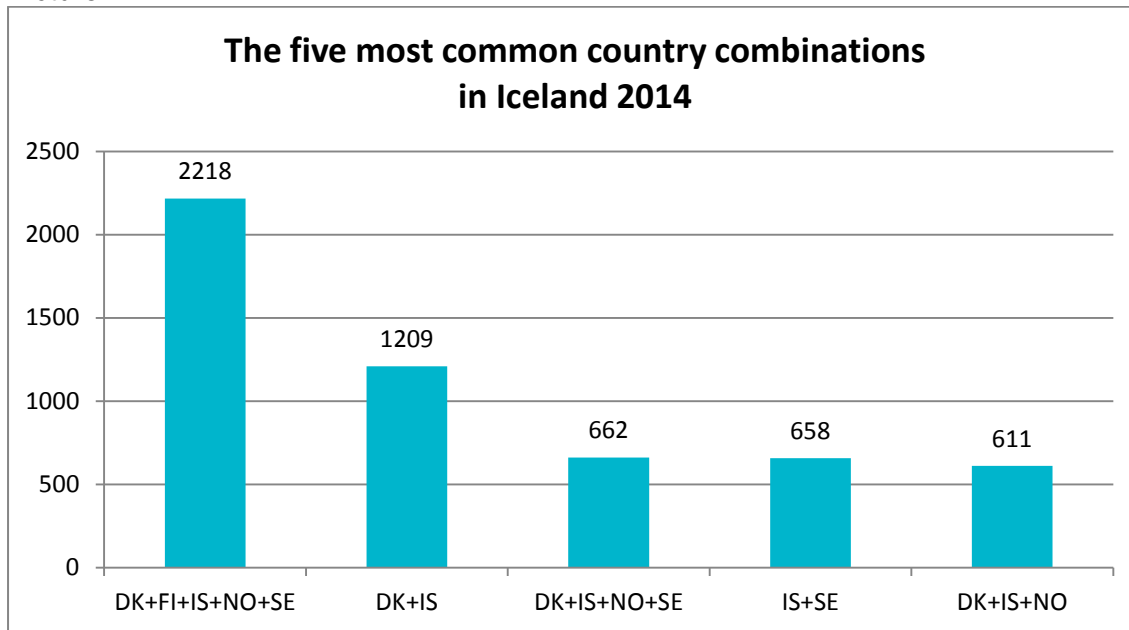
Picture 22.



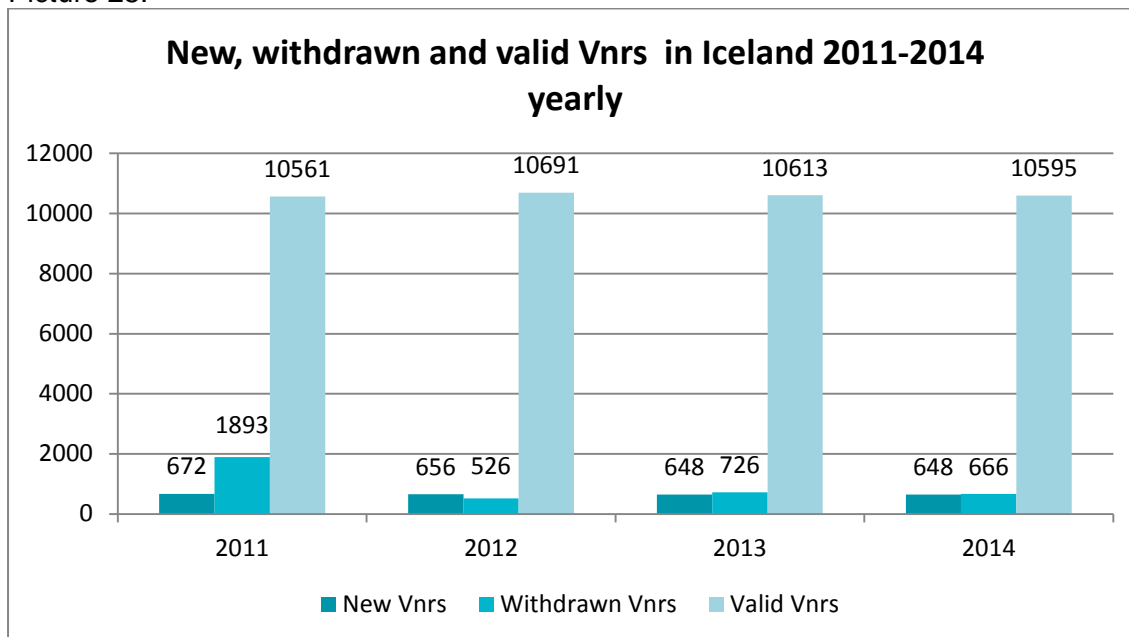
Picture 23.



Picture 24.



Picture 25.



Norway

In Norway there were 18 075 valid Vnrs in 2014. 6 % of the products were parallel imported. More detailed information can be found in the following tables and pictures.

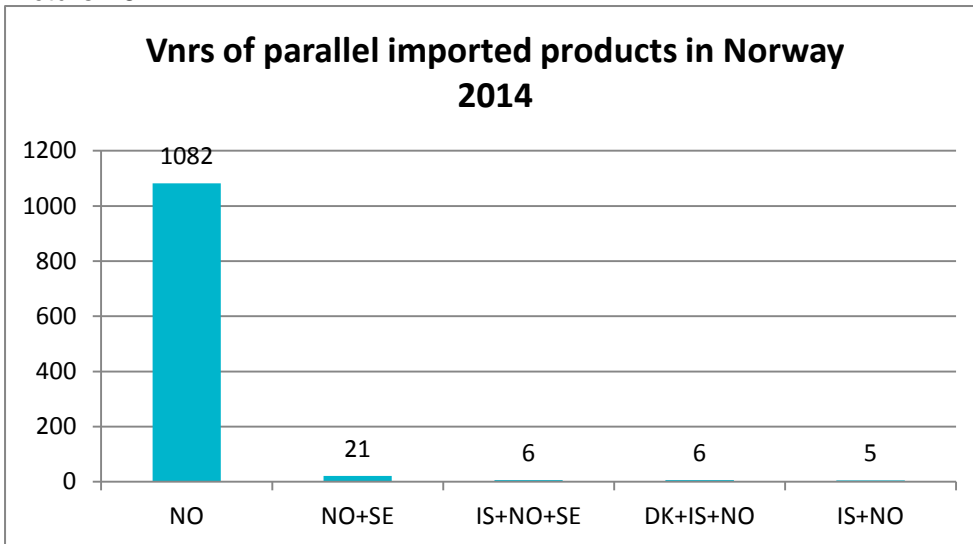
Table 9.

Vnrs in Norway 2014	
All	18075
Unlocked	14656 (81 %)
Locked	3419 (19 %)
Parallel imported	1135 (6 %)

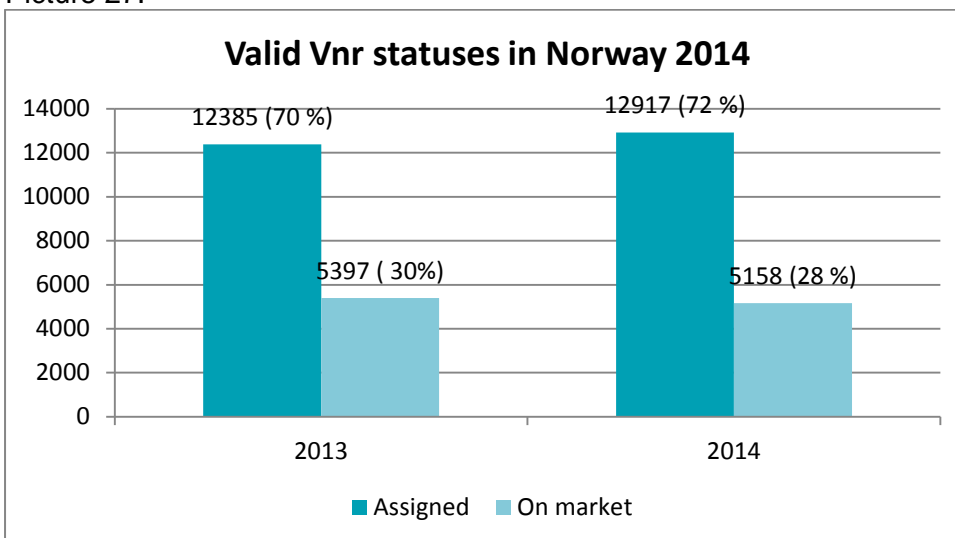
Table 10.

Human and veterinary medicines in Norway 2014	
Human	16708 (92 %)
Veterinary	1347 (7 %)
Human and veterinary	20 (0 %)

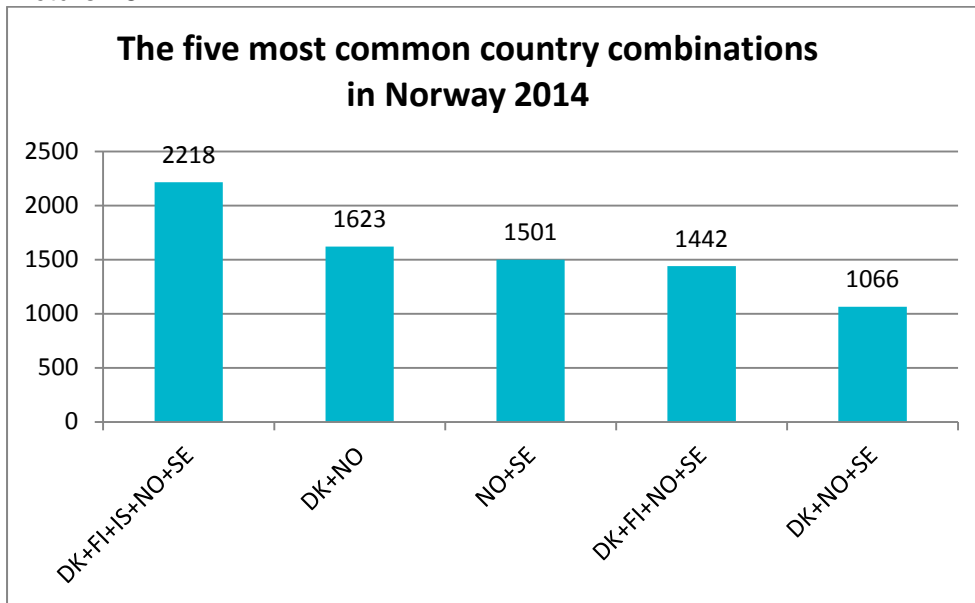
Picture 26.



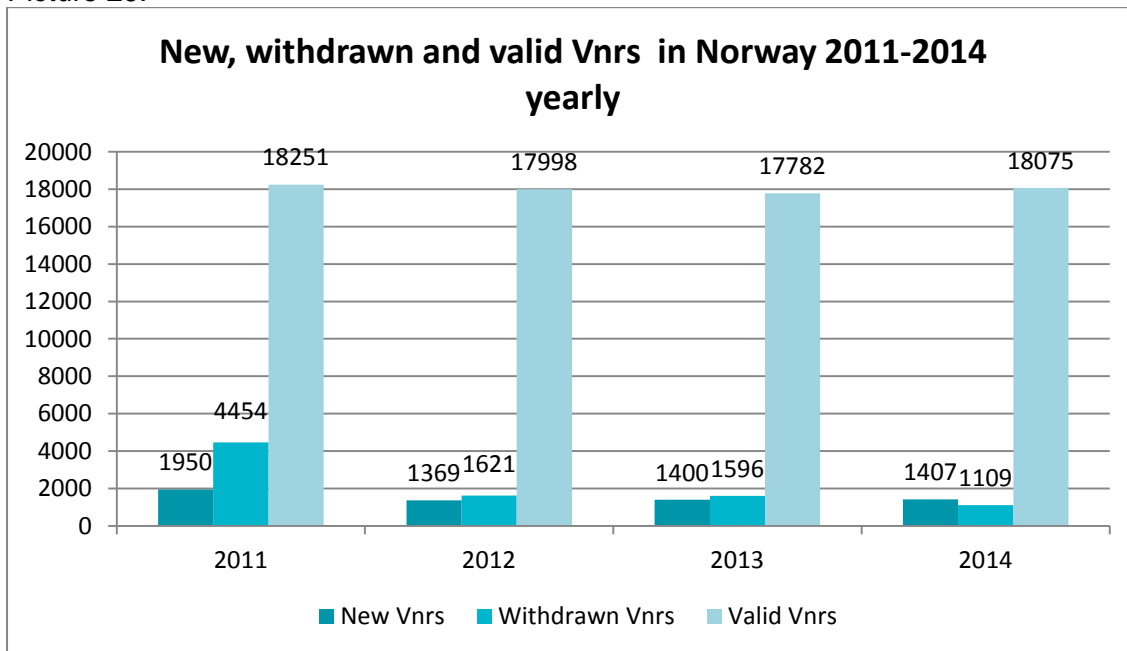
Picture 27.



Picture 28.



Picture 29.



Sweden

In Sweden there were all together 32 047 Vnrs, of which 19 % (6133) were of parallel imported products at the end of 2014. More detailed information can be found in the tables and pictures below.

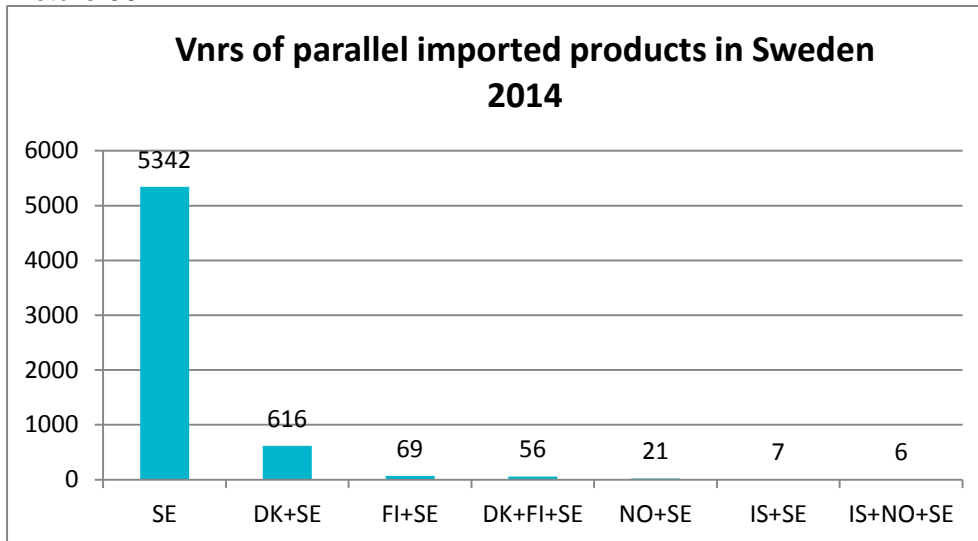
Table 11.

Vnrs in Sweden 2014	
All	32047
Unlocked	23597 (74 %)
Locked	8450 (26 %)
Parallel imported	6133 (19 %)

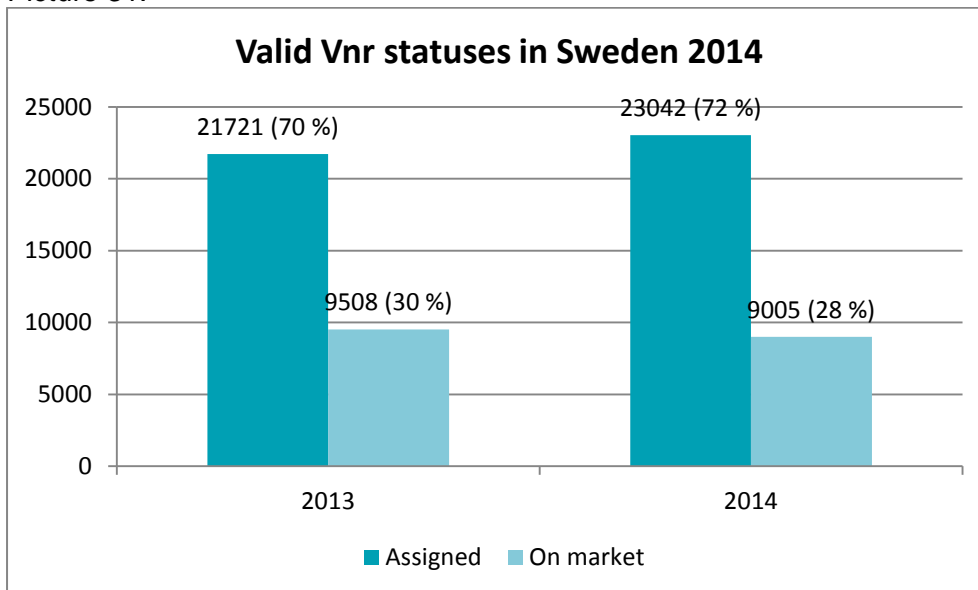
Table 12.

Human and veterinary medicines in Sweden 2014	
Human	30105 (94 %)
Veterinary	1925 (6 %)
Human and veterinary	17 (0 %)

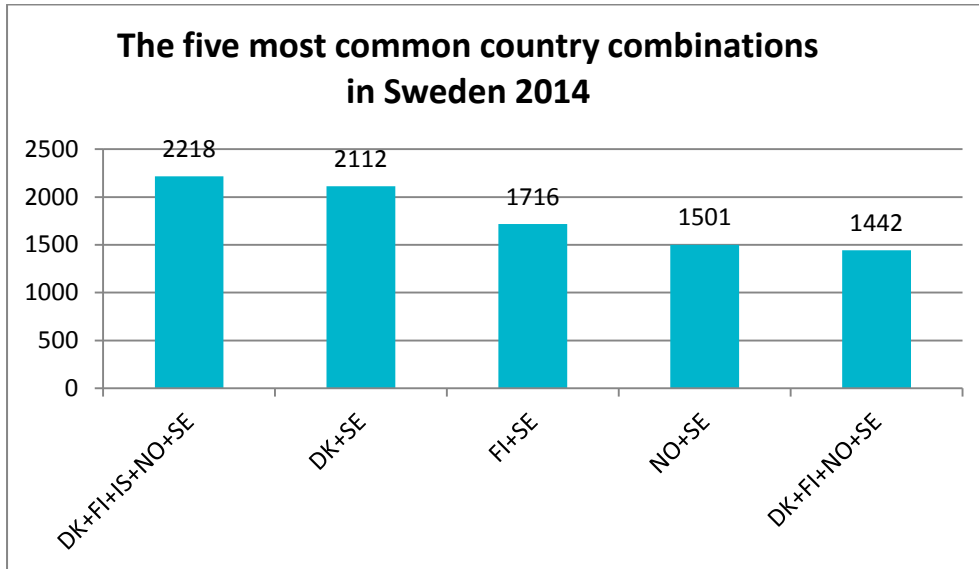
Picture 30.



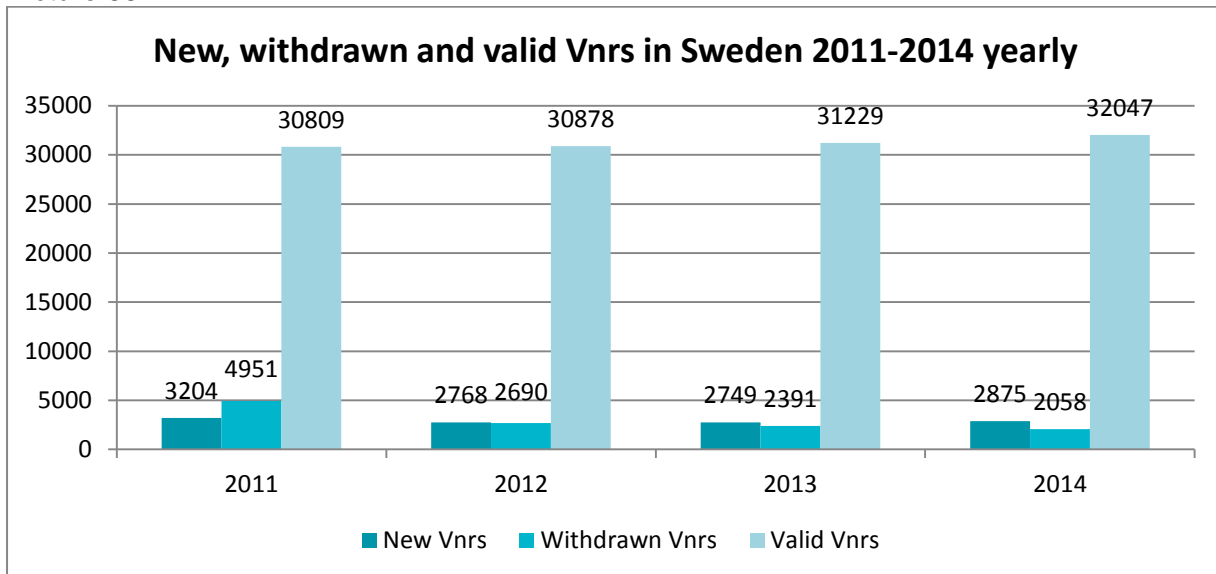
Picture 31.



Picture 32.



Picture 33.



Pharmaceutical Information Centre shortly

Pharmaceutical Information Centre Ltd (Lääketietokeskus Oy) is a modern drug information and skills development company. We are a hub for drug information. 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, Pharmarket and pharmaceutical seminars.

On a weekly basis more than 50 000 unique visitors use our online services, our nonfiction books are among Finland's most popular and nearly 2,000 industry professionals take part in our training events each year.

We carry out corporate social responsibility by providing the national pharmaceutical database for the Finnish Social Insurance Institution (Kela). The Pharmaceutical Database is a part of The National Archive of Health Information (Kanta) and the data is used in health care services and pharmacies, as well as in Kela when processing health insurance reimbursements for medicines and in the Kela online services for citizens.

Our business is based on customer needs, reliability and innovation in developing new products, solutions and services. We operate out of income: our net sales are approximately EUR 4.5 million. We employ approximately 20 professionals. Our owner is Pharma Industry Finland.

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. We work together with our partners every day to ensure medication safety by providing Nordic Article Number (Vnr) services.

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