

Nordic Vnr Services

Vnr Statistics of the Year 2015

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Introduction

Vnr statistics of the year is a summary of the changes and transactions in Nordic Vnr database during the year 2015. The statistics is published annually. This document contains information about all Nordic countries: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. Country specific data is presented starting from page 9.

Overall the year 2015 was very similar to the previous year. There were 17 420 trade names with valid Vnrs at the end of 2015. These Vnrs belonged to 1 300 different marketing authorization holders.

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 on-line. Companies can take different kind of reports of their products.

Vnr extranet service requires a user-specific username and password, which can be obtained by filling in the registration form in vnr.fi. Username and password are for personal use only. The Vnr extranet service had over 2 000 registered users from 560 companies at the end of 2015. Over 1 000 users logged in to Vnr extranet service on average 30 times during 2015. Appr. 4 new user IDs were ordered weekly. The mailbox vnr@vnr.fi received about 20 emails daily, requesting changes to existing Vnrs or other Vnr related information.

Vnr services are offered for pharma companies and authorities in three languages: English, Swedish and Finnish.

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.

A new section "From NTIN to GTIN" has been added to the VnrWiki. Useful information regarding changes from using an NTIN to a GTIN will be published there to help companies and stakeholders to adjust to the new requirements of the Falsified Medicines Directive.

VnrWiki has also been updated with country specific information regarding Iceland. Norway has also made some modifications to country specific information.

VnrWiki had around 406 visitors monthly in 2015. Most of the visitors are from Finland (24 %) and Sweden (16 %). The rest of the top five countries are Germany (9 %), United Kindom (8 %), and Norway and Denmark (6 %).

Feedback

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

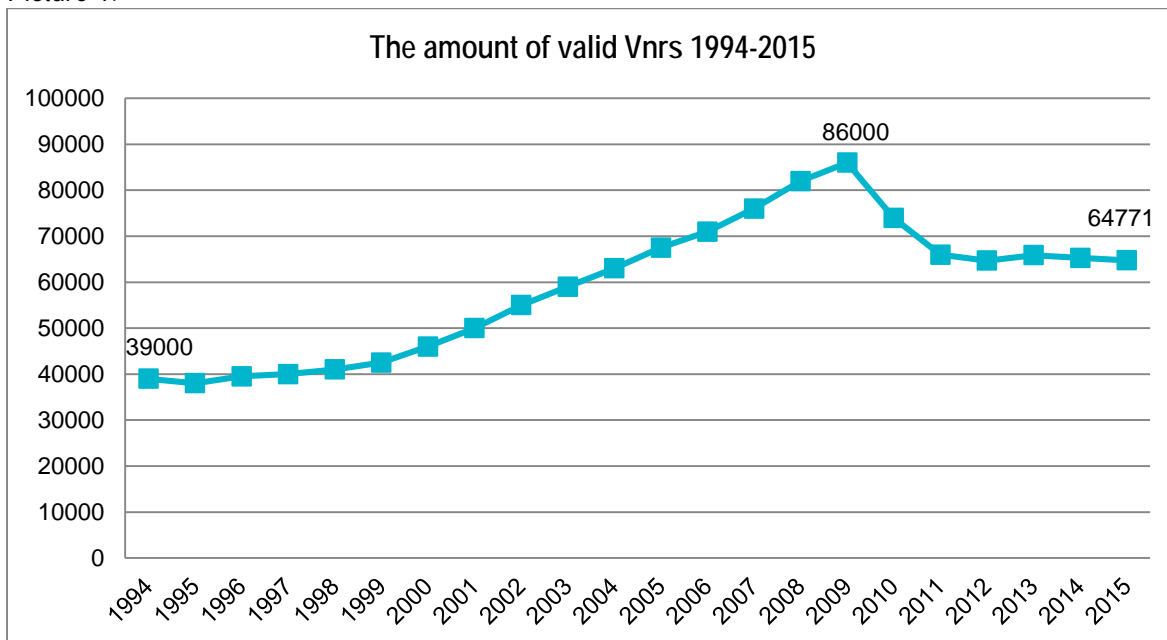
Statistics of the year 2015

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 (1 182 Vnrs), 1 % decrease in 2014 (579 Vnrs) and 1 % decrease in 2015 (507 Vnrs). At the end of 2015 there were 64 771 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.

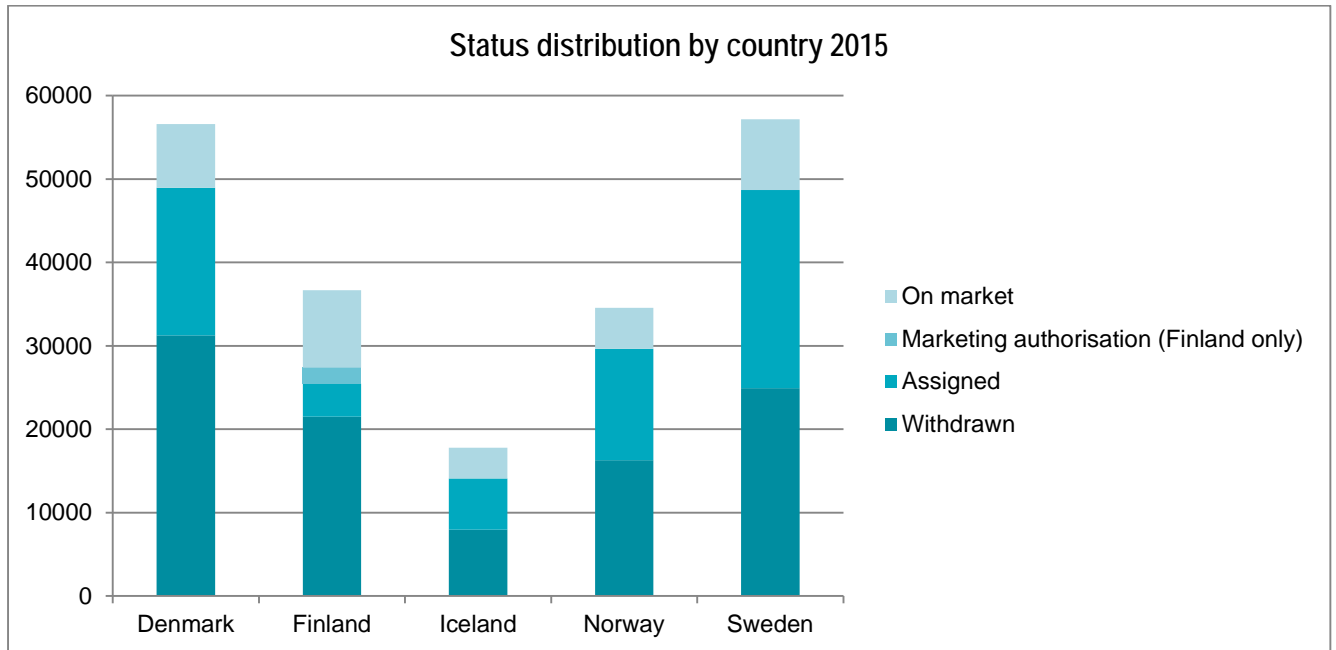
2010-2013 there were 4 different Vnr statuses:

- **Assigned:** assigned Vnr is valid.
- **MA:** Vnr has a marketing authorisation but is not yet or not anymore on market. From 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 2015 39 % of the valid Vnrs had the status on market in one or more countries (25 192 Vnrs). There were 52 858 Vnrs in the database which were withdrawn from all countries, which is 11 % more than in 2014.

In 2015 most of the Vnrs were in use in Sweden (32 240 Vnrs) and Denmark (25 341 Vnrs), least Vnrs in Iceland (9 817 Vnrs) (Picture 2.). Status distribution of Vnrs varies slightly between countries. Country specific data is presented starting from page 9.

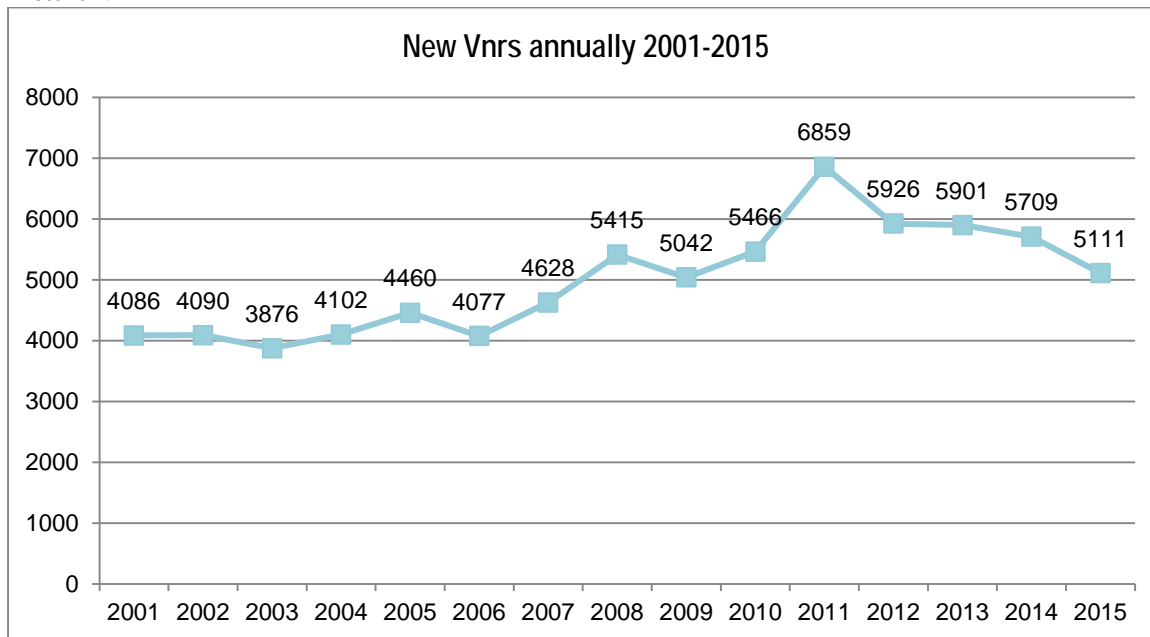
Picture 2.



New and withdrawn Vnrs and status changes

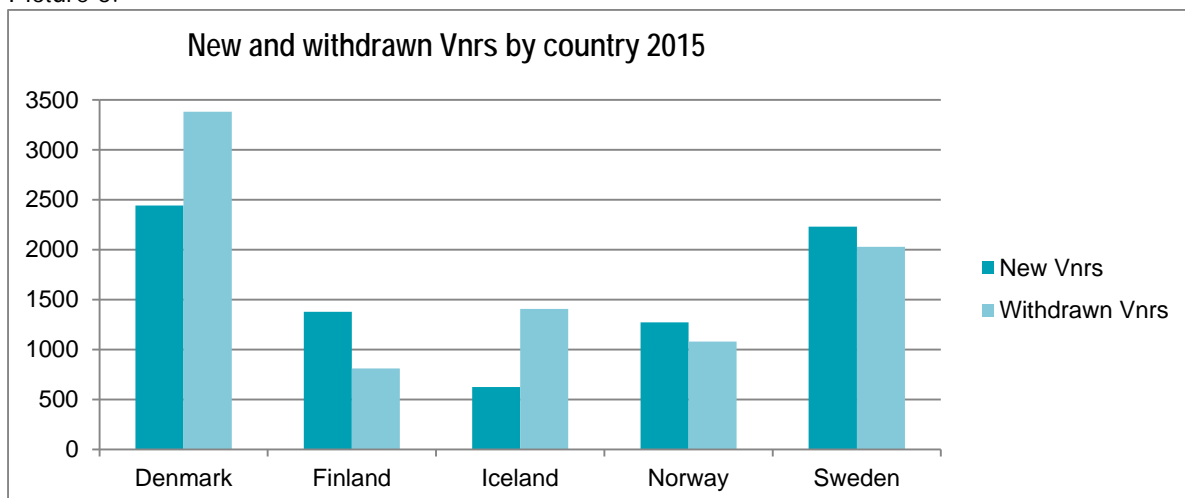
The amount of new Vnrs started to increase in 2006 (picture 4.). Between 2006 and 2011 the yearly amount of valid new Vnrs increased 68 %. In 2012 the amount decreased 14 % and it was almost the same in 2013. In 2015 there were 10 % less new Vnrs than in 2014. In the picture 4 every Vnr is taken into account only once.

Picture 4.



5 111 new Vnrs were assigned in 2015. Most of the new Vnrs were assigned to be used in Denmark (picture 5.). 8 703 Vnrs were changed to the status withdrawn during 2015. As well as most of the new Vnrs, also most of the withdrawals were made in Denmark. The most significant change compared to previous year was the withdrawal (13 %) of valid Vnrs in Iceland. The reduction in the number of valid Vnrs in Iceland was 7 %.

Picture 5.

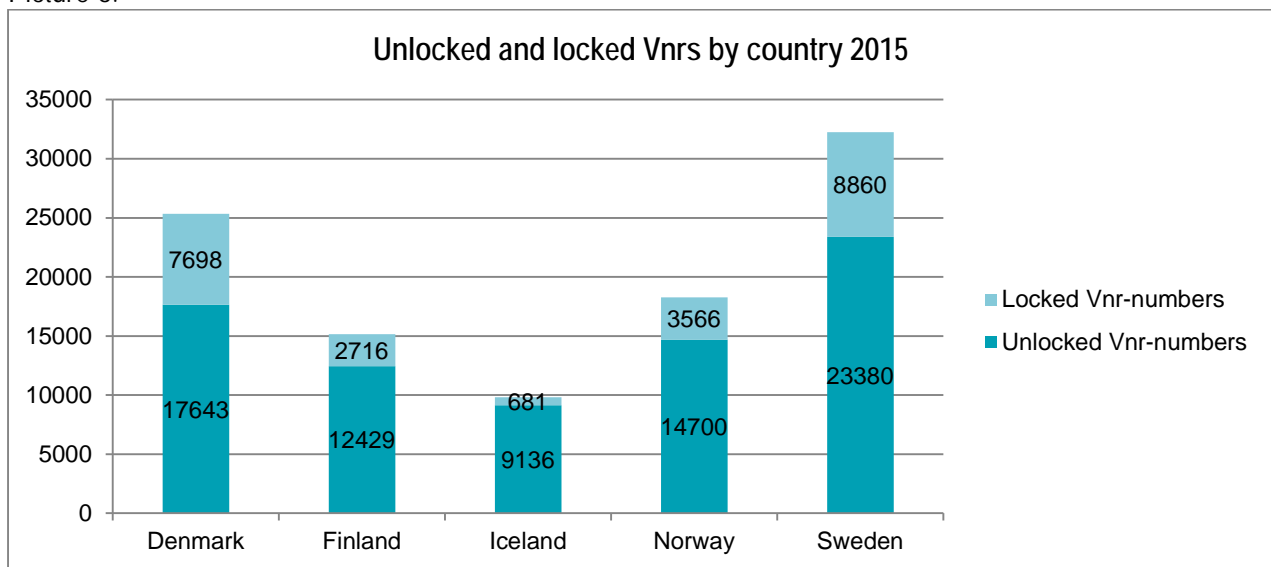


Locked and unlocked Vnrs

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.

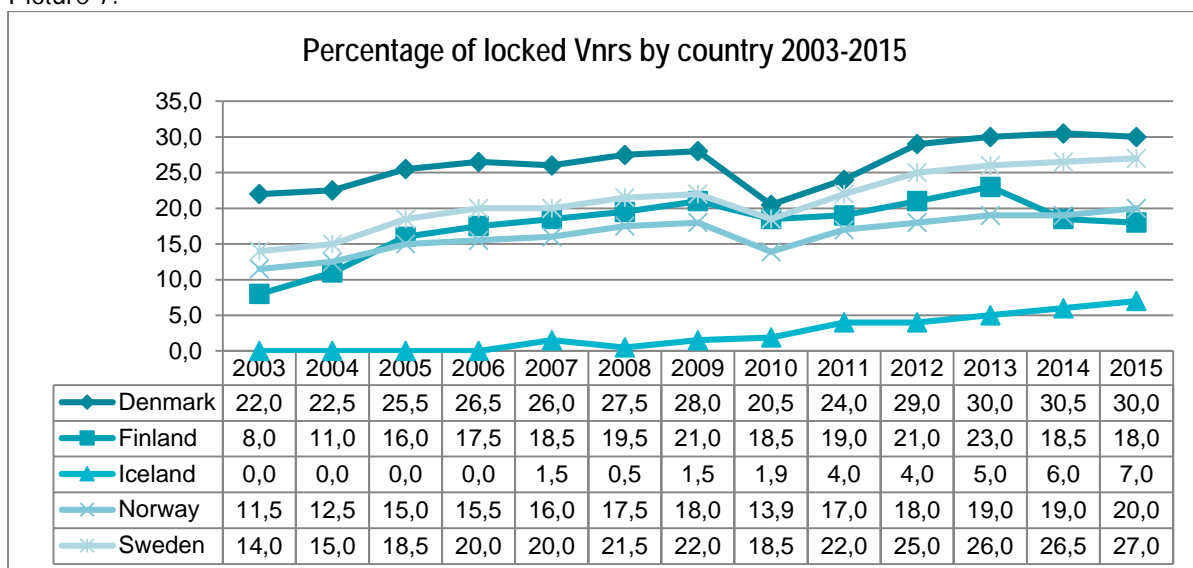
The launch of the new terms turned the amount of the Vnr combinations to a slight increase: before 2013 only common Vnrs could be used in several countries, now both locked and unlocked Vnrs can be used in several countries (Picture 6.).

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 0,5-1 % in each country between 2014 and 2015.

Picture 7.

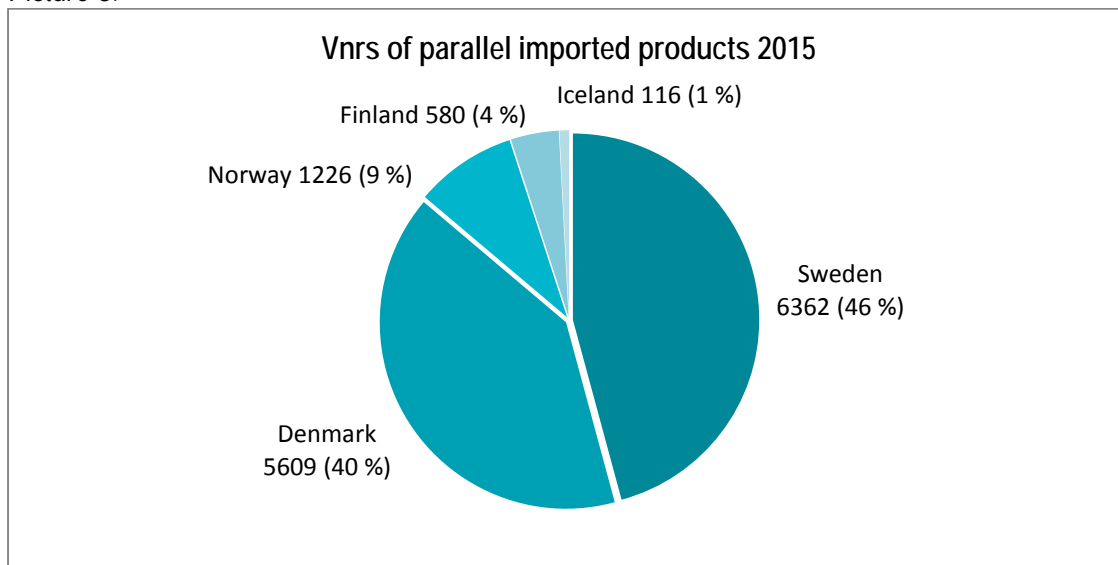


Parallel imported products

There were 13 893 Vnrs of parallel imported products in the Nordic countries in 2015. That means 5 % increase from 2014. Between 2013 and 2014 the increase was 20 % and between 2012 and 2013 13 %.

There were no changes in the ratio of Vnrs of parallel imported products between the countries in 2014 and 2015. Like 2013 and 2014 the most of the parallel imported products in 2015 were Swedish 46 % (Picture 8).

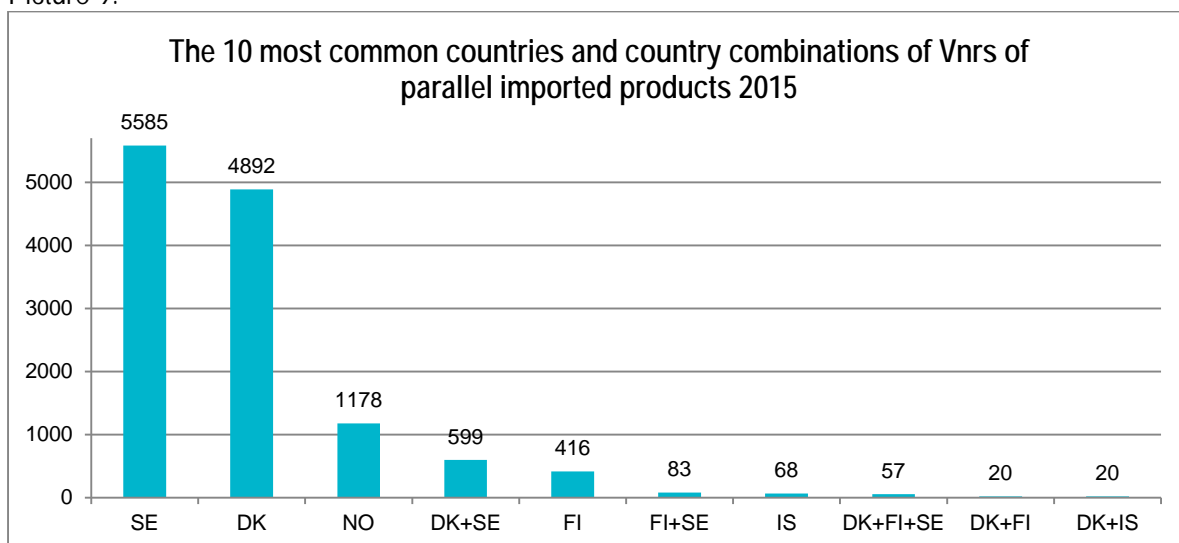
Picture 8.



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 2015 the most common country combination was the combination of Denmark and Sweden. The top 5 countries/country combinations have not changed.

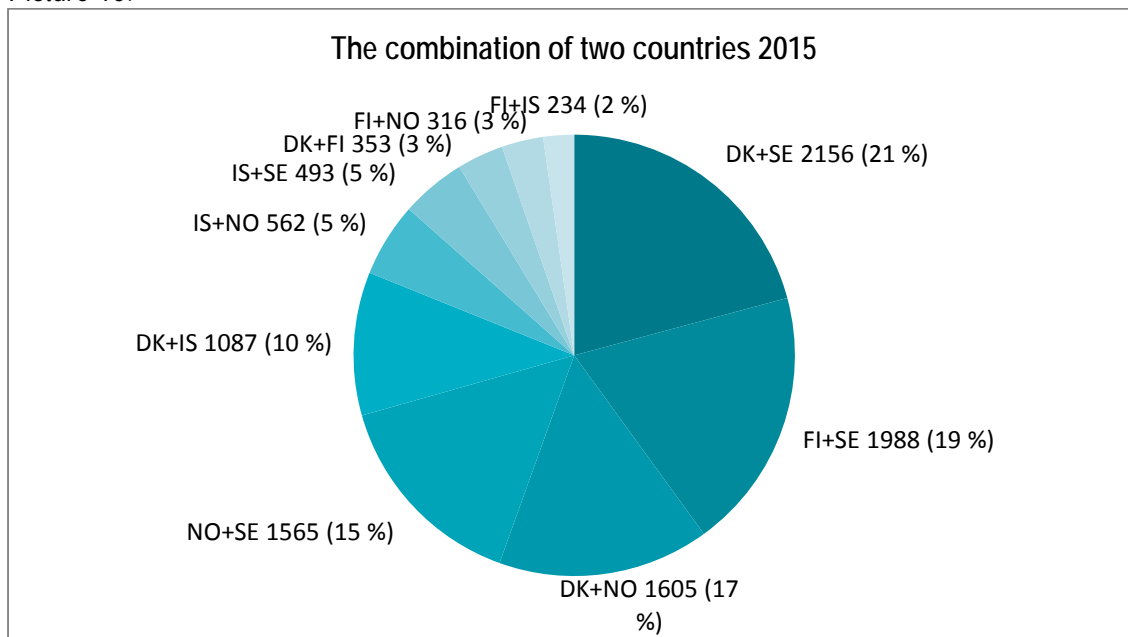
Picture 9.



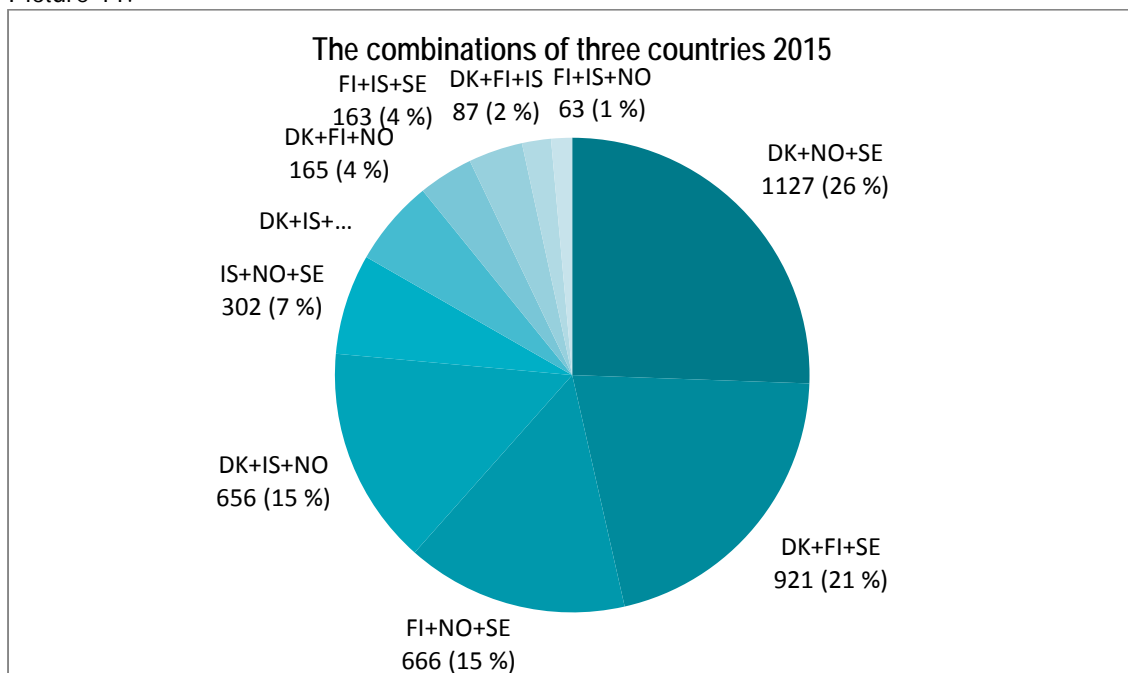
Country combinations of Vnrs

There were almost no changes between 2014 and 2015 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 country combinations of Vnrs don't reflect the situation regarding the actual packages. Packages can be the same or different regardless of a common Vnr.

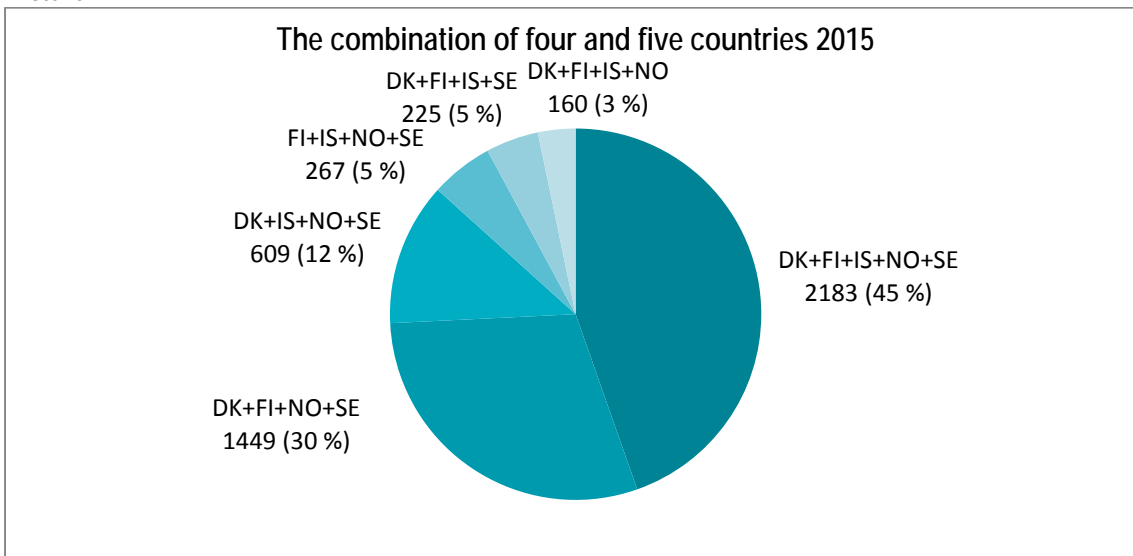
Picture 10.



Picture 11.

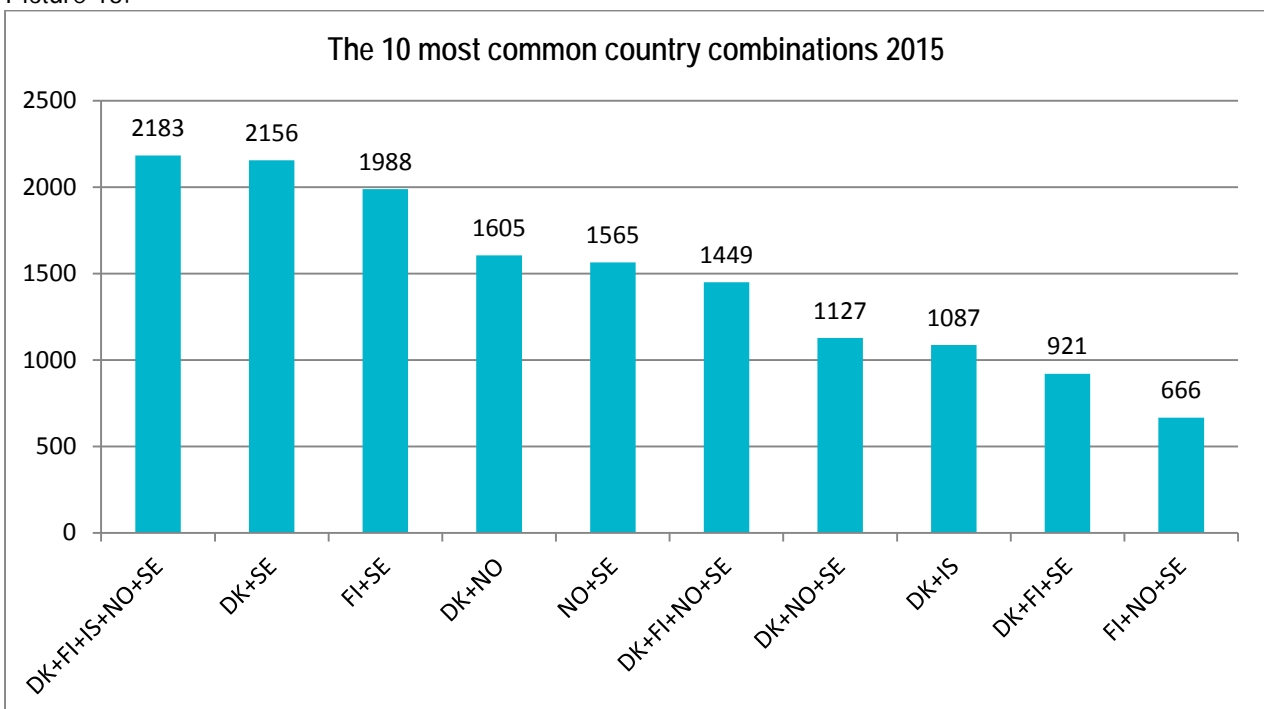


Picture 12.



The 10 most common country combinations of Vnrs can be seen in picture 13. The most common country combination was again the combination of all Nordic countries.

Picture 13.



The amount of Vnrs with country combinations of two, three, four and five countries in 2015 are shown in Table 1. There has been a slight increase (1 %) in the combination of two countries between 2014 and 2015. There are no significant changes in the amount of Vnrs of the other combinations.

Table 1.

The amount of different country combinations 2015	
2 countries	10359
3 countries	4409
4 countries	2710
5 countries	2183

Vnr Data country by country

In this section you can find the country specific information. There is presented the amount of Vnrs of 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. In the picture of the parallel imported products only the combinations which at least 5 or more Vnrs are shown.

Denmark

In Denmark there were 25 341 valid Vnrs at the end of 2015. The number of valid Vnrs continued to decrease as it has done since 2011 (around 1 000 Vnrs per year). Because of withdrawals the share of Vnrs on market is increasing (Picture 15.). 22 % of the Vnrs were for parallel imported products. More detailed information can be found in the following tables and pictures.

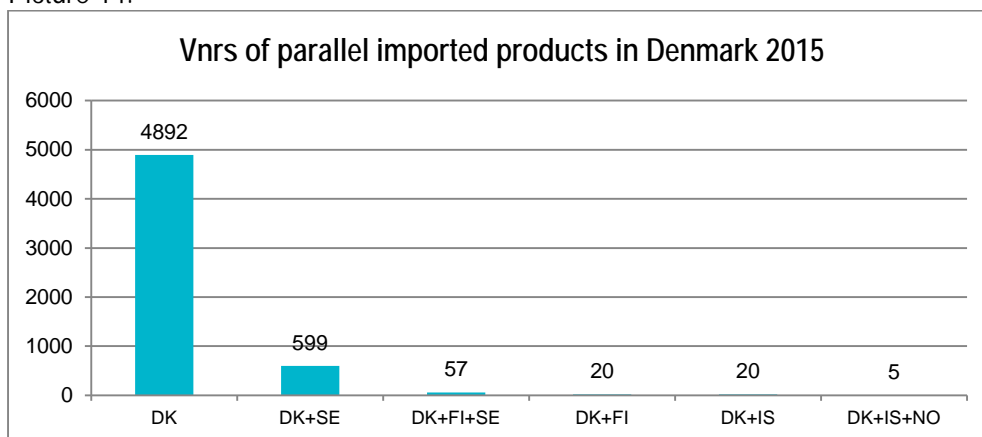
Table 2.

Vnrs in Denmark 2015	
All	25341
Unlocked	17643 (70 %)
Locked	7698 (30%)
Parallel imported	5609 (22 %)

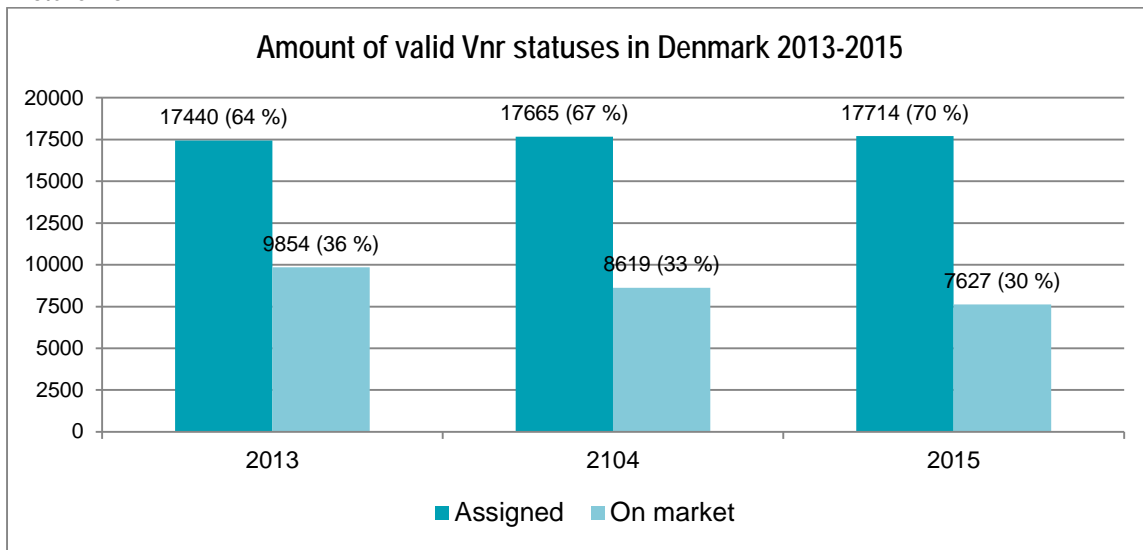
Table 3.

Human and veterinary medicines in Denmark 2015	
Human	23009 (91 %)
Veterinary	2310 (9 %)
Human and veterinary	22 (0 %)

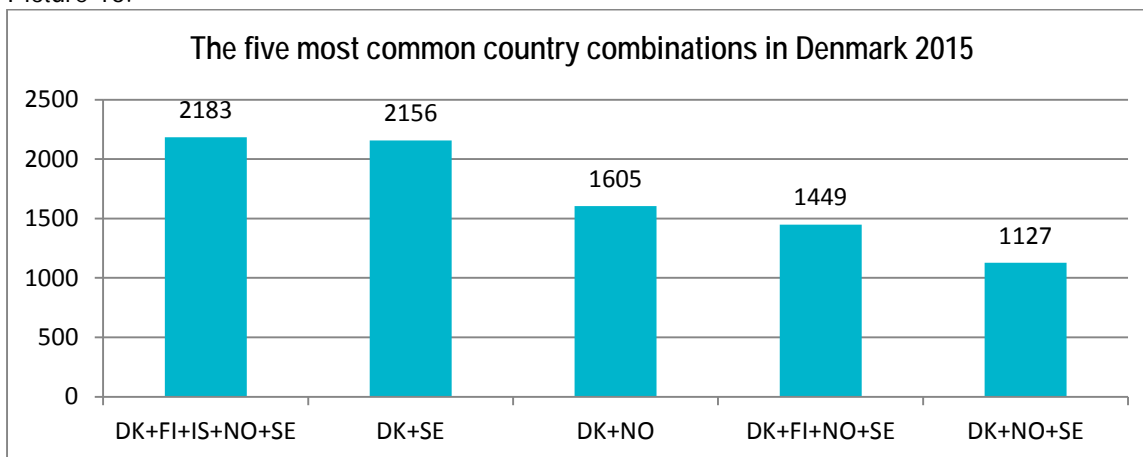
Picture 14.



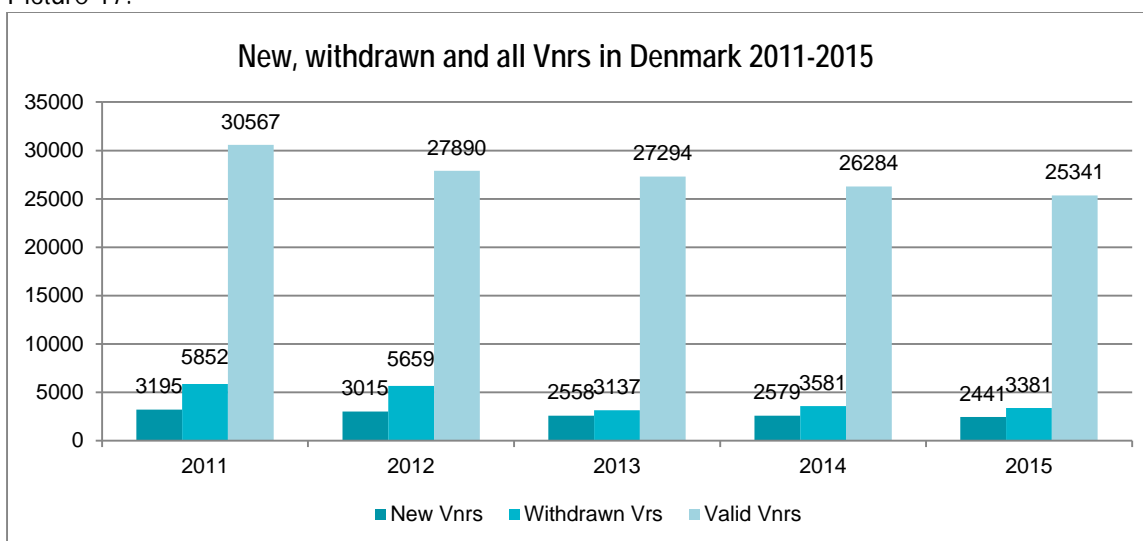
Picture 15.



Picture 16.



Picture 17.



Finland

In Finland there were 15 146 valid Vnrs at the end of 2015, which is 551 more than in 2014. 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 2015	
All	15146
Unlocked	12429 (82 %)
Locked	2716 (18 %)
Parallel imported	580 (4 %)

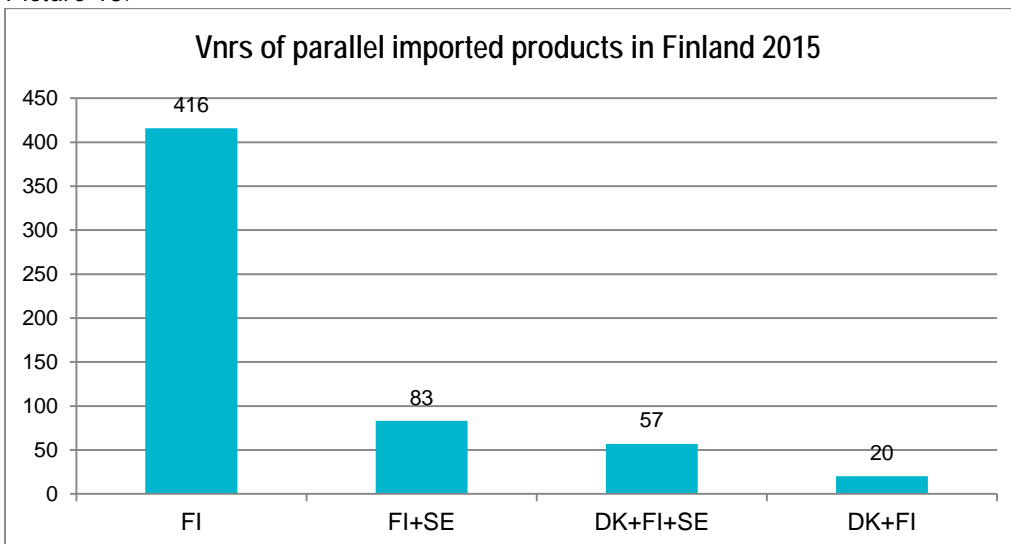
Table 5.

Human and veterinary medicines in Finland 2015	
Human	13651 (90 %)
Veterinary	1484 (10 %)
Human and veterinary	11 (0 %)

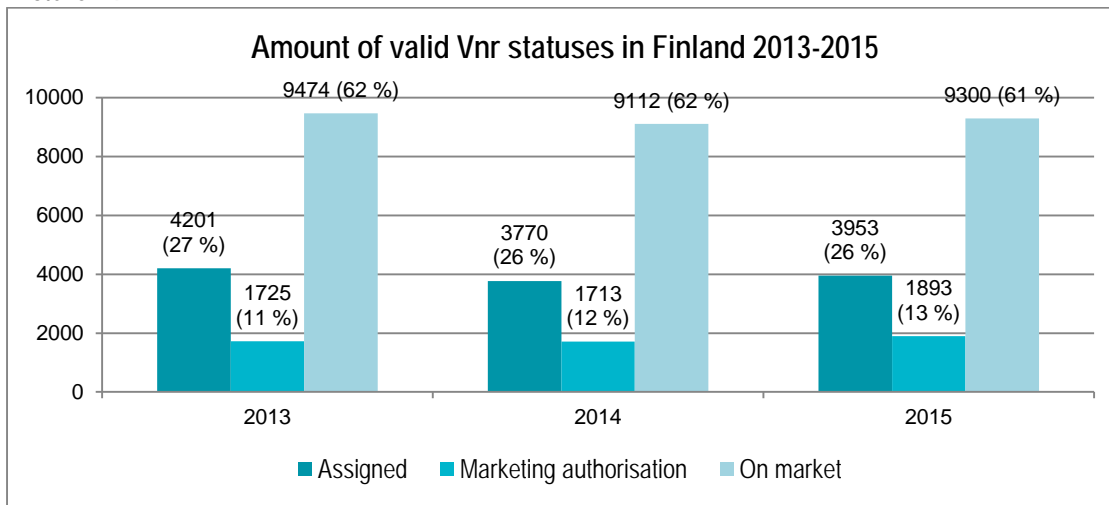
Table 6.

Prescription only, harmful in traffic and narcotic medicines in Finland 2015	
Prescription only	10059 (90 %)
Harmful in traffic	1027 (9 %)
Narcotic	299 (3 %)

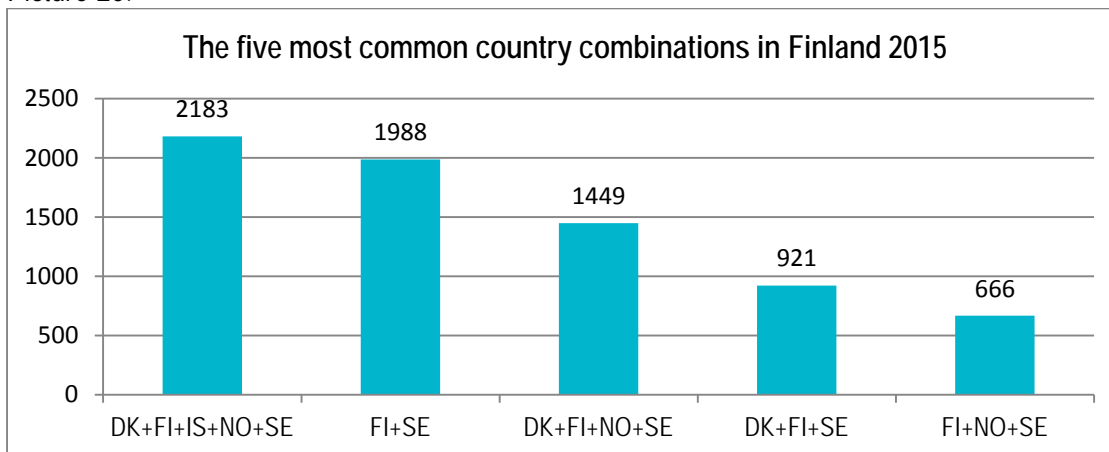
Picture 18.



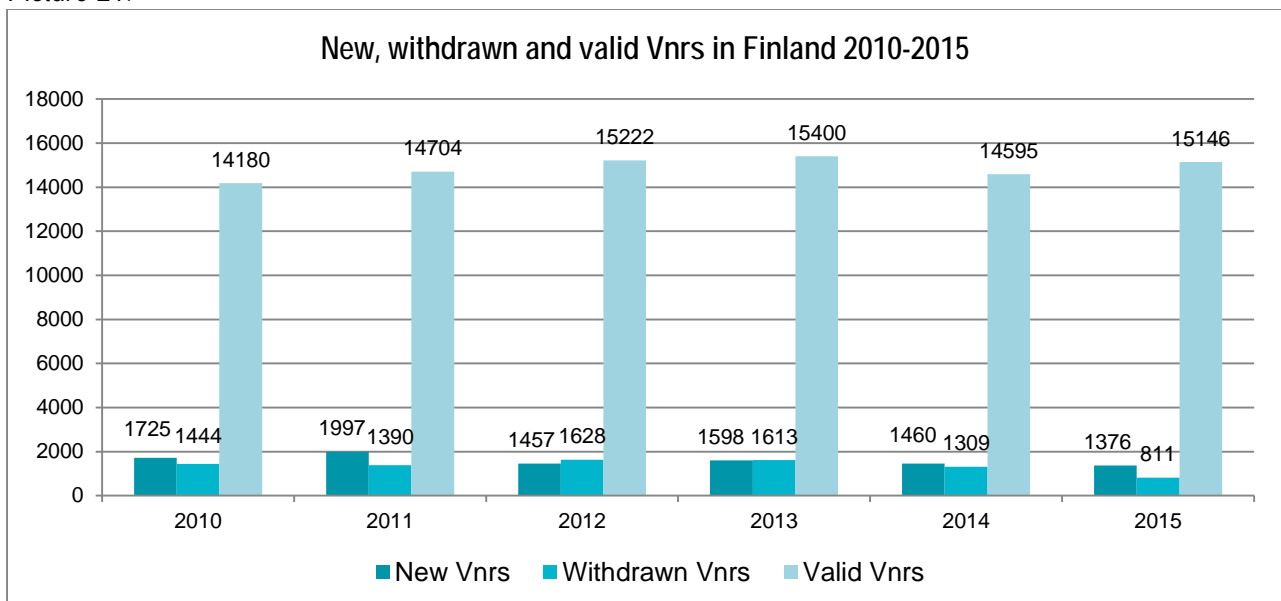
Picture 19.



Picture 20.



Picture 21.



Iceland

In Iceland there were 9 817 valid Vnrs in 2015. Only 1 % of the products were parallel imported. Iceland had 778 less valid Vnrs in 2015 than 2014, that means 7 % decrease in the number of valid Vnrs between 2014 and 2015. More detailed information can be found in the following tables and pictures.

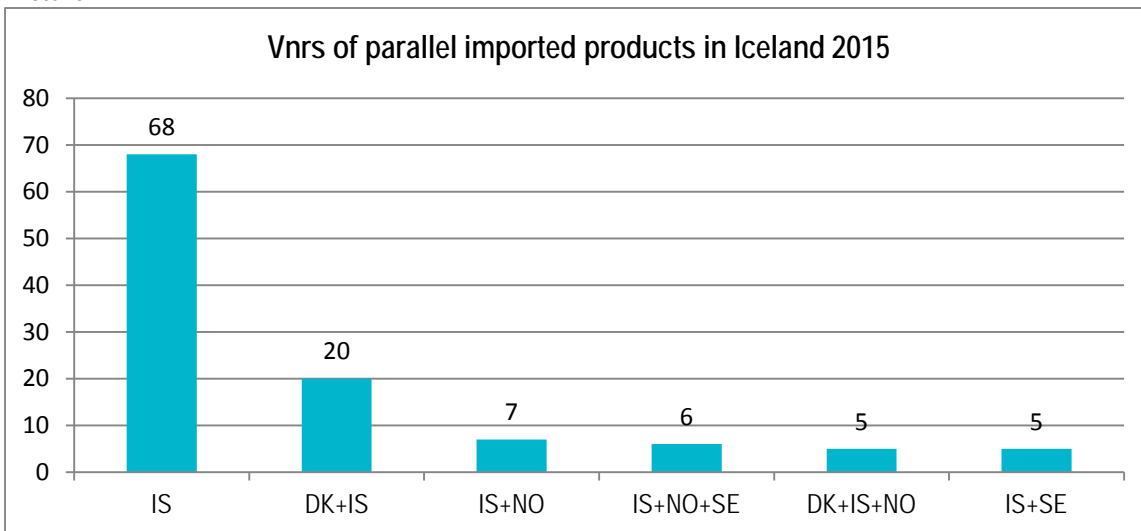
Table 7.

Vnrs in Iceland 2015	
All	9817
Unlocked	9136 (93 %)
Locked	681 (7 %)
Parallel imported	116 (1 %)

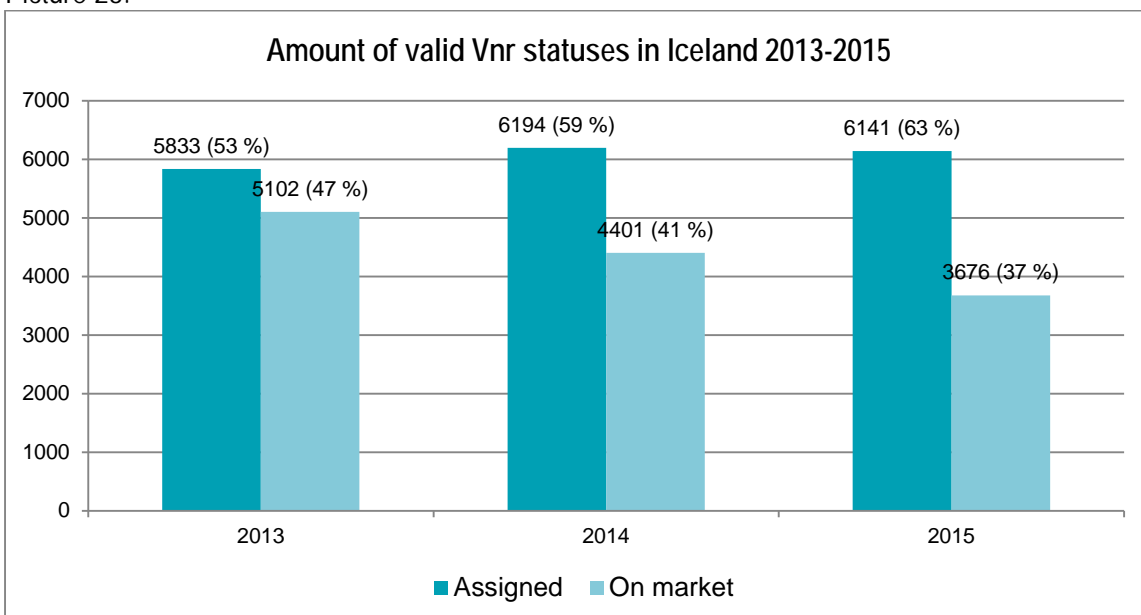
Table 8.

Human and veterinary medicines in Iceland 2015	
Human	9270 (94,4 %)
Veterinary	532 (5,4 %)
Human and veterinary	15 (0,2 %)

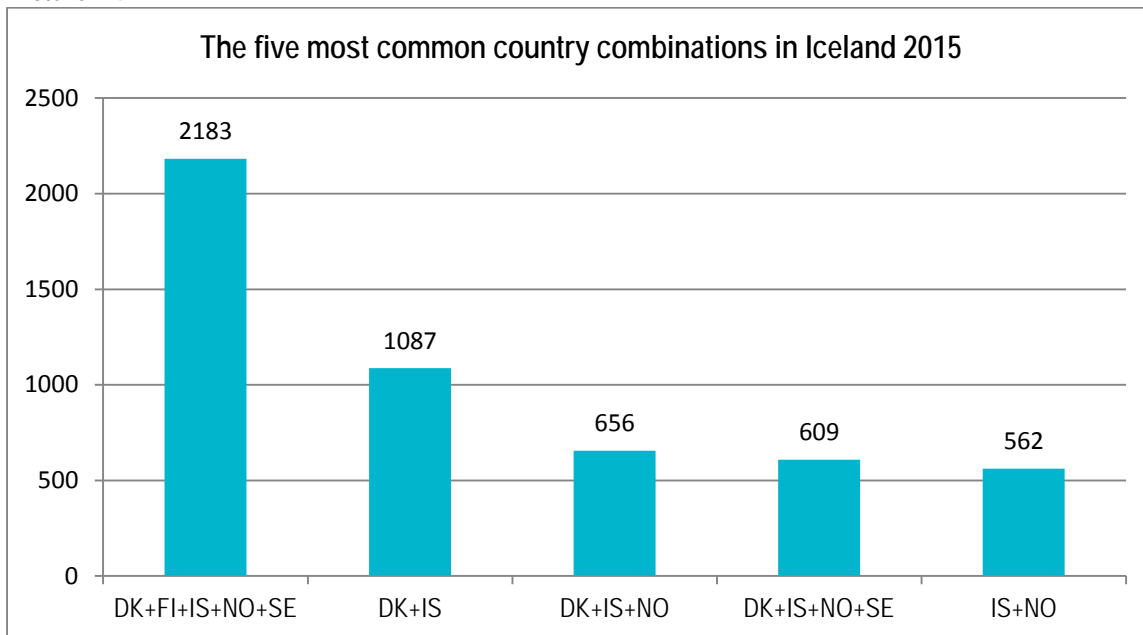
Picture 22.



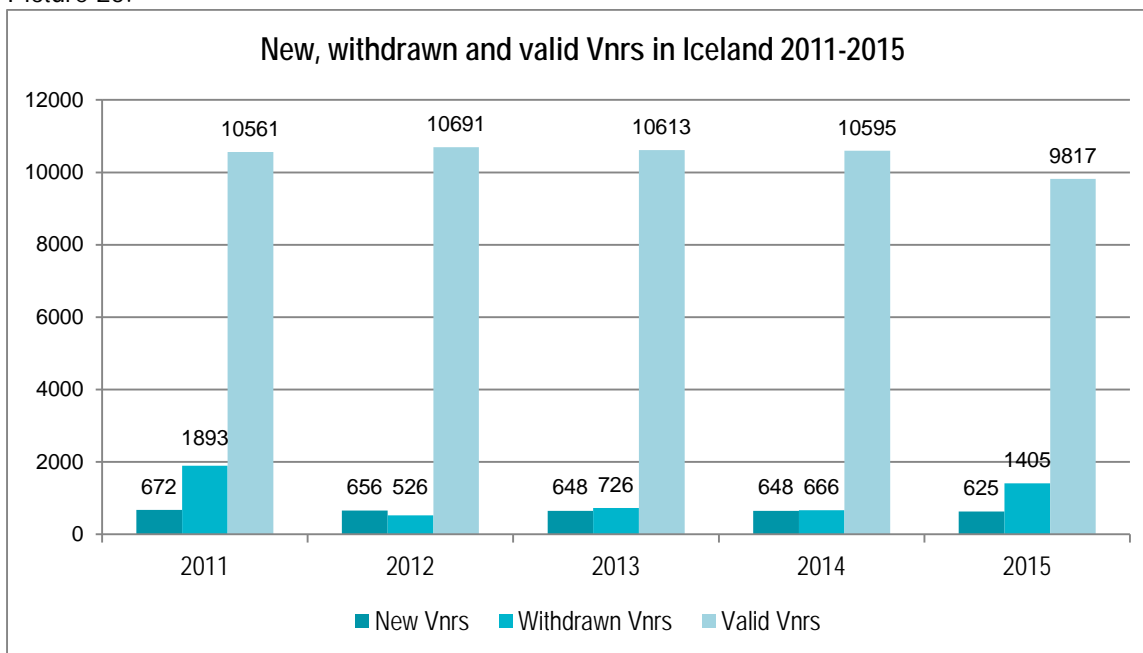
Picture 23.



Picture 24.



Picture 25.



Norway

In Norway there were 18 266 valid Vnrs in 2015. 7 % of the products were parallel imported. More detailed information can be found in the following tables and pictures.

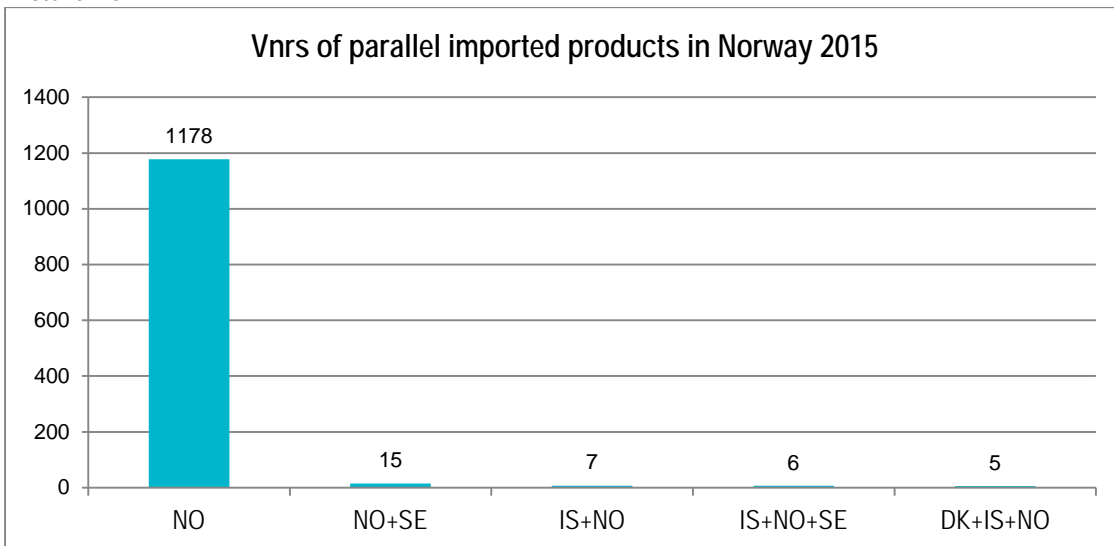
Table 9.

Vnrs in Norway 2015	
All	18266
Unlocked	14700 (80 %)
Locked	3566 (20 %)
Parallel imported	1226 (7 %)

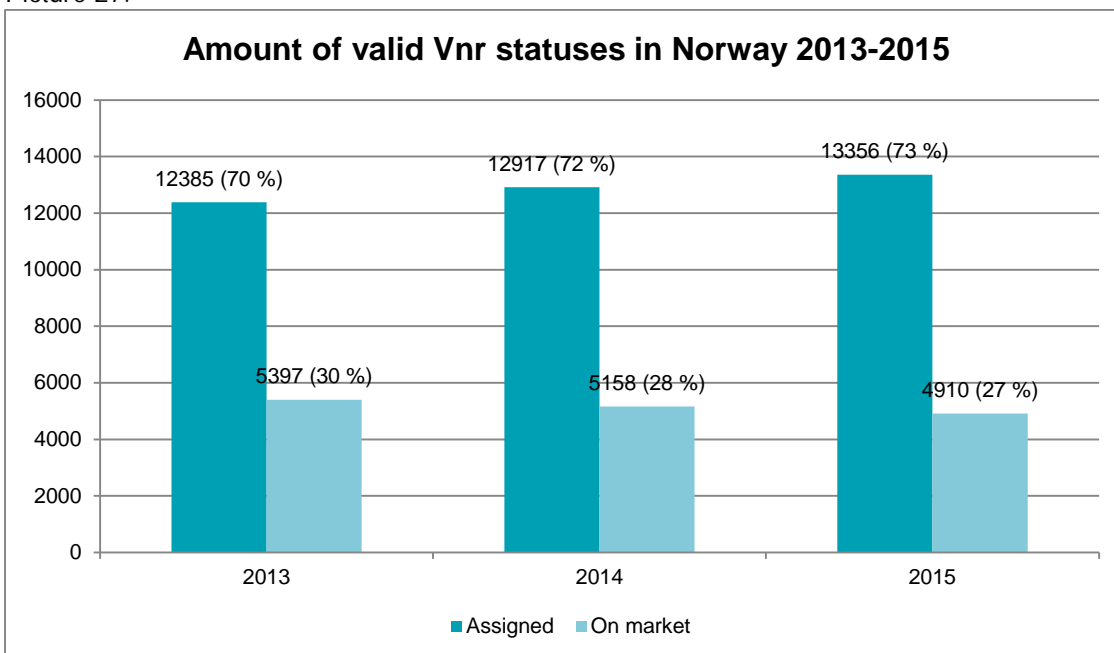
Table 10.

Human and veterinary medicines in Norway 2015	
Human	16870 (92 %)
Veterinary	1374 (8 %)
Human and veterinary	22 (0 %)

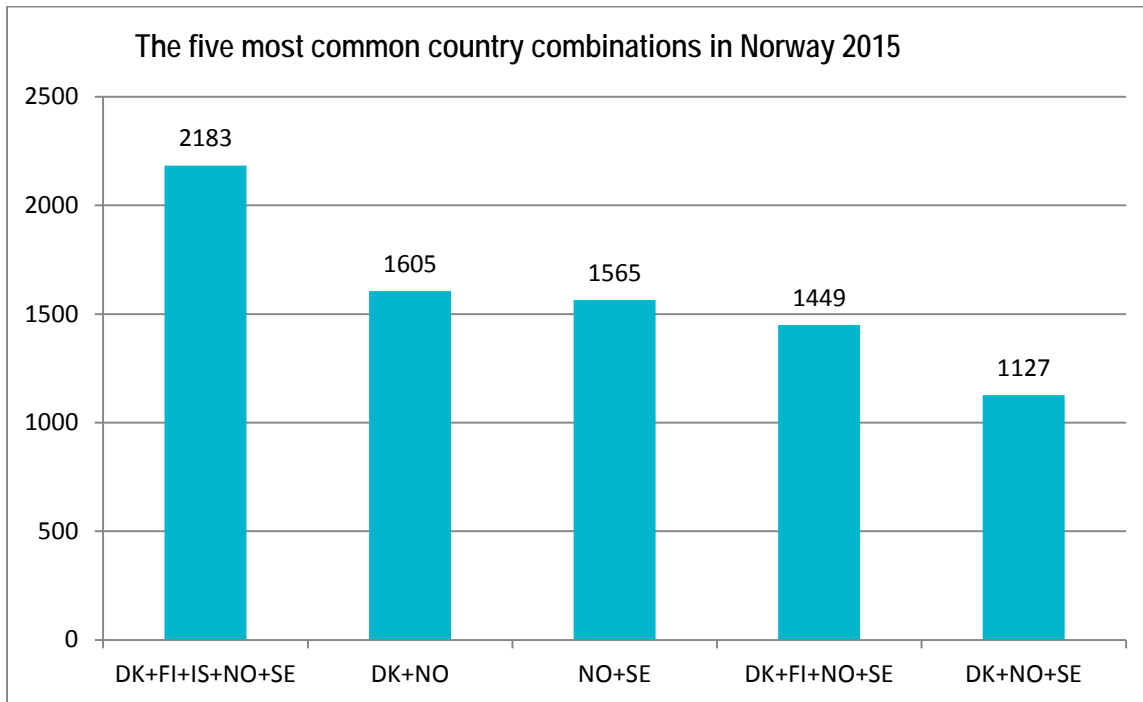
Picture 26.



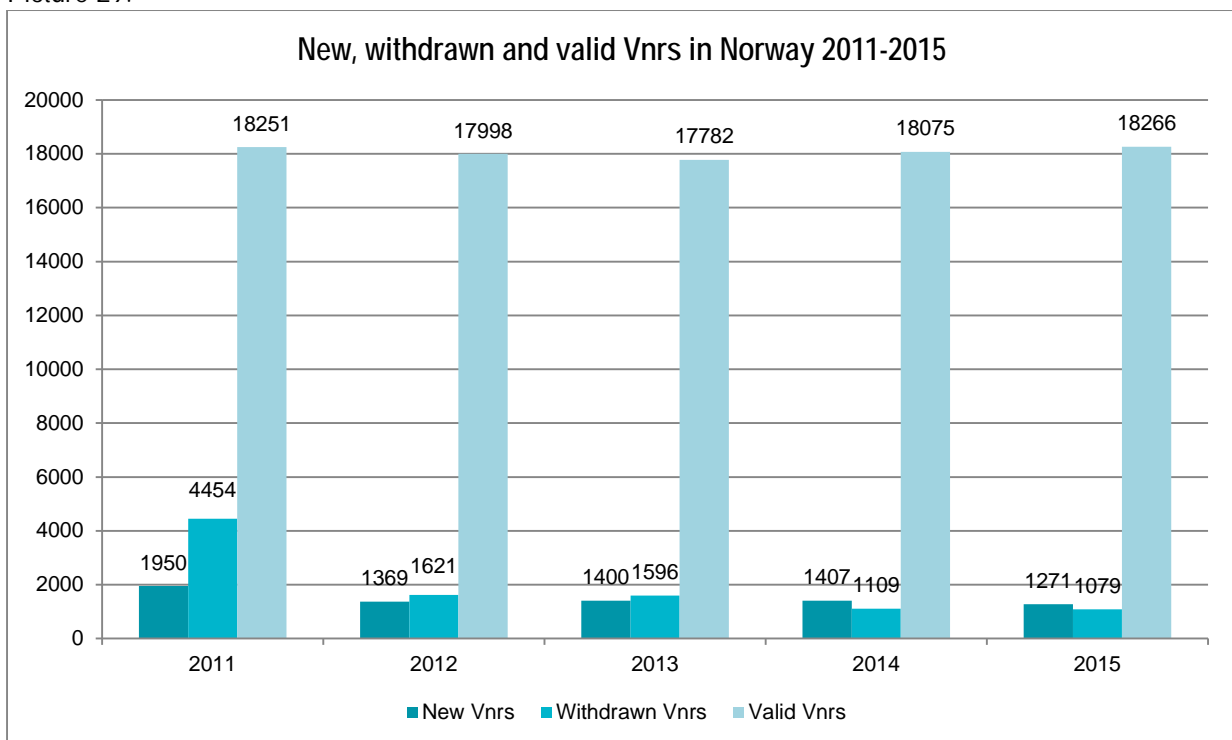
Picture 27.



Picture 28.



Picture 29.



Sweden

In Sweden there were all together 32 240 Vnrs, of which 20 % were of parallel imported products at the end of 2015. More detailed information can be found in the tables and pictures below.

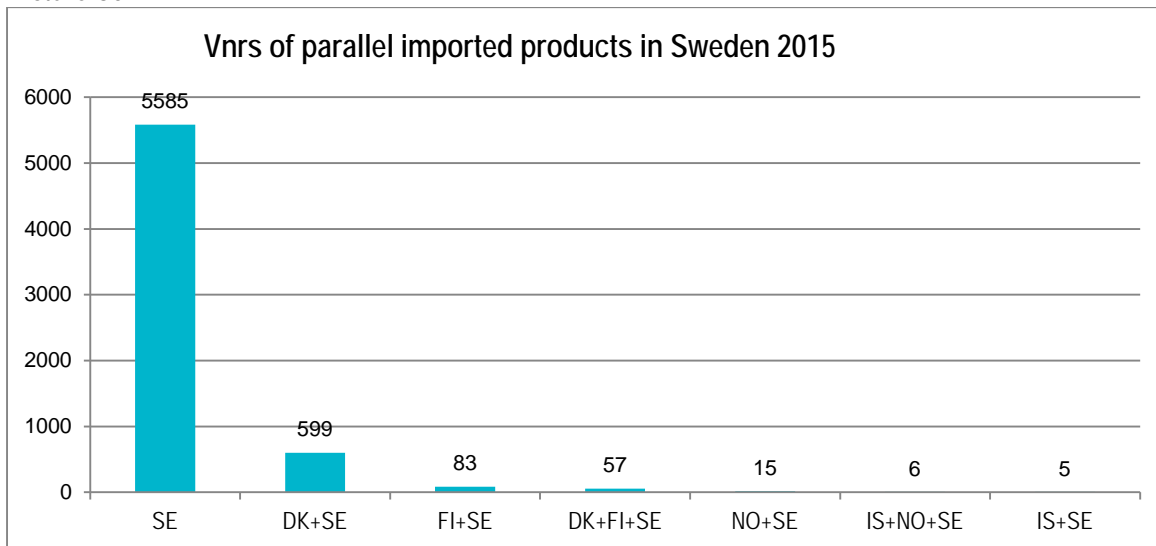
Table 11.

Vnrs in Sweden 2015	
All	32240
Unlocked	23380 (73 %)
Locked	8860 (27 %)
Parallel imported	6362 (20 %)

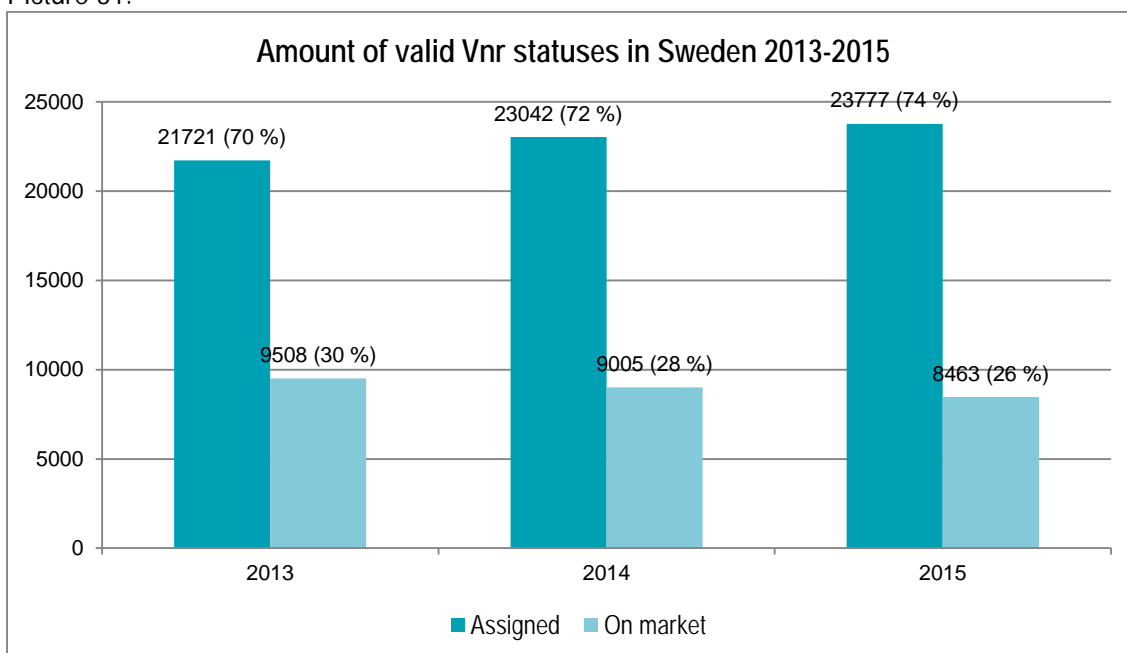
Table 12.

Human and veterinary medicines in Sweden 2015	
Human	30231 (94 %)
Veterinary	1992 (6 %)
Human and veterinary	17 (0 %)

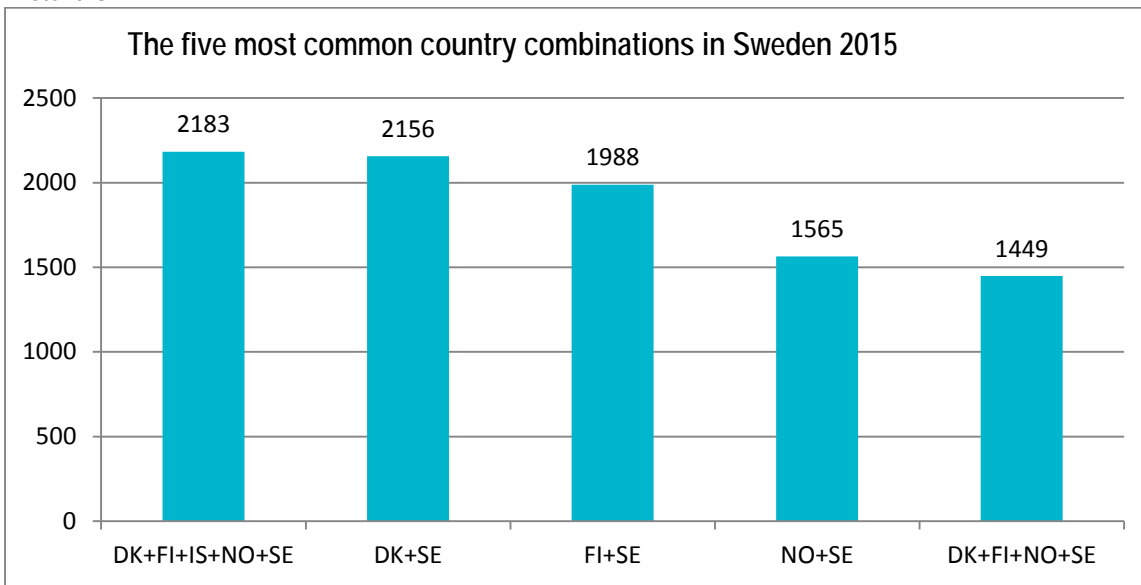
Picture 30.



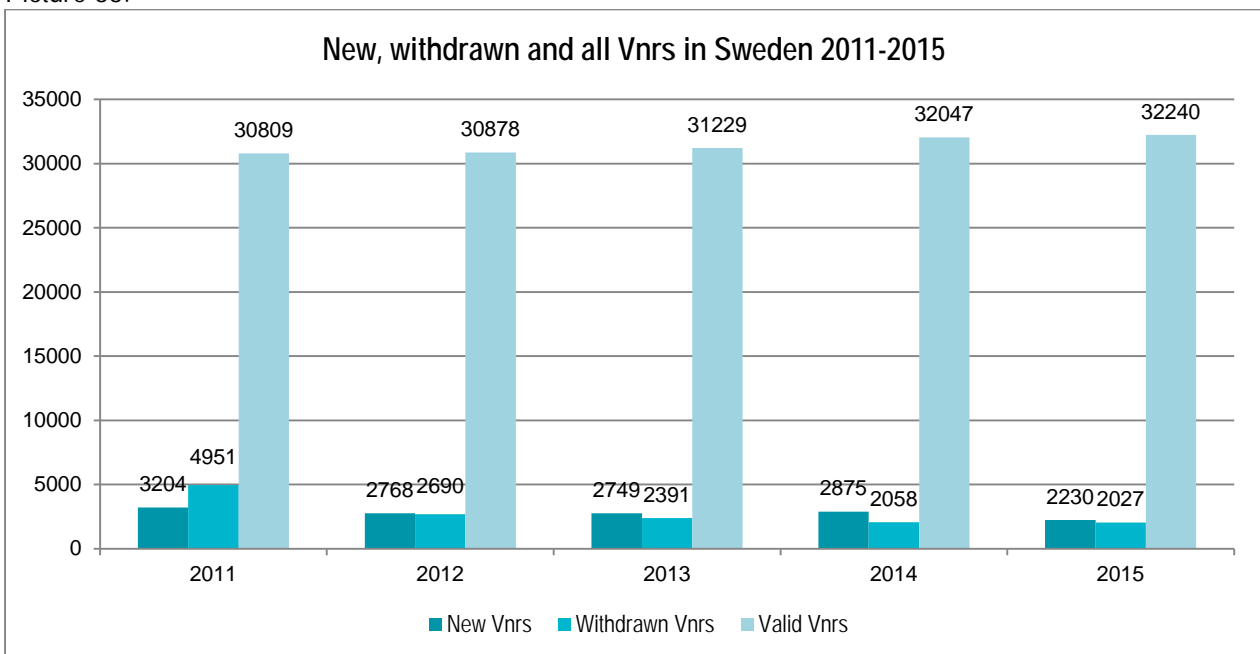
Picture 31.



Picture 32.



Picture 33.



Pharmaceutical Information Centre shortly

Pharmaceutical Information Centre Ltd (Lääkietokeskus 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®, Pharmarket™, Lääkeinfo.fi, and pharmaceutical seminars.

Pharmarket™ is an easy-to-use market statistics service for the Finnish pharmaceutical market. The service includes reliable, up-to-date price and sales information of pharmaceuticals to support decision-making. We also provide sales data to Nordic Pharma Insights, which is a collaboration between the leading Nordic providers of national pharmaceutical sales data. Nordic Pharma Insights gathers four pharmaceuticals markets in one solution with consolidated and ready to use view.

We carry out corporate social responsibility by providing the national pharmaceuticals 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 prescriptions in health care services and pharmacies, as well as in Kela when processing health insurance reimbursements 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 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. Three IT-specialists work to maintain and further improve our database and services.