

Nordic Vnr Services

Vnr Statistics of the Year 2016

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Introduction

The Vnr statistics of the year is a summary of the changes and transactions in the Nordic Vnr database during the year 2016. The statistics document 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 11.

Overall the year 2016 was very similar to the previous years. There were 17 456 trade names with valid Vnrs at the end of 2016. These Vnrs belonged to 1 290 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 utilize 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 in vnr.fi. Username and password are for personal use only. The Vnr Extranet Service had over 1 700 registered users from 540 companies at the end of 2016. Over 1 000 users logged in to Vnr Extranet Service on average 25 times during 2016. Appr. 6 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.

The barcode section of the Vnr Extranet Service has been developed for example by adding a possibility for multiple barcodes for a single Vnr. New barcodes can be added with a barcode notification. A different barcode can be added to each country where the Vnr is used and one Vnr can have more than one barcode in each country at the same time. A new barcode report to manage company's barcode data was launch at the same time. At the end of 2016 there were 44 272 barcodes in the database. 671 barcodes have been added with the new barcode notification. Most of the barcodes have been added to Finland (321) and Sweden (128).

Another improvement in the Vnr Extranet Service was the extension of the search functionality to cover - in addition to trade names and Vnrs - also to active substances and marketing authorization numbers.

The Vnr Extranet Service customer survey 2016

Pharmaceutical Information Centre (PIC) conducted a survey for the Vnr Extranet Service customers. More than 50 % of the respondents (160) found the service provided by PIC excellent and the Vnr Extranet Service reliable. There were also several valuable developing ideas for the Vnr Extranet Service.

VnrWiki

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

Information regarding the change from using an NTIN to a GTIN helps companies and stakeholders to adjust to the new requirements of the Falsified Medicines Directive. There is a simple table to clarify the change situations Vnr vs. GTIN and a document about GS1 GTIN Allocation Rules.

VnrWiki has been updated with country specific information regarding Iceland. Norway also made some modifications to the country specific information. The Danish authorities have released new rules governing medicine packages. The new rules affect the administration of VNRs in change situations, which was updated in VnrWiki.

VnrWiki had over 6 600 visits in 2016. Most of the visitors were from Finland (23 %) and Sweden (13 %). The rest of the top five countries were Germany (9 %), United Kingdom (8 %) and Denmark (8 %).

Feedback

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

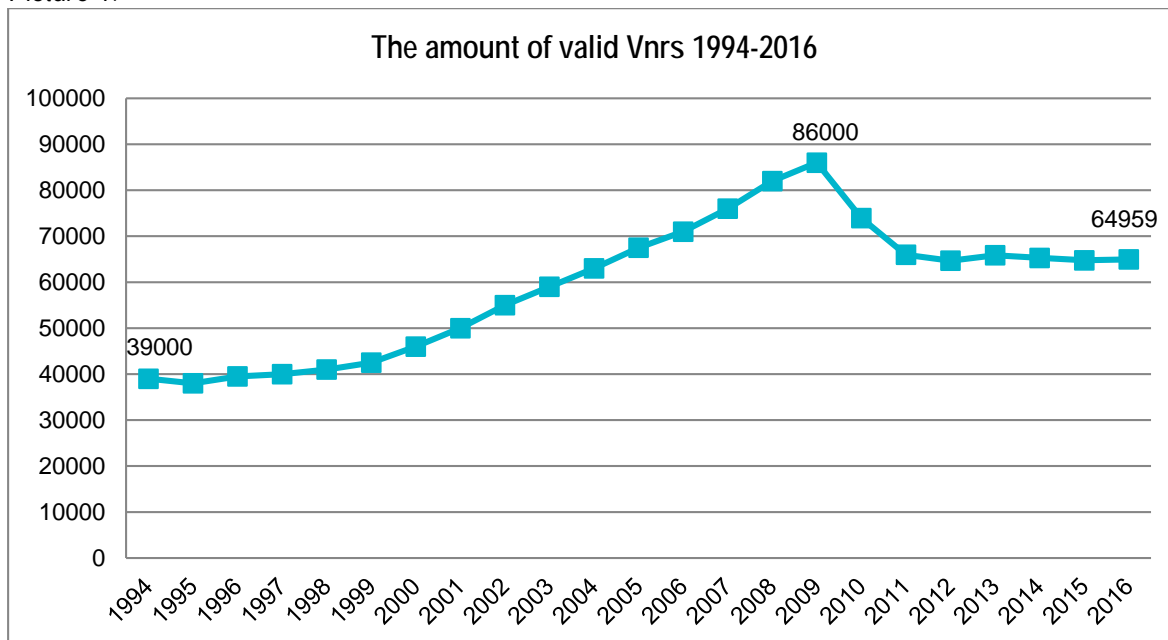
Statistics of the year 2016

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 +/- 2 % change yearly (1 % decrease in 2015 (507 Vnrs) and 0,3 % increase in 2016 (188 Vnrs)). At the end of 2016 there were 64 959 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.

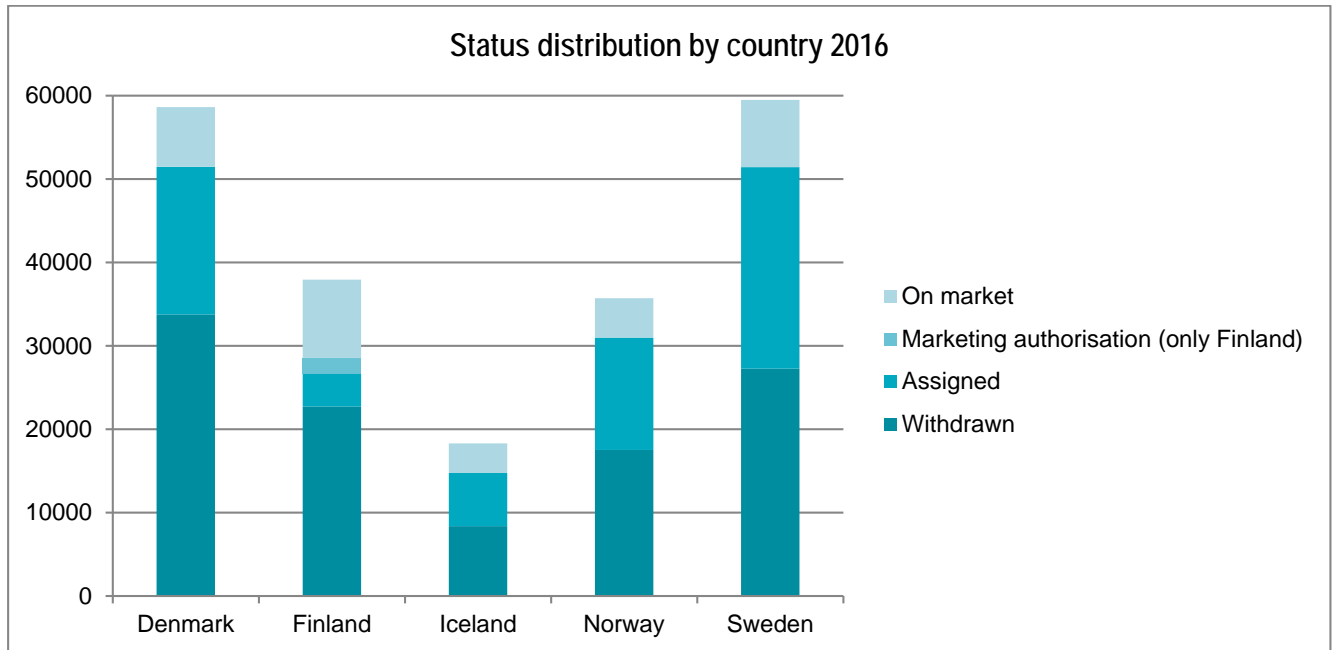
2010-2013 there were 4 different Vnr statuses:

- **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 2016 38 % of the valid Vnrs had the status on market in one or more countries (24 565 Vnrs). There were 57 270 Vnrs in the database which were withdrawn from all countries, which is 8 % more than in 2015.

In 2016 most of the Vnrs were in use in Sweden (32 234 Vnrs) and Denmark (24 861 Vnrs), least Vnrs in Iceland (9 929 Vnrs) (Picture 2.). Status distribution of Vnrs varies slightly between countries. Country specific data is presented starting from page 11.

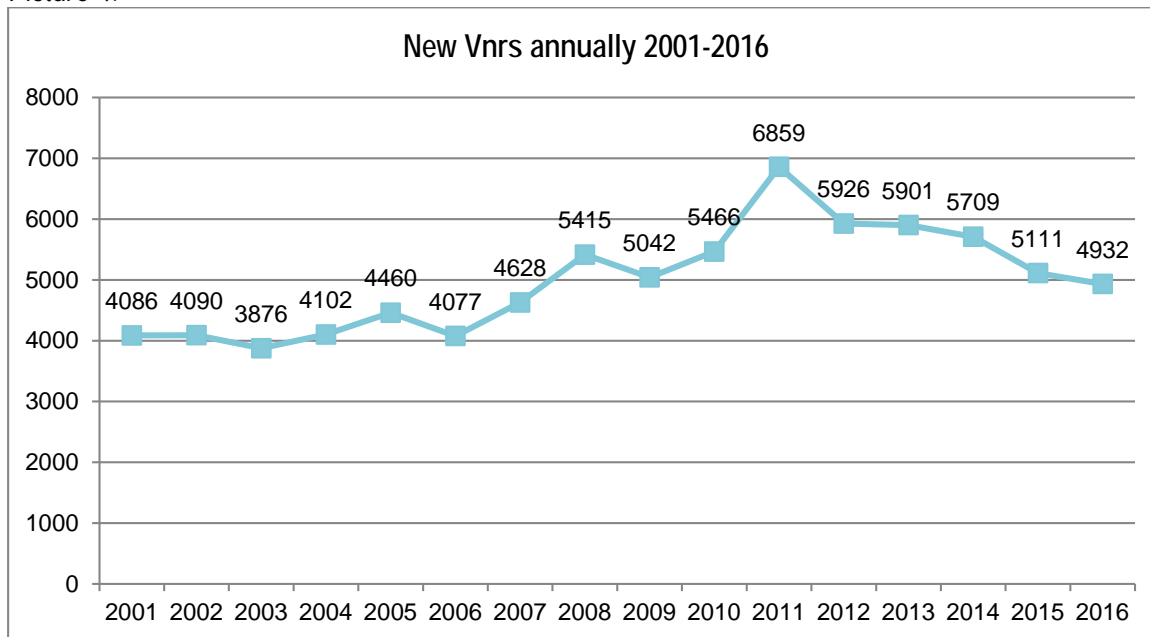
Picture 2.



New and withdrawn Vnrs and status changes

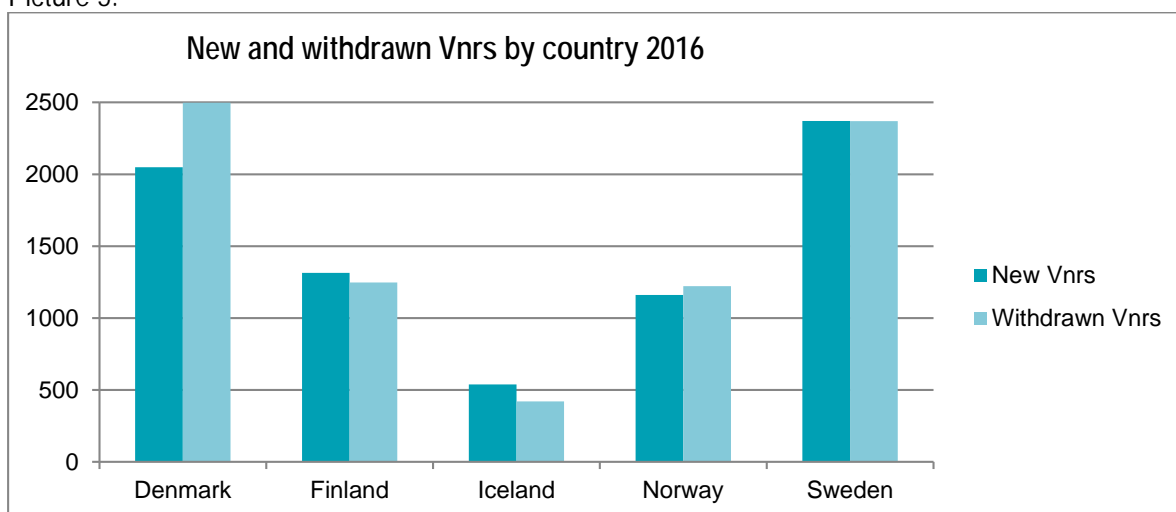
The amount of new Vnrs started to increase in 2006 (picture 4.). Between 2006 and 2011 the yearly amount of valid new Vnrs increased 68 %. In 2012 the amount decreased 14 % and it was almost the same in 2013. In 2016 there were 3,5 % less new Vnrs than in 2015. In the picture 4 every Vnr is taken into account only once.

Picture 4.



7 433 new Vnrs were assigned in 2016. Most of the new Vnrs were assigned to be used in Sweden (picture 5.). 7 758 Vnrs were changed to the status withdrawn during 2016. Most of the withdrawals were made in Denmark.

Picture 5.

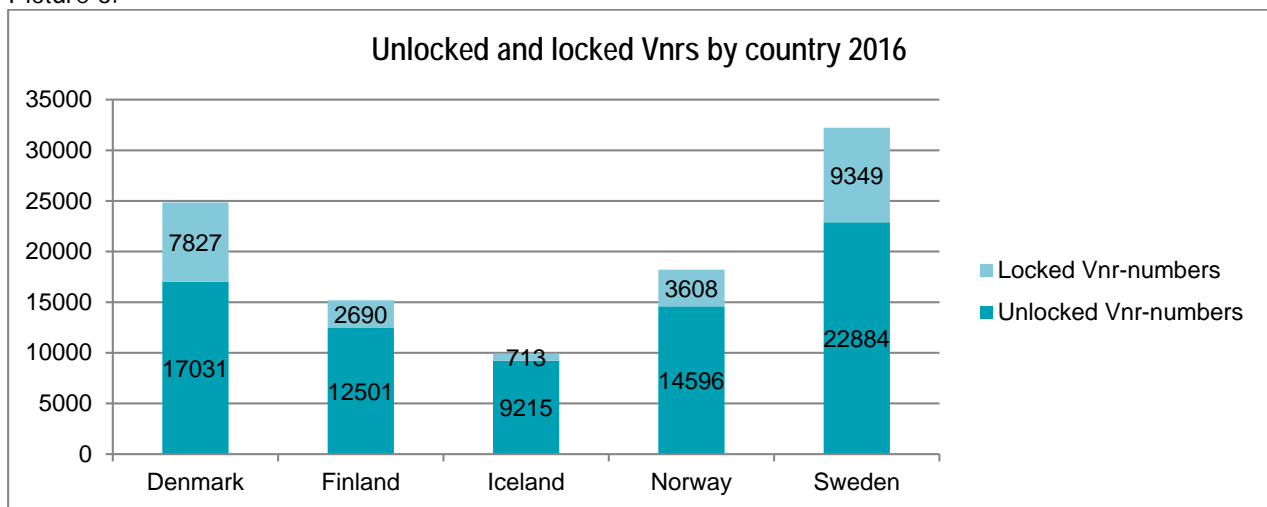


Locked and unlocked Vnrs

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.

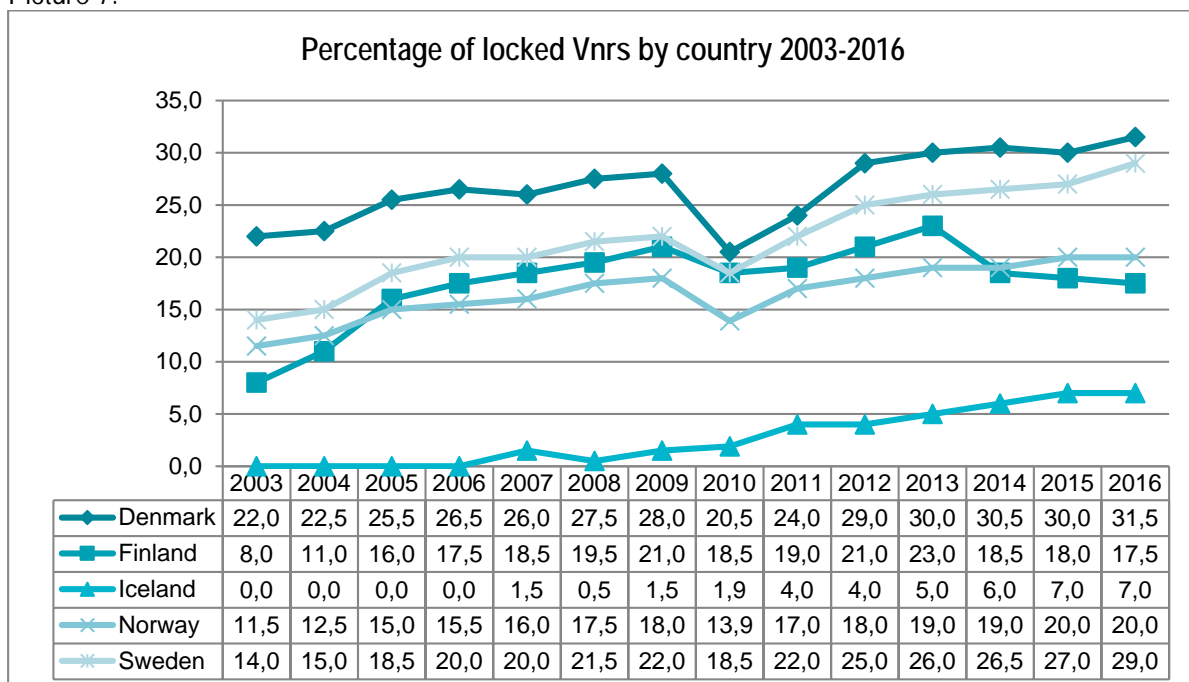
The launch of the new terms turned the amount of the Vnr combinations to a slight increase: before 2013 only common Vnrs could be used in several countries, now both locked and unlocked Vnrs can be used in several countries. In picture 6 the portion of locked and unlocked Vnr-numbers is shown by country.

Picture 6.



Sweden and Denmark had a slight increase in the portion of the locked Vnr-numbers between 2015 and 2016 (Picture 7.). There were no significant changes in the other countries.

Picture 7.

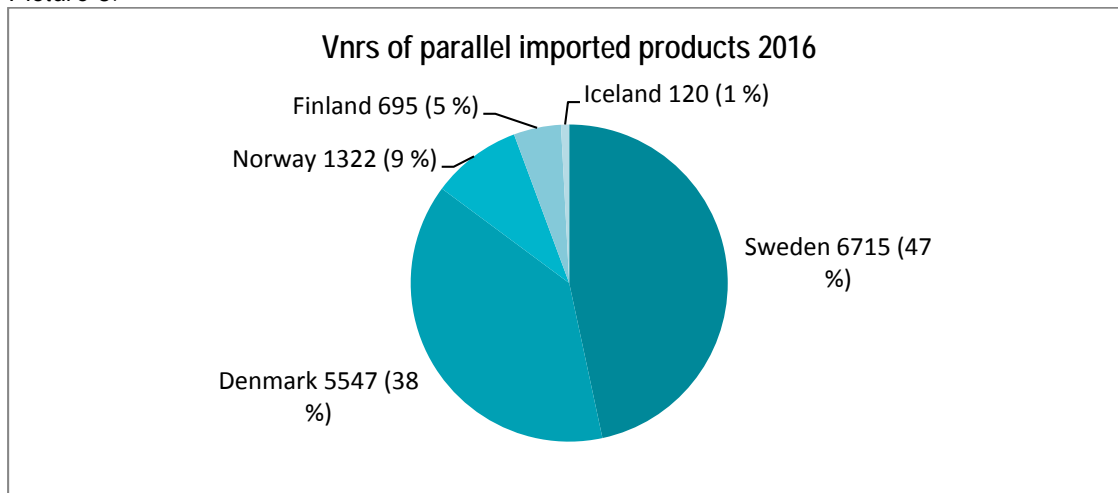


Parallel imported products

There were 14 399 Vnrs of parallel imported products in the Nordic countries in 2016. That means 9 % increase from 2015. Between 2014 and 2015 the increase was 5 %, 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 2015 and 2016. As since 2013, most of the parallel imported products in 2016 were Swedish 47 % (Picture 8.).

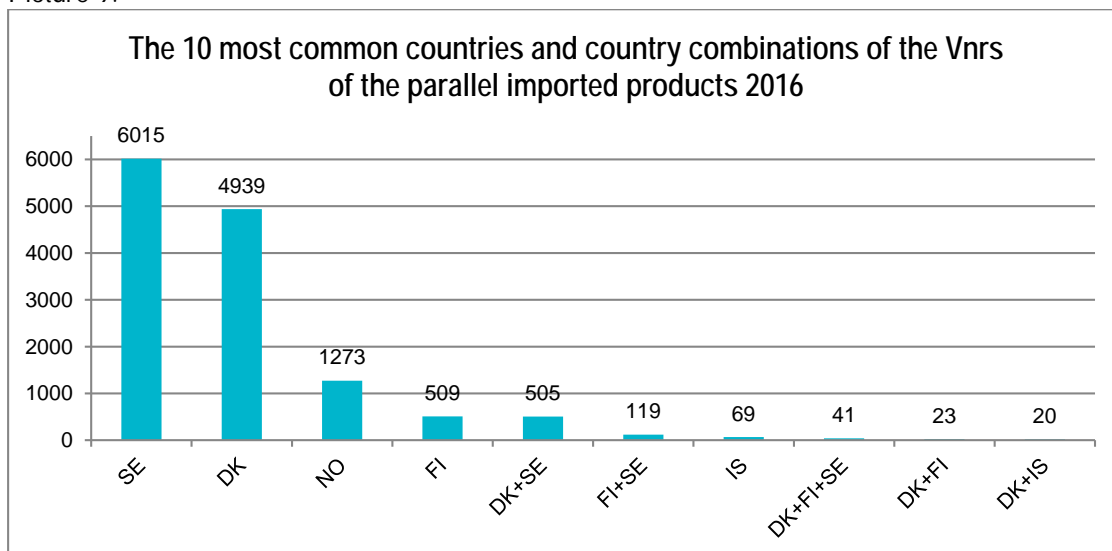
Picture 8.



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 2016 the most common country combination was the combination of Denmark and Sweden.

Picture 9.



Country combinations of Vnrs

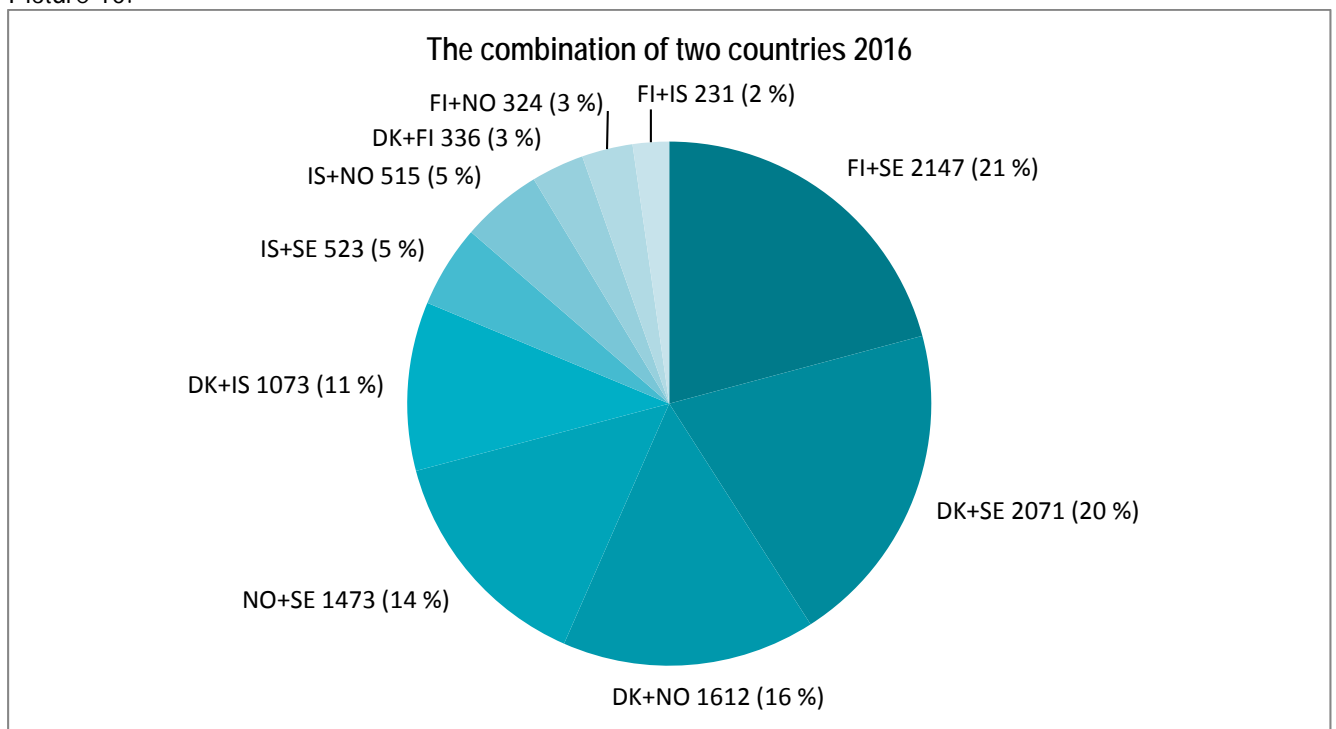
The amount of Vnrs with country combinations of two, three, four and five countries in 2016 are shown in Table 1.

Table 1.

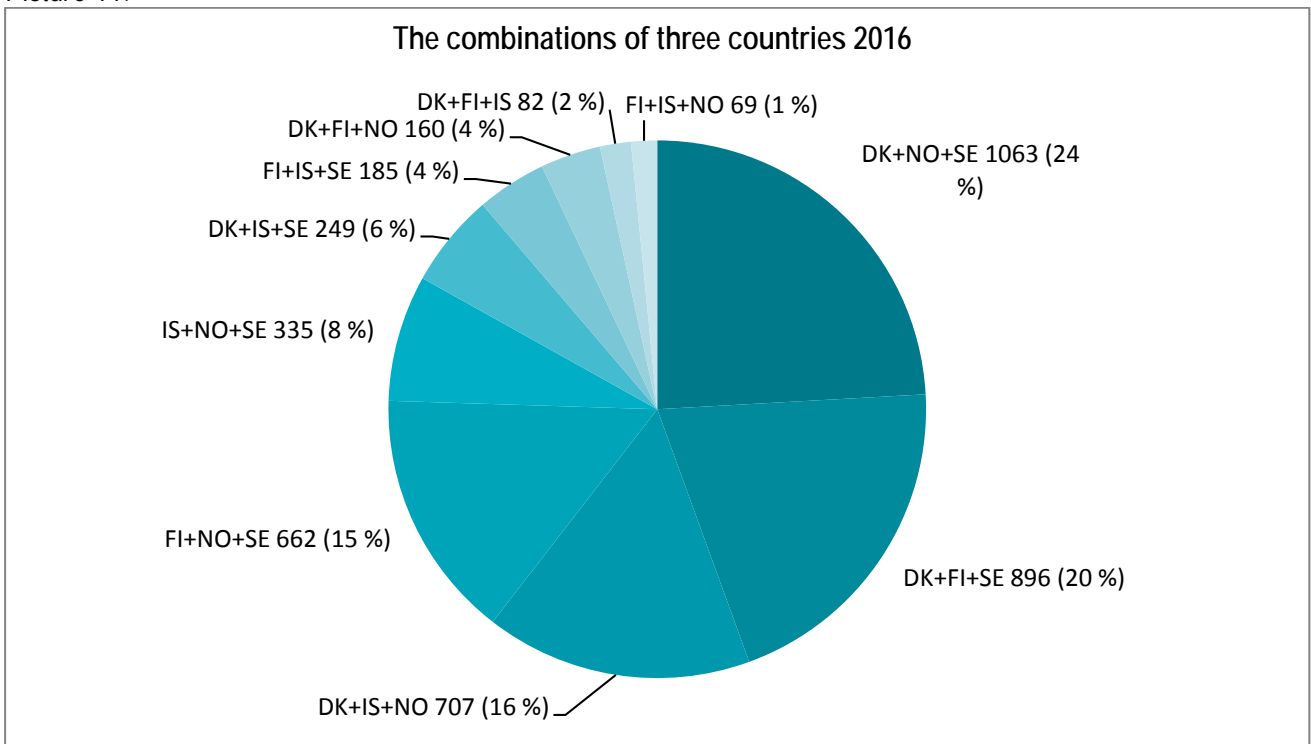
The amount of different country combinations 2016	
2 countries	10305
3 countries	4408
4 countries	2643
5 countries	2103

There were almost no changes between 2015 and 2016 in the most common country combinations. Finland and Sweden was the most common combination of two countries (Picture 10.). The most used combination of three countries was Denmark, Norway and Sweden (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.)

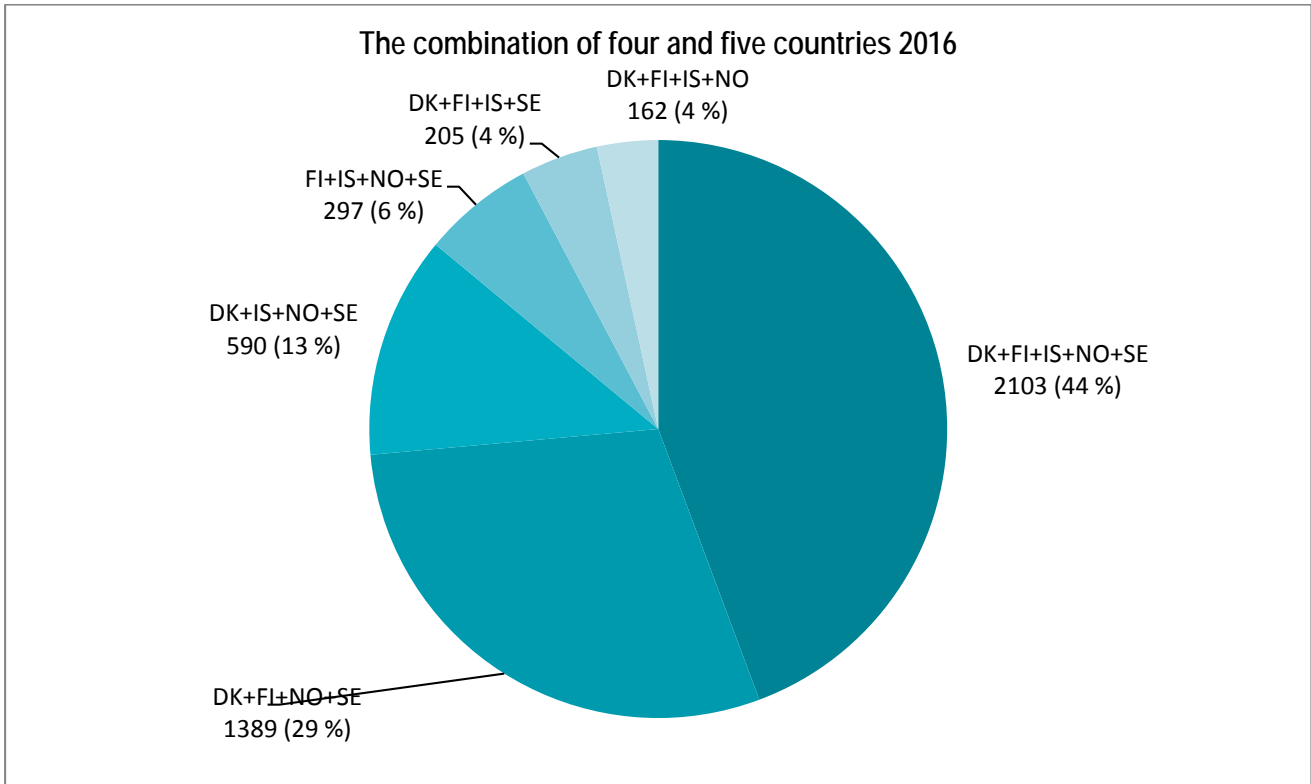
Picture 10.



Picture 11.

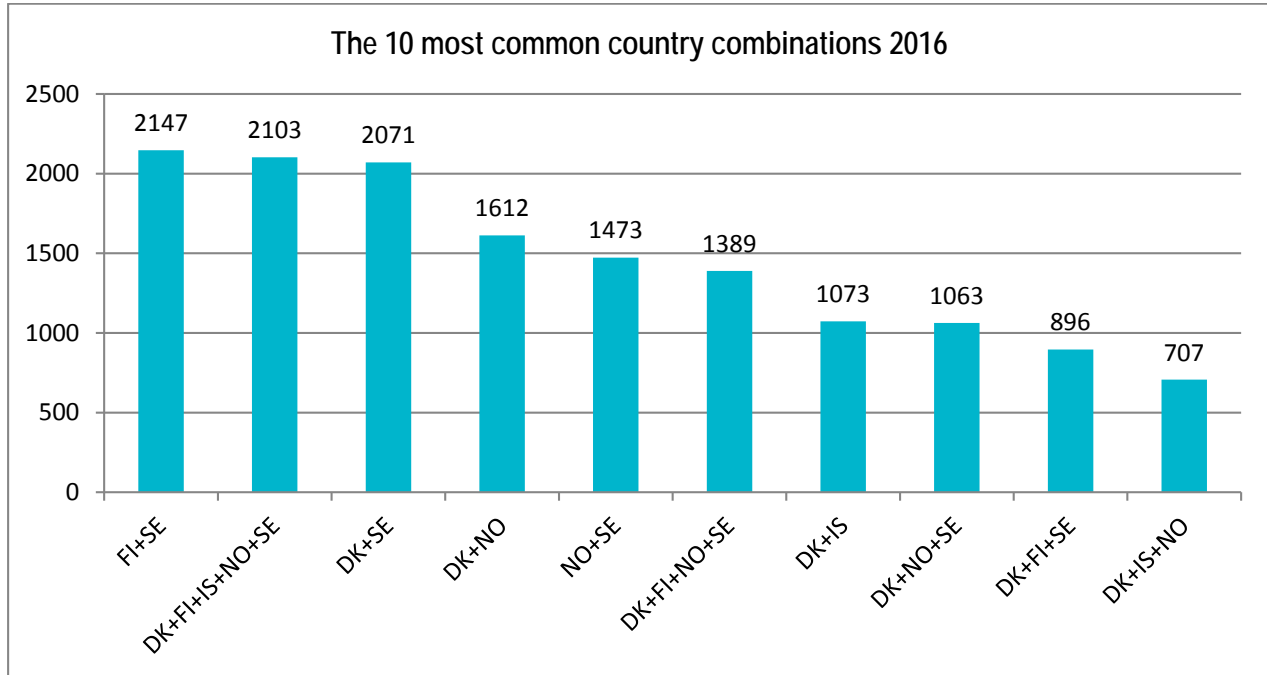


Picture 12.



The 10 most common country combinations of Vnrs can be seen in picture 13. The top 3 of the country combinations are the same, but in different order compared to last year. The most common country combination was the combination of Finland and Sweden.

Picture 13.



Vnr Data country by country

In this section you can find the country specific information. The amount of Vnrs of different statuses, the portion of locked, unlocked, parallel imported, human and veterinary products are presented. 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 country combinations with at least 5 Vnrs are shown.

Denmark

In Denmark there were 24 861 valid Vnrs at the end of 2016. The number of valid Vnrs continued to decrease as it has done since 2011. 22 % of the Vnrs were for parallel imported products. More detailed information can be found in the following tables and pictures.

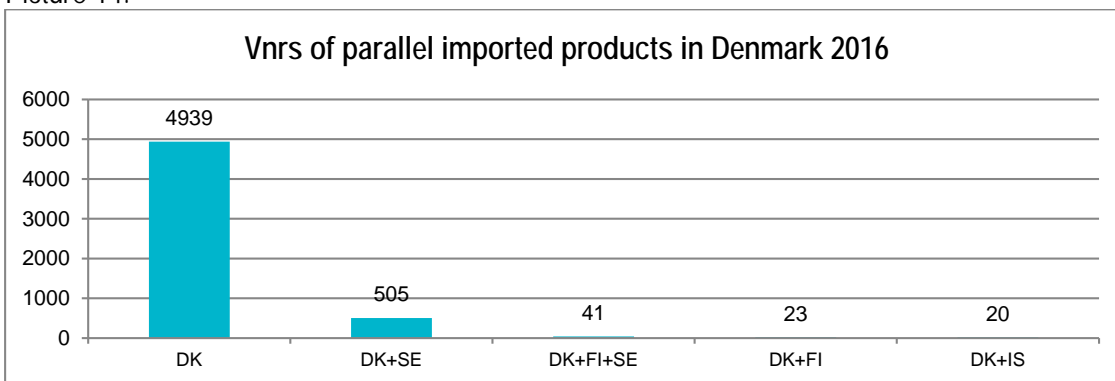
Table 2.

Vnrs in Denmark 2016	
All	24 861
Unlocked	17 031 (69 %)
Locked	7 827 (31%)
Parallel imported	5 547 (22 %)

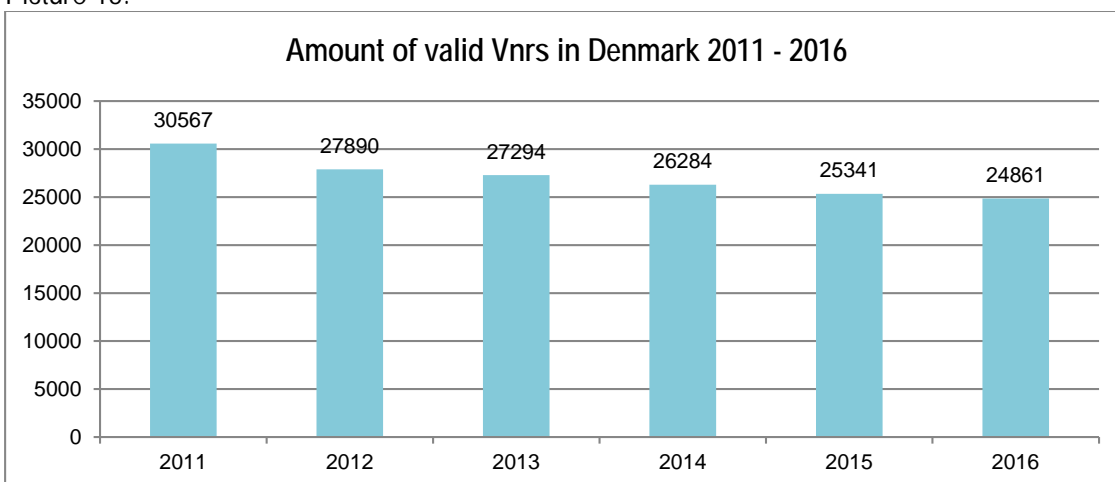
Table 3.

Human and veterinary medicines in Denmark 2016	
Human	22 484 (90 %)
Veterinary	2 358 (10 %)
Human and veterinary	19 (0 %)

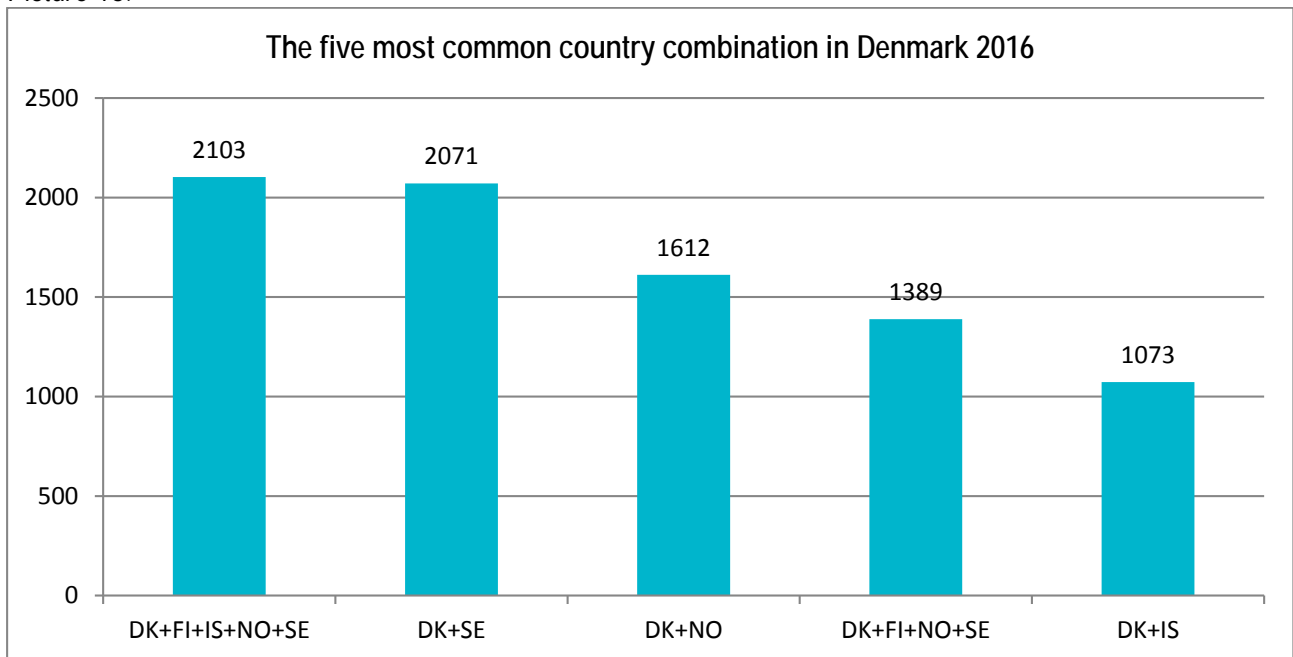
Picture 14.



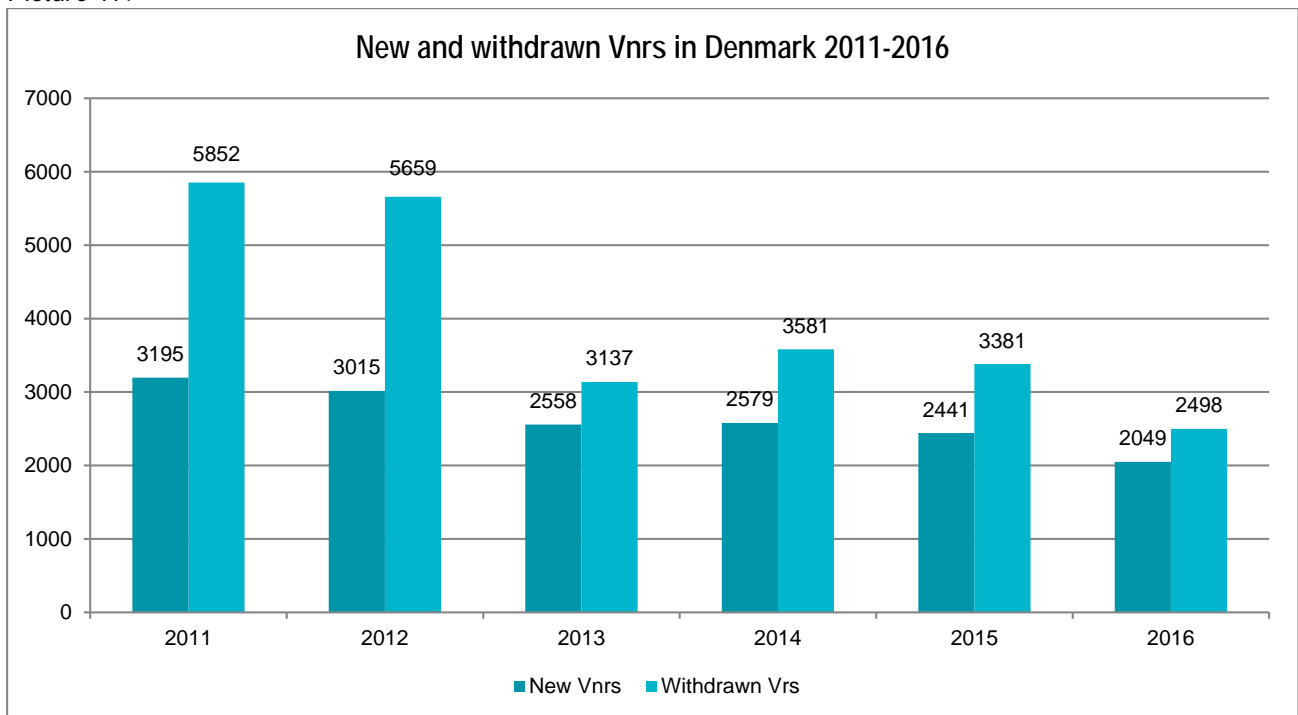
Picture 15.



Picture 16.



Picture 17.



Finland

In Finland there were 15 192 valid Vnrs at the end of 2016. More detailed information can be found in the following tables and pictures.

Table 4.

Vnrs in Finland 2016	
All	15 192
Unlocked	12 501 (82 %)
Locked	2 690 (18 %)
Parallel imported	695 (5 %)

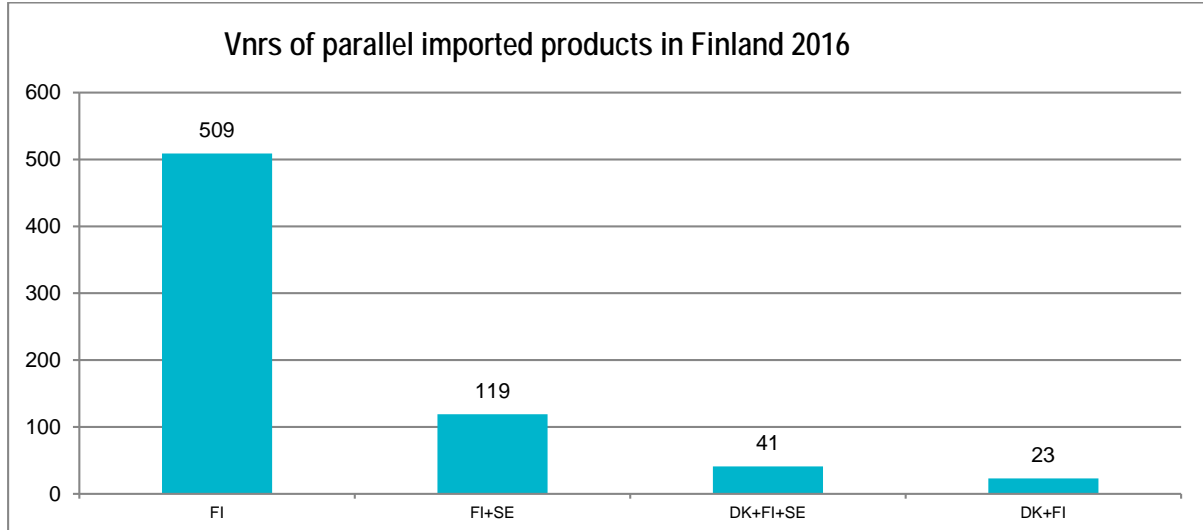
Table 5.

Human and veterinary medicines in Finland 2016	
Human	13 612 (90 %)
Veterinary	1 571 (10 %)
Human and veterinary	9 (0 %)

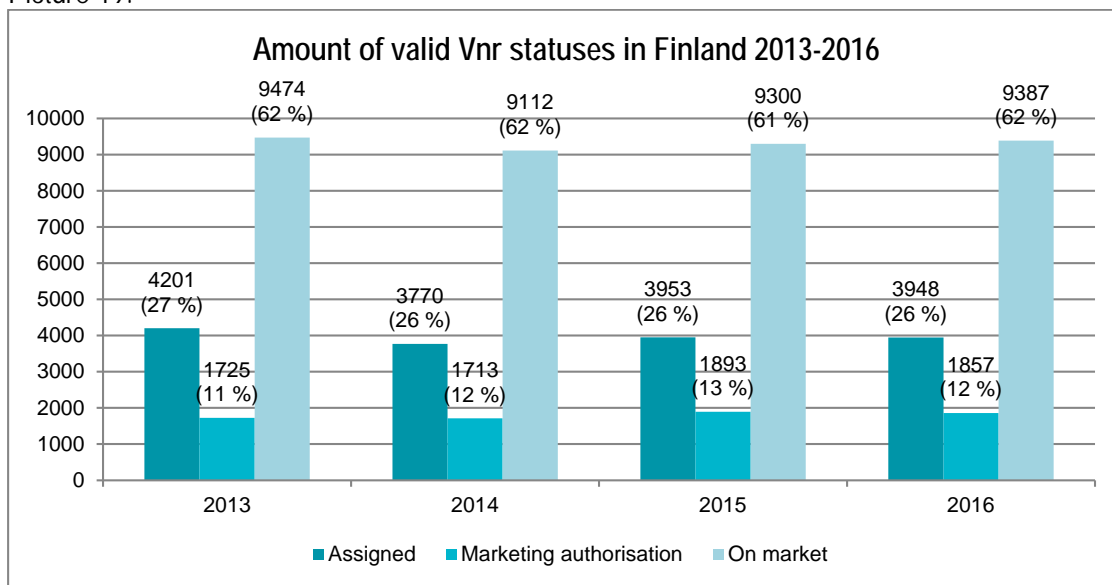
Table 6.

Prescription only, harmful in traffic and narcotic medicines in Finland 2016	
Prescription only	13 139 (86 %)
Harmful in traffic	1 224 (8 %)
Narcotic	319 (2 %)

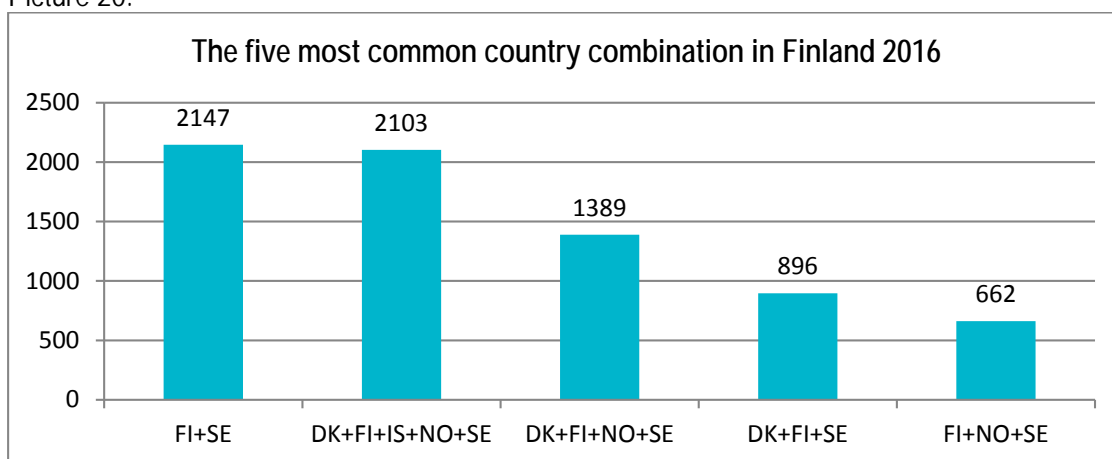
Picture 18.



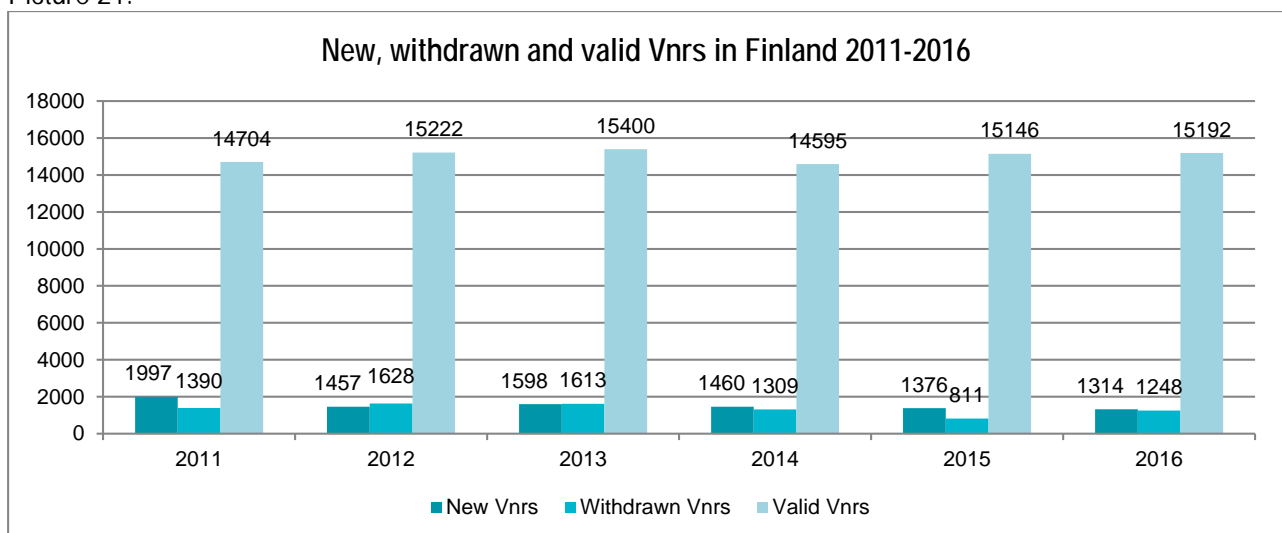
Picture 19.



Picture 20.



Picture 21.



Iceland

In Iceland there were 9 929 valid Vnrs in 2016. Only 1 % of the products were parallel imported. More detailed information can be found in the following tables and pictures.

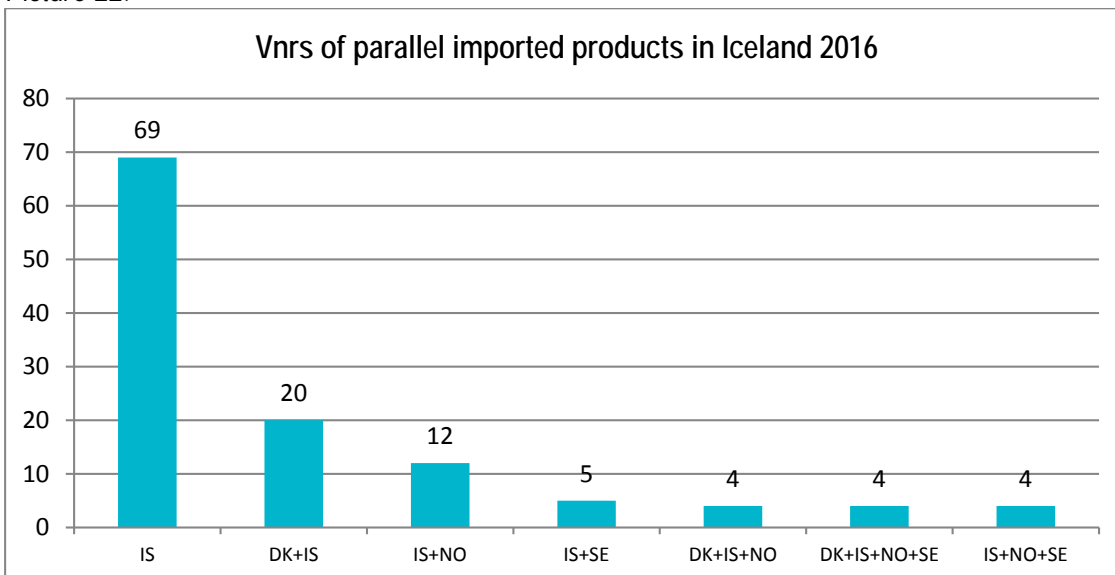
Table 7.

Vnrs in Iceland 2016	
All	9929
Unlocked	9215 (93 %)
Locked	713 (7 %)
Parallel imported	120 (1 %)

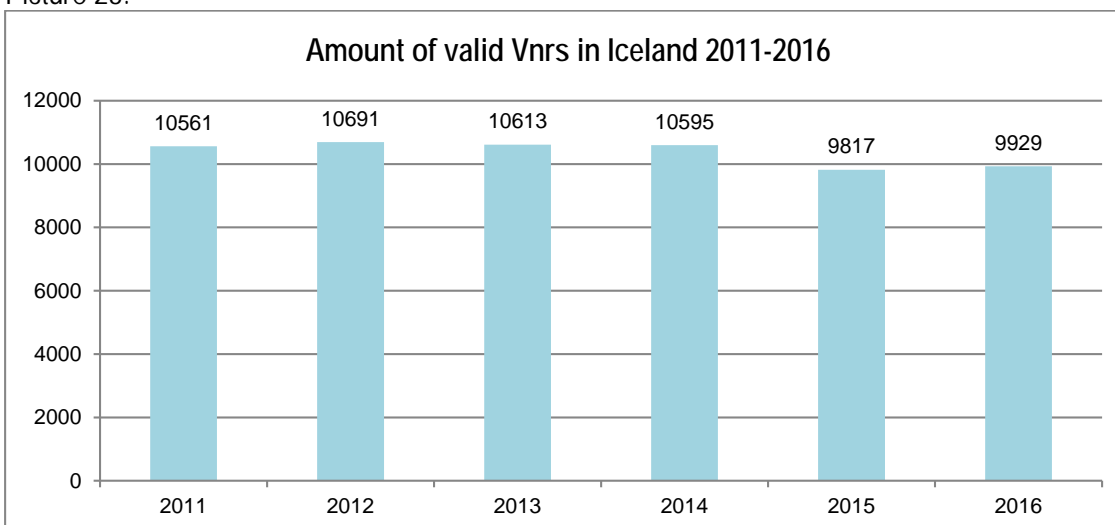
Table 8.

Human and veterinary medicines in Iceland 2016	
Human	9329 (94 %)
Veterinary	586 (6 %)
Human and veterinary	14 (0 %)

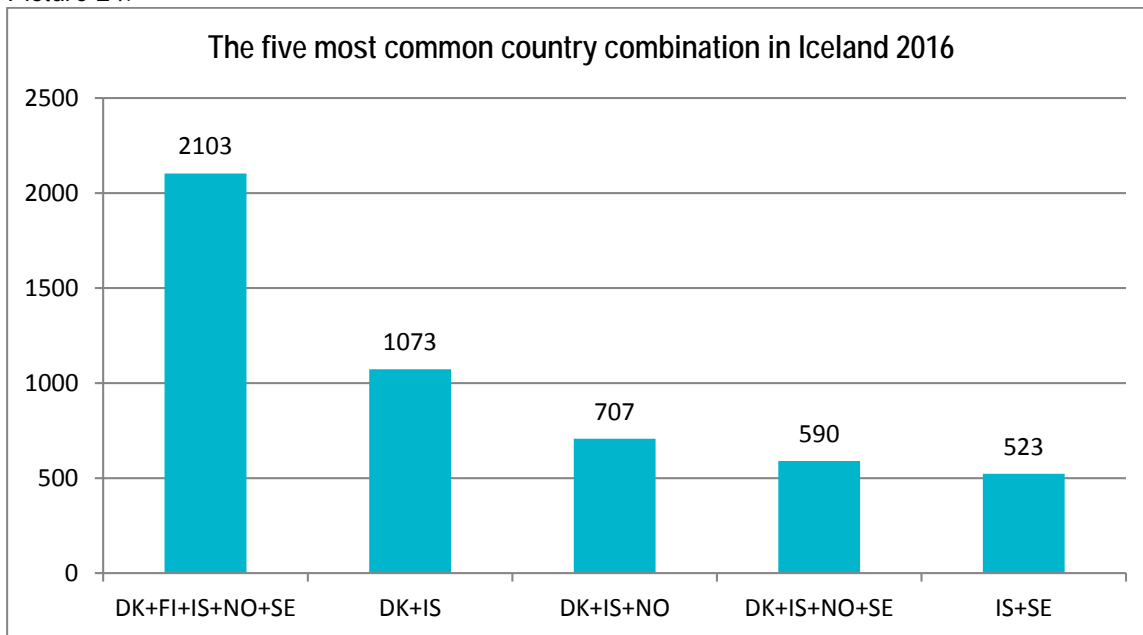
Picture 22.



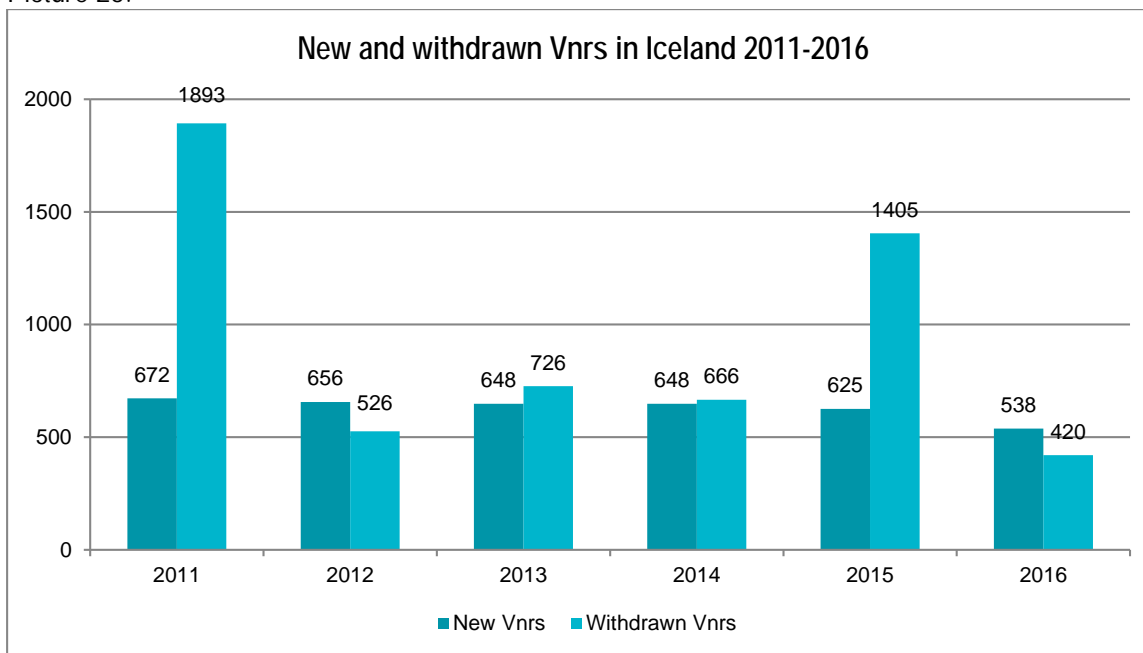
Picture 23.



Picture 24.



Picture 25.



Norway

In Norway there were 18 205 valid Vnrs in 2016. There has been a slight increase in the portion of parallel imported products (from 7 % to 9 %). More detailed information can be found in the following tables and pictures.

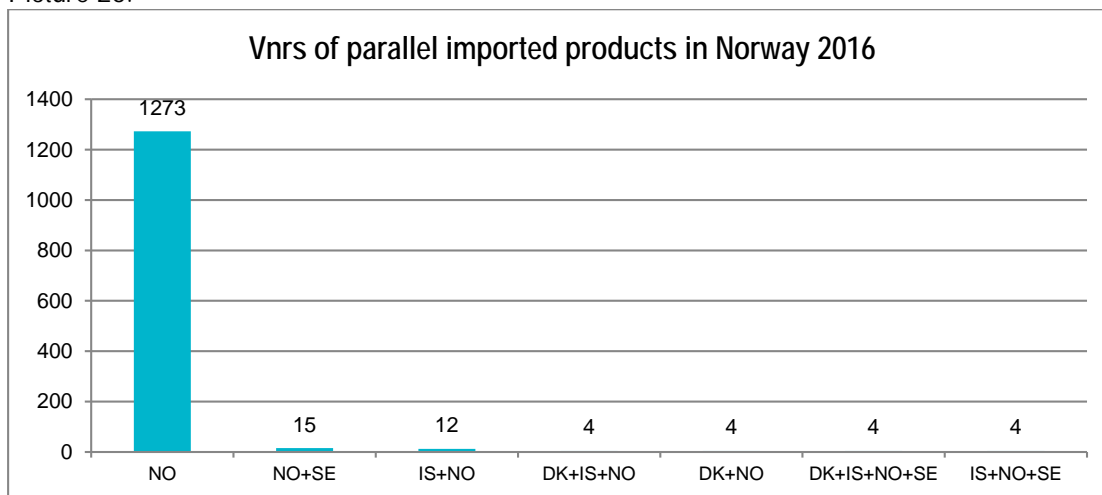
Table 9.

Vnrs in Norway 2016	
All	18 205
Unlocked	14 596 (80 %)
Locked	3 608 (20 %)
Parallel imported	1 322 (9 %)

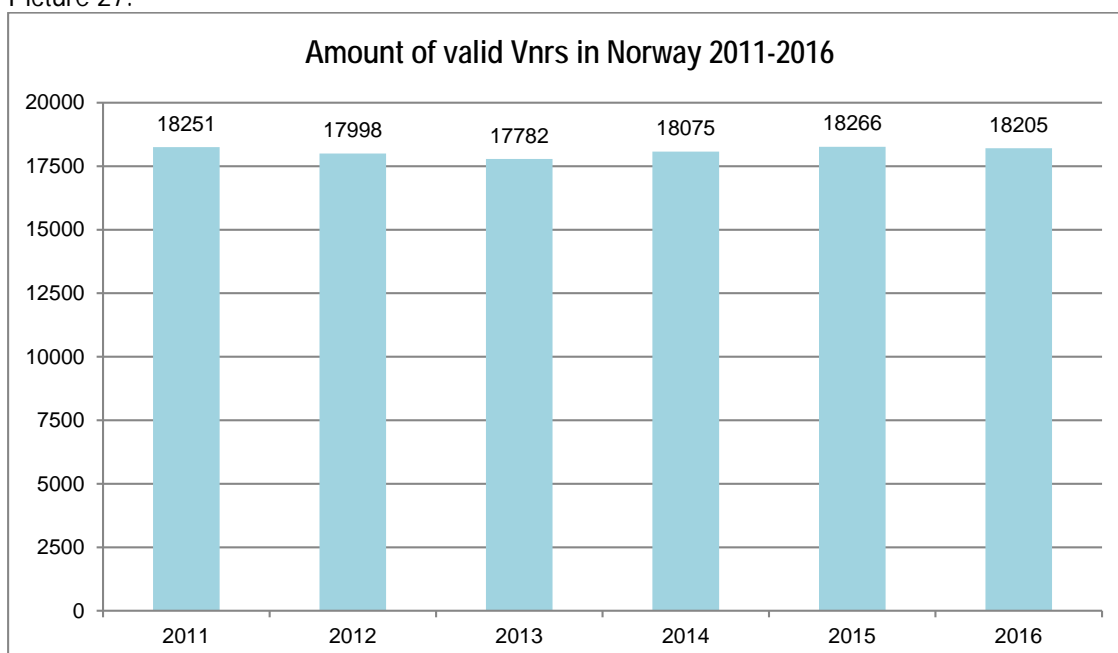
Table 10.

Human and veterinary medicines in Norway 2016	
Human	16 754 (92 %)
Veterinary	1 435 (8 %)
Human and veterinary	16 (0 %)

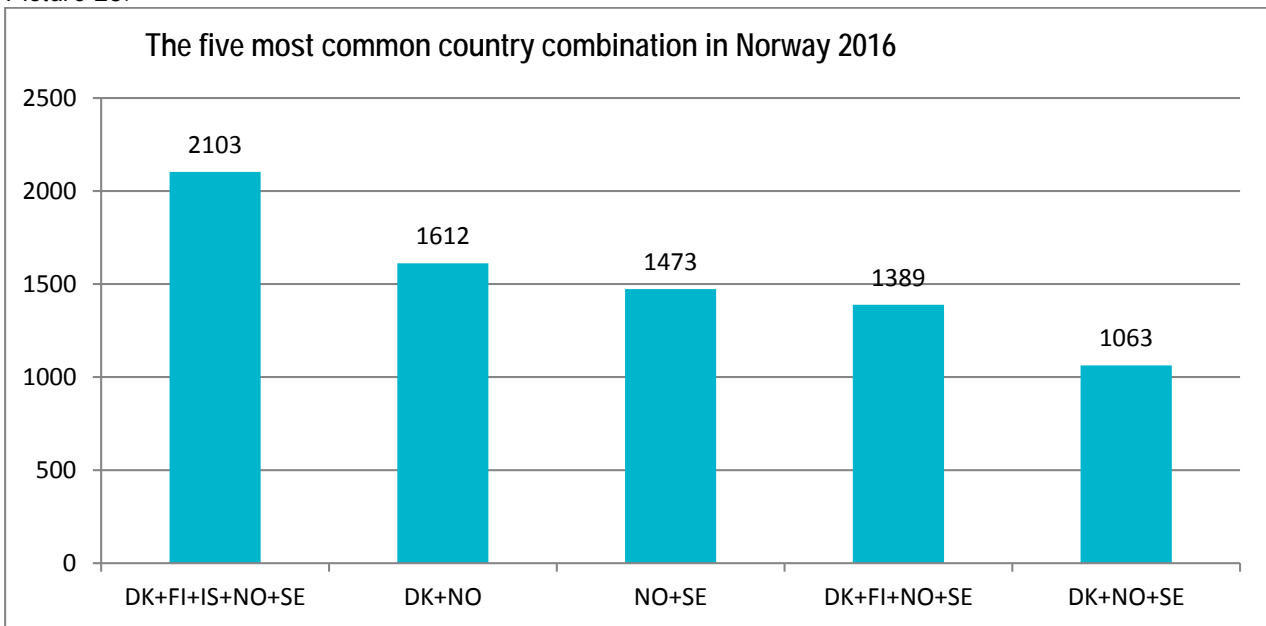
Picture 26.



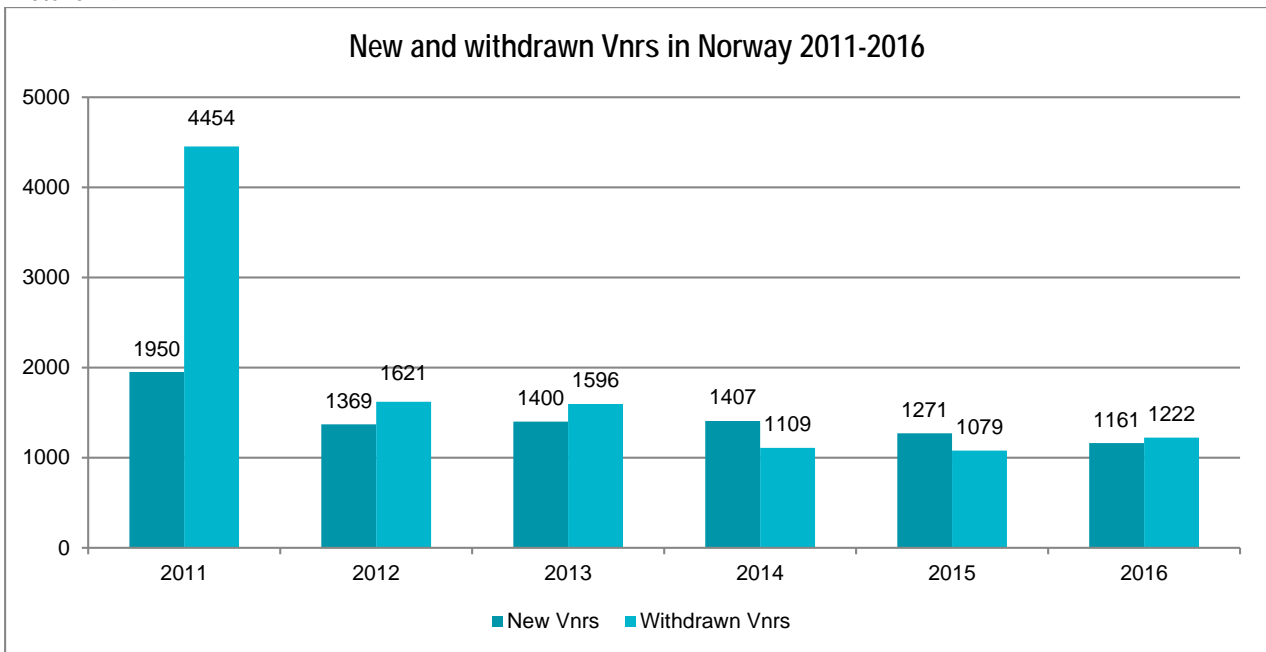
Picture 27.



Picture 28.



Picture 29.



Sweden

In Sweden there were all together 32 234 Vnrs, of which 21 % were of parallel imported products at the end of 2016. The portion of locked Vnrs has increased from 27 % to 29 %. More detailed information can be found in the tables and pictures below.

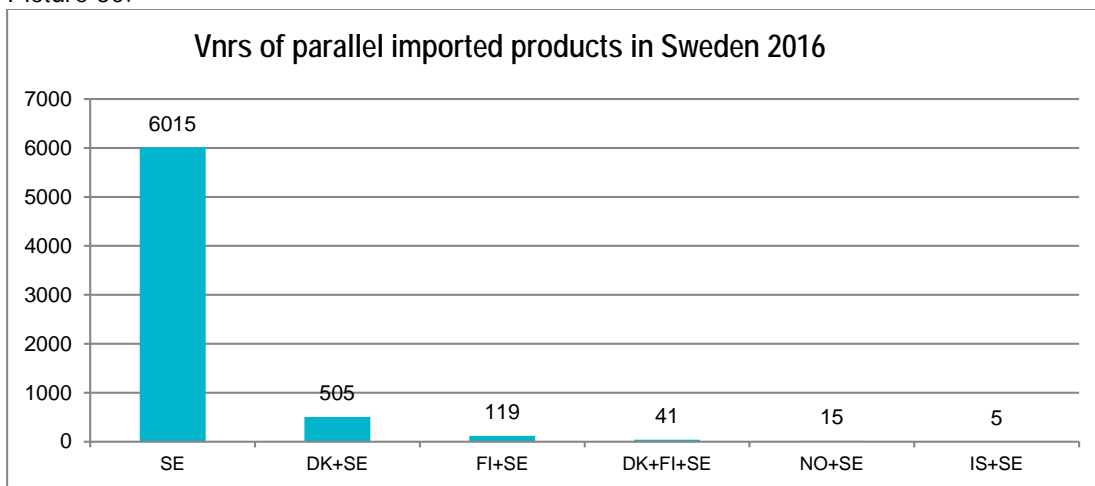
Table 11.

Vnrs in Sweden 2016	
All	32 234
Unlocked	22 884 (71 %)
Locked	9 349 (29 %)
Parallel imported	6 715 (21 %)

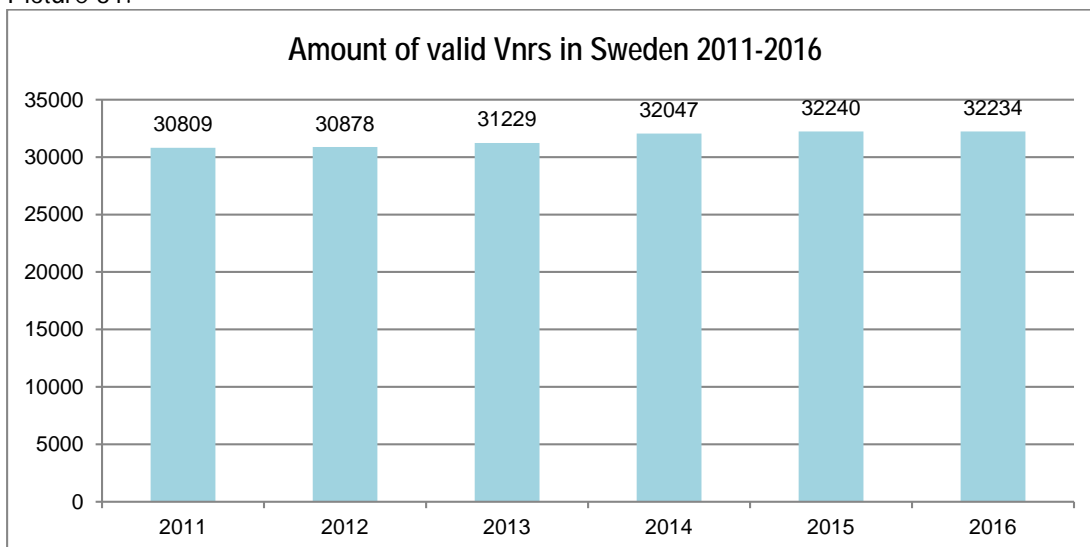
Table 12.

Human and veterinary medicines in Sweden 2016	
Human	30 091 (93 %)
Veterinary	2122 (7 %)
Human and veterinary	21 (0 %)

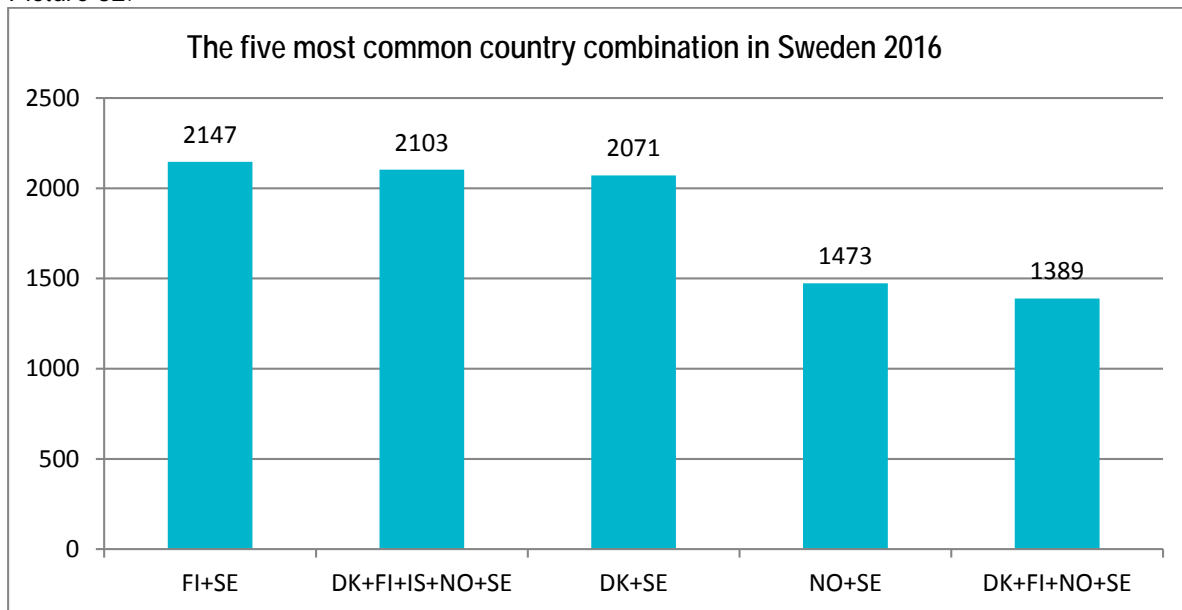
Picture 30.



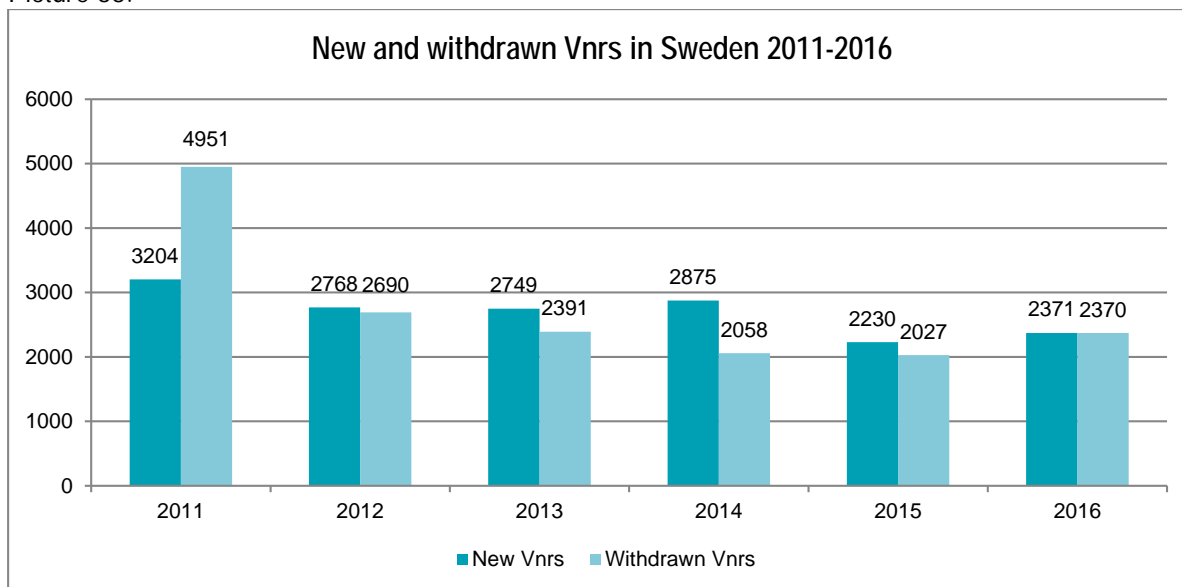
Picture 31.



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 in Finland. 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. Customers can directly access a powerful datacube and build reports in Excel. Pharmarket Mobile reports are quickly accessible also from smart phones and tablets.

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 25 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 six 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.