

Nordic Vnr Services

Vnr Statistics of the Year 2017

Contents

Introduction	1
The Vnr Service	1
VnrWiki.....	1
Feedback	2
Statistics of the year 2017	3
The amount of valid Vnrs	3
Status distribution.....	3
New and withdrawn Vnrs and status changes.....	5
Locked and unlocked Vnrs	6
Parallel imported products	7
The most common countries and country combinations of Vnrs of parallel imported products	7
Country combinations of Vnrs	8
Vnr Data country by country.....	11
Denmark	11
Finland	13
Iceland	15
Norway.....	17
Sweden	19
Pharmaceutical Information Centre shortly	21
Pharmaceutical Information Centre Ltd serves customers as the Nordic Number Centre.....	21

Introduction

The Vnr statistics of the year is a summary of the changes and transactions in the Nordic Vnr database during the year 2017. 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 2017 was very similar to the previous years. There were 10 780 trade names with valid Vnrs at the end of 2017. These Vnrs belonged to 848 different marketing authorization holders.

The Vnr Service

Pharmaceutical companies can order Nordic Article Numbers (Vnrs) electronically 24/7 by using the Vnr 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 and utilize different kind of reports of their products.

Vnr 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 Service had over 1 800 registered users from 580 companies at the end of 2017. Over 1 000 users logged in to Vnr Service on average 25 times during 2017. Appr. 10 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 Service enables for example 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. At the end of 2017 there were 15 200 barcodes in the database. 945 barcodes have been added with the barcode notification. Most of the barcodes have been added to Finland.

VnrWiki

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

Information regarding the change from using an NTIN to a GTIN helps companies and stakeholders for example 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.

The new document "The serialisation of Nordic packages, country specific requirements" was published under the section Transition from NTIN to GTIN. The document was first prepared by LIF in Sweden and then revised in cooperation with the other Nordic countries. VnrWiki has also been updated for different countries. Norway, for example, added a guide on the use of the linear barcode and 2D code on the Norwegian packages.

VnrWiki had almost 7300 visits in 2017, which is 10 % more than in 2016. Most of the visitors were from Finland (21 %) and Sweden (17 %). The rest of the top five countries were Germany (9 %), Denmark (8 %) and United Kingdom (6 %).

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.

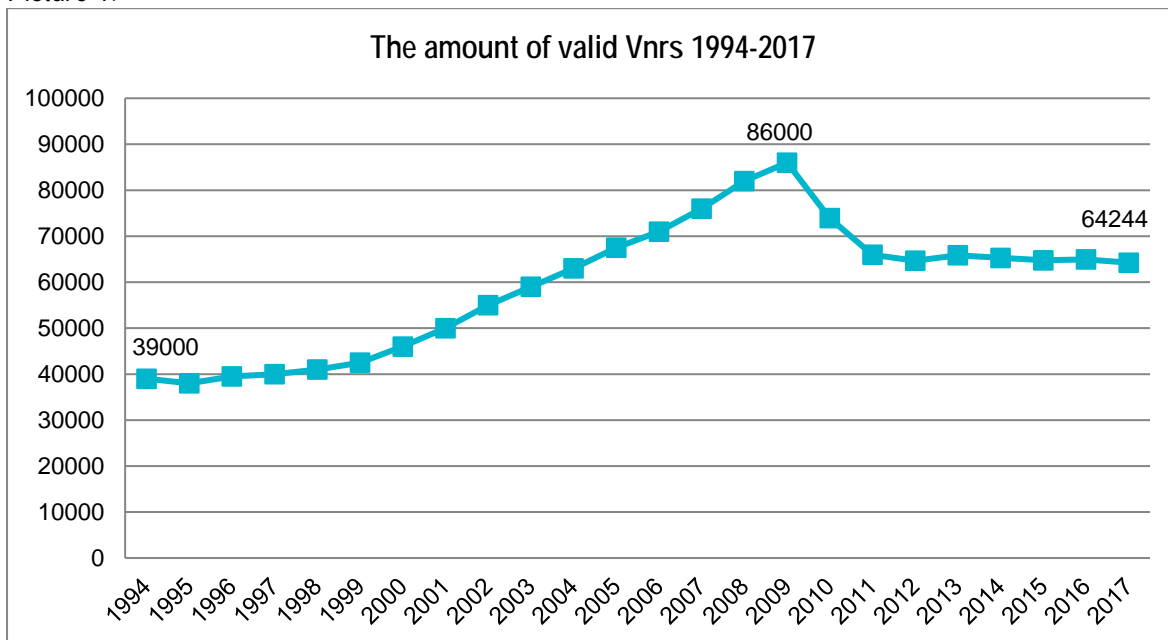
Statistics of the year 2017

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 (0.3 % increase in 2016 (188 Vnrs) and 1.1 % decrease in 2017 (715 Vnrs)). At the end of 2017 there were 64 244 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.

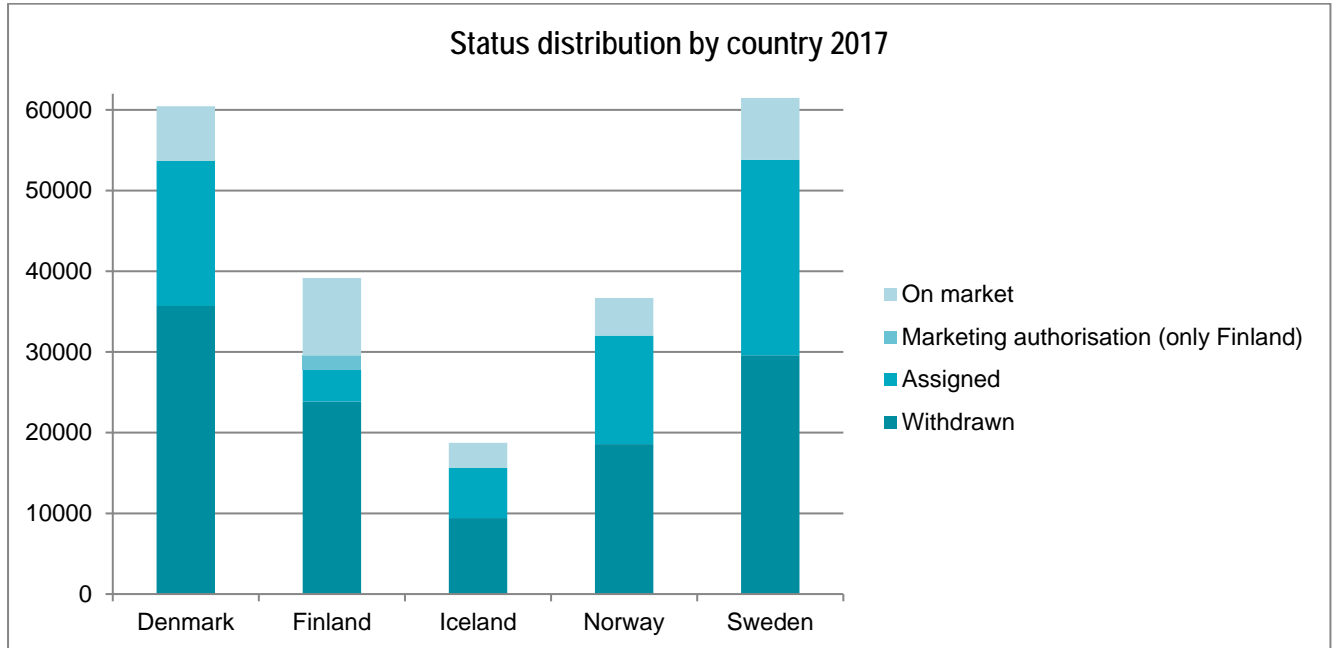
2010-2013 there were 4 different Vnr statuses:

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

At the end of 2017 37 % of the valid Vnrs had the status on market in one or more countries (23 840 Vnrs). There were 62 288 Vnrs in the database which were withdrawn from all countries, which is 8.8 % more than in 2016.

In 2017 most Vnrs were in use in Sweden (31 907 Vnrs) and Denmark (24 766 Vnrs), least Vnrs in Iceland (9 336 Vnrs) (picture 2). Status distribution of Vnrs varies slightly between countries. Country specific data is presented starting from page 11.

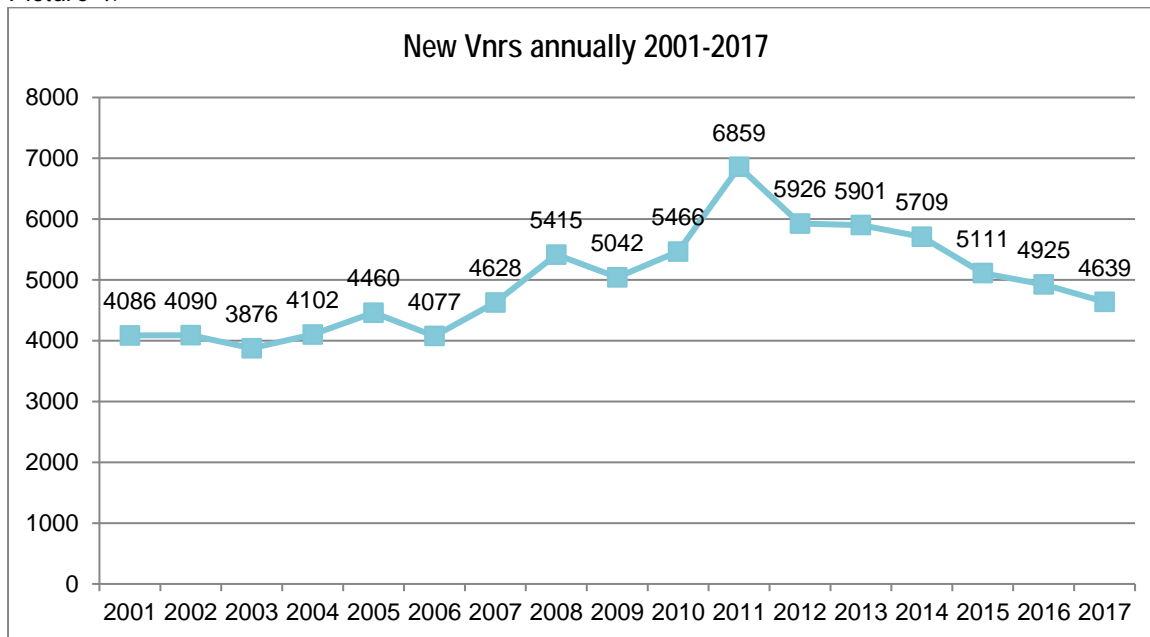
Picture 2.



New and withdrawn Vnrs and status changes

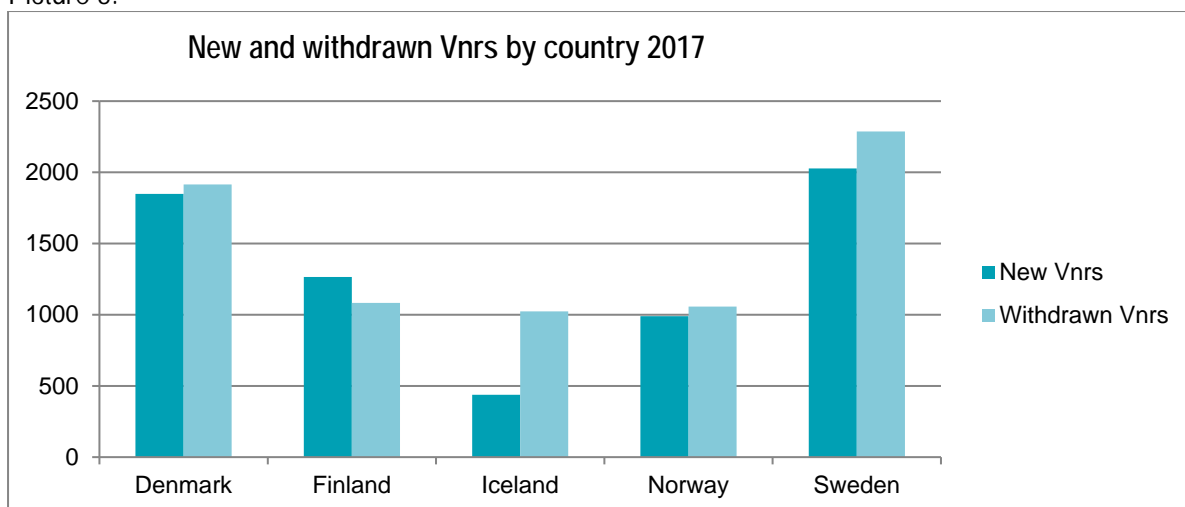
The amount of new Vnrs started to increase in 2006 (picture 4). Between 2006 and 2011 the yearly amount of valid new Vnrs increased 68 %. In 2012 the amount decreased 14 % and it was almost the same in 2013. In 2017 there were 5.8 % less new Vnrs than in 2016. In the picture 4 every Vnr is only taken into account only once.

Picture 4.



6 568 new Vnrs were assigned in 2017. Most of the new Vnrs were assigned to be used in Sweden (picture 5). 7 366 Vnrs were changed to the status withdrawn during 2017. Most of the withdrawals were also made in Sweden.

Picture 5.

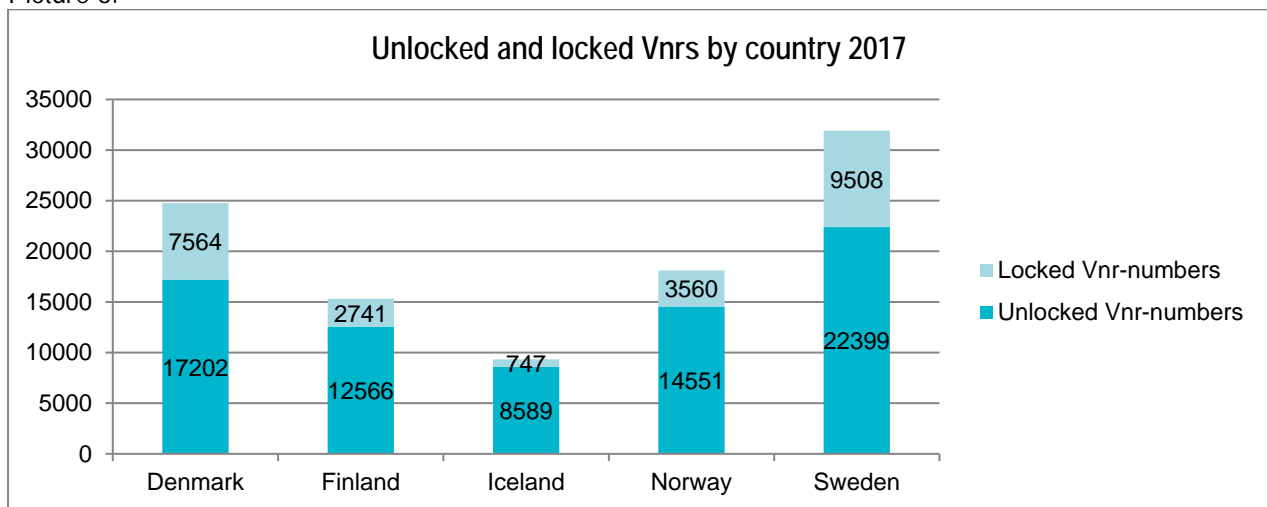


Locked and unlocked Vnrs

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.

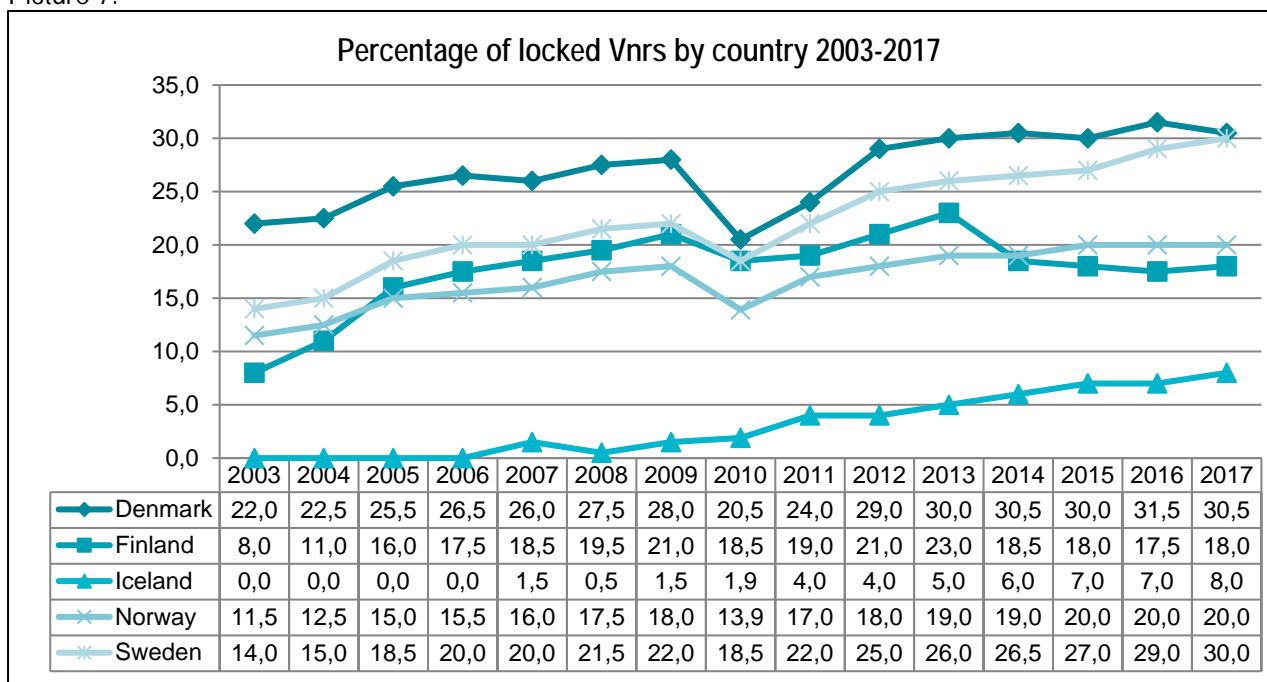
The launch of the new terms turned the amount of the Vnr combinations to a slight increase: before 2013 only common Vnrs could be used in several countries, now both locked and unlocked Vnrs can be used in several countries. In picture 6 the portion of locked and unlocked Vnrs is shown by country.

Picture 6.



Finland, Iceland and Sweden had a slight increase and Denmark a slight decrease in the portion of the locked Vnr-numbers between 2016 and 2017 (picture 7). There were no significant changes for Norway.

Picture 7.

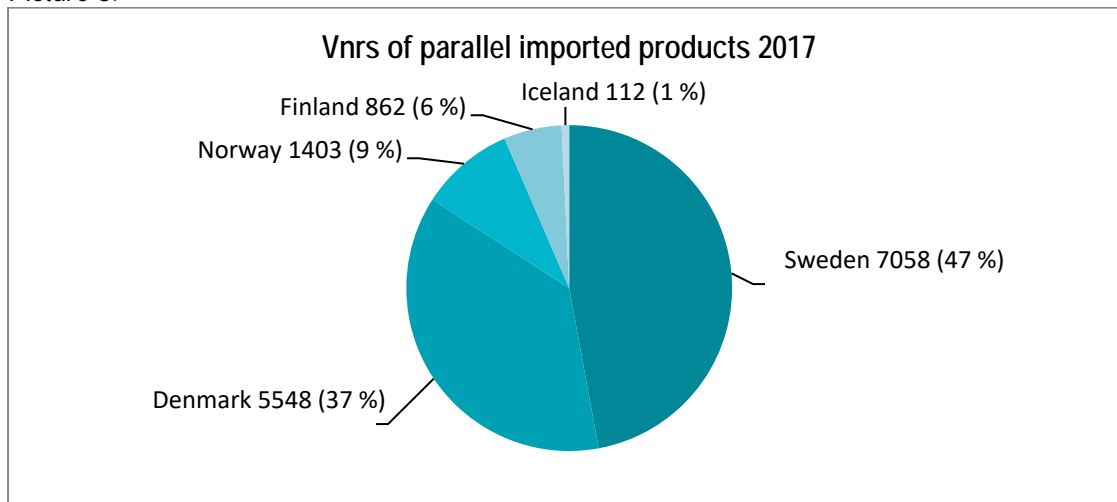


Parallel imported products

There were 14 983 Vnrs of parallel imported products in the Nordic countries in 2017. That means 4 % increase from 2016. Between 2015 and 2016 the increase was 9 %, between 2014 and 2015 5 % and between 2013 and 2014 the increase was 20 %.

There were no big changes in the ratio of Vnrs of parallel imported products between the countries in 2016 and 2017. As since 2013, most of the parallel imported products in 2017 were Swedish 47 % (Picture 8).

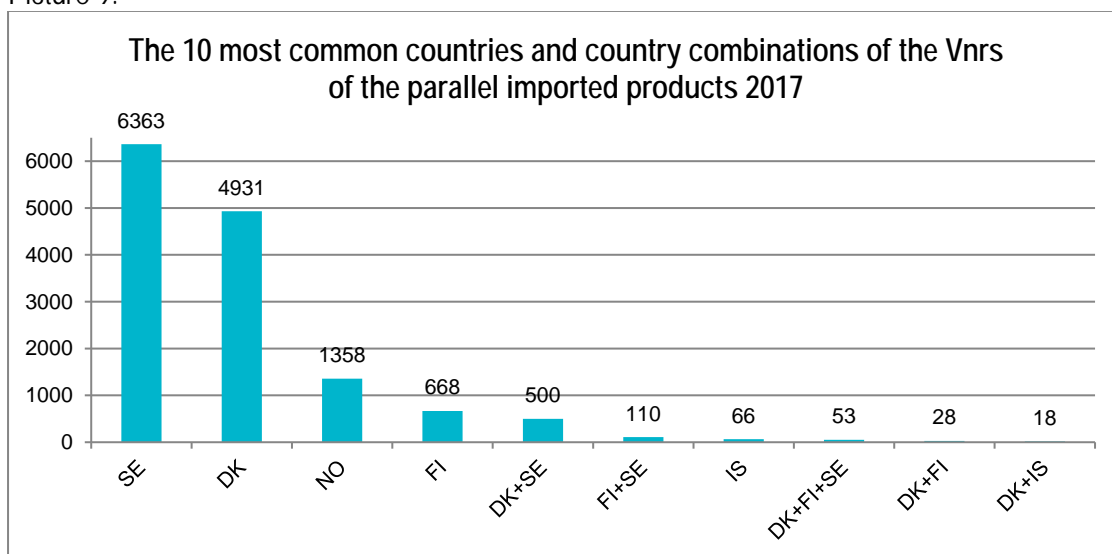
Picture 8.



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 2017 the most common country combination was the combination of Denmark and Sweden.

Picture 9.



Country combinations of Vnrs

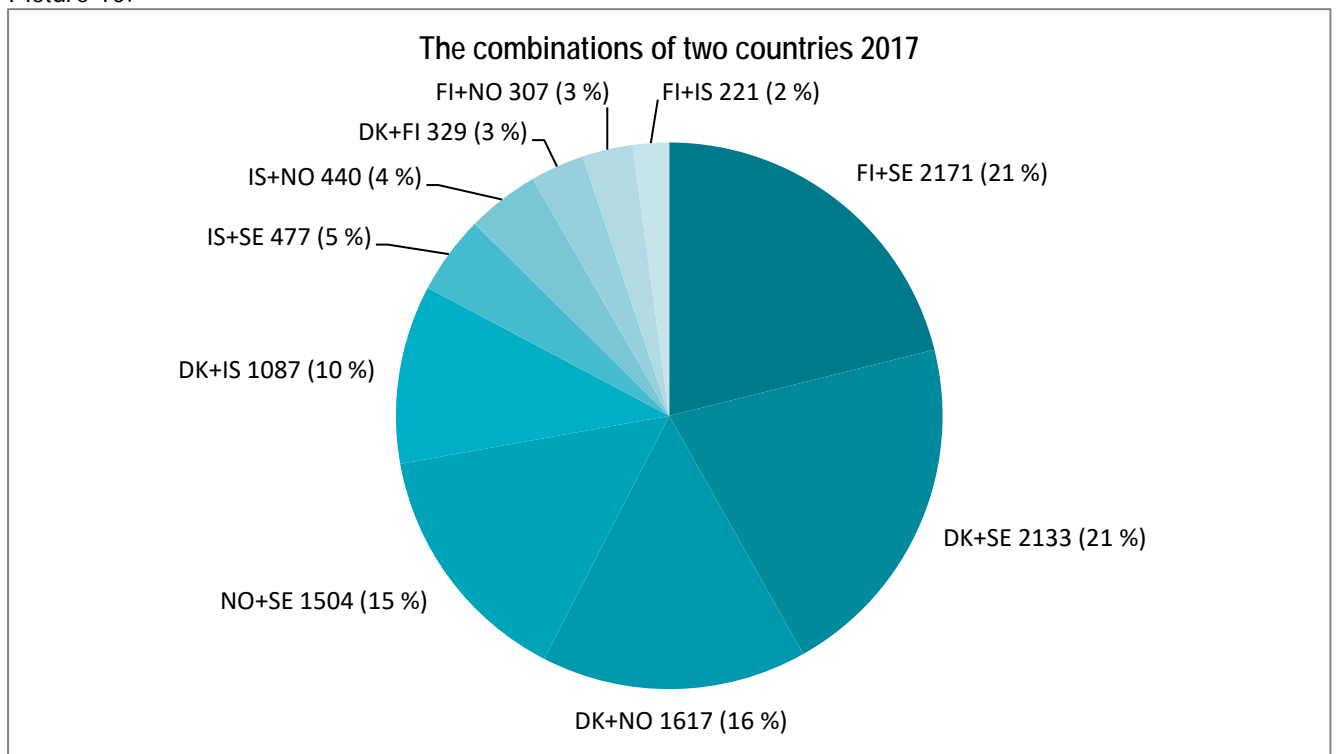
The amount of Vnrs with country combinations of two, three, four and five countries in 2017 are shown in Table 1.

Table 1.

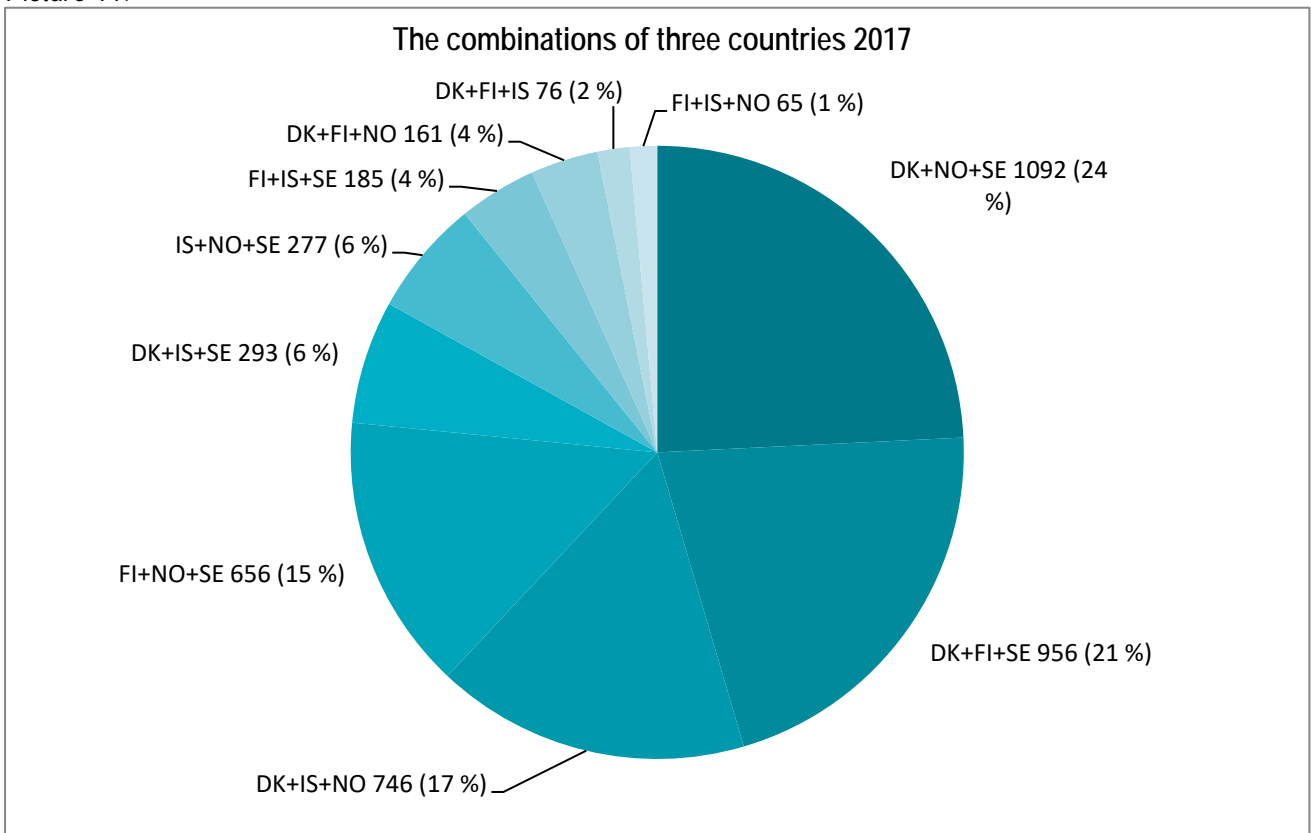
The amount of different country combinations in 2017	
2 countries	10286
3 countries	4507
4 countries	2577
5 countries	2038

There were almost no changes between 2016 and 2017 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.)

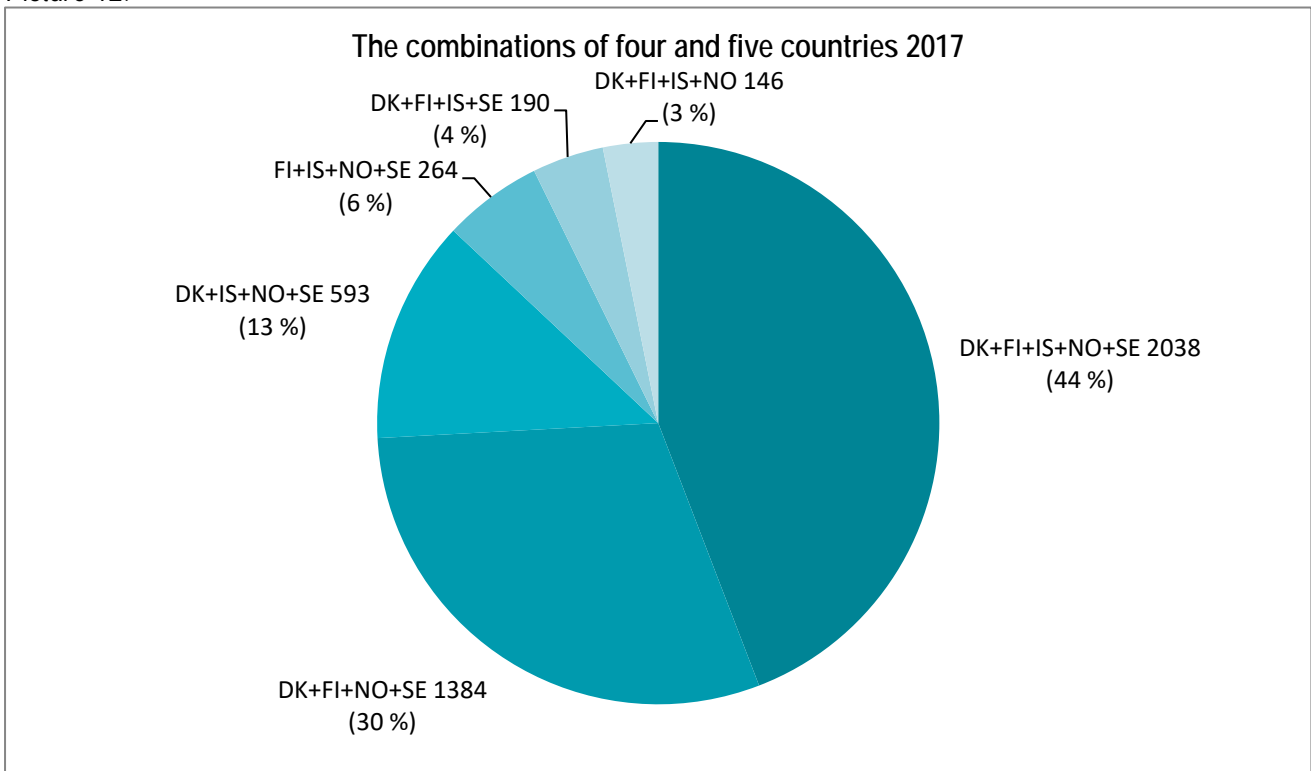
Picture 10.



Picture 11.

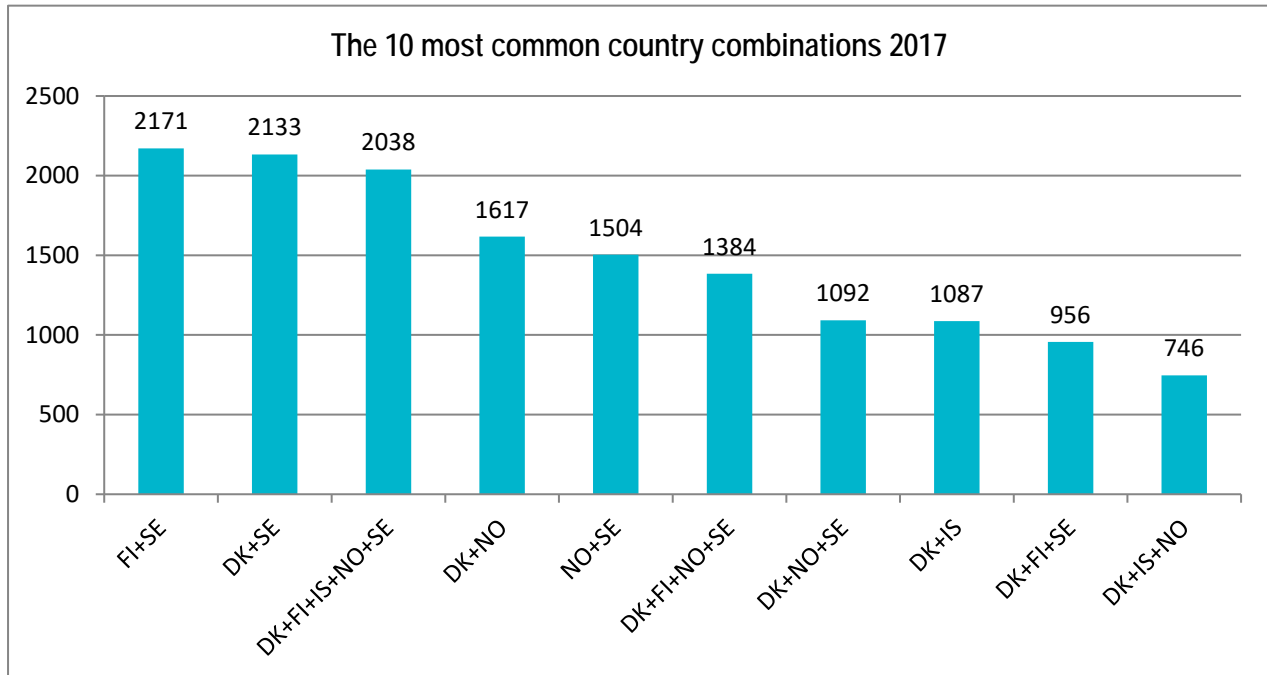


Picture 12.



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 24 766 valid Vnrs at the end of 2017. 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.

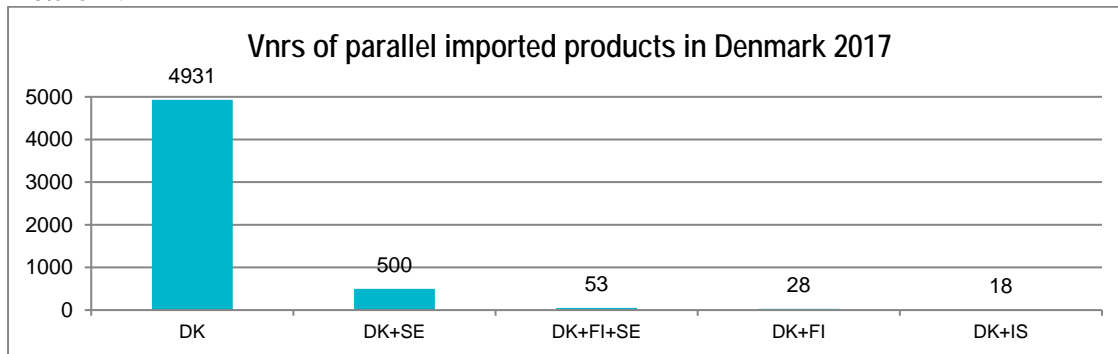
Table 2.

Vnrs in Denmark 2017	
All	24 766
Unlocked	17 202 (69 %)
Locked	7 564 (31 %)
Parallel imported	5 548 (22 %)

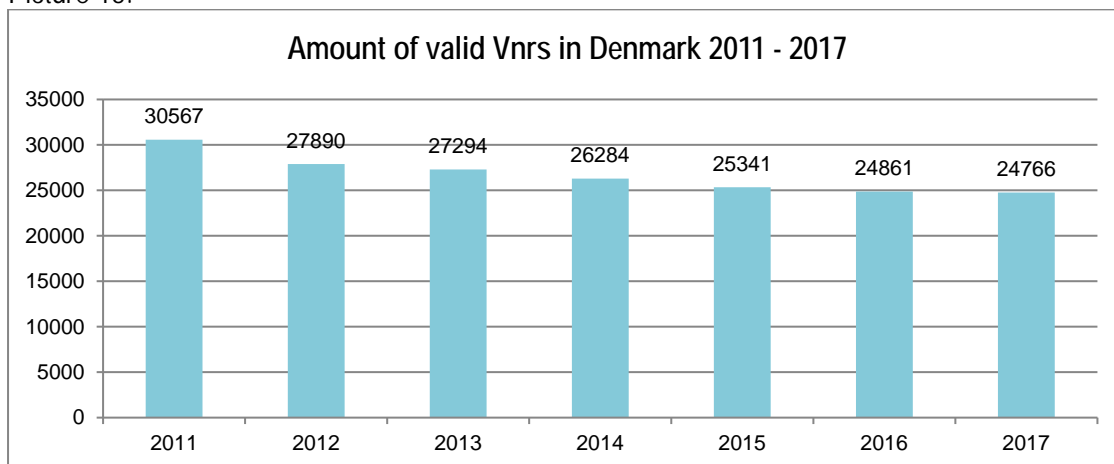
Table 3.

Human and veterinary medicines in Denmark 2017	
Human	22 292 (90 %)
Veterinary	2 468 (10 %)
Human and veterinary	6 (0 %)

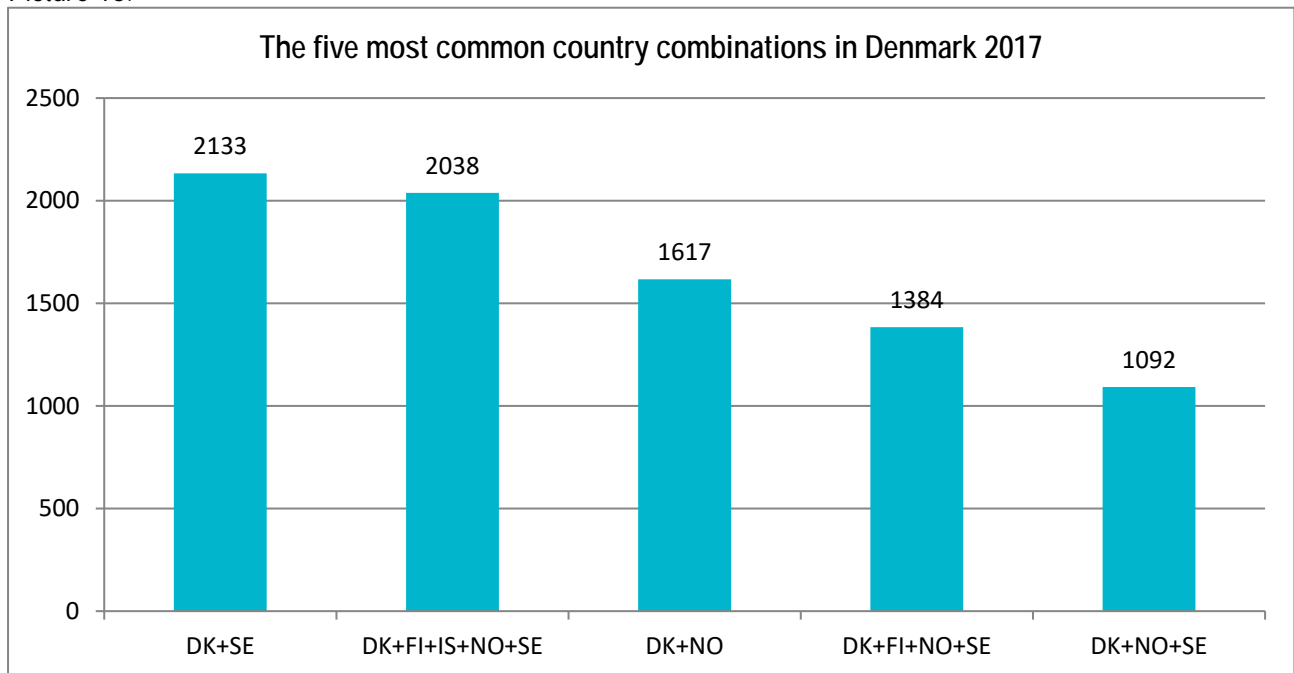
Picture 14.



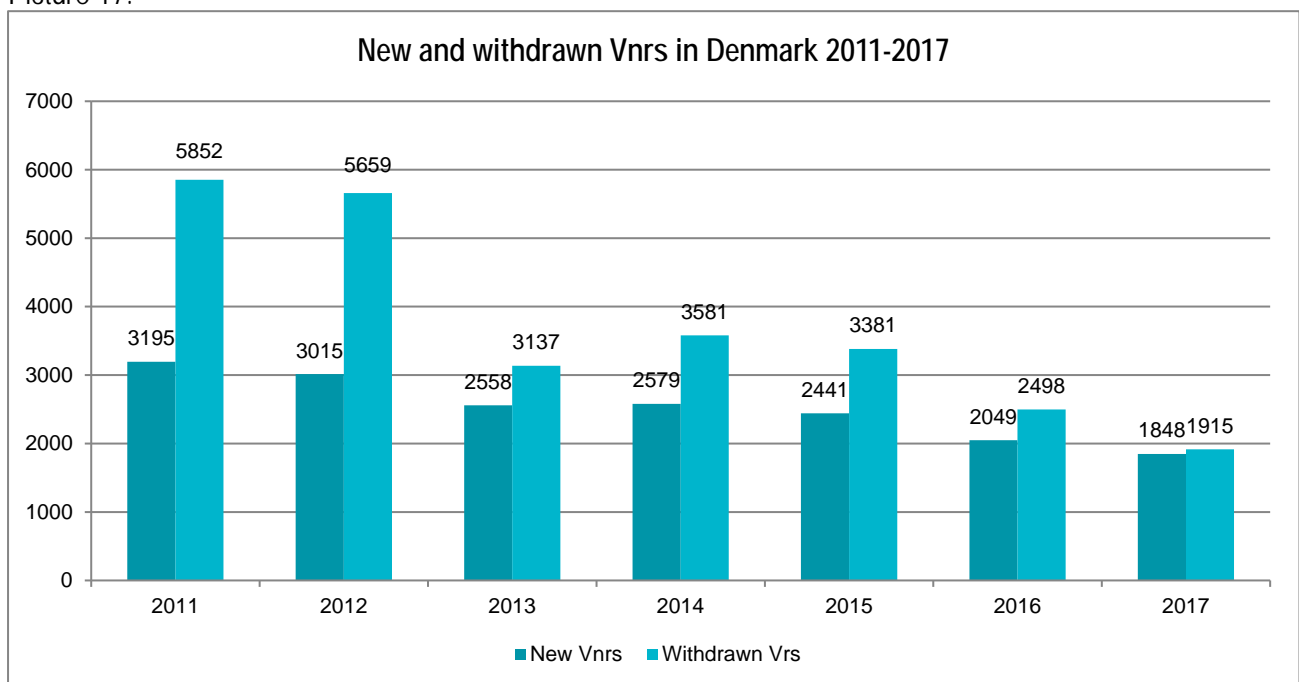
Picture 15.



Picture 16.



Picture 17.



Finland

In Finland there were 15 307 valid Vnrs at the end of 2017. More detailed information can be found in the following tables and pictures.

Table 4.

Vnrs in Finland 2017	
All	15 307
Unlocked	12 566 (82 %)
Locked	2 741 (18 %)
Parallel imported	862 (6 %)

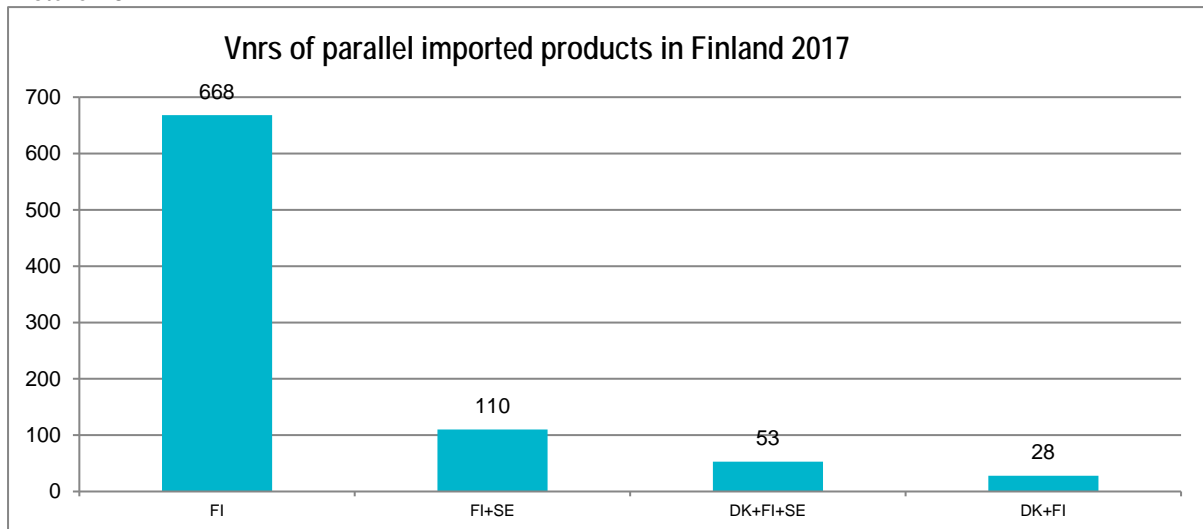
Table 5.

Human and veterinary medicines in Finland 2017	
Human	13 712 (90 %)
Veterinary	1 588 (10 %)
Human and veterinary	7 (0 %)

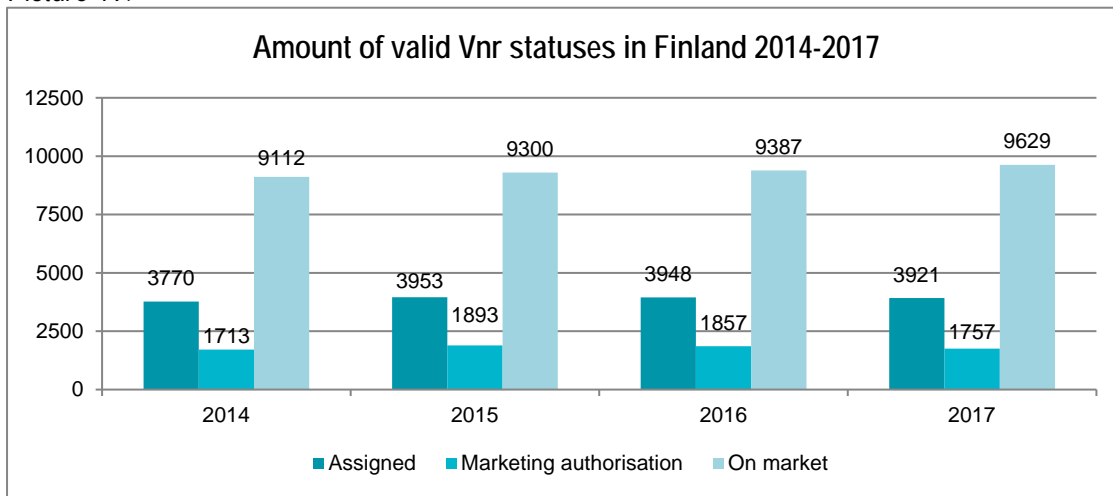
Table 6.

Prescription only, harmful in traffic and narcotic medicines in Finland 2017	
Prescription only	13 241 (87 %)
Harmful in traffic	1 256 (8 %)
Narcotic	321 (2 %)

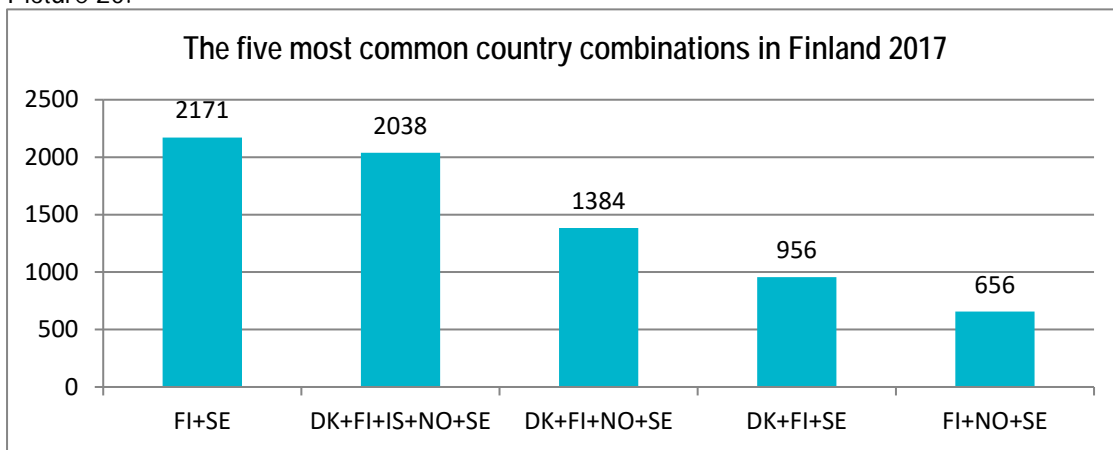
Picture 18.



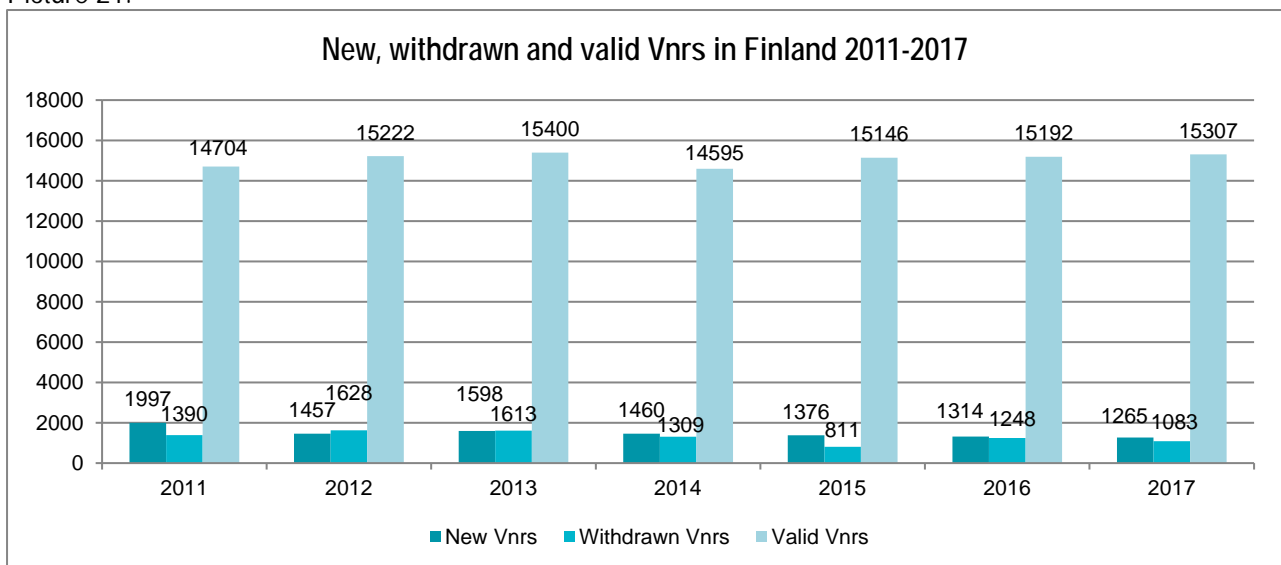
Picture 19.



Picture 20.



Picture 21.



Iceland

In Iceland there were 9 336 valid Vnrs in 2017. Only 1 % of the products were parallel imported. More detailed information can be found in the following tables and pictures.

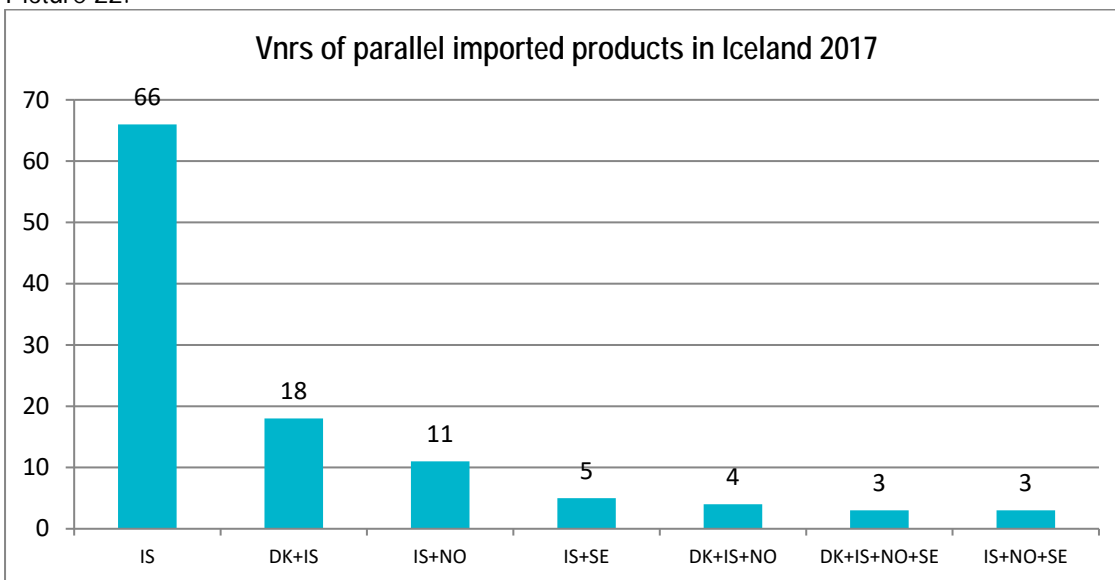
Table 7.

Vnrs in Iceland 2017	
All	9 336
Unlocked	8 589 (92 %)
Locked	747 (8 %)
Parallel imported	112 (1 %)

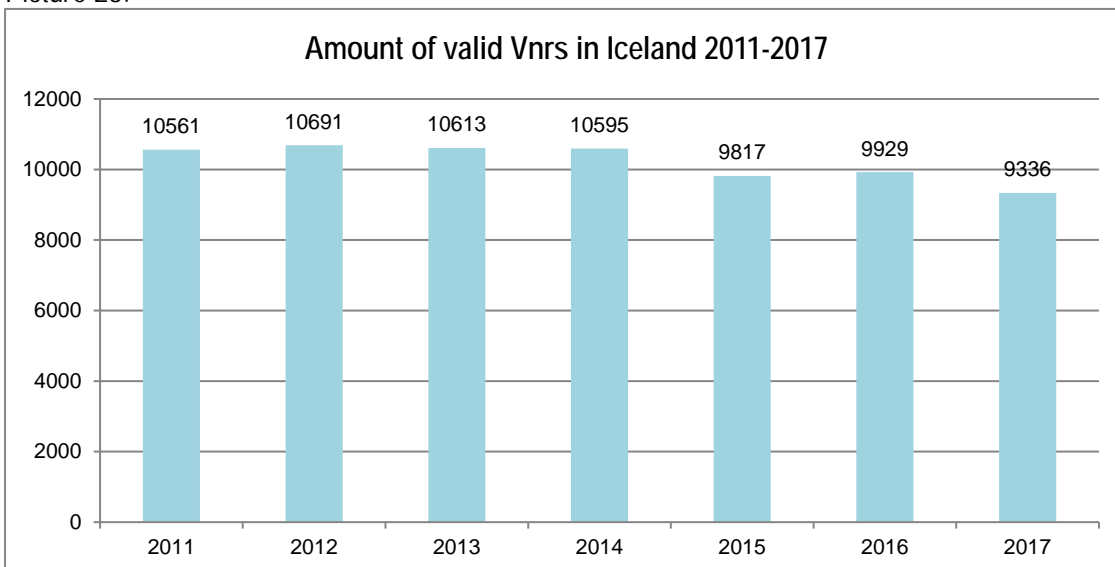
Table 8.

Human and veterinary medicines in Iceland 2017	
Human	8 688 (93 %)
Veterinary	647 (7 %)
Human and veterinary	1 (0 %)

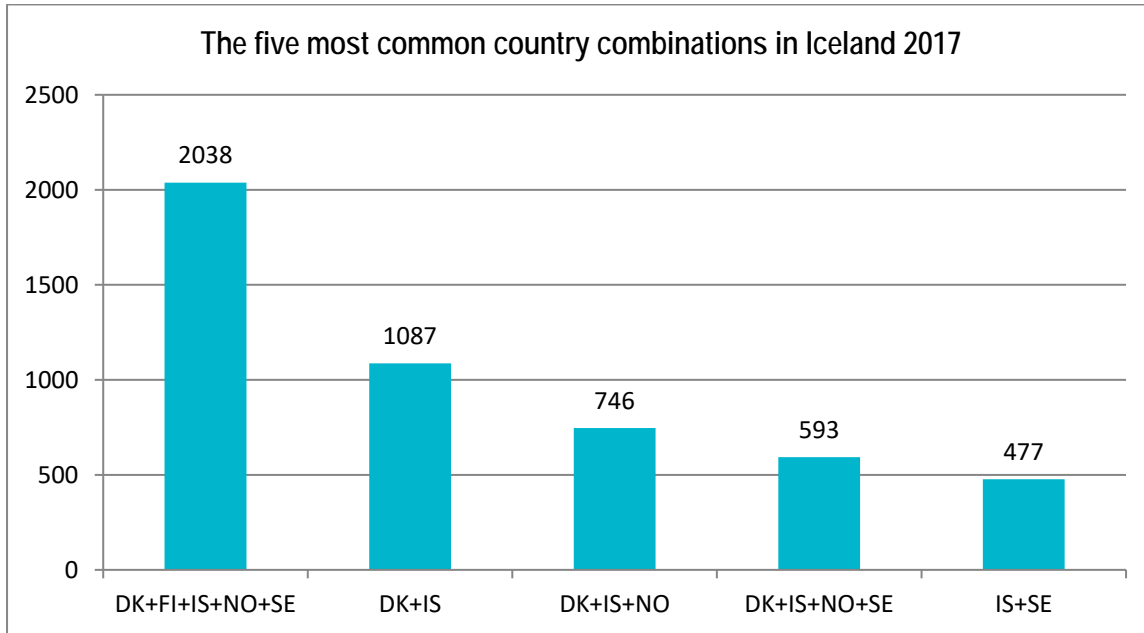
Picture 22.



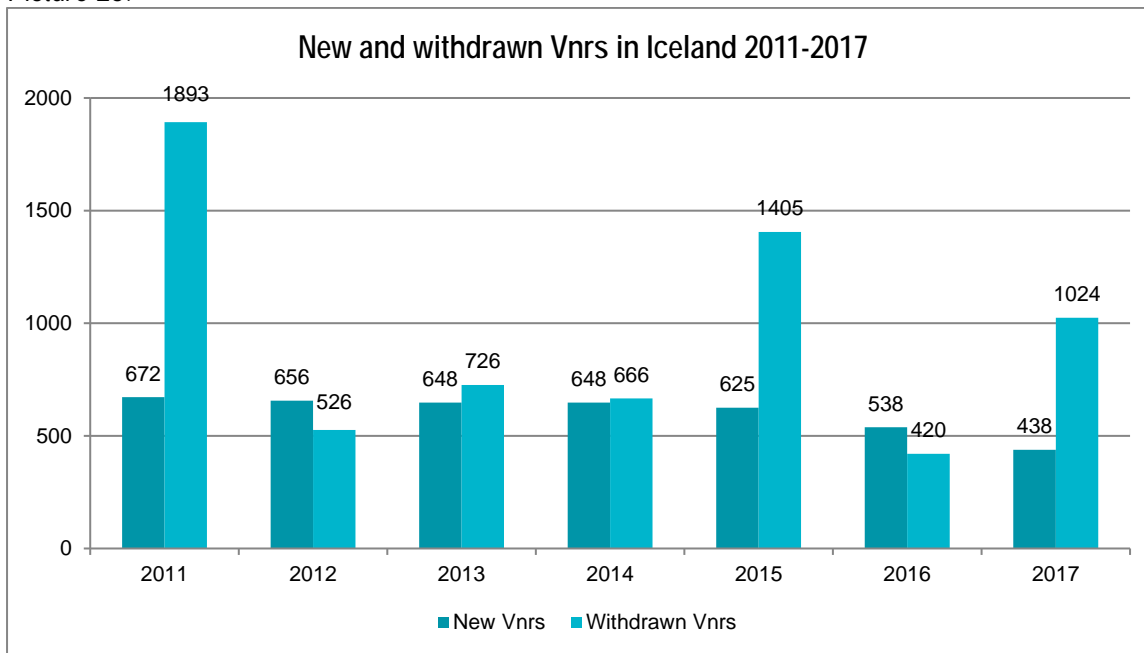
Picture 23.



Picture 24.



Picture 25.



Norway

In Norway there were 18 111 valid Vnrs in 2017. More detailed information can be found in the following tables and pictures.

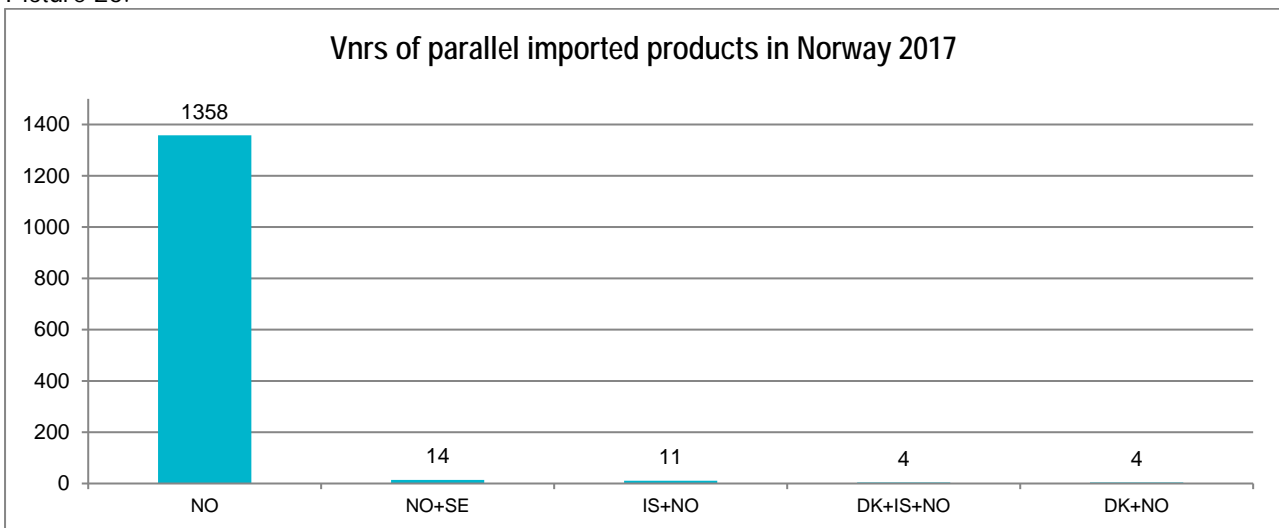
Table 9.

Vnrs in Norway 2017	
All	18 111
Unlocked	14 551 (80 %)
Locked	3560 (20 %)
Parallel imported	1 403 (8 %)

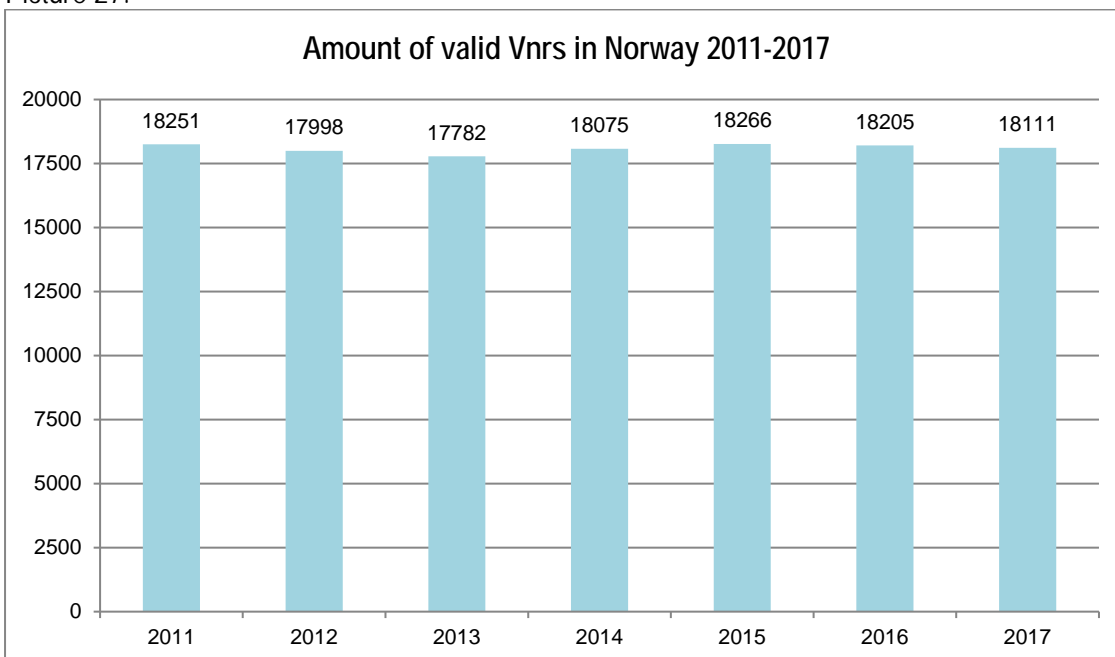
Table 10.

Human and veterinary medicines in Norway 2017	
Human	16 570 (91 %)
Veterinary	1 535 (8 %)
Human and veterinary	6 (0 %)

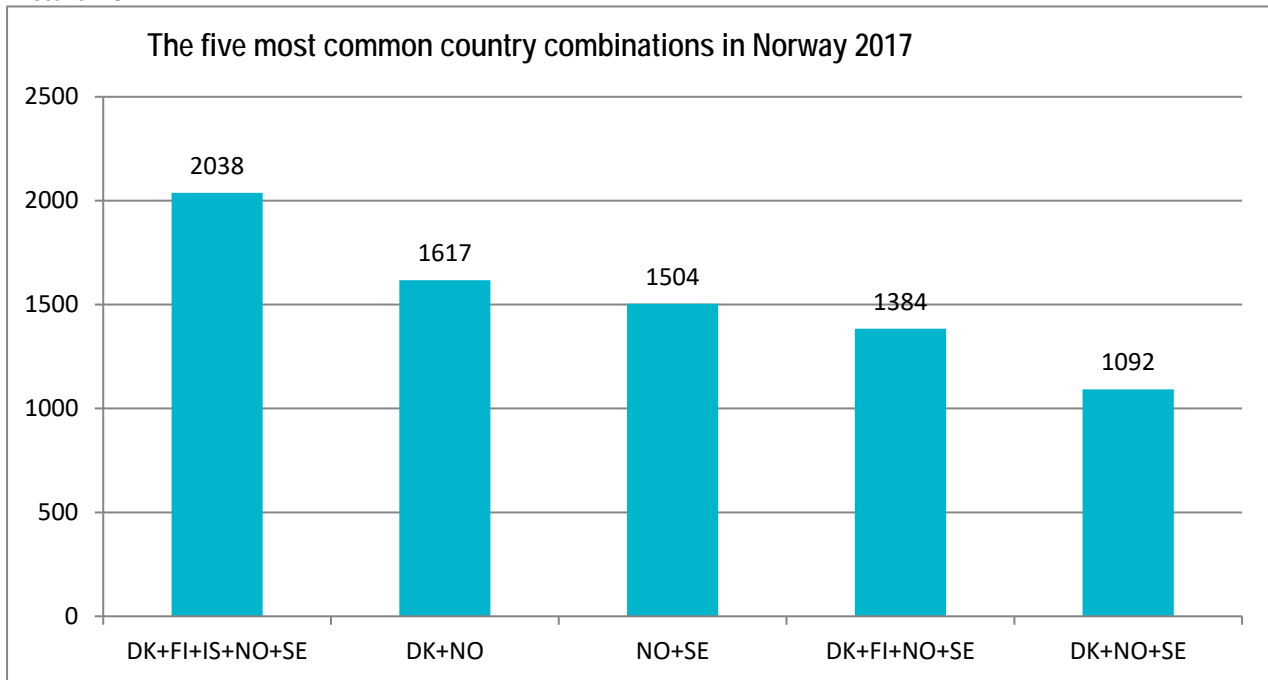
Picture 26.



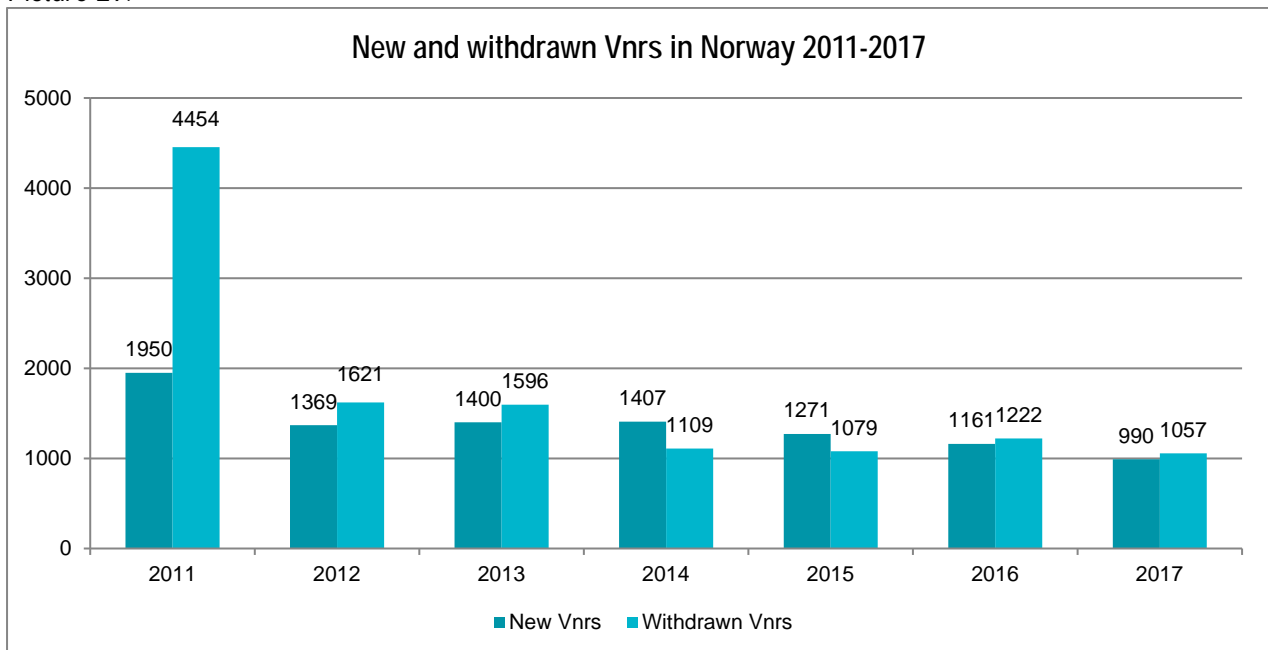
Picture 27.



Picture 28.



Picture 29.



Sweden

In Sweden there were all together 31 907 Vnrs, of which 22 % were of parallel imported products at the end of 2017. More detailed information can be found in the tables and pictures below.

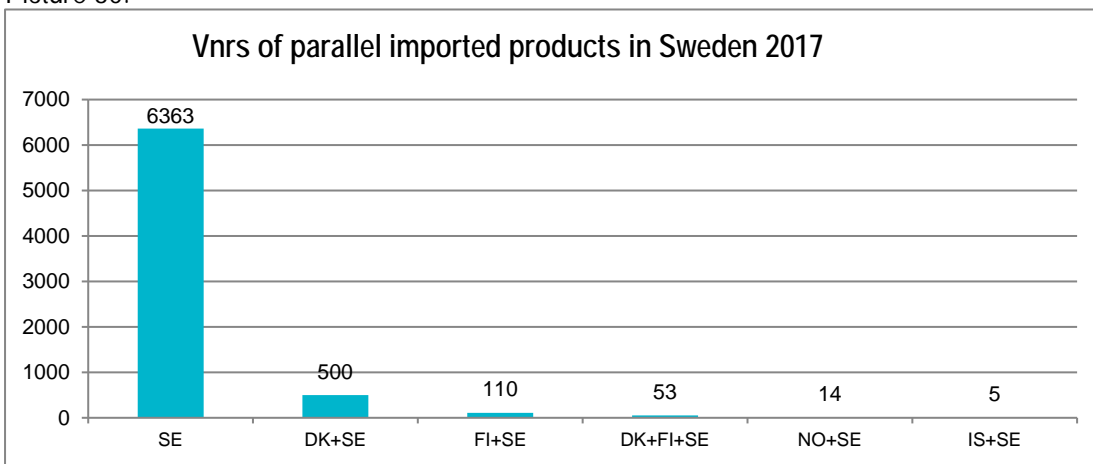
Table 11.

Vnrs in Sweden 2017	
All	31 907
Unlocked	22 399 (70 %)
Locked	9508 (30 %)
Parallel imported	7 058 (22 %)

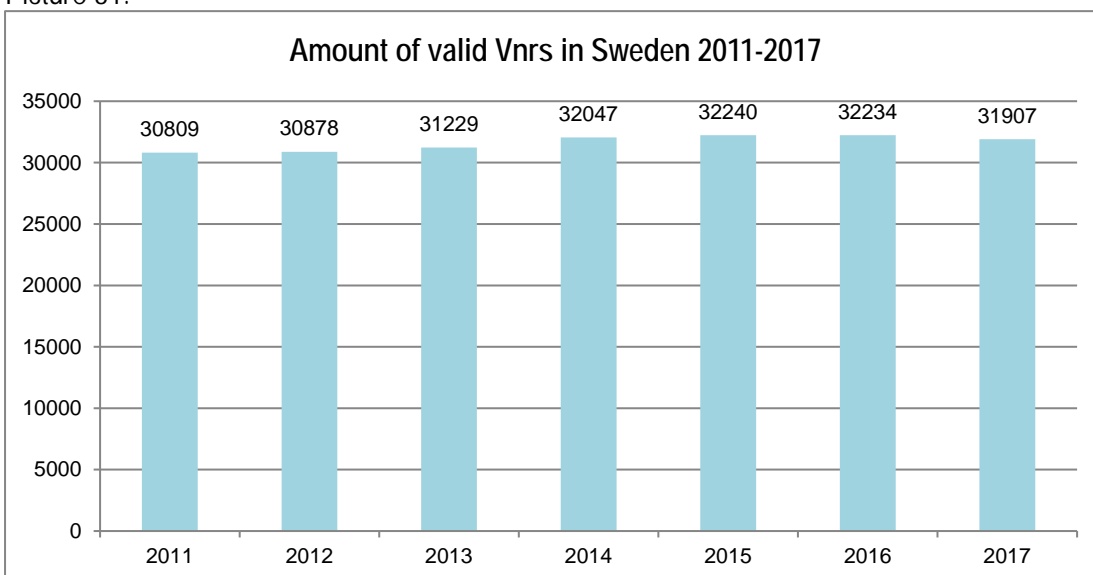
Table 12.

Human and veterinary medicines in Sweden 2017	
Human	29 674 (93 %)
Veterinary	2 219 (7 %)
Human and veterinary	14 (0 %)

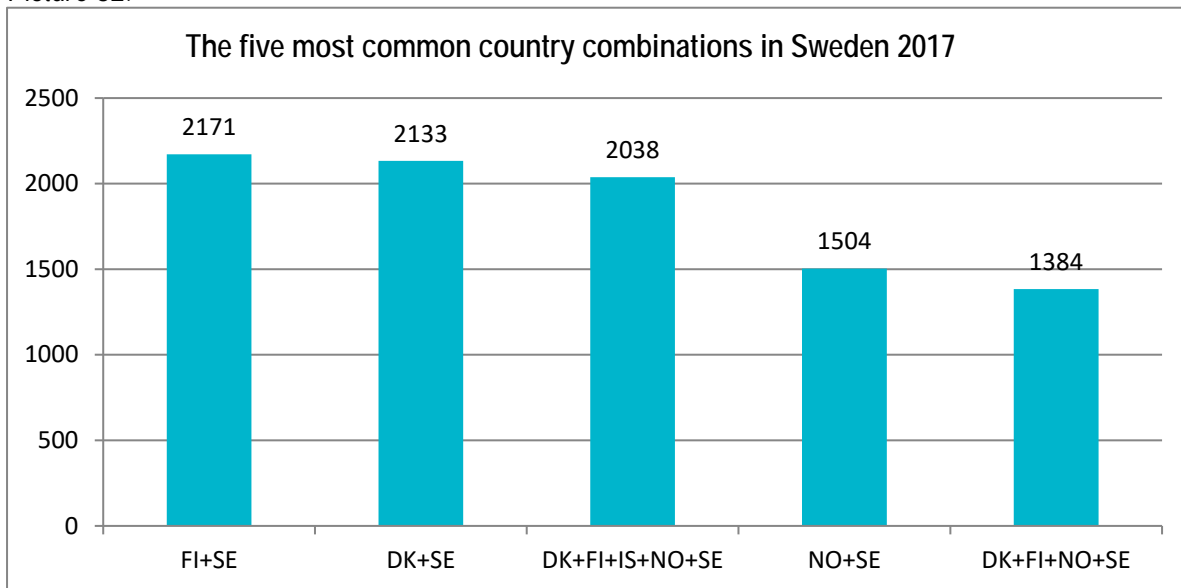
Picture 30.



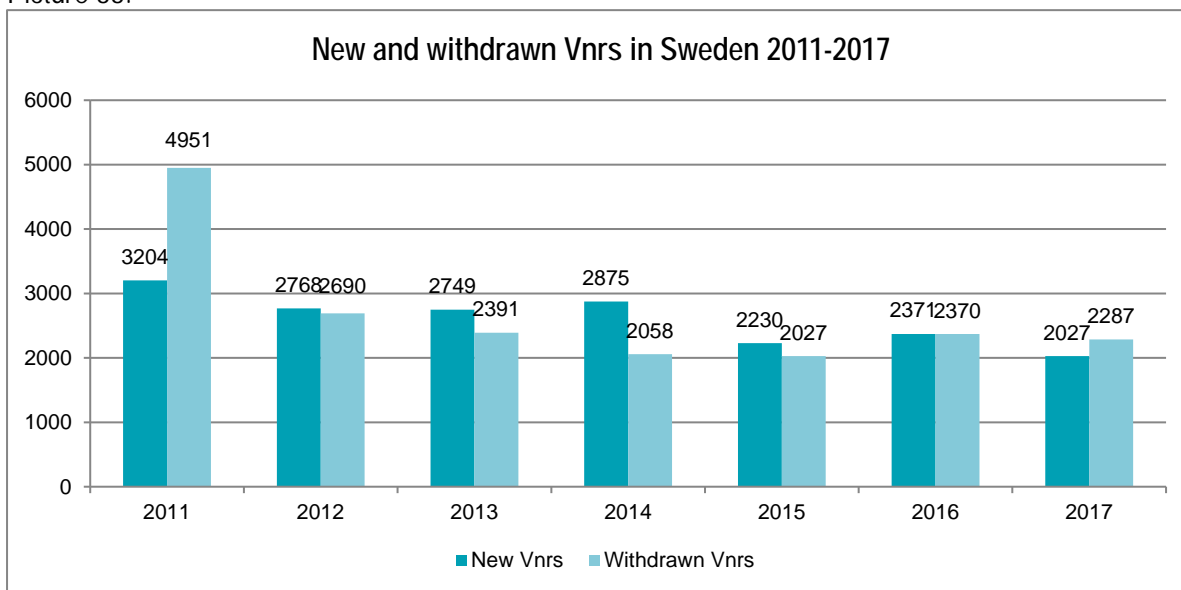
Picture 31.



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.