

# Nordic Vnr Services

Vnr Statistics of the Year 2018

## Contents

Introduction .....	1
The Vnr Service .....	1
VnrWiki.....	1
Feedback .....	1
Statistics of the year 2018.....	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New and withdrawn Vnrs and status changes.....	4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.....	10
Denmark .....	10
Finland .....	12
Iceland .....	14
Norway.....	16
Sweden.....	18
Pharmaceutical Information Centre shortly .....	20
Pharmaceutical Information Centre Ltd serves customers as the Nordic Number Centre.....	20

## Introduction

The Vnr statistics is a summary of the changes and transactions in the Nordic Vnr database during the year 2018. This annually published document of statistics contains information about all Nordic countries: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. Country specific data is presented starting from page 11.

Overall the year 2018 was very similar to the previous years. There were 10 937 trade names with valid Vnrs at the end of 2018. These Vnrs belonged to 846 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 kinds of reports of their products. Vnr services are offered for pharma companies and authorities in three languages: English, Swedish and Finnish.

Vnr Service requires a user-specific username and password, which can be obtained by filling out the registration form in [vnr.fi](http://vnr.fi). Username and password are for personal use only. The Vnr Service had over 1 900 registered users from 590 companies at the end of 2018. Approximately 400 users logged in to Vnr Service more than 20 times during 2018. Appr. 10 new user IDs were ordered weekly. The mailbox [vnr@vnr.fi](mailto:vnr@vnr.fi) received about 20 emails daily, requesting changes to existing Vnrs or other Vnr related information.

The linkage between Vnrs and product codes is very important. New product codes for a Vnr can be added with a product code notification. A different product code can be added to each country where the Vnr is used and one Vnr can have more than one product code in each country at the same time (at the moment usually 1-4). At the end of 2018 there were 37 000 product codes in the database. 2727 product codes have been added with the product code notification during 2018. Most of the product codes have been added to Vnrs in Finland.

## VnrWiki

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

During 2018 updates in VnrWiki mainly concerned product code changes and the Falsified Medicines Directive. The document "The serialisation of Nordic packages, country specific requirements", prepared by LIF Sweden and revised in co-operation with the other Nordic countries, was updated a few times and a new document "Linkage between Vnrs and GTINs in the Nordic countries" was added. The only update concerning the Vnr guidelines, was that Nordic Vnrs can now be ordered also for all herbal medicines in other Nordic countries except Denmark.

VnrWiki had over 12 000 visits which is over 60 % more than in 2017. Most of the visitors were from Finland (18 %) and Sweden (18 %). The rest of the top five countries were Germany (9 %), United States (8 %) and Denmark (7 %).

## Feedback

All suggestions and comments are important and appreciated in developing this annual statistics document. Please send feedback and questions to [vnr@vnr.fi](mailto:vnr@vnr.fi).

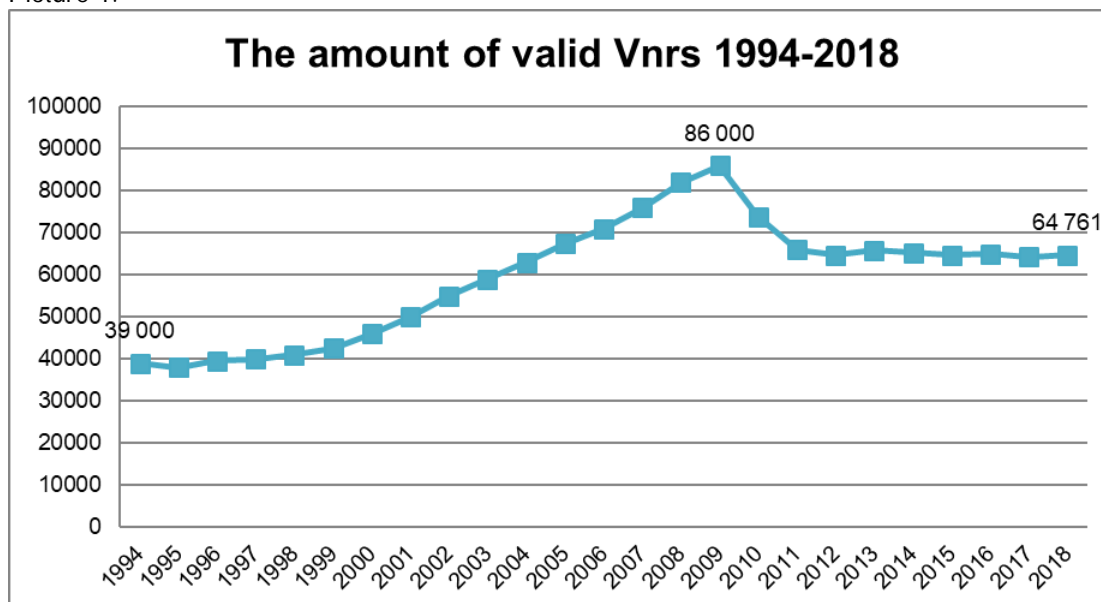
## Statistics of the year 2018

### The amount of valid Vnrs

The amount of valid (all except withdrawn) Vnrs 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 change rate has evened out to a +/- 2 % change yearly (1.1 % decrease in 2017 (715 Vnrs), 0.8 % increase in 2018 (517 Vnrs). At the end of 2018 there were 64 761 valid Vnrs.

Picture 1.



### Status distribution

The status of a valid Vnr can either 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.

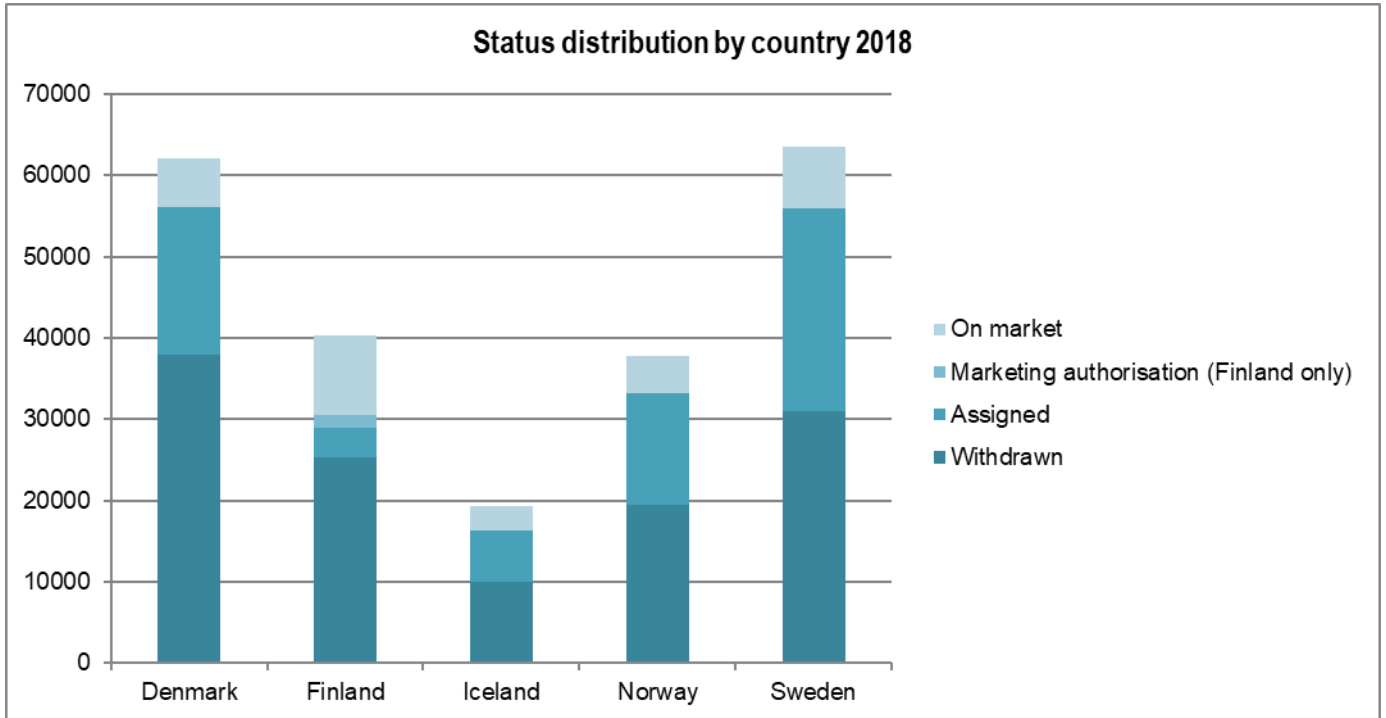
2010-2013 there were 4 different Vnr statuses:

- **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 2018 36 % of the valid Vnrs had the status on market in one or more countries (23 307 Vnrs). There were 65 941 Vnrs in the database which were withdrawn from all countries, which is 5.9 % more than in 2017.

In 2018 most Vnrs were in use in Sweden (32 537 Vnrs) and Denmark (24 170 Vnrs), least Vnrs in Iceland (9 273 Vnrs) (Picture 2). Status distribution of Vnrs varies slightly between countries. Country specific data is presented starting from page 11.

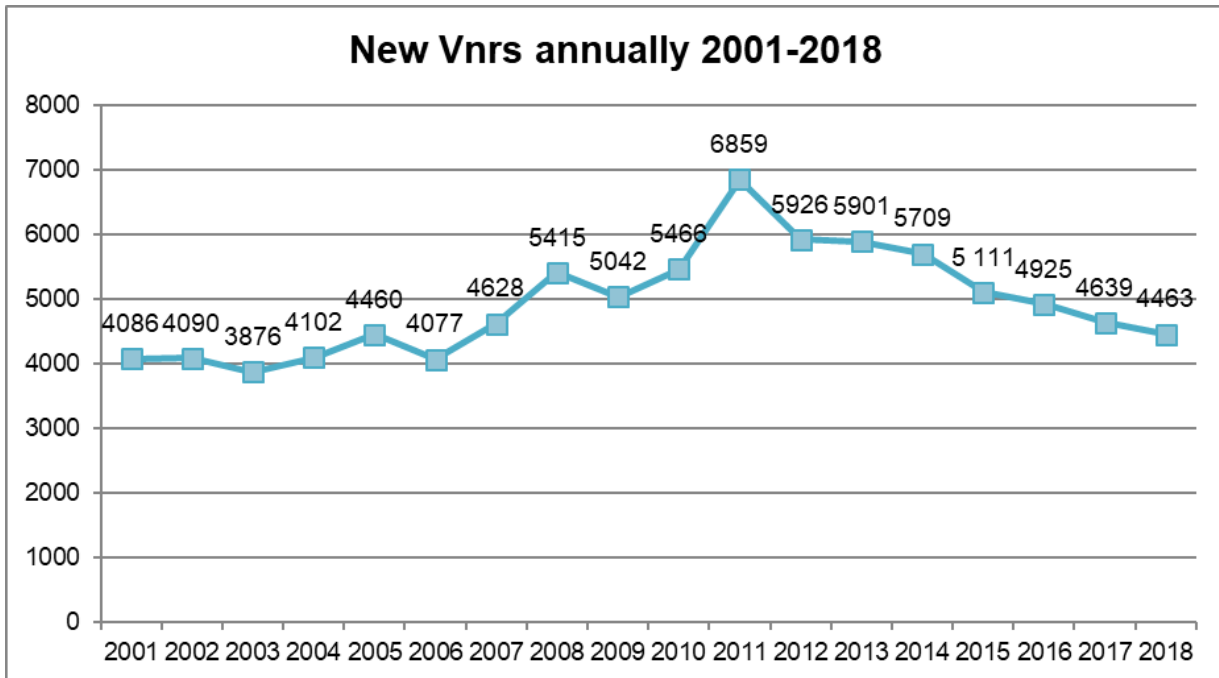
Picture 2.



### New and withdrawn Vnrs and status changes

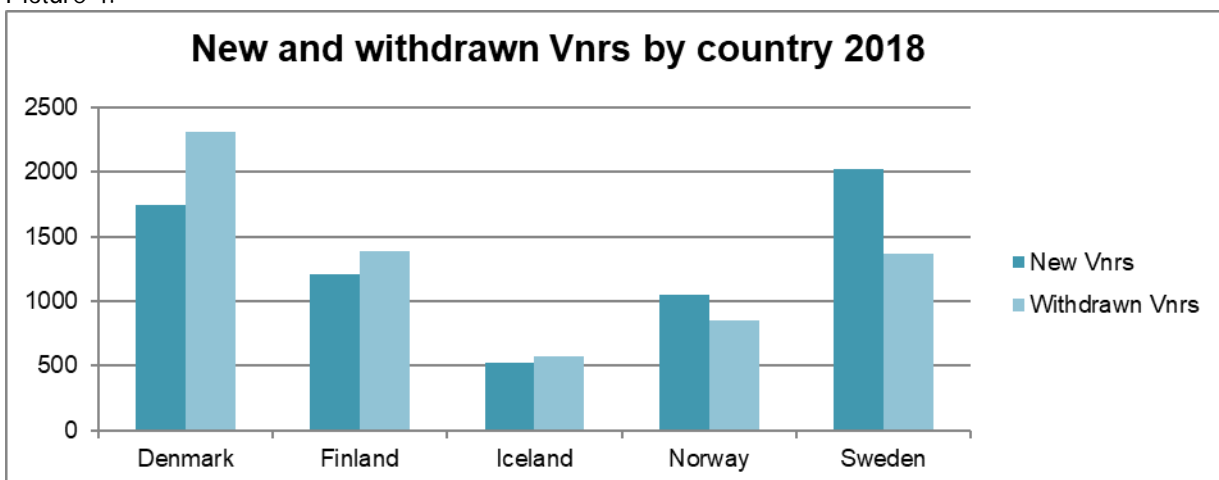
The amount of new Vnrs started to increase in 2006 (Picture 3). Between 2006 and 2011 the yearly amount of valid new Vnrs increased 68 %. In 2012 the amount decreased 14 % and it was almost the same in 2013. In 2018 there were 3.8 % less new Vnrs than in 2017. In the picture 3 every Vnr is taken into account only once.

Picture 3.



6 550 new Vnrs were assigned in 2018. Most of the new Vnrs were assigned to be used in Sweden (Picture 4). 6 498 Vnrs were changed to the status withdrawn during 2018. Most of the withdrawals were made in Denmark.

Picture 4.

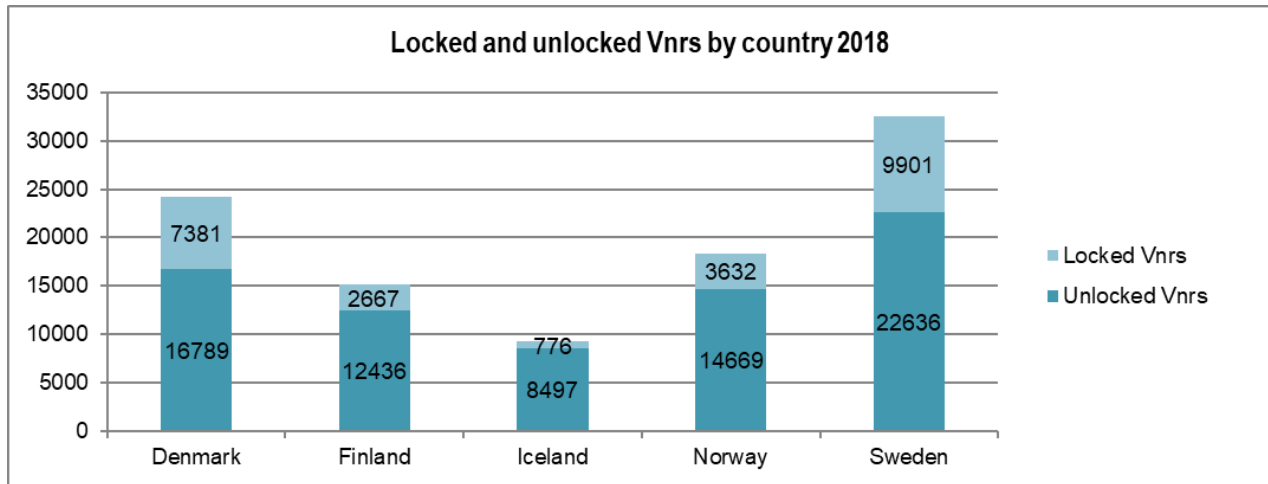


### Locked and unlocked Vnrs

Terms locked and unlocked Vnrs were taken into use in 2013. These specify for which markets a certain Vnr can be used and replace the old terms national and common Vnrs.

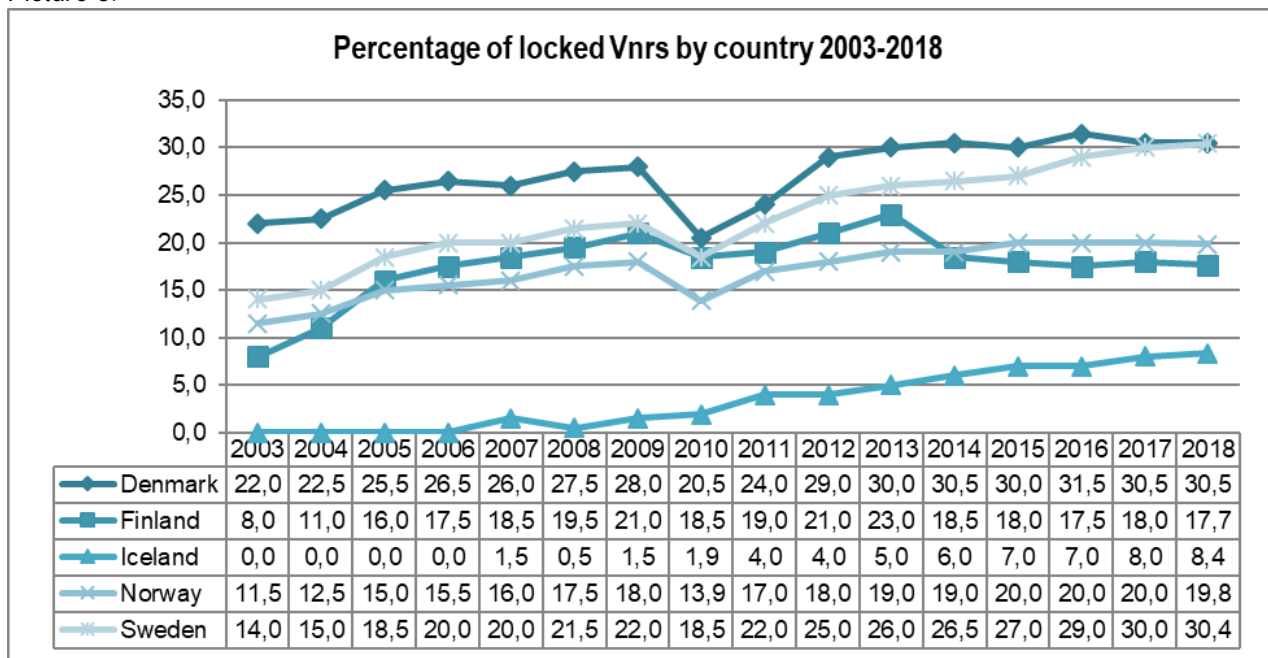
The launch of the new terms turned the amount of the Vnr combinations to a slight increase: before 2013 only common Vnrs could be used in several countries, now both locked and unlocked Vnrs can be used in several countries. In picture 5 the portion of locked and unlocked Vnr numbers is shown by country.

Picture 5.



Iceland and Sweden had a slight increase and Finland and Norway had a slight decrease in the portion of the locked Vnrs between 2017 and 2018 (Picture 6). There were no significant changes in Denmark.

Picture 6.

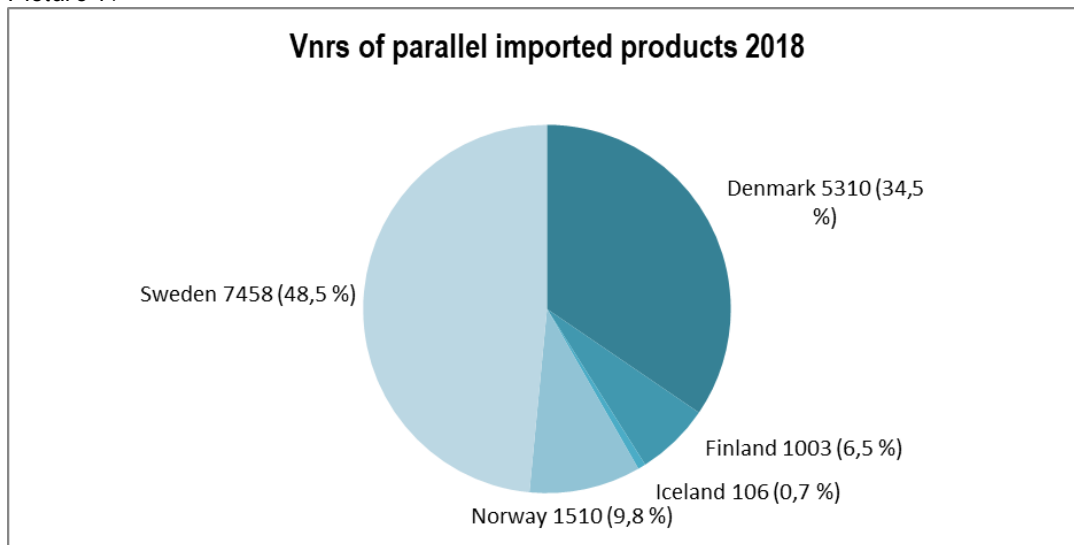


### Parallel imported products

There were 15 387 Vnrs of parallel imported products in the Nordic countries in 2018. That means 3 % increase from 2017. Between 2016 and 2017 the increase was 4 %, between 2015 and 2016 9 %, between 2014 and 2015 5 % and between 2013 and 2014 20 %.

There were no big changes in the ratio of Vnrs of parallel imported products between the countries in 2017 and 2018. As since 2013, most of the parallel imported products in 2018 were Swedish 48,5 % (Picture 7).

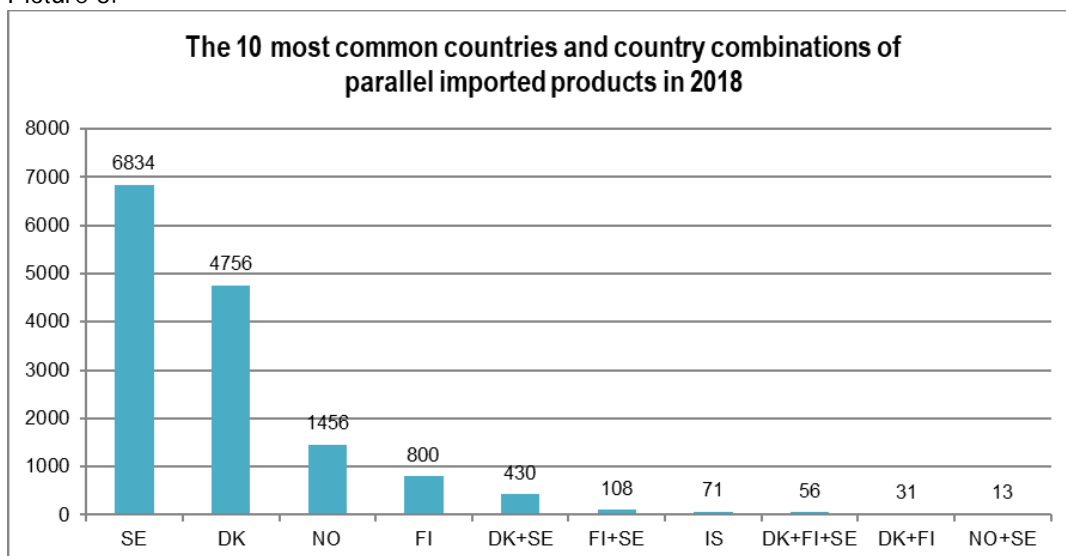
Picture 7.



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

Most of the parallel imported products are country specific (Picture 8). In 2018 the most common country combination was the combination of Denmark and Sweden.

Picture 8.





## Country combinations of Vnrs

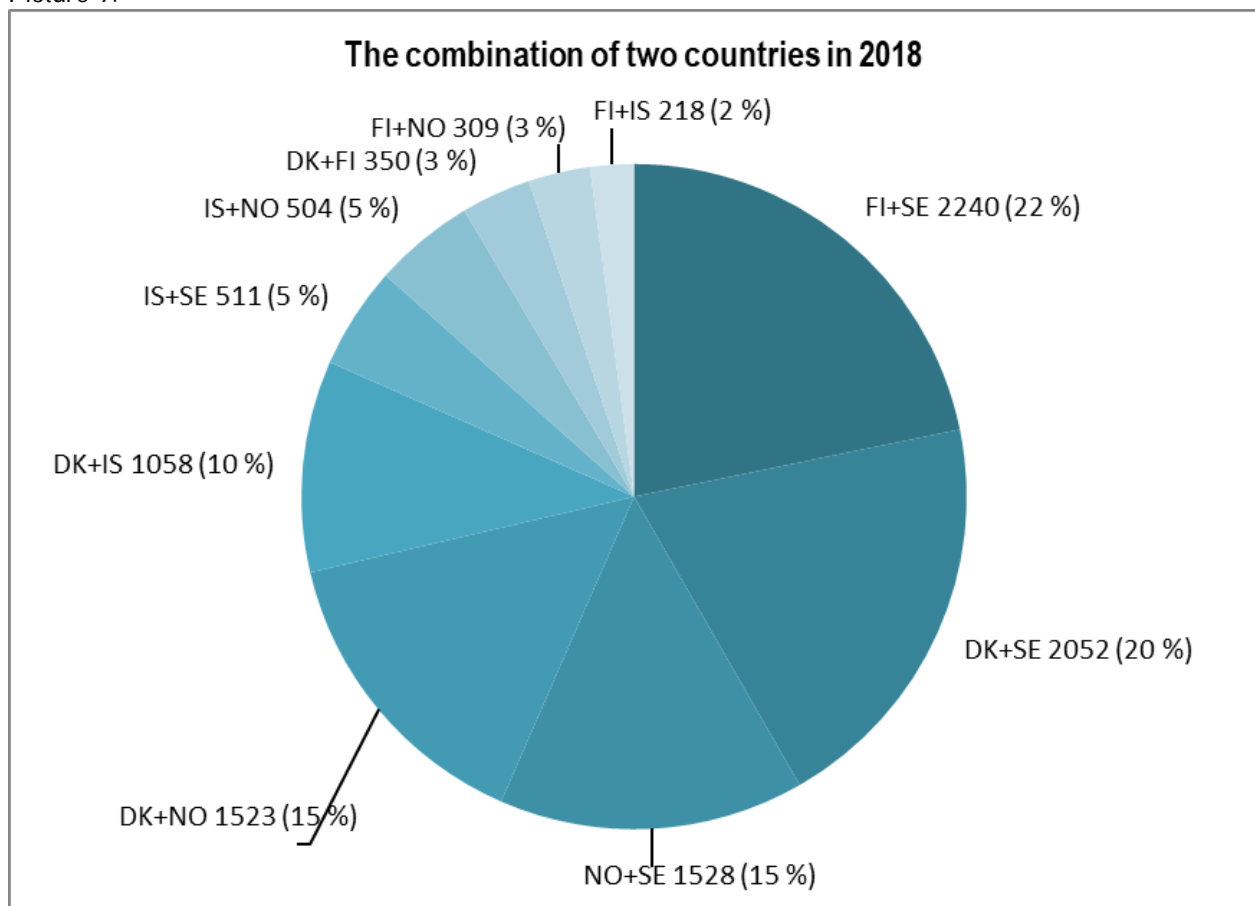
The amount of Vnrs with country combinations of two, three, four and five countries in 2018 are shown in Table 1.

Table 1.

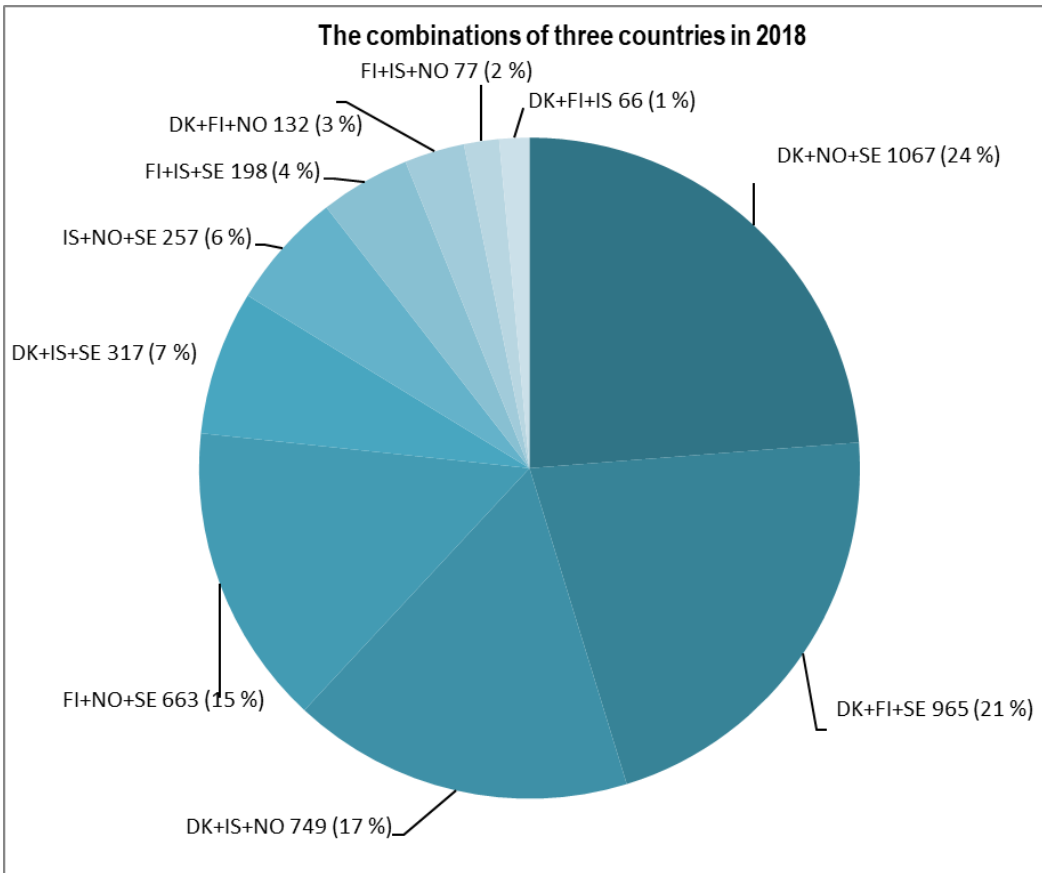
The amount of different country combinations in 2018	
2 countries	10 293
3 countries	4 491
4 countries	2 548
5 countries	1 926

There were almost no changes between 2017 and 2018 in the most common country combinations. Finland and Sweden was the most common combination of two countries (Picture 9). The most used combination of three countries was Denmark, Norway and Sweden (Picture 10). The amount of combinations of four and five countries is visualized in Picture 11. (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.)

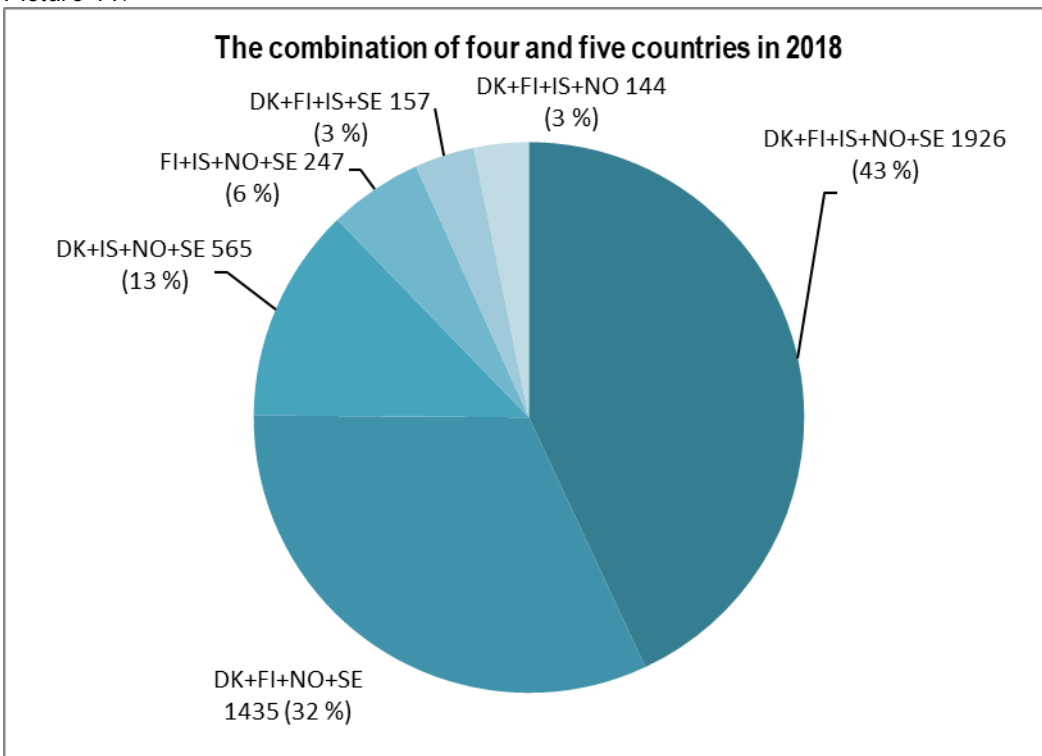
Picture 9.



Picture 10.

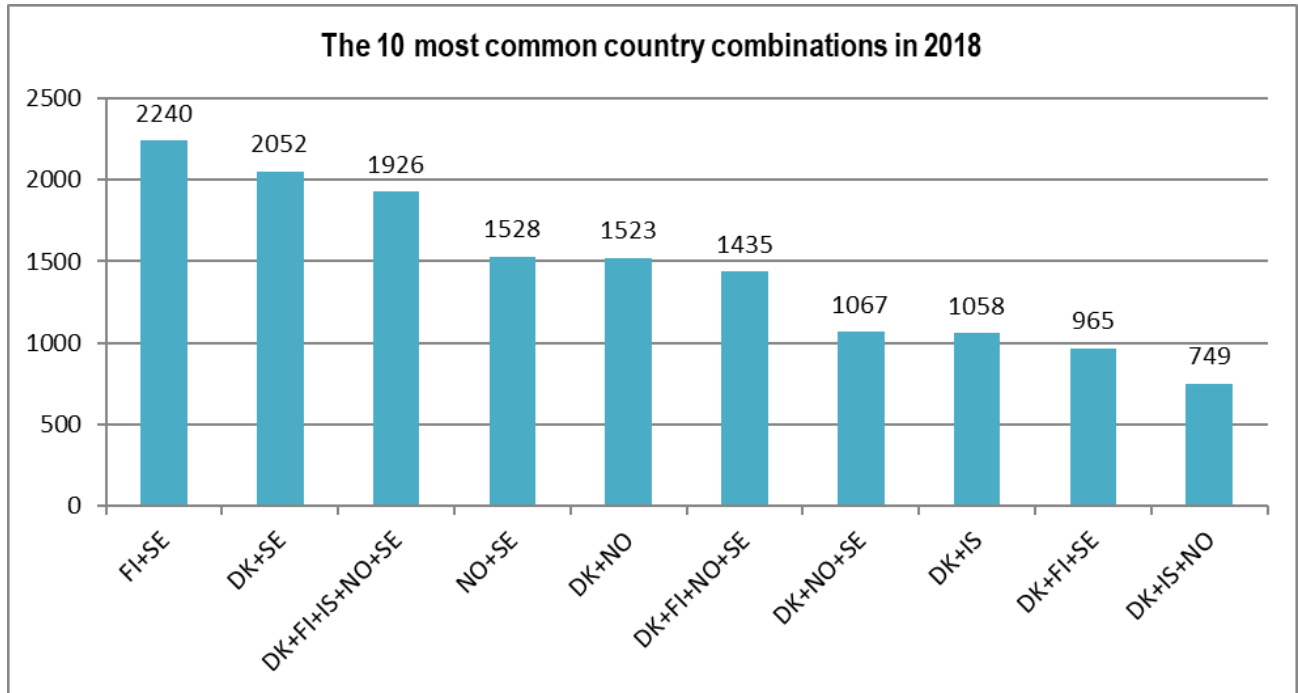


Picture 11.



The 10 most common country combinations of Vnrs can be seen in picture 12. The top 3 of the country combinations are the same as last year. The most common country combination in 2018 was the combination of Finland and Sweden.

Picture 12.



## Vnr Data country by country

In this section the country specific information 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 country combinations with at least 5 Vnrs are shown.

### Denmark

In Denmark there were 24 170 valid Vnrs at the end of 2018. 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.

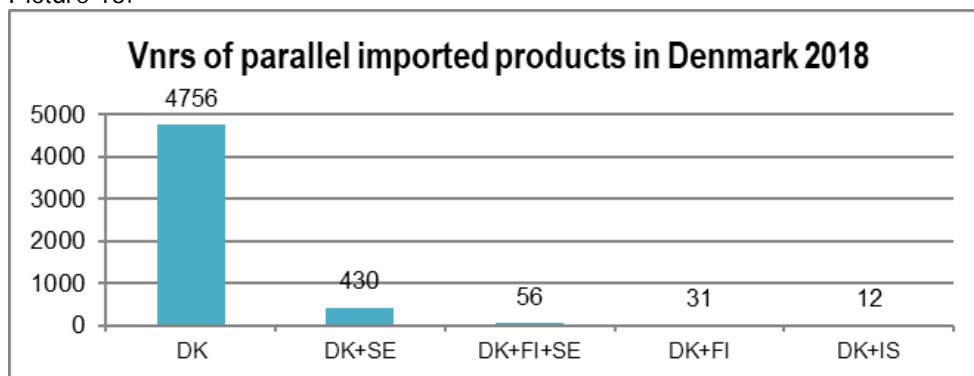
Table 2.

Vnrs in Denmark 2018	
All	24 170
Unlocked	16 789 (69 %)
Locked	7 381 (31 %)
Parallel imported	5 310 (22 %)

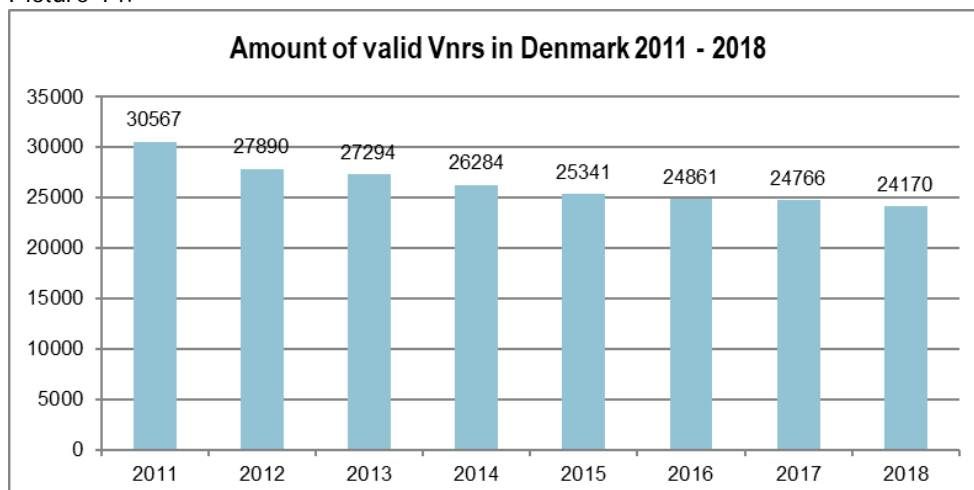
Table 3 .

Human and veterinary medicines in Denmark 2018	
Human	21 838 (90 %)
Veterinary	2 325 (10 %)
Human and veterinary	7 (0 %)

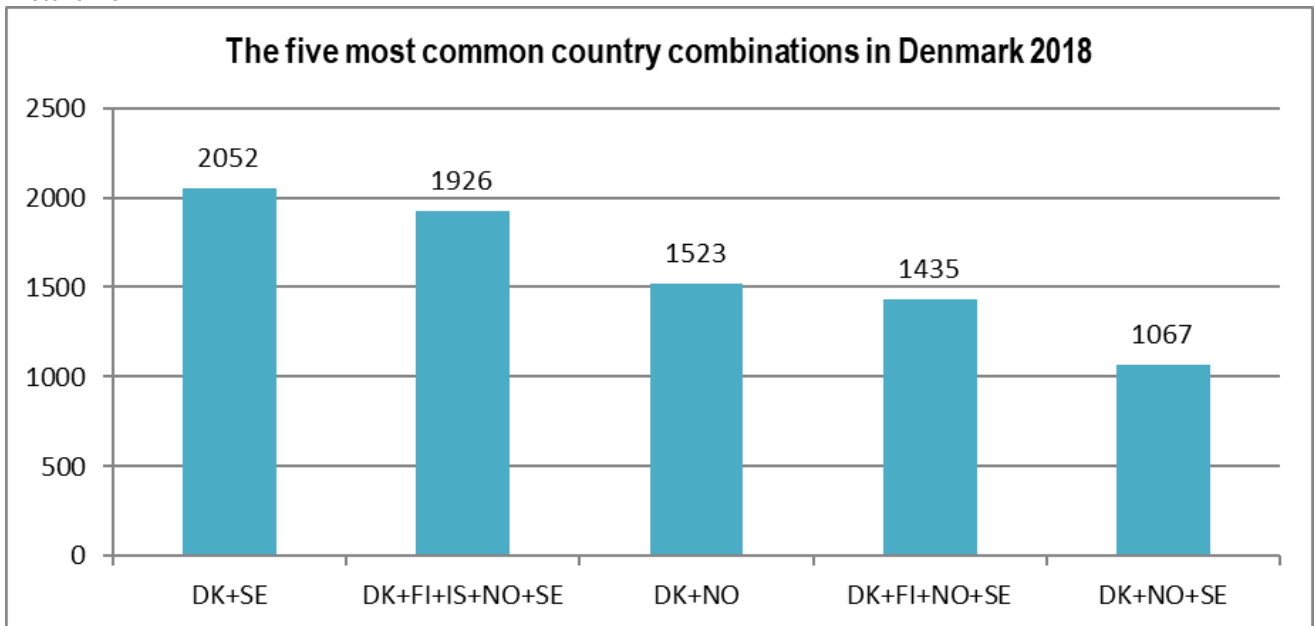
Picture 13.



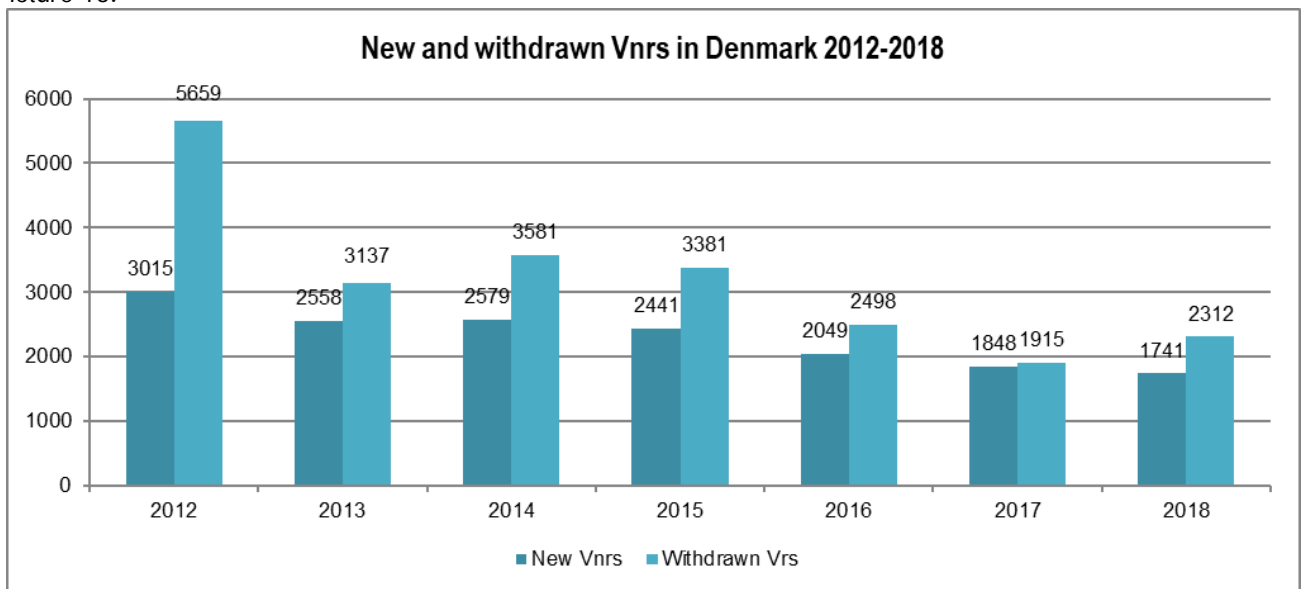
Picture 14.



Picture 15.



Picture 16.



## Finland

In Finland there were 15 103 valid Vnrs at the end of 2018. More detailed information can be found in the following tables and pictures.

Table 4.

Vnrs in Finland 2018	
All	15 103
Unlocked	12 436 (82 %)
Locked	2 667 (18 %)
Parallel imported	1 003 (7 %)

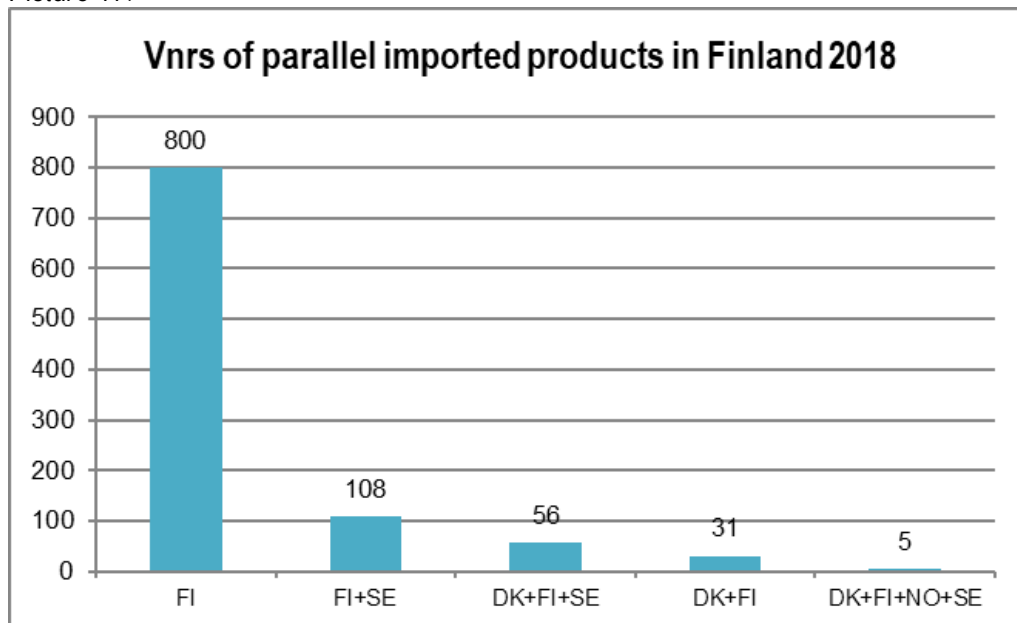
Table 5.

Human and veterinary medicines in Finland 2018	
Human	13 526 (90 %)
Veterinary	1 577 (10 %)
Human and veterinary	0 (0 %)

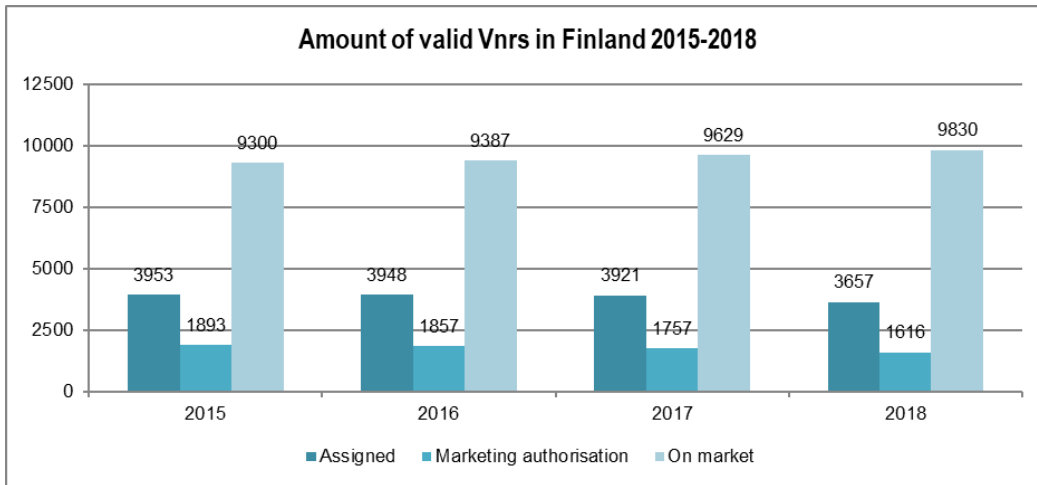
Table 6.

Prescription only, harmful in traffic and narcotic medicines in Finland 2018	
Prescription only	13 113 (87 %)
Harmful in traffic	1 299 (9 %)
Narcotic	335 (2 %)

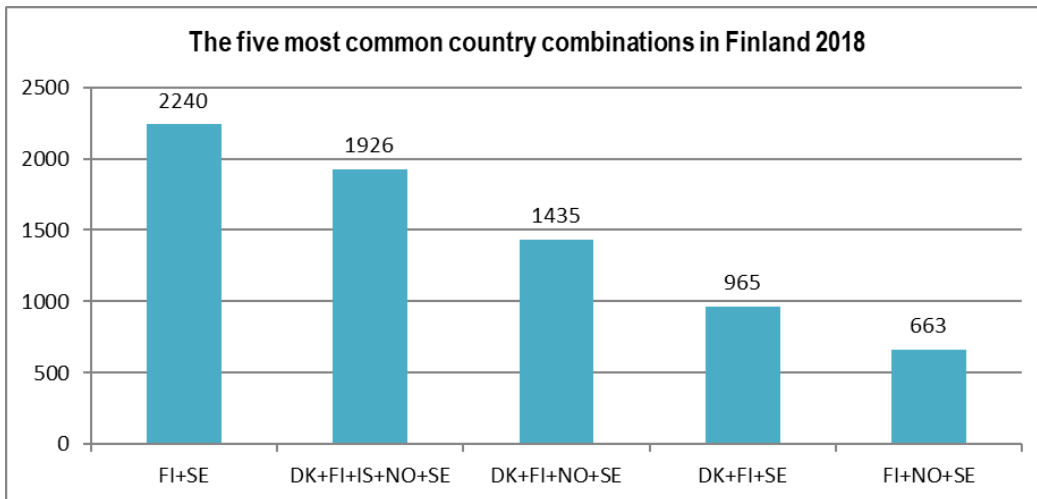
Picture 17.



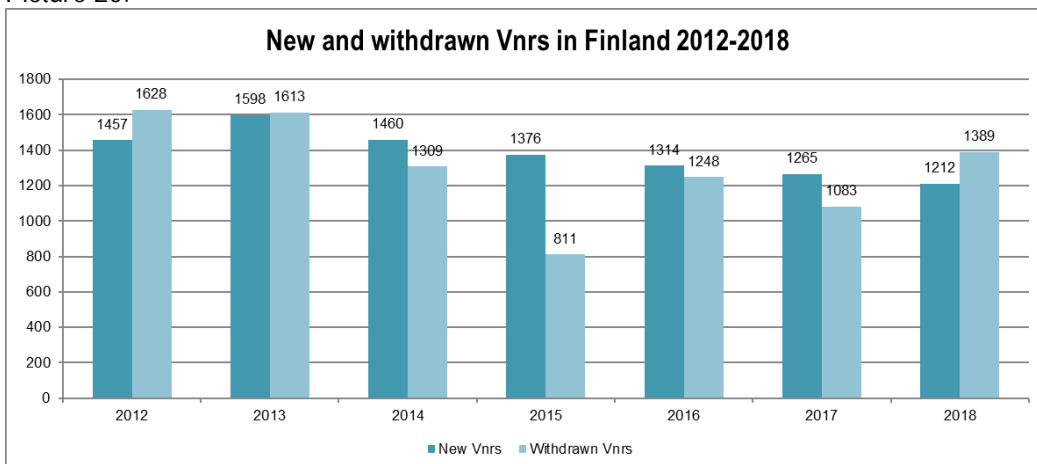
Picture 18.



Picture 19.



Picture 20.



**Iceland**

In Iceland there were 9 273 valid Vnrs in 2018. Only 1 % of the products were parallel imported. More detailed information can be found in the following tables and pictures.

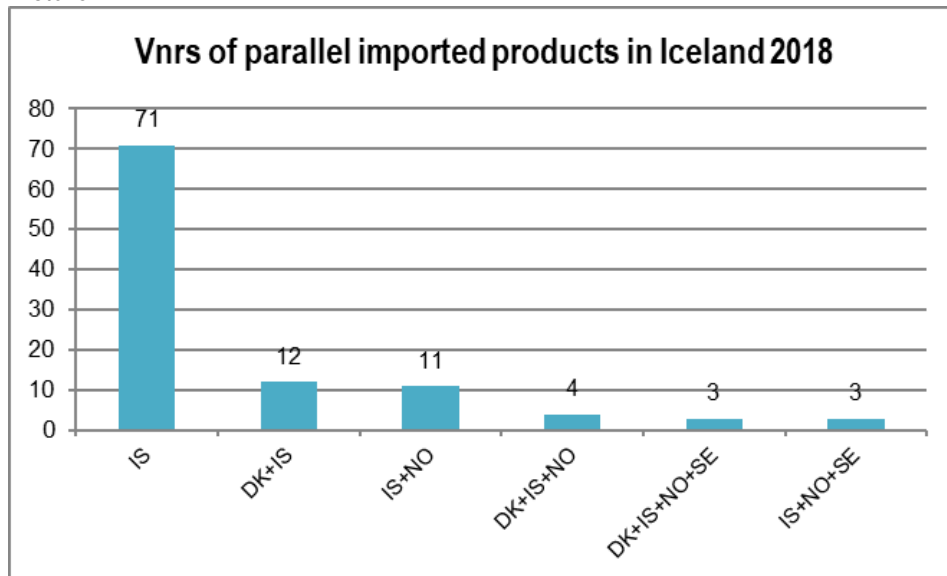
Table 7.

Vnrs in Iceland 2018	
All	9 273
Unlocked	8 497 (92 %)
Locked	776 (8 %)
Parallel imported	106 (1 %)

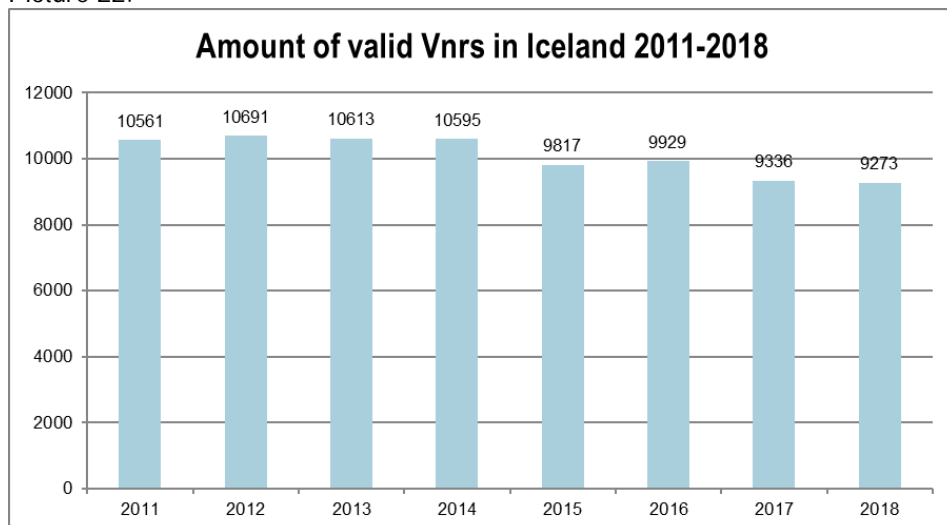
Table 8.

Human and veterinary medicines in Iceland 2018	
Human	8 673 (94 %)
Veterinary	596 (6 %)
Human and veterinary	4 (0 %)

Picture 21.

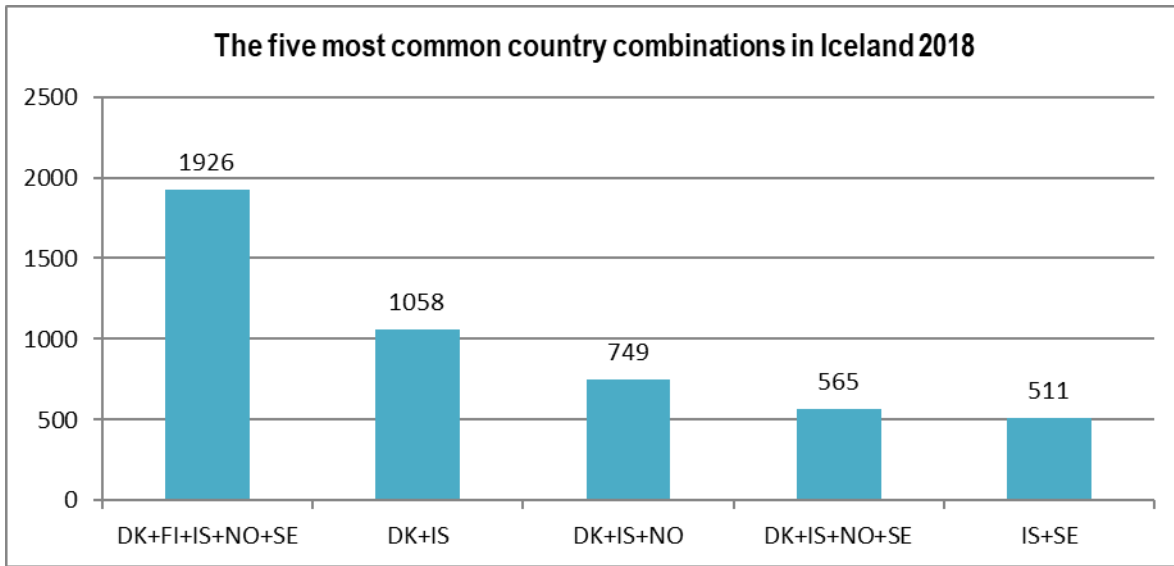


Picture 22.

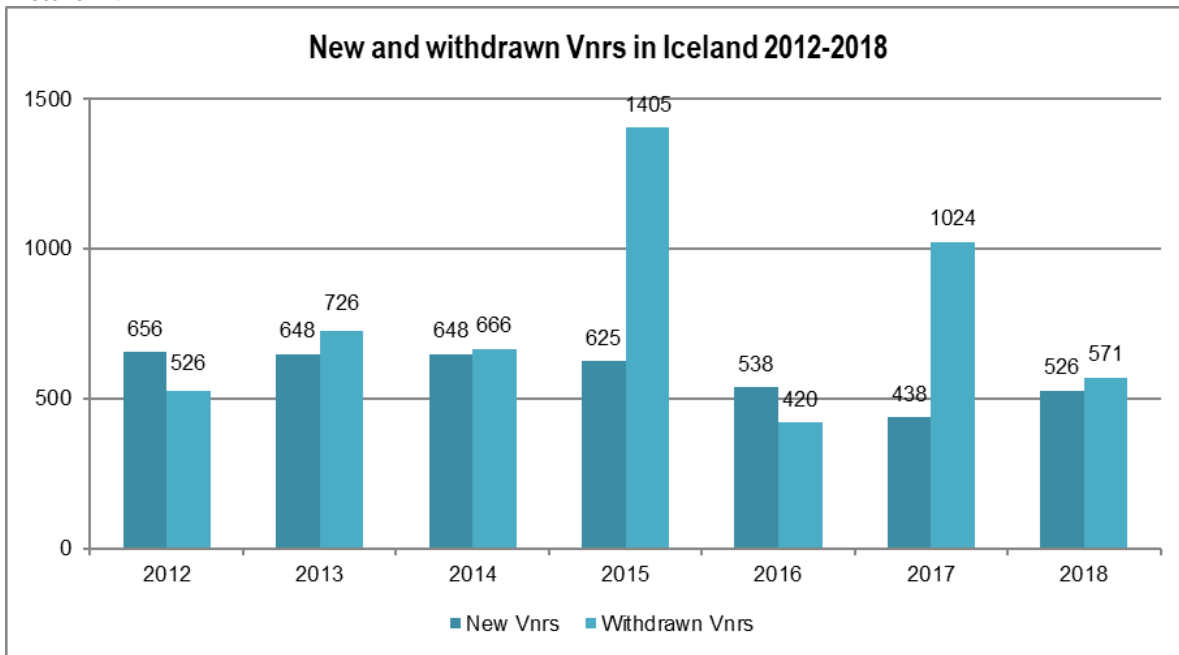




Picture 23.



Picture 24.



## Norway

In Norway there were 18 301 valid Vnrs in 2018. More detailed information can be found in the following tables and pictures.

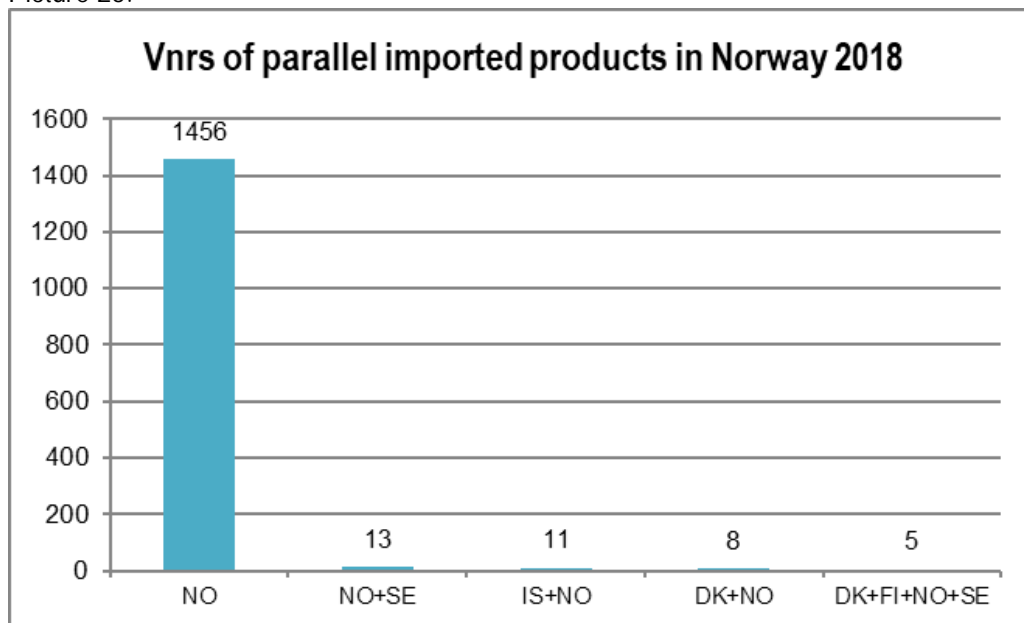
Table 9.

Vnrs in Norway 2018	
All	18 301
Unlocked	14 669 (80 %)
Locked	3 632 (20 %)
Parallel imported	1 510 (8 %)

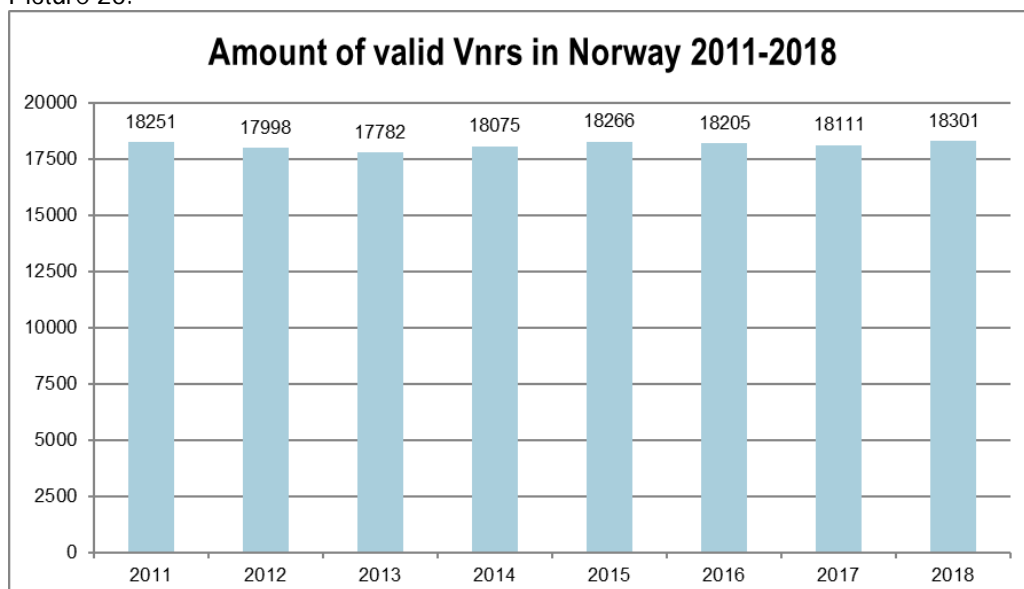
Table 10.

Human and veterinary medicines in Norway 2018	
Human	16 910 (92 %)
Veterinary	1 385 (8 %)
Human and veterinary	6 (0 %)

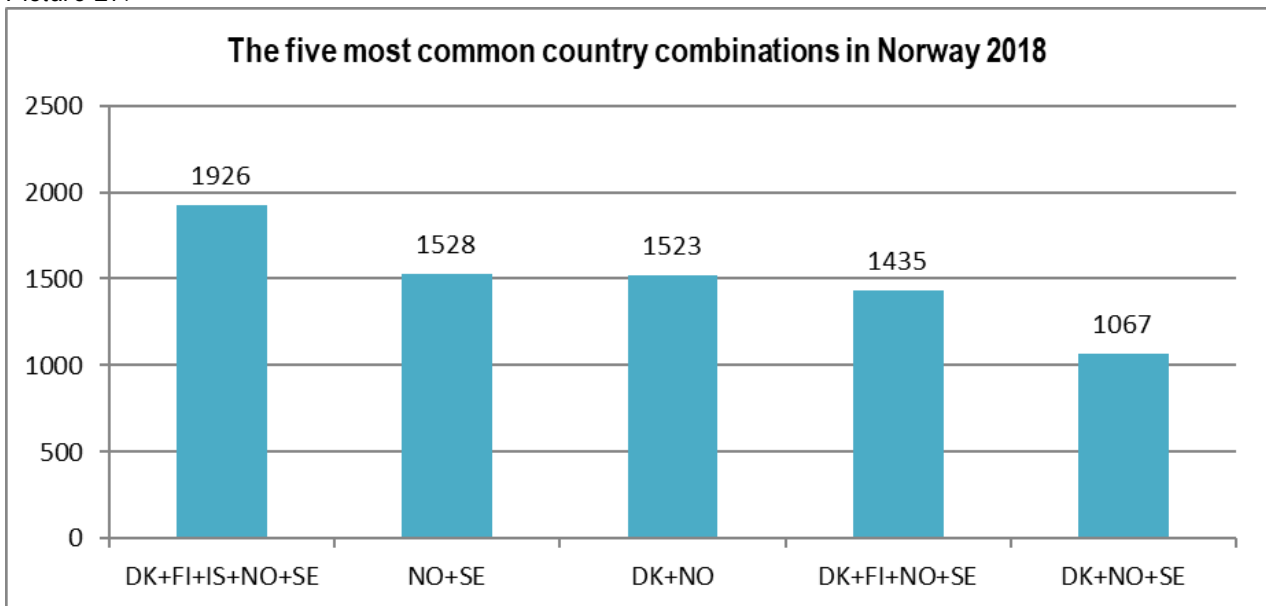
Picture 25.



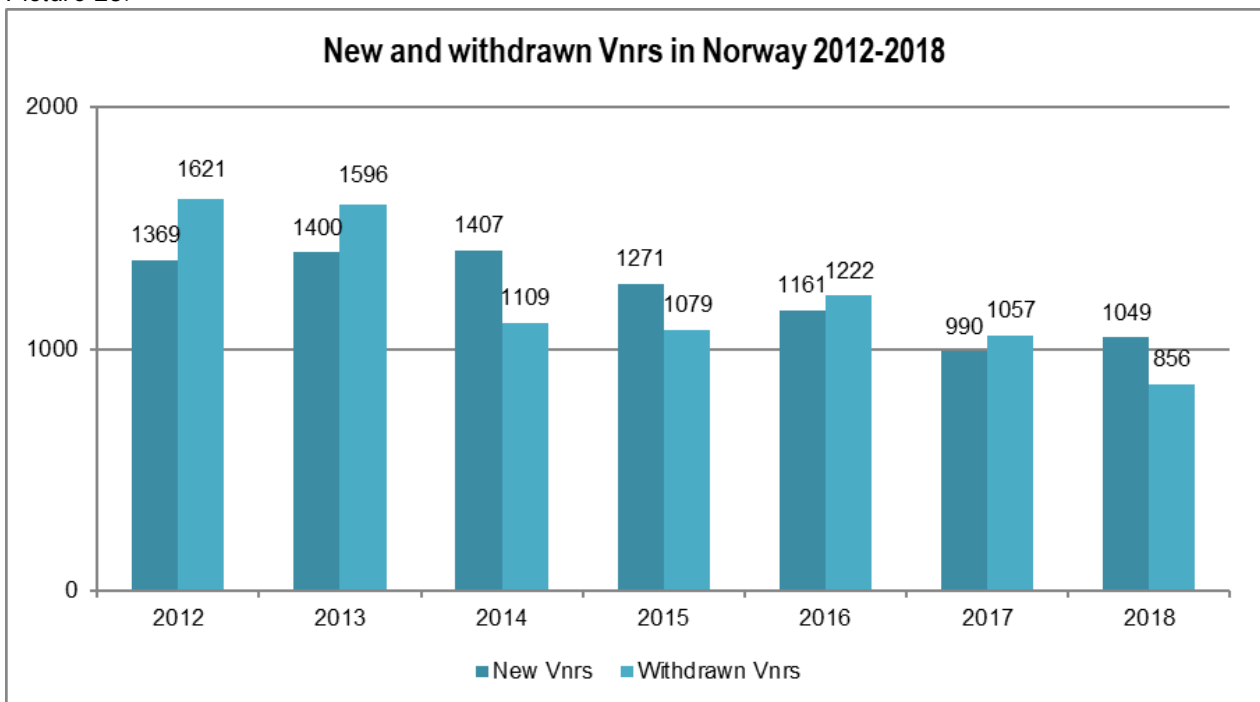
Picture 26.



Picture 27.



Picture 28.



## Sweden

In Sweden there were 32 537 Vnrs, of which 23 % were parallel imported products at the end of 2018. More detailed information can be found in the tables and pictures below.

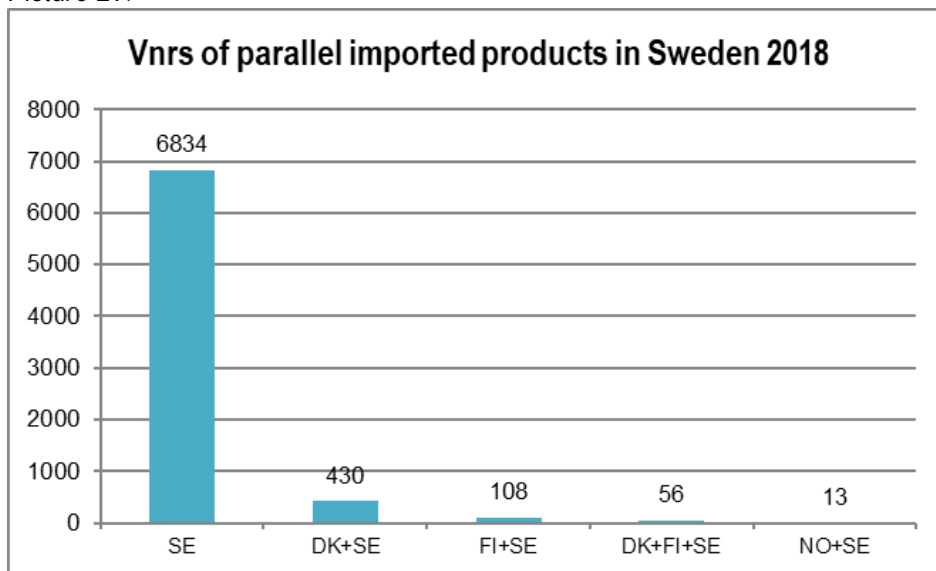
Table 11.

Vnrs in Sweden 2018	
All	32 537
Unlocked	22 636 (70 %)
Locked	9 901 (30 %)
Parallel imported	7 458 (23 %)

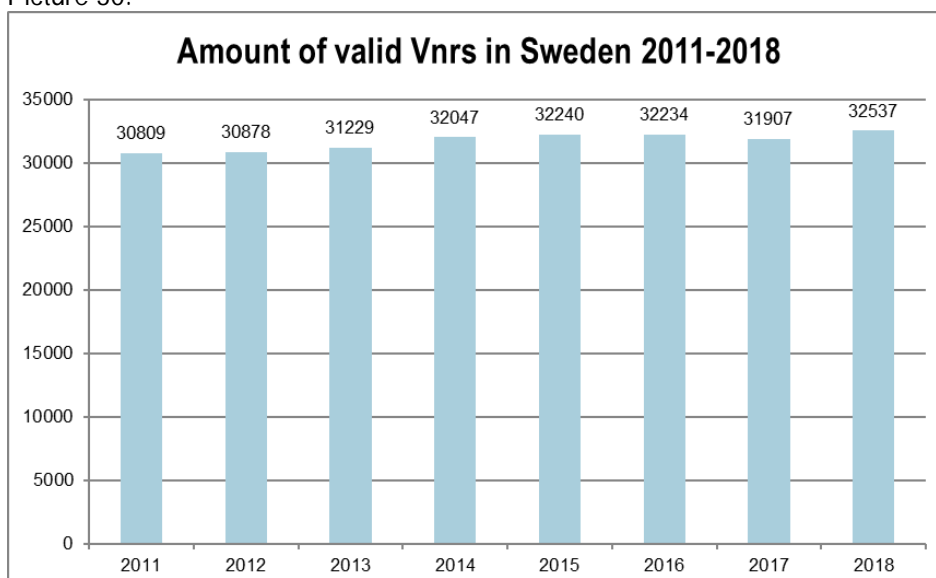
Table 12.

Human and veterinary medicines in Sweden 2018	
Human	30 450 (94 %)
Veterinary	2 069 (6 %)
Human and veterinary	18 (0 %)

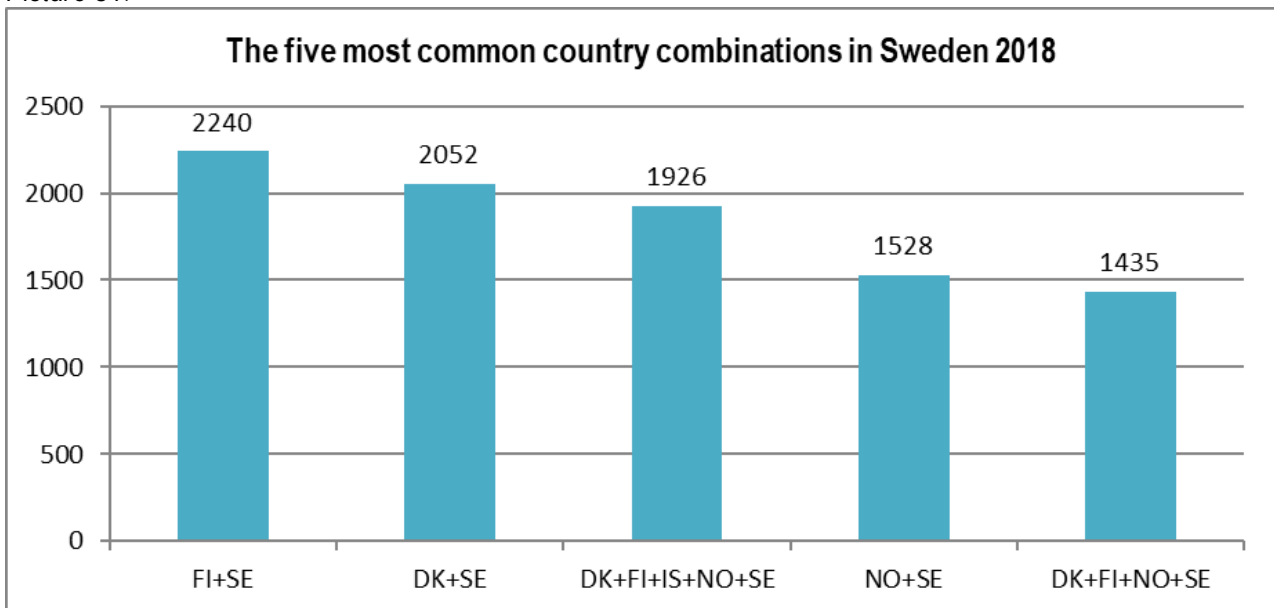
Picture 29.



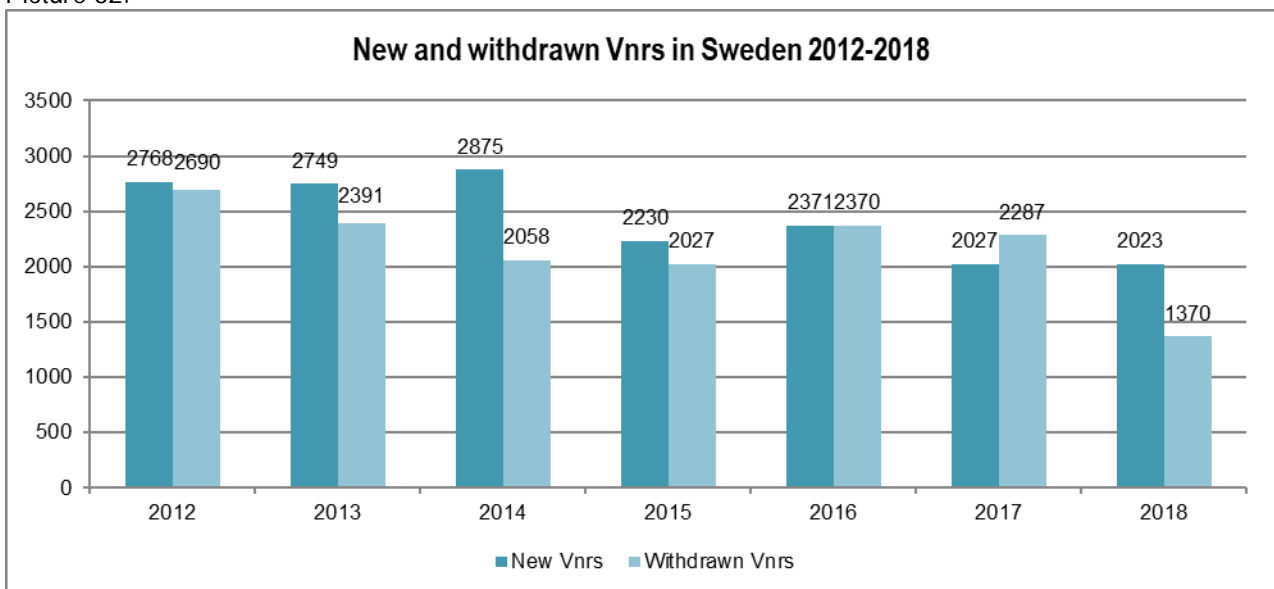
Picture 30.



Picture 31.



Picture 32.



## 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 in Finland. We maintain and refine up to date drug information databases and services 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 analysis 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. 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 30 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. Five IT-specialists work to maintain and further improve our databases and services.