

Nordic Vnr Services

Vnr Statistics of the Year 2019

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Introduction

The Vnr statistics is a summary of the changes and transactions in the Nordic Vnr database during the year 2019. 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 2019 was very similar to the previous years. The two most significant changes: 1) revision regarding Swedish Vnrs made by LIF, i.e. removal of needless Vnrs. 2) Decreased share of Vnrs of parallel imported products. Altogether there were 10 785 trade names with valid Vnrs at the end of 2019. These Vnrs belonged to 834 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. Username and password are for personal use only. The Vnr Service had over 1 900 registered users from 600 companies at the end of 2019. Approximately 450 users logged in to Vnr Service more than 20 times during 2019. Approximately 10 new user IDs were ordered weekly. The mailbox vnr@vnr.fi received about 30 emails daily, requesting changes to existing Vnrs or other Vnr related information. The amount of emails has increased significantly during past few years.

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 2019 there were over 35 000 product codes in the database. 2800 product codes have been added with the product code notification during 2019. 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.

From February 9th 2019, the obligations of Falsified Medicines Directive have been mandatory. Updates in the VnrWiki and in the Vnr guidelines during 2019 were mostly related to FMD and to the fact that no new NTINs have been assigned after that date. Only unique product codes should be used.

VnrWiki had over 11 000 visits, which is 9 % less than in 2018. Most of the visitors were from Finland (17 %) and Sweden (13 %). The rest of the top five countries were United States (9 %), Germany (8 %) and Denmark (6 %).

Feedback

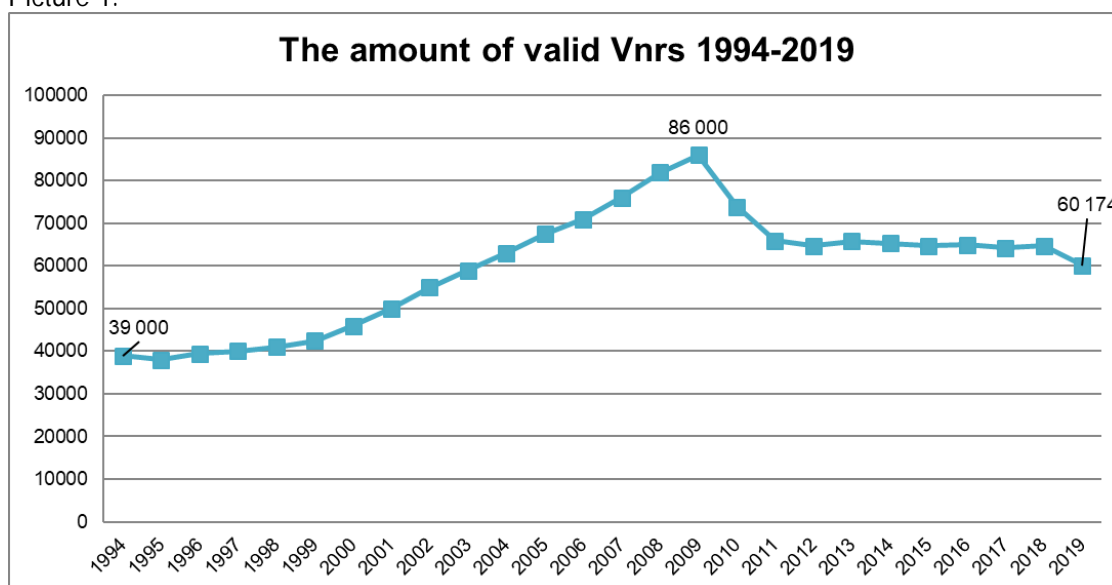
All suggestions and comments are important and appreciated in developing this annual statistics document. Please send feedback and questions to vnr@vnr.fi.

Statistics of the year 2019

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 evened out to a +/- 2 % change until year 2019, which saw a 7,6 % decrease (4 587 Vnrs). At the end of 2019 there were 60 174 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.

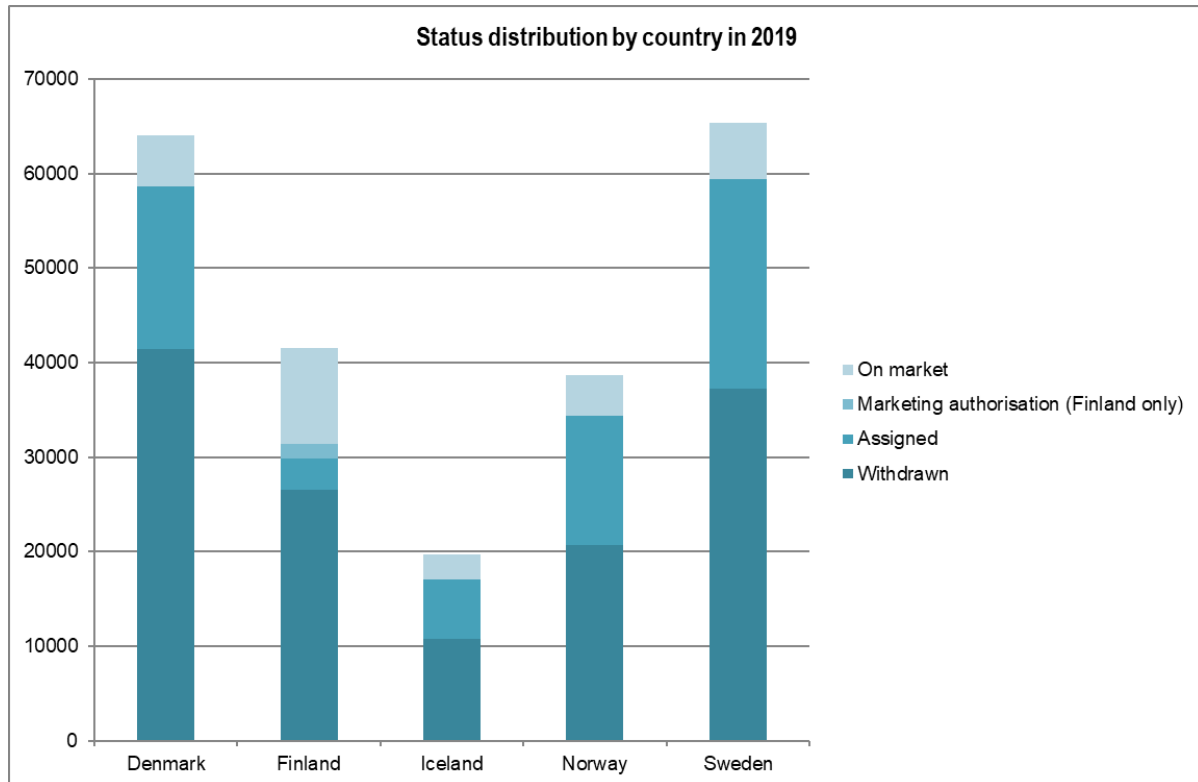
2010-2013 there were 4 different Vnr statuses:

- **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 2019 36 % of the valid Vnrs had the status on market in one or more countries (21 374 Vnrs). There were 74 763 Vnrs in the database which were withdrawn from all countries, which is 13,4 % more than in 2018.

In 2019 most Vnrs were in use in Sweden (28 128 Vnrs) and Denmark (22 575 Vnrs), least Vnrs in Iceland (8 953 Vnrs) (Picture 2). Status distribution of Vnrs varies slightly between countries. Country specific data is presented starting from page 11.

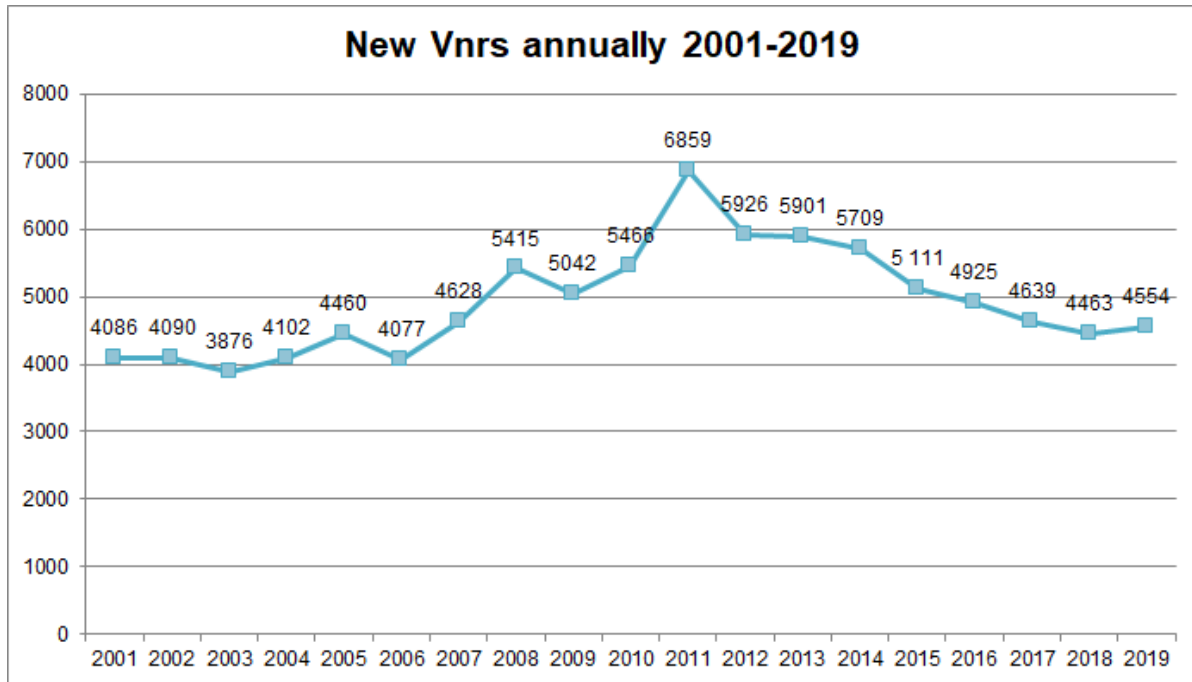
Picture 2.



New and withdrawn Vnrs and status changes

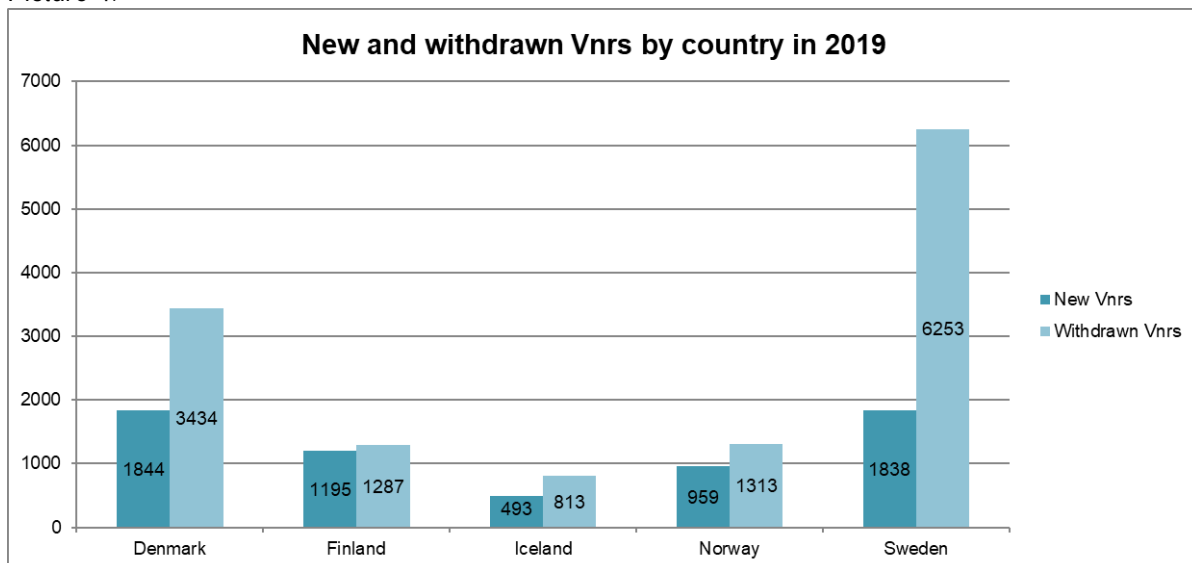
The amount of new Vnrs started to increase in 2006 (Picture 3). Between 2006 and 2011 the yearly amount of valid new Vnrs increased 68 %. In 2012 the amount decreased 14 % and it was almost the same in 2013. In 2019 there were 2 % more new Vnrs than in 2018. In the picture 3 every Vnr is taken into account only once.

Picture 3.



6 329 new Vnrs were assigned in 2019. Most of the new Vnrs were assigned to be used in Denmark and Sweden (Picture 4). 13 100 Vnrs were changed to the status withdrawn during 2019. Most of the withdrawals were made in Sweden (6 253 Vnrs).

Picture 4.

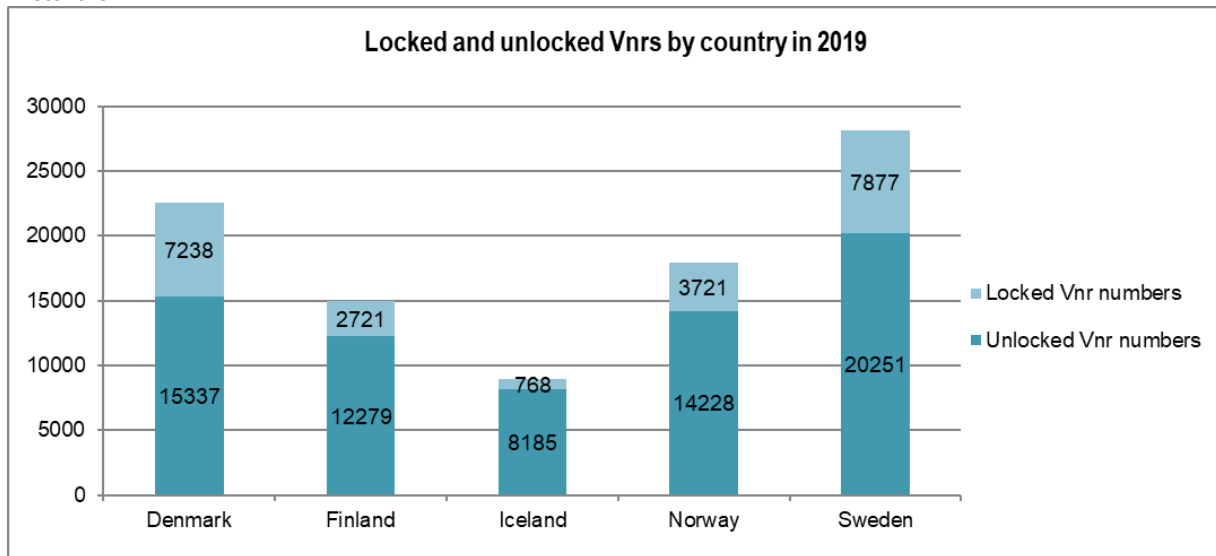


Locked and unlocked Vnrs

The 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.

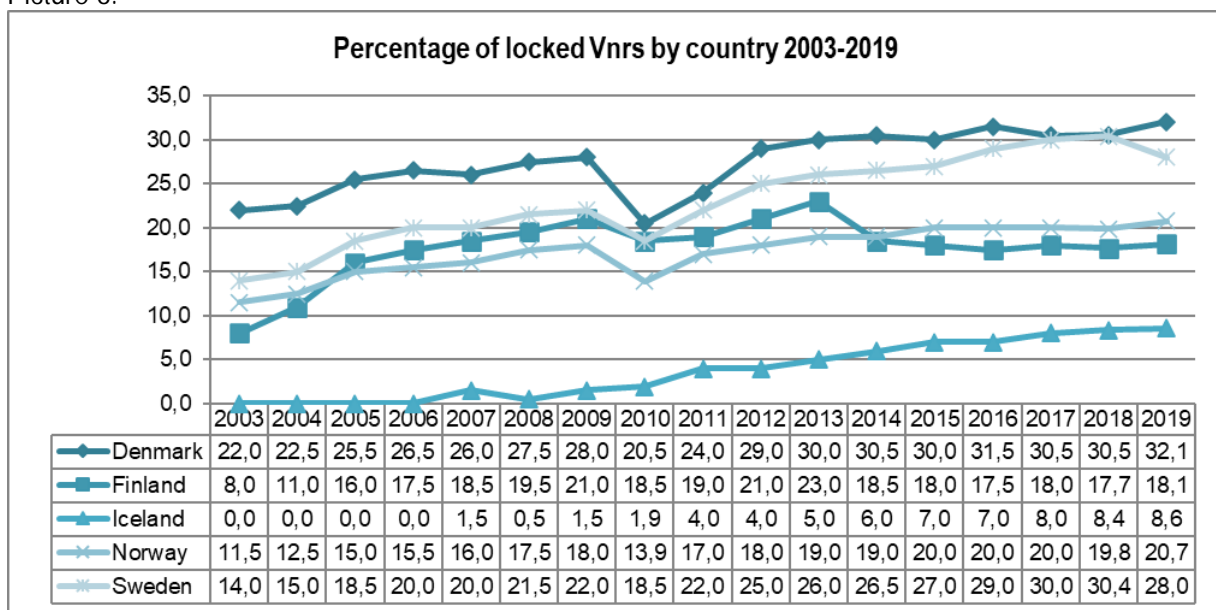
The launch of the new terms turned the amount of the Vnr combinations to a slight increase: before 2013 only common Vnrs could be used in several countries, now both locked and unlocked Vnrs can be used in several countries. In picture 5 the portion of locked and unlocked Vnr numbers is shown by country.

Picture 5.



The portion of locked Vnrs increased in other Nordic countries except Sweden, which had a minor decrease compared to 2019 (Picture 6).

Picture 6.

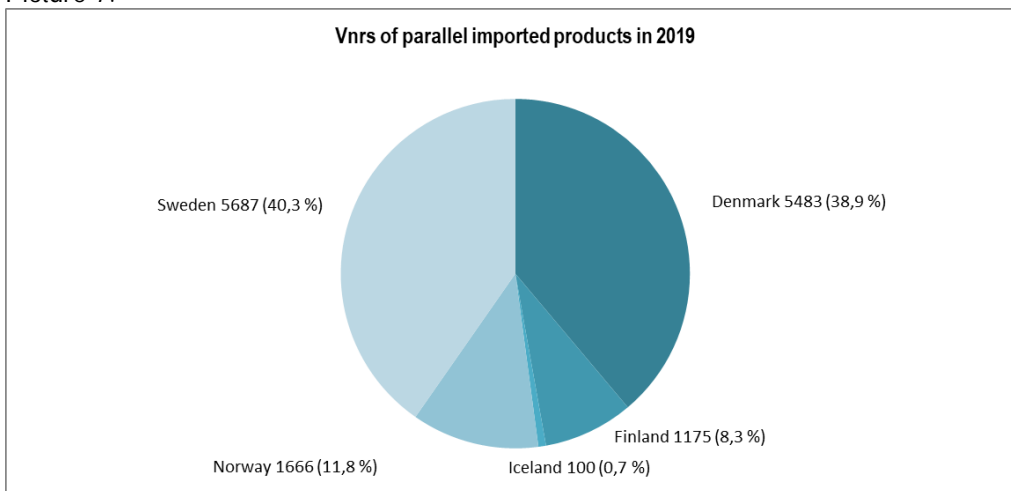


Parallel imported products

There were 13 391 Vnrs of parallel imported products in the Nordic countries in 2019. There was a noticeable (9 %) decrease in the ratio of parallel imported products from 2018. Until 2019 there was an increase in parallel imported products for several years. Between 2017 and 2018 the increase was 3 %, between 2016 and 2017 4 %, between 2015 and 2016 9 % and between 2014 and 2015 5 %.

As since 2013, most of the parallel imported products were Swedish, even when the number reduced from 48,5 % to 40,3 % (Picture 7).

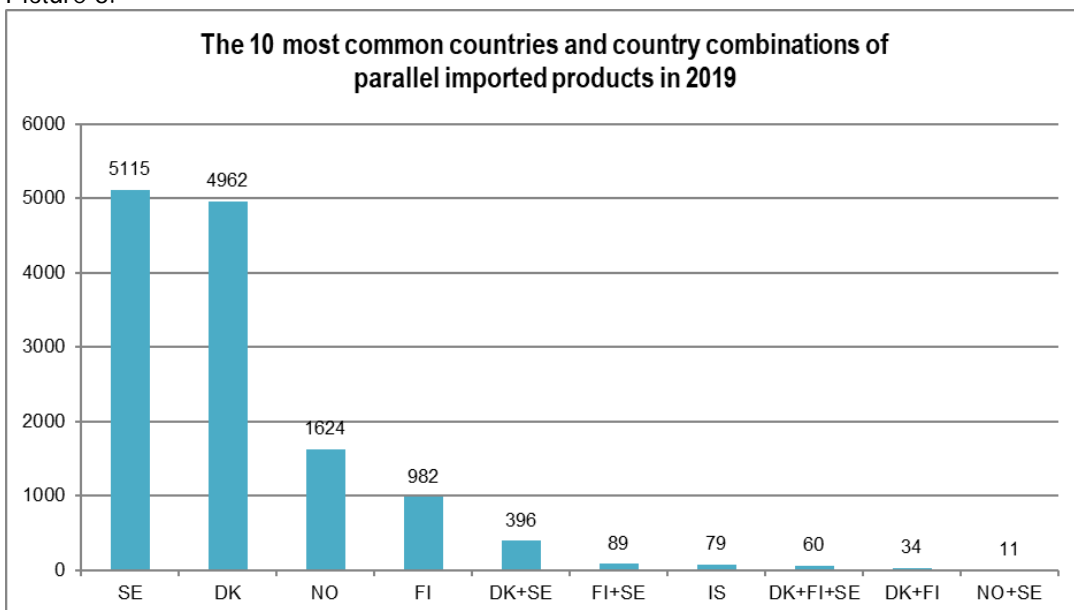
Picture 7.



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 2019 the most common country combination was again the combination of Denmark and Sweden.

Picture 8.



Country combinations of Vnrs

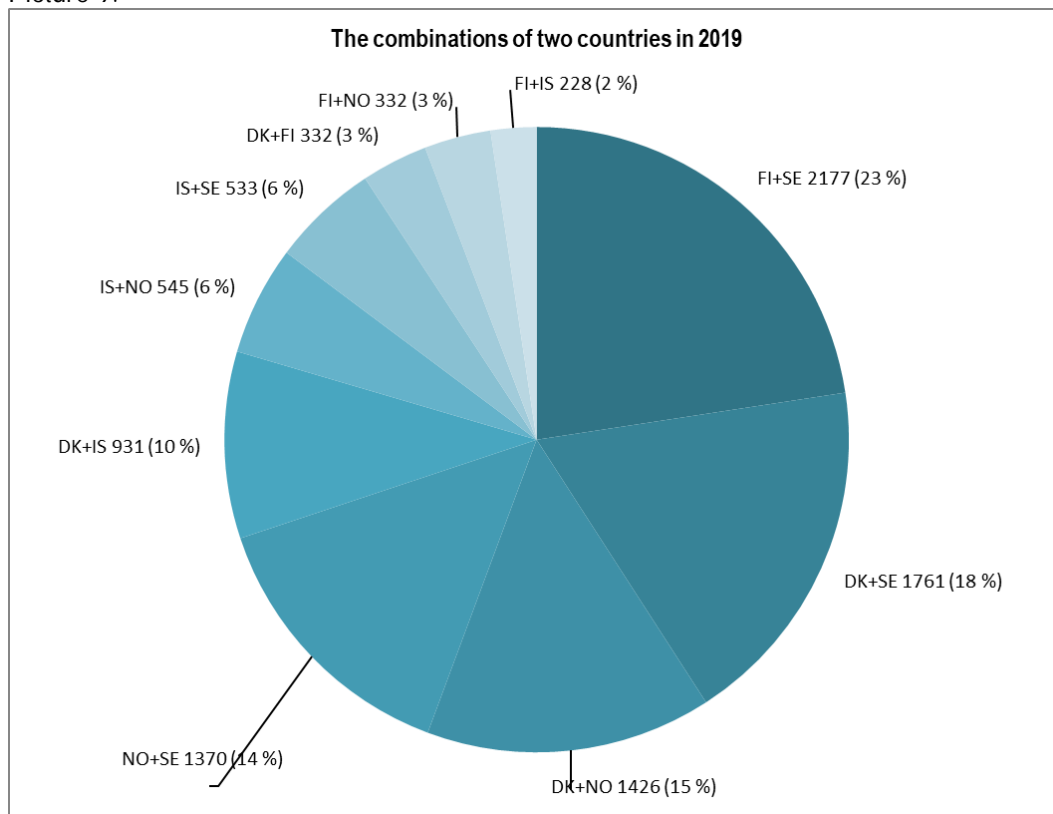
The amount of Vnrs with country combinations of two, three, four and five countries in 2019 are shown in Table 1.

Table 1.

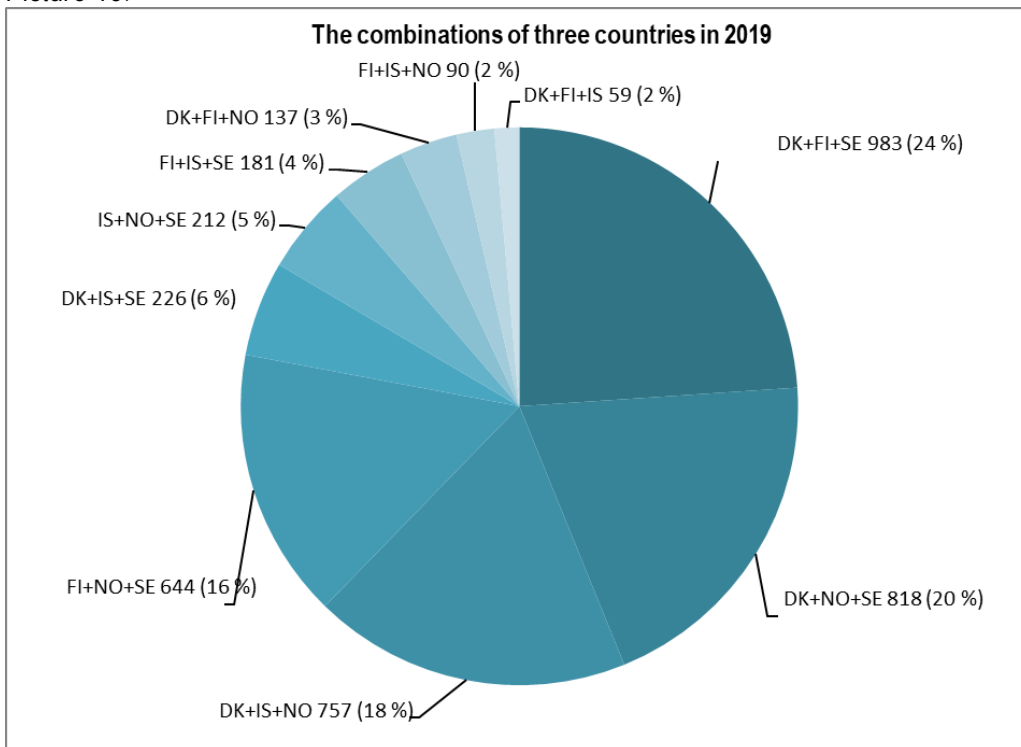
The amount of Vnrs for different country combinations in 2019	
2 countries	9 635
3 countries	4 107
4 countries	2 382
5 countries	1 859

There were no significant changes between 2018 and 2019 in the most common country combinations. As before, Finland and Sweden was the most common combination of two countries (Picture 9). The most used combination of three countries was Denmark, Finland 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. The packages can be the same or different regardless of a common Vnr.)

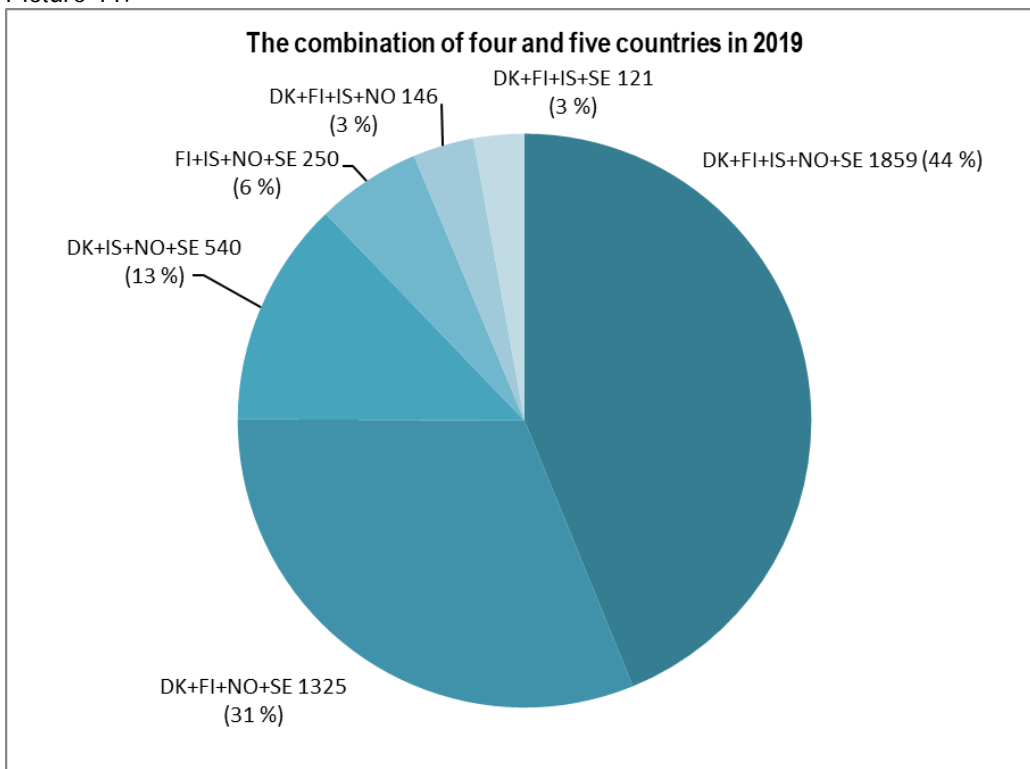
Picture 9.



Picture 10.

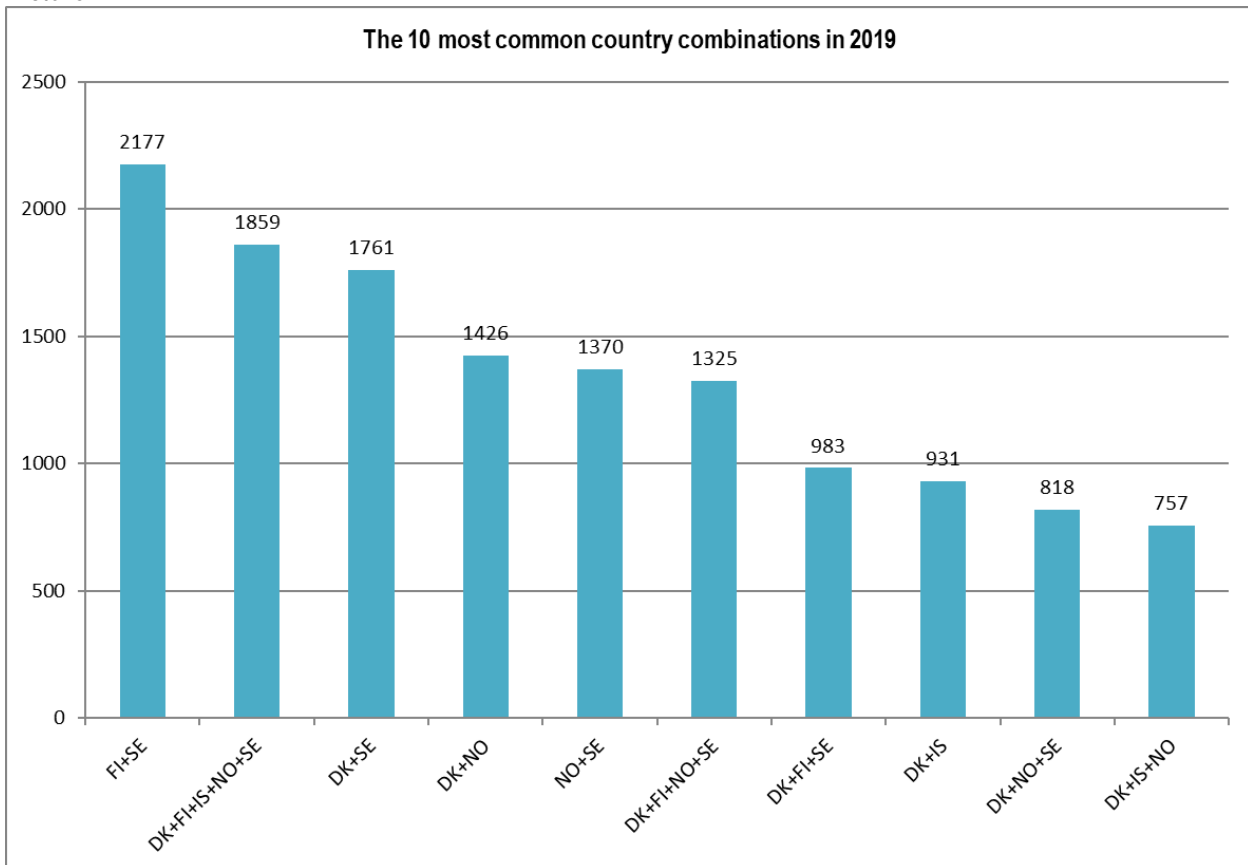


Picture 11.



The 10 most common country combinations of Vnrs can be seen in picture 12. In the top 3 of the country combinations, the combination of all five countries is now more common than the combination of Denmark and Sweden. The most common country combination in 2019 was again 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 22 575 valid Vnrs at the end of 2019. The number of valid Vnrs continued to decrease as it has done since 2011. 24 % of the Vnrs were for parallel imported products. More detailed information can be found in the following tables and pictures.

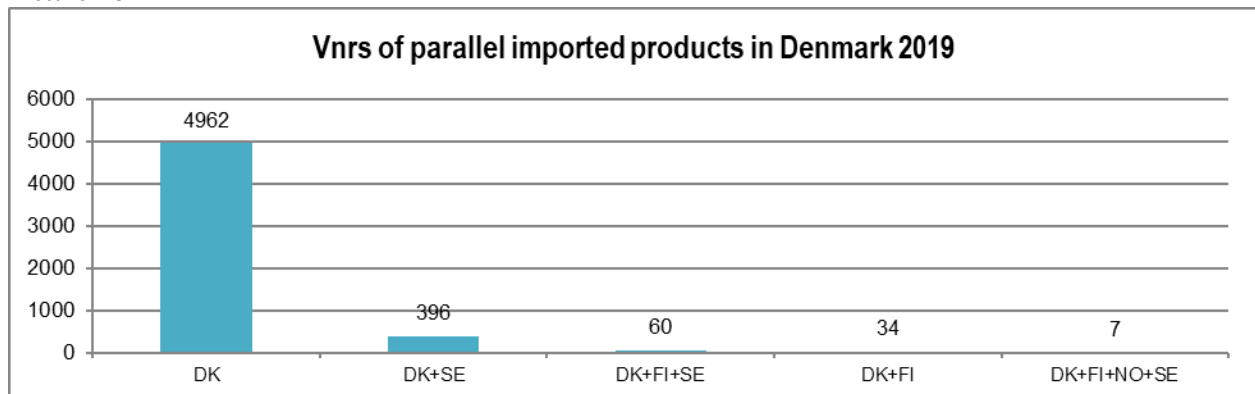
Table 2.

Vnrs in Denmark 2019	
All	22 575
Unlocked	15 337 (68 %)
Locked	7 238 (32 %)
Parallel imported	5 483 (24 %)

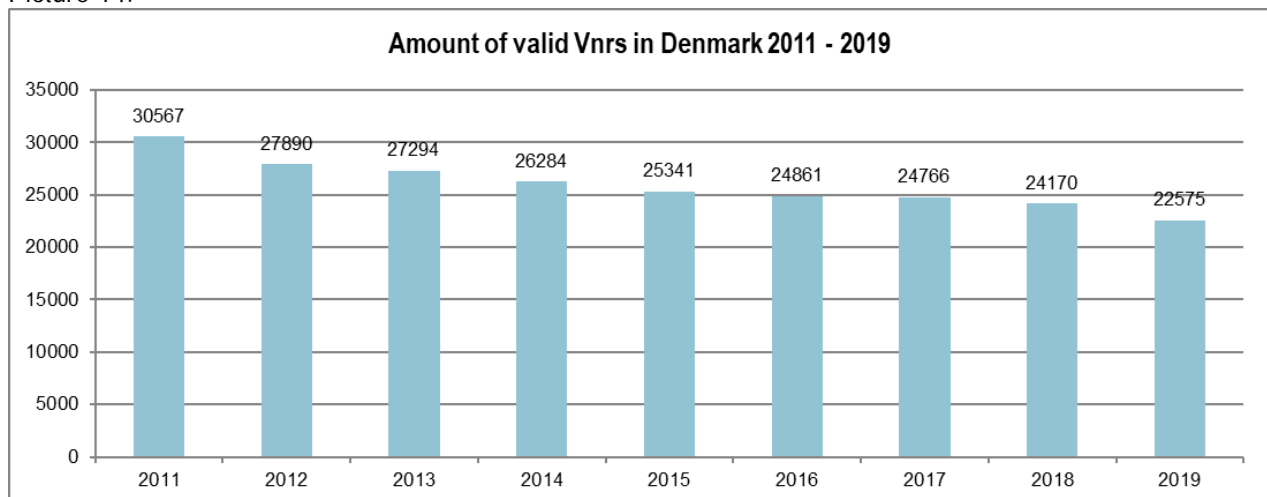
Table 3.

Human and veterinary medicines in Denmark 2019	
Human	20 367 (90 %)
Veterinary	2 204 (10 %)
Human and veterinary	4 (0 %)

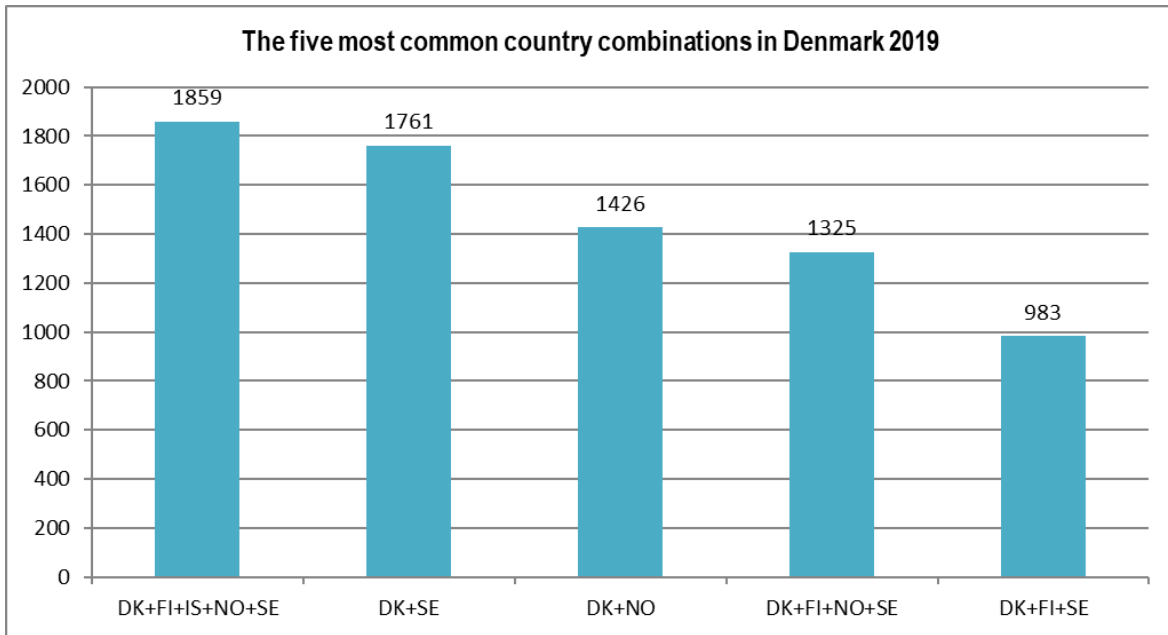
Picture 13.



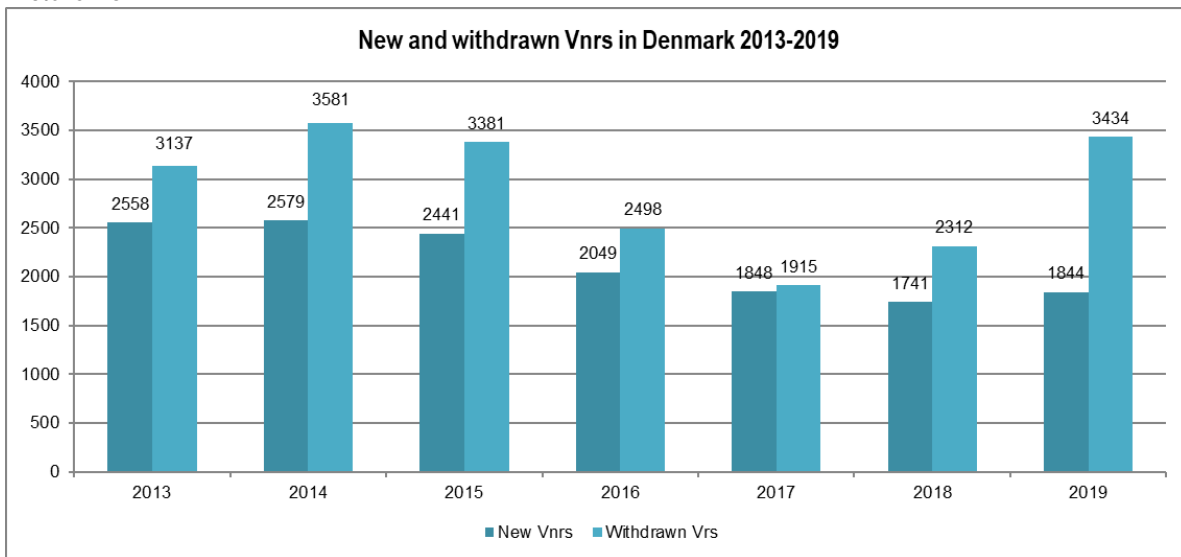
Picture 14.



Picture 15.



Picture 16.



Finland

In Finland there were 15 000 valid Vnrs at the end of 2019. More detailed information can be found in the following tables and pictures.

Table 4.

Vnrs in Finland 2019	
All	15 000
Unlocked	12 279 (82 %)
Locked	2 721 (18 %)
Parallel imported	1 175 (8 %)

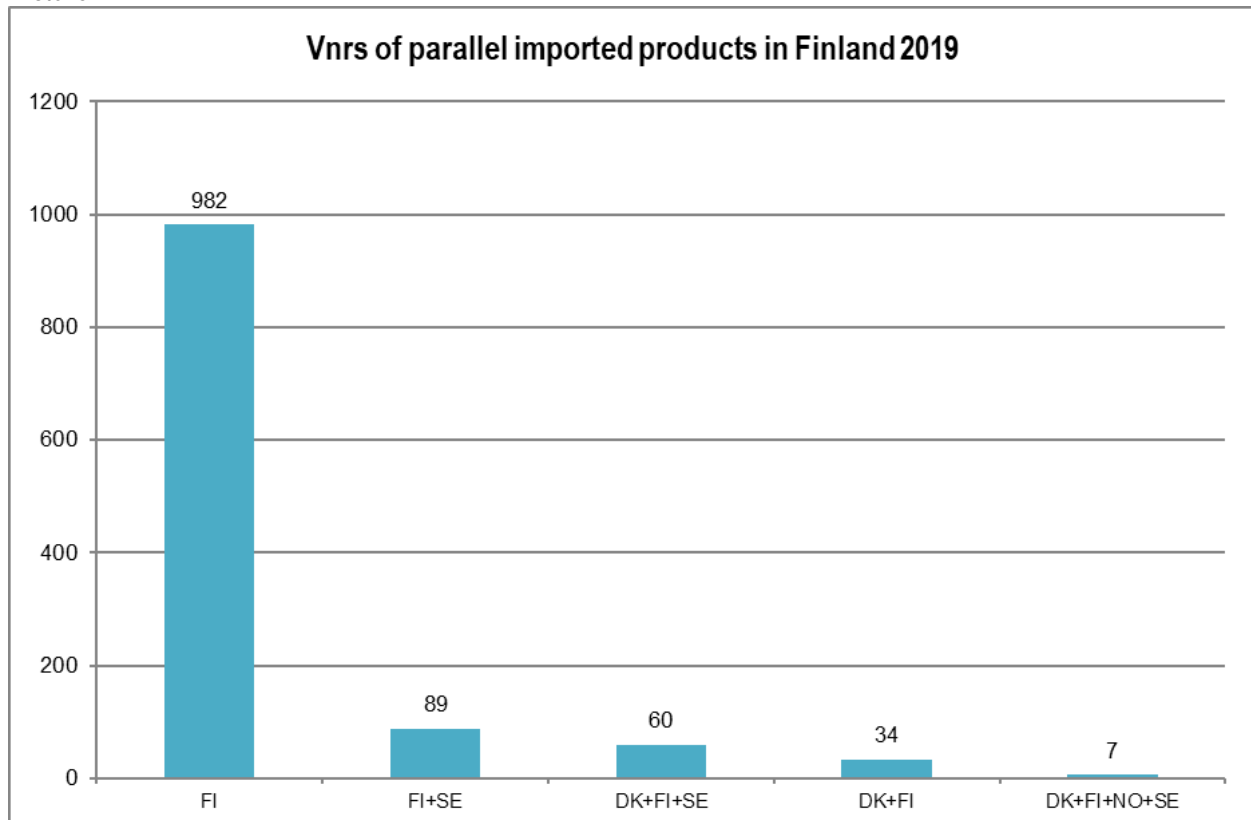
Table 5.

Human and veterinary medicines in Finland 2019	
Human	13 429 (90 %)
Veterinary	1 571 (10 %)
Human and veterinary	0 (0 %)

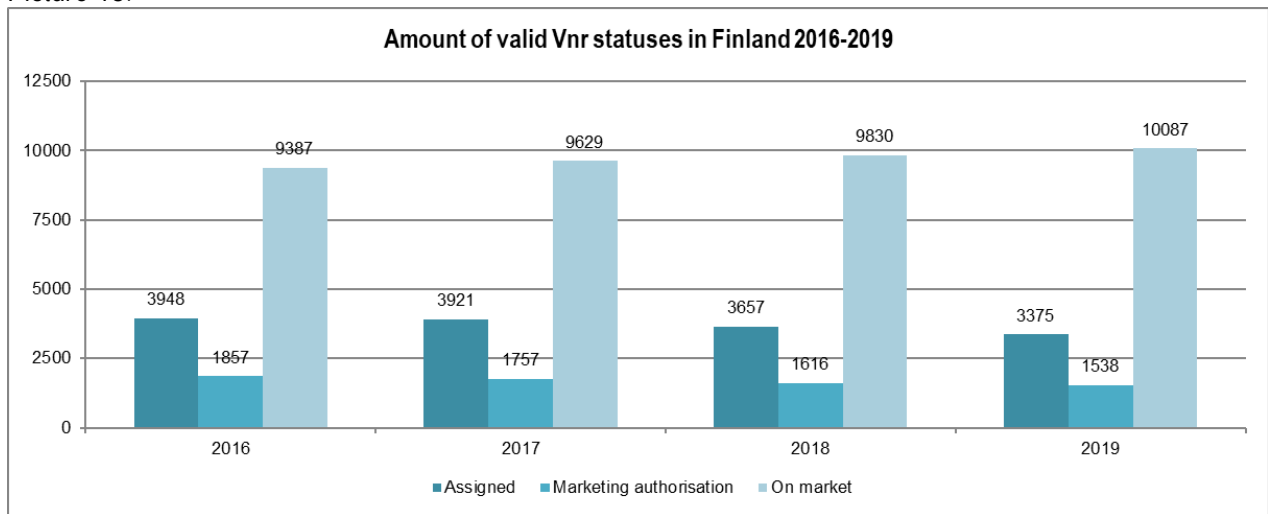
Table 6.

Prescription only, harmful in traffic and narcotic medicines in Finland 2019	
Prescription only	13 105 (87 %)
Harmful in traffic	1 401 (9 %)
Narcotic	373 (2 %)

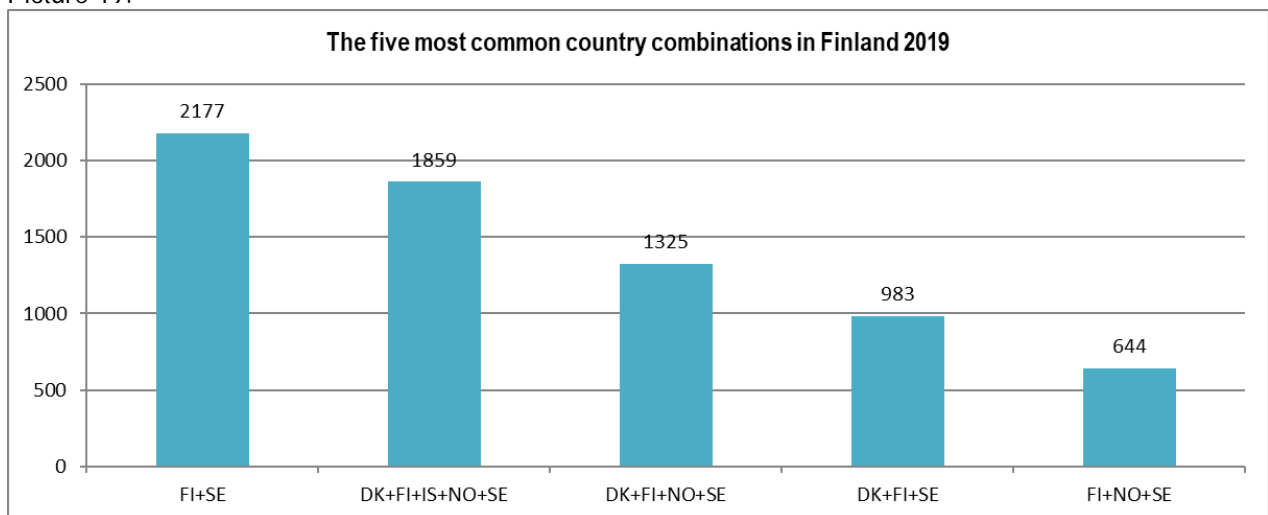
Picture 17.



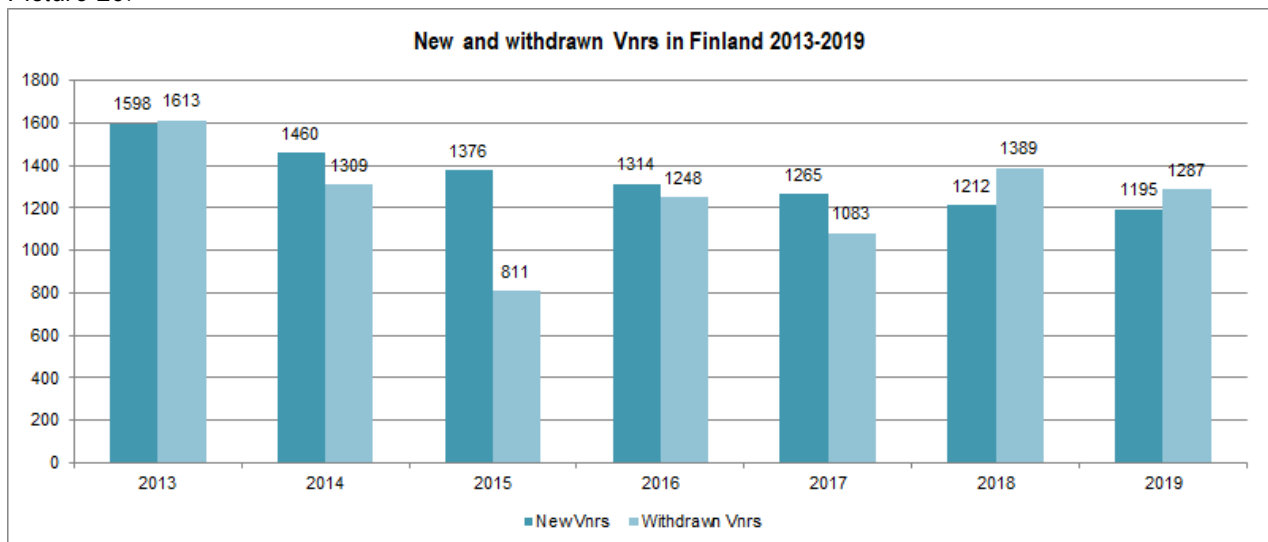
Picture 18.



Picture 19.



Picture 20.



Iceland

In Iceland there were 8 953 valid Vnrs in 2019. Only 1 % of the products were parallel imported. More detailed information can be found in the following tables and pictures.

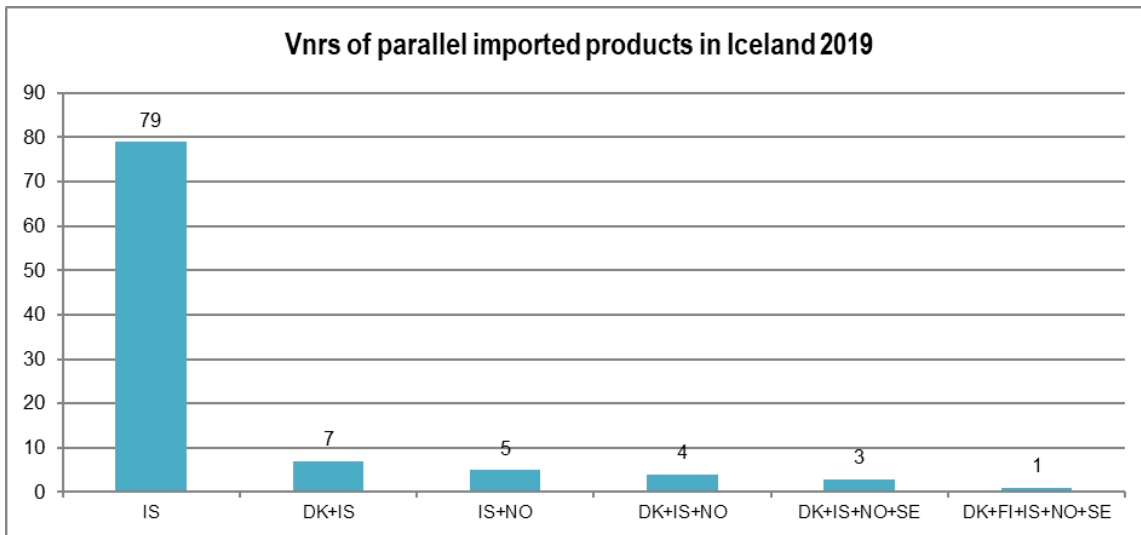
Table 7.

Vnrs in Iceland 2019	
All	8 953
Unlocked	8 185 (91 %)
Locked	768 (9 %)
Parallel imported	100 (1 %)

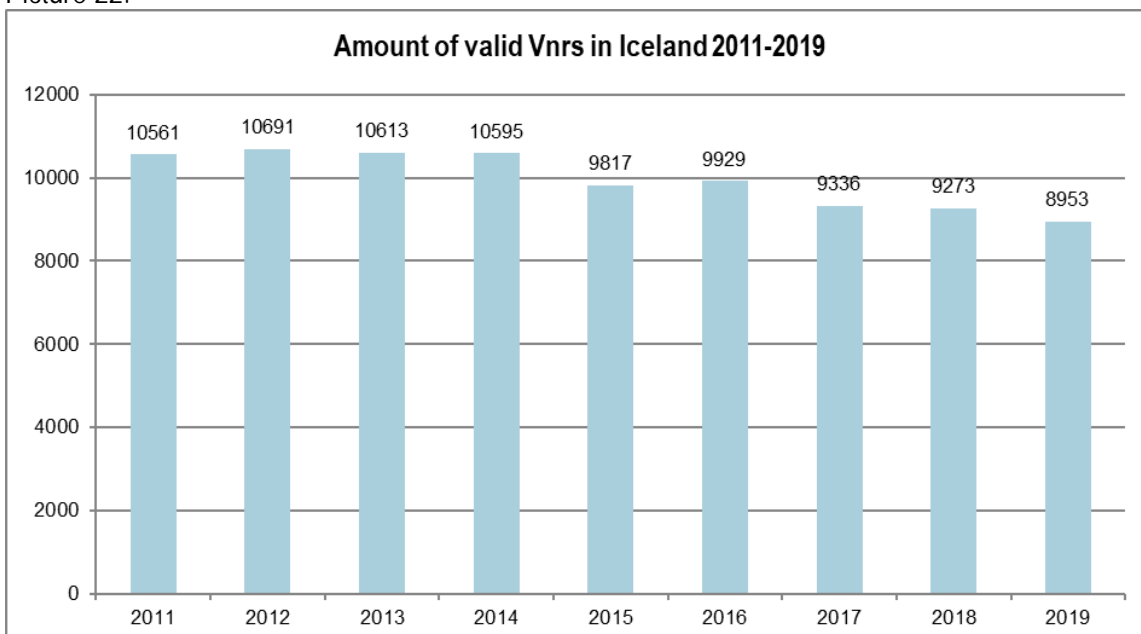
Table 8.

Human and veterinary medicines in Iceland 2019	
Human	8 375 (94 %)
Veterinary	574 (6 %)
Human and veterinary	4 (0 %)

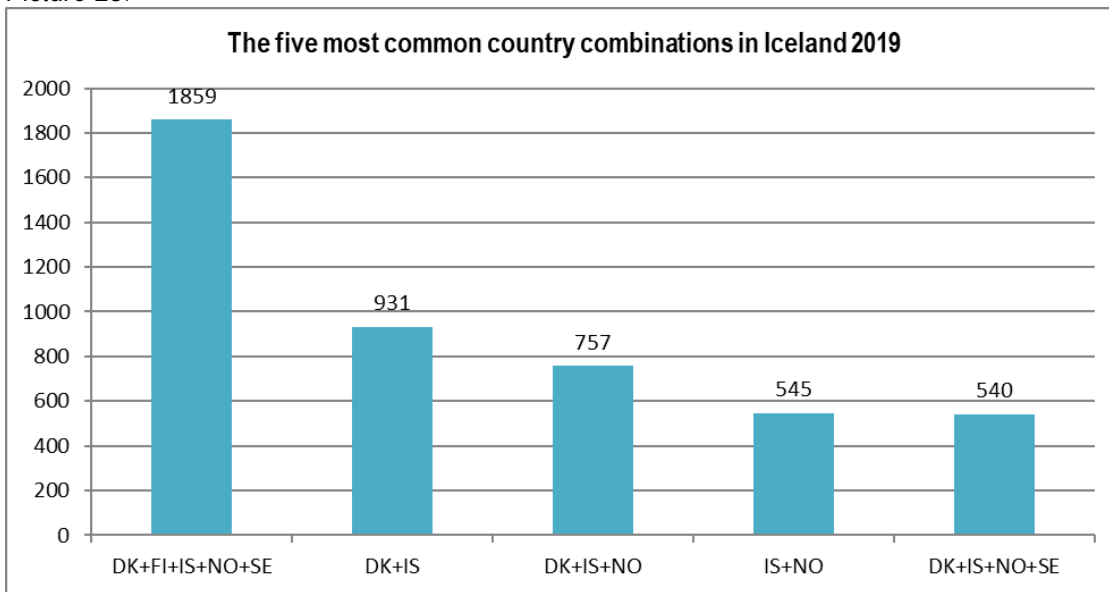
Picture 21.



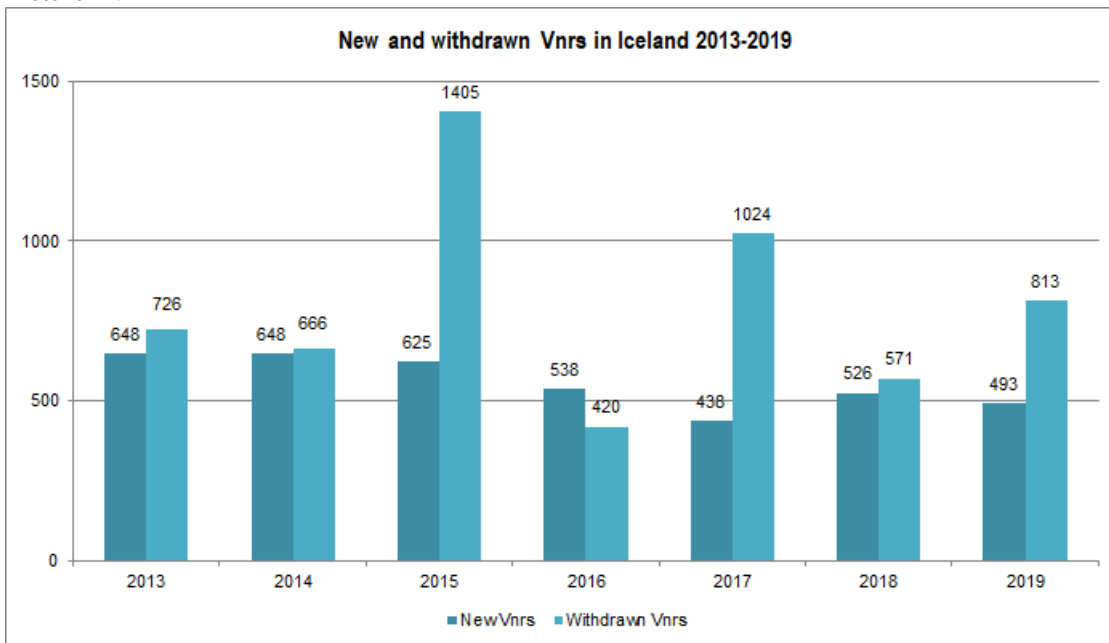
Picture 22.



Picture 23.



Picture 24.



Norway

In Norway there were 17 949 valid Vnrs in 2019. More detailed information can be found in the following tables and pictures.

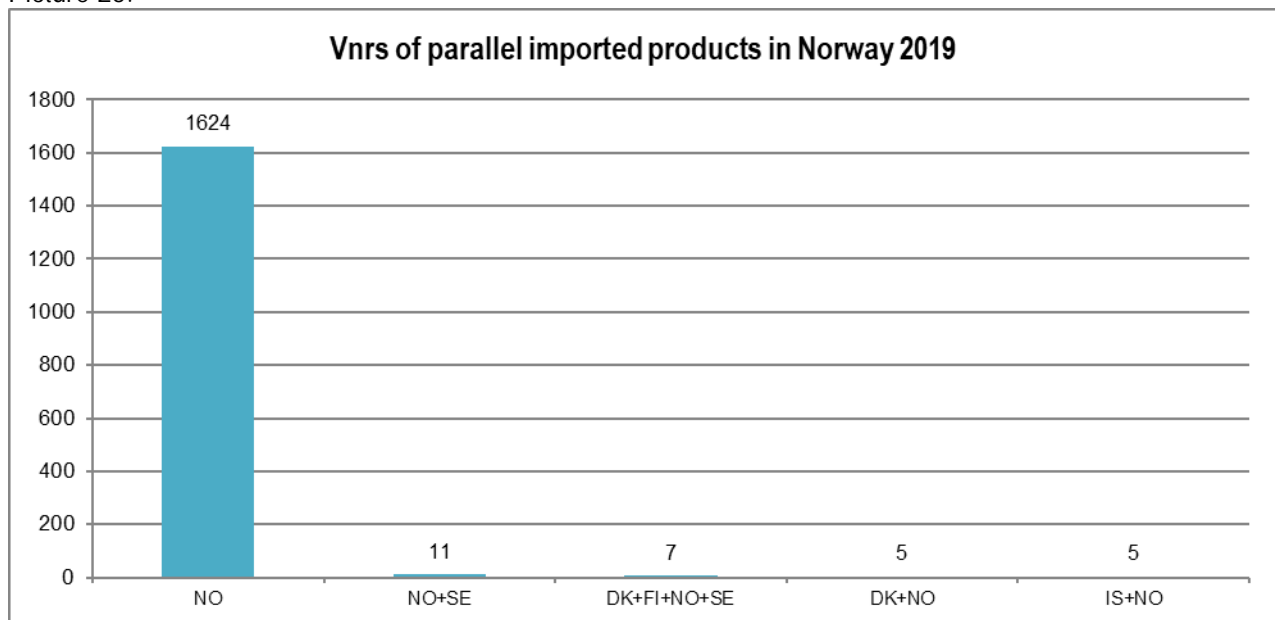
Table 9.

Vnrs in Norway 2019	
All	17 949
Unlocked	14 228 (79 %)
Locked	3 721 (21 %)
Parallel imported	1 666 (9 %)

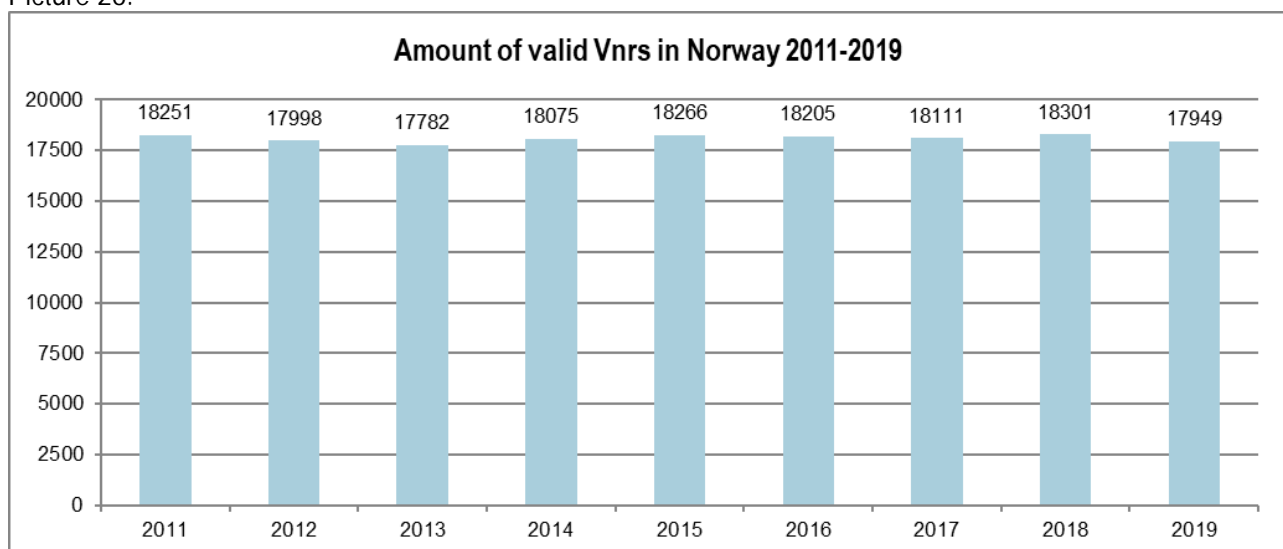
Table 10.

Human and veterinary medicines in Norway 2019	
Human	16 565 (92 %)
Veterinary	1 378 (8 %)
Human and veterinary	6 (0 %)

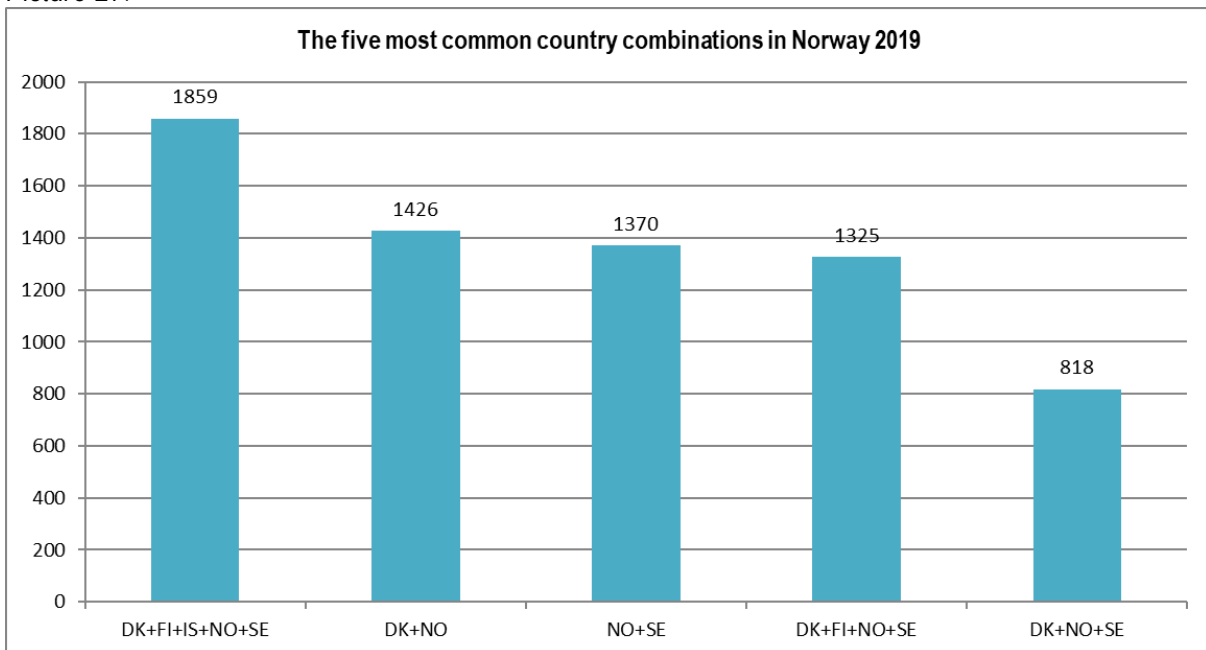
Picture 25.



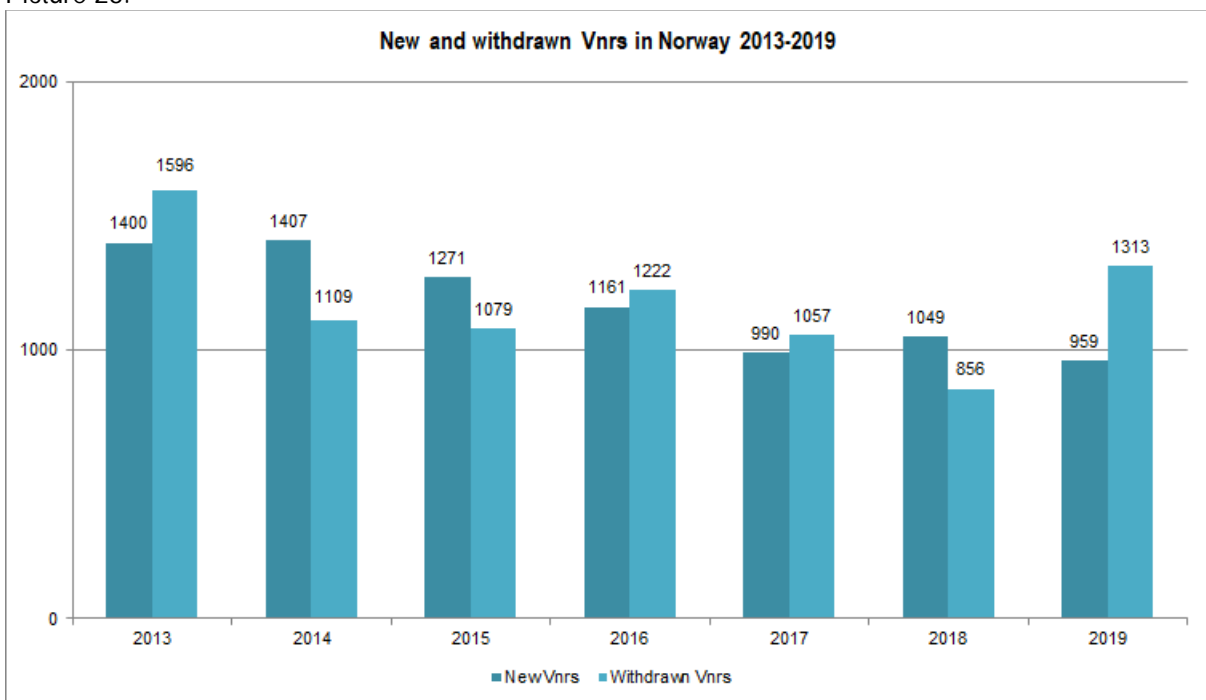
Picture 26.



Picture 27.



Picture 28.



Sweden

In Sweden there were 28 128 valid Vnrs, of which 20 % (down from 23 %) were parallel imported products at the end of 2019. The biggest change shown in this Vnr statistics document from 2019 concerned Sweden: the cleaning operation and removal of unneeded Vnrs in December (Pictures 30 and 32). More detailed information can be found in the tables and pictures below.

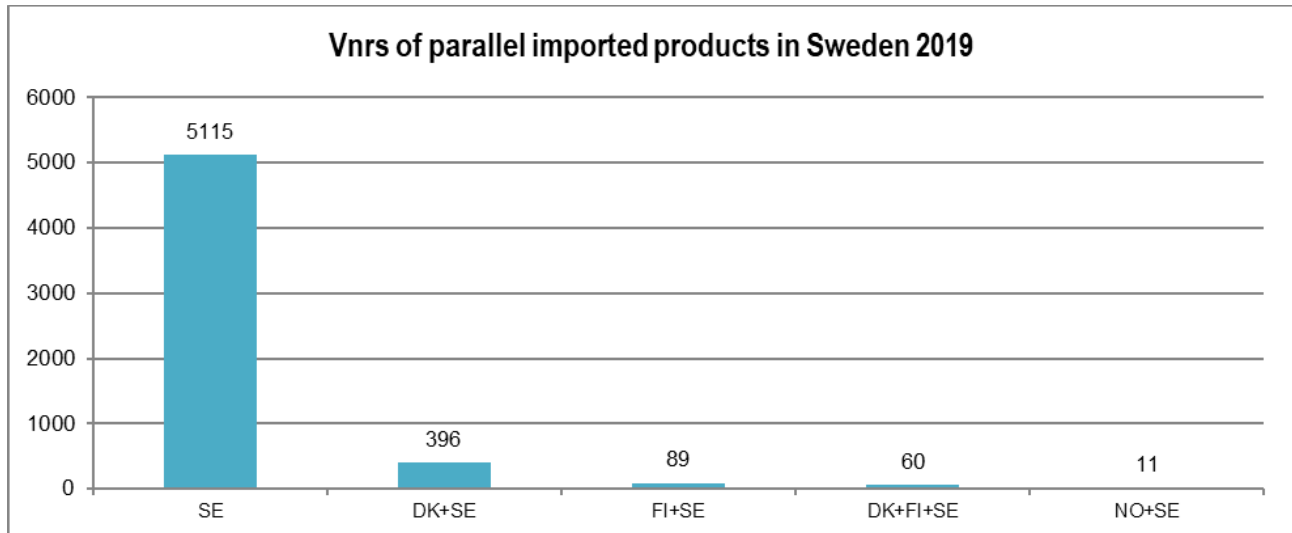
Table 11.

Vnrs in Sweden 2019	
All	28 128
Unlocked	20 251 (72 %)
Locked	7 877 (28 %)
Parallel imported	5 687 (20 %)

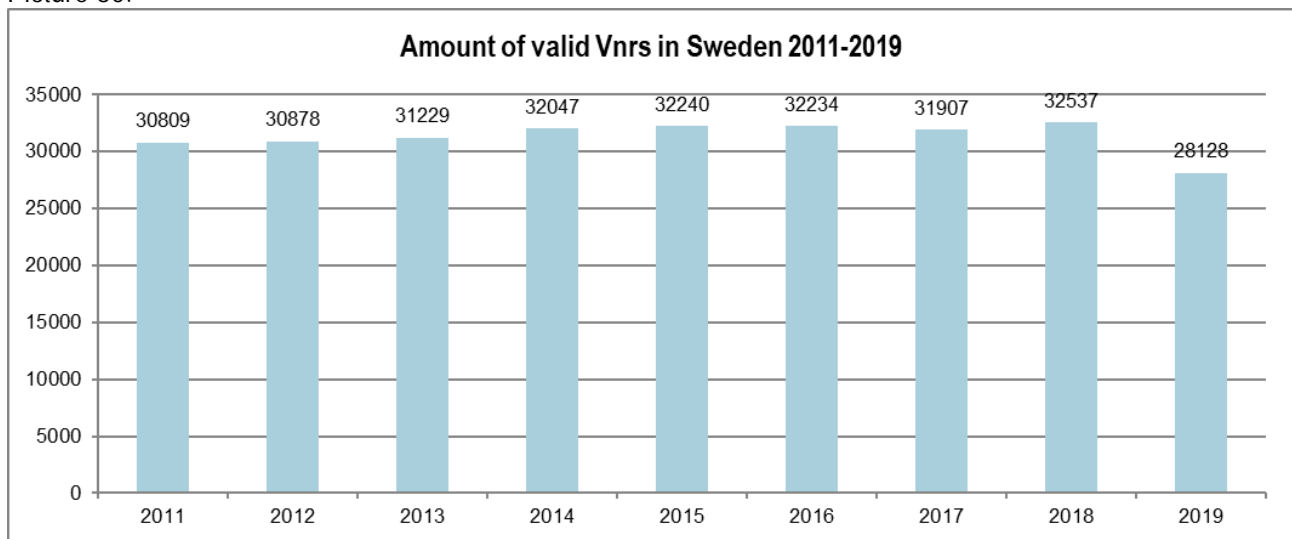
Table 12.

Human and veterinary medicines in Sweden 2019	
Human	26 240 (93 %)
Veterinary	1 871 (7 %)
Human and veterinary	17 (0 %)

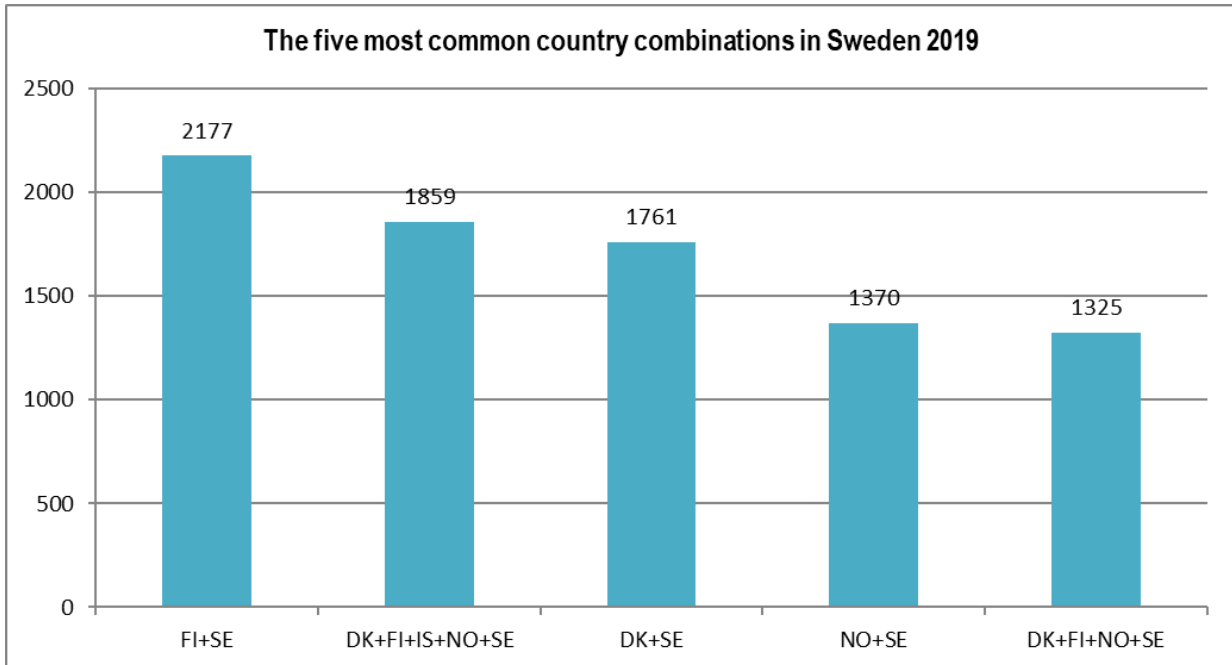
Picture 29.



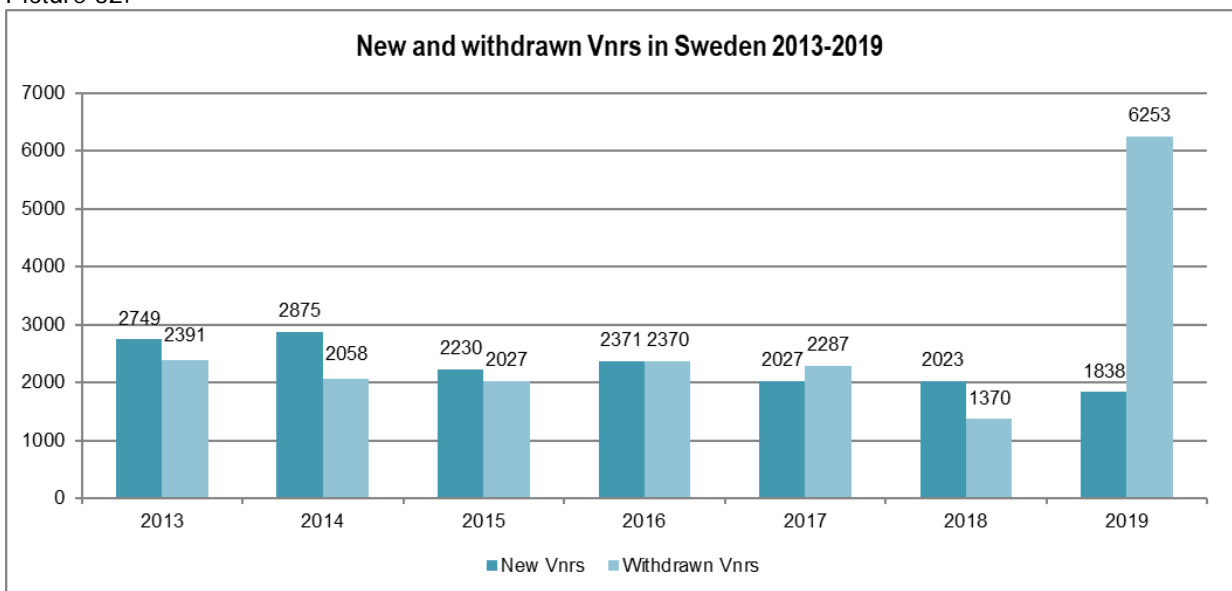
Picture 30.



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. Seven IT specialists work to maintain and further improve our databases and services.