

Nordic Vnr Services

Vnr Statistics of the Year 2020

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Introduction

The Vnr statistics is a summary of the changes and transactions in the Nordic Vnr database during the year 2020. 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 2020 was very similar to the previous years. However, the average amount of assigned Vnrs increased, from 379 per month (2019) to 387 per month. Altogether there were 10 938 trade names with valid Vnrs at the end of 2020. These Vnrs belonged to 859 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 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 2020. Approximately 450 users logged in to Vnr Service more than 20 times during 2020. Approximately 10 new user IDs or changes to user information (e.g. due to change of employer) were requested 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 2020 there were almost 40 000 product codes in the database. Approximately 2500 product codes have been added with the product code notification during 2020. 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 and updated there for easy and fast access.

In 2020 VnrWiki was updated with recommendations regarding the implementation of product codes also on the primary packages. Primary packages need to be identified to fulfill the present medication safety requirements like CLMA (Closed Loop Medication Administration) in the hospitals. The aim is to help pharmaceutical companies to implement the product codes also on human primary packages and maintain them in an efficient manner and according to the GTIN regulations. The added recommendations have been prepared and summarized by the Pharmaceutical Information Center and verified by all Nordic countries and GS1 Finland.

VnrWiki had almost 11 000 visits, about the same number as last year. Most of the visitors were from Finland (15 %), Sweden (13 %) and United States (11 %). The rest of the top six countries were Germany, Denmark and United Kingdom (6 %).

Feedback

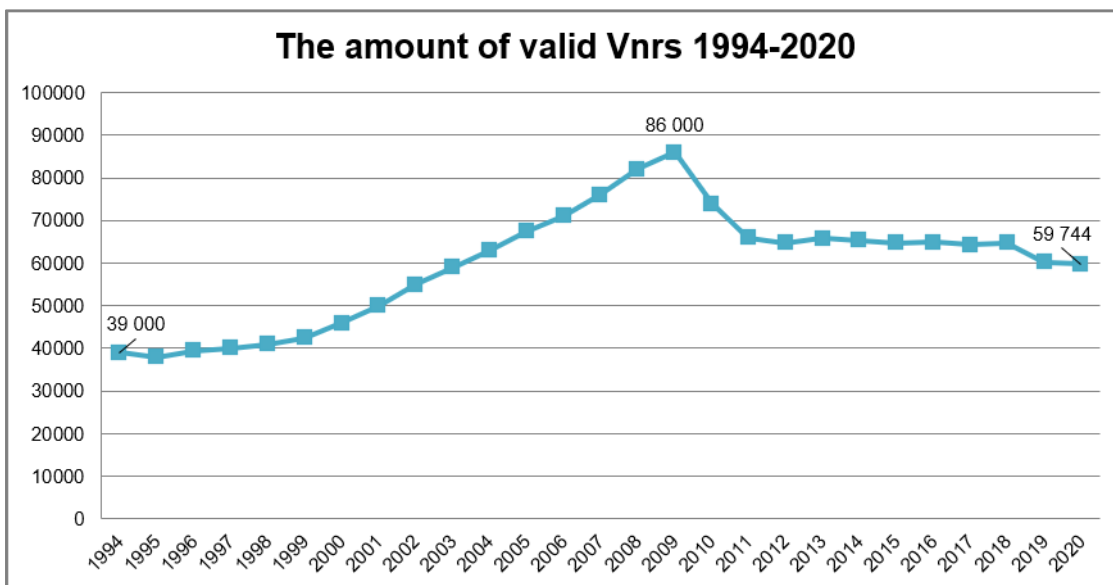
All suggestions and comments are important and appreciated in developing this annual statistics document. Please send us feedback and questions to vnr@vnr.fi.

Statistics of the year 2020

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 2020 there were 59 744 valid Vnrs, with a 0,7 % decrease (430 Vnrs) in the amount of Vnrs compared to last year.

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.

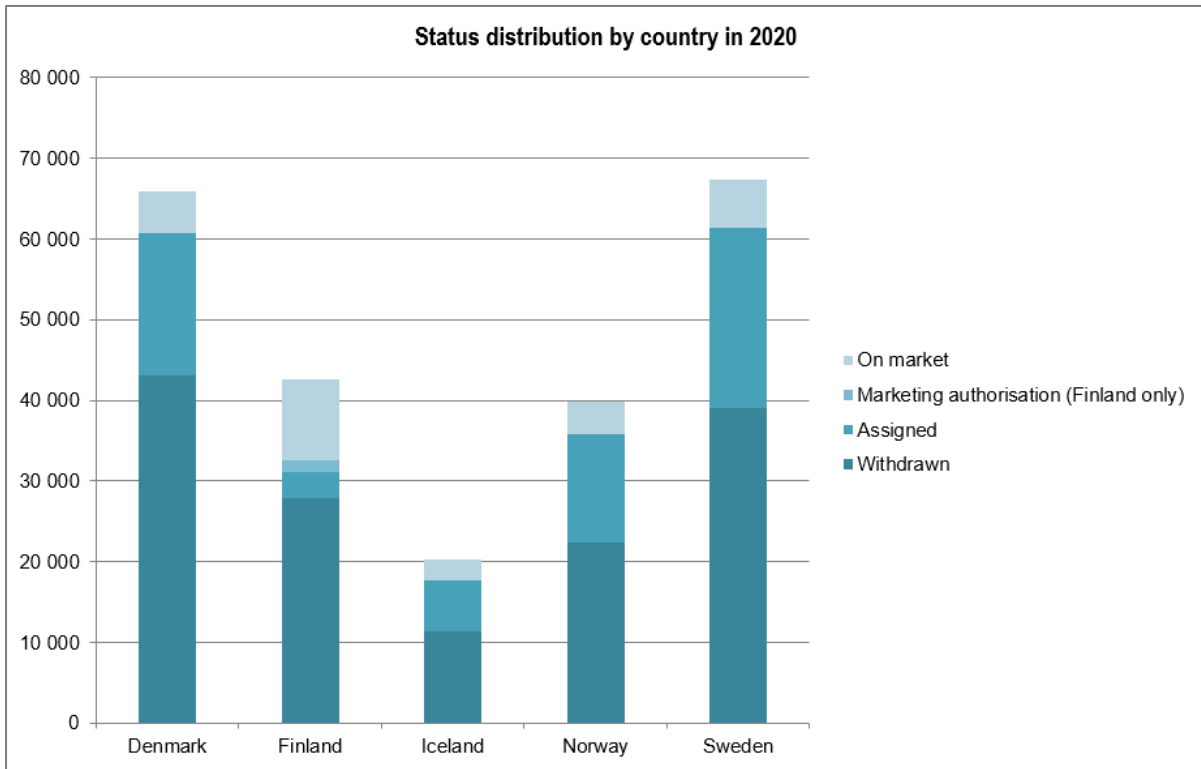
2010-2013 there were 4 different Vnr statuses:

- **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 2020 there were 79 486 Vnrs in the database which were withdrawn from all countries, which is 6,3 % more than in 2019.

In 2020 the largest amounts of Vnrs were in use in Sweden (28 233 Vnrs) and Denmark (22 786 Vnrs), smallest in Iceland (8 960 Vnrs) (Picture 2). Status distribution of Vnrs varies slightly between countries. Country specific data is presented starting from page 11.

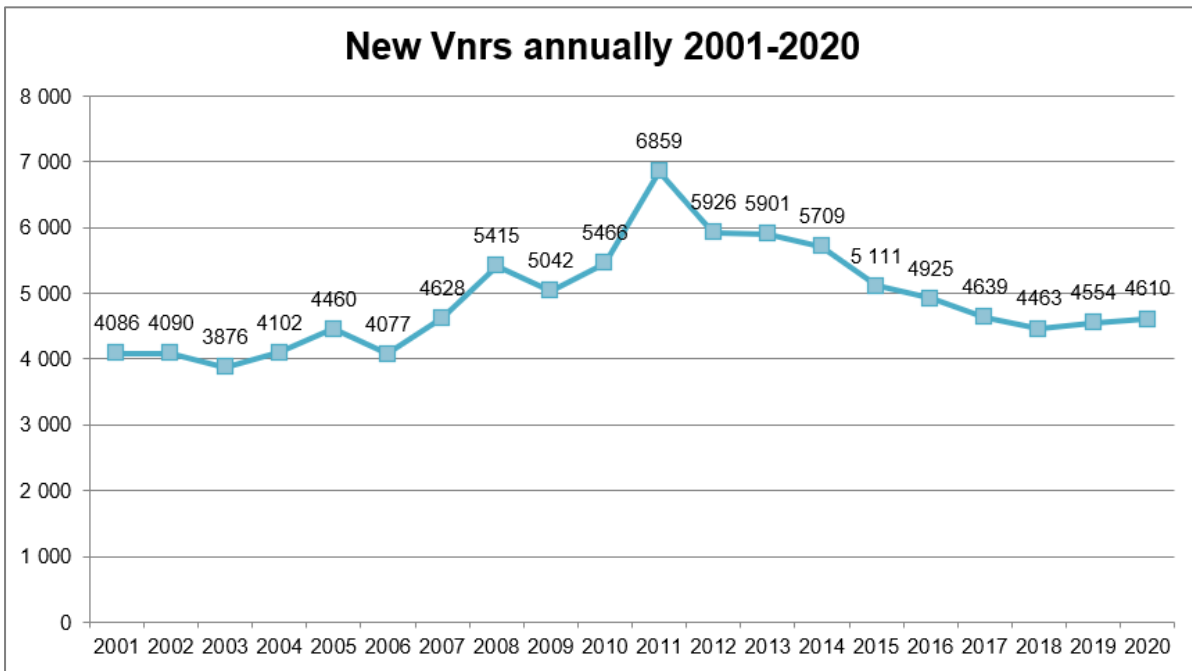
Picture 2.



New and withdrawn Vnrs and status changes

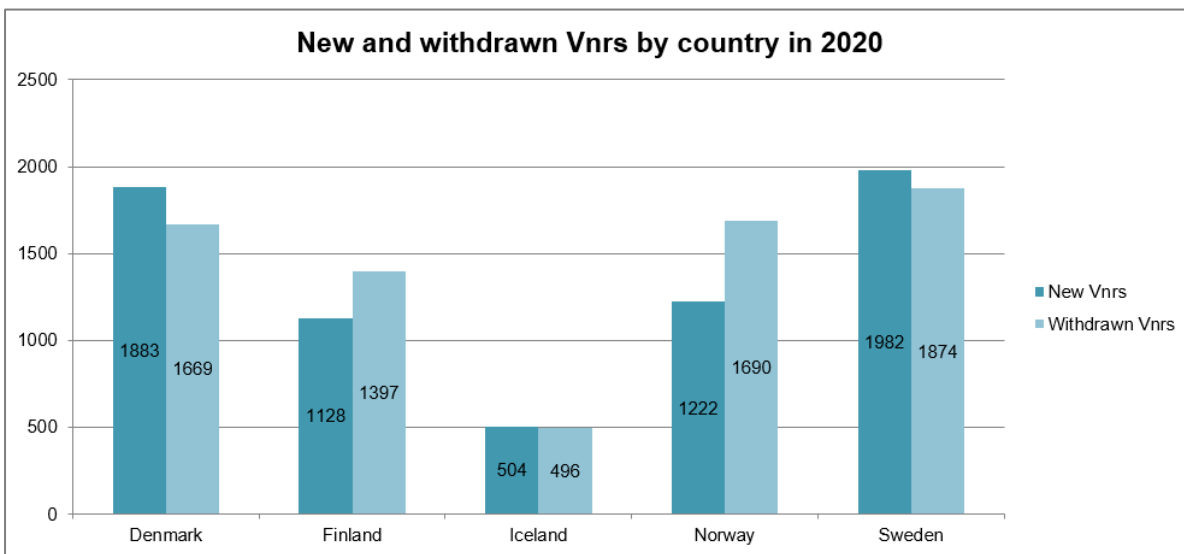
The amount of new Vnrs started to increase after 2006 (Picture 3). Between 2006 and 2011 the yearly amount of valid new Vnrs increased 68 %. In 2012 the amount decreased 14 % and thereafter there was decrease until 2018. In 2020 there were 1,2 % more new Vnrs than in 2019. In the picture 3 every Vnr is taken into account only once.

Picture 3.



6 719 new Vnrs were assigned in 2020. Most of the new Vnrs were assigned to be used in Sweden and Denmark (Picture 4). 7 126 Vnrs were changed to the status withdrawn during 2020. Most of the withdrawals were made in Sweden (1 874 Vnrs).

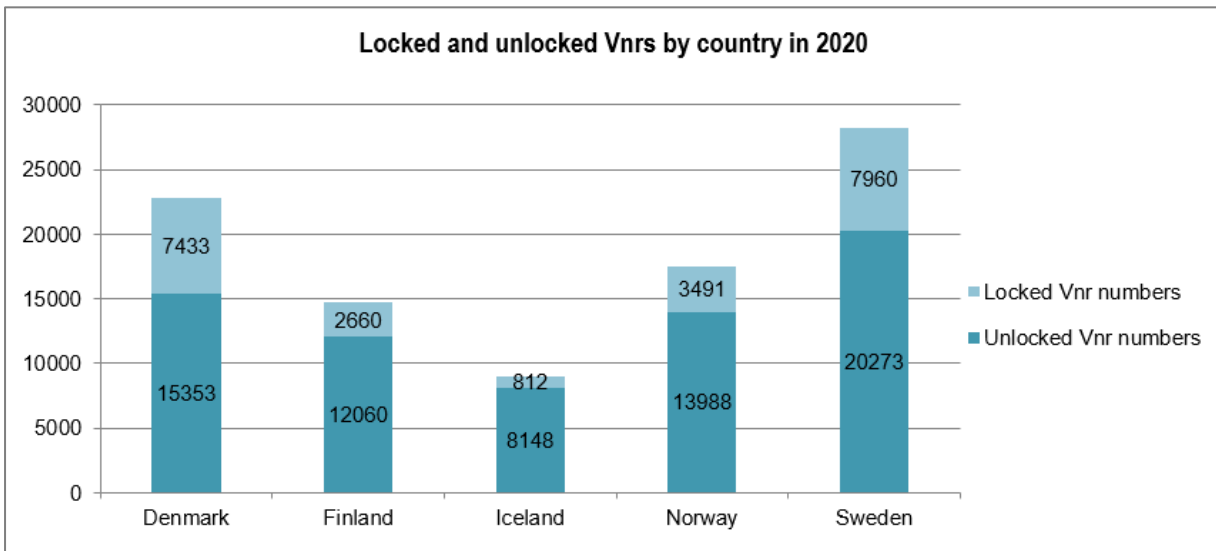
Picture 4.



Locked and unlocked Vnrs

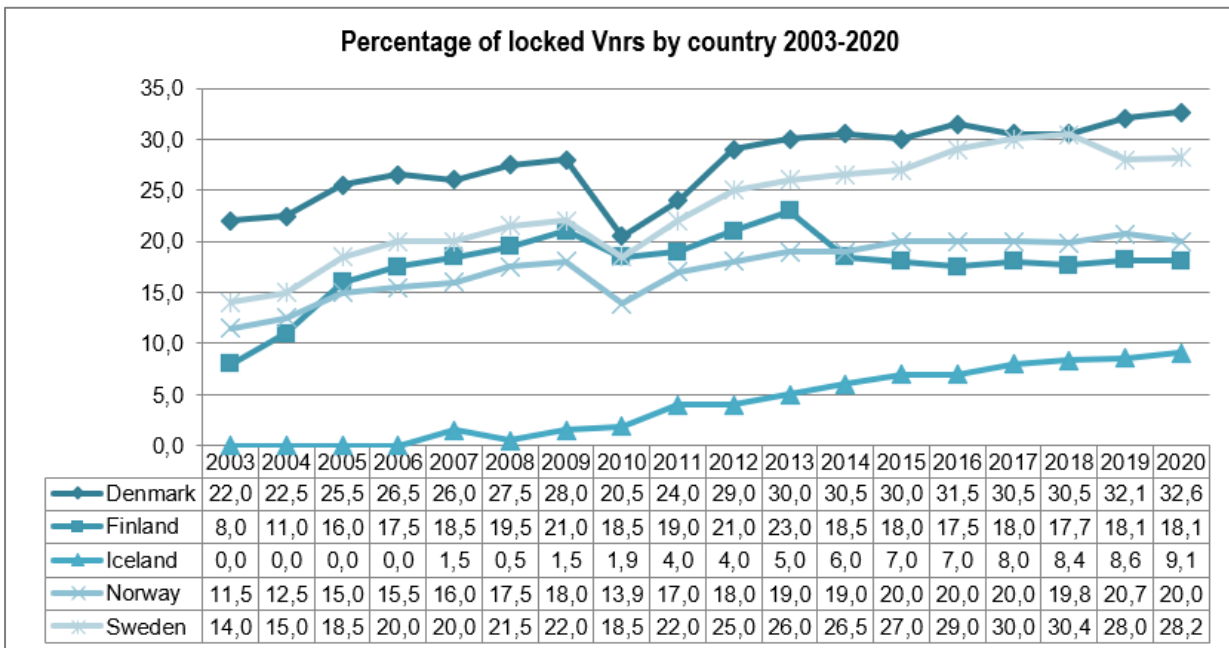
The terms locked and unlocked Vnrs were taken into use in 2013. These specify for which markets a certain Vnr can be used and replace the old terms national and common Vnrs. In picture 5 the portion of locked and unlocked Vnr numbers is shown by country.

Picture 5.



There were no significant changes in the percentage of locked Vnrs in 2020 compared to 2019 (Picture 6).

Picture 6.

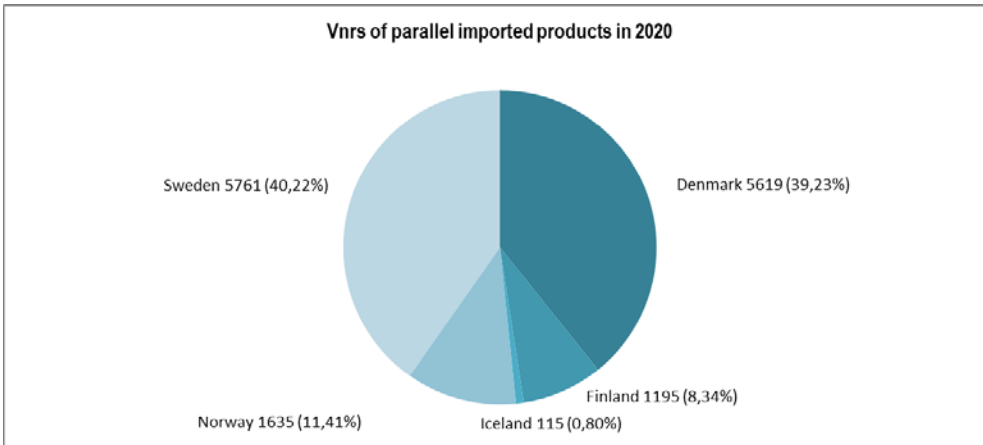


Parallel imported products

There were 14 325 Vnrs of parallel imported products in the Nordic countries in 2020. There was a slight increase (2 %) in the ratio of parallel imported products from 2019. The year 2019 saw a noticeable decrease of 9 % compared to 2018. Until 2018 there was an increase in parallel imported products for several years: 2018 the increase was 3 %, 2017 4 %, 2016 9 % and 2015 5 %.

As since 2013, Sweden had the most parallel imported products. The ratios between the countries stayed very similar to 2019 (Picture 7).

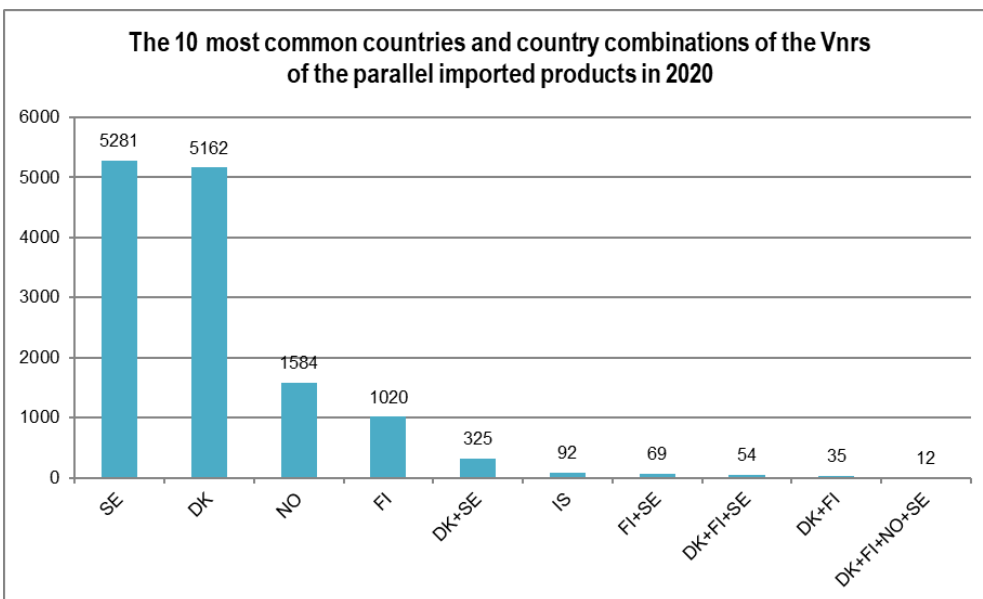
Picture 7.



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 2020 the most common country combination was again the combination of Denmark and Sweden.

Picture 8.



Country combinations of Vnrs

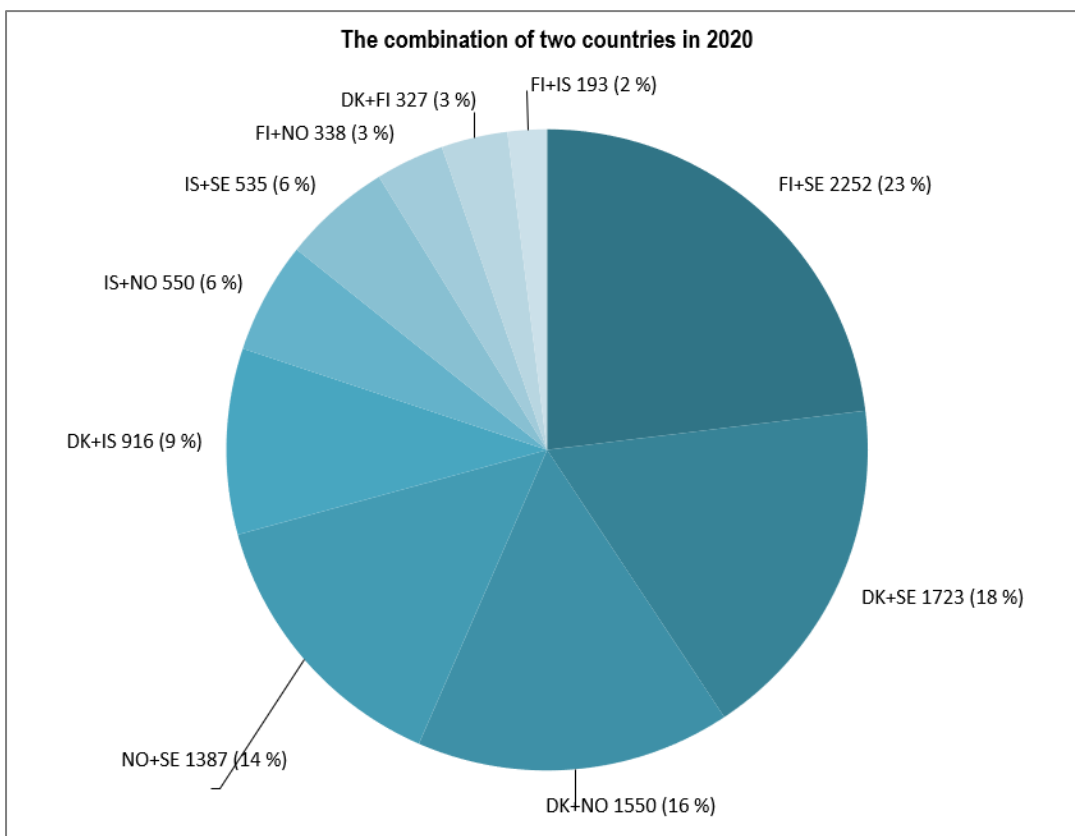
The amount of Vnrs with country combinations of two, three, four and five countries in 2020 are shown in Table 1.

Table 1.

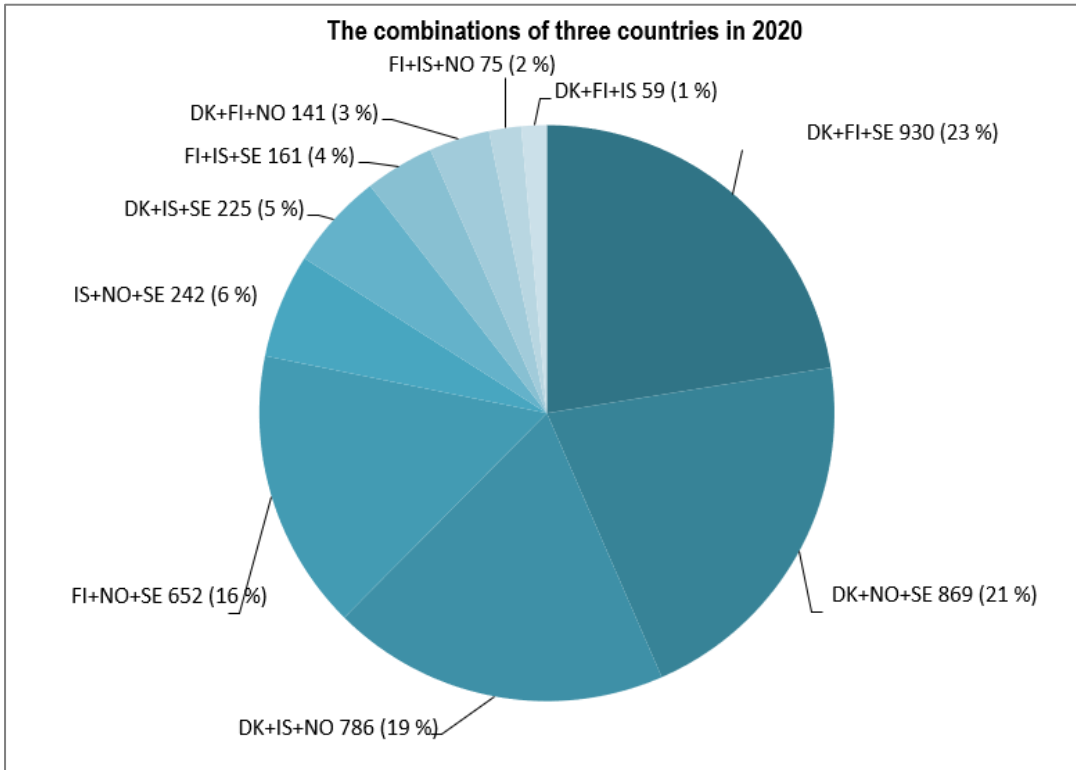
The amount of Vnrs for different country combinations in 2020	
2 countries	9 771
3 countries	4 140
4 countries	2 325
5 countries	1 852

There were no significant changes between 2019 and 2020 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.)

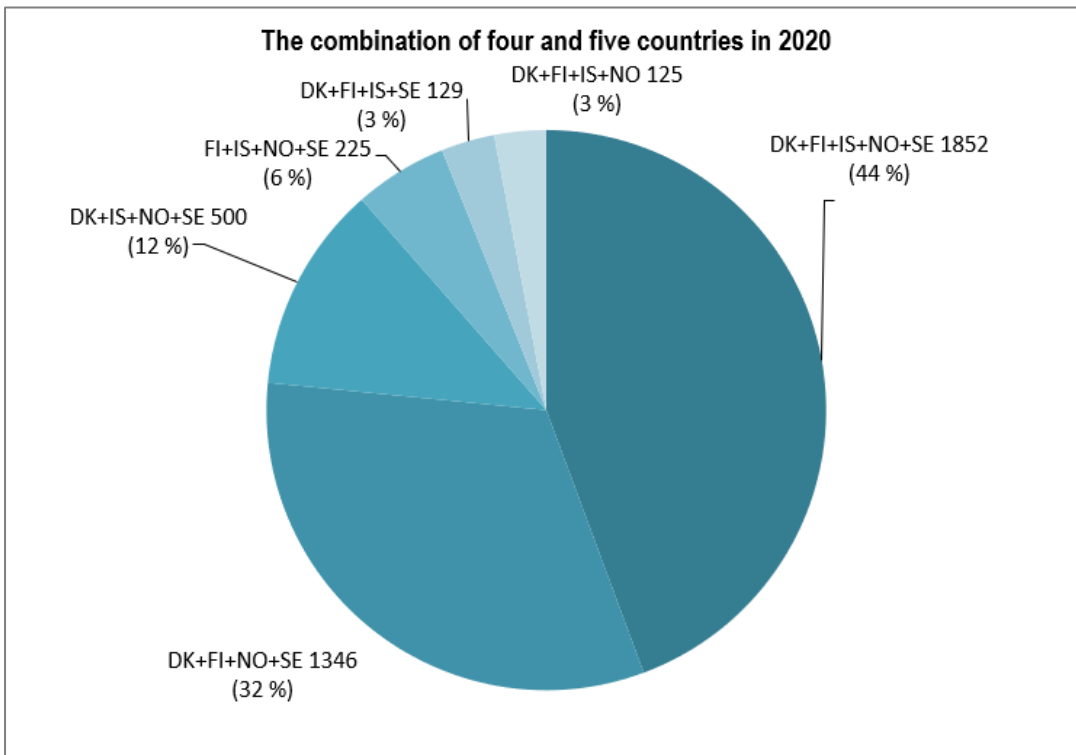
Picture 9.



Picture 10.

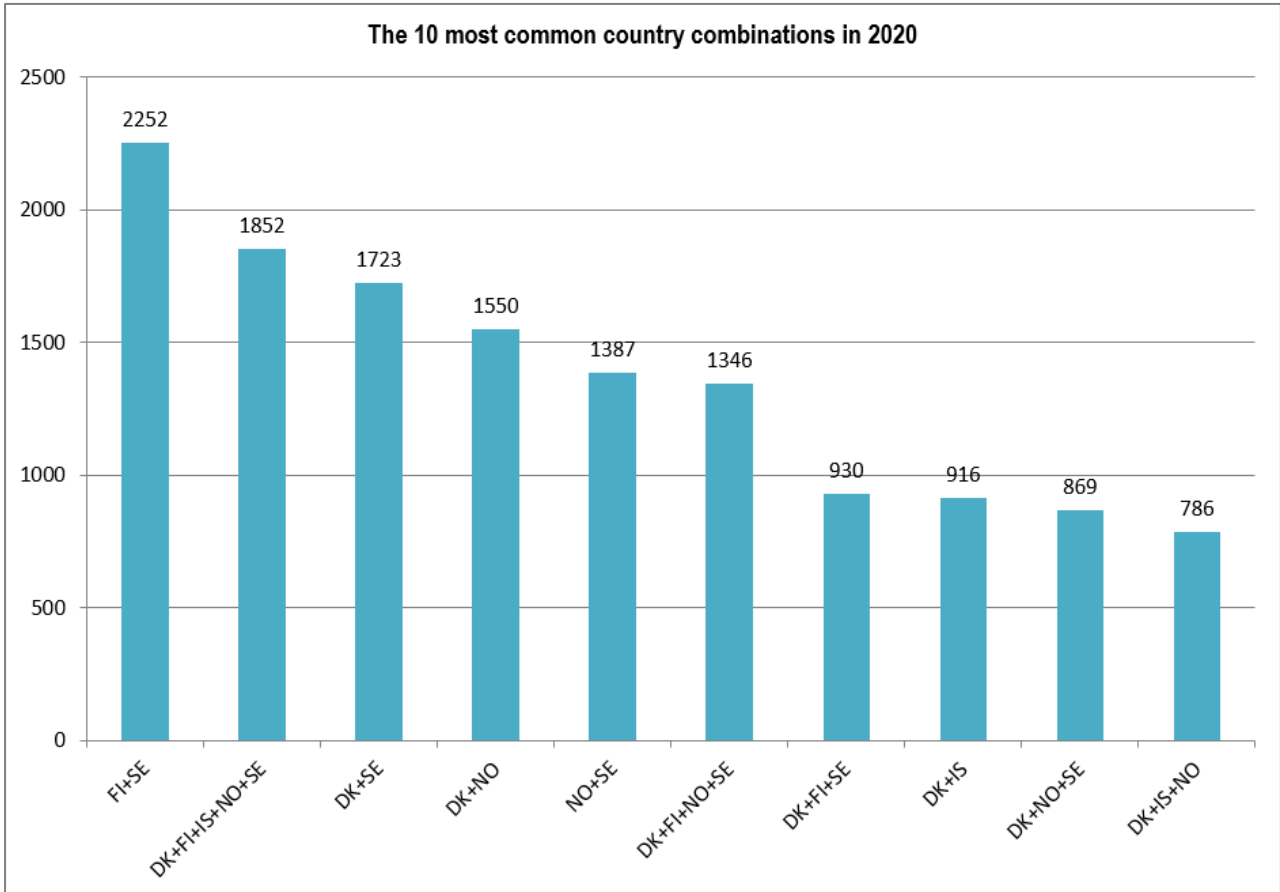


Picture 11.



The 10 most common country combinations of Vnrs can be seen in Picture 12. The order of the most common country combinations remained unchanged from the previous year. The most common country combination in 2020 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 22 786 valid Vnrs at the end of 2020. The number of valid Vnrs had a slight increase after years of decreasing since 2011. 25 % of the Vnrs were for parallel imported products. More detailed information can be found in the following tables and pictures.

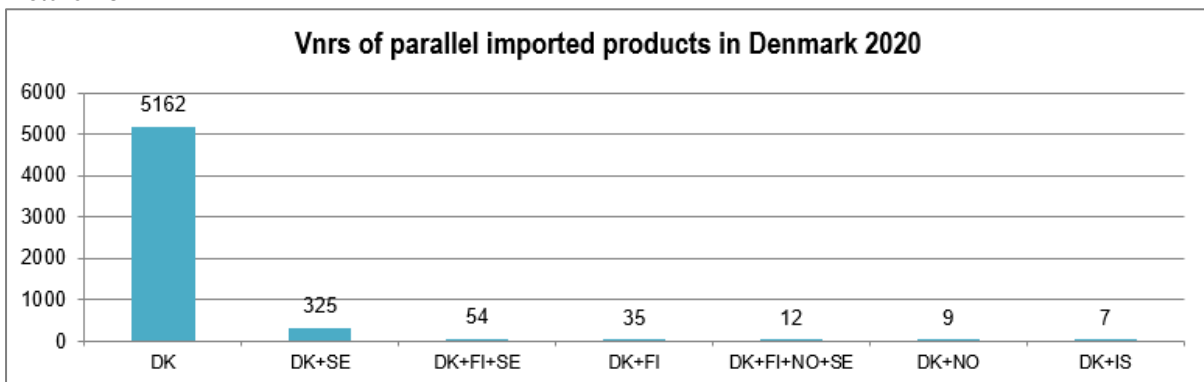
Table 2.

Vnrs in Denmark 2020	
All	22 786
Unlocked	15 353 (67 %)
Locked	7 433 (33 %)
Parallel imported	5 619 (25 %)

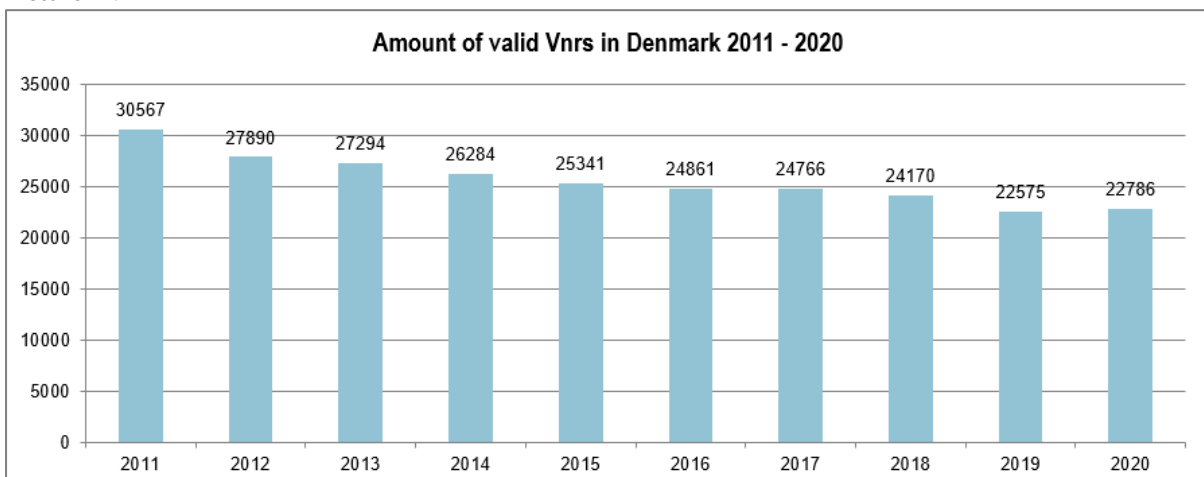
Table 3.

Human and veterinary medicines in Denmark 2020	
Human	20 556 (90 %)
Veterinary	2 226 (10 %)
Human and veterinary	4 (0 %)

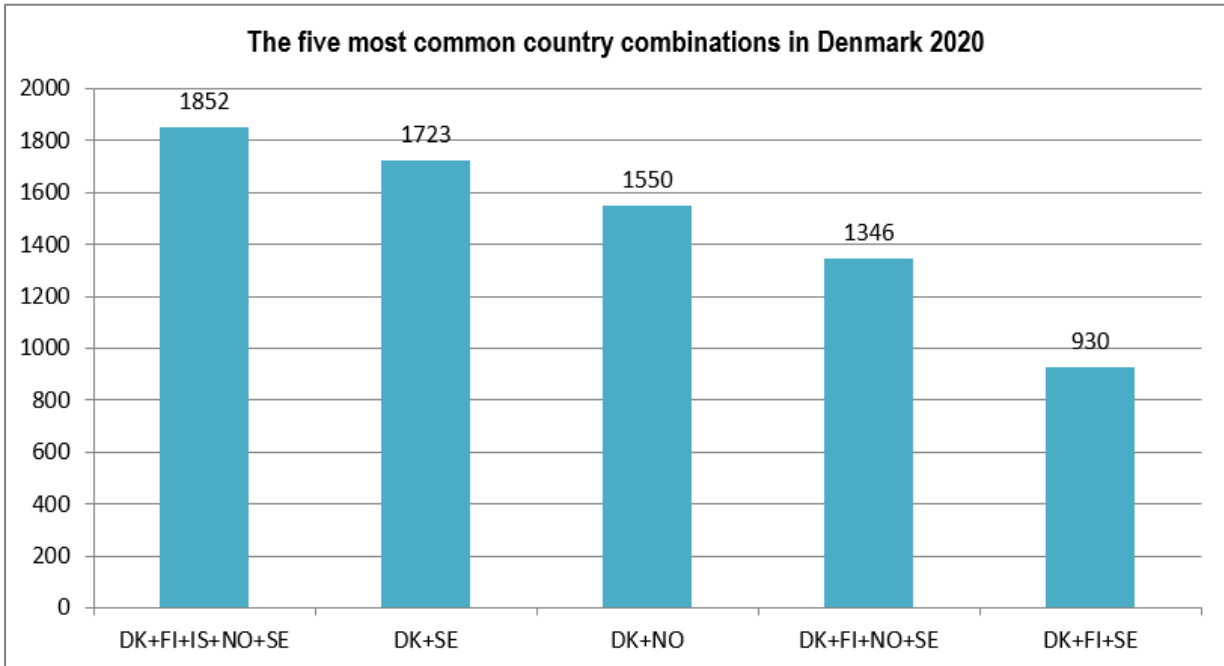
Picture 13.



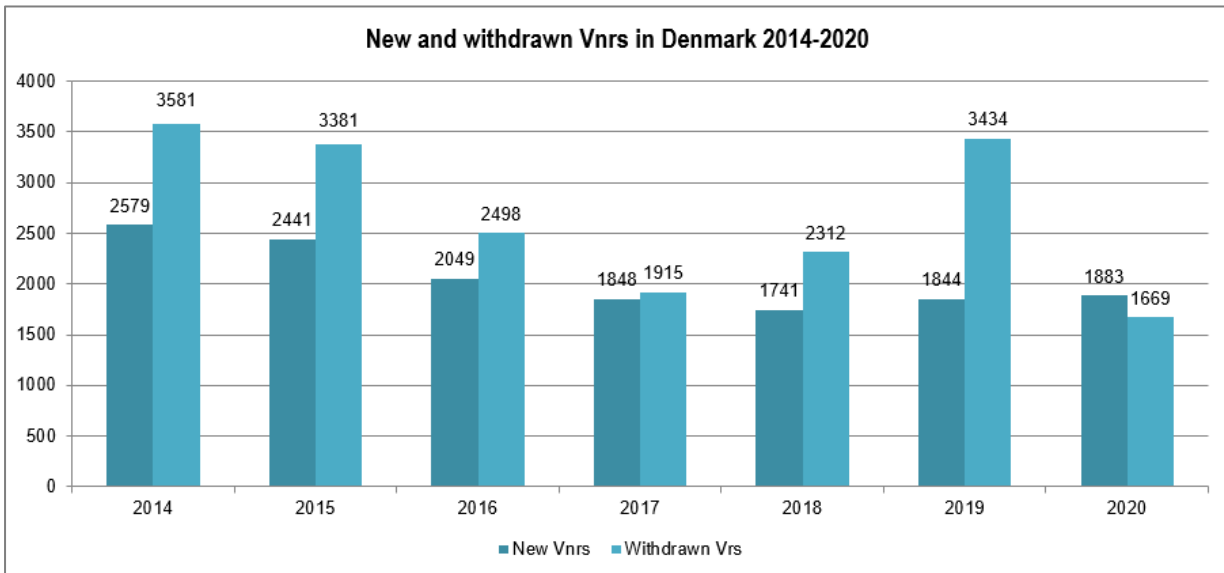
Picture 14.



Picture 15.



Picture 16.



Finland

In Finland there were 14 720 valid Vnrs at the end of 2020. More detailed information can be found in the following tables and pictures.

Table 4.

Vnrs in Finland 2020	
All	14 720
Unlocked	12 060 (82 %)
Locked	2 660 (18 %)
Parallel imported	1 195 (8 %)

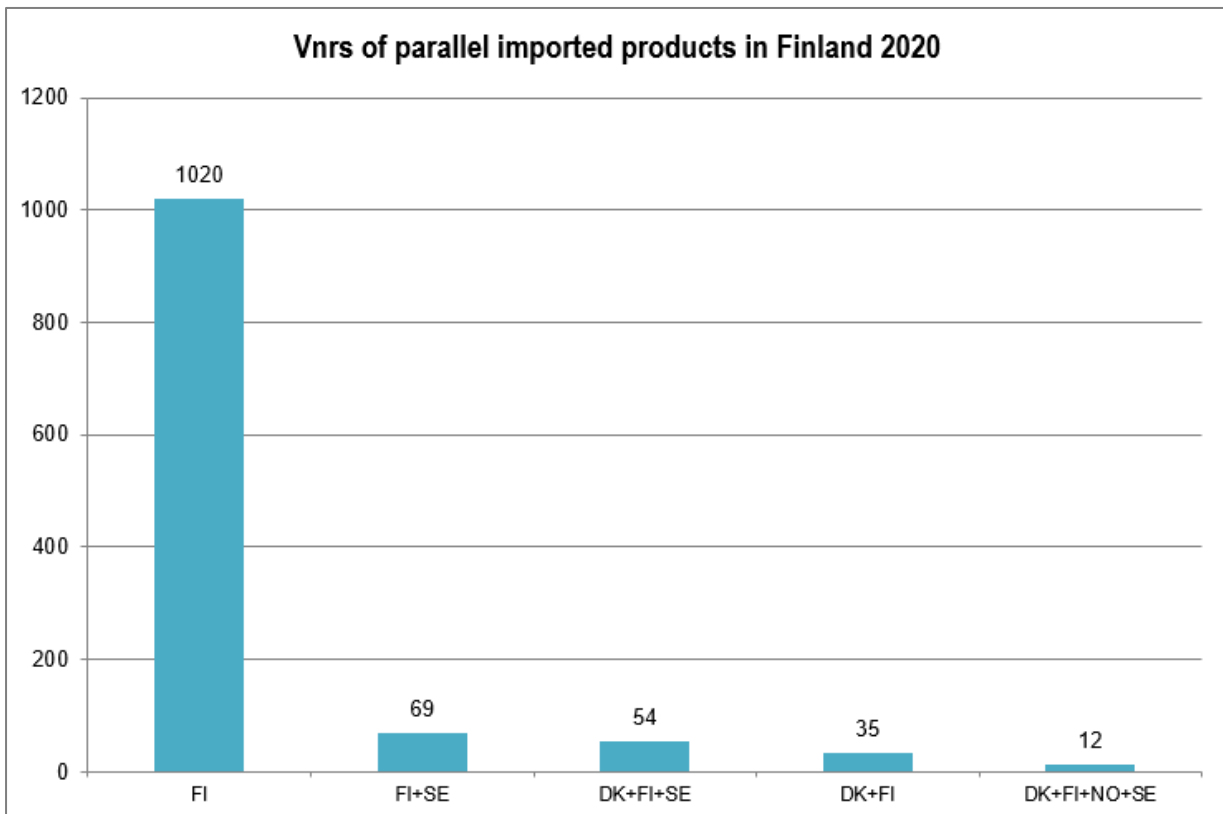
Table 5.

Human and veterinary medicines in Finland 2020	
Human	13 219 (90 %)
Veterinary	1 501 (10 %)
Human and veterinary	0 (0 %)

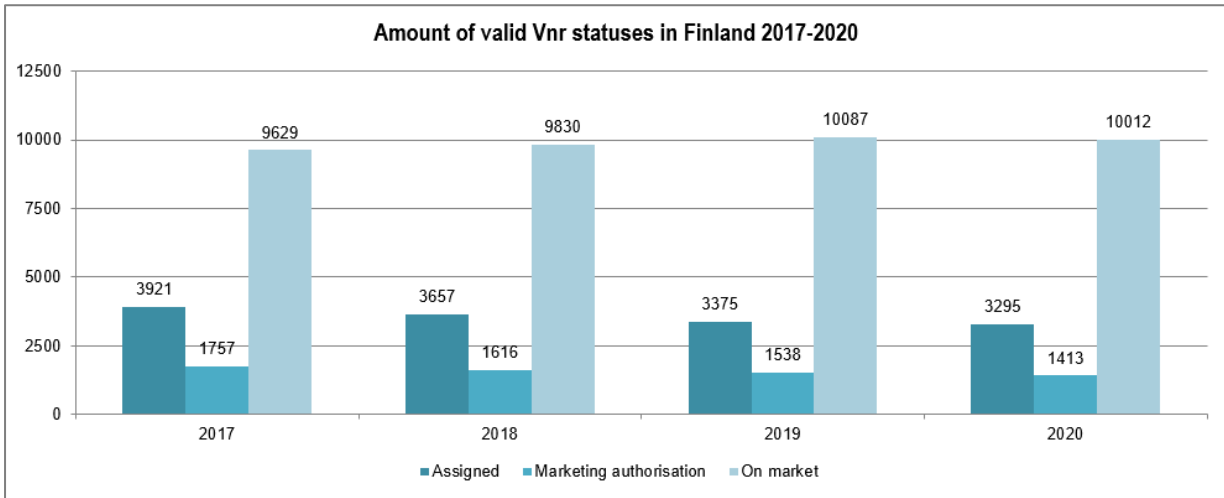
Table 6.

Prescription only, harmful in traffic and narcotic medicines in Finland 2020	
Prescription only	12 905 (88 %)
Harmful in traffic	1 400 (10 %)
Narcotic	362 (3 %)

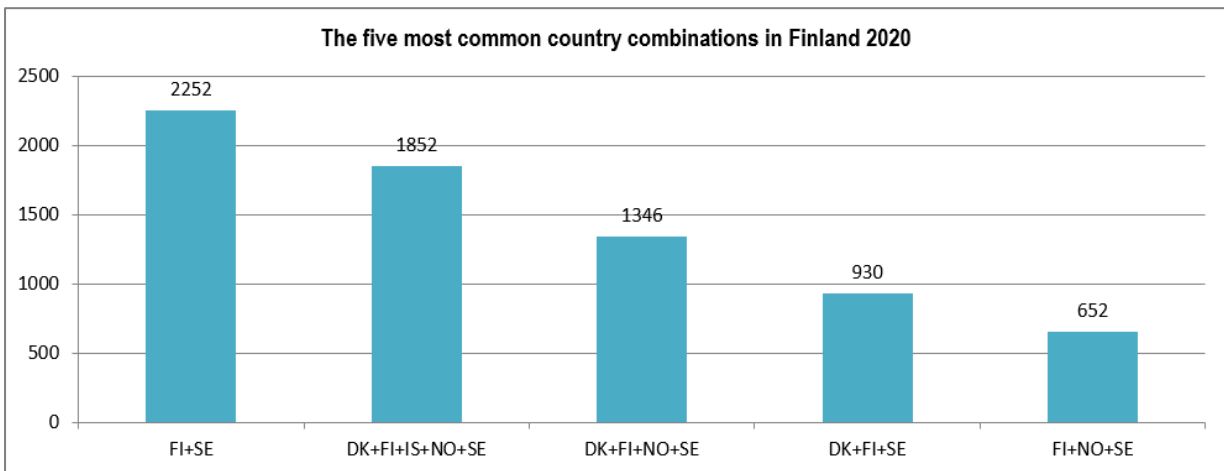
Picture 17.



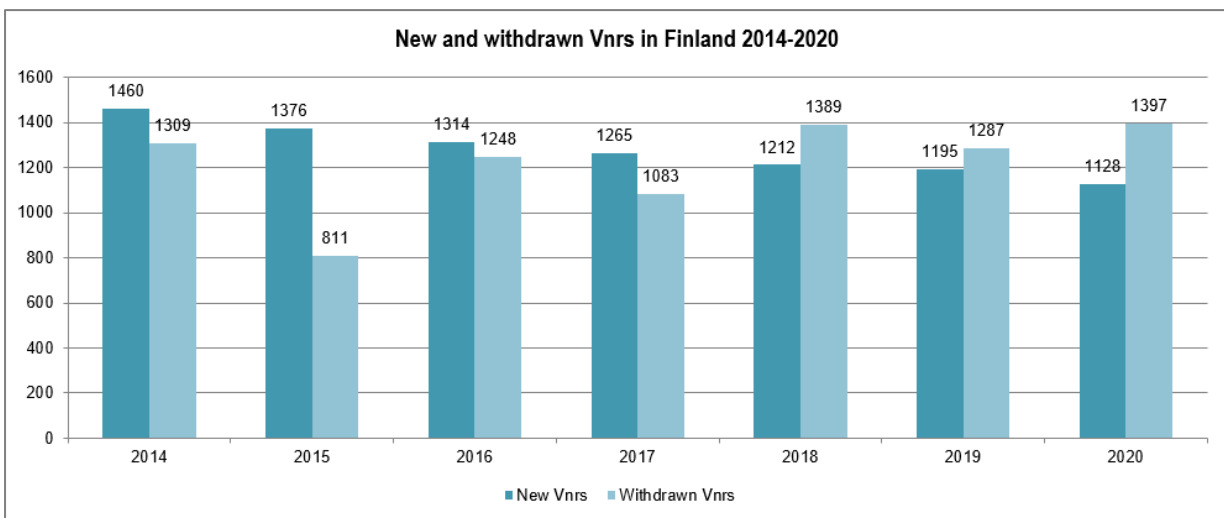
Picture 18.



Picture 19.



Picture 20.



Iceland

In Iceland there were 8 960 valid Vnrs at the end of 2020. Only 1 % of the products were parallel imported. More detailed information can be found in the following tables and pictures.

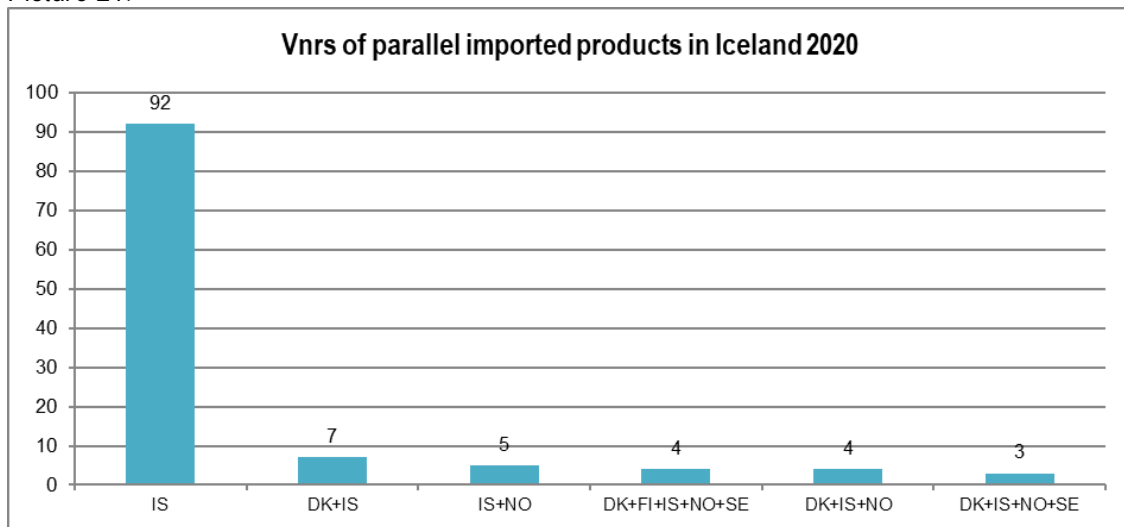
Table 7.

Vnrs in Iceland 2020	
All	8 960
Unlocked	8 148 (91 %)
Locked	812 (9 %)
Parallel imported	115 (1 %)

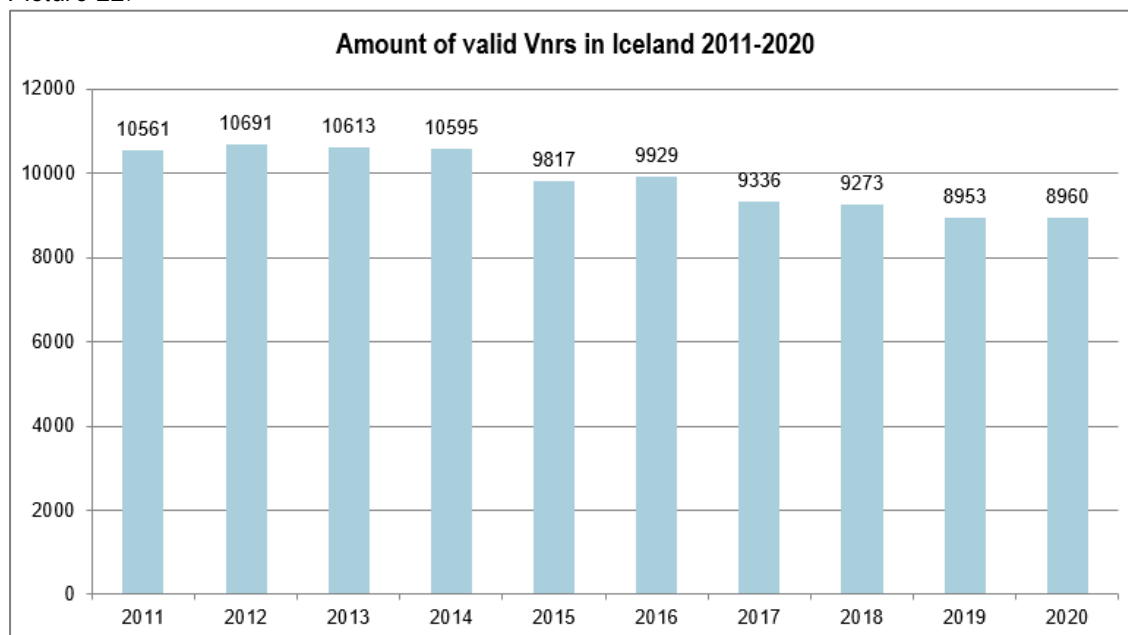
Table 8.

Human and veterinary medicines in Iceland 2020	
Human	8 401 (94 %)
Veterinary	556 (6 %)
Human and veterinary	3 (0 %)

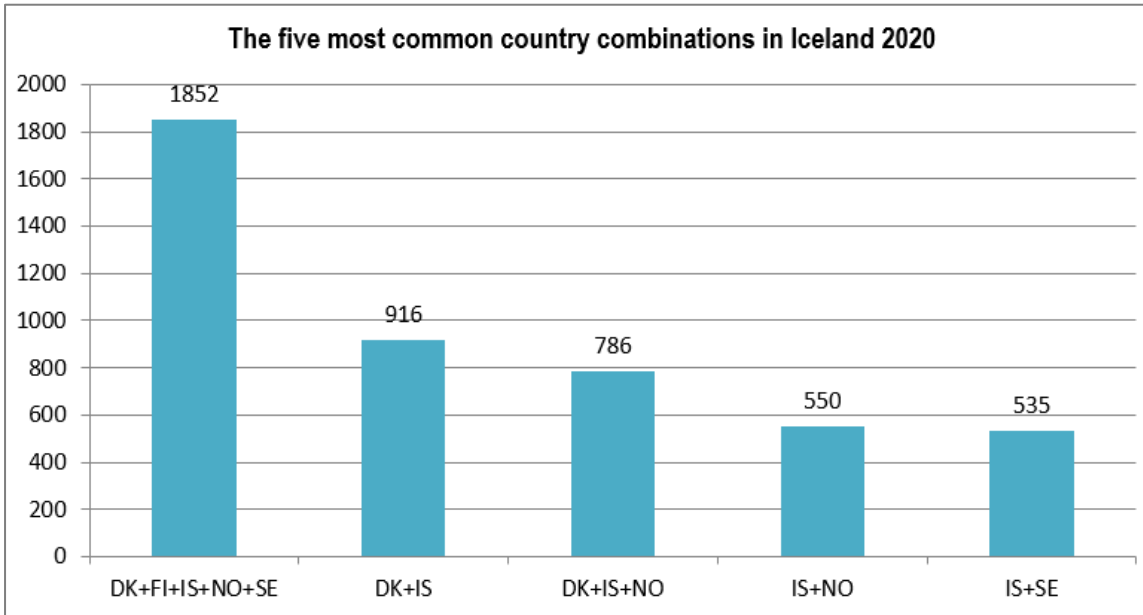
Picture 21.



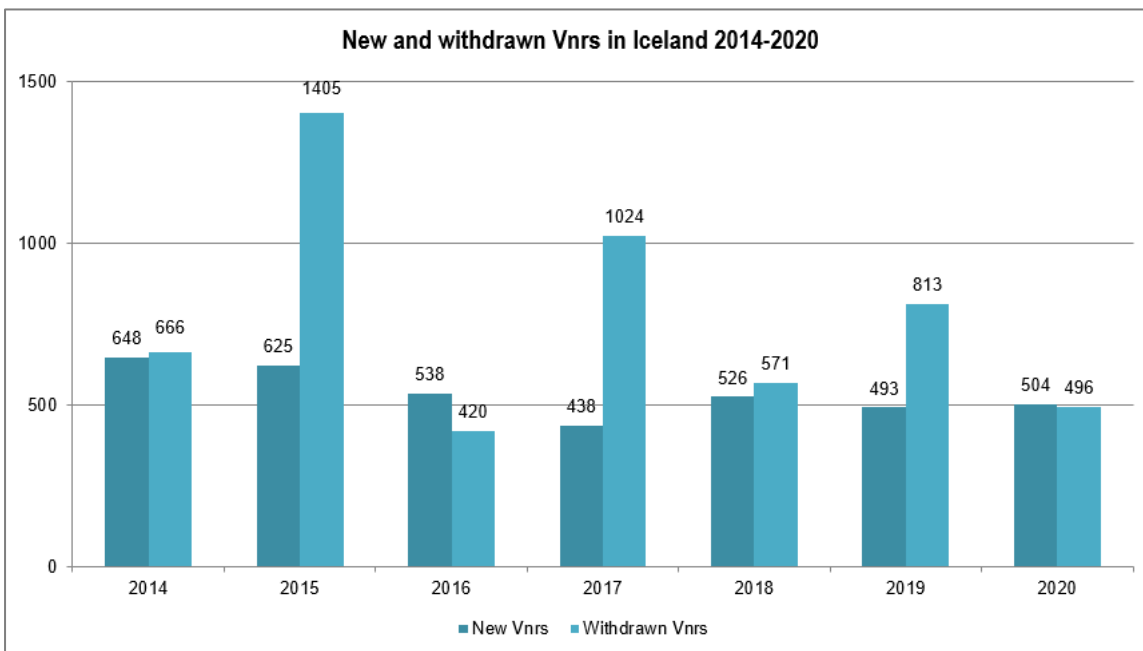
Picture 22.



Picture 23.



Picture 24.



Norway

In Norway there were 17 479 valid Vnrs at the end of 2020. More detailed information can be found in the following tables and pictures.

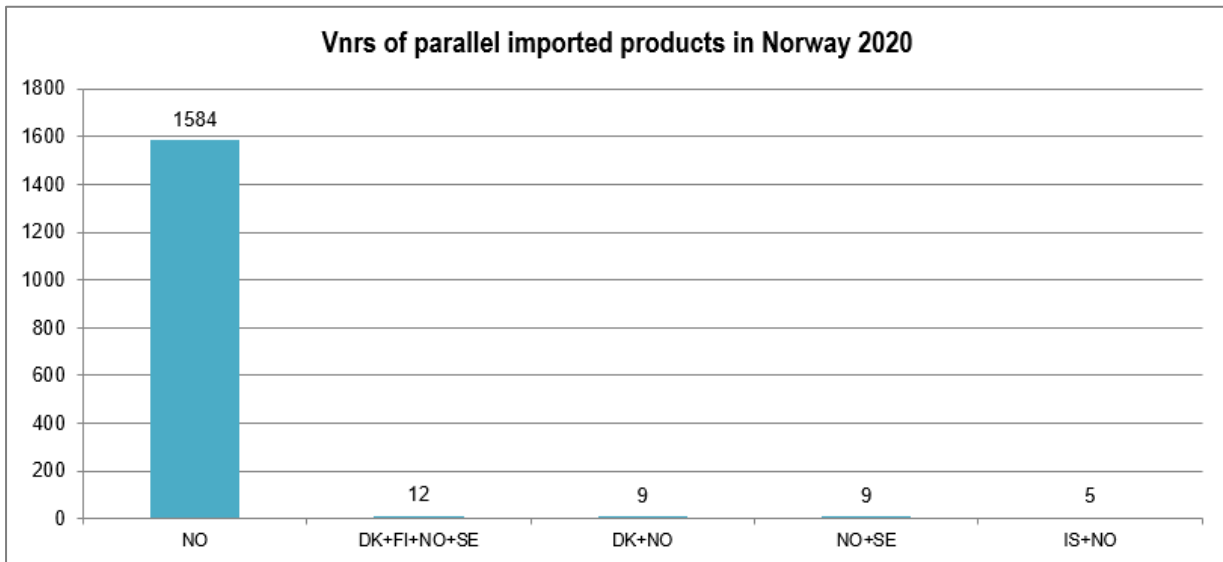
Table 9.

Vnrs in Norway 2020	
All	17 479
Unlocked	13 988 (80 %)
Locked	3 491 (20 %)
Parallel imported	1 635 (9 %)

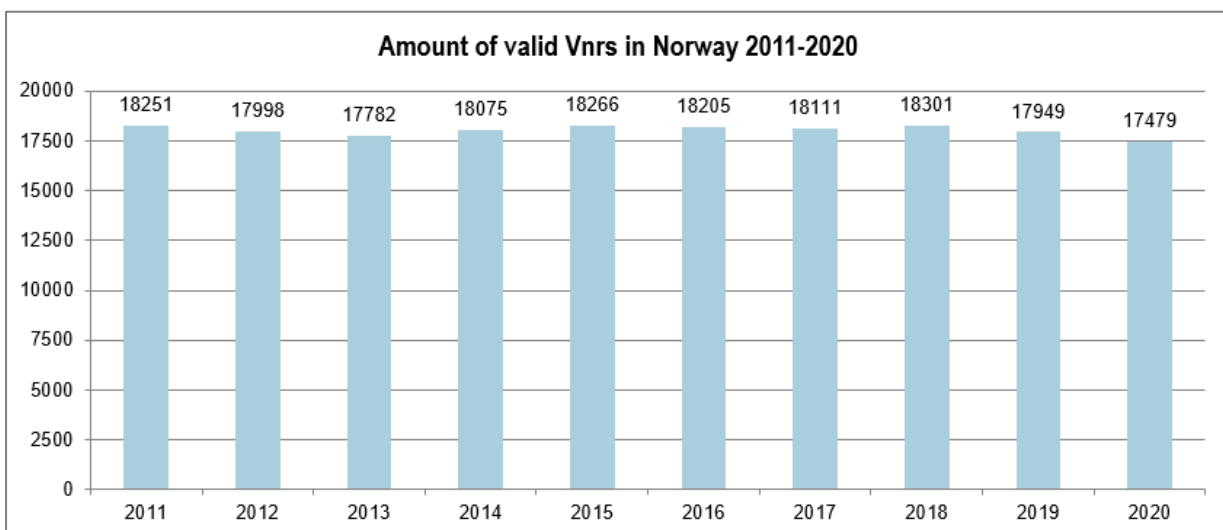
Table 10.

Human and veterinary medicines in Norway 2020	
Human	16 055 (92 %)
Veterinary	1 418 (8 %)
Human and veterinary	6 (0 %)

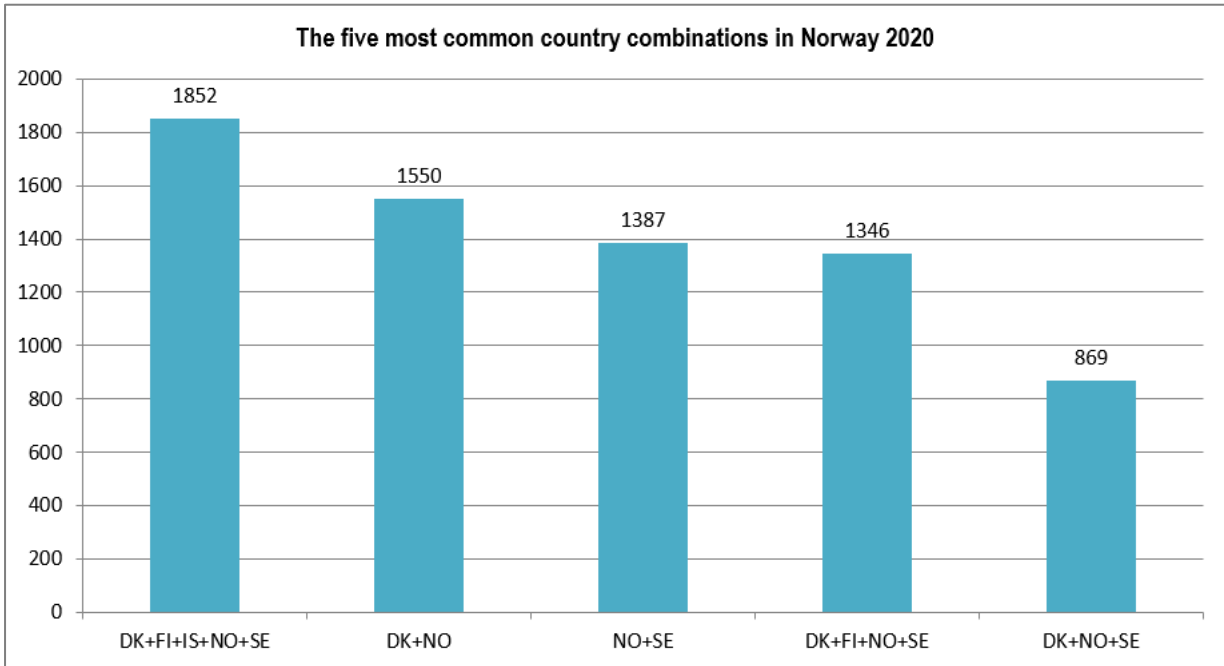
Picture 25.



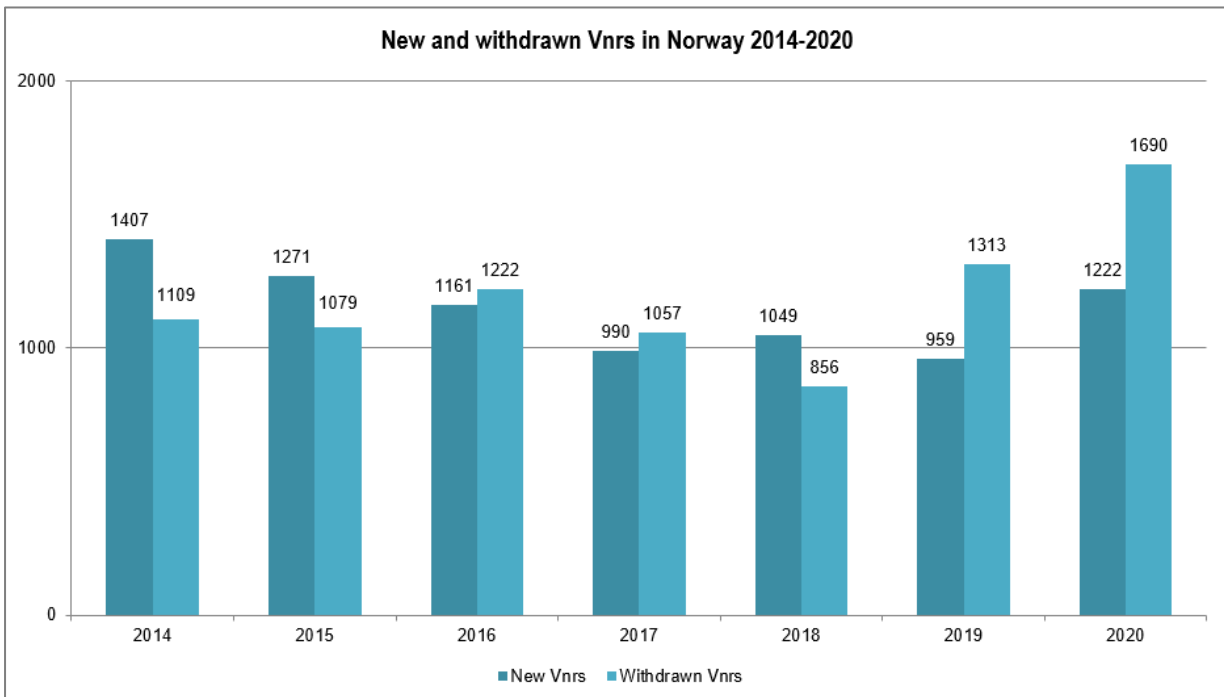
Picture 26.



Picture 27.



Picture 28.



Sweden

In Sweden there were 28 233 valid Vnrs, of which 20 % were parallel imported products at the end of 2020. More detailed information can be found in the tables and pictures below.

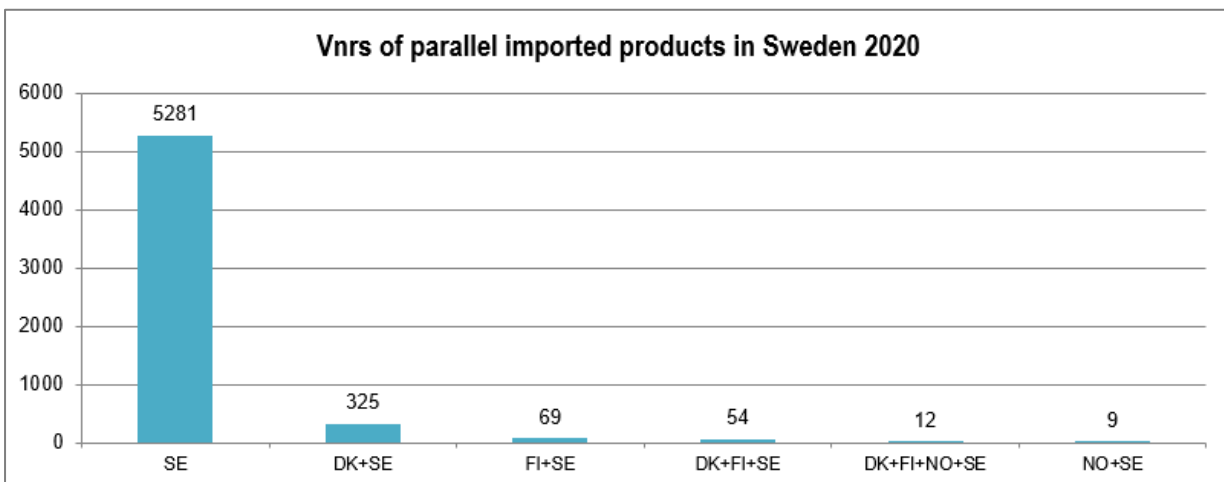
Table 11.

Vnrs in Sweden 2020	
All	28 233
Unlocked	20 273 (72 %)
Locked	7 960 (28 %)
Parallel imported	5 761 (20 %)

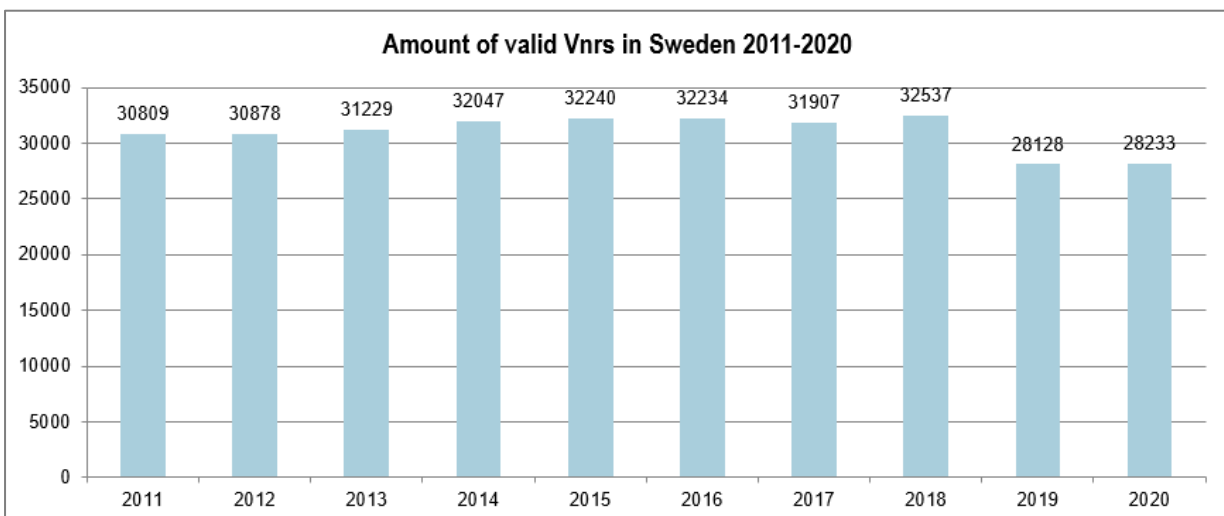
Table 12.

Human and veterinary medicines in Sweden 2020	
Human	26 342 (93 %)
Veterinary	1 874 (7 %)
Human and veterinary	17 (0 %)

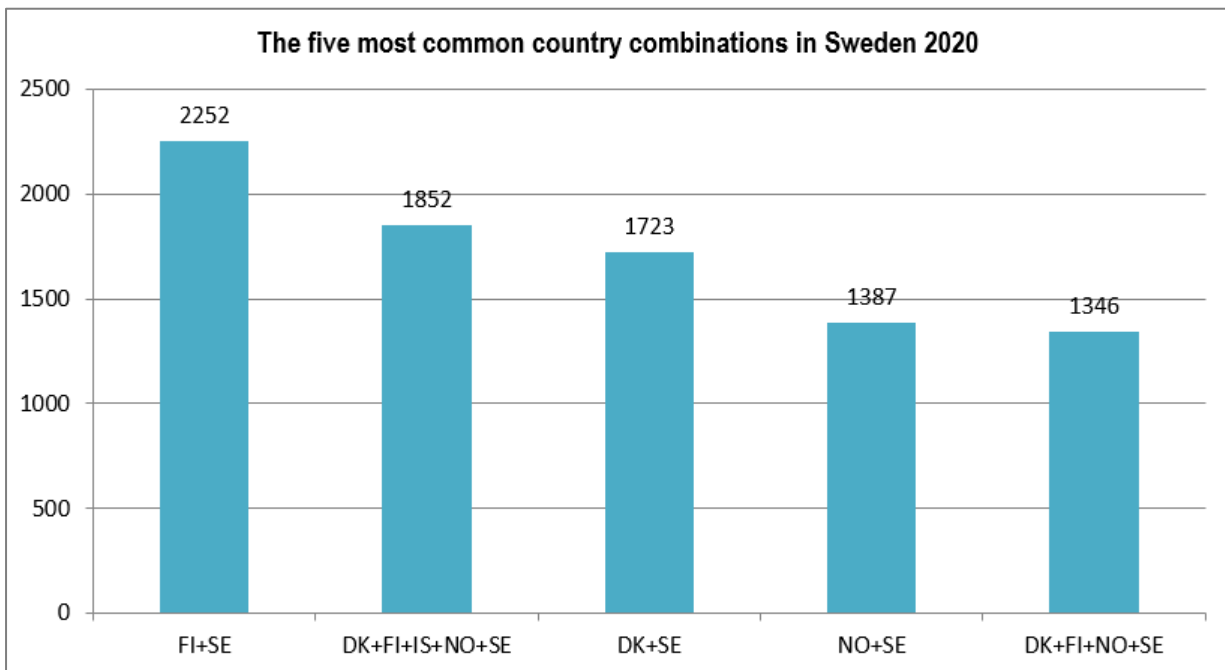
Picture 29.



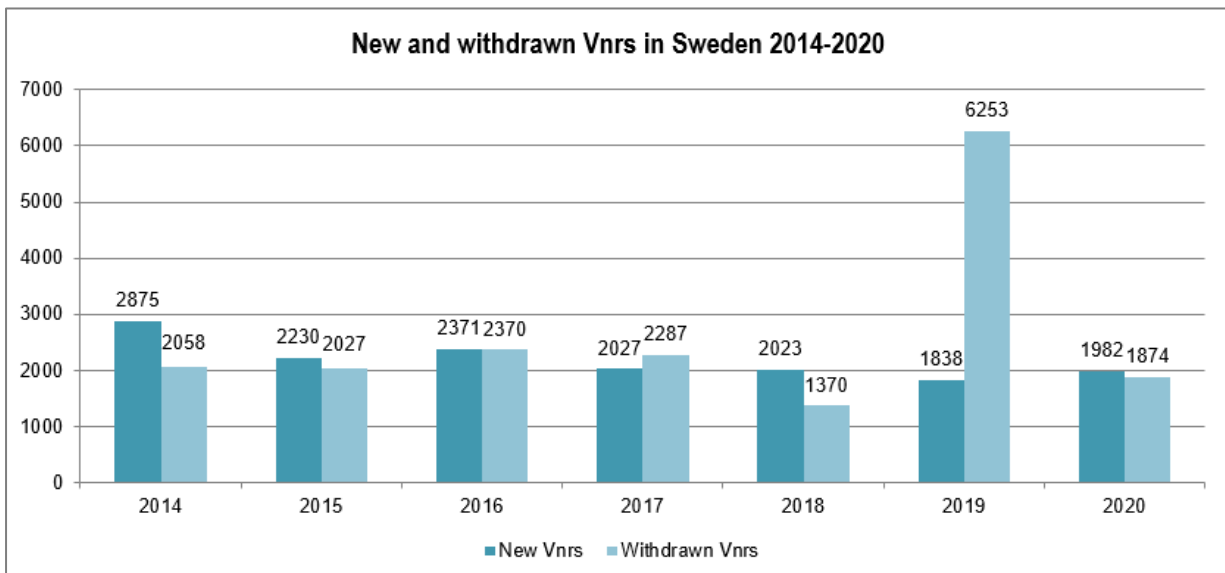
Picture 30.



Picture 31.



Picture 32.



Pharmaceutical Information Centre shortly

Pharmaceutical Information Centre Ltd produces pharmaceutical information, business intelligence and training services for healthcare and pharmaceutical companies and organizations. We are a hub for drug information in Finland. We maintain, refine and enrich 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®, Real World Insight, Pharmarket™, Lääkeinfo.fi, and pharmaceutical seminars and webinars.

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 over 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 has been on our responsibility since 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 the Pharmaceutical Information Centre have pharmaceutical education. Seven IT specialists work to maintain and further improve our databases and services.