

Nordic Vnr Services

Vnr Statistics of the Year 2021

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Introduction

The Vnr statistics is a summary of the changes and transactions in the Nordic Vnr database during the year 2021. 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 111.

Overall the year 2021 was similar to the previous ones. There was a slight increase in the amount of marketing authorization holders (+29). Altogether there were 10 982 trade names with valid Vnrs at the end of 2021. These Vnrs belonged to 888 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 2 000 registered users from 650 companies at the end of 2021. Approximately 450 users logged in to Vnr Service more than 20 times during 2021. 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 2021 there were about 57 000 product codes in the database. 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 2021 two new Vnr tutorial videos were added to the VnrWiki: "How to order a Nordic Vnr" and "How to withdraw unnecessary Vnrs". More tutorials can be made if requested by the Vnr Service users. The partly outdated pdf document "Vnr Nordic Article Number – instruction booklet" was deleted from the VnrWiki. All relevant content is of course still available on the site.

VnrWiki had over 17 000 visits in 2021, which is over 50 % more than in 2020. Most of the visitors were from Finland (15 %), Sweden (11 %) and the United States (10 %). The rest of the top six countries were China (8 %), Germany (5 %) and United Kingdom (5 %).

Feedback

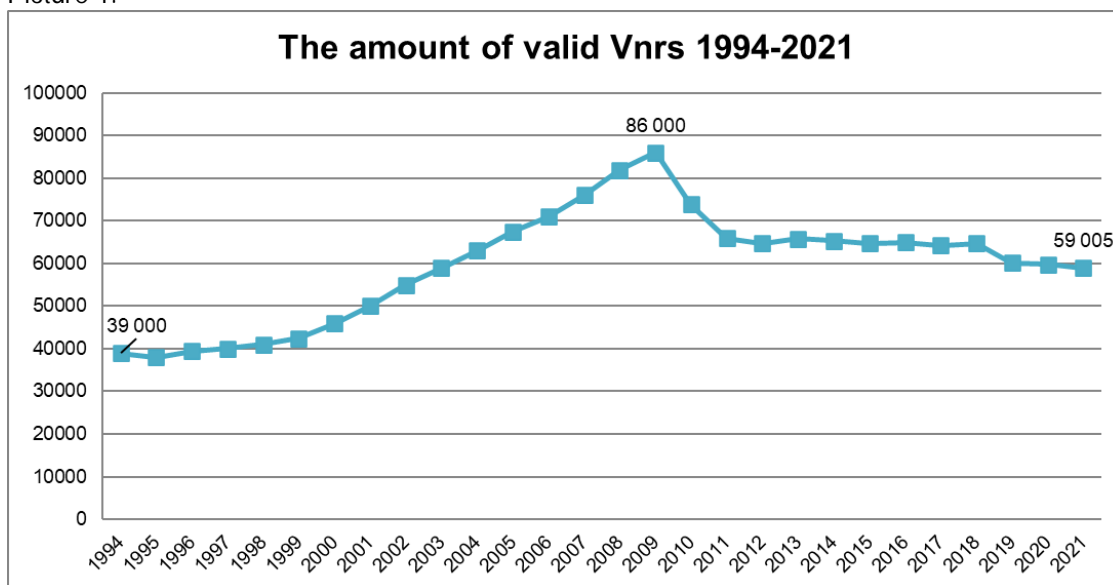
All suggestions and comments are important and appreciated in developing this annual statistics document. Please send feedback and questions to vnr@vnr.fi.

Statistics of the year 2021

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 2021 there were 59 005 valid Vnrs, with a slight 1,2 % decrease (739 Vnrs) in the amount of Vnrs compared to the 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 2021, 34,6 % of the valid Vnrs had the status "on market" in one or more countries (20 432 Vnrs). There were 84 447 Vnrs in the database which were withdrawn from all countries, which is 6,2 % more than in 2020.

In 2021 most Vnrs were in use in Sweden (28 496 Vnrs) and Denmark (22 557 Vnrs), while in Iceland there was only 9 038 Vnrs in use (Picture 2). Status distribution of Vnrs varies slightly between countries. Country specific data is presented starting from page 11.

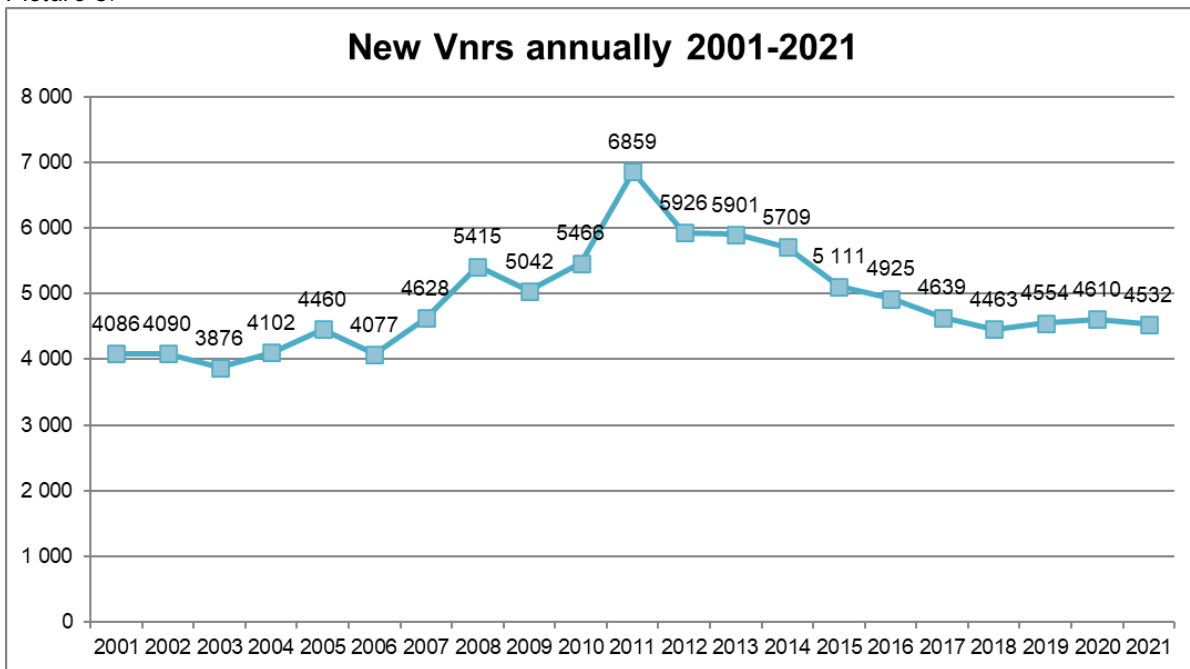
Picture 2.



New and withdrawn Vnrs and status changes

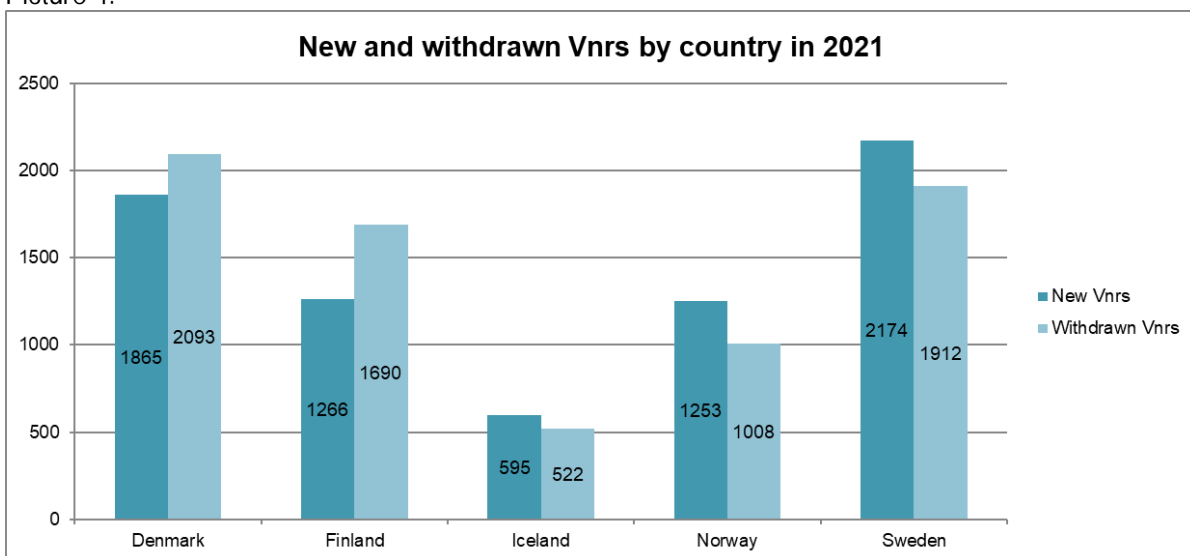
The amount of new Vnrs started to increase in 2006 (Picture 3). Between 2006 and 2011 the yearly amount of valid new Vnrs increased 68 %. After the exceptional year 2011 the decreasing trend continued for 8 years. In 2021 there were 1,7 % less new Vnrs than in 2020. In the picture 3 every Vnr is taken into account only once.

Picture 3.



7 153 new Vnrs were assigned in 2021. Most of the new Vnrs were assigned to be used in Denmark and Sweden (Picture 4). 7 225 Vnrs were changed to the status withdrawn during 2021. Most of the withdrawals were made in Sweden (1 912 Vnrs).

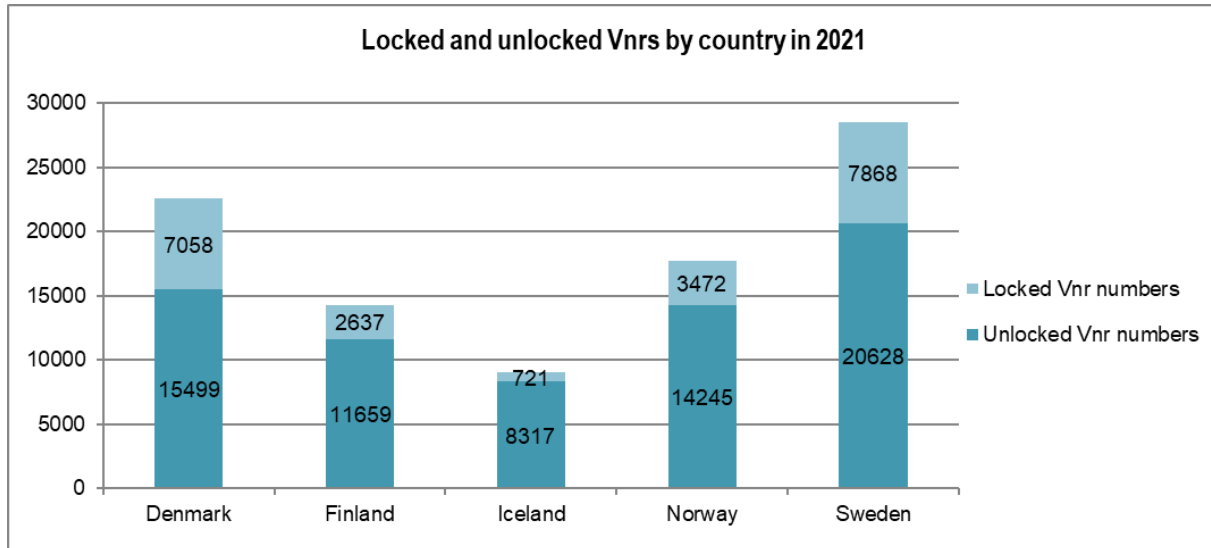
Picture 4.



Locked and unlocked Vnrs

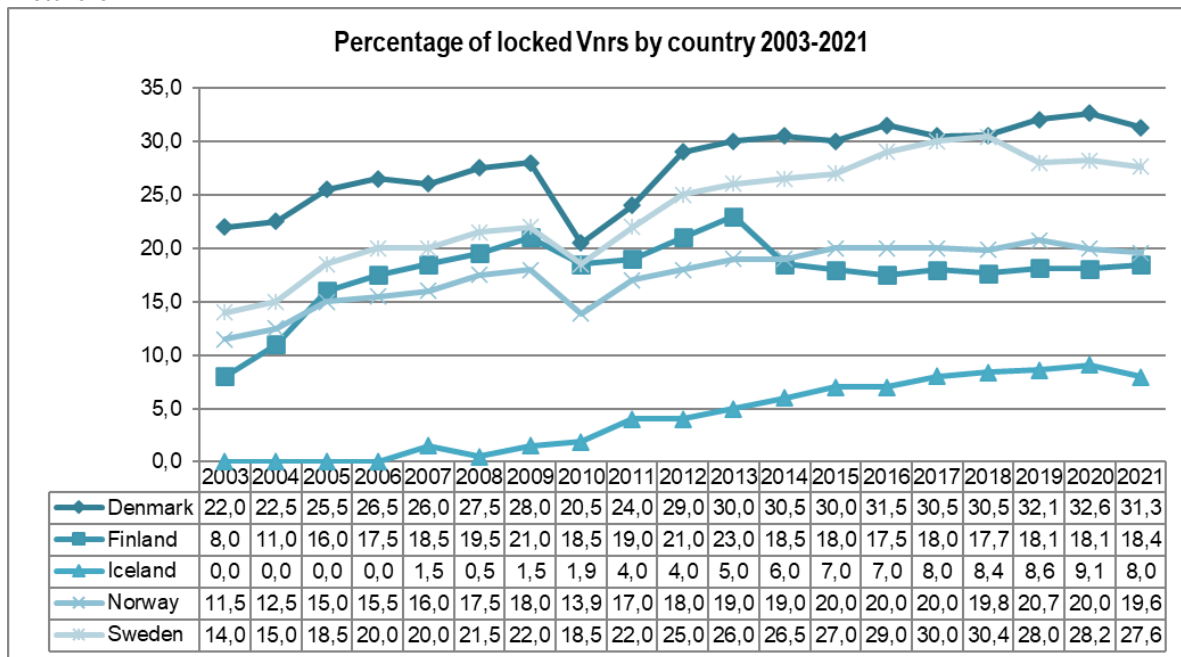
The terms locked and unlocked Vnrs were taken into use in 2013. These specify for which markets a certain Vnr can be used and replace the old terms national and common Vnrs. In picture 5 the portion of locked and unlocked Vnr numbers is shown by country.

Picture 5.



The percentage of locked Vnrs in 2021 changed between -1,3 % (Denmark) and 0,4 % (Finland) compared to the previous year 2020 (Picture 6).

Picture 6.

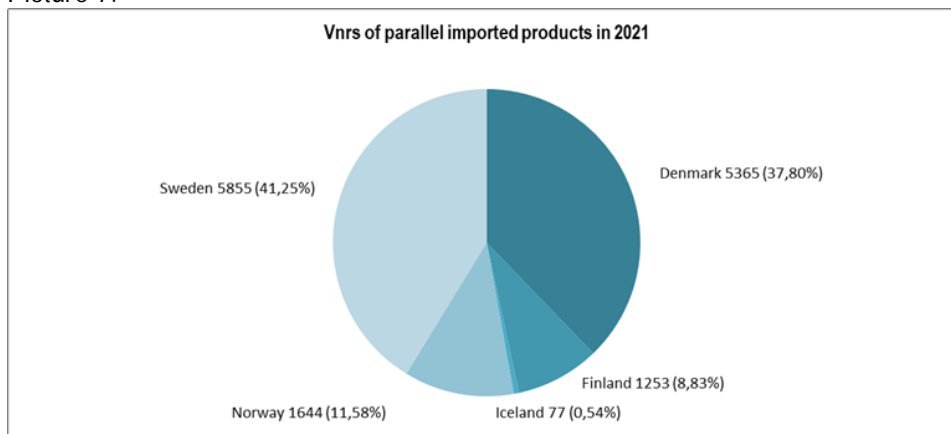


Parallel imported products

There were 14 194 Vnrs of parallel imported products in the Nordic countries in 2021. There was a slight decrease (-1 %) in the number of parallel imported products from 2020. 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 similar to 2020 (Picture 7).

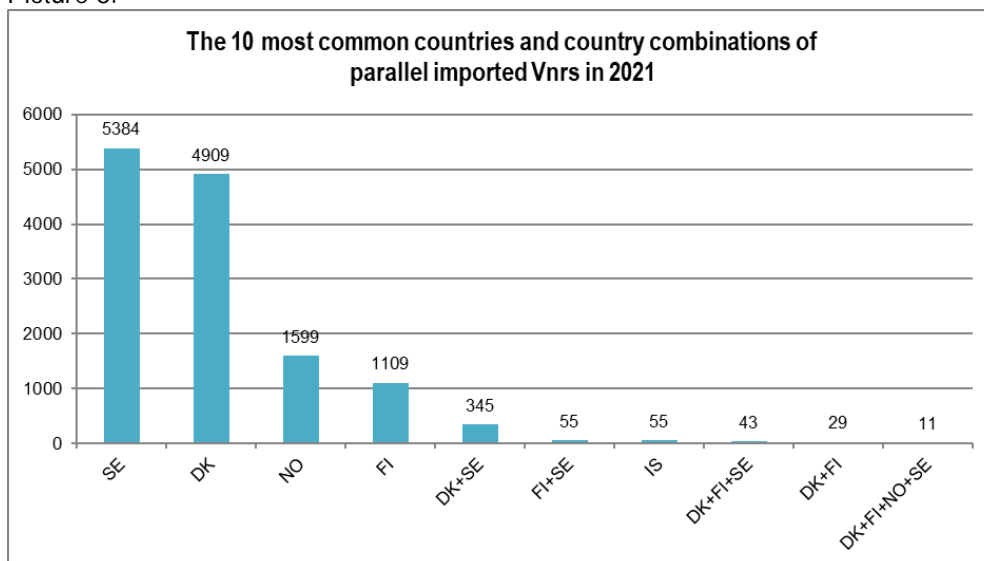
Picture 7.



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 2021 the most common country combination was again the combination of Denmark and Sweden.

Picture 8.



Country combinations of Vnrs

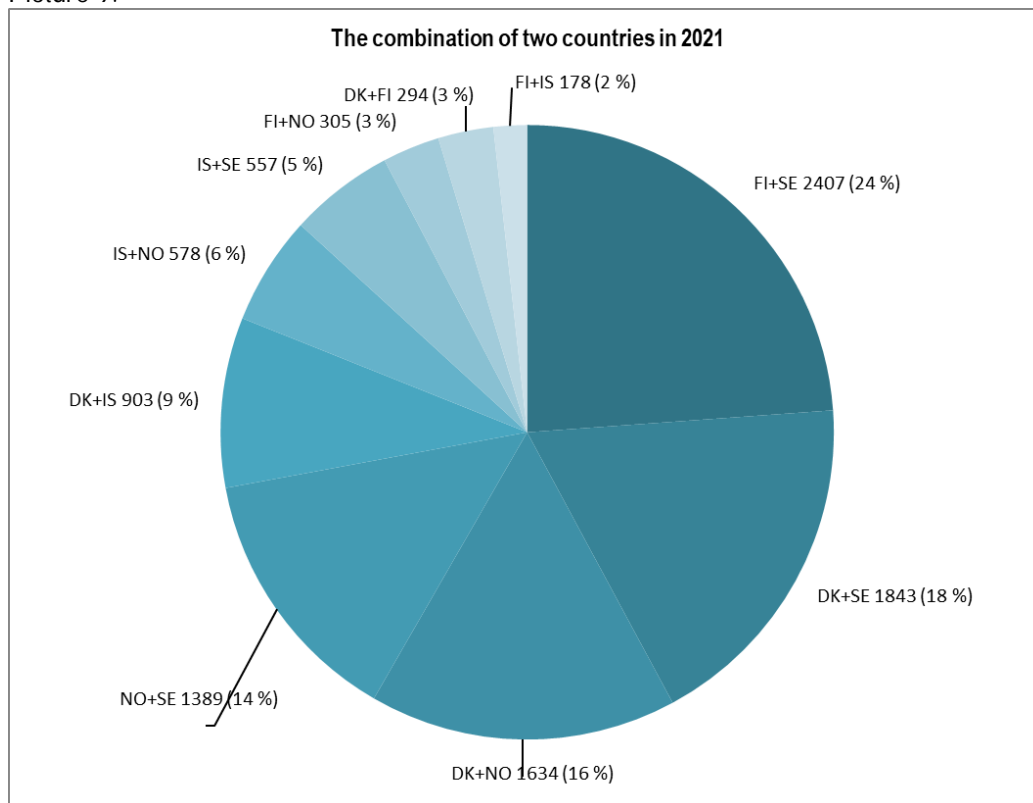
The amount of Vnrs with country combinations of two, three, four and five countries in 2021 are shown in Table 1.

Table 1.

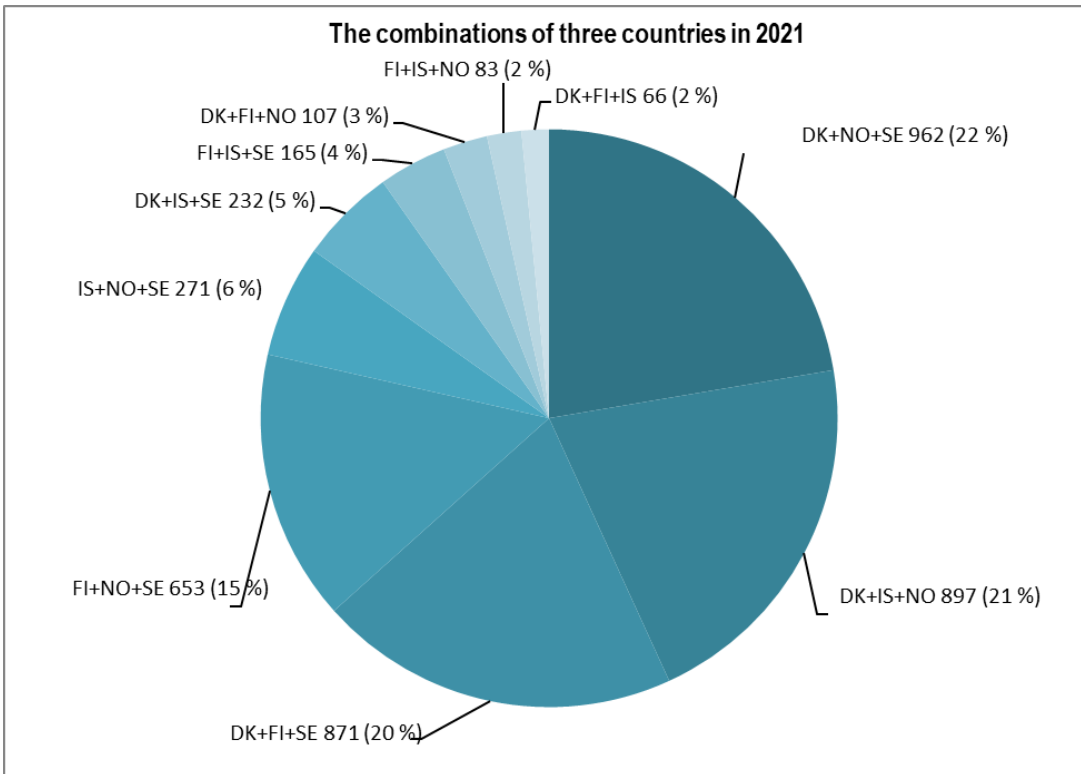
The amount of Vnrs for different country combinations in 2021	
2 countries	10 088
3 countries	4 307
4 countries	2 343
5 countries	1 842

There were no significant changes between 2020 and 2021 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.)

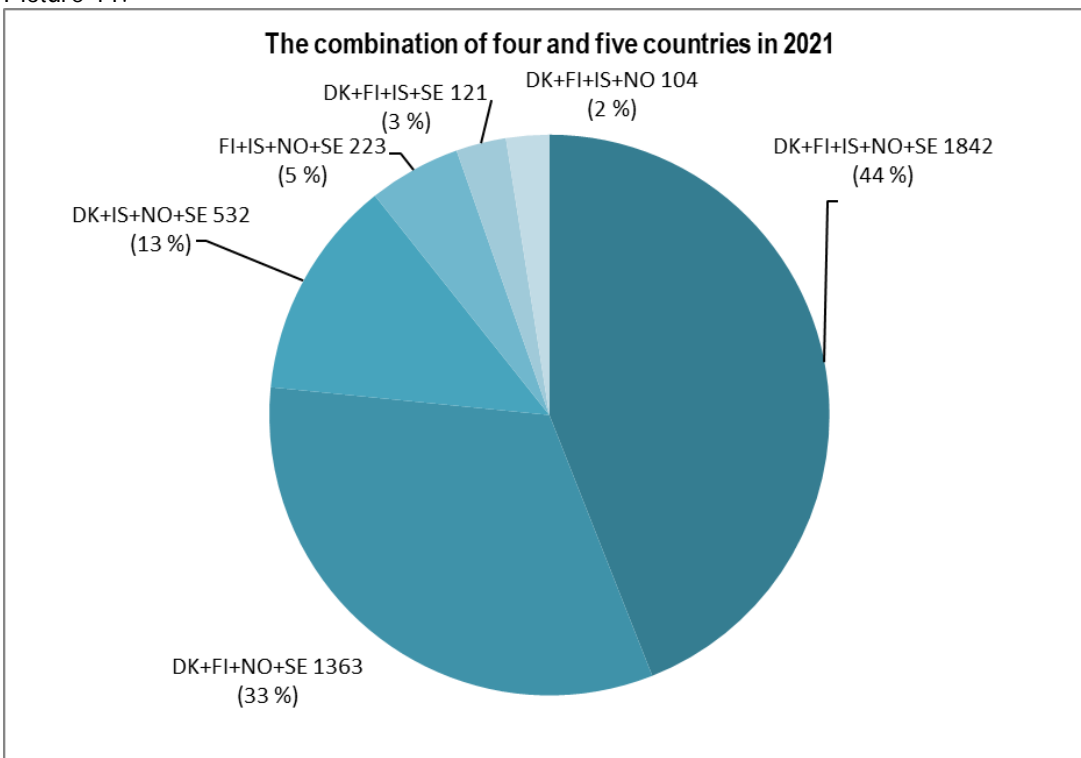
Picture 9.



Picture 10.

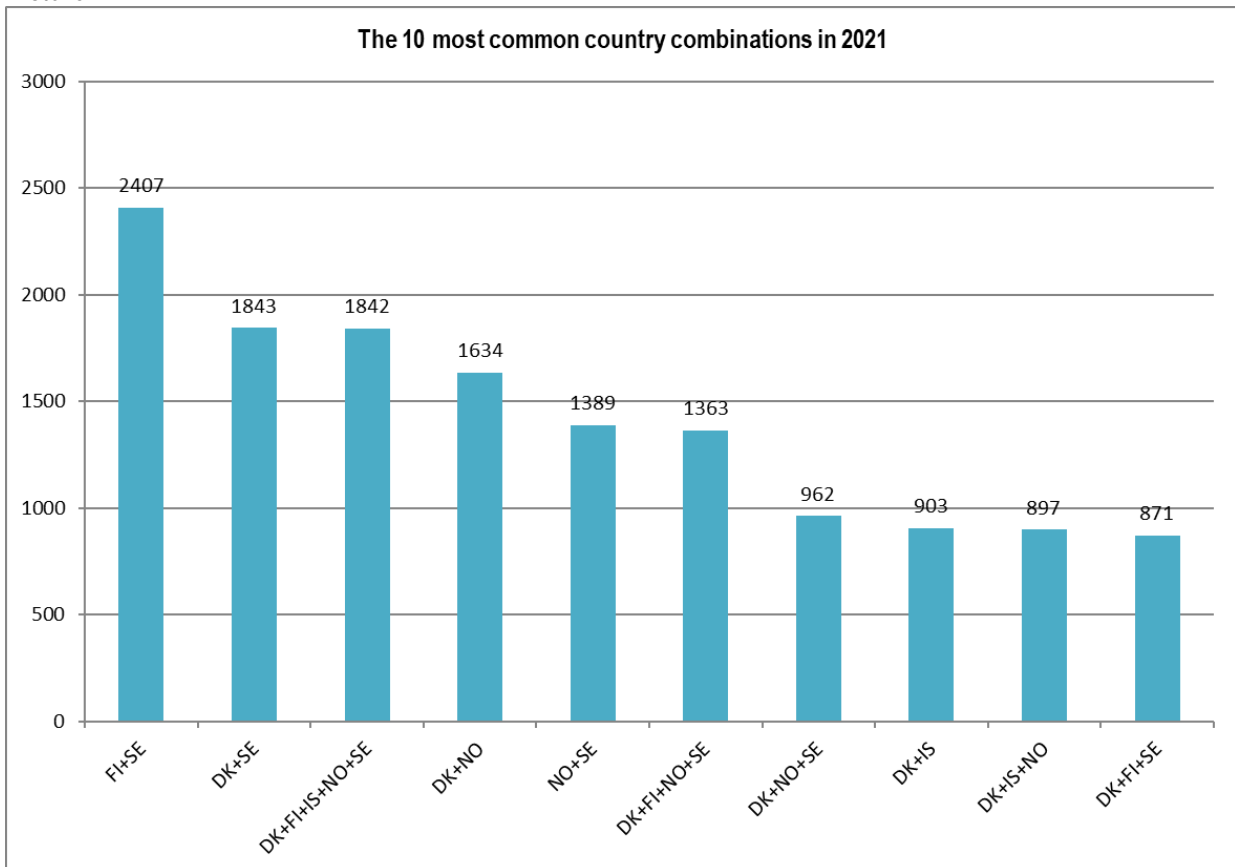


Picture 11.



The 10 most common country combinations of Vnrs can be seen in Picture 12. The order of the most common country combinations remained mostly unchanged from the previous year, apart from the combination of Denmark and Sweden moving up past the combination of all five countries. The most common country combination in 2021 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 22 557 valid Vnrs at the end of 2021. The number of valid Vnrs had a slight decrease like most years since 2011. 24 % of the Vnrs were for parallel imported products. More detailed information can be found in the following tables and pictures.

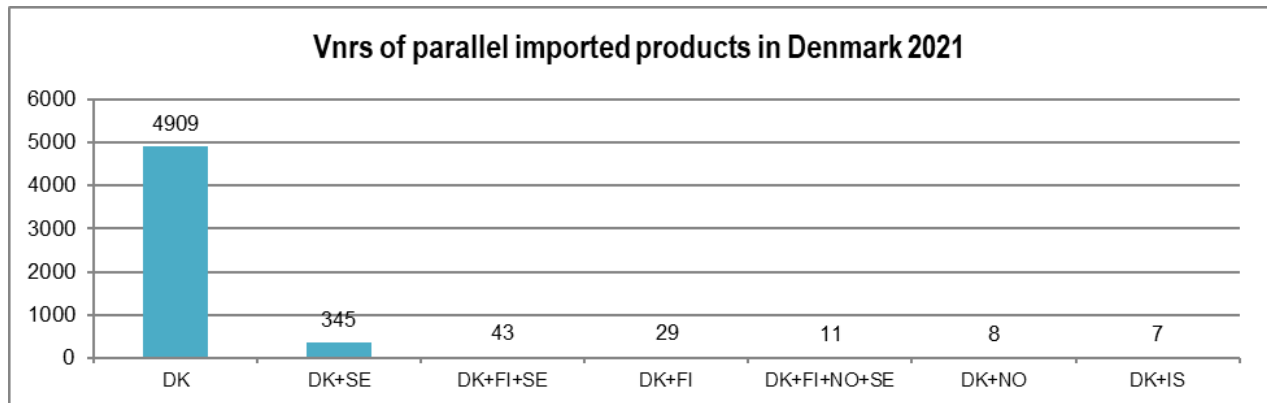
Table 2.

Vnrs in Denmark 2021	
All	22 557
Unlocked	15 499 (69 %)
Locked	7 058 (31 %)
Parallel imported	5 365 (24 %)

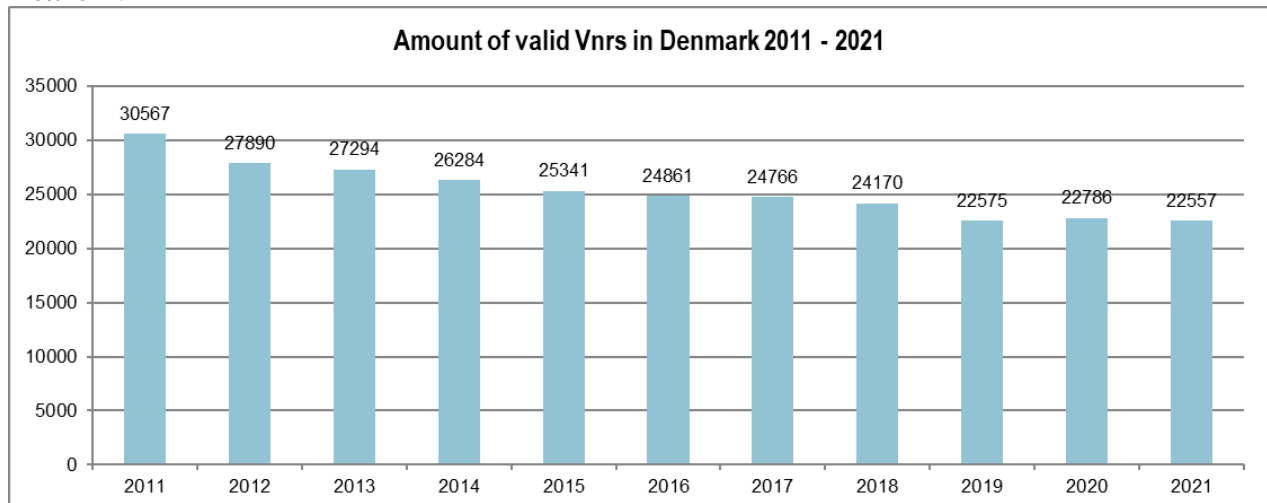
Table 3.

Human and veterinary medicines in Denmark 2021	
Human	20 230 (90 %)
Veterinary	2 323 (10 %)
Human and veterinary	4 (0 %)

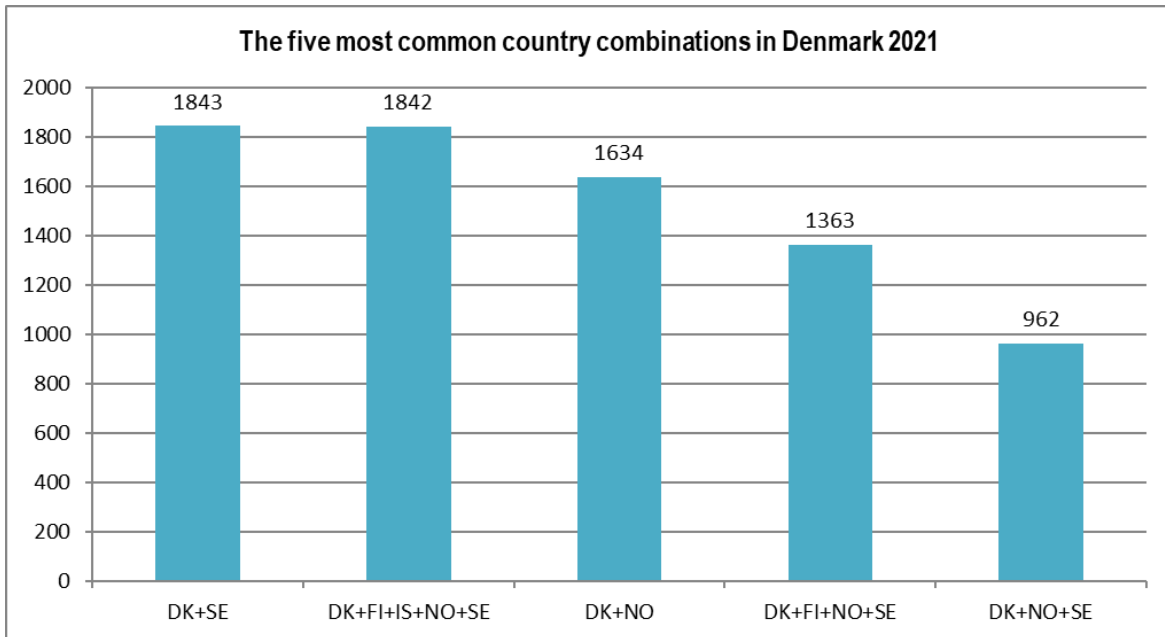
Picture 13.



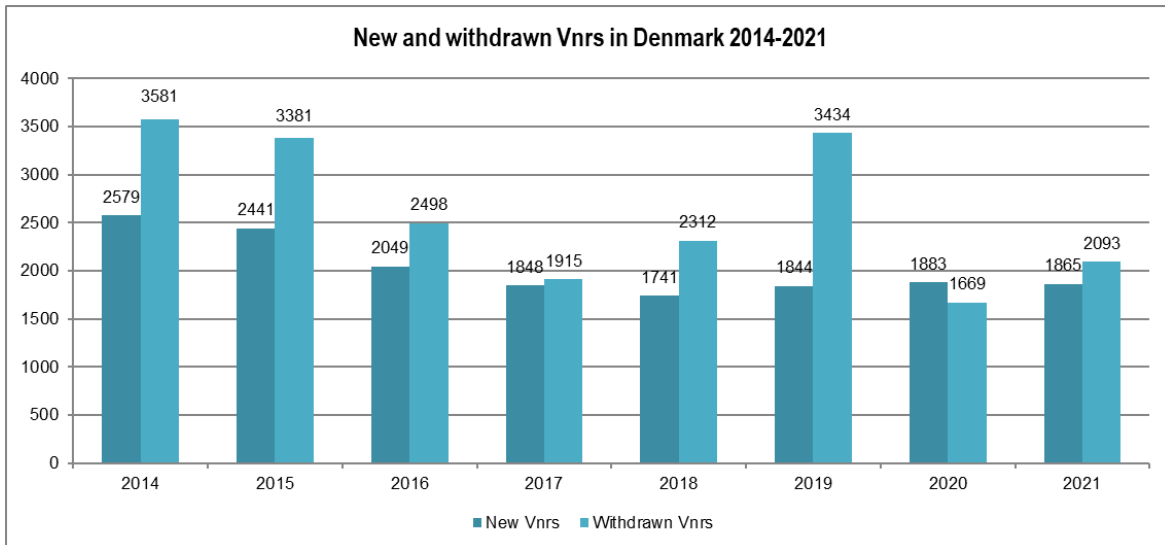
Picture 14.



Picture 15.



Picture 16.



Finland

In Finland there were 14 296 valid Vnrs at the end of 2021. More detailed information can be found in the following tables and pictures.

Table 4.

Vnrs in Finland 2021	
All	14 296
Unlocked	11 659 (82 %)
Locked	2 637 (18 %)
Parallel imported	1 253 (9 %)

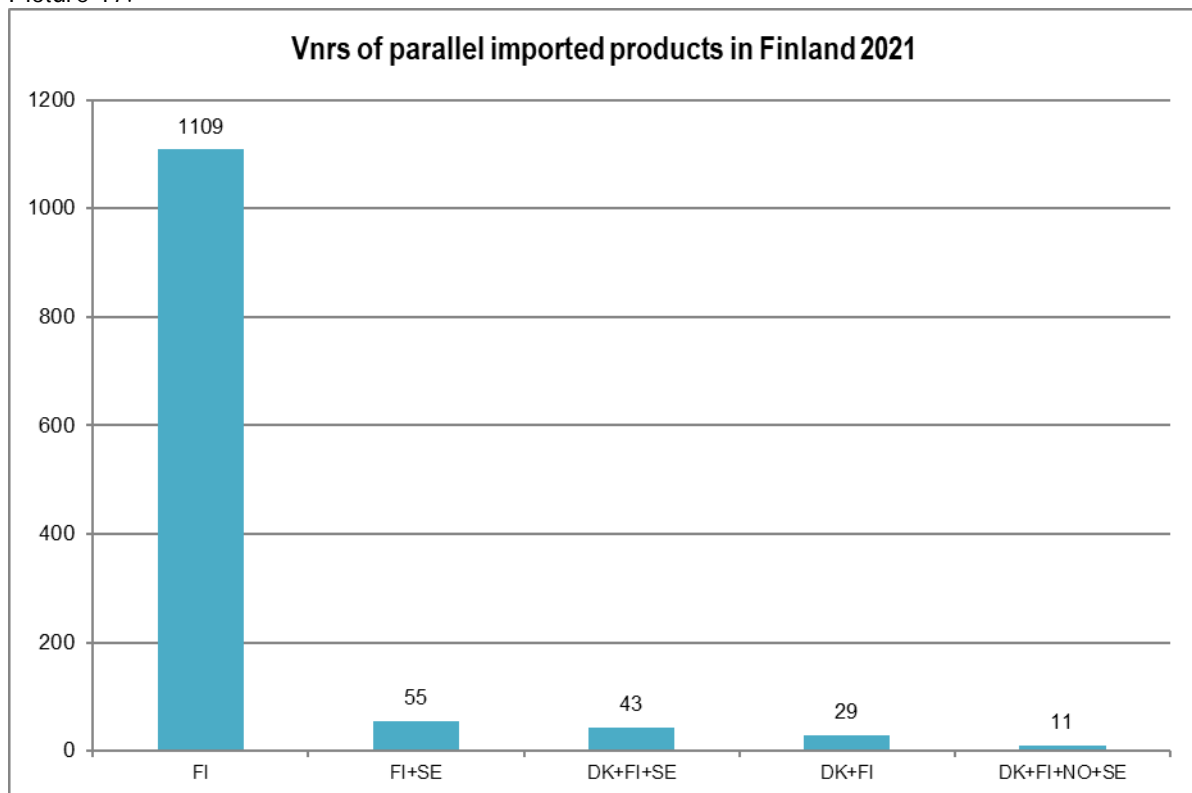
Table 5.

Human and veterinary medicines in Finland 2021	
Human	12 791 (89 %)
Veterinary	1 502 (11 %)
Human and veterinary	3 (0 %)

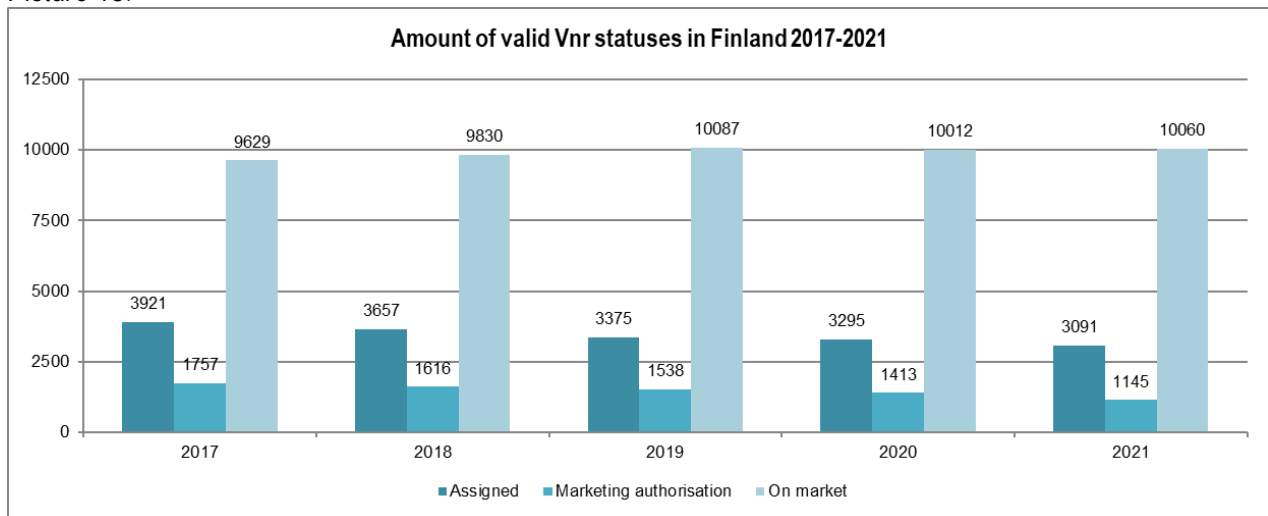
Table 6.

Prescription only, harmful in traffic and narcotic medicines in Finland 2021	
Prescription only	12 620 (88 %)
Harmful in traffic	1 323 (9 %)
Narcotic	343 (2 %)

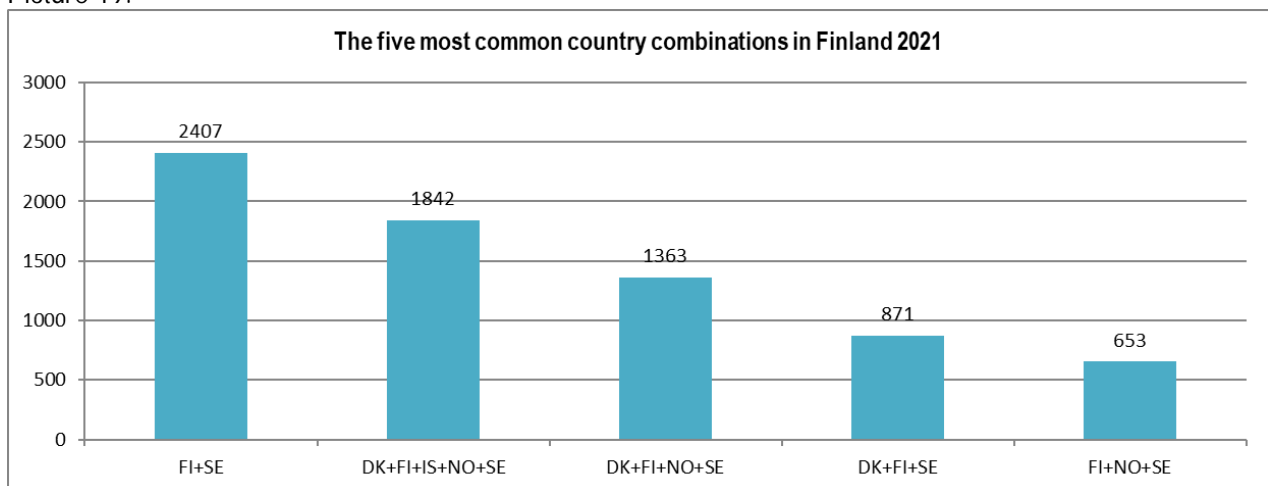
Picture 17.



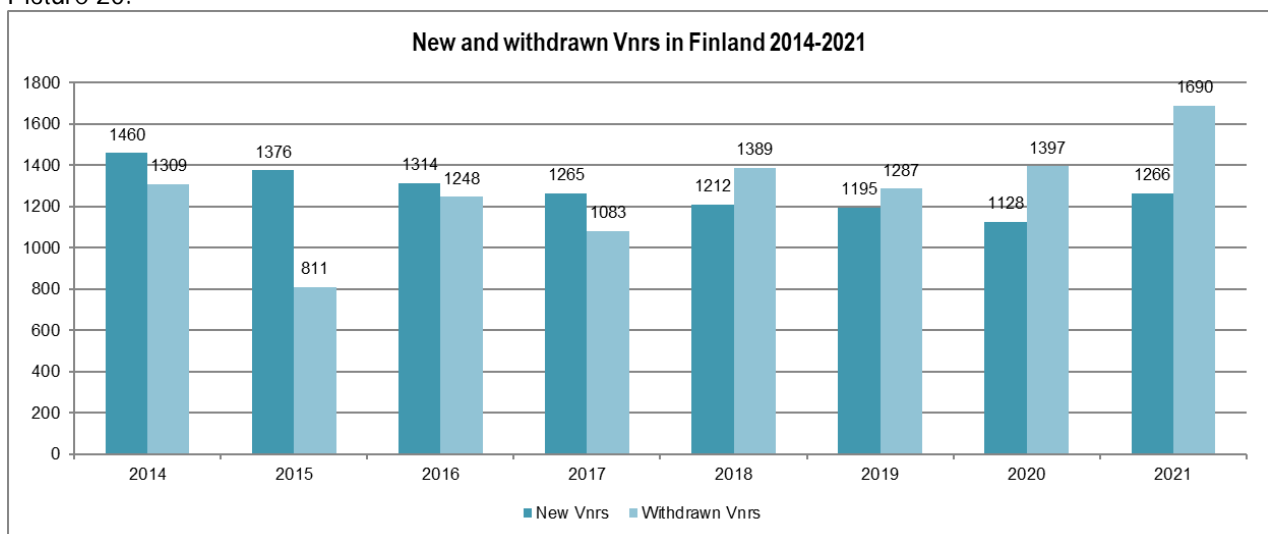
Picture 18.



Picture 19.



Picture 20.



Iceland

In Iceland there were 9 038 valid Vnrs in 2021. Only 1 % of the products were parallel imported. More detailed information can be found in the following tables and pictures.

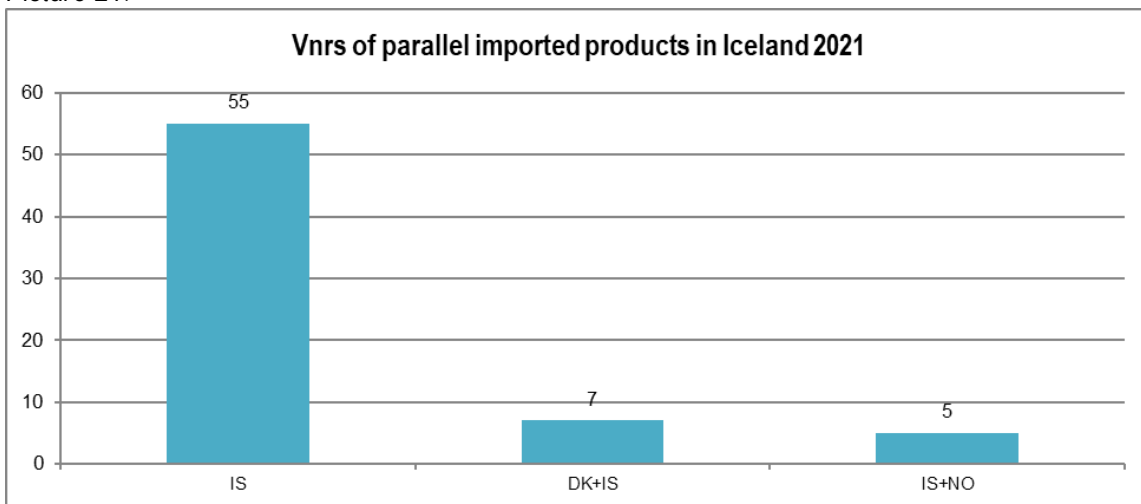
Table 7.

Vnrs in Iceland 2021	
All	9 038
Unlocked	8 317 (92 %)
Locked	721 (8 %)
Parallel imported	77 (1 %)

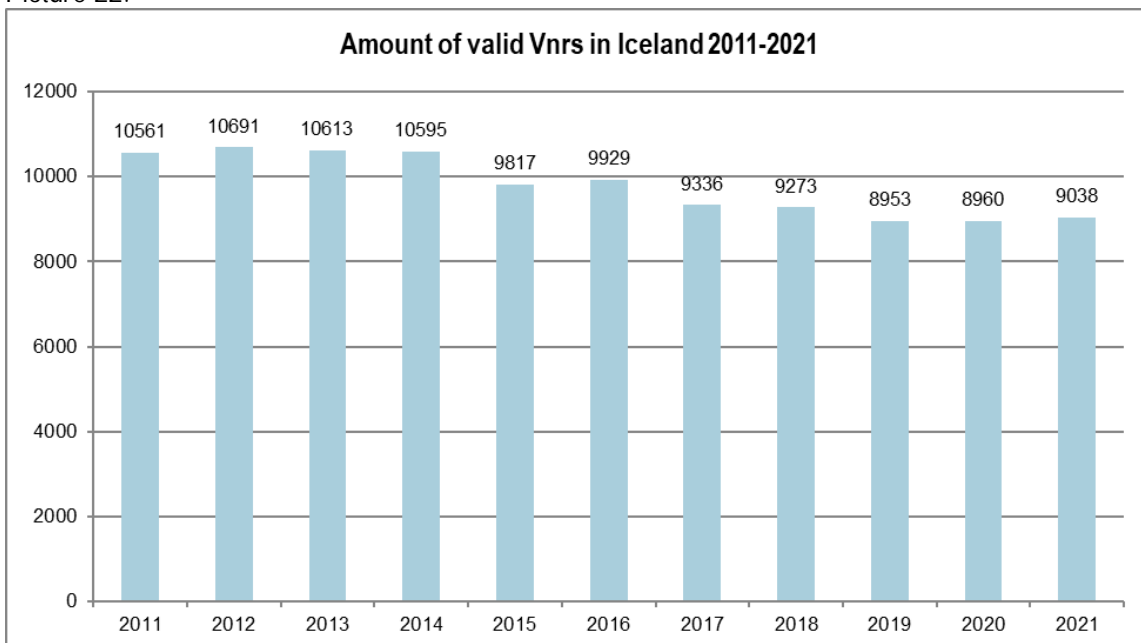
Table 8.

Human and veterinary medicines in Iceland 2021	
Human	8 445 (93 %)
Veterinary	590 (7 %)
Human and veterinary	3 (0 %)

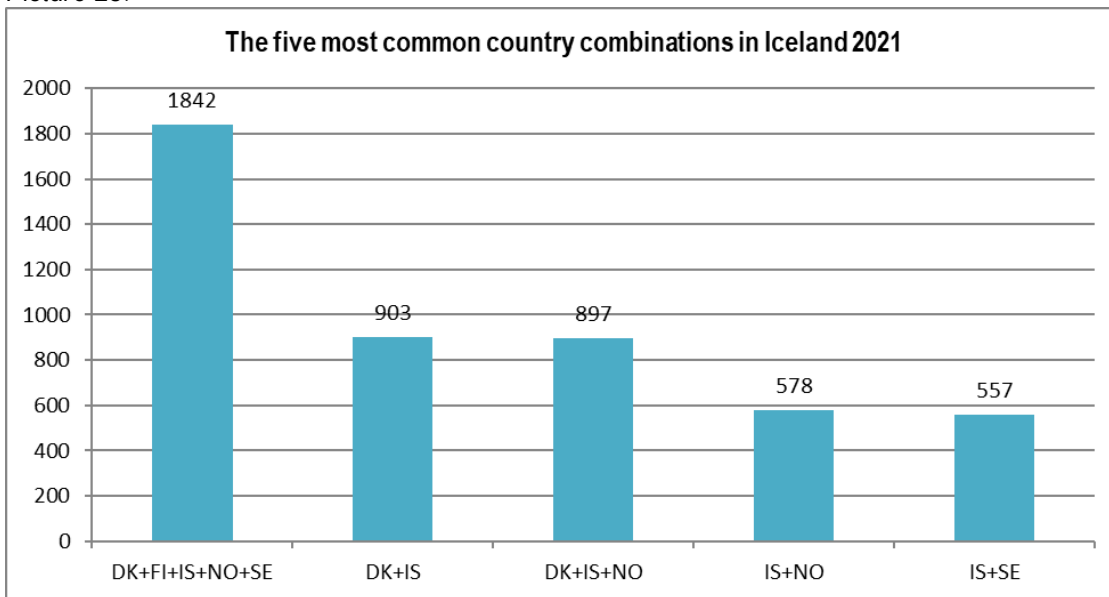
Picture 21.



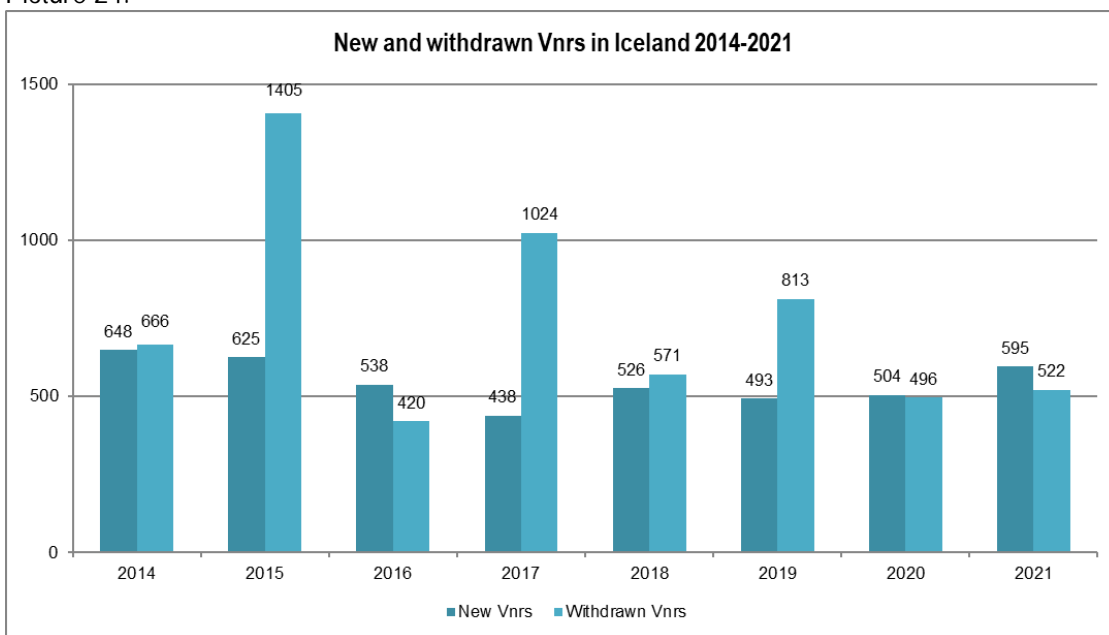
Picture 22.



Picture 23.



Picture 24.



Norway

In Norway there were 17 717 valid Vnrs in 2021. More detailed information can be found in the following tables and pictures.

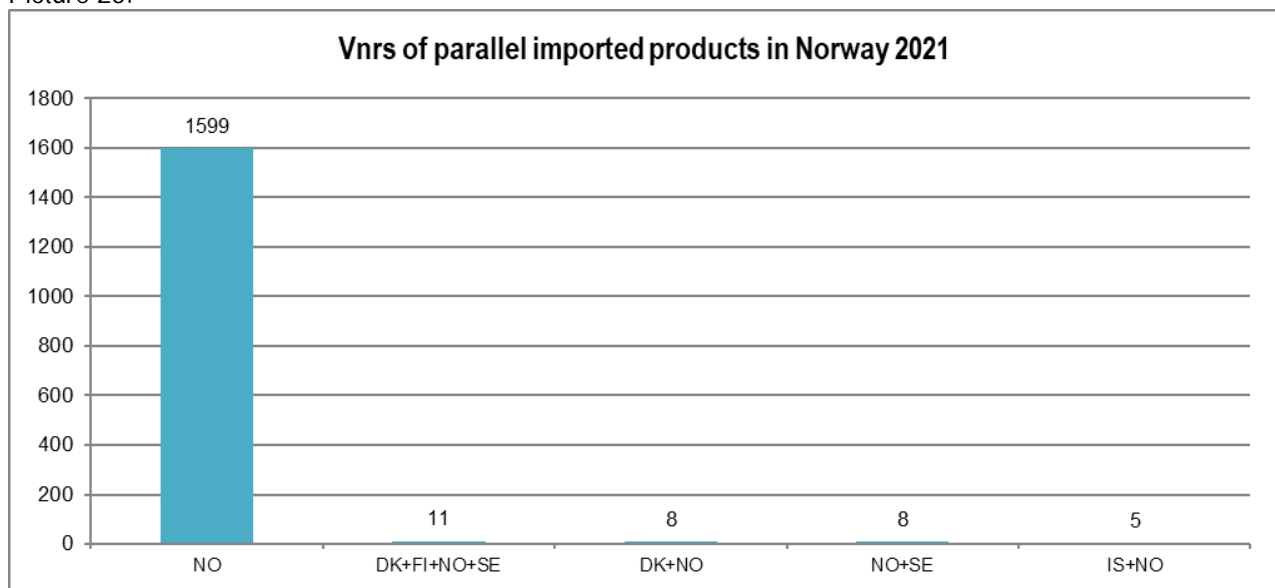
Table 9.

Vnrs in Norway 2021	
All	17 717
Unlocked	14 245 (80 %)
Locked	3 472 (20 %)
Parallel imported	1 644 (9 %)

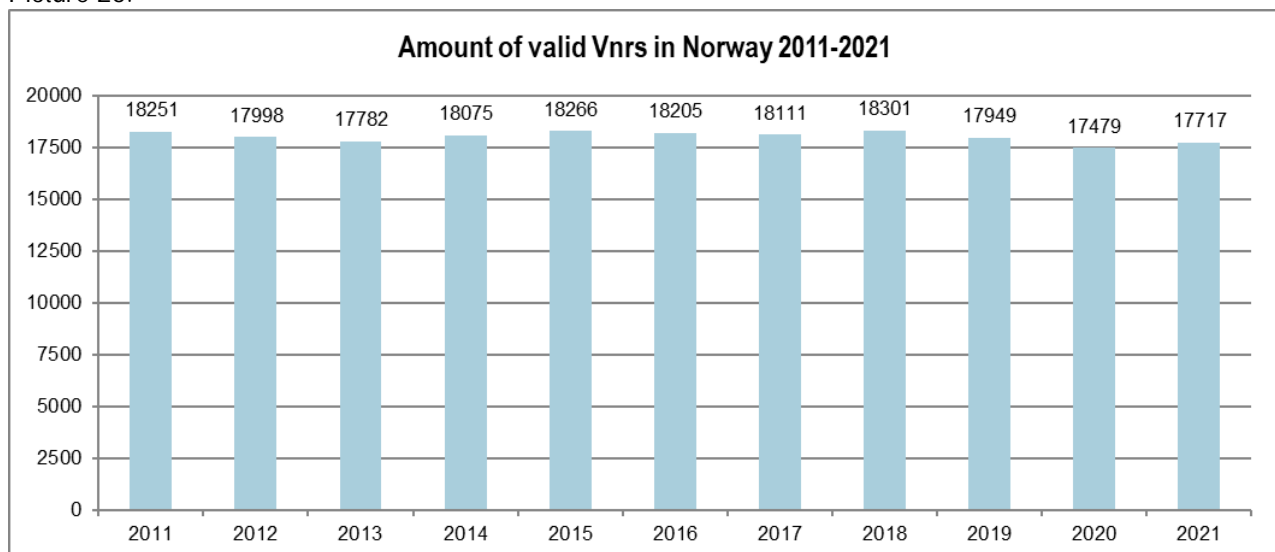
Table 10.

Human and veterinary medicines in Norway 2021	
Human	16 200 (91 %)
Veterinary	1 511 (9 %)
Human and veterinary	6 (0 %)

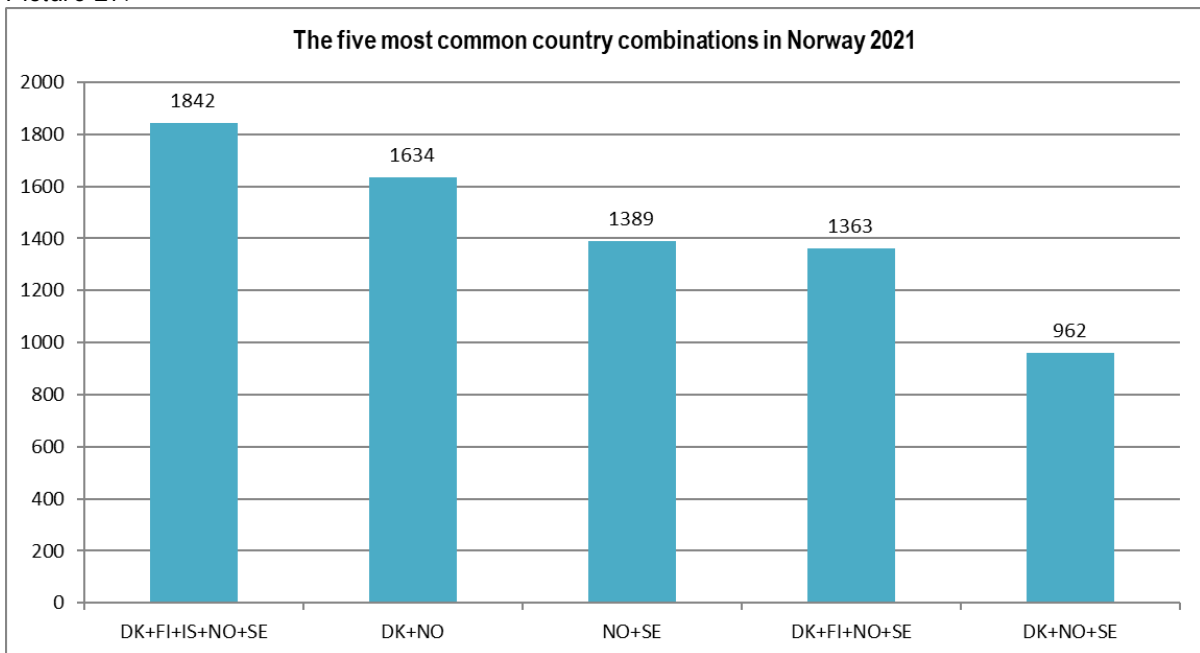
Picture 25.



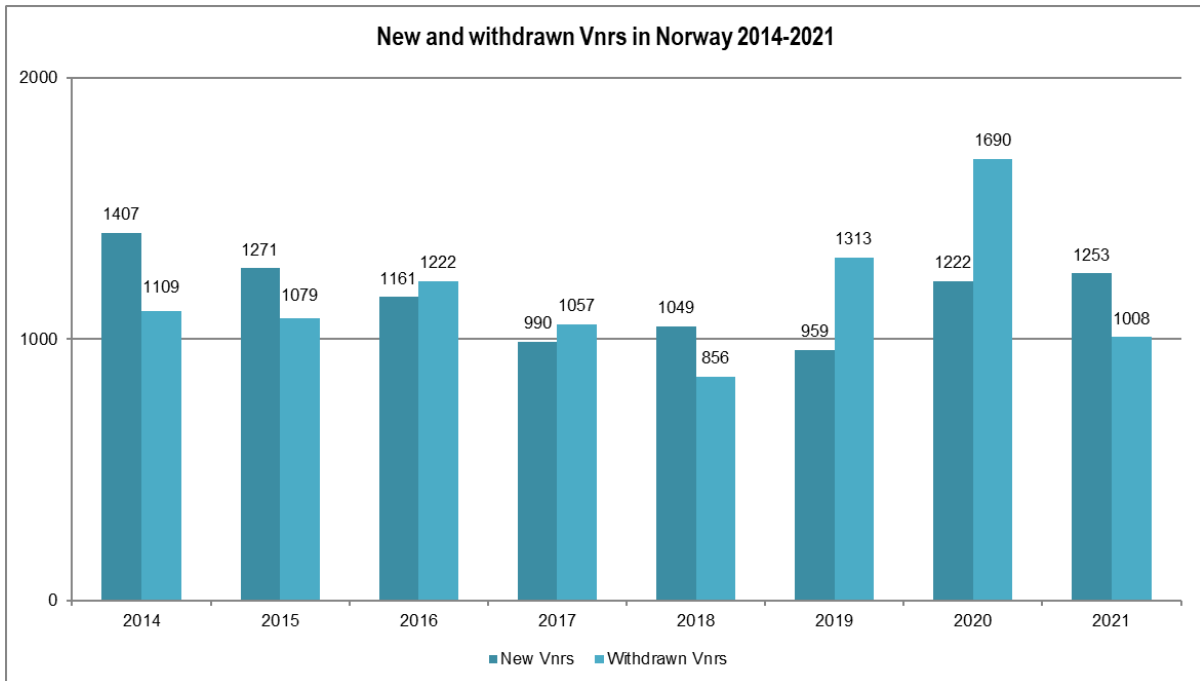
Picture 26.



Picture 27.



Picture 28.



Sweden

In Sweden there were 28 496 valid Vnrs, of which 21 % were parallel imported products at the end of 2021. More detailed information can be found in the tables and pictures below.

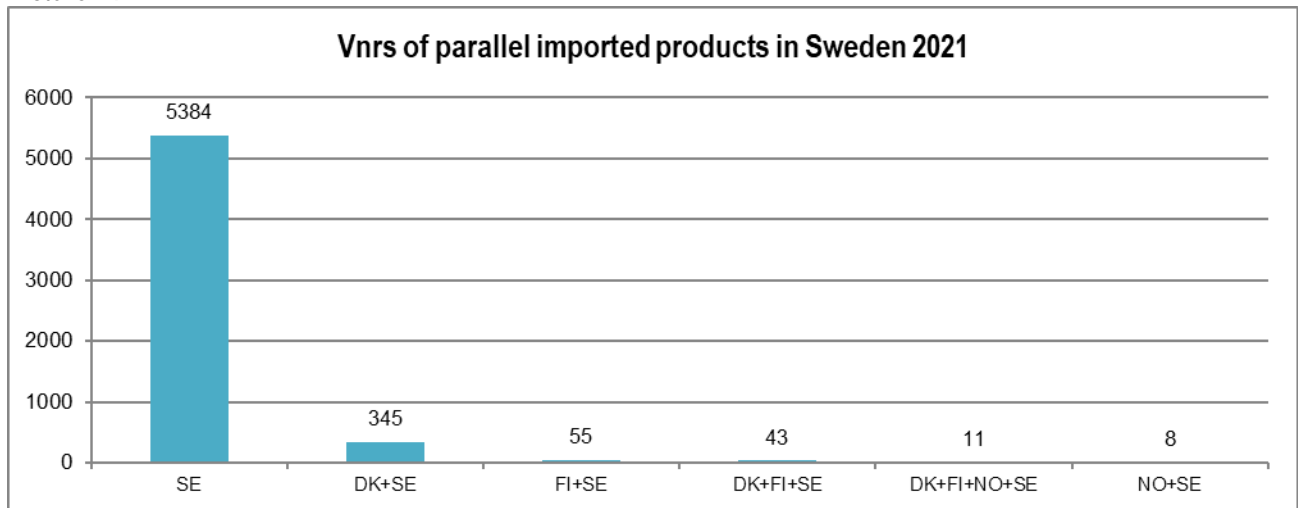
Table 11.

Vnrs in Sweden 2021	
All	28 496
Unlocked	20 628 (72 %)
Locked	7 868 (28 %)
Parallel imported	5 855 (21 %)

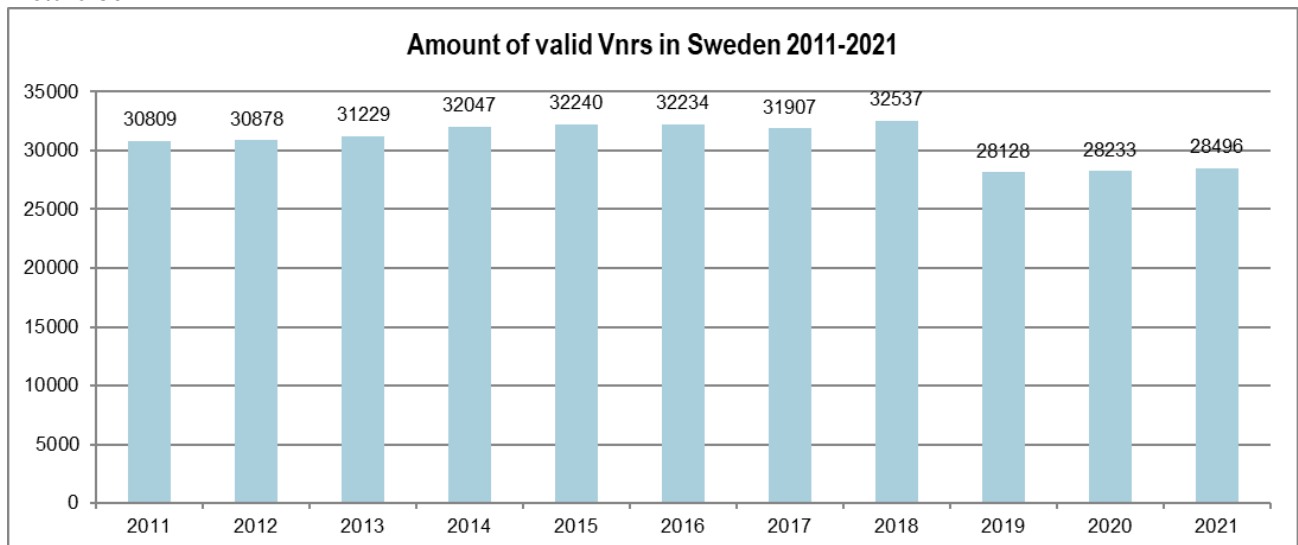
Table 12.

Human and veterinary medicines in Sweden 2021	
Human	26 506 (93 %)
Veterinary	1 971 (7 %)
Human and veterinary	19 (0 %)

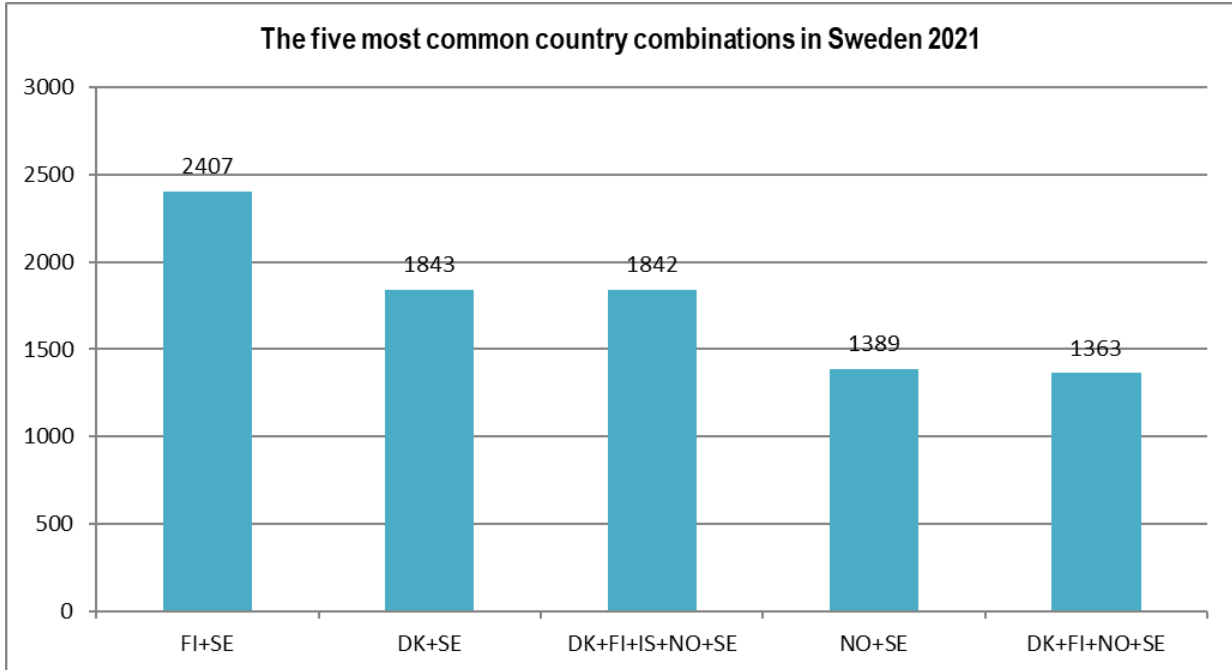
Picture 29.



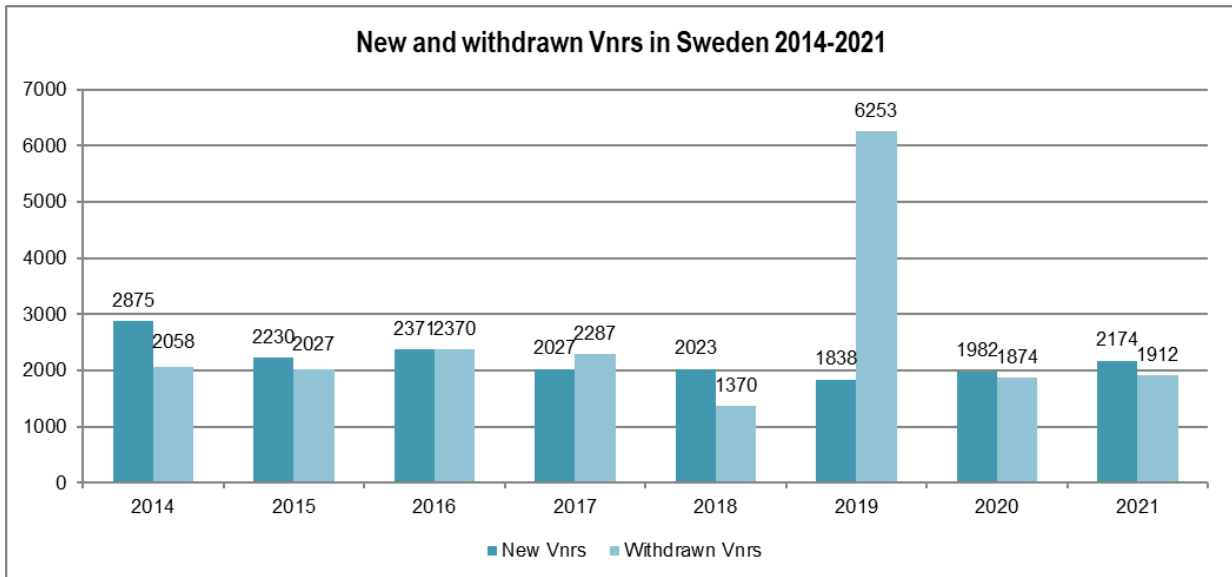
Picture 30.



Picture 31.



Picture 32.



Pharmaceutical Information Centre in short

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, PharmAcademia™, 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 about 45 professionals from different fields of expertise. 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 professionals working with Vnr information in the Pharmaceutical Information Centre have pharmaceutical education. In addition we have several IT specialists maintaining, developing and improving our databases and services.