

Nordic Vnr Services

Vnr Statistics of the Year 2023

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Introduction

The Vnr statistics is a summary of the changes and transactions in the Nordic Vnr database during the year 2023. 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 13.

Overall, the year 2023 was fairly similar to the previous ones. There was a noticeable rise in the amount of new Vnrs assigned. There were 12,4 % more new Vnrs in 2023 compared to 2022, whereas in 2022 the amount of new Vnrs decreased by 16,9 %. The number of marketing authorization holders stayed the same. Altogether there were 10 726 trade names with valid Vnrs at the end of 2023. These Vnrs belonged to 872 different marketing authorization holders.

In the beginning of 2023 Pharmaceutical Information Centre changed its name to Pharmaca Health Intelligence Ltd to better serve its customers in Finland and internationally. Pharmaceutical Information Centre Ltd remains as an auxiliary company name in Finland.

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 1 800 registered users from 600 companies at the end of 2023. Approximately 500 users logged in to Vnr Service more than 20 times during 2023. Approximately 15 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 number of emails has increased significantly during the past few years.

Product codes

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 2023 there were about 62 000 product codes in the database. Most of the product codes have been added to Vnrs in Finland. During 2023 companies notified about 1250 new product codes to Finland. From September 2022, pharmaceutical companies have also been able to add

primary package product codes for Finnish market in the Vnr Service. We have a total of 700 primary package product codes in Vnr Service now.

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 2023, many documents in VnrWiki were revised with the new names of Pharmaca Health Intelligence Ltd (previously Pharmaceutical Information Centre) in Finland and Signum Life Science ApS (previously Dansk Lægemediel Information A/S) in Denmark.

VnrWiki had over 10 000 visits in 2023, which is a little bit more than in 2022. Most of the visitors were from United States (18 %), Finland (16 %) and the Sweden (14 %). The rest of the top five countries were Denmark (7 %) and China (7 %).

Feedback

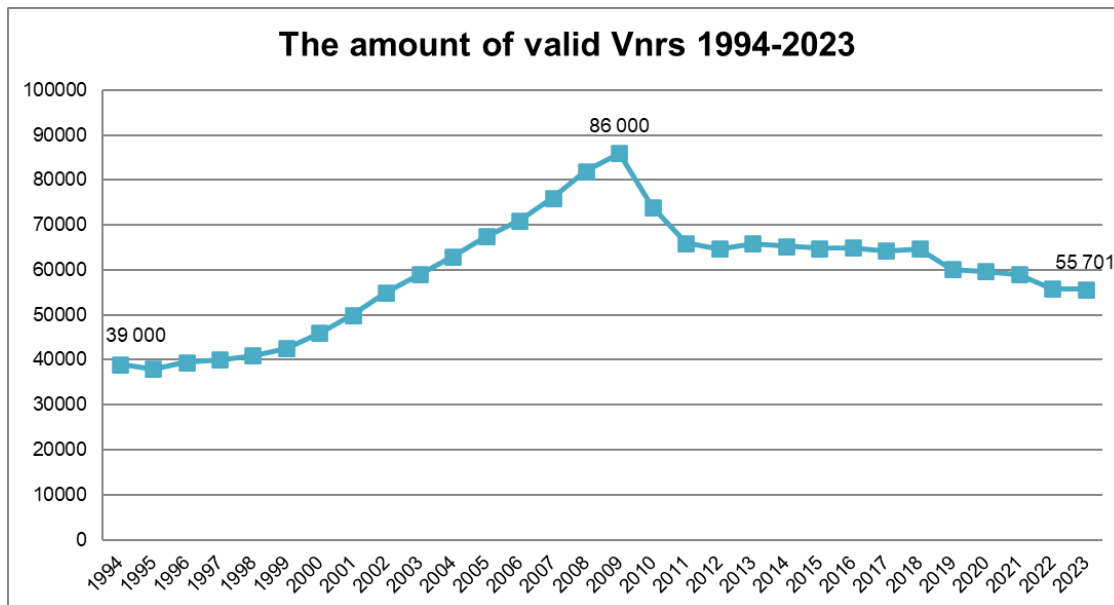
All suggestions and comments are important and appreciated in developing this annual statistics document. Please send feedback and questions to vnr@vnr.fi.

Statistics of the year 2023

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 Pharmaca 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). The years 2020 and 2021 had a change of about -1 %, whereas in the year 2022 there was a larger decrease of 5,5 %. At the end of 2023 there were 55 701 valid Vnrs, with a 0,1 % decrease (58 Vnrs) in the amount of Vnrs compared to the previous 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.

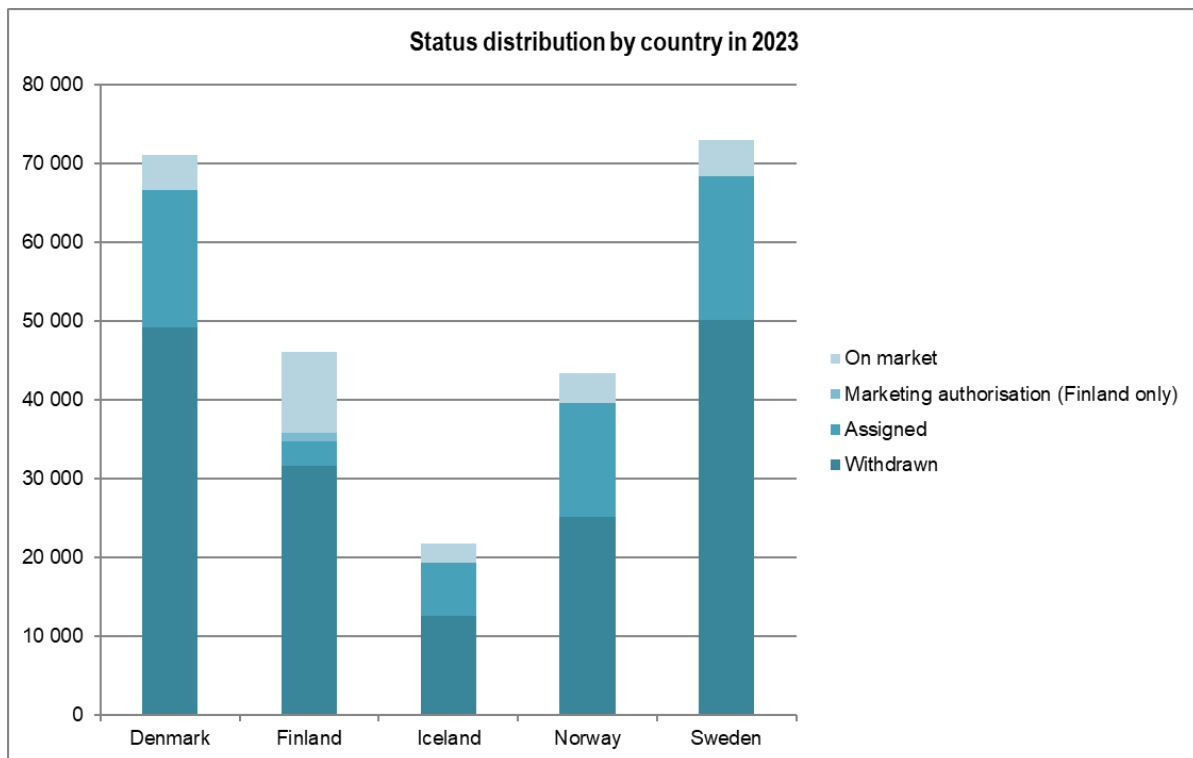
2010-2013 there were 4 different Vnr statuses:

- **Assigned** assigned Vnr is valid.
- **MA** Vnr has 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 2023, 34,3 % of the valid Vnrs had the status “on market” in one or more countries (19 121 Vnrs). There were 95 196 Vnrs in the database which were withdrawn from all countries, which is 4,4 % more than in 2022.

In 2023 most Vnrs were in use in Sweden (22 836 Vnrs) and Denmark (21 922 Vnrs), while in Iceland there was only 9 244 Vnrs in use (Picture 2). Status distribution of Vnrs varies slightly between countries. Country specific data is presented starting from page 133.

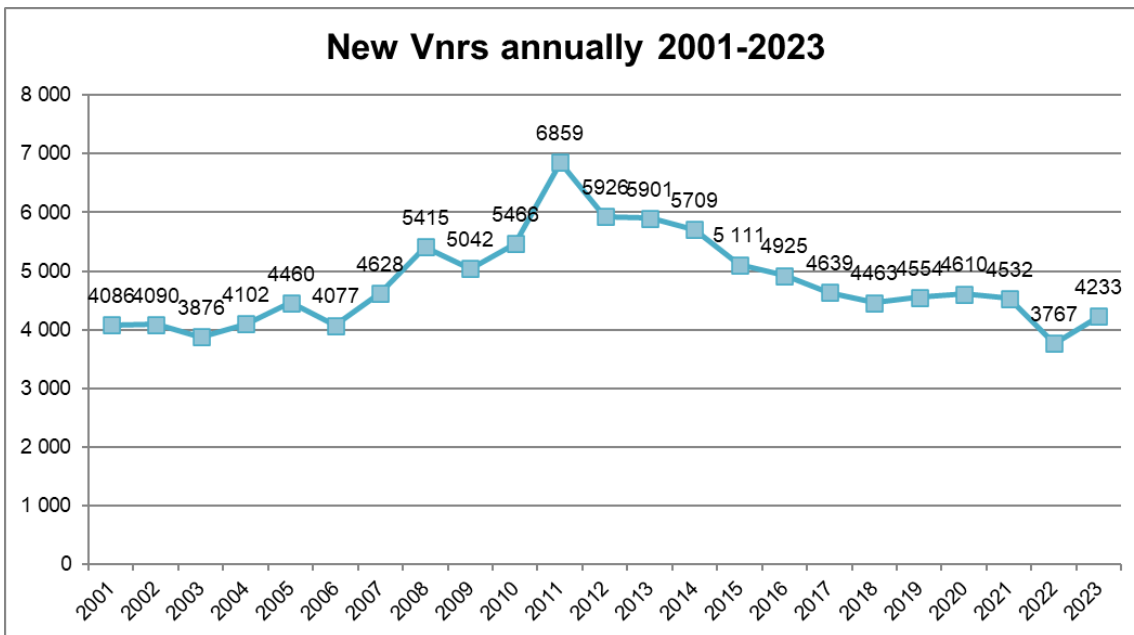
Picture 2.



New and withdrawn Vnrs and status changes

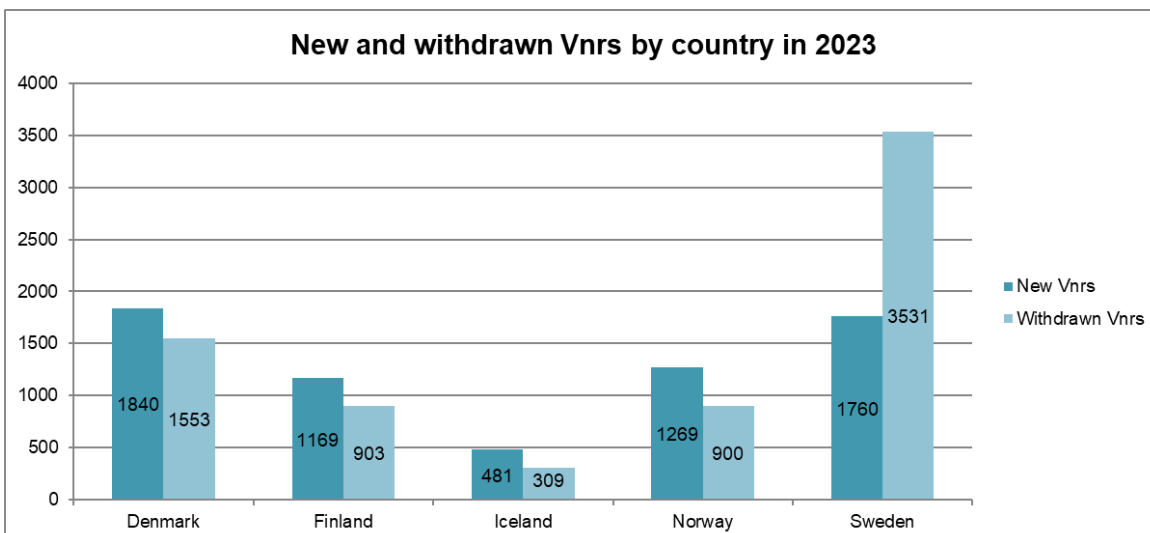
The amount of new Vnrs started to increase in 2006 (Picture 3). Between 2006 and 2011 the yearly amount of valid new Vnrs increased 68 %. After the exceptional year 2011 the decreasing trend continued for 9 years. The year 2023 saw a noticeable rise in the number of new Vnrs (12,4 %) from 2022. In the previous year 2022 there were 16,9 % less new Vnrs than in 2021. In picture 3 every Vnr is taken into account only once.

Picture 3.



6 519 new Vnrs were assigned in 2023. Most of the new Vnrs were assigned to be used in Denmark and Sweden (Picture 4). 7 196 Vnrs were changed to the status withdrawn during 2023. A big portion of the withdrawals were still made in Sweden (3 531 Vnrs) following the clean-up project of 5 696 Swedish Vnrs removed in 2022.

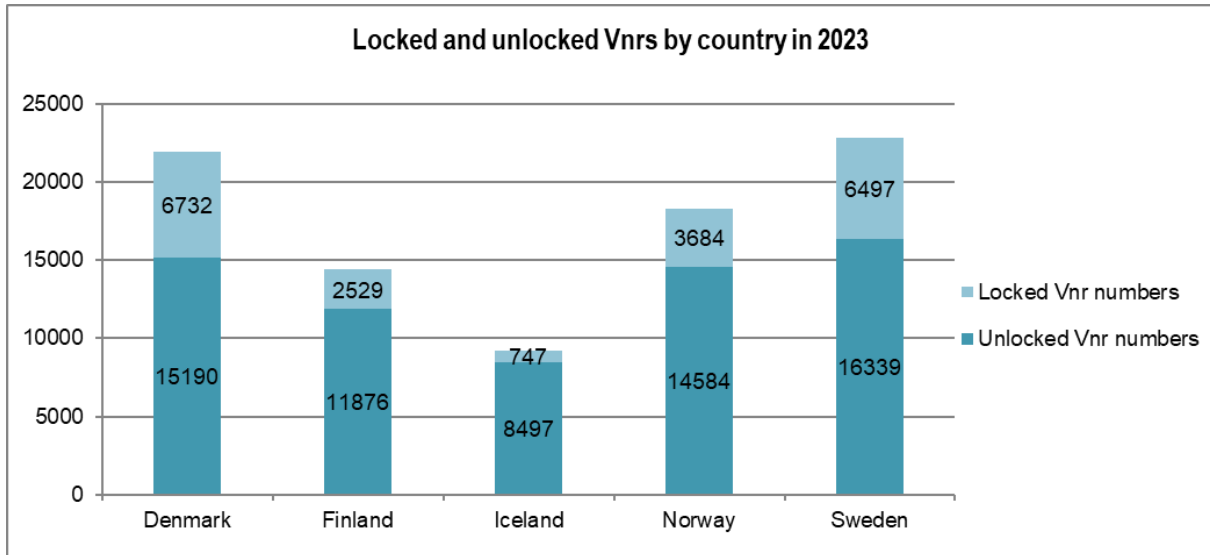
Picture 4.



Locked and unlocked Vnrs

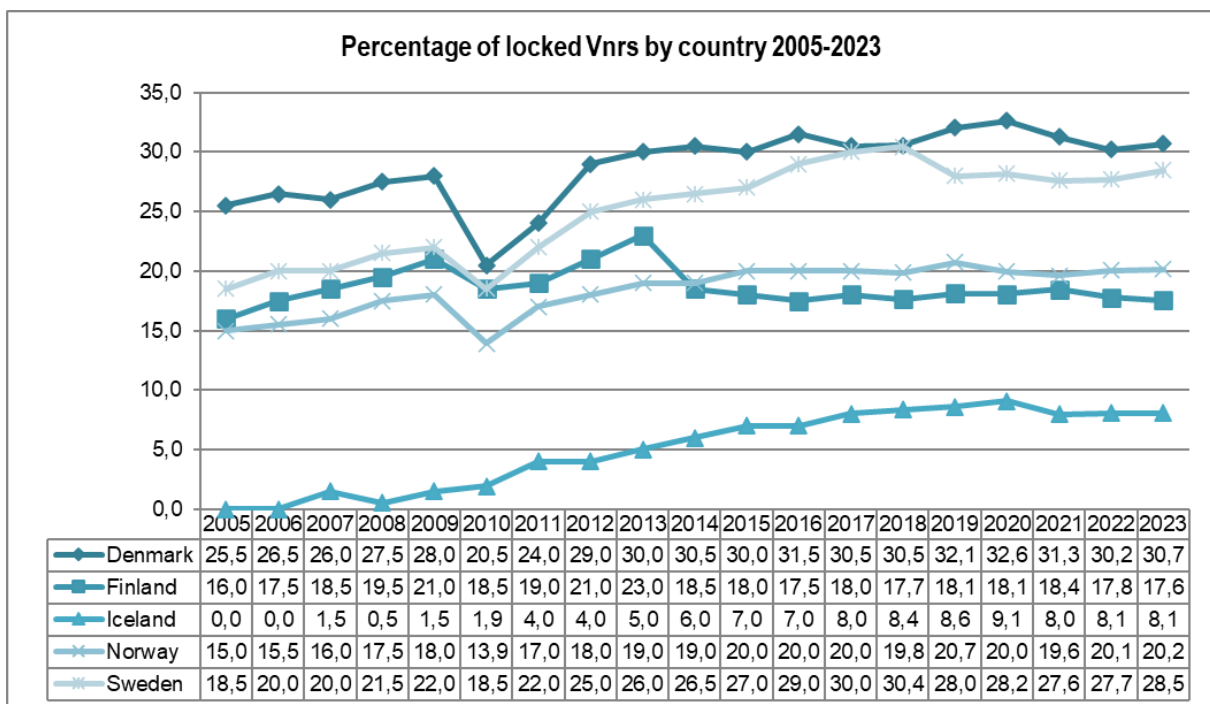
The terms locked and unlocked Vnrs were taken into use in 2013. These specify for which markets a certain Vnr can be used and replace the old terms national and common Vnrs. In picture 5 the portion of locked and unlocked Vnr numbers is shown by country.

Picture 5.



The percentage of locked Vnrs in 2023 changed between -0,2 % (Finland) and 0,8 % (Sweden) compared to the previous year 2022 (Picture 6).

Picture 6.

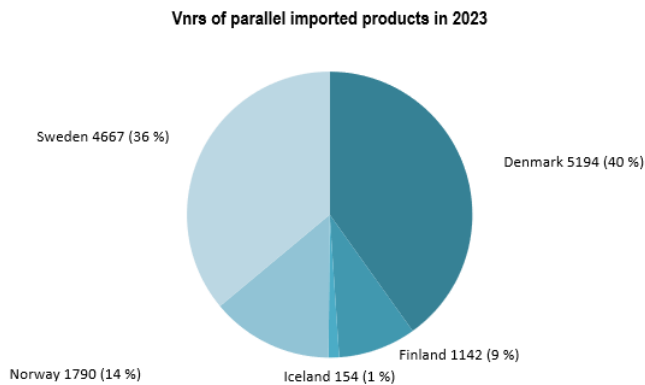


Parallel imported products

There were 12 731 Vnrs of parallel imported products in the Nordic countries in 2023. There was a considerable decrease (-4 %) in the number of parallel imported products from 2022. The previous year 2022 had a 6 % decrease from 2021, while the year 2021 only decreased 1 % from 2020. In the year 2019 there was a noticeable decrease of 9 % compared to 2018. Until 2018 there was an increase in parallel imported products for several years.

Denmark had the most parallel imported products in 2023 (5194 Vnrs). Previously Sweden had the most parallel imported products from 2013 to 2022. Otherwise, the ratios between the countries stayed relatively similar to 2022 (Picture 7), with Sweden decreasing, and Denmark increasing its share.

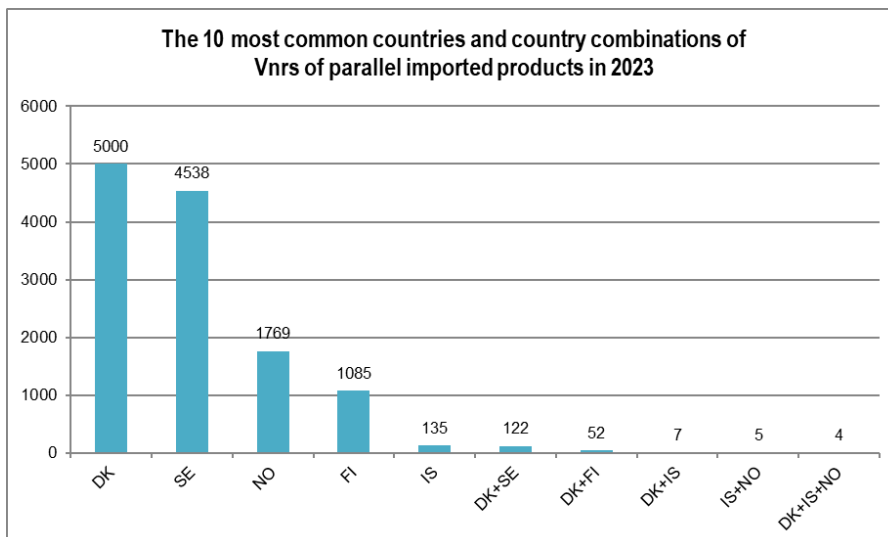
Picture 7.



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 2023 the most common country combination was again the combination of Denmark and Sweden.

Picture 8.



Country combinations of Vnrs

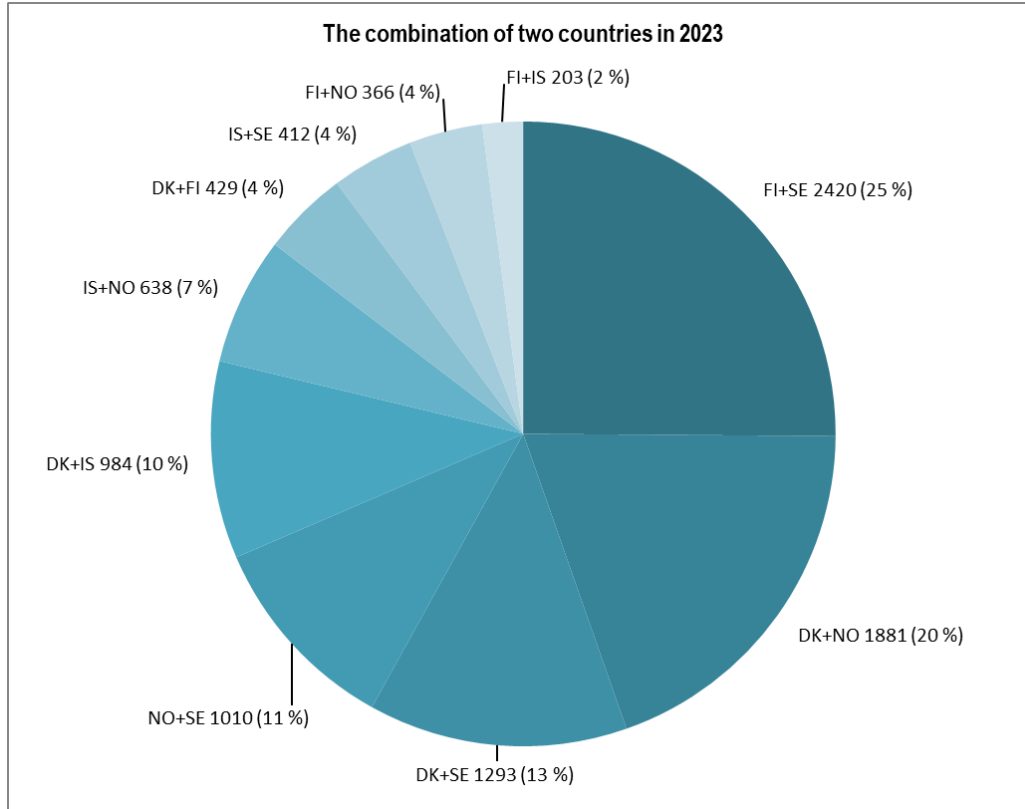
The amount of Vnrs with country combinations of two, three, four and five countries in 2023 are shown in Table 1.

Table 1.

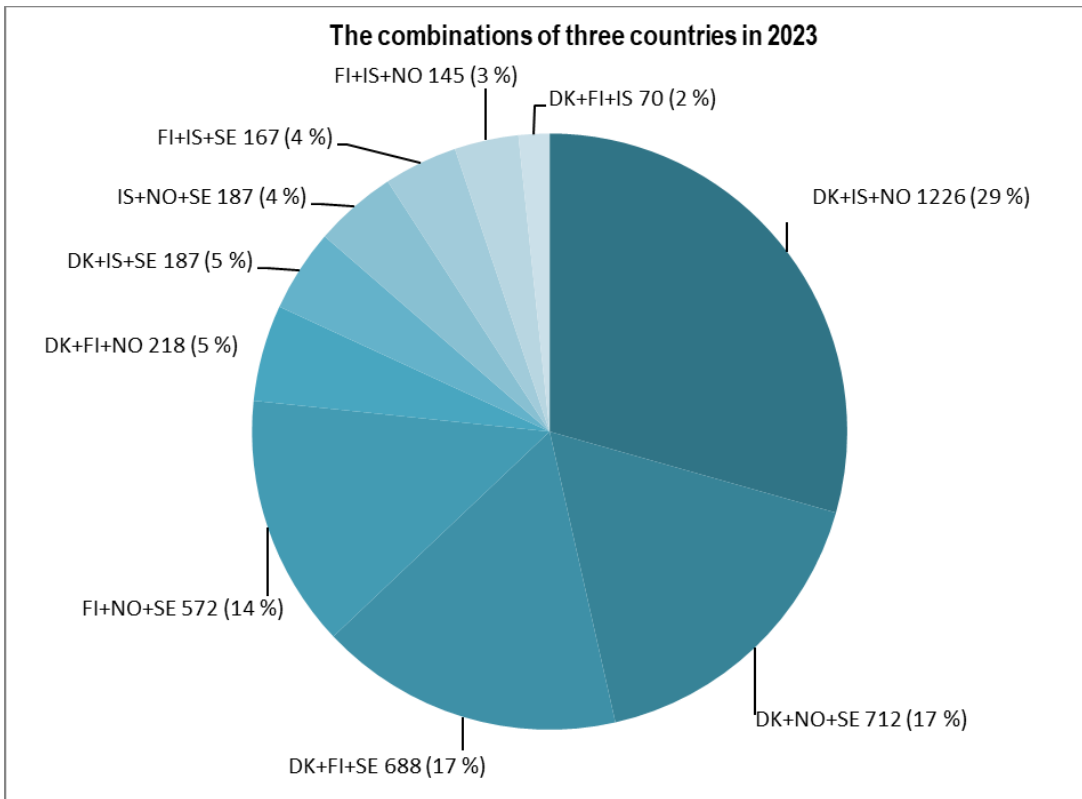
The amount of Vnrs for different country combinations in 2023	
2 countries	9 636
3 countries	4 172
4 countries	2 102
5 countries	1 672

There were only slight changes in the most common country combinations between 2022 and 2023. As before, Finland and Sweden was the most common combination of two countries (Picture 9). The most used combination of three countries (Denmark, Iceland and Norway) was the same as in 2022, (Picture 10). The combinations of four and five countries are visualized in Picture 11. (N.B. The country combinations of Vnrs do not reflect the situation regarding the actual packages. The packages can be the same or different regardless of a common Vnr.)

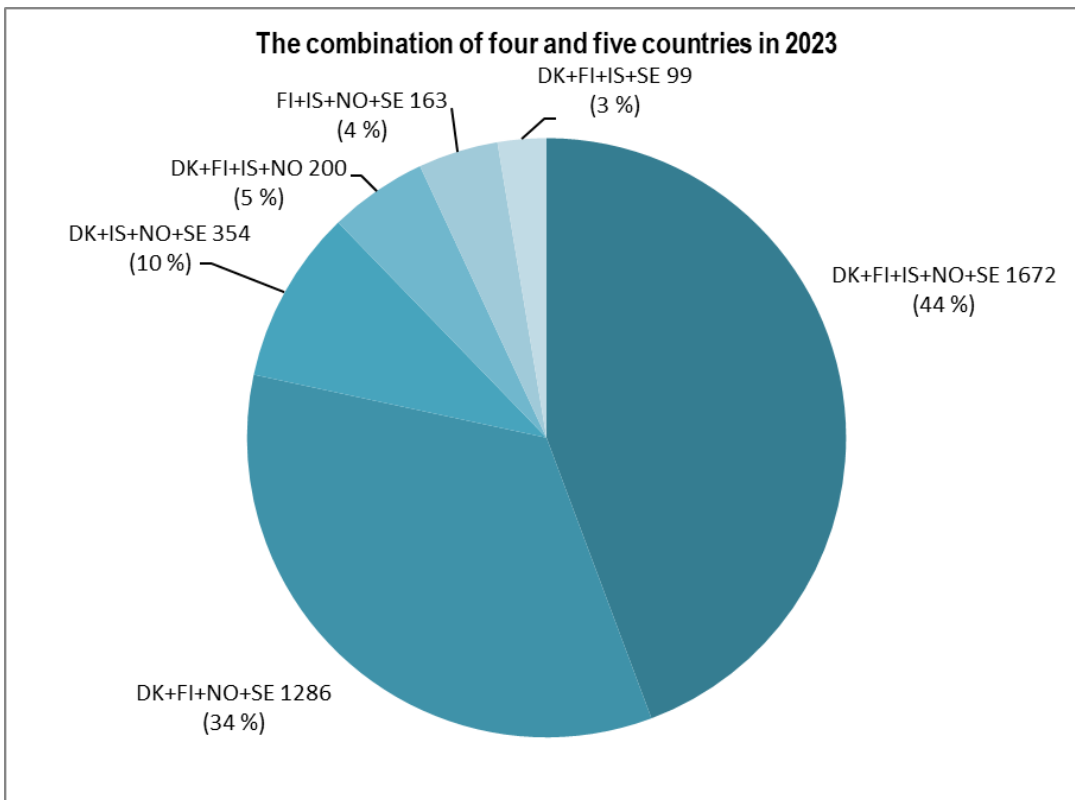
Picture 9.



Picture 10.

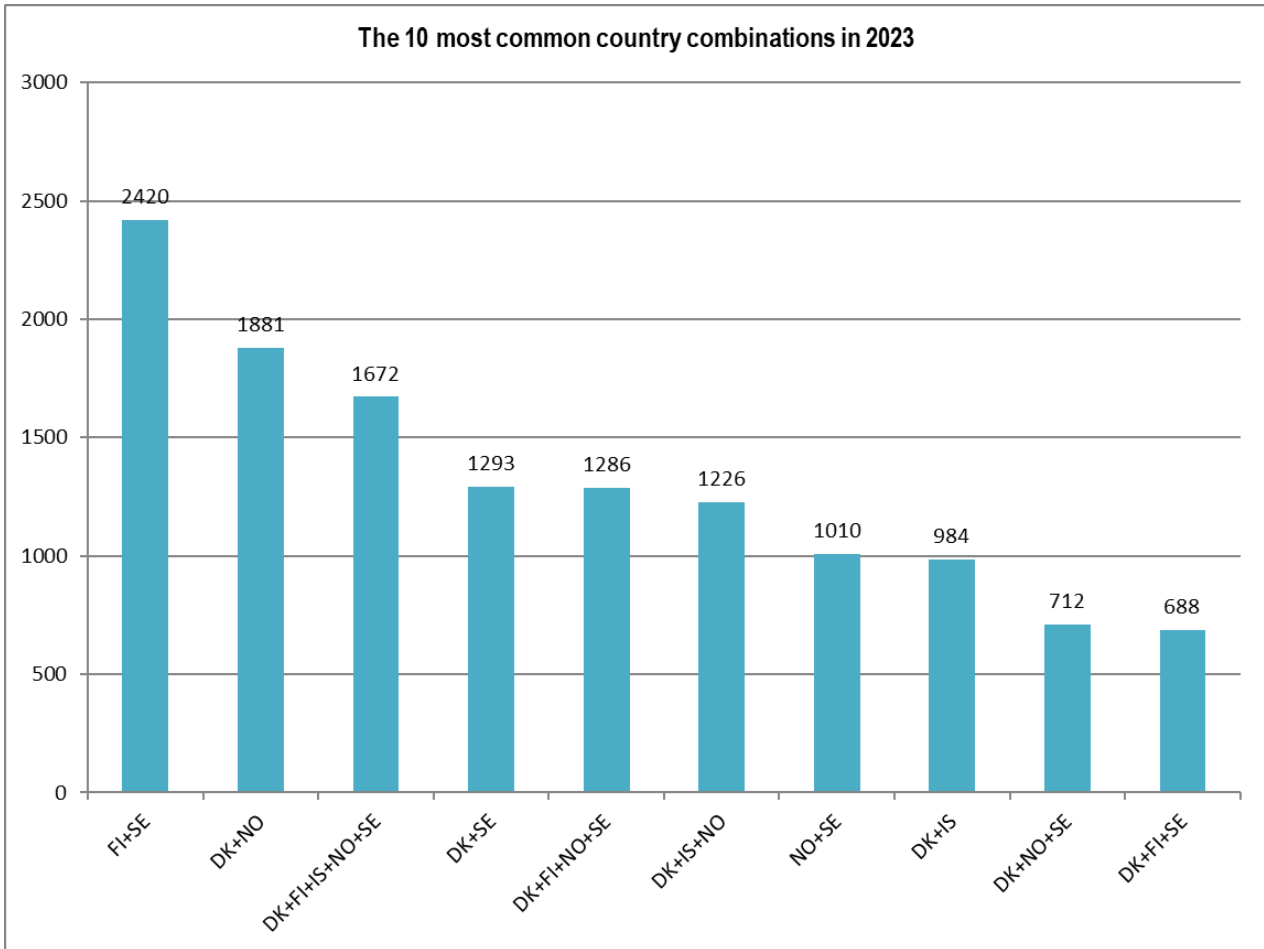


Picture 11.



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. The combinations of Denmark and Norway was in the second place, overtaking the combination of all 5 countries. The most common country combination in 2023 was again the combination of Finland and Sweden.

Picture 12.



Vnr Data country by country

In this section the country specific information from each country is presented as follows:

- the amount of Vnrs of different statuses
- the portion of
 - locked
 - unlocked
 - parallel imported
 - human products
 - veterinary products.
- the most common country combinations of all Vnrs
- the most common country combinations 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 21 922 valid Vnrs at the end of 2023. The number of valid Vnrs had a slight increase unlike 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.

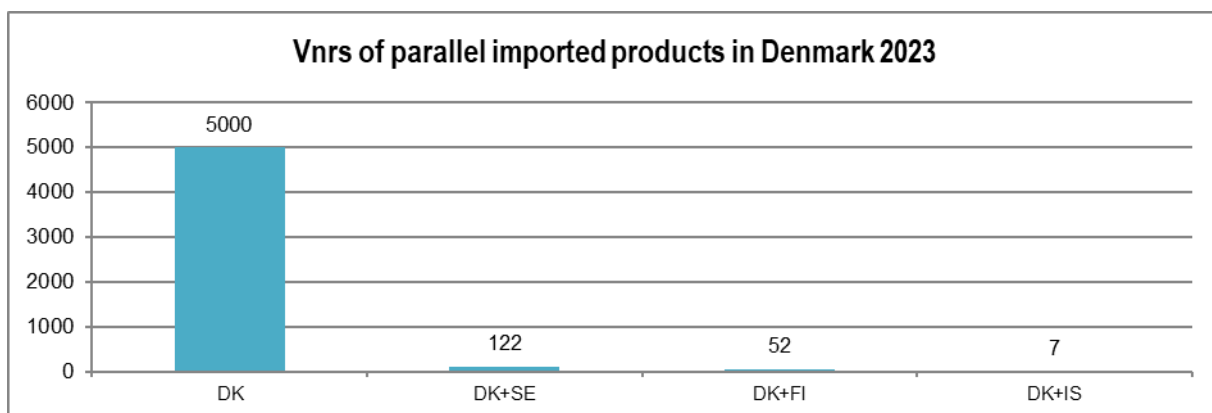
Table 2.

Vnrs in Denmark 2023	
All	21 922
Unlocked	15 190 (69 %)
Locked	6 732 (31 %)
Parallel imported	5 194 (24 %)

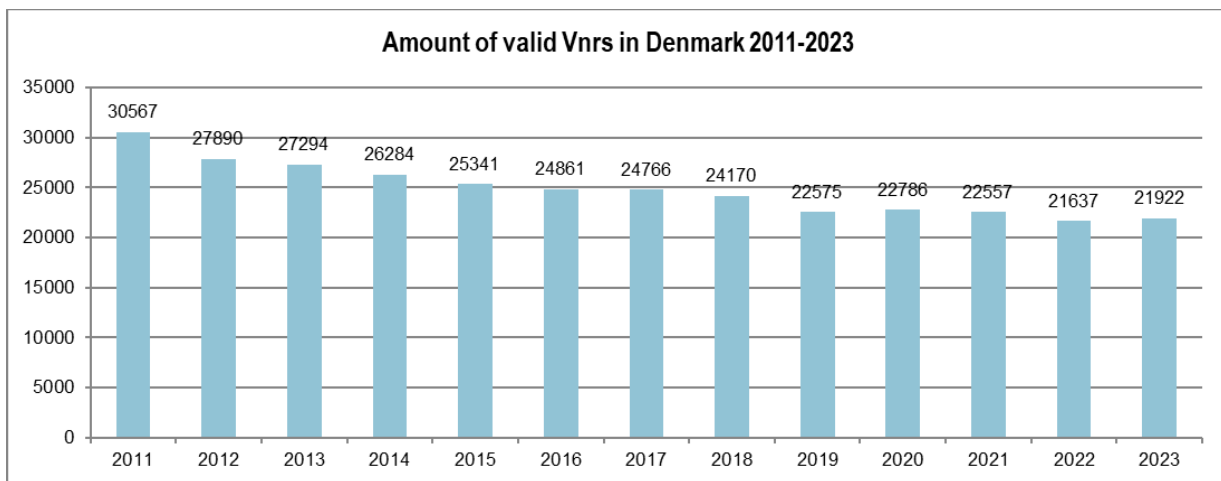
Table 3.

Human and veterinary medicines in Denmark 2023	
Human	19 660 (90 %)
Veterinary	2 244 (10 %)
Human and veterinary	18 (0 %)

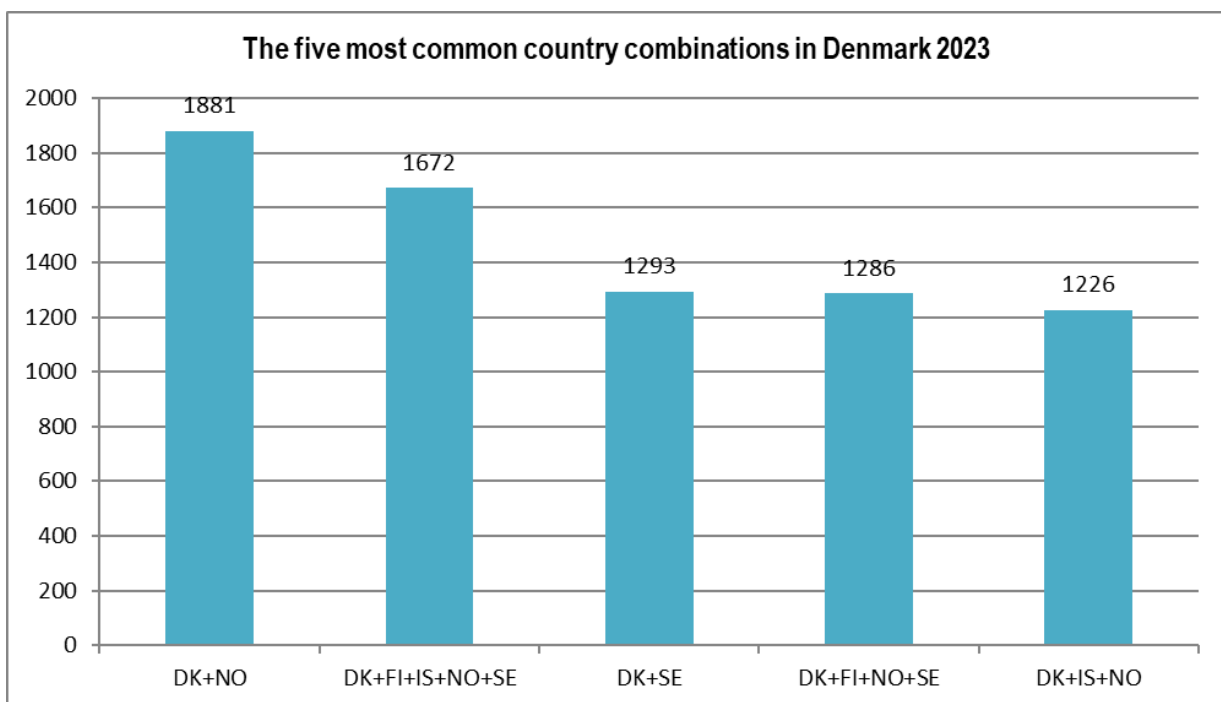
Picture 13.



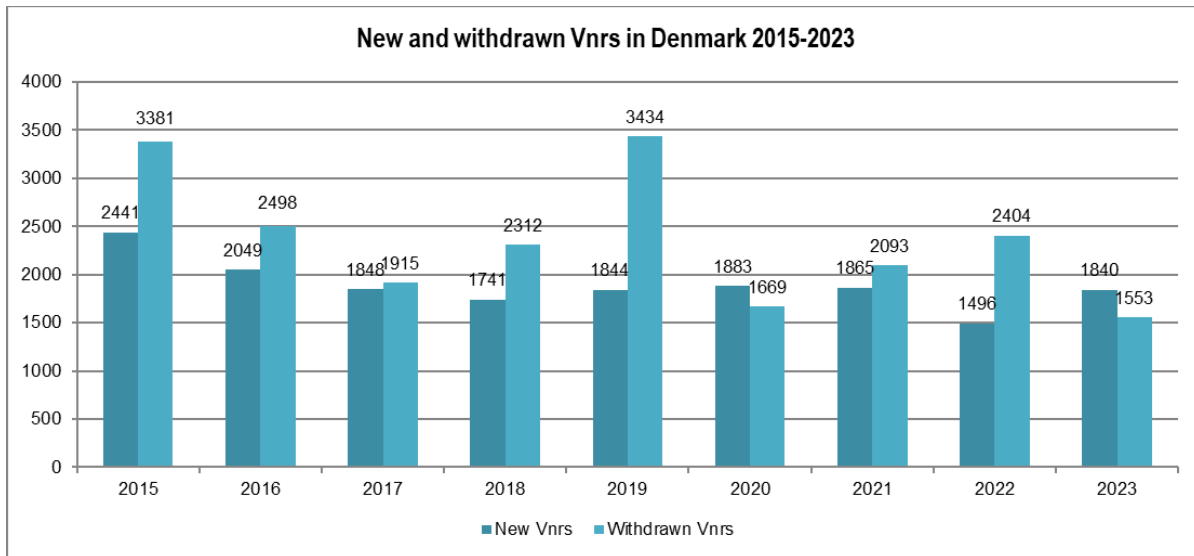
Picture 14.



Picture 15.



Picture 16.



Finland

In Finland there were 14 405 valid Vnrs at the end of 2023. More detailed information can be found in the following tables and pictures.

Table 4.

Vnrs in Finland 2023	
All	14 405
Unlocked	11 876 (82 %)
Locked	2 529 (18 %)
Parallel imported	1 142 (8 %)

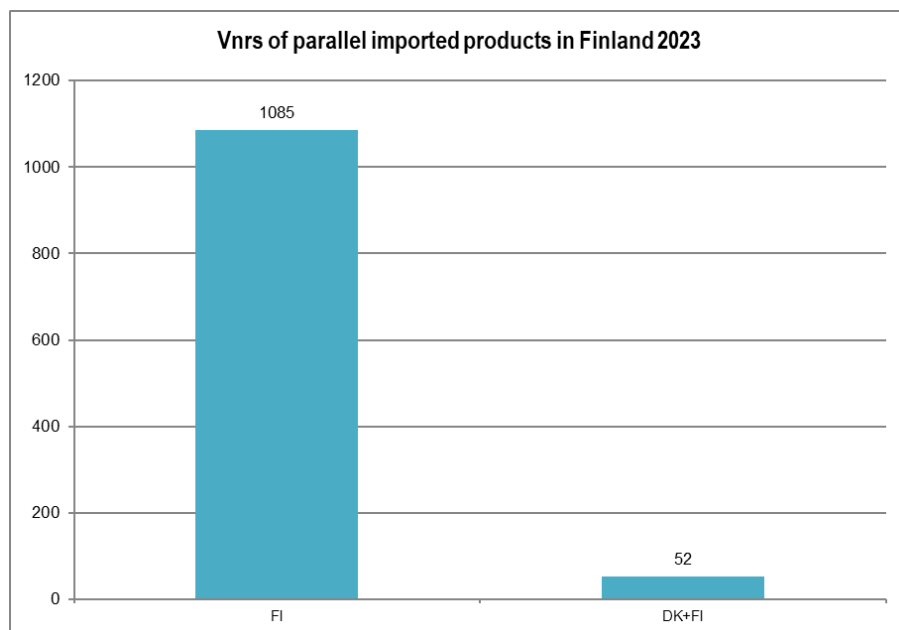
Table 5.

Human and veterinary medicines in Finland 2023	
Human	12 950 (90 %)
Veterinary	1 454 (10 %)
Human and veterinary	1 (0 %)

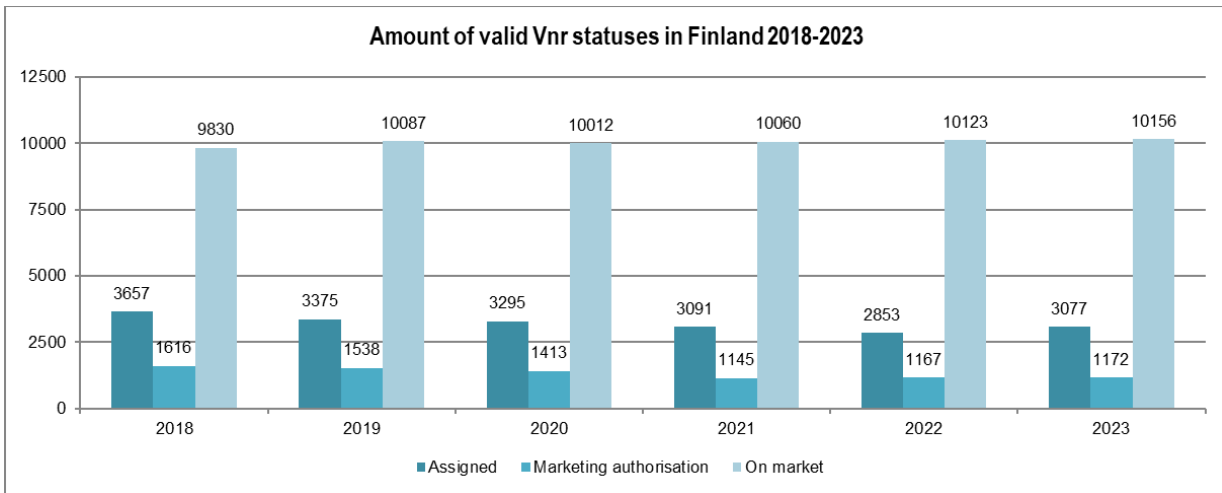
Table 6.

Prescription only, harmful in traffic and narcotic medicines in Finland 2023	
Prescription only	12 647 (88 %)
Harmful in traffic	1 206 (8 %)
Narcotic	336 (2 %)

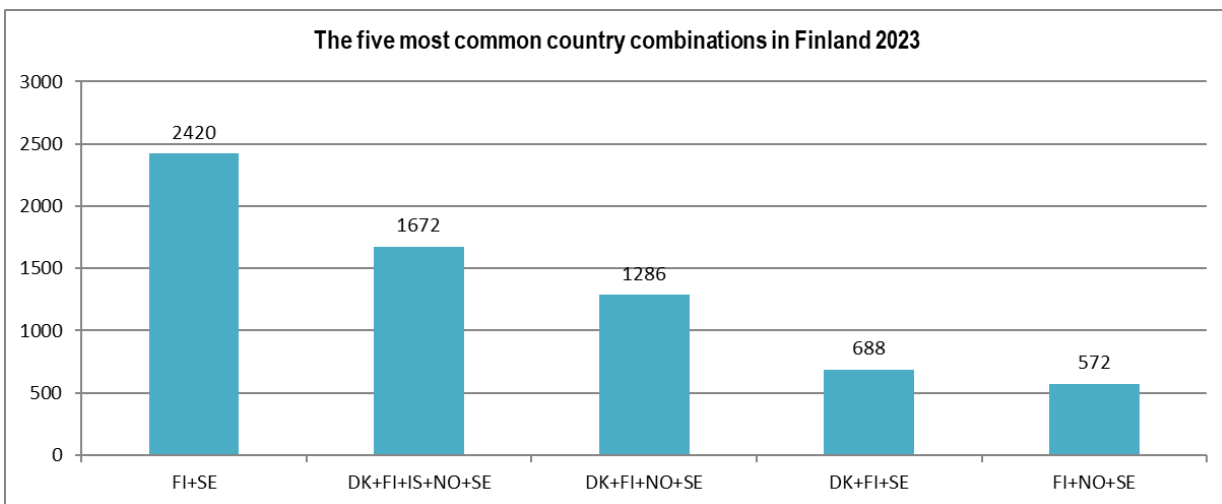
Picture 17.



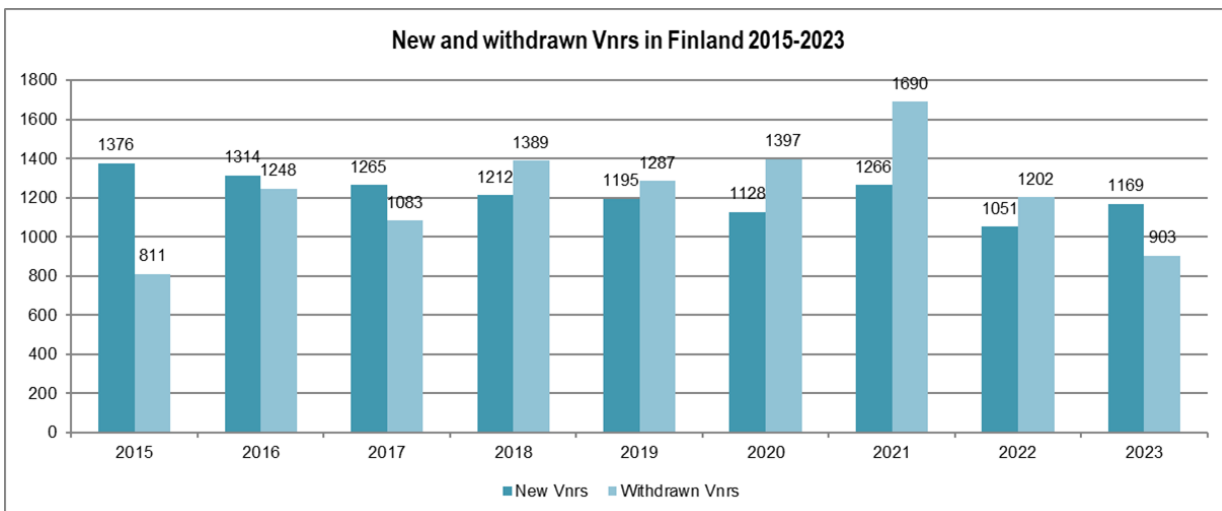
Picture 18.



Picture 19.



Picture 20.



Iceland

In Iceland there were 9 244 valid Vnrs in 2023. Only 2 % of the products were parallel imported. More detailed information can be found in the following tables and pictures.

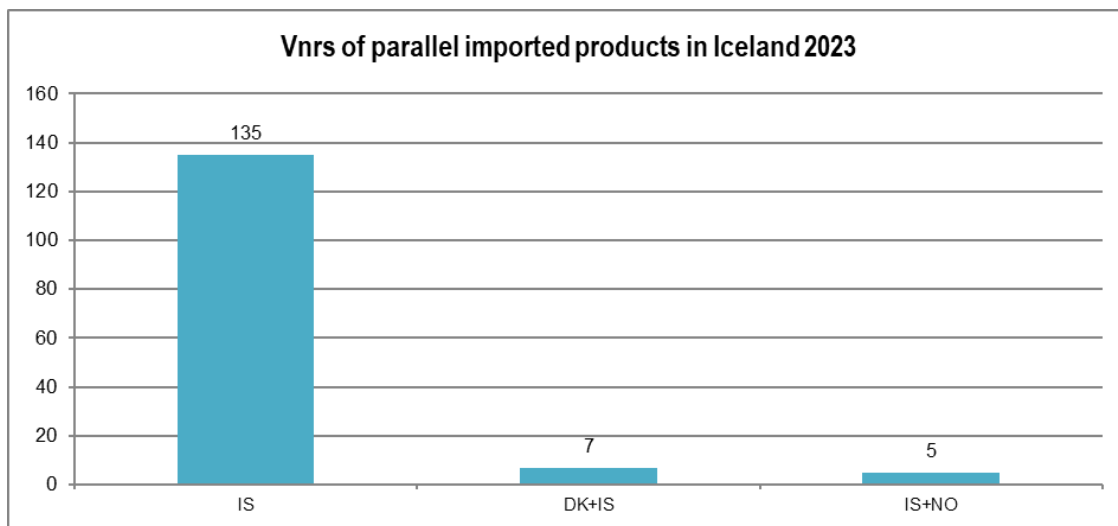
Table 7.

Vnrs in Iceland 2023	
All	9 244
Unlocked	8 497 (92 %)
Locked	747 (8 %)
Parallel imported	154 (2 %)

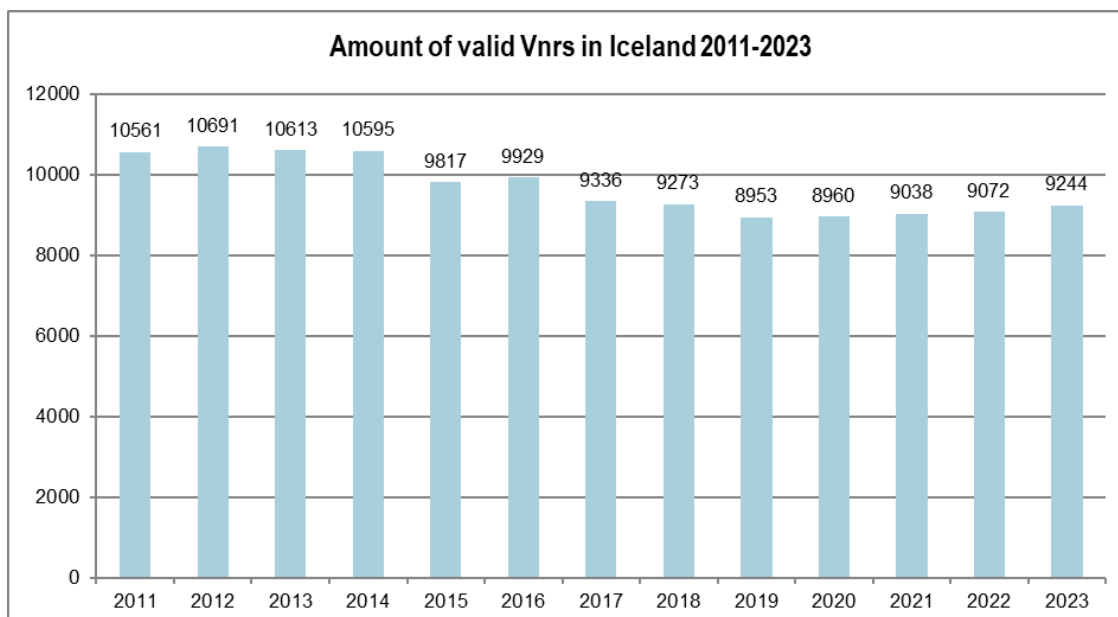
Table 8.

Human and veterinary medicines in Iceland 2023	
Human	8 650 (94 %)
Veterinary	591 (6 %)
Human and veterinary	3 (0 %)

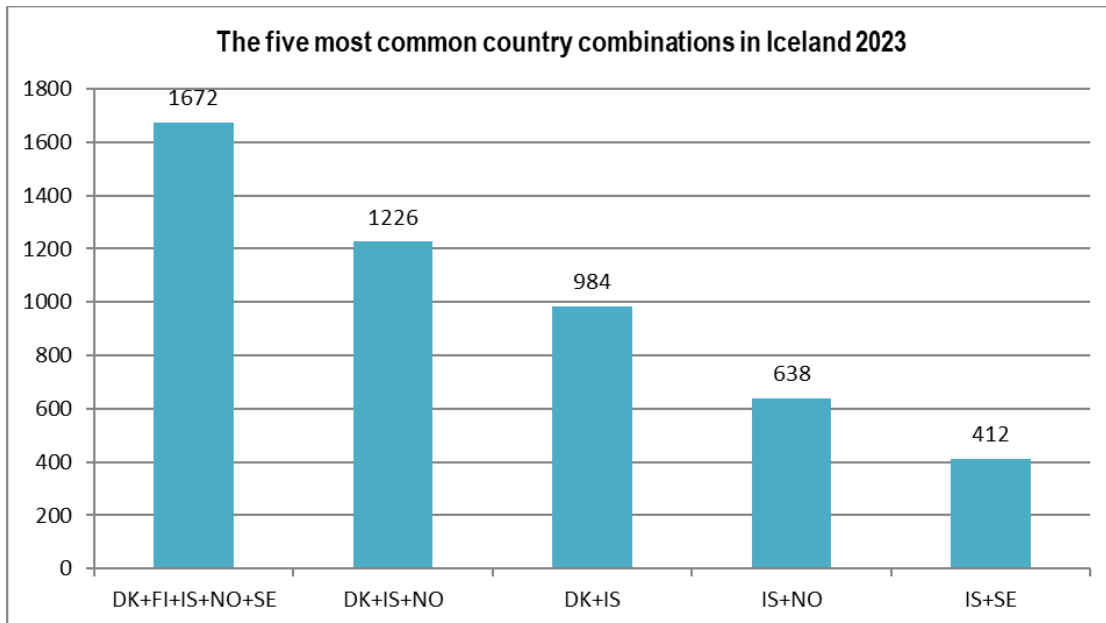
Picture 21.



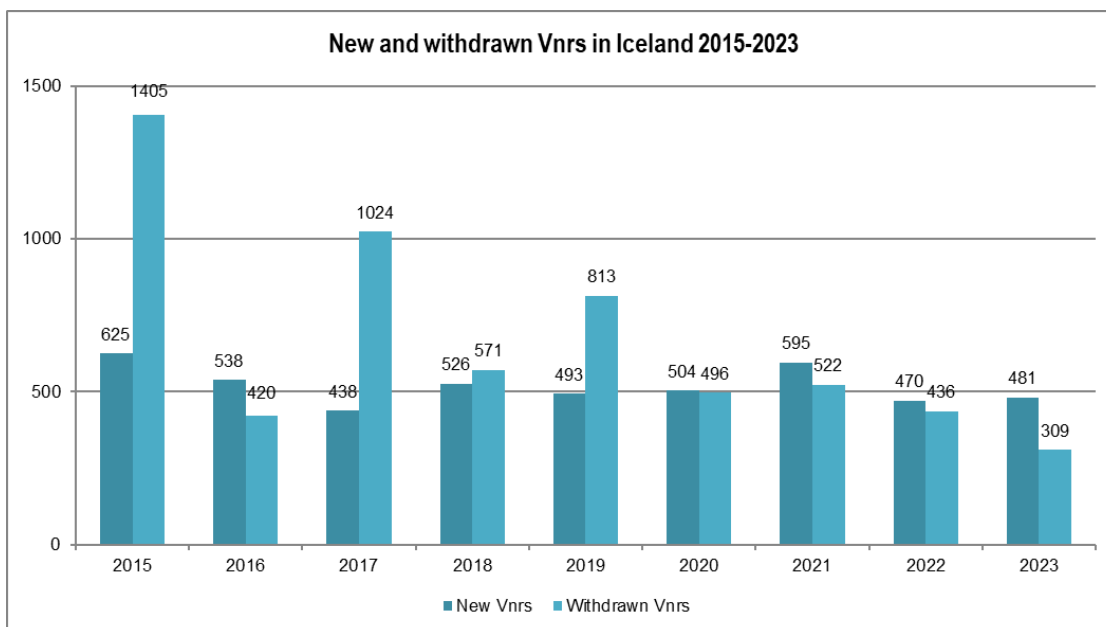
Picture 22.



Picture 23.



Picture 24.



Norway

In Norway there were 18 268 valid Vnrs in 2023. More detailed information can be found in the following tables and pictures.

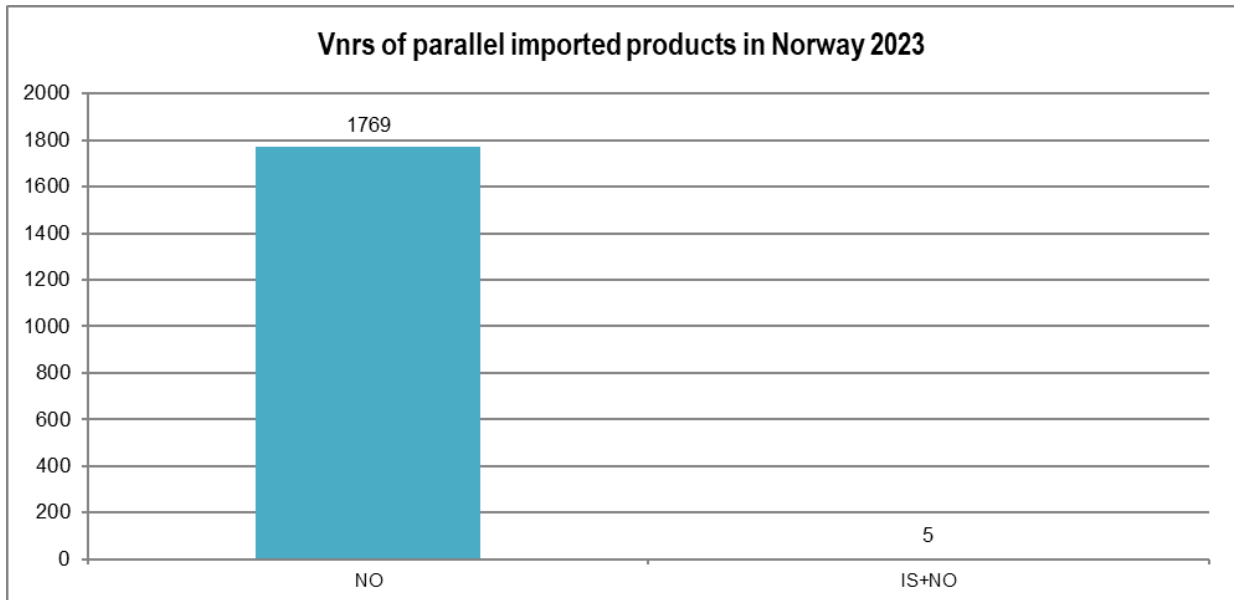
Table 9.

Vnrs in Norway 2023	
All	18 268
Unlocked	14 584 (80 %)
Locked	3 684 (20 %)
Parallel imported	1 790 (10 %)

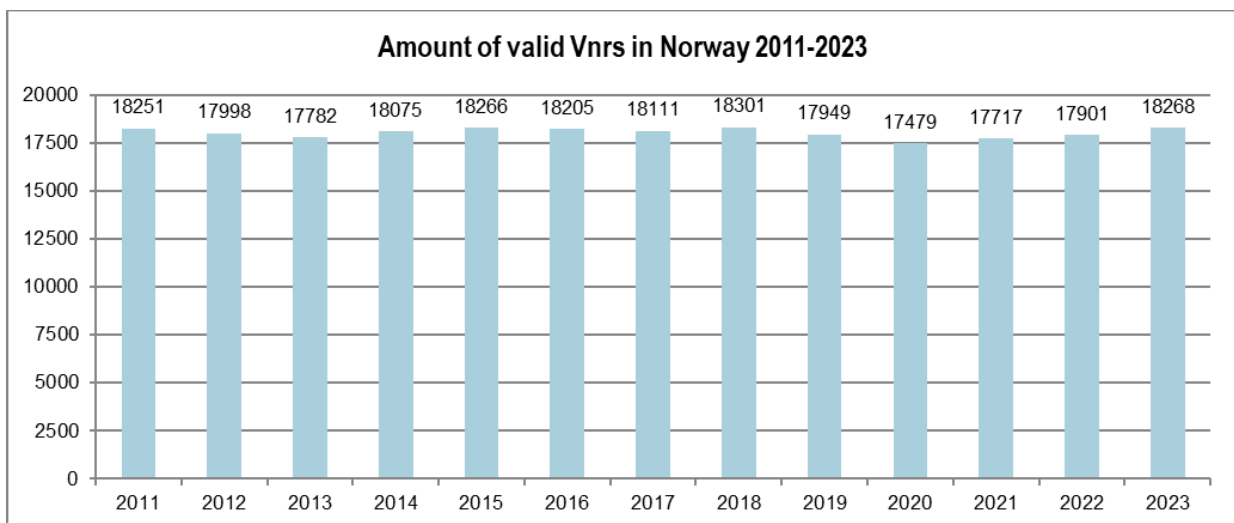
Table 10.

Human and veterinary medicines in Norway 2023	
Human	16 736 (92 %)
Veterinary	1 525 (8 %)
Human and veterinary	7 (0 %)

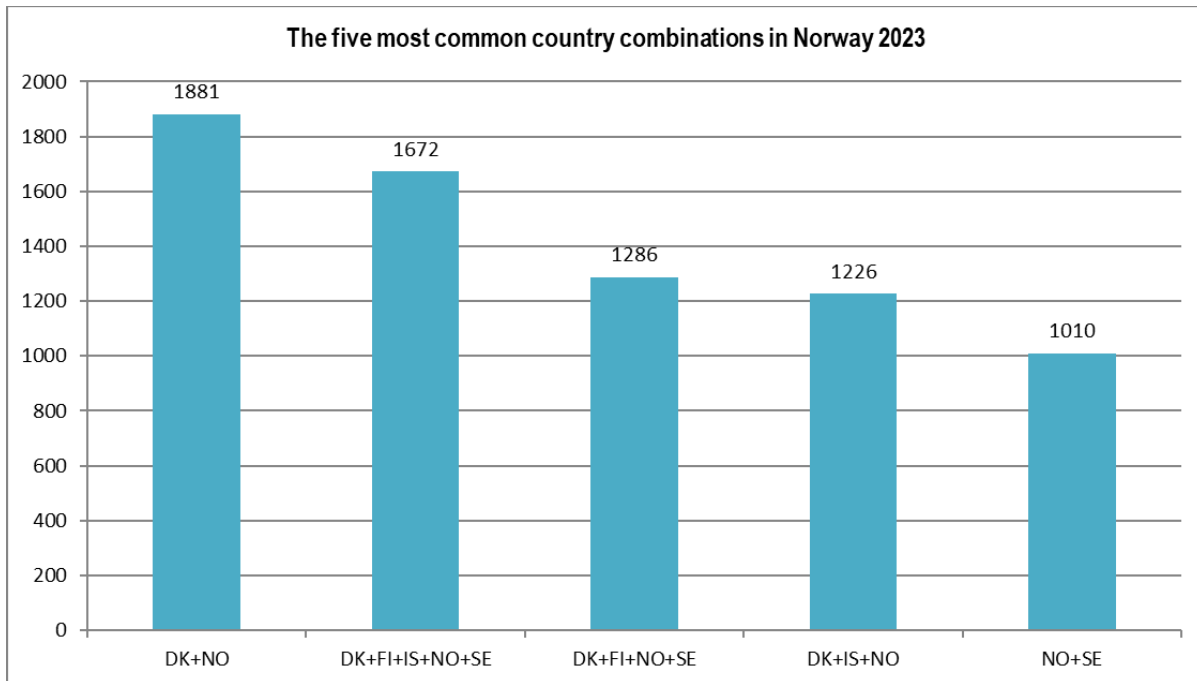
Picture 25.



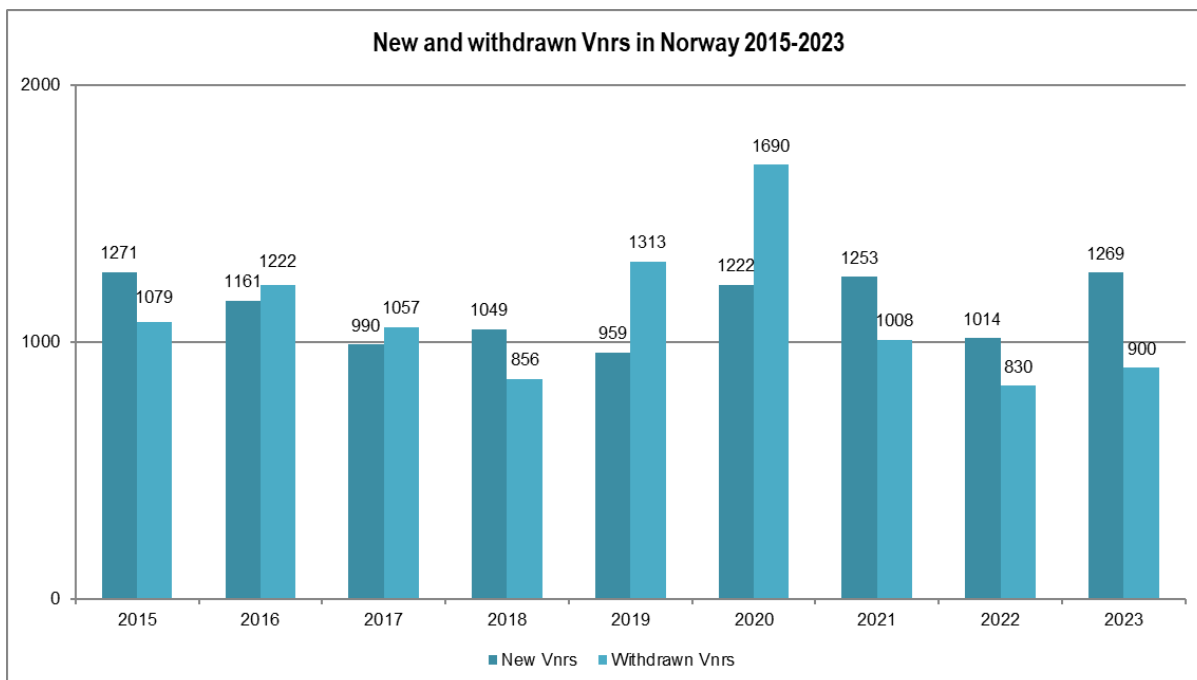
Picture 26.



Picture 27.



Picture 28.



Sweden

In Sweden there were 22 836 valid Vnrs, of which 20 % were parallel imported products at the end of 2023. More detailed information can be found in the tables and pictures below.

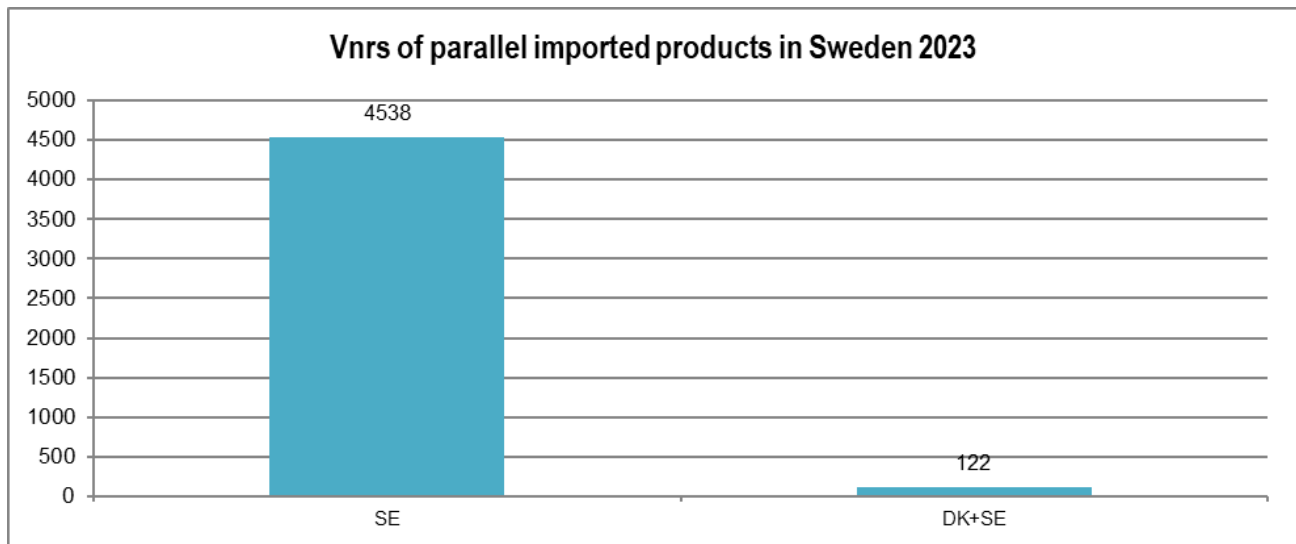
Table 11.

Vnrs in Sweden 2023	
All	22 836
Unlocked	16 339 (72 %)
Locked	6 497 (28 %)
Parallel imported	4 667 (20 %)

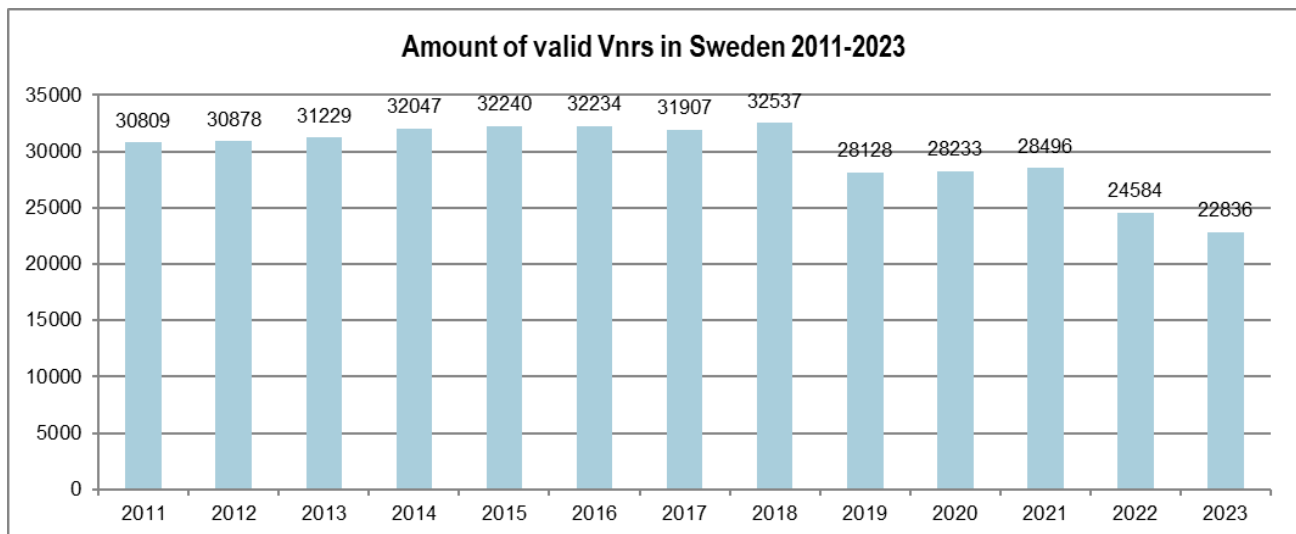
Table 12.

Human and veterinary medicines in Sweden 2023	
Human	21 264 (93 %)
Veterinary	1 541 (7 %)
Human and veterinary	31 (0 %)

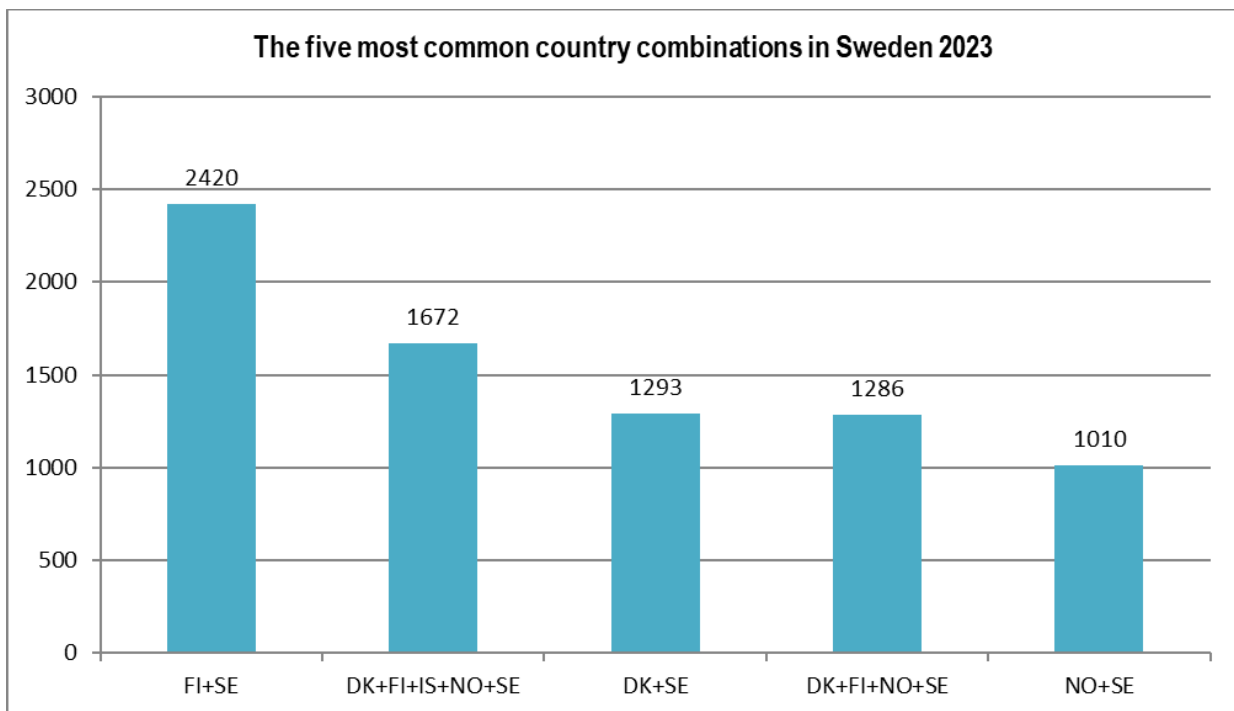
Picture 29.



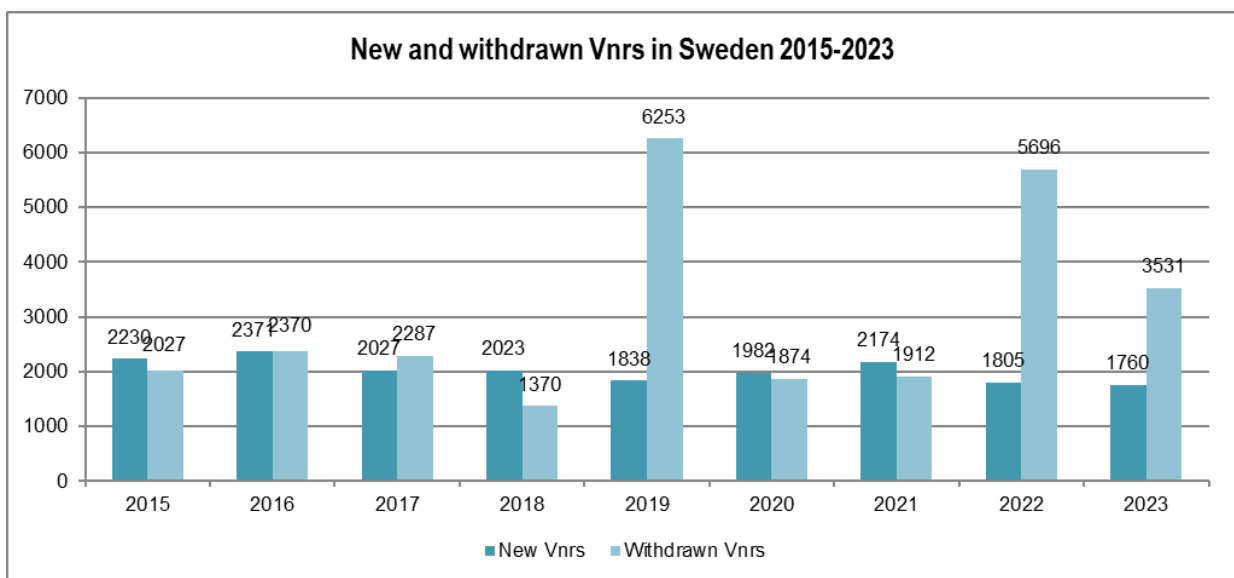
Picture 30.



Picture 31.



Picture 32.



Catalyzing Intelligence for Health

Pharmaca Health Intelligence 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, Pharmaca Academy[™], 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 data cube 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 Pharmaceutical 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 50 professionals from different fields of expertise. Our owner is Pharma Industry Finland.

Pharmaca Health Intelligence serves customers as the Nordic Number Centre

The Nordic Article Number (Vnr) administration has been 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 Pharmaca have pharmaceutical education. In addition, we have several IT specialists developing, maintaining and improving our databases and services.

www.pharmaca.fi