

Intellectual property crime is committed when someone manufactures, sells or distributes counterfeit or pirated goods, such as such as patents, trademarks, industrial designs or literary and artistic works, for commercial gain.

The international trade in counterfeit products represents up to 2.5 % of world trade, or as much as EUR 338 billion, according to 2013 data. Put in perspective, this is the equivalent of Austria's GDP, or the combined GDP of Ireland and the Czech Republic.

The impact of counterfeiting is particularly high in the European Union, where counterfeit and pirated products make up to 5 % of imports, or as much as EUR 85 billion.

What is Intellectual Property Crime?

Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)



Industrial property

- inventions (patents)
- trademarks
- industrial designs
- geographical indications of origin
- plant variety rights



Copyright

- literary and artistic works
- performing artists in their performances
- producers of phonograms in their recordings
- broadcasters in their radio and television programmes

Intellectual Property Crime is any breach of intellectual property rights



Counterfeiting

The manufacture, importation, distribution and sale of goods which falsely carry the trade mark of a genuine brand without permission and for gain or loss to another



Piracy

An unauthorised copying, use, reproduction, distribution of materials protected by intellectual property rights

IMPACT

To give one example: [clothing counterfeiting in the EU](#) costs business EUR 43.3 billion in lost sales, governments 8.1 billion in lost revenue and 518 281 people their jobs.

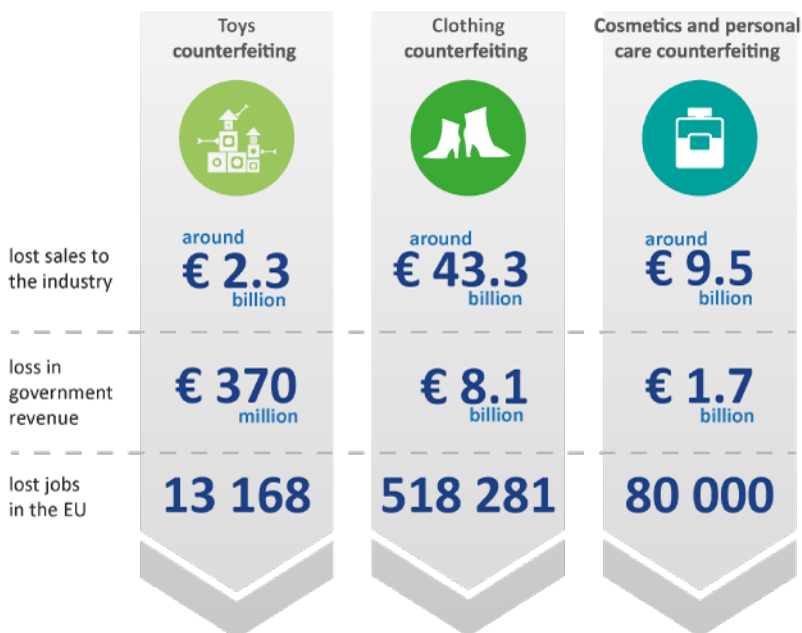
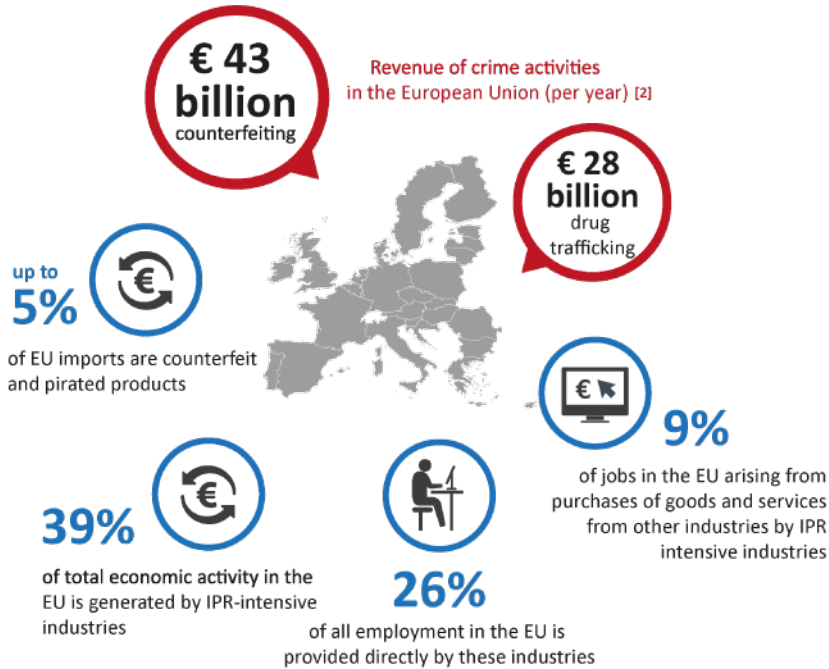
Infringements of intellectual property rights reduce the revenues of the affected businesses. The resulting adverse social and economic effects include the loss of jobs and livelihoods.

There are also other costs. As counterfeit goods are produced without regard to EU health and safety standards, they may be dangerous for consumers.

Government revenue is also affected by counterfeiting and piracy, which can stifle investment and innovation, hinder economic growth and reduce the creation of wealth.

In addition, the criminal groups involved in intellectual property crime often use the profits to finance other illegal activities.

Intellectual property crime in numbers



SUCCESSSES

Fighting intellectual property crime is a key priority for Europol and its partner law enforcement authorities.

Recent successes include the seizure of 190 tonnes of illegal or counterfeit pesticides in November 2015 in a 12-day international action (Silver Axe) that involved 350 container inspections at major ports and airports in Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Slovenia, and Spain.

In Operation OPSON V, an initiative coordinated by Interpol and Europol to protect public health and safety, more than 10,000 tonnes and one million litres of hazardous fake food and drink were seized in operations across 57 countries between November 2015 and February 2016.

To strengthen the fight against counterfeiting and piracy on- and offline, in 2016 Europol and the [European Union Intellectual Property Office \(EUIPO\)](#) joined forces to create the [Intellectual Property Crime Coordinated Coalition \(IPC3\)](#), which operates within Europol.

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NUMBER OF ITEMS FOUND: 157

SEARCH



TYPE

Article/Story, Event, How-To Guide, Landing Page, Multimedia, News/Press Release, Operation, Page, Publication/Document

TARGET GROUP

SEARCH

CLEAR ALL

20
Dec
2012



FAKE COSMETICS, SHAMPOO AND WASHING POWDER DESTINED FOR THE EUROPEAN MARKET CONFISCATED IN POLAND

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

14
Dec
2012



INTERPOL-EUROPOL OPERATION RESULTS IN GLOBAL SEIZURES OF FAKE AND ILLICIT FOOD

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

05
Oct
2012



GLOBAL CRACKDOWN ON ILLICIT ONLINE PHARMACIES

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

15
Jun
2012



6 SUSPECTED EURO COUNTERFEITERS ARRESTED

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

19
Mar
2012



CRIMINALS DISTRIBUTING FAKE VIAGRA BUSTED

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

13
Jan
2012



EUROPOL WARNS OF GROWING TRADE IN COUNTERFEIT PESTICIDES WORTH BILLIONS OF EUROS A YEA

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

06
Dec
2011



TONNES OF ILLICIT FOODS SEIZED ACROSS EUROPE IN INTERPOL-EUROPOL LED OPERATION

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

06
Oct
2011



POLISH POLICE SHUT DOWN HUGE COUNTERFEIT EURO PRINT SHOP

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

20
Sep
2011



EUROPOL AND INTERPOL ENHANCE COOPERATION AGAINST COUNTERFEITING TO TRANSFORM REGIONAL SUCCESS INTO GLOBAL ACTION

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

13
Jul
2011



EUROPOL CAUTIONS CITIZENS: COUNTERFEIT PRODUCTS CAN BE POTENTIALLY LETHAL

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

07
Jul
2011



EUROPOL AND IRELAND IDENTIFY ORGANISED CRIME GROUP ACTIVE IN ILLEGAL TRADING OF RHINO HORN

23
Jun
2011



LARGE INTERNATIONAL OPERATION AGAINST CIGARETTE SMUGGLING NETWORKS

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

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