

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.

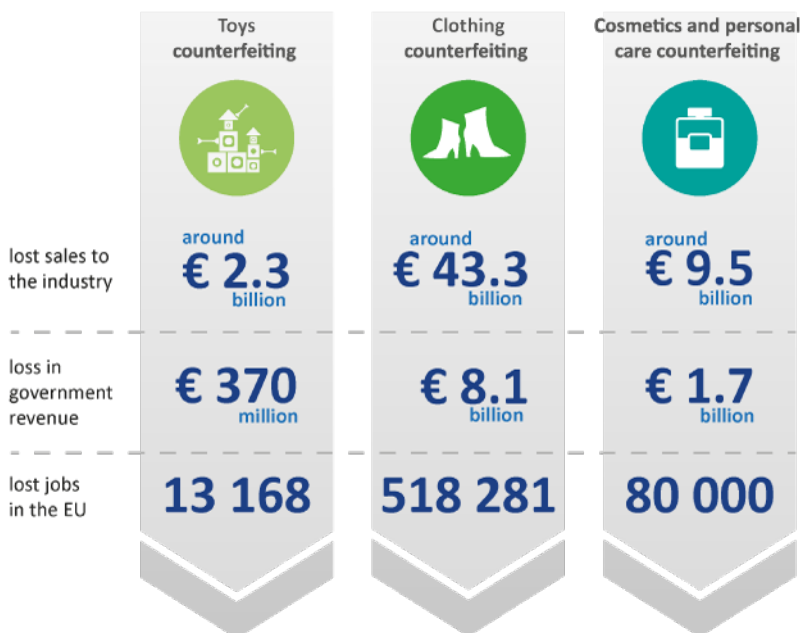
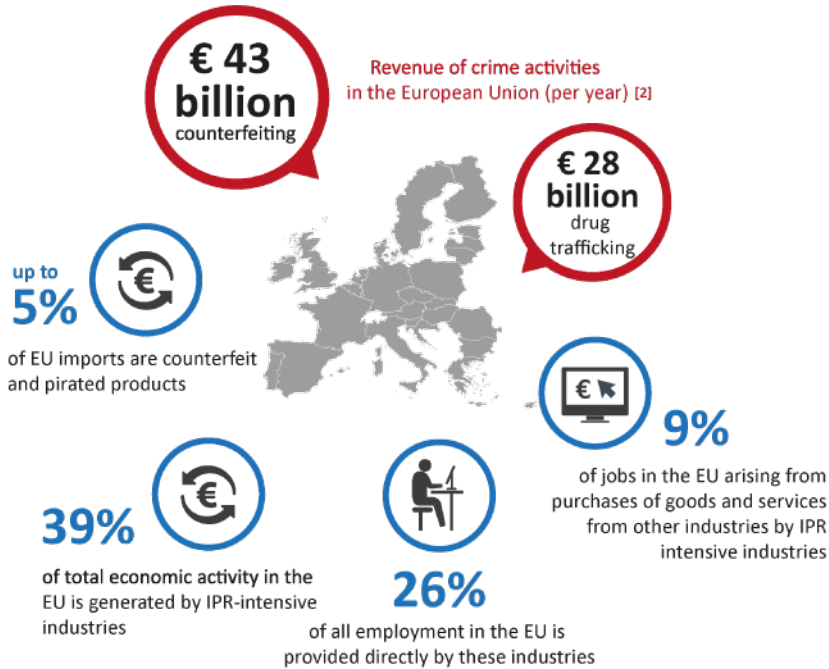
Infringements of intellectual property rights reduce the revenues of the affected businesses. The resulting adverse social and economic effects include the loss of jobs and livelihoods.

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.

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.

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

03  
Apr  
2020

## CATCHING THE VIRUS

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

03  
Apr  
2020

## CATCHING THE VIRUS CYBERCRIME, DISINFORMATION AND THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

PUBLICATION/DOCUMENT

# COVID-19



## STAYING SAFE DURING COVID-19: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

27  
Mar  
2020

## HOW CRIMINALS PROFIT FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

27  
Mar  
2020

## PANDEMIC PROFITEERING: HOW CRIMINALS EXPLOIT THE COVID-19 CRISIS



21  
Mar  
2020



## RISE OF FAKE 'CORONA CURES' REVEALED IN GLOBAL COUNTERFEIT MEDICINE OPERATION

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE



06  
Mar  
2020



## €7.9 MILLION OF ILLEGAL PRODUCTS SEIZED IN A HIT AGAINST MEDICINE TRAFFICKERS

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE



13  
Feb  
2020



## METAL THIEVES ARRESTED IN FRANCE AND ROMANIA FOR GREAT TRAIN ROBBERY

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE



05  
Feb  
2020



## HUGE HIT TO ILLEGAL IPTV DISTRIBUTORS IN BULGARIA

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE



05  
Feb  
2020



## BLOW TO FUEL FRAUDSTERS: 59 ARRESTS IN EUROPE

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE



20  
Dec  
2019



## CRIME GANG MAKES OVER €2 MILLION TRAFFICKING ILLEGAL STEROIDS WORLDWIDE

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE



02  
Dec  
2019



## 30 506 INTERNET DOMAIN NAMES SHUT DOWN FOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY INFRINGEMENT

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

[◀ FIRST](#) [◀ PREVIOUS](#) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 ... [NEXT ▶](#) [LAST ▶](#)

Source URL: <https://www.europol.europa.eu/crime-areas-and-trends/crime-areas/intellectual-property-crime?page=2>