

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.

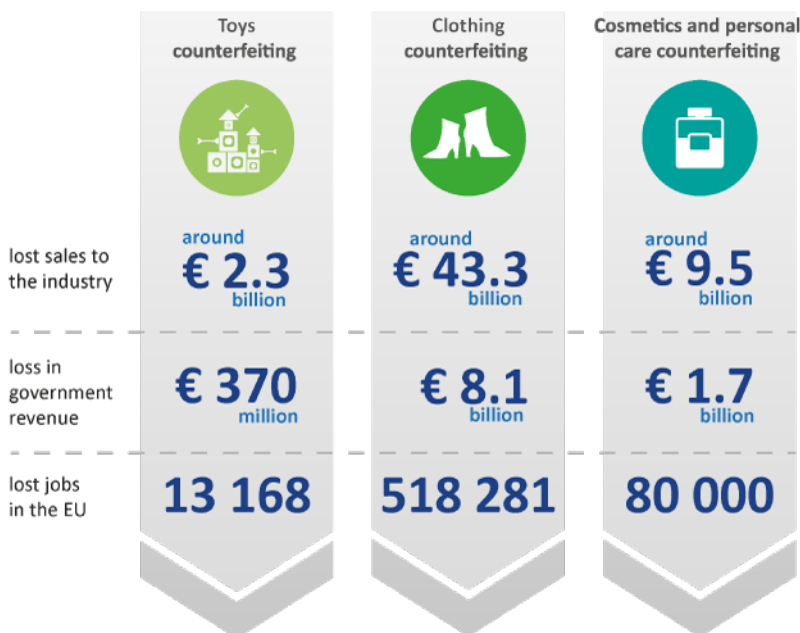
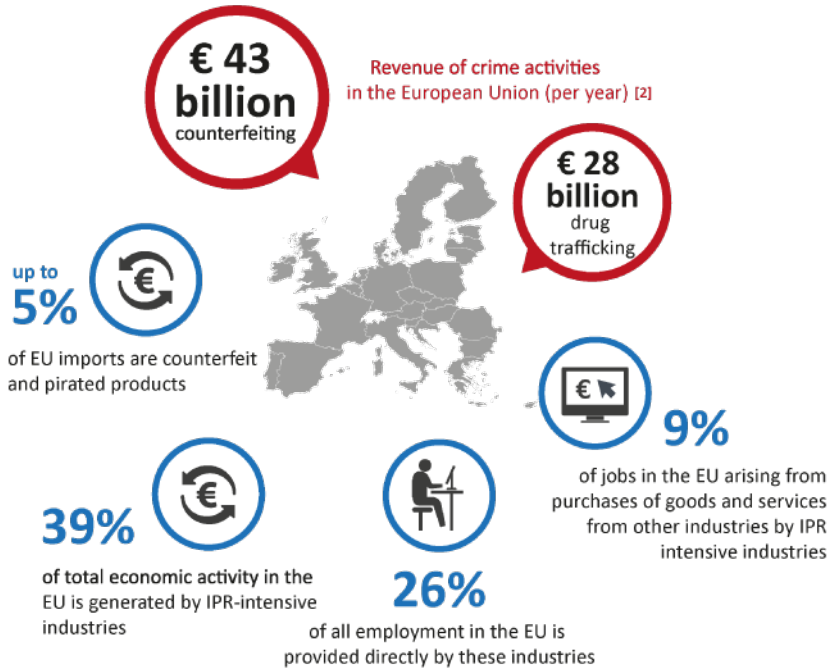
Infringements of intellectual property rights reduce the revenues of the affected businesses. The resulting adverse social and economic effects include the loss of jobs and livelihoods.

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

01
Feb
2018

IP CRIME: HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON A JOINT STRATEGY AT EUROPOL

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

31
Dec
2017



OPERATION OPSON VI: TARGETING COUNTERFEIT AND SUBSTANDARD FOODSTUFF AND BEVERAGE

PUBLICATION/DOCUMENT

23
Jan
2018

EUROPOL REVIEW 2016 - 2017

PUBLICATION/DOCUMENT

12
Jan
2018

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PRIVATE SECTOR JOIN FORCES TO SHUT DOWN ILLEGAL STREAMING NETWORK

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

21
Dec
2017

MILLIONS OF MEDICINES SEIZED IN LARGEST OPERATION AGAINST THE TRAFFICKING OF MISUSED MEDICINES

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

12
Dec
2017



TACKLING COUNTERFEITING AND PIRACY ACROSS THE EU – THE IMPACT OF A COORDINATED APPROACH

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

06
Dec
2017



SPANISH GUARDIA CIVIL SUPPORTED BY EUROPOL BREAKS UP AN ILLEGAL TOBACCO FACTORY

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

01
Dec
2017



OPERATION DRAGON DELIVERS MAJOR BLOW TO ORGANISED CRIME

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

01
Dec
2017



JOINT ACTION DAYS 2017

PUBLICATION/DOCUMENT

27
Nov
2017



BIGGEST HIT AGAINST ONLINE PIRACY: OVER 20 520 INTERNET DOMAIN NAMES SEIZED FOR SELLING COUNTERFEITS

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

15
Nov
2017



INTERNATIONAL VEHICLE THEFT AND TRAFFICKING RING BUSTED IN SPAIN



MILLIONS OF MEDICINES SEIZED IN LARGEST OPERATION AGAINST ILLICIT ONLINE PHARMACIES

Navigation bar with buttons: < FIRST, < PREVIOUS, ..., 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, ..., NEXT >, LAST >

Source URL: <https://www.europol.europa.eu/crime-areas-and-trends/crime-areas/intellectual-property-crime?page=5>