

# COVID-19 Vaccine Related Criminality

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## A European Overview

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Europol Unclassified - Basic Protection Level

## Agenda Points:

- 1 – Background
- 2 – Current Situation
- 3 – Way Forward

PART 1

# European Financial & Economic Crime Centre

Background

A photograph of a modern building facade with the Europol logo prominently displayed in large, illuminated letters. The image is partially obscured by a dark blue diagonal overlay on the left side.

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**EUROPOL** European Financial and Economic Crime Centre

# Background

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

**CORONA CRIMES: SUSPECT BEHIND €6 MILLION FACE MASKS AND HAND SANITISERS SCAM ARRESTED THANKS TO INTERNATIONAL POLICE COOPERATION**

**MORE THAN €165 MILLION OF TRAFFICKED MEDICINES SEIZED OPERATION MISMED 2**

**KEEPING SPORT SAFE AND FAIR: 3.8 MILLION DOPING SUBSTANCES AND FAKE MEDICINES SEIZED**

**HIT AGAINST THE PRODUCTION OF ILLICIT MEDICINES: THREE CLANDESTINE LABORATORIES DISMANTLED AND MORE THAN 5 MILLION DOSES SEIZED**

**TWO UNDERGROUND DOPING LABS DISMANTLED IN FRANCE**

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

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

**48 ARRESTS AND 6 ORGANISED CRIME GROUPS DISMANTLED IN MEDICINE-TRAFFICKING OPERATION**

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

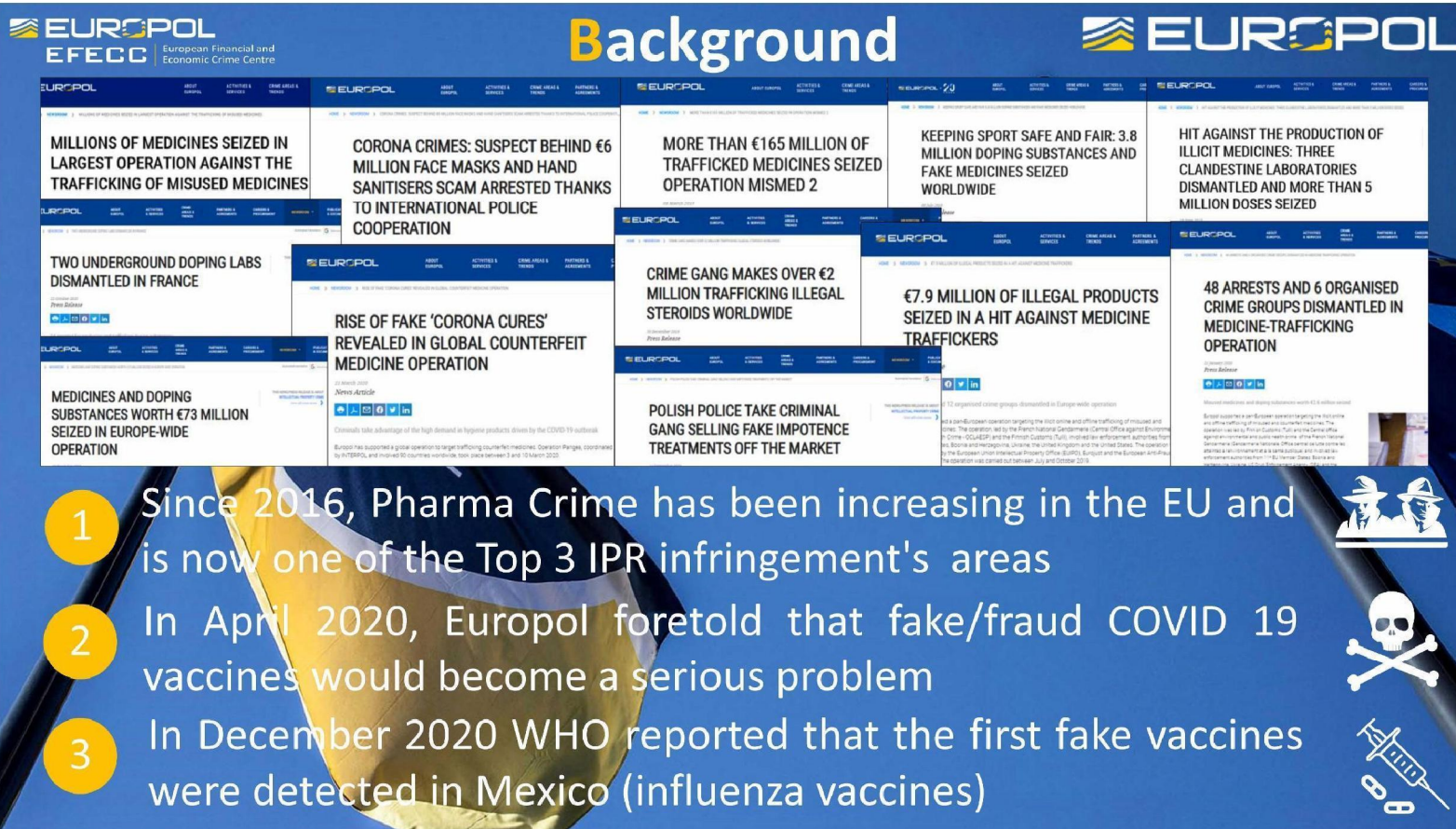



**MEDICINES AND DOPING SUBSTANCES WORTH €73 MILLION SEIZED IN EUROPE-WIDE OPERATION**

**POLISH POLICE TAKE CRIMINAL GANG SELLING FAKE IMPOTENCE TREATMENTS OFF THE MARKET**

1 Since 2016, Pharma Crime has been increasing in the EU and is now one of the Top 3 IPR infringement's areas

2 In April 2020, Europol foretold that fake/fraud COVID 19 vaccines would become a serious problem

3 In December 2020 WHO reported that the first fake vaccines were detected in Mexico (influenza vaccines)

PART 2

# European Financial & Economic Crime Centre

Current Situation

A photograph of a modern building facade with the Europol logo illuminated in white. The logo consists of a stylized 'E' followed by the word 'EUROPOL' in a bold, sans-serif font. The building has large windows and a dark exterior. The image is partially obscured by a dark blue diagonal overlay on the left side.

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## Fake COVID-19 Vaccine Manufacturing Unit Busted Bargarh

By Odishvi Bureau — On Sep 26, 2020 - 11:08 AM



## Alleged AstraZeneca Fake Vaccines in Italy, Carabinieri investigate

By Fabio Giuseppe Carlo Carlini — February 15, 2021

## ITALY NEWS

From Aifa to Nas, vaccine scams are alarming



## 3,000 doses of fake COVID-19 vaccines confiscated, illegal sales began in September



## GAZETA.PL WIADOMOŚCI

## Koronawirus. Dziennikarze kupili podrobioną szczepionkę Pfizer. Kopia do złudzenia przypomina oryginał

Dziennikarze Piłsudź Nowej kupili podrobioną szczepionkę Pfizer. Okazało się, że preparat tak dobrze udaje oryginał, że nawet najlepsze laboratoria miały problem z rozróżnieniem fałszyfiku i oryginału. - Możemy podprzewać, że mamy do czynienia z czymś poważniejszym - powiedział były zastępca szefa ABW pfr Paweł Białek.



COVID-19: Police arrest 84 people as thousands of fake coronavirus vaccines seized in China and South Africa

1

The main trend is Fraud. Fraudsters offer to sell millions of doses of COVID-19 vaccines to EU MS government officials

2

The second is Counterfeiting. Criminals prepare and sell fake COVID-19 vaccines to EU citizens

3

The third is the Diversion of COVID-19 vaccines from the EU distribution chain, via Corruption/Abuse of Power/Theft



# Current situation

**Early Warning Notification**

**Vaccine-related crime during the COVID-19 pandemic**

The date: November 2020  
Ref No: HAN/2020/140  
Status: Closed  
Operation: Operation

**Background**

Following the announcement of a vaccine for COVID-19, the pharmaceutical industry has been working to produce and distribute the vaccine as quickly as possible. The demand for the vaccine is high, and the supply is limited. This has led to the emergence of vaccine-related crimes, such as the production and sale of counterfeit vaccines.

**What is happening?**

The World Health Organization (WHO) has issued a warning that counterfeit vaccines are being sold in several countries. These counterfeit vaccines are often made from unapproved ingredients and can be harmful to the public. The WHO has urged governments to take action to prevent the sale of counterfeit vaccines.

**What is the impact?**

The production and sale of counterfeit vaccines can have a significant impact on public health. Counterfeit vaccines are often ineffective and can cause serious side effects. This can lead to the death of people who are vulnerable to the disease.

**Conclusion**

Counterfeit vaccines are a serious threat to public health. It is important for governments to take action to prevent the sale of counterfeit vaccines. This can be done by increasing the number of inspectors and by improving the regulatory framework.

Report Public Information

**Early Warning Notification**

**Counterfeit COVID-19 PCR tests detected in the EU**

The date: November 2020  
Ref No: HAN/2020/140  
Status: Closed  
Operation: Operation

**Background**

Since the start of the pandemic, EU Member States have introduced several measures in a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, one of them being testing. Testing campaigns are considered to be essential to contain the spread of the virus, allowing early detection and facilitating appropriate contact tracing.

PCR testing remains one of the most used screening measures to detect the SARS-CoV-2 virus in infected individuals. In particular, the PCR test (polymerase chain reaction) detects the presence of the genetic material that is specific to the coronavirus in nasal and throat swabs. It is considered to be the most reliable test for the virus.

**What is happening?**

One of the side-effects of the COVID-19 pandemic has been the rise of a parallel economy, with counterfeits produced and sold against the original products, equipment, services, software and pharmaceutical products. Counterfeits have been found in the production of PCR tests for COVID-19, which are sold in several countries, including Spain, where for Spain the COVID-19 PCR tests are sold for 10 euros.

According to information received from the Hungarian Police, the counterfeit COVID-19 PCR tests were illegally sold online. The products were identified as PCR tests for medical consumers, based on the label, the manufacturer name and other elements.

Following the analysis of the seized tests in national labs, it was concluded that the tests were found to be counterfeit and of inferior quality. Based on the results, it could be assumed that the tests may be considered a public health risk. Moreover, it was verified that these products were illegally labelled with CE marks and CE marks.

Please's further action for consumer risk assessment  
Contact the national authorities: CE marks and CE marks

Report Public Information

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**Viral marketing**

Counterfeits, sub-standard goods and intellectual property crime in the COVID-19 pandemic

17 April 2020

**Early Warning Notification**

**The illicit sales of false negative COVID-19 test certificates**

The date: November 2020  
Ref No: HAN/2020/140  
Status: Closed  
Operation: Operation

**Background**

To contain the spread of the COVID-19 virus, an increasing number of countries in the EU and beyond are implementing a general ban on the sale of counterfeit COVID-19 test certificates, which is considered to be a high-risk area. The reason for this is that counterfeit test certificates can lead to the spread of the virus and to the death of people who are vulnerable to the disease.

**What is happening?**

Several cases have emerged in open sources of fraudulent COVID-19 test certificates being sold to travellers. The latest case of counterfeit PCR test certificates was reported from Spain, where the seller was a man who was arrested trying to sell false COVID-19 test certificates.

Further reports indicated the arrest of a foreigner in the context of a double report in Spain, where a foreigner reported that he had been arrested for selling false COVID-19 test certificates. The person charged for the false test documents was arrested in the UK, where he was arrested for selling false COVID-19 test certificates. The person was arrested in the UK, where he was arrested for selling false COVID-19 test certificates. A further case was reported by the Spanish National Police for selling false negative PCR certificates on an online platform for a minimum of 1000€. In the Netherlands, customs were discovered selling false negative test certificates for EUR 10000 through the internet.

European received additional intelligence on the illegal use of a mobile application by the Netherlands Ministry of Internal Affairs, which allows members of the organized crime group to illegally sell and use results.

For more information, please contact the national authorities at [efcec@europol.europa.eu](mailto:efcec@europol.europa.eu) or [efcec@europol.europa.eu](mailto:efcec@europol.europa.eu). For more information, please contact the national authorities at [efcec@europol.europa.eu](mailto:efcec@europol.europa.eu) or [efcec@europol.europa.eu](mailto:efcec@europol.europa.eu). For more information, please contact the national authorities at [efcec@europol.europa.eu](mailto:efcec@europol.europa.eu) or [efcec@europol.europa.eu](mailto:efcec@europol.europa.eu).

Report Public Information

- 1
- 2
- 3

Other trends are the production and sale of counterfeited COVID-19 PCR tests

The production and sale of counterfeited personal protective and medical equipment's

The production and sale of counterfeited negative certificates of COVID-19 PCR tests



PART 3

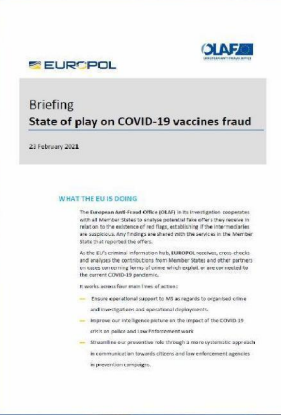
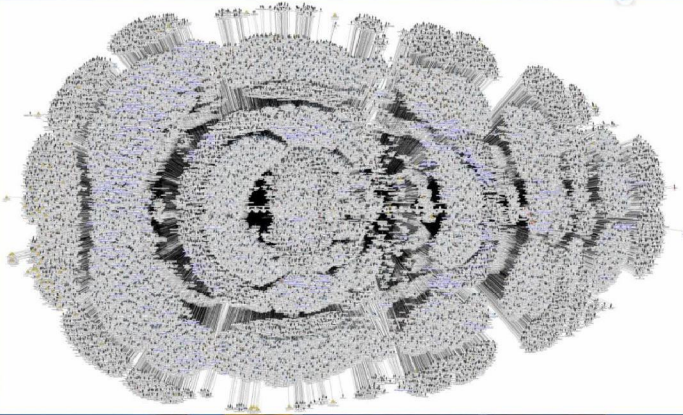
# European Financial & Economic Crime Centre

Way Forward

A photograph of a modern building facade with the Europol logo and name in large, illuminated letters. The image is partially obscured by a dark blue diagonal overlay on the left side.

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- 1 Improve the EU intelligence picture by collecting, analysing and sharing all COVID-19 related crime data
- 2 Increase the number of Internationally Coordinated Operations supported by Europol, OLAF, Eurojust and EPPO
- 3 Increase strategic knowledge, identify vulnerabilities, promote the necessary policy changes





Thank you for your attention

Any questions?

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[www.europol.europa.eu](http://www.europol.europa.eu)



Europol Unclassified - Basic Protection Level