

The project

In the European project “<http://www.fakecare.com>” comprised a team of university researchers, supported by institutional actors and other relevant stakeholders, adopted a multidisciplinary and integrated approach (law, criminology, statistical and information science) in order to develop a more accurate picture of online trade of falsified medicinal products and to identify new tools for its investigation and prevention.

Traditional and **innovative** methods have been used, such as: a web survey, a virtual ethnography, two honey-pot websites, a comparative analysis of the EU legal framework, a script analysis of judicial and investigative cases, a web content analysis, and interviews with law enforcement agencies, regulatory agencies and private stakeholders. The research activities were conducted in Bulgaria, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

Project Fakecare has recently been considered by the **Chirac Foundation** as one of the five most important projects in the world in the field of the illegal online trade of medicines.

The results

- i. Improved and systematised **knowledge** about the online trade of falsified medicinal products, more in detail on demand-side, supply-side, patterns (e.g., criminal groups involved, routes, etc.), and criminal opportunities involuntarily stemming from the EU legal framework;
- ii. In-depth understating of the **vulnerabilities of the EU logo** for legally operating online pharmacies/retailers (see fact sheet no. 05) that has allowed to develop a “crime-proof” system of verification and certification of legally-operating online websites supplying medicines;
- iii. An **ICT tool** for the **automatic detection** of illegal online pharmacies (i.e., Fakecare Alert System Tool);
- iv. A **tool** to determine the **risk** that a given medicine may be falsified and traded online (i.e., Fakecare Hot Medicines Tool);
- v. Guidelines for **customers** for safe online purchases of medicinal products in the EU;
- vi. Guidelines to assist **law enforcement agencies** in tackling the online trade of falsified medicinal products;
- vii. A **University education curriculum** on pharmaceutical crime, with special attention paid to online trade of falsified medicinal products.

Technical Details

Title of the project

www.fakecare.com. Developing expertise against the online trade of fake medicines by producing and disseminating knowledge, counterstrategies and tools across the EU

Coordinator

eCrime - Faculty of Law, University of Trento (IT)

Partners

AIFA - Italian Medicines Agency (IT)

Teesside University (UK)

RiSSC - Centro Ricerche e Studi su Sicurezza e Criminalità (IT)

Interpol (FR)

IRACM - International institute for the prevention of falsified medicines (FR)

LegitScript (USA)

Grant number

HOME/2011/ISEC/AG/FINEC/4000002221

Funding body

European Commission - DG Migration and Home Affairs

Funding programme

Prevention of and Fight against Crime - ISEC 2011

Funding

€ 366.250

Duration

20.09.2012 - 19.12.2015

Contacts

eCrime – ICT, law & criminology

Faculty of Law, University of Trento

Via G. Verdi, 53

38122, Trento (TN), Italy

website: ecrime.unitn.it

email: ecrime@unitn.it

phone: +39 0461 282336

twitter: @_eCrime

phone: +39 0461 282336