

Page 1 – General Information

Project code	TSSP06
Partner University	Teesside University
Faculty/School/Department/Research Centres	School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Law/Department of Criminology, Law and Policing/Centre for Crime, Harm Prevention and Security
First supervisor Please provide name and weblink	Prof. Georgios A. Antonopoulos https://research.tees.ac.uk/en/persons/georgios-antonopoulos
Second supervisor Please provide name and weblink	Dr Justin Kotzé http://www.tees.ac.uk/sections/research/social_sciences/staff_profile_details.cfm?staff_profileid=U0027465
Third supervisor Please provide name and weblink	
Fourth (external) supervisor	
External/industrial supervisor	
Which of the supervisors listed above is an early-career-researcher	Dr. Justin Kotzé
Contact details for project for informal applicant queries Email address	Prof. Georgios A. Antonopoulos E: g.antonopoulos@tees.ac.uk
DTA Programme: Please delete as necessary which DTA programme this project relates to:	DTA Social Policy
Project title	The Role of the European Union in the Global Trade in Counterfeit Products



Co-funded by the Horizon 2020 programme of the European Union

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 801604.

Page 2 – Project Description

Scientific Excellence (500 words)	<p>Product counterfeiting is recognised as a highly profitable global illicit market that is increasingly attractive to ‘organised’ criminals and on a transnational level. Fake goods are associated with a range of complex harms impacting on economies and societies around the world. In recognition of the sheer volume of fake goods permeating various markets, EU regulatory and law enforcement agencies are paying increasing attention to product counterfeiting. Yet, despite their increasing concern, comprehensive knowledge of the trade in counterfeits and its interconnections with transnational organised crime remains limited. The aim of this project is to examine the role of the European Union in the global trade in counterfeit products. The study will cover the EU context, whilst also considering the nature of the trade with the major global source of counterfeits, China. The project will begin to develop an important knowledge base for law enforcement, regulatory agencies and policy makers. This will support informed decision making about resource allocation and measures to tackle counterfeiting and transnational organised crime.</p>
Aim (400 words)	<p>The aim of this project is to examine the role of the European Union in the global trade in counterfeit products. The project will develop a framework to examine the infrastructure that enables, facilitates and creates opportunities for the global trade in counterfeit goods. In particular, research will focus on the networks and supply chain dynamics that facilitate the trade from, into and through the EU. The study will cover the EU context, whilst also considering the nature of the trade with the major counterfeit products source, China. The project will explore how licit and illicit businesses between China and EU countries are implicated in the transnational organisation of the counterfeit trade. Another particular</p>



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	<p>area of exploration will be the significant role played by an ever-evolving technological infrastructure in the facilitation of counterfeit goods markets.</p> <p>This research will adopt a mixed methods approach recognising the value of different sources of data to contribute to our understanding of the issue. The research will take place in 3 phases, which will allow the project to develop iteratively: Firstly, a literature review will be conducted in order to gain a better understanding of the business models present in counterfeit goods markets. As well as the small body of academic literature, this also includes research reports by academics, research institutes, governments, national and international law enforcement reports (EUROPOL, INTERPOL, etc.), reports by international organisations (UNODC), professional associations, and/or private companies that are either affected by specific types of counterfeiting (e.g. British American Tobacco) or commissioned to conduct research on a specific market by a client (e.g. KPMG).</p> <p>Secondly, a (UK-based) virtual ethnography will be conducted for a minimum of six months to develop new understandings of supply-side dynamics, cultures of consumption, and the role of technology in relation to counterfeit goods markets.</p> <p>Thirdly, in-depth interviews will be carried out with law-enforcement, judicial, relevant government officials, academics and researchers, and other actors such as investigative journalists and lawyers with specialist knowledge on counterfeiting in a variety of EU countries. Interviews with retired and active criminal entrepreneurs will also be attempted.</p>
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<p>Strategic Relevance (300 words)</p>	<p>Covering virtually every type of commodity, product counterfeiting is recognised as a highly profitable global illicit market that is increasingly attractive to ‘organised’ criminals (see Antonopoulos et al., 2018; EUROPOL & EUIPO, 2017; Hall and Antonopoulos, 2016; INTERPOL, 2014; Large, 2015; Lord et al., 2017; Shen et al., 2010; Sullivan and Wilson, 2017; Wall and Large, 2010). For example, the World Economic Forum suggests that in 2015 counterfeiting and piracy equated to 10% of the global trade in merchandise, costing the global economy \$1.77 trillion (World Economic Forum, 2015: 3; see also UNODC, 2015). This includes a burgeoning market in a significant number of European Union countries (OECD, 2017). 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 per year (EUROPOL, 2018). Whilst acknowledging the problems with official estimates, it is reasonably safe to accept the international law enforcement agencies’ view that the trade in counterfeit and pirated goods is now one of the world’s most profitable illicit markets (EUROPOL & EUIPO, 2017).</p> <p>The project will make contributions to practice and policy that will be of interest to a range of groups outside the academic community. First, it will be of considerable value to law enforcement agencies, regulatory agencies, criminal investigators and other officials working to combat transnational organised crime at local, national and international levels. Second, the project will also indirectly benefit non-governmental agencies, who are supportive of anti-counterfeiting objectives. Third, the project will benefit policy makers at national and international levels.</p>
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Interdisciplinarity and fit with DTA3	<p>The project is by nature interdisciplinary and suitable candidates will have to demonstrate and develop further a good command of criminology, sociology, social policy, law, and economics.</p>
Industrial Relevance (300 words)	<p>Although an external placement is not identified as yet there are collaborations available to the student/candidate as part of the project capitalising on the existing research relationship between the director of studies and law enforcement agencies working on counterfeiting; specifically, INTERPOL (Lyon, France), EUROPOL (The Hague, The Netherlands), the National Trading Standards (London, UK), the Medical and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) (London, UK), and the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) (Alicante, Spain).</p>
Economic and Societal Impact (300 words)	<p>Fake goods are associated with a range of complex harms impacting on economies and societies around the world. The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) suggests that the infiltration of counterfeit goods in the legal supply chain <i>“creates enormous drain on the global economy... facilitating an ‘underground economy’ that deprives government of revenues for vital public services, forces higher burdens on tax payers, dislocates hundreds of thousands of legitimate jobs and exposes consumers to dangerous and ineffective products”</i> (ICC, 2011:1). Different modalities of counterfeiting create one or all of these effects. But it is worth contrasting the popular discourse that it is ‘fun’ choosing cheap imitations, with the number of international cases that highlight the serious health risks associated with counterfeit ‘safety-critical’ goods (Yar, 2005). Recent examples include the 45 percent of road fatalities in Oman that can be attributed to counterfeit spare parts in 2012 alone (INTERPOL, 2014) and estimates claiming that the trade in counterfeit, falsified</p>



	<p>and substandard medicines is responsible for the death of up to one million people worldwide every year (see IRACM, 2013; Hall and Antonopoulos, 2016; Hall, Koenraadt and Antonopoulos, 2017). In the UK, the Home Office estimated the social and economic costs of counterfeiting – which include lost revenue to legitimate business, lost revenue to the exchequer, lost jobs, and enforcement costs including criminal justice costs – at £400 million per annum (Mills et al., 2013). As the counterfeit trade poses a range of economic, physical and social costs to citizens, businesses and creative industries, knowledge of the role of the EU in the global counterfeit product market can generate financial and non-financial returns and benefits to the EU economy and society.</p>
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Page 3 – Admission Requirements

Specific Admission Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• First degree 2:1 or higher Masters Degree (completed) 2:1 or higher in Criminology/Criminal Justice/Sociology/Social Policy/Social Sciences.
Minimum IELTS score	



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