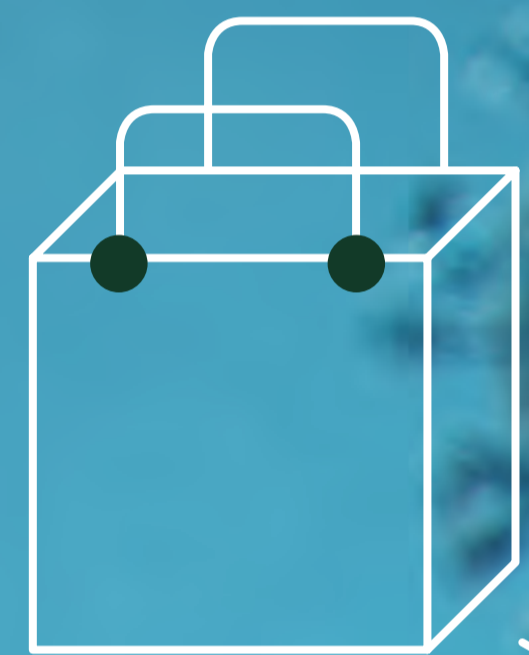


# 4 key links between counterfeits and the COVID-19 pandemic

1

## Online shopping

Being unable to go to the shops, more people are spending more time online. A lot of counterfeit goods are offered through online trade platforms, which have made it easier and cheaper for counterfeiters and other criminals to access a broad customer base.



2

## Shortage of goods

Demand for and the scarcity of certain goods, especially healthcare products and equipment, is driving a significant portion of criminals' activities in counterfeit and substandard goods, organized property crime and fraud.

3

## Human Trafficking

According to EUROPOL, if the pandemic is followed by a recession, there may be an increased demand for labor and sexual exploitation and a potential increase in trafficking of victims.



4

## Weak economy

EUROPOL predicts that a potential economic downturn could fundamentally change the perception of organized crime. For example, economic disparity across Europe is making organized crime more socially acceptable as organized criminal groups will increasingly infiltrate economically weakened communities to portray themselves as providers of work and services.

