Tackling the drivers of conscious purchasing by young consumers



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Is it fake and does it show? It's OK for the guys!

- Our 2023 study showed how young people are increasingly able to recognize counterfeit products.
- However, they knowingly buy them: branded clothing makes them feel more confident, and there is strong pressure on social media.
- The vast availability and low price of fake products is the 'opportunity that makes the thief'
- For some extremely high-priced brands, having a fake is not considered a problem and is not concealed by adolescents: it's 'conformist' to buy FAKE as well.



Wearing fake clothes has become trendy?!!

The very young create content on TikTok openly claiming to show off counterfeit pieces

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IL SUCCESSO DEI FAKE: DAL LUSSO SFRENATO ALLA CONTRAFFAZIONE SUI SOCIAL

I capi contraffatti spopolano tra video su TikTok, bancarelle e siti architettati ad hoc. Non c'è più vergogna nell'indossare una copia (illegale) e i perché sono tanti

Di Giulio Solfrizzi | I dicembre 2022



Un venditore di accessori contraffatti a Roma. Foto Getty

INTERVIST

GIORGINA SIVIERO: NATA PER LA Moda

di Viviana Musumeci



VINTAGE



The levers of change

The damage to the industry is not perceived as real ("I wouldn't have bought it original, anyway") and not even as unfair ("the price is disproportionate: brands earn too much")

We need to leverage issues to which they are more sensitive, closer to everyday life:

- ✓ Individual damage (health, consumers' rights to quality, safety and product guarantee).
- ✓ Environmental damage that threatens the the planet (with consequences they hear about every day) and human health (illegal spills of industrial waste).
- √ The flourishing of Organized Crime.



Damage to health

When we go to schools, children understand the health risks of illegal products, but they think that it is basically the same risk that we run when buying Chinese or other low-cost products.

This concern arises from the actual lack of compliance that unfortunately often occurs on products sold online and in stores, of non-EU origin.







Risks for consumer health & safety

- Chemical risk. Use of banned substances or non-conforming use: toxic effect, allergies, irritations, carcinogenic effect, toxicity to reproduction, endocrine disruption. There are additional risks in counterfeit food products and medicines.
- Electrical and mechanical risk.
 Fire, explosion, cuts, or ingestion of small parts (in toys).

No one is responsible for it!



Damage to the environment

Production in remote and hidden places makes it more difficult to perceive environmental impact problems, both related to raw materials and production methods, as well as to the management of industrial waste. We also use concrete examples of environmental crimes taken up by the press, to make the children understand.



Young people don't think organized crime may be behind it

They see migrant boys with a rag on the ground, selling cheap bags: this generates a sense of solidarity, of commonality, in the less well-off children.

Some students told us that eliminating fakes would cause job loss...





A more general educational message is needed

We teach young people that consumerism and materialism, purchase of luxury goods, don't define their worth as individuals... and that a sense of legality is a fundamental value.

Responsible consumption and active citizenship are a beacon and guide in everyone's life.





Thank you!

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