

# Impacts of the German Legislation on cannabis

A Cross-border Perspective

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Crossing borders  
in health

# Cornerstones of the legislation

- Recreational use allowed for 25g in public, 50g dried products in private.
- Importing cannabis seeds from other EU countries is allowed, but importing the final product remains illegal.
- Social clubs (as of 1 July): 25 g per day and a maximum of 50 g per month to each club member. Each club is allowed a maximum of 500 members, and the members need to be at least 18 years old and have a permanent residence in Germany for at least the past six months.
- Young adults under 21 can receive 30 g per month from the social clubs.

For the official source on the law, see <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/themen/cannabis/faq-cannabisgesetz>

# Challenges: Amount

- **25g per day /max. 50 g per month is a relatively high amount**
  - Public health concern: wrong signal to set this as social norm
  - It needs to be assessed, whether this leads to increased consumption & related health risks
- **3 plants per adult:**
  - Leaves people with their own responsibility with the amount produced beyond the legitimate amount of personal use.

# Challenges: Lack of clarity

**The lack of clarity in the legal provisions makes the law difficult to implement by public authorities**

- Example 1: Use of cannabis is prohibited within 100 metres of the entrance to a playground or school. The authority to enforce in this case remains unclear.
- Example 2: Social clubs are required to have a prevention worker. However, the curriculum to train the prevention workers remains vague.
- Example 3: The responsibilities for quality control remain unclear.
- Example 4: Specifications on derivatives such as hash are not included in the law

# Cross-border perspective: Belgium

- Belgian drug law is in need of modernisation, and there is no strong voice to push this forward.
- Traditional "war on drugs" approach has been criticized for its effectiveness, and prevention workers advocate for a "smart on drugs" strategy that includes decriminalizing consumption and regularizing production.
- Facilitate medicinal use of cannabis: no need to cross border any more
- At the moment, there is no evidence that the new German legislation increased drug tourism between Belgium and Germany.
- The new German legislation provides interesting insights for Belgium

# Cross-border perspective: The Netherlands

- There are about 600 coffee shops in the Netherlands
  - The shops not evenly distributed according to population size per city
  - The supply side is not regulated
- 10 Dutch municipalities currently conduct a pilot project:
  - Involving approved growers and testers on the supply side
  - Labeling the amount of THC per product
  - Prevention workers provide training for coffee shop employees
- The German legislation opens more possibility to exchange experiences
- Also in the Netherlands, there is no current evidence that the German legislation increased cross border drug tourism between the Netherlands and Germany

# Concluding remarks

- Cannabis legislation is complicated and it is important to have precise regulations to streamline the implementation and effective public health measures in practice.
- No immediate evidence shows cross-border trade influenced by the legislation, but cross-border collaboration is definitely useful and meaningful.
- Cross-border collaboration facilitates mutual learning, and can pave the way for a more comprehensive approach to tackle the common challenge of drug use and enhancing prevention efforts.



# Share your thoughts!



As Germany's legislative process continues to evolve, we remain committed to closely monitoring developments and keep you informed of the latest updates.

Let us know what you think about the German legislation of recreational use of Cannabis!