



# **"Drug Legalization instead of war on drugs: the Uruguayan experience"**

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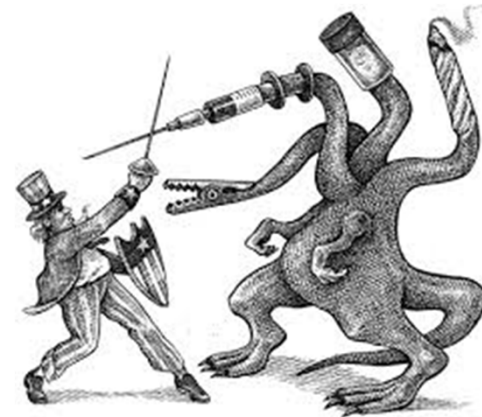
# Cannabis Legalization in Uruguay

**In 2013 Uruguay was the first  
country in the world in  
regulated the cannabis market  
for recreational use**



# Cannabis Legalization in Uruguay

- **War on drugs: no scientific reasons explain why Cannabis should be classified between the most dangerous substances for the public health.**



# Cannabis Legalization in Uruguay

- No division between  
“soft” and “hard”  
drugs is a political,  
ethical and moral  
conception of  
drugs.



# Legalization of Cannabis in Uruguay

## War on drugs:

The reasons are political and concentrate on the interests of the global powers, where a majority of consumers live.



# Legalization of Cannabis in Uruguay

- **The Vienna Consensus:**
- **“A world free of drugs, yes we can” (UNGASS 1998).**



# Cannabis Legalization in Uruguay

**As former President José  
Mujica said:**

"Somebody has to  
be the first in South  
America"





# Legalization of Cannabis in Uruguay

- Since the first law was passed in 1974, the consumption of cannabis has never been threatened with punishment.





# Legalization of Cannabis in Uruguay



- **Cannabis is the most consumed drug  
in Uruguay with almost 160.000 users**

# Legalization of Cannabis in Uruguay

- **Regulation of Cannabis Market:**
- **When: December 2013:**
- **What: law 19172**
- **Why: 1. to control the cannabis market**
- **2. to reduce the risks for users**
- **3. to fight against the illegal market**



# Legalization of Cannabis in Uruguay

- **Three ways of access:**
  - **1. domestic-growing (up to 6 female plants in flower)**
  - **2. membership of a cannabis club (up to 45 members with 99 female plants in flower)**
  - **3. buying cannabis produced by licenced producers in pharmacies**

**Users must be registered**

**So far are registered:**

- **5.000 self-growers**
- **20 cannabis clubs (15 are in the registration process)**
- **Almost 50% of the 160.000 cannabis users have intention to access the product in the pharmacies**

# Legalization of Cannabis in Uruguay

## Institute of Cannabis Regulation and Control

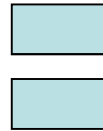
- It has the control of the regulated market
- It issues the licences for producers
- It punishes the abuse of regulated system

**I.R.C.C.A**



# Legalization of Cannabis in Uruguay

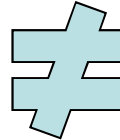
**Maximum amount of cannabis  
that can be obtained  
in any way is 40 grams  
monthly.**



**480 grams is the maximum  
cannabis they can get  
per year.**

# Legalization of Cannabis in Uruguay

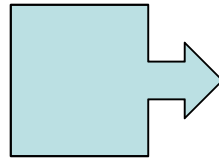
- UNGASS 2016 shows that the Vienna consensus on drugs has broken down.
- Why does the UN put the human rights treaties and sustainable development charters at the same level as drug conventions?





# Legalization of Cannabis in Uruguay

Has Uruguay really been  
a shift in the  
paradigm on drugs?



The regulation of cannabis  
does not mean a new drug  
policy model, but rather a  
more realistic and consumer  
orientated proposal based  
on harm reduction.

# Legalization of Cannabis in Uruguay

- **Thank you for your attention!**
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