

Factsheet: Cannabis legalization

Home cultivation

Home cultivation is already legal in some countries, e.g.:

- Luxembourg: 4 plants allowed for self-cultivation, cultivation not visible to public
- Malta: 4 plants allowed
- Netherlands: 5 plants allowed, area must be fenced, must not disturb neighbors
- Uruguay: 6 plants per household and 480 g storage allowed
- USA: 6 - 15 plants allowed (depending on US state), area must be fenced in

Potential problems & risks with home cultivation:

- Outdoor cultivation:
 - Contamination (mold, heavy metals, pesticides)
 - Theft and access by minors (if inadequately secured)
 - Crop failure due to poor environmental conditions, wrong choice of varieties, etc.
- Indoor cultivation:
 - High energy consumption (artificial lighting)
 - Risk of water damage & fires in case of improper installation/use of the equipment
 - Contamination also possible



Product quality depends on the know-how of the grower, growing conditions and equipment

Suggestions for regulation:

- Rolles & Murkin (2016):
 - Establish clear limits on the amount of cultivation allowed
 - Prohibition of sale for commercial purposes
 - Age restriction and controlled access to cannabis seeds, plants, and supplies for cultivation
 - Growers have a responsibility to prevent minors accessing the plants
- Cannabis Control Act Bündnis 90/ Die Grünen (2018):
 - Three flowering plants allowed per person (mergers also possible)
 - No access to plants and harvest for children and adolescents
 - Annual harvest must be for private consumption

"It makes little practical or legal sense to try to enforce a complete ban on self-cultivation for personal use once possession for personal use is legal, and legal supply sources have been established." (Rolles & Murkin, 2016)

Promote education for home growing

- Provide publicly available learning materials to mitigate risks and impart knowledge regarding:
 - Guidance for self-cultivation (including best practices).
 - Plant health
 - Plant hygiene
 - Identification tools for pests, molds, nutrient deficiencies and excesses.

Sources:

- Rolles & Murkin (2016): How To Regulate Cannabis: A Practical Guide. 2nd ed. Transform Drug Policy Foundation. <https://transformdrugs.org/assets/files/PDFs/how-to-regulate-cannabis-full-text-2016.pdf>
- Bündnis 90/Die Grünen (2018): Entwurf eines Cannabiskontrollgesetzes <https://dserver.bundestag.de/btd/19/008/1900819.pdf>