Factsheet: Cannabis legalization

Production models

Overview of five production and quality models

Lightly regulated

Highly regulated



1 – Home Cultivation



2 – Cannabis Social Clubs



3 - Agricultural Standard



4 - Herbal medicinal products



Production model 1 - Home Cultivation



Self-supply

cultivation

through home

Hobby gardeners / scientists / growers Target group Lower-income consumers Quality specifications According to the know-how and preferences of the grower Cultivation Outdoor (balcony, garden), or indoor (grow tent) Manufacturing According to the know-how and preferences of the grower Good for hobby gardeners, low-income consumers Equal status to other legal drugs and stimulants Pro Destigmatisation Quality and energy consumption vary with growing method (indoor vs. outdoor) and knowledge of the grower Potentially higher risk for contamination with inexperienced Cons growers Protection of minors more difficult to control No tax revenue for the state



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Production model 2 - Cannabis Social Clubs (CSCs)



Associations for home cultivation

| | Target group | Associations of consumers for collective cultivation and consumption Hobby gardeners / scientists / growers Lower-income consumers |
|---|------------------------|---|
| | Quality specifications | Association sets its own quality standards Membership of passionate and experienced growers Quality control by organisers and members of the CSC Random controls by the food authority possible |
| | Cultivation | As sustainable as possible, according to ENCOD Guidelines and the preferences of the CSCs and its members |
| | Manufacturing | According to ENCOD Guidelines as well as the preferences of the CSC and its members |
| | Pro | Product quality at "craft level" depending on the grower's skills Sustainable and on-demand production through short supply chains and good demand estimation Space for cannabis culture and "safe space" for consumption |
| ı | Cons | Quality and energy consumption vary with cultivation method and cultivation region No tax revenue for the state |

Production model 3 - Agricultural standard



Standard for food tea

| Target group | Microbially mostly safe product for consumers with a functioning immune system | | |
|------------------------|--|--|--|
| Quality specifications | ISO standards, industry standards Maximum levels of contaminants specified, but only randomly checked by authorities | | |
| Cultivation | GACP in greenhouse facility or open field | | |
| Manufacturing | GACP, GAP guidelines, DLMB, 2016, BBodSchG, 2015, HACCP system | | |
| Pro | Lower price due to less energy consumption meaning lower investment costs, know-how and analyses Inclusion of farms resulting in a high number of suppliers | | |
| Cons | Possible higher use of herbicides and pesticides Possible heavy metal contamination Long-term inhalation of microbially contaminated product could cause lung damage | | |
| | | | |

Production models

Production model 4 - Herbal medicinal products according to Ph. Eur. 5.1.8., category C



Standard for herbal medicinal products e.g. powder capsules

| Target group | Microbially a sufficiently safe product for consumers with a healthy immune system Appropriate quality requirements for recreational cannabis | | |
|------------------------|--|--|--|
| Quality specifications | DAC/ NRF Monograph "Cannabis Flowers European Pharmacopoeia monograph Ph. Eur. 5.1.8 "Microbiological quality of herbal medicinal products for oral use and extracts used in their preparation", category C | | |
| Cultivation | GACP in greenhouse facility or open field | | |
| Manufacturing | Global GMP-Standards | | |
| Pro | Standard sufficient for consumers with healthy immune systems Globally high supply of qualified suppliers Organic and "craft" production can also meet this quality standard | | |
| Cons | • People with weakened immune systems should be aware of potential side effects | | |

Production model 5 - Non-sterile pharmaceutical preparations for inhalation according to Ph. Eur. 5.1.4.

| Target group | Microbially safe product for people with a weak immune system Pharmaceutical quality requirements for medical cannabis |
|------------------------|---|
| Quality specifications | DAC/ NRF Monograph "Cannabis flowers" Monograph Ph. Eur 5.1.4. "Microbiological quality of non-sterile products for pharmaceutical use" |
| Cultivation | GACP in high-tech indoor or greenhouse facility |
| Manufacturing | EU-GMP |
| Pro | Safe product also for immunocompromised consumers Constant active ingredient content due to maximum controlled environmental conditions |
| Cons | Higher costs in production lead to higher product prices Limited choice of suppliers due to high investment costs and know-how Competing with medicinal cannabis market, potential supply deficit for patients High input of energy and resources needed for production Sufficient supply probably not guaranteed |
| | Quality specifications Cultivation Manufacturing Pro |