Why should recreational cannabis be legalized?

Status quo

- **2.5 % of the world population uses cannabis annually** (WHO, 2020)

- **24.7 million cannabis users in Europe** (EMCDDA, 2019a)

- **Consumption in Germany: 400 tons of cannabis per year** (Haucap & Knoke, 2021)

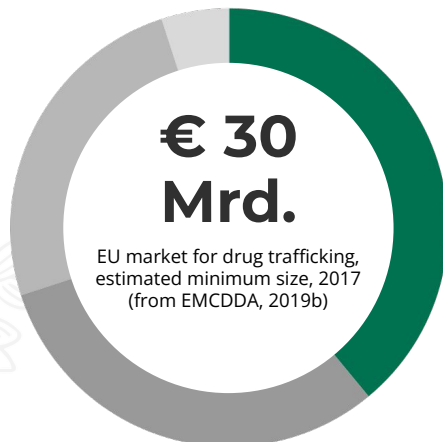- **Increase in consumption is likely** (Smart, 2019)

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- Cannabis from illicit markets is often mixed and contaminated with dangerous substances, such as synthetic cannabinoids, lead and/or hairspray (ZDFheute, 2021)

- In 2015, 2.3 tons of synthetic cannabinoids were seized in Europe, and this trend is only rising (EMCDDA, 2017)

- Cannabis
- Kokain
- Heroin
- Andere

€ 30 Mrd.

EU market for drug trafficking, estimated minimum size, 2017 (from EMCDDA, 2019b)

- Cannabis trafficking accounts for the majority of total turnover attributed to illicit drug markets (Mejía & Csete, 2016)

- Illicit market traffickers' revenues were estimated at 11.6 billion euros in Europe in 2017 (EMCDDA, 2019b)

- The money supports organized crime whilst generat no revenue for the state (Stöver & Plenert, 2013)

Prohibition has failed - only the illegal drug markets profit

Aims of the controlled supply of cannabis to adults
- Protection of children and young people
- Health protection of consumers
- Quality assurance of the products (Deutscher Bundestag, 2022)

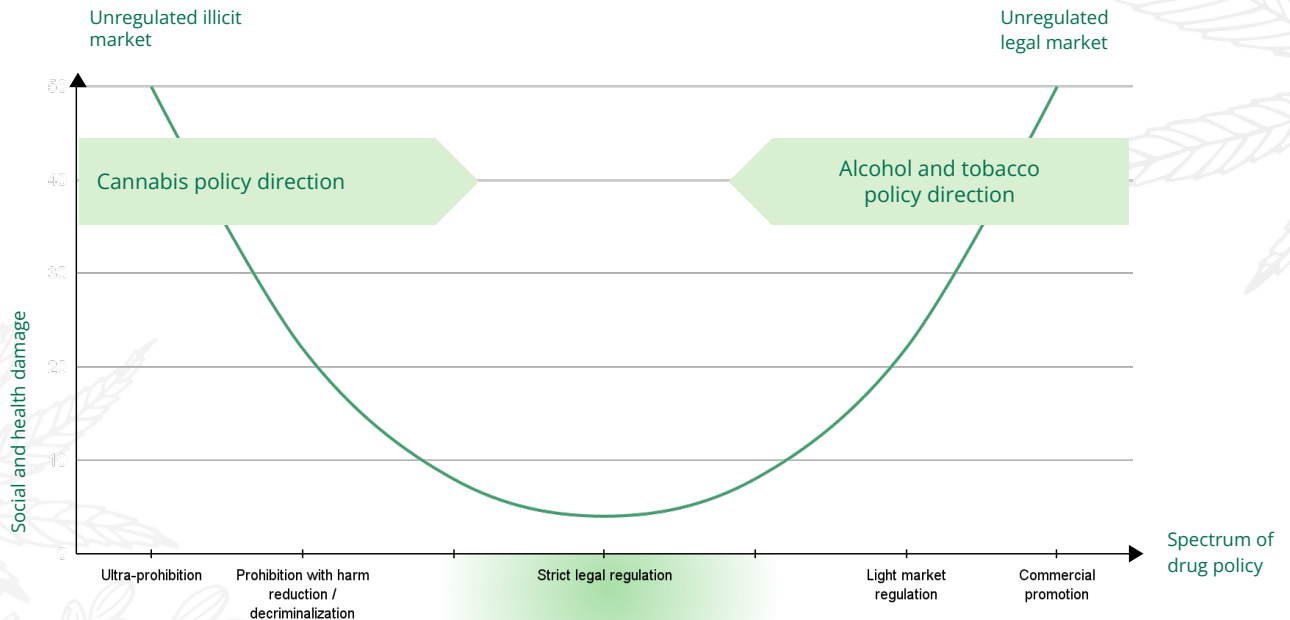**Possible further goals of a cannabis policy** (Rolles & Murkin, 2016)
- Protection and improvement of public health
- Reduction of drug-related crime
- Curbing the illicit market
- Savings for the judiciary and police through fewer prosecutions
- Collection of taxes and fees
- Protection of human rights

Coalition agreement is the first step toward a progressive, modern drug policy

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What could the regulated dispensing of Cannabis look like?
- There are a wide range of legal and policy measures regulating production, distribution and dispensing
- Unregulated markets are at both ends of the spectrum
- Regulated market models in the middle of the spectrum are optimal for social and health protection
- Combinations of models are possible (Rolles & Murkin, 2016)

Paradox of prohibition (according to Rolles & Murkin, 2016)

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