

“Cannabis” working group



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**Update on discussion
concerning market regulation of cannabis
in some Swiss cities and cantons**

Cannabis consumption in Switzerland

Social Survey – Addiction Monitoring in Switzerland

- Approx. 1/4 of the Swiss population aged >15 years has already had experience with cannabis
- 6.3% have had cannabis experience in the past 12 months
- 3.2% have had cannabis experience in the past 30 days
- 1/3 of current consumers (i.e. approx. 1% of the total population) had problematic use (> 10 days/month)

Source: Addiction Monitoring in Switzerland – Cannabis 2013-2014

Costs to Switzerland

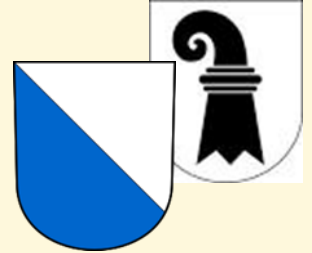
Costs to Switzerland: “The social costs of the consumption of illegal substances (incl. cannabis) in 2000 amounted to approx. 4.1 billion Swiss francs ...

... more than half of the total direct costs related to the consumption of illegal drugs is channelled into repressive measures.”

Source: Addiction Monitoring in Switzerland – Cannabis 2013-2014

International studies show: more repression does not necessarily lead to less consumption

Political initiatives BS – ZH



- 2010: Political initiatives in Basel-City canton (BS) and Zürich City (ZH) concerning review of a “pilot study on the controlled sale of cannabis”
- **2011 First meeting of the BS and ZH working group**
 - BS and ZH: Prof. M. Killias tasked with examining legal possibilities
 - Outcome 2012: Trial of controlled cannabis sale is not permissible for legal reasons, “medical model” conceivable.
- **2012 Basel-City canton and Zürich City were tasked with examining other options**

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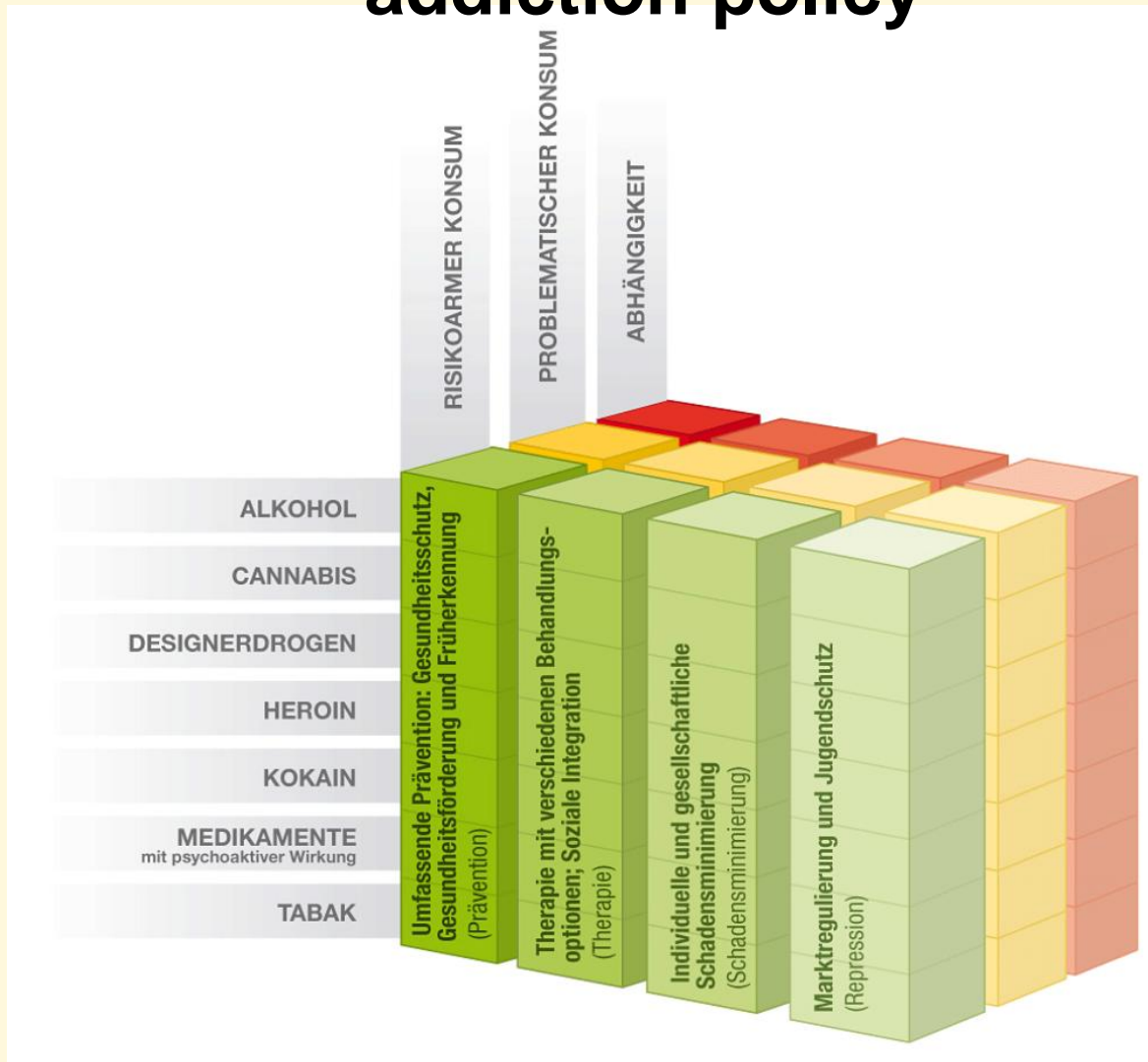
- **2013 Enlarging the working group to include Geneva Canton**
- Examining different approaches - “medical model” not feasible
- Discussion of the special situation of Geneva and idea of the project
- Discussion of the models in Colorado and Washington
- Discussion of the studies by David Nut, etc.

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- **2014 Enlarging the working group to include Berne City**
- Discussion of the different situations in the cities
- Exchange of views about further project development in Geneva
- Basel-City – Political initiative: written inquiry about current activities

The cube model as the basis for modern addiction policy



Position of the Federal Commission for Drug Issues (EKDF)



Position of the EKDF (March 2014)

Regulatory model with limited decriminalisation

- Substantive depenalisation of consumption and preparatory activities
- Drug trafficking remains a criminal offence
- Prosecutorial discretion for petty dealing
- to be regulated in the Narcotics Act (BetmG)

Paying particular attention to prevention and youth protection

Position of NAS-CAP



Basic position of the National Addiction Policy Working Group NAS-CAP (published on 8 April 2014):

Objectives:

- To improve the physical and mental health as well as social integration of consumers.
- To increase safety in public spaces and reduce the visibility of dealing, consumption, etc.
- To reduce negative consequences of access to the illegal market in narcotics .
- To reduce access to narcotics for children and juveniles.

Position of NAS-CAP



NAS-CAP recommends

“... based on the initial position ... outlined in this paper ..., to decriminalise or legalise private consumption and cannabis growing for personal need, e.g. as has happened in the US states of Washington and Colorado.”

“Setting up cannabis social clubs, where consumption in private and cannabis growing for personal need are tolerated, but both are not explicitly legalised, would be possible in line with the prevailing legal position in Switzerland.”

Chances of a regulatory model

- Reducing drug-related criminality
- Curbing the black market, targeted and selective prevention by social control
- Early detection of problematic consumption
- Expanding youth protection
- Control of the cannabis sold (quality, THC level, etc.)
- Improving prevention possibilities.

Important: cannabis should not be trivialised

**Thank you
for your attention**