

# Improving Security in Cities

The Associations of Cannabis Users:  
an Opportunity to Reduce Harm

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# A Quote to Start...

« The best know-how does not rely on how to win a hundred victories in a hundred battles, but rather how to win over your enemy, without having to fight. »

*Sun Tzu, The Art of War*

# Who We Are...

- Swiss citizens living in Geneva
- Fathers, mothers (one grand-mother), brothers, sisters, husbands, wives – **and so we share worries of Swiss families**
- We are from a large part of the political spectrum: Green, Socialist, Liberals, Christian-Democrats

# The Major Milestones

- Spring 2012: Presidents of all political parties having MP's in the Cantonal Parliament delegate one member to be part of a group dedicated to drug policies and security issues
- From 2012 to May 2013 working on a report:
  - Understanding the situation thanks to various expertise (police, doctors, experts)
  - Comparing various models
  - Proposing a solution
- June 2013: The UDC decides that their delegate will not take part to our work any longer.
- June 2013: Presentation of our work to Presidents of political parties.
- June 2013 – December 2013: waiting, waiting, waiting...
- December 2013: Presentation of our report to the medias
- ... Debating since then...

# What We Want...

- To improve city security;
- Fight more efficiently against organized crimes;
- Address problematic consumption with prevention and care;

**In a nutshell,  
we want to REDUCE HARM.**

# Conclusions of our Report

Based on policy evaluation:

- Every day, organized crime becomes richer. (Latest figure about Cannabis market in Switzerland): 1 billion.
- An important demand (between 6 and 8%), meaning around 400'000 residents.
- A product with no quality control for drug consumers.
- No obvious positive results for the repression policies, in terms of fighting organized crime and in terms of health policy.
- It is not because you make a drug illegal that you improve people's protection (France's rate of cannabis consumers is higher than Netherland's and it is one of the most repressive State in drug policies).

# Conclusions of our Report

On the product:

- Our proposition will not solve the whole drug issue (even the legal ones).
- Cannabis is a drug. Like for any other drugs, a problematic use of it is a public health issue.
- The control of its market is a security issue.



# Our Political Assumptions

We believe that:

- Our common political goals are public health and security.
- Our common political enemy is organized crime.
- Swiss people wouldn't agree with a system causing tourism for drugs or promoting the use of cannabis.
- What the regulation would cost, should be covered by tax paid by consumers.
- Controlled private use of cannabis is not an issue for a great number of Swiss citizens.
- Families are very concerned with this issue for obvious reasons and the message we are sending to kids through regulation.

# What We Propose...

A monitored project for 3 years of Associations of Cannabis Users in some Swiss cities :

- Non-profit organization
- Only for residents
- Quality of the product is under control
- Ratio between consumption and production is controlled
- Consumption can be limited
- Targeted prevention
- Measuring the results on health and security

# How It Would Work

- Legal basis for testing: Art 19*b* LSTUP
- The whole process is controlled by the police.
- Production & manufacturing by the same organization.
- Distribution by the association to its members only.
- To be a member you need to be resident of the city or canton and be over 18 (ID mandatory to become a member).
- Tax to cover security and prevention costs.

# Feedback so far...

- Positive feedbacks from experts (addiction, security) and population
- UDC showed opposition.
- Inspired other groups (ex: Ticino)
- Negotiations have started with Zürich, Basel and Bern
- Federal Commission had a hearing of our group.
- Fear that the model wouldn't cover the whole market and that part of drug dealing would stay in the streets; fear for under 18 years of age.

# What's next?

- Colorado proves that:
  - technical solutions can be found
  - making a system secure is possible
  
- “Where there is a will, there is a way...”

# Going back to the quote

« The best know-how does not rely on how to win a hundred victories in a hundred battles, but rather how to win over your enemy, without having to fight. »

- We will always have to fight against addiction. This is not an enemy you can defeat without an endless battle, but prevention and care will get better results than prohibition.
- Regulation and repression will produce better results on drug trafficking than only repression. And in that case, regulation can help us start winning over our enemy, organized crime, without having to fight it in one of these tedious battles.