

Advantages and Disadvantages of the Cannabis Regulation in Uruguay

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Summary

Uruguay is the first country in the world that have legalized the whole marijuana market, from consumption to production and distribution in 2013. This presentation describes the main features of the current regulation and explains why it is considered a middle-ground option for legalization. In addition, it points out the different explanations that have been developed to understand this pioneer regulation. After nine years of having a legal cannabis market, we can analyze the effects of the Uruguayan cannabis model of regulation looking at the three main objectives that the regulation has: increase public security, increase public health, and users' decriminalization. At this moment, the available evidence indicate that the cannabis regulation has helped to decriminalized users, diminished contact among users and illegal sellers, improved substance quality and controls, and reduced the black market. However, the strict regulations also creates a gray market.