

The background of the slide features several cannabis buds (marijuana flowers) scattered across a plain white surface. The buds are in various stages of growth, showing green leaves and orange-brown trichomes. One large bud is prominent on the right side, while others are smaller and more dispersed.

Linking Harm Reduction and Cannabis Reforms: Current Policy Landscape and Opportunities for New Pathways

1. Where are we now?

2. Two arguments:

1. Harm reduction is underutilized in cannabis policies
2. Cannabis reforms offer new ways to anchor harm reduction in drug policy

3. The way forward



1. Where are we now?



Recreational use



Supply regulation



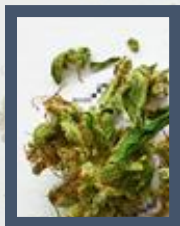
De jure policy



International developments in cannabis policy for recreational use

Summary

Stijn Hoorens, Thomas Martinelli, Mafalda Pardal, Margriet van Laar, Rick Slootweg, Ben Senator



**2018: federal legalization,
difference
provinces**



**2024: home growing,
clubs; with plans for
retail?**



2023: home growing

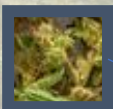


**From 2012:
25 states, mostly
commercial models**

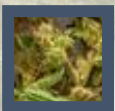
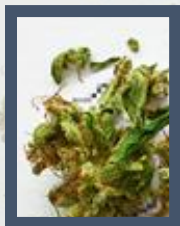


**2021: first European
country, home growing
and clubs**

**2020: home
growing**



**2013: first country
legalizing cannabis, non
commercial models**



**2021: pilot-law for
experiments**



**2022: plans for regulated
supply?**



1. Where are we now?



Policy goals: protect public health and safety



Through certain rules for access to cannabis;



and through supply models

1. Where are we now?

- Almost no cannabis policies link with harm reduction explicitly
- Cannabis policies aim to reduce harms of prohibition:
 - E.g. lack of quality control, crime
- Cannabis policies contain broad goals in different domains
 - E.g. public health, crime, individual freedom, social justice

1. Where are we now?

In the harm reduction field...

- There are increasing calls to transform harm reduction
- Broader goals and conceptualization





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Research Paper

Harm reduction isn't enough: Introducing the concept of Mindful Consumption and Benefit Maximization (MCBM)

Daniel Bear  , Ashley Hosker-Field, Kelsey Westall, Heath D'Alessio,
Marilyn Cresswell

What if cannabis reforms
and harm reduction
principles would be linked
more?

Where can we go from
there?



2.1 Argument 1:

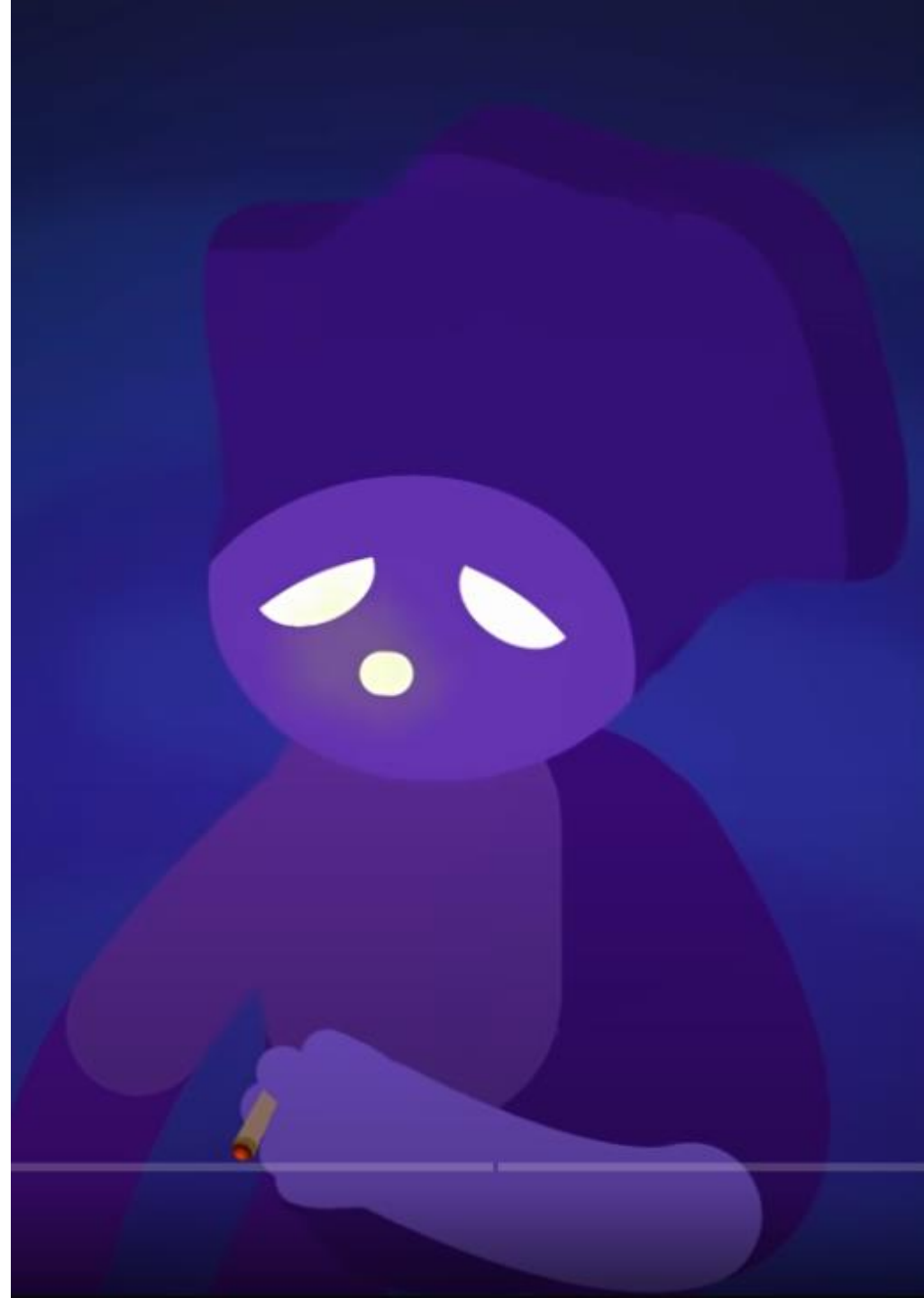
Harm reduction is underutilized
in cannabis policies



Cannabis harm reduction

Recent research shows addictive potential and negative long-term effects, need for:

- Safer consumption methods
- Safer products
- Safer behavior



Cannabis harm reduction

- Safer consumption methods
- Safer products
- Safer behavior



Cannabis harm reduction

- Safer consumption methods
- Safer products
- Safer behavior



Cannabis harm reduction possibilities

- Safer consumption methods
- Safer products
- Safer behavior



2.2 Argument 2:

Cannabis reforms offer opportunities to anchor harm reduction deeper in drug policy



Opportunities to anchor harm reduction in drug policy

- Recent cannabis policies provide new narratives for harm reduction principles
- Shared goals aimed at public health and public safety
- Show that harm reduction is not just:
 - about opioids
 - about people who use drugs; whole society benefits
 - about reducing harms

3. The way forward

- Different language, same principles
 - From a deficit perspective to a benefit perspective
 - Promote empowerment and safer use practices without merely focusing on harms as the central aspect of drug use
- Engage and link harm reduction with other domains; find common ground
 - Criminal justice, mental health, recovery, welfare, etc.



CANNAPOL

European cannabis policy toolkit

A tender from RAND Europe and Trimbos

EMCDDA/2024/OP/003

27 May 2024

Technical offer



EUROPE



Trimbos
instituut

