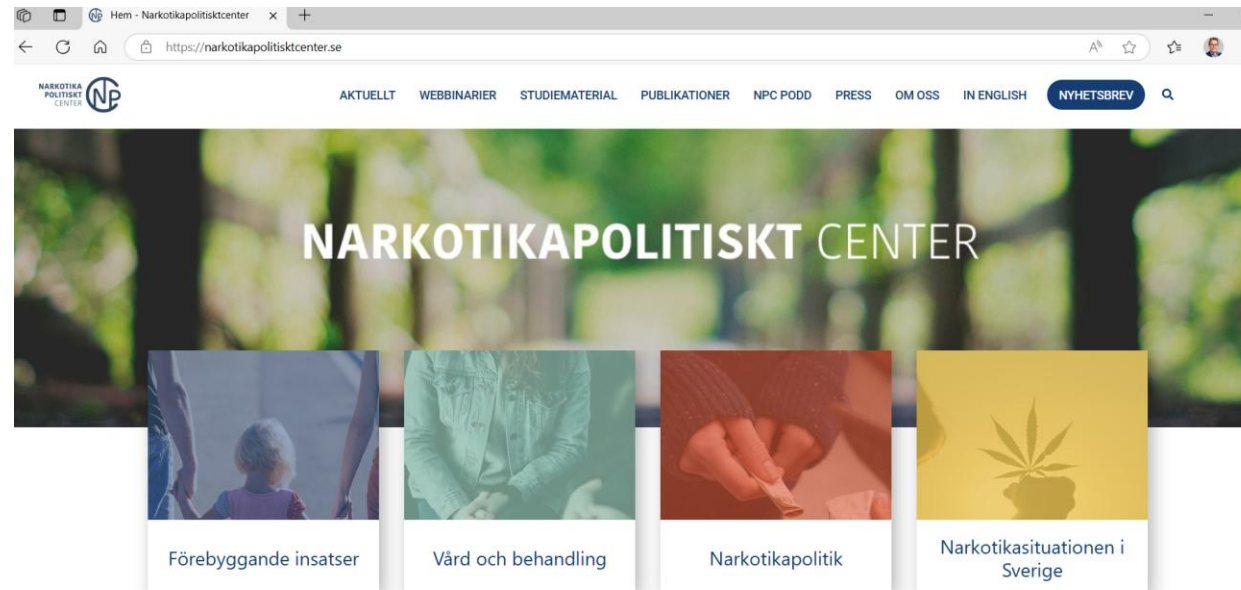


# Drug Policy Situation in Europe

[peter.moilanen@nbv.se](mailto:peter.moilanen@nbv.se)



# The drug situation in Europe in 2026 – an overview

## New risks to consumers linked to widespread drug availability

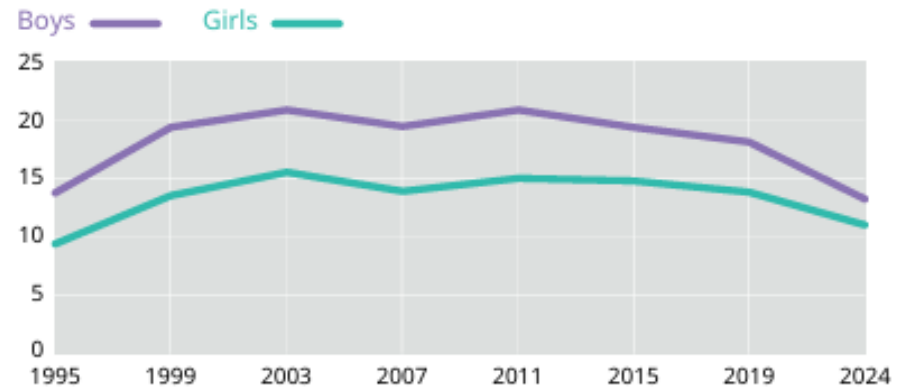
The availability of illicit drugs remains high in Europe, with multiple substances on the market, often at high potency or purity. Among these are novel substances, for which both consumer and scientific knowledge of health risks is limited, alongside more potent drugs, which carry an increased likelihood and severity of harm. For drugs such as cannabis, diverse products are now available, while for substance groups such as opioids and stimulants, the variety of substances sold has increased. Concerns continue about increasing risk levels, especially among vulnerable and marginalised groups, including poisonings and deaths from consuming highly potent drugs or novel substances, possibly unknowingly, in drug mixtures and tablets, particularly in the context of polysubstance use.

Geopolitical uncertainties, including conflicts and state destabilisation close to the European Union and in other

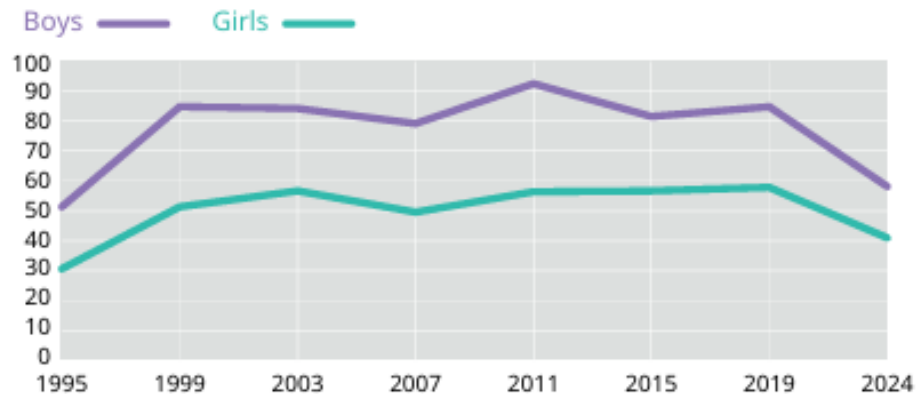


EUDA

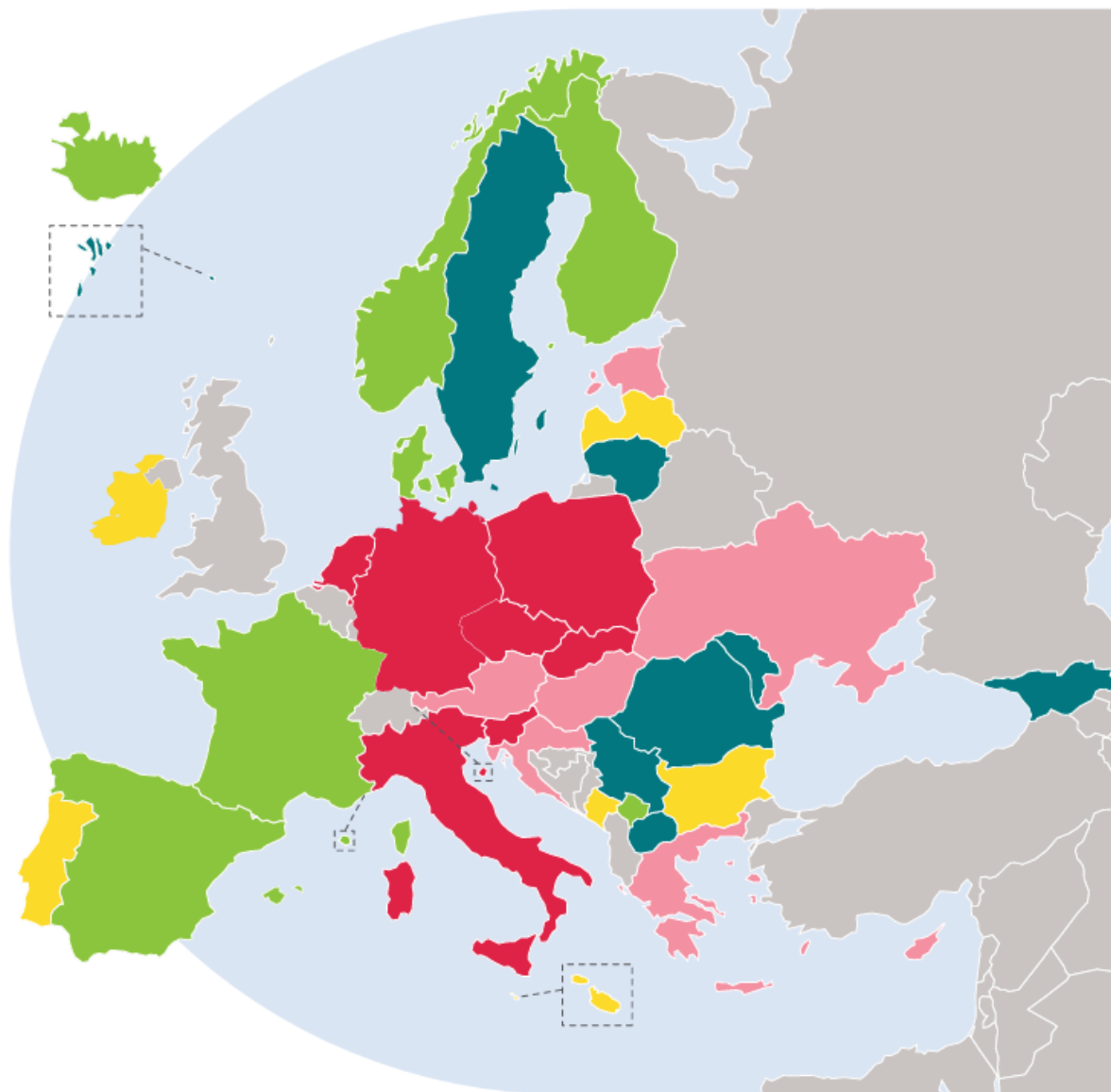
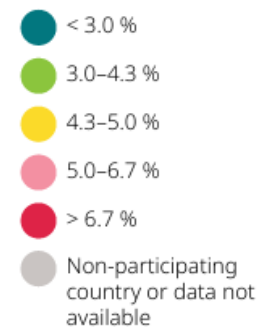
**Figure 21.** Lifetime use of cannabis by gender:  
32-country trend 1995–2024 (percentage)



**Figure 22.** Cannabis use in the last 30 days  
by gender: 32-country trend  
1995–2024 (percentage)



**Figure 5a.** Prevalence of cannabis use in the last 30 days (percentage)



## Strategic priority 2: Implement evidence-based prevention and risk awareness

*The EU should actively engage in preventing and reducing drug use through the implementation and expansion of robust prevention and awareness raising activities across Member States, while scaling up evidence-based and effective health interventions.*

### **2.1. Strengthen effective prevention activities**

Evidence-based prevention should be central to the EU's public health approach to reduce the risks of drug dependence and drug-related harm. Member States should therefore **step up universal prevention activities**. Early prevention programmes should build resilience, increase health

Brussels, 4.12.2025  
COM(2025) 743 final

COMMUNIC.



## Strategic priority 3: Enhance treatment, recovery and reintegration

*Member States should ensure that people who use drugs have access to health and social care by providing affordable treatment aligned with reintegration and social inclusion activities.*

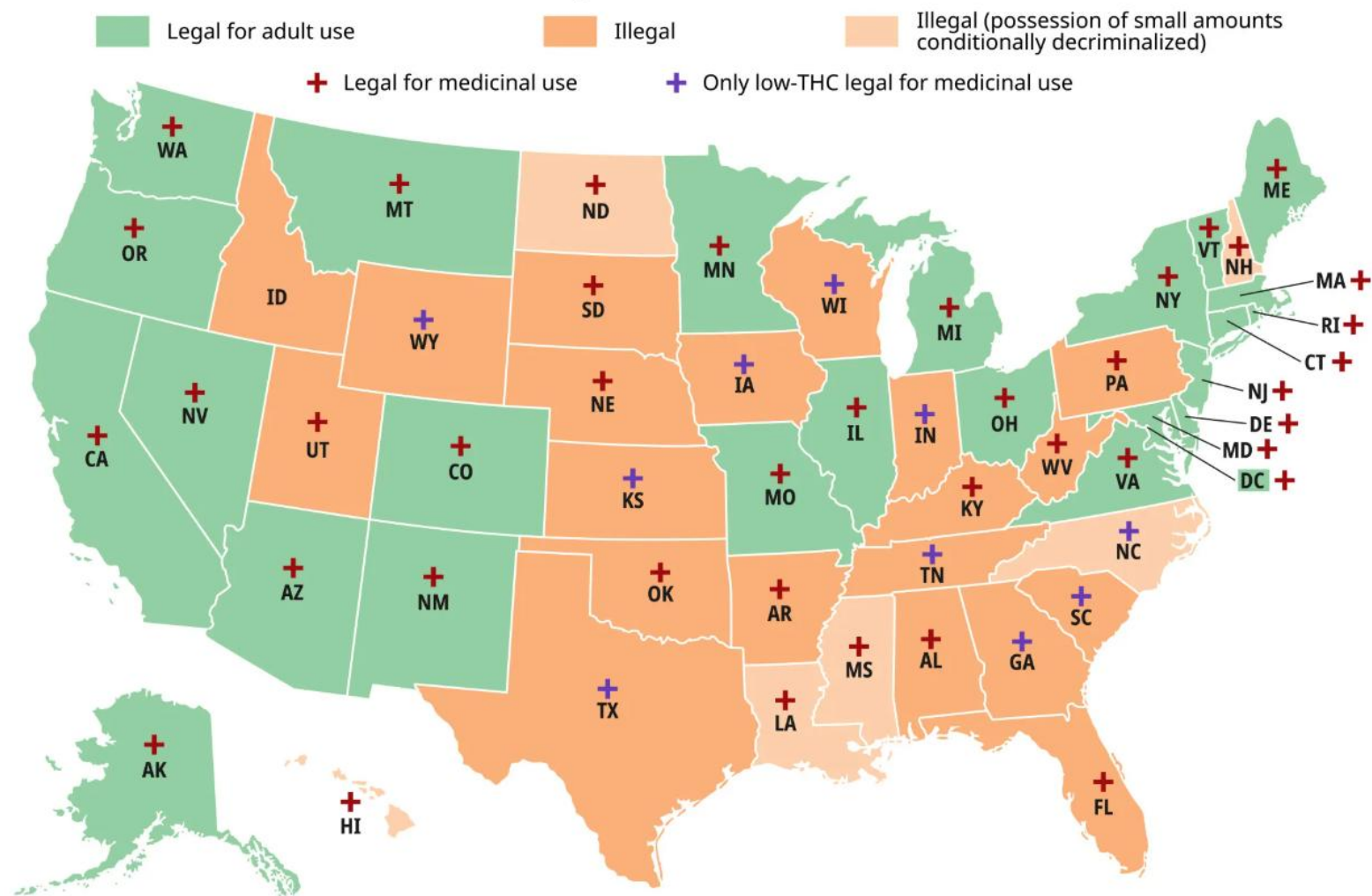
## Strategic priority 7: Reduce individual drug-related harm

*In a continuum of care with prevention and treatment, the EU and Member States will increase the availability of effective harm and risk reduction interventions to protect the people who use drugs from harm.*

### **7.1. Increase the availability and coverage of evidence-based harm and risk reduction interventions**

# North America

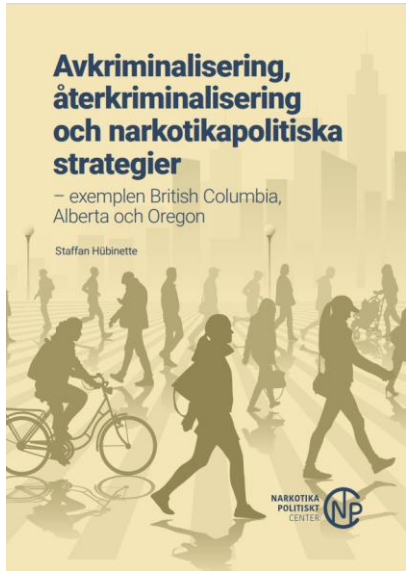
## WHERE IS MARIJUANA LEGAL IN THE U.S.?



**Source:** NORML.

Data as of late 2024.

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# Why Oregon's Drug Decriminalization Failed

The sponsors of the law fundamentally misunderstood the nature of addiction.

By Keith Humphreys and Rob Bovett

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## Alberta's 'compassionate' drug-policy fix shifts into overdrive

*After 25 years of failed addictions policy, a tougher approach: 'The compassionate thing to do is to intervene,' Alberta minister says*

By Donna Kennedy-Glans, [Special to National Post](#)

Published Aug 25, 2024 Last updated Aug 25, 2024 7 minute read 260 Comments

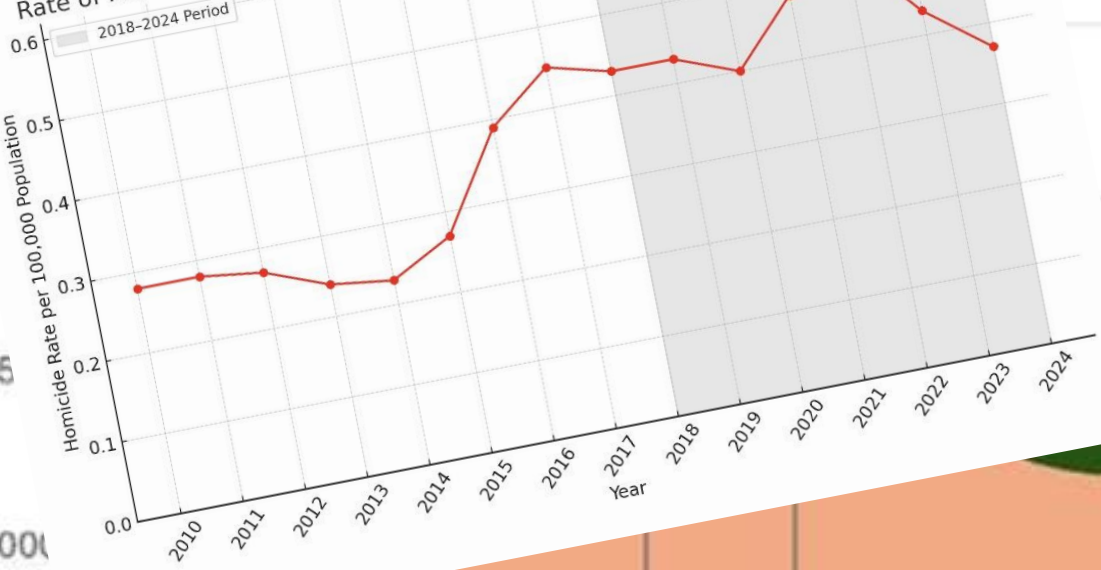


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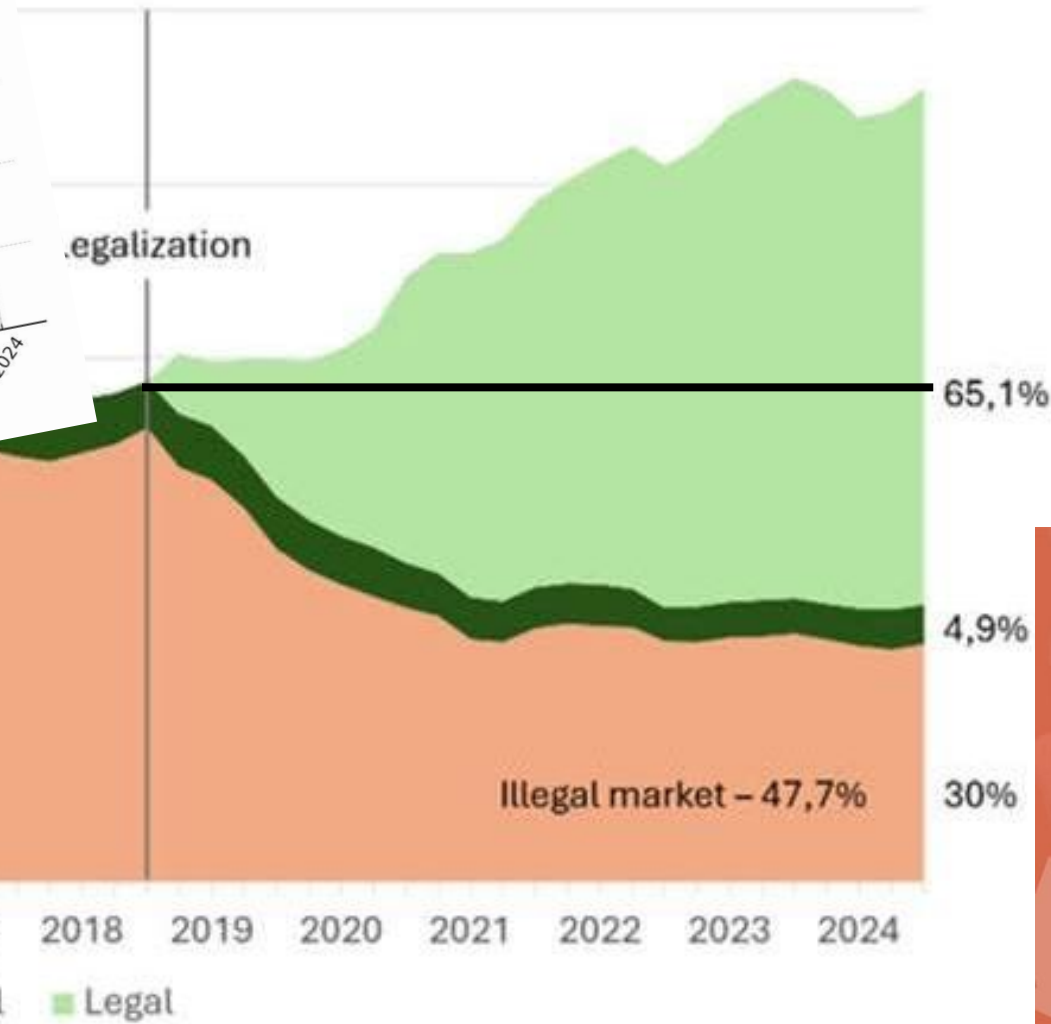
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# Household

Rate of Homicides Linked to Organized Crime or Street Gangs in Canada (2010-2024)



## al, Medical and Legal Cannabis in 024 (Q3)



+58,3%

**Från löften till verklighet**  
Effekterna av Kanadas cannabislegalisering  
Staffan Hübner

NARKOTIKA POLITISKT CENTER NP



INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD



# Report 2022



UNITED NATIONS

## EMBARGO

Observe release date:  
Not to be published or broadcast before  
9 March 2023, at 1100 hours (CET)

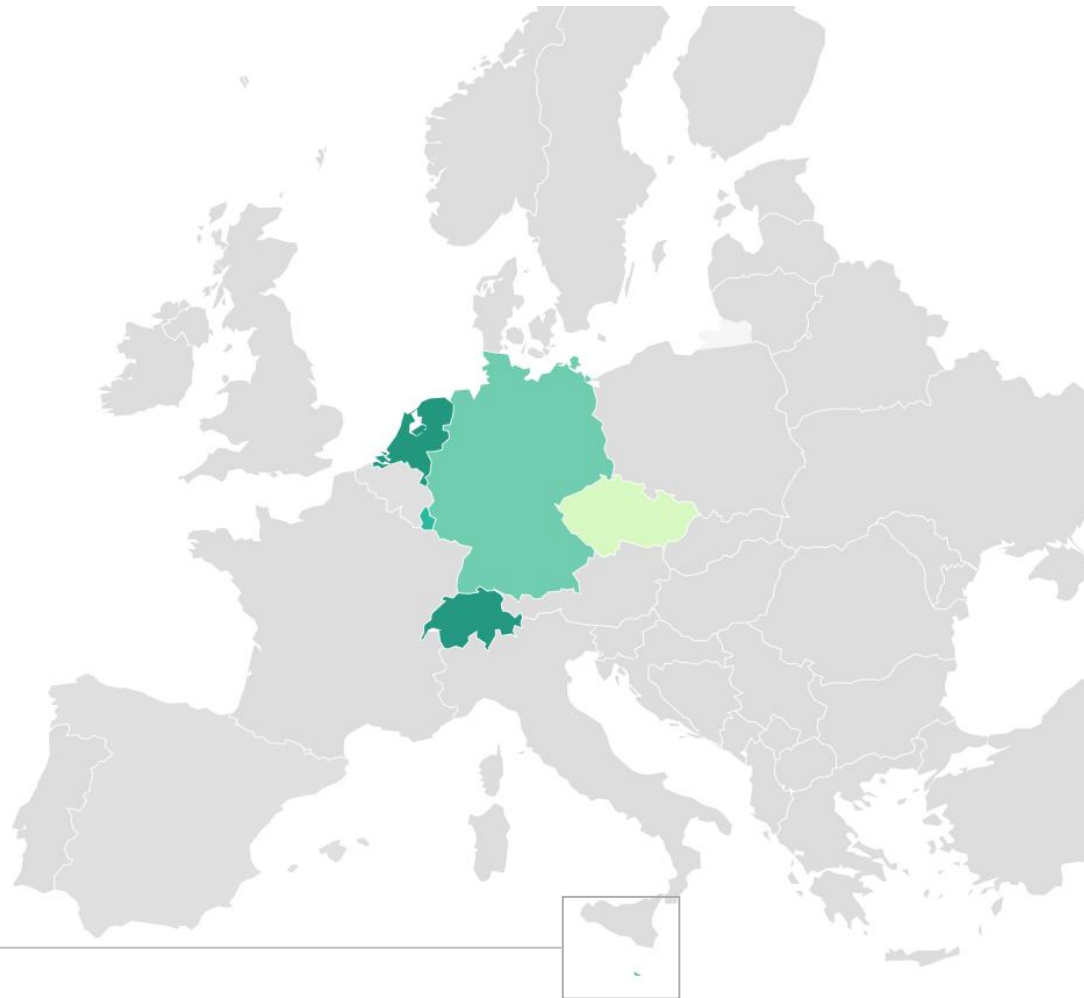
CAUTION

“In general terms, one can ascertain that the legalizing jurisdictions did not reach the goals they had pursued through legalization.”

Europe



## Period of Transition Europe



thejapanimes

In December, Japan's parliament passed a bill to revise the 1948 Cannabis Control Law for the first time in order to decriminalize the use of medical products derived from cannabis, while at the same time closing a loophole in current law explicitly banning the use of

<https://internationalcbc.com/lawmakers-approve-ban-on-cannabis-light-in-italy/>

June 4, 2025 | Johnny Green | Business, Policy

## LAWMAKERS APPROVE BAN ON 'CANNABIS LIGHT' IN ITALY

The legal saga for low-THC cannabis products in Italy has taken another turn, with lawmakers in the European nation officially adopting a measure earlier today that bans certain hemp-derived products, often referred to as 'cannabis light.'

TICKETS AVAILABLE  
THIS FALL



## Once hailed for decriminalizing drugs, Portugal is now having doubts

By Anthony Faiola and Catarina Fernandes Martins  
July 7, 2023 at 1:00 a.m. EDT



Narkotikarelaterad dödlighet (EMCDDA sel B)



<https://www.nordicalcohol.org/post/moilanen-and-andersson-a-myth-that-the-world-is-moving-towards-legalization>

## Moilanen and Andersson: A myth that the world is moving towards legalization

11.03.2026 - There are other paths in drug policy than just harsh punishments or legalization. Accurate reforms can help people in addiction but at the same time resist commercial interests, write debaters.

In the Swedish drug debate, the claim is often repeated that Sweden is extreme, while the rest of the world is moving towards the legalization and decriminalization of drugs. It's a comfortable story for some, but it's not true.

Ny rapport:  
**En tredje väg tar form**



Forbes

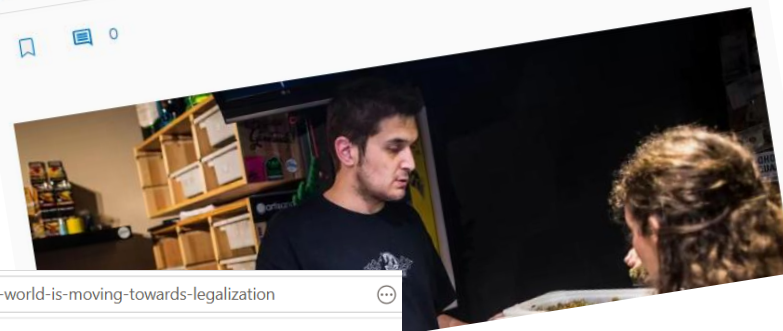
FORBES > LIFESTYLE > VICES

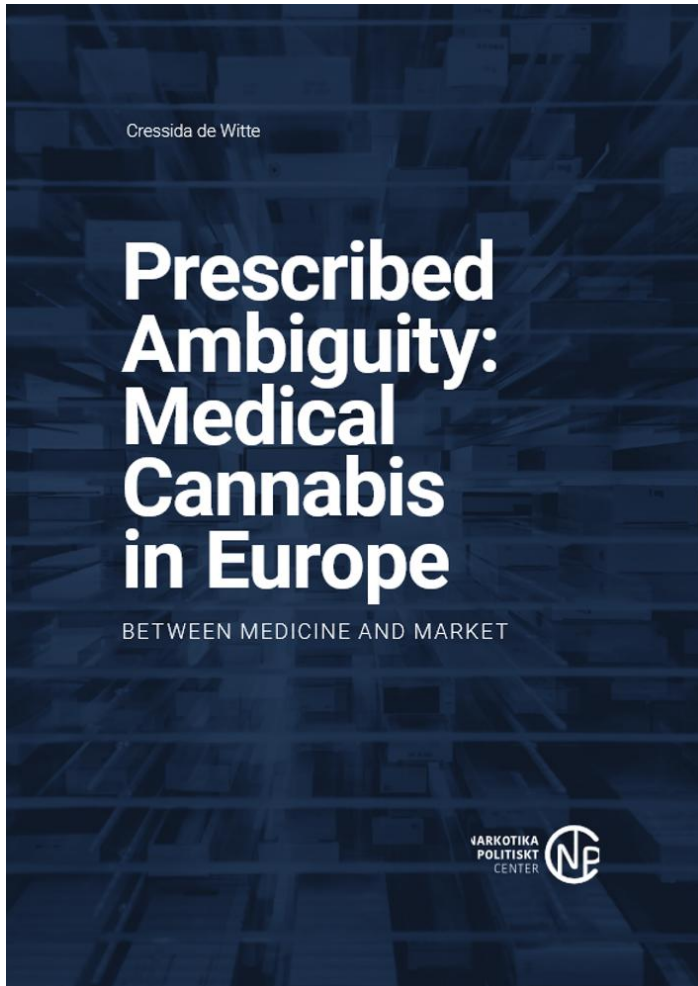
## Barcelona City Council Threatens To Shut Down Cannabis Social Clubs

Dario Sabaghi Contributor @  
I cover the cannabis industry with a focus on Europe.

Jan 4, 2024, 08:00am EST

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*The report highlights the need for:*

- Clearer distinction

Cannabinoid-based medicines and medical cannabis.

- Clearer frameworks

Absence of a coherent EU-level → framework a fragmented landscape has developed.

- Patient- and evidence-based regulations

That commercial interests do not drive regulatory changes.

- Similar requirements for evidence, indication, regulatory approval and follow-up as for other medicines.

- A prioritisation of legislation proposals in cases where the current regulatory framework is clearly being circumvented.



Cannabis.net

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MARIJUANA PREGNANT

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My pregnancy journey with the help of Marijuana

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