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# Monographs



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'The EMCDDA's cannabis monograph is an authoritative reference work on scientific research, legislation and policy issues associated with cannabis in Europe today. It is also an essential guide for all those seeking further information on this complex topic, from students exploring the historical use of cannabis, to policymakers seeking to understand the health, social and economic impacts of the use of Europe's most-consumed illicit drug. General 'scene-setting' chapters are complemented by 'close-up' views which zoom in on questions such as coffee shops in the Netherlands, London in the swinging 60s, or on the groups of disorganised criminals who traffic Moroccan hashish through Spain. This book is a timely and comprehensive overview of this controversial subject.'

DR MICHAEL FARRELL, CHAIRMAN  
OF THE EMCDDA SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

## A cannabis reader: global issues and local experiences

Perspectives on cannabis controversies, treatment and regulation in Europe

Smoked, eaten, imbibed — or just talked about — it seems the world has a strong taste for cannabis. An estimated one in five European adults has tried it. Over 12 million Europeans have consumed it in the past month. Globally, nearly 50 000 tonnes of cannabis herb or resin are produced for consumption every year. Little wonder, then, that cannabis has become a controversial cultural phenomenon.

While cannabis is Europe's most consumed illicit drug, it can also be a great divider, sparking frequent debates among policymakers, scientists, researchers, law enforcers, drug professionals and citizens. As a result, the public is faced with a daily flood of information on cannabis — some of it well-founded, some crusading in nature and at times misleading. This is where the idea of a cannabis reader emerged, designed as a navigational aid and authoritative guide to inform research, debate and policymaking on the substance. Published in the EMCDDA Monograph series, it also demonstrates progress made in cannabis research over the last two decades.

The monograph underlines the fact that cannabis is not just a static, unchanging plant, but a dynamic product that is subject to gradual evolution in potency, prevalence and cultivation. In two volumes, leading experts provide informed insights into a range of cannabis topics while offering advice on further reading. Volume I centres on political, legislative, economic and social developments relating to cannabis and targets policymakers, sociologists, historians and law enforcers. Meanwhile, Volume II focuses on treatment, prevention and healthcare and addresses drug professionals working in these fields. Brief editorial notes provide concise introductions to each issue, occasionally drawing attention to the need for a 'critical eye'. So the cannabis reader has a value, both as a shortcut for those entering the area for the first time, as well as a synthesis for the more seasoned expert.

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<http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/monographs>



## More on cannabis from the EMCDDA

### Annual report: the state of the drugs problem in Europe

Every autumn the EMCDDA publishes its yearly overview of the European drug phenomenon in a comprehensive, multilingual *Annual report* package. This comprises: the report itself (in print and online); an online *Statistical bulletin*, presenting tables and graphs; country overviews, summarising key aspects of national drug situations; and Selected issues on major drug topics (e.g. cannabis treatment demand; drugs and driving). The *Annual report* looks at cannabis from a variety of angles including: production and trafficking; supply and availability; price and potency; prevalence and patterns of use; treatment demand; and responding to cannabis problems.

<http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/themes/drug-situation>

### Drug profile — cannabis

Short, scientifically sound descriptions of internationally controlled substances are available on the EMCDDA website in the form of 'drug profiles'. A cannabis profile presents the drug's chemistry, pharmacology, typical purity, medical use and control status, as well as its physical form and modes of use.

<http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/drug-profiles/cannabis>

### Cannabis legislation

The European Legal Database on Drugs (ELDD) is the EMCDDA's online repository of information on drug-related legislation in the EU Member States and Norway. The ELDD offers: 'Country profiles', describing national legal frameworks on illicit drugs; 'Legal reports', exploring subjects

such as medicinal cannabis use; and 'Topic overviews', summarising country positions on issues such as the legal status of possessing cannabis for personal consumption.

<http://eldd.emcdda.europa.eu>

### An overview of cannabis potency in Europe

'Is cannabis getting stronger?' There has been much speculation on the strength of cannabis available on the European market, but little in the way of hard evidence. This first-ever European review of cannabis potency, published by the EMCDDA in its Insights series, contributes to the research.

<http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/insights>



#### Your reference point on drugs in Europe

The European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) is the central reference point on drugs in Europe with a mission to provide the EU and its Member States with 'factual, objective, reliable and comparable information' on drugs, drug addiction and their consequences.

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