Challenges in Monitoring and Evaluating the Regulated Cannabis Model – Uruguay

2012 – **Strategy for Life and Coexistence** Proposes a review of the control and criminalization model for dealing with drug use.

"The war on drugs has failed"

- Increased consumption
- Monetary costs
- Focus on control and not on demand
- Creation of a business that funds criminal organizations

1. Context

2013 – Enactment of Law 19.172

OBJECTIVES

➢ Separating markets
➢ Decriminalizing access (removal of stigma)
➢ Developing a National Network for the Attention and Prevention of Consumption
➢ Denying business to drug traffickers

1.
Context

Purpose – Protecting a Public Good

HEALTH DIMENSION
To protect, promote, and improve the population's public health through a policy designed to minimize the risks and reduce the harm caused by cannabis use.

SECURITY DIMENSION
To protect the country's inhabitants from the risks posed by ties with illegal commerce and drug trafficking.

ECONOMIC DIMENSION
To implement measures to control and regulate psychoactive cannabis and its derivatives.

JUSTICE DIMENSION
To waive the sanctions applicable to planting, growing, harvesting, and selling of psychoactive cannabis in certain circumstances.

Junta
Nacional
de Drogas
Presidencia de la República
URUGUAY

evaluación

2013 – Enactment of Law 19.172

EXPECTED IMPACTS

➢ Reduced consumption of more harmful drugs
➢ Reduced number of prosecutions with custodial sentences for drugs offenses
➢ Increased coverage of programs to reduce consumption
➢ Reduced organized crime activity in the country

1. Context

The National Drugs Strategy involves an approach to drug policies based on scientific evidence and good practices.

Law 19.172 creates an **Evaluation and Monitoring Unit** with the mandate of presenting reports to parliament.

2.
Challenge: Implement an evaluation process
Good practice: Ensure the mandate

Installation of the Scientific Advisory Committee for the Monitoring and Evaluation of Law 19.172

Creation of networks of national and international experts to discuss the evaluation process

International seminars

Consolidation of local research centers

2.
Challenge: Obtain academic knowledge
Good practice: Create expert networks

Coordinate efforts between the research and evaluation areas of the public agencies responsible for enforcing the law.

Leverage and integrate primary sources of information that already exist.

Cooperation and exchanges with **universities** and **civil society organizations.**

3.
Challenge: Sustainability
Good practice: Coordinate efforts

Develop and launch a **Monitoring and Evaluation System** in order to measure, monitor, and assess the implementation of the cannabis regulation and oversight model set out in Law 19.172.

4.
Challenge: Create evidence
Good practice: Define evaluation model

DIMENSIONS

1. Economic dimension
2. Health dimension
3. Security and civic coexistence dimension
4. Law enforcement with equity dimension
5. International dimension

4.
Challenge: Create evidence
Good practice: Define evaluation model

"Standard system of indicators for the monitoring and evaluation of Law 19.172 on the regulation and control of the cannabis market in Uruguay"

Agreed on, standardized, comparable, and timely indicators for the economic, health, security, and justice dimensions.
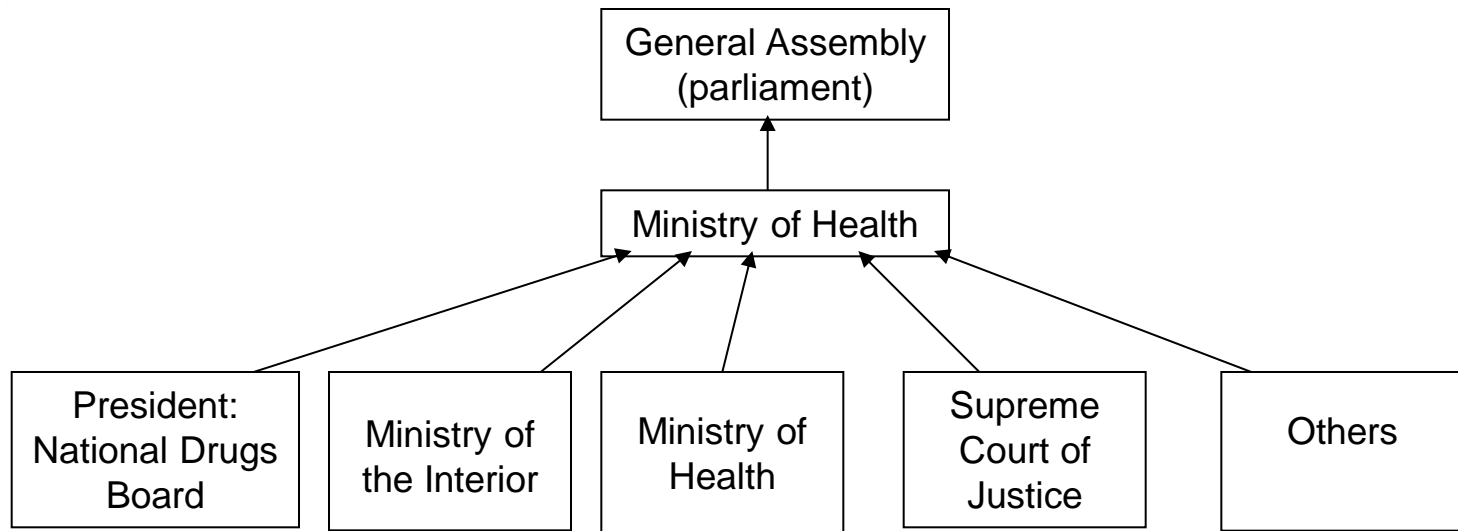
Description of indicators: Definition
                                            Availability
                                            Baseline data
                                            Objective
                                            Measuring instruments and methods
                                            Data collection frequency
                                            Source of data
                                            Interpretation

4.
Challenge: Create evidence
Good practice: System of indicators

Information Sources

DECEMBER 2016

Report to parliament on the implementation of Law 19.172. Evaluation and Monitoring Unit, MSP

4.
Challenge: Create evidence
Good practice: Accountability

evaluación

Health dimension:

"Sixth National Household Survey on Drug Use, 2016." OUD/JND. Cannabis specific module.

Economic dimension

"Analysis of the Composition of Cannabis Prices." IRCCA.

"Analysis of the Impact of the Dollar on Cannabis Prices." IRCCA.

"Evaluation, Study, and Follow-up of the Regulated Cannabis Market." JND/PAHO agreement (in production).

Justice dimension: "Evaluation and Monitoring of Law 19.172 in the Justice Dimension." JND/IELSUR agreement (in production).

4.
Challenge: Create evidence
Good practice: Academic studies

Economic dimension

"Analysis of the Composition of Cannabis Prices." IRCCA.

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Justice dimension: "Evaluation and Monitoring of Law 19.172 in the Justice Dimension." JND/IELSUR agreement (in production).

4.

Challenge: Create evidence
Good practice: Academic studies

FESUR CENTER

"Institutional Perceptions of the Scope of the Enactment of the Law Regulating Marijuana." FESUR-OSP. M.A. Gutiérrez, R. Paternain, et al. 2015.

"Evaluation and Monitoring of the Regulated Cannabis Market in Uruguay: A Conceptual and Methodological Proposal." FESUR-OSP. M. Collazo, G. Robaina. 2015.

"Strategy for Evaluating Results and Monitoring the Implementation of Law No. 19.172." FESUR-OSP. M. Baudean et al. 2015.

"**The Cannabis Module:** In the Sixth National Household Survey on Drug Use." FESUR-OSP. S. Valdomir et al. 2015.

4.
Challenge: Create evidence
Good practice: FESUR academic studies

LAMRI CENTER (FIU – UCUDAL)

"Regulation of the Marijuana Market. Evidence from Uruguay for the Americas." Boidi, Cruz, Queirolo, Bello-Pardo, 2015.

Lines of investigation:

- Analysis of public opinion in Uruguay (national surveys)
- Impact on the behavior of frequent users (RDS survey in Montevideo)
- Profile and membership of cannabis clubs
- Implementation of distribution at pharmacies
- Attitudes of physicians toward marijuana

4.
Challenge: Create evidence
Good practice: LAMRI academic studies

Transparency in the process of monitoring and evaluating the implementation of Law 19.172.

"Evaluation of the Results of Implementing Law 19.172 in the International Dimension. **Regulation of Cannabis in Uruguay and the International Anti-drug Regime.**" JND, 2016. Consultant: Carlos Luján – UDELAR.

"**Cannabis Usage and Policies on the Border.** Perceptions, Morality, and Behaviors of Public Actors and Cannabis Users in the Cities of Artigas, Rivera, Rio Branco, and Chuy." Marcelo Rossal – UDELAR.

5.
Challenge: Relations with the international community
Good practice: Evidence and transparency