



# **Cannabis Clubs in Uruguay**

## **Presentation of the study and Preliminary findings**

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## ❖ The Latin America Marijuana Research Initiative (LAMRI)

- ❖ Analysis of the enactment and regulation process
- ❖ Public opinion analysis in Uruguay, the United States, and El Salvador (LAPOP's 2014 AmericasBarometer)
- ❖ The impact on behavior among frequent consumers (Respondent Driven Sample survey in Montevideo)
- ❖ Study of Cannabis Clubs and their members



# Content

- ❖ Legal Marijuana in Uruguay
- ❖ The Cannabis Clubs Study
- ❖ Legal framework
- ❖ Clubs Main Features
- ❖ Challenges



# **Legal Marijuana in Uruguay**



# Three ways to obtain marijuana in Uruguay

- ❖ Home cultivation (autocultivo)
- ❖ Sale through pharmacies
- ❖ Cannabis Clubs





# Cannabis Clubs

## ❖ Cannabis Clubs

- 15 to 45 members part of civil association
  - Association must register before authorities
  - Association is responsible for registering members before authorities
  - Allowed to cultivate up to 99 plants
  - Annual crop of 480 grams per person
- 
- Preferred legal method of access to marijuana for only 12.8% of high frequency consumers



# **Cannabis Clubs Study**



# Our study

- ❖ Legal background
- ❖ Profile of Cannabis Clubs
  - ❖ On site, face to face interviews with Clubs representatives
- ❖ Profile of Cannabis Clubs members
  - ❖ Self-administered online survey
- ❖ Study of Marijuana provided by Clubs
  - ❖ Gas and liquid chromatography / THC – CBD levels







# Regulations for Clubs

- ❖ Two steps:
  - ❖ Register with the Ministry of Education and Culture as a non-profit organization
  - ❖ Register with IRCCA (Cannabis Control and Regulation Institute)
    - ❖ Registration with the Office of Uruguayan Post Service (form designed by IRCCA)
    - ❖ Documents to be presented to IRCCA
    - ❖ IRCCA inspection



# Documents to be presented to IRCCA

- Notarized bylaws, duly approved and authorized by the Ministry of Education and Culture
- Notarized copy of the minutes listing all personal data of the founding members of the Club. The date of birth of each founding member must be provided.
- Proof of address or utility bill on behalf of the non-profit organization
- Documents certifying ownership, lease, possession or any other title by which the non-profit organization is authorized to be headquartered at the property where the crop is to be grown.
- Crop Plan describing the technical and security details of the plantation development
- A plan for cannabis distribution to club members



# Registration with IRCCA: Inspection

## • **Club's operations:**

- 1) days and times of activity must be stated
- 3) any activity out of the time set for activities is prohibited, except for maintenance and cleaning
- 4) advertising, promotion and sponsorship on facades is prohibited
- 5) crop plan and delivery system are requested reports
- 6) the club must respect a minimum distance of 150 meters to education centers for students under 18 and/or addiction treatment centers.

## • **Infrastructure:**

- 1) space exclusively devoted to cultivation, and outside signs identifying the club are prohibited
- 2) security is an important issue in the regulation



# Registration with IRCCA

- 16 clubs have already started the process
- IRCCA inspection (just one)

# Relevant Actors

IRCCA

Ministry of  
Education and  
Culture

Office of  
Uruguayan  
Post Service

Cannabic  
Movements

AECU

Cannabis Clubs

Federation of  
Cannabis  
growers





# What are clubs for?

- ❖ Grant access to marijuana that is
  - ❖ Legal
  - ❖ High- Quality
  - ❖ Affordable
  - ❖ Readily available (at some point)
- ❖ Activism
  - ❖ Raise awareness
  - ❖ Spread knowledge



DEFINES AN  
IMPORTANT  
CLEAVAGE

# How are the local clubs?

## JUST ACCESS TO MJ

- Very private
  - Very difficult to access
- Closed membership
- 9+ Clubs in Montevideo
- Assessed by AECU (mostly)
- Different models

## MJ + ACTIVISM

- Open
- Varied degrees of organization
- Ties with IRCCA, other clubs and Federation of growers
- Great variation



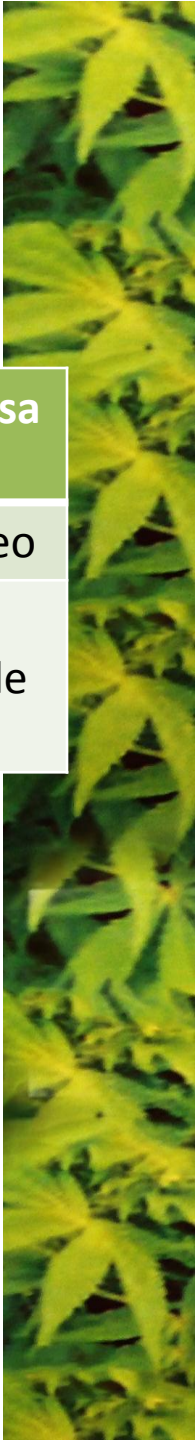


# CLUBS Surveyed

- Cofradía de la Hoja Roja
- CLUC
- El Piso
- Luz Verde
- Manga Rosa Social Club

# The origins

	Cofradia Hoja Roja	CLUC	El Piso	Luz Verde	Manga Rosa
Location	Florida	Montevideo	Montevideo	Montevideo	Montevideo
Parent organization	Movida Cannabica Florida	PRO-Derechos	AECU	NO	Red de Usuarios de Drogas



# Members

	Cofradia Hoja Roja	CLUC	El Piso	Luz Verde	Manga Rosa
<b>Founding members</b>	18	32	30	45	15
<b>Current members</b>	17	45	45	45	15
<b>Recruitment</b>	Trust/recom mendation	Trust/recom mendatioin	Trust/recom mendation	No requirement	Trust/ Commitmentt to collective work
<b>Waiting list?</b>	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
<b>Age</b>	20-30	18-38	20-30/40-60	20-30	19-44
<b>Gender</b>	70% male	40% male	80% male	70% male	87% male
<b>SES</b>	Low and Middle class	Middle and upper middle class	Middle and upper middle class	Low and Middle class	Low Middle class
<b>Marijuana consumption</b>	Daily, recreational	Daily, recreational	Daily, recreational + 1 medical	No data	Daily, recreational and medical



# Club Facilities and Organization

	Cofradia Hoja Roja	CLUC	El Piso	Luz Verde	Manga Rosa
<b>Location</b>	Owned (member land)	Rented	Rented	Rented	Owned (member house)
<b>Paid personnel</b>	No	1 Gardener 1 Administrator	1 Gardener	1 Gardener/ Administrator	No
<b>Member monthly fee</b>	UDS 40	UDS 26	USD 92	USD 64 (40grs) USD 40 (25 grs) USD 16 (10grs)	Voluntary contribution. Ideal would be USD 40
<b>Can fee be reduced with manpower?</b>	yes	no	yes	no	yes

# Cultivation and Plants

	Cofradia Hoja Roja	CLUC	El Piso	Luz Verde	Manga Rosa
<b>Location</b>	Owned	Rented	Rented	Rented	Owned
<b>Type of cultivation</b>	Indoor and outdoor	Indoor and Outdoor	Indoor	Outdoor	Indoor and Outdoor
<b>Plants</b>	30	103	50 (at the time)	80	20
<b>Yield per plant</b>	120 grs indoor/ 500 -3000 grs outdoor	200 grs indoor/ 600-700 grs outdoor	varied	50-350 grs	50-100 grs indoor/ 300-400 grs outdoor
<b>THC levels</b>	unknown	15 %	15-20%	unknown	15% and high CBD -45%

# Distribution

	Cofradia Hoja Roja	CLUC	El Piso	Luz Verde	Manga Rosa
<b>Frequency</b>	At harvest	At harvest	Monthly	Anytime	On demand
<b>Quantity</b>	Equally distributed among members	Equally distributed among members	Equally distributed among members	Per request (members pay per what they get)	Per request
<b>Enough to reach 40grs?</b>	No yet	No yet	Just recently	Yes, upon demand	No yet

# CLUC





# Luz Verde





# Manga Rosa



# Cofradía de la Hoja Roja



# Challenges and problems

- ❖ Compliance with the regulation
  - ❖ Little guidance from authorities
  - ❖ Uncertainty about what is to come
- ❖ Financial sustainability
  - ❖ Member dues
  - ❖ Security is a burden
- ❖ Little knowledge in society
  - ❖ Neighbors filling claims before Police
  - ❖ Police protocol unclear
- ❖ Collective action dilemmas
  - ❖ “Reality tops fiction... and ideology!”



# Final Remarks

- ❖ Difficult implementation
  - ❖ Delays
  - ❖ Lack of guidance from authorities
  - ❖ Gaps in the regulation
- ❖ A sustainable model?
  - ❖ Idealistic views of collective action in harsh contrast with reality
  - ❖ Restrictions in current regulation make it even more difficult
- ❖ Uncertain impact of sales through pharmacies





# Thanks!

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