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
- AECU
- Cannabis Clubs
- Federation of Cannabis growers
- Cannabis Movements
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?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JUST ACCESS TO MJ</th>
<th>MJ + ACTIVISM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Very private</td>
<td>• Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>– Very difficult to access</td>
<td>• Varied degrees of organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Closed membership</td>
<td>• Ties with IRCCA, other clubs and Federation of growers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 9+ Clubs in Montevideo</td>
<td>• Great variation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Assessed by AECU (mostly)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Different models</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CLUBS Surveyed

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Cofradia Hoja Roja</th>
<th>CLUC Montevideo</th>
<th>El Piso Montevideo</th>
<th>Luz Verde Montevideo</th>
<th>Manga Rosa Montevideo</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent organization</td>
<td>Movida Cannabica Florida</td>
<td>PRO-Derechos</td>
<td>AECU</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>Red de Usuarios de Drogas</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Cofradia Hoja Roja</th>
<th>CLUC</th>
<th>El Piso</th>
<th>Luz Verde</th>
<th>Manga Rosa</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Founding members</strong></td>
<td>18</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current members</strong></td>
<td>17</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Recruitment</strong></td>
<td>Trust/recommendation</td>
<td>Trust/recommendation</td>
<td>Trust/recommendation</td>
<td>No requirement</td>
<td>Trust/Commitment to collective work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Waiting list?</strong></td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Age</strong></td>
<td>20-30</td>
<td>18-38</td>
<td>20-30/40-60</td>
<td>20-30</td>
<td>19-44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gender</strong></td>
<td>70% male</td>
<td>40% male</td>
<td>80% male</td>
<td>70% male</td>
<td>87% male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SES</strong></td>
<td>Low and Middle class</td>
<td>Middle and upper middle class</td>
<td>Middle and upper middle class</td>
<td>Low and Middle class</td>
<td>Low Middle class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Marijuana consumption</strong></td>
<td>Daily, recreational</td>
<td>Daily, recreational</td>
<td>Daily, recreational + 1 medical</td>
<td>No data</td>
<td>Daily, recreational and medical</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Club Facilities and Organization

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Manga Rosa</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Location</strong></td>
<td>Owned (member land)</td>
<td>Rented</td>
<td>Rented</td>
<td>Rented</td>
<td>Owned (member house)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Paid personnel</strong></td>
<td>No</td>
<td>1 Gardener 1 Administrator</td>
<td>1 Gardener</td>
<td>1 Gardener/ Administrator</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Member monthly fee</strong></td>
<td>UDS 40</td>
<td>UDS 26</td>
<td>USD 92</td>
<td>USD 64 (40grs) USD 40 (25 grs) USD 16 (10grs)</td>
<td>Voluntary contribution. Ideal would be USD 40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Can fee be reduced with manpower?</strong></td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Cultivation and Plants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Location</strong></td>
<td>Owned</td>
<td>Rented</td>
<td>Rented</td>
<td>Rented</td>
<td>Owned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Type of cultivation</strong></td>
<td>Indoor and outdoor</td>
<td>Indoor and Outdoor</td>
<td>Indoor</td>
<td>Outdoor</td>
<td>Indoor and Outdoor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Plants</strong></td>
<td>30</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>50 (at the time)</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Yield per plant</strong></td>
<td>120 grs indoor/500-3000 grs outdoor</td>
<td>200 grs indoor/600-700 grs outdoor</td>
<td>varied</td>
<td>50-350 grs</td>
<td>50-100 grs indoor/300-400 grs outdoor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>THC levels</strong></td>
<td>unknown</td>
<td>15 %</td>
<td>15-20%</td>
<td>unknown</td>
<td>15% and high CBD -45%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Distribution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Manga Rosa</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Frequency</strong></td>
<td>At harvest</td>
<td>At harvest</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td>Anytime</td>
<td>On demand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Quantity</strong></td>
<td>Equally distributed among members</td>
<td>Equally distributed among members</td>
<td>Equally distributed among members</td>
<td>Per request (members pay per what they get)</td>
<td>Per request</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Enough to reach 40grs?</strong></td>
<td>No yet</td>
<td>No yet</td>
<td>Just recently</td>
<td>Yes, upon demand</td>
<td>No yet</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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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