



Weed Ist Hier

RED STRING MAGAZINE

Weed has just become legal in Germany..

By Annelie Tyrolt

In Germany, the cultivation, consumption, possession and purchase of cannabis, grass or marijuana has been legal since April 1st – and no, this actually isn't an April Fool's joke. However, the legalization definitely stirred up a lot of different reactions – positive and negative – just like an April Fool's joke would do too. Exactly at midnight on this day, the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin was covered in marijuana fog and activists were celebrating the legalization. At the same time, hundreds of people were worried – especially parents out of concern for their children. In the following, I am going to give you a quick insight into the situation in Germany.

After a long political debate, the Bundestag (the German government) approved the federal government's draft law on the controlled handling of cannabis on February 23th. The law is allowing adults to possess up to 50 grams of cannabis for their own private consumption. In public spaces the maximum limit is 25 grams. Moreover it is also possible to privately grow up to three cannabis plants for personal consumption. However, privately grown cannabis must be protected from access by children and young people. Additionally, smoking weed is prohibited in the presence of minors and within a 100 meter radius of schools, kindergartens, playgrounds, public sports facilities and in pedestrian zones from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. These regulations are supposed to lower the risk for young people.

As an advantage, one can mention that through legalization and regulation, the quality of cannabis products can be better controlled. This could reduce the health risks associated with the use of sometimes contaminated intoxicants. Moreover, people aren't forced to come into contact with the illegal drug scene in order to buy cannabis. The risk of getting contaminated substances on the black market could possibly decrease. The state also benefits from the Cannabis legalization since it brings in additional tax revenue which can be used for much-needed public projects, education and healthcare.



Germans in the streets once German Parliament announced those over 18 years old can legally possess cannabis

A disadvantage can be seen in the rising social acceptance of drugs – especially among adolescents. However, the consumption is still associated with particular risks, especially in combination with nicotine. Owing to the fact that it is now legal, parents worry about their children since they are more susceptible to the harmful health effects of cannabis. Furthermore, critics doubt that the legalization will weaken the black market due to dealers who would do everything they could to ensure that their goods remain attractive. Lastly, the consumption of cannabis and other intoxicants impairs the ability to drive. This increases the risk of accidents. Legalization can therefore endanger general road safety.

To put it in a nutshell, this is a hotly debated topic which often divides opinion here in Germany. Even though many people are excited for this new regulation, more and more concerns are being raised. However, one can definitely say that both opinions are justified and are also relevant in order to continue viewing the measure critically. Now that the law has been passed, it is basically no longer reversible. So what will happen in the future and how the situation is going to develop isn't exactly clear to any of us.



German parliament has decriminalized cannabis in Germany to set an example that European societies will not collapse because of the legalization weed