

Medicinal Marijuana Growing – Analysis of International Experience from the Regulative and Economic Perspective



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BACKGROUND: The medicinal use of cannabis and related legislative proposals have been discussed in the Czech Republic lately, as it represents an emerging field and a challenge for the regulation of its prescription and growth, given the increased levels of cannabis use as an illicit drug. **AIMS:** The aim of this article is to (i) provide an overview of regulative mechanisms for medicinal marijuana growing in countries where medicinal marijuana was made accessible and grown under local circumstances; (ii) assess the necessary size of the growing area, number of plants, and the amount of crops to satisfy patients' needs; (iii) discuss common prices for medicinal marijuana when grown within the national borders and when exported from abroad. **DESIGN:** The study uses regulative documents, scientific articles, grey literature, internet sources, newspaper articles and email communication with institutional representatives in countries that have set up a regulatory framework for medicinal marijuana use and growing

(Israel, Canada, Netherlands, USA, Austria, and United Kingdom). **RESULTS:** The paper identifies certain issues pertaining to the determination of the size of the growing area and the number of plants and concludes that the only guiding information is the individual consumption per patient, which ranges between 1 and 5 grams per day in the existing medicinal marijuana models. The paper further discusses prices of medicinal marijuana from the international perspective and concludes that the prices tend to reach the mid-range levels between the street-level and wholesale rates on the illicit marijuana market. **CONCLUSIONS:** The article concludes that, on a national level, the most effective model for making medicinal marijuana available is the establishment of an agency in accordance with the international treaties which will license multiple growers in order to achieve a quality product and effective pricing mechanisms.

KEY WORDS: MEDICINAL MARIJUANA – MARIJUANA GROWING – REGULATION

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