



A Maltese Legalised & Regulated Cannabis Market 2020

Proposals for Cannabis legalisation & regulation in Malta.

Intro

Back in 2017, the Government of Malta recognised the need to revise existing cannabis policy in Malta and declared that the legalisation and regulation of cannabis, framed within harm reduction policy and principles, is required to promote the health and well-being of cannabis consumers whilst better protect youths and the most vulnerable.

This Proposal

This proposal aims to provide local authorities with a brief over view of a regulated cannabis market for adult use and highlights the importance to enact legislative changes based on human rights and harm reduction principles.

ReLeaf underlines the importance of a multidisciplinary approach, therefore the need to include legal, social, economic, educational and health considerations when drafting a national framework regulating the cultivation, consumption and sale of the cannabis plants and its derivatives. As already proven by countries legislating and regulating cannabis for personal use, cannabis policy is best implemented through a balanced, evidence based and inclusive legislative framework.

**"After decades of repressive policies,
we have acknowledged that this policy
does not work, that it did not meet
expectations. So it's time to change
mindsets, change our concepts and try
something else."**

Etienne Schneider,
Luxembourg vice Prime Minister.
22nd August 2019



"The time has come for New Zealand to face up to the widespread use and supply of cannabis in the country and to legalise it and regulate it accordingly. No useful purpose is served by maintaining its illegal status"

Helen Clark,
*Former Prime Minister of New Zealand
& member of the Global Commission on Drugs*
4th September 2019



The 8 point proposal



Proposal Number

1

The right to personal cultivation and consumption of all parts of the cannabis plant by adults in the privacy of their own home



Proposal Number

2

The establishment, control
and regulation of the
Maltese cannabis market by
the Government of Malta
by not later than 31
December 2020



Proposal Number

3

The removal of all punitive and criminal laws for cannabis consumers in Malta and the right to consume cannabis in designated public spaces



Proposal Number

4

The possibility for Maltese citizens to partake in a legal and regulated cannabis market, including also Hemp



Proposal Number

5

Introduce preferential access schemes to ensure local farmers have access and reap benefits from the emerging cannabis market



Proposal Number

6

Include amnesty and expungement of criminal records for non-violent cannabis convictions, and through a social equity program ensure their participation in the legalised and regulated cannabis market



Proposal Number

7

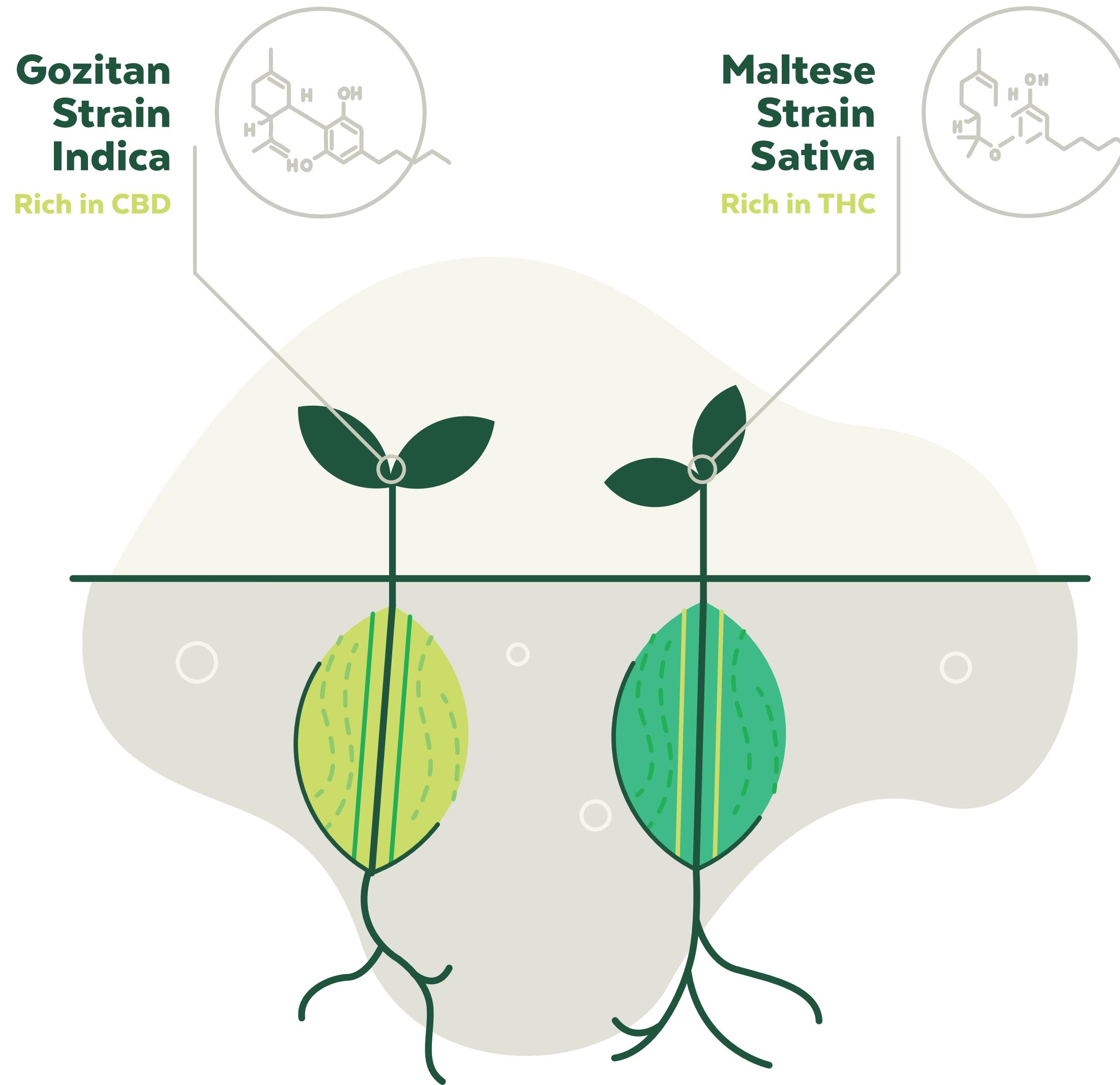
Promote holistic harm reduction tools and encourage a more open dialogue with cannabis consumers



Proposal Number

8

The creation of a national cannabis seed bank, protection of newly created local hybrids and promotion of a sustainable and environmentally conscious cannabis market





The Details

A legalised and regulated market should place the well-being of cannabis users at the helm of every decision. It is imperative that cannabis consumers are consulted and included at all levels of the discussion. A functional cannabis market needs to ensure it promotes public health without introducing an invasive and over-regulated scenario incapable of competing with and effectively eradicating the illegal market. Therefore, the type of cannabis strains available, pricing and accessibility need to reflect local and regional trends, whilst the highest standard of privacy and protection of personal rights need to match those of already established markets in Europe and around the world.

Cannabis For Personal Use



Grow up to 6 cannabis plants per person & up to 12 per household



Legally possess all parts of the plant grown & right to share (at no profit) with other adults



Legally possess up to 30grs of cannabis in public



Legally purchase up to 30grs of cannabis from CSC &/or CD

Purchase & Retail



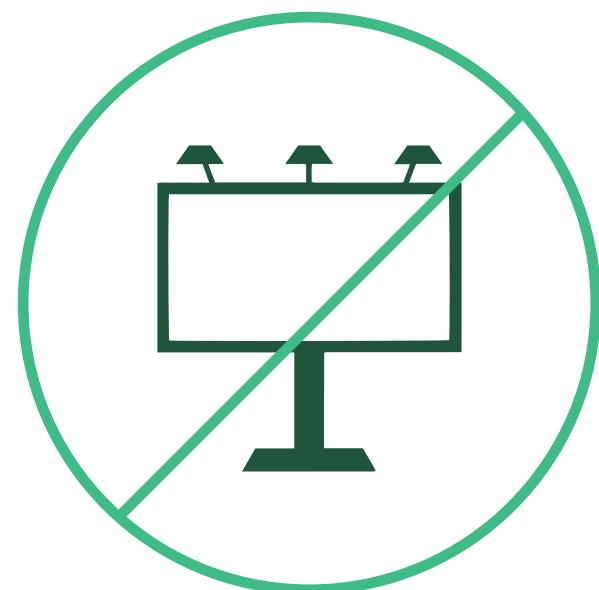
Cannabis Social Club (CSC)
(Not for profit)



Cannabis Dispensary (CD)
Selling only cannabis & related products



Promote training & continuous professional development for workers



Do not allow marketing and promotion of cannabis use

Growing



Locked & kept in
an odourless
space



Promote training &
continuous
professional
development for
workers



Cannot be sold
without a license



More than 12
plants permitted
for CPU if
warranted by
medical or judicial
authority

Testing & Health



Regular and mandatory testing and certification of cannabis sold by CSC and or CD



Clear labelling including name of strain, THC:CBD levels, packaging date, expiry date, certification free from pesticides, fungal bacteria and heavy metals and identification of grower and seller.



Sold in child proof packaging and including health warnings

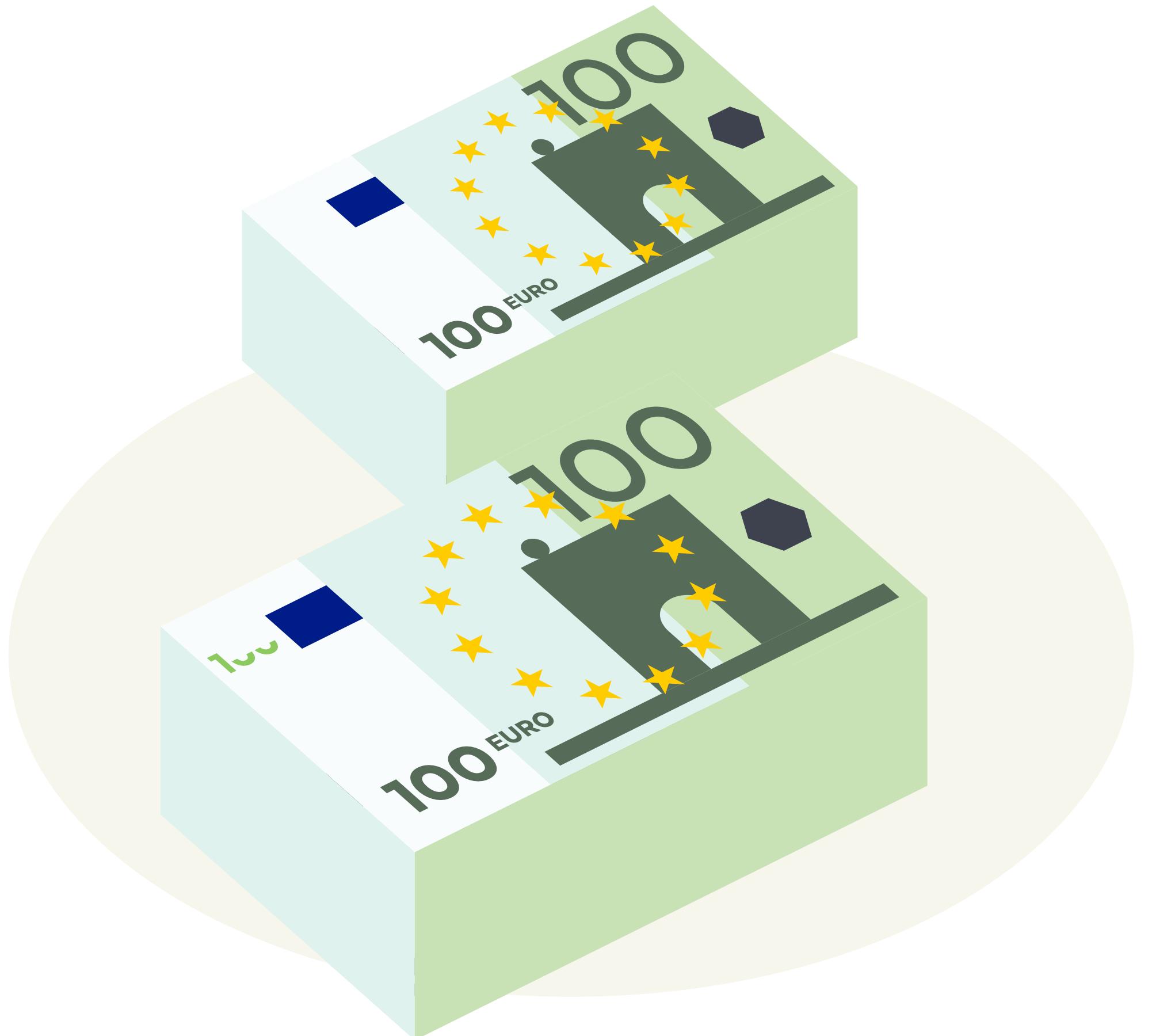


Affordable prices for personal growers wanting to test their product and the creation of an online one stop shop providing information related to organic and health and safety cultivation practices.

Taxes

A commission should be issued to study the best tax level to be levied on all cannabis sales and create a tax bracket that is competitive for small and medium sized business. The Commission should be wary with over taxation as this would fail to be competitive with prices offered by the black market.

Revenues from taxation could be reinvested into the community and used in substance use education programs, but also for wider social & environmental projects.



Education

The key to every social, health and economic reform is a holistic approach to education, and therefore one that incorporates formal and non-formal means of learning and engages with the whole population.

Effective education requires age specific content and educators or community leaders trained to deliver factual and non-moralistic information, whilst provide a safe space for the students to speak up without criminal or school based repercussions. An open and frank dialogue with parents is also important and greatly complements school based interventions.

Holistically, a functional national educational campaign needs to:

(i) be grounded in strong evidence based research (ii) provide clear information about the benefits and risks of cannabis consumption, (iii) be non-judgmental, and (iv) provide the necessary space for inter and intra-personal development of the individual.

Addressing UN International Drug Control Conventions

Engage with like-minded countries that have or will regulate cannabis for adult personal use and explore joint solutions grounded in International Law and European Union Treaties. A promising solution is through an inter-se modification of the relevant UN Drug Control Conventions.

Through bilateral and multilateral agreements two or more countries can agree to modify a specific treaty between themselves. These modifications can be related, amongst other to: cultivation practices, international trade control regulation, and education and public health policies. Governments can latch regulation and reform with the UN Sustainable Development Goals and promote a more holistic approach to the cultivation, consumption and trade of the cannabis plant.

"Initial trends show us that where cannabis has been legalized, there has been no explosion in drug use or drug-related crime. The size of the black market has been reduced and thousands of young people have been spared criminal records"

Kofi Annan,
*Former Secretary-General United Nations,
Nobel Peace Prize recipient*
22nd February 2016



ReLeaf Malta wishes to thank the following organisations for endorsing the proposal and for providing us with invaluable feedback and support.

