

For Immediate Release

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Barcelona's Cannabis Social Club Model Sparks International Interest

The Catalanian model is reshaping global cannabis policies: exploratory meeting with Swiss delegates fosters international dialogue.

Barcelona – The International Center for Ethnobotanical Education, Research, and Service ([ICEERS](#)) recently hosted a delegation of Swiss public health professionals at a Cannabis Social Club (CSC) to foster a dialogue on cannabis regulation. Barcelona is the birthplace of the CSC model, which has piqued global interest, notably from Switzerland, which recently launched a CSC pilot program in Zurich. This collaborative effort signifies a step towards harmonizing a community-centered, harm reduction approach to cannabis with modern regulatory frameworks.

The Swiss delegation's visit to Barcelona enabled an exchange of ideas and strategies around harm reduction, cannabis consumption patterns, and the model's potential to drive positive change. The meeting was held at a local CSC, [Sagrada Maria](#), alongside Ana Afuera Gómez and Anna Obradors-Pineda, two Barcelona-based researchers and cannabis advocates. This international exchange shed light on both the benefits and limitations of this model, contributing to the development of a broader and more comprehensive approach to drug policy.

A grassroots initiative

The CSC model, originating in Catalonia during the 1990s, emerged as a grassroots initiative challenging the prohibitionist legal framework. The notion of community-driven harm reduction is central to this model. By establishing a regulated environment for cannabis consumption and cultivation, CSCs aim to protect members from the adverse effects of prohibition-based policies. ICEERS has been involved in the CSC landscape for over a decade and offers tours of local CSCs to support international collaboration and policy changes. "In a world where drug policies have failed, the CSC model exemplifies how communities can take control of their well-being. International collaboration is vital to pave the way for drug policies that prioritize harm reduction and human rights" stated Òscar Parés, the Deputy Director of ICEERS.

International interest

The international conversation is gradually learning about the merits of the CSC model. Countries like Switzerland, Malta, and Germany are exploring community-focused access points

within their evolving cannabis regulatory frameworks. The city of Zurich has initiated the ZüriCan pilot study to assess the impact of regulated cannabis sales on consumption patterns and participant health over a span of three years. "The pilot study is in its early stages, facing challenges and prejudices in a still-emerging field of research and regulation," a representative from Zurich shared.

As nations like Switzerland take cues from the Catalanian model, the future holds the potential for a global shift towards more compassionate and safer cannabis policies. The cross-pollination of ideas between different regions embodies a forward-thinking approach aimed at forging proactive change. These CSC tours are part of ICEERS' mission towards evidence-based advocacy for the responsible integration of plant medicine in modern society.

For more information:

- [Swiss Public Health Professionals Explore Barcelona's Cannabis Social Club Model](#)
- [Barcelona Cannabis Social Club Study Tour 2023](#)

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