

## Switzerland mulls studies on legal sale of cannabis

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Switzerland's government is taking steps to allow limited studies on the legal sale of cannabis—though any liberalization appears to be a distant prospect.



The governing Federal Council said Thursday it sent to parliament a proposal to allow municipalities to run pilot projects on "the advantages and disadvantages of alternative forms of regulation," such as the regulated sale of cannabis in pharmacies. The <u>possession</u> and consumption of cannabis with more than 1 percent THC, the main psychoactive constituent of cannabis, are currently illegal.

The government said 200,000 people in the country of 8 million regularly consume cannabis recreationally despite the ban, leading to a flourishing black market and high enforcement costs.

The tightly regulated pilot projects will run for a maximum 10 years, after which studies will be reviewed.

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