

Press Release

Transparency for Cannabis Pilot Trials in Switzerland

Vigia AG creates transparency and trust in the supply of first legally sold cannabis in Switzerland

Zurich, 30 January 2023 – For the first time, cannabis is being sold legally in Switzerland. On 30 January, selected participants of the Weed Care study within the Swiss pilot projects will be able to purchase cannabis in pharmacies in Basel. A straightforward but reliable tracking system is required for the transparent execution of this project and all future ones. The Swiss company Vigia AG, provider of a track & trace software for the cultivation, manufacturing and distribution of cannabis, has developed the Cannabis Dispensary System in partnership with the Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH) in order to reliably document the dispensing of the products. This makes it possible to track the cannabis goods transparently and gives the foundation for scientific research.

For Vigia AG, the pilot projects are an important step for the cannabis industry, as Philipp Hagenbach, COO of Vigia AG, explains: "We are in an emerging industry where various paths to legalisation are currently being discussed. With a structured legalisation process, maximum conformity and transparency, Switzerland is setting an example. With our existing Cannavigia software and the Cannabis Dispensary System, we provide the various stakeholders involved with the necessary tools to track and document every step along the supply chain. We are proud to be part of the Swiss pilot projects and this historic milestone".

Transparency and Traceability

Vigia AG is the FOPH's official track & trace partner for the pilot trials. This kind of partnership between the government and a commercial business in the cannabis industry is unique to the sector. Vigia AG has added a Cannabis Dispensary System (CDS) to its existing Cannavigia software solution. Thanks to the combination of the two, the companies cultivating cannabis for the projects can monitor their cultivation and supply chain, which serves to ensure the quality of the final products. Those in charge of the projects can use the software to register the study participants, with those responsible for the Weed Care study starting this as early as September 2022. It allows the dispensaries to keep track of sales as well as individual quantities dispensed to participants, guaranteeing that only authorised persons can purchase the products. This ensures consumer and especially minor protection and results in a transparent and traceable supply chain which can also be maintained in a future legalised environment. The Cannabis Dispensary System provides the FOPH with an overview of the circulation of cannabis in Switzerland and supports the reporting obligation

to the UN's International Narcotics Control Board. The data of the participants are always stored pseudonymously in order to ensure data protection.

Building Trust for the Cannabis Industry

Due to the Narcotics Act and the regulation of the pilot trials, maximum compliance and transparency are expected at all levels along the value chain. For Vigia AG, transparency and compliance go beyond effective regulations and certification if possible. This is also to be applied to the pilot projects: The use of the software gives market participants the greatest possible certainty that they will meet the FOPH's future quality and information requirements. In this way, Cannavigia and the other organisations involved in the pilot projects are helping to create trust for the future legalisation of cannabis and to paint a realistic picture of what possible legalisation could look like in the future.

Switzerland as an Example of a Structured Legalisation Process

A few countries such as Uruguay, Canada or Thailand have already decriminalised or legalised cannabis consumption for recreational use. However, these countries are partly struggling with overproduction and with still dominating black markets. In addition, companies in these countries continue to face bureaucratic problems such as access to banks or insurance companies. With the cannabis pilot trials, Switzerland can become an example for a structured legalisation process. A possible legalisation is tested in a real environment so that problems can be identified early on and minimised or even eliminated. In addition, it can be jointly determined where the degree between over- and under-regulation lies.

The pilot projects have already shown that the interaction of the private and public sectors is essential to advance the national legalisation of cannabis. Other countries can learn and benefit from this.

Download images [here](#).

Media Contact

Vigia AG
Silvana Zollinger
Seefeldstrasse 229
CH-8008 Zurich
silvana.zollinger@cannavigia.com
Tel: +41 79 758 44 18

About Cannavigia

Cannavigia is Europe's pioneer compliance software by Vigia AG for businesses to trace, secure and simplify transactions along the entire cannabis supply network. The system provides transparency for individual processes, interlinked by modules for the cultivation, manufacturing, distribution and marketing of goods made of cannabis. Cannavigia goes beyond certification, vigilance is key.
www.cannavigia.com