

## Attachments

### Attachment 1



## PERCEPTION AND ASSESSMENT OF CANNABIS QUALITY AMONG CANNABIS USERS AND POSSIBILITIES FOR HARM REDUCTION

### INFORMED CONSENT

**Random generated name:**

**Date:**

**Interviewer:**

Hello, thank you very much for your participation in this study. This study is **anonymous**, based on a random name generator, your name is now:

I will now switch on an audio recorder and read an informed consent text to you, containing the information about the research you are participating in, the ways in which you will be guaranteed your anonymity and confidentiality and the risks you are bearing when agreeing to participate in the research. After I finish reading this text, I will ask you to consent or disapprove verbally that you are voluntarily participating in this research.

Audio recording an interview is important to avoid the loss of information and capture all the information from the interview. The recording of the conversation will be saved on a computer that is protected by password and the record will be deleted after the transcription.

The research project for diploma thesis *Perception and assessment of cannabis quality among cannabis users and possibilities for harm reduction* was prepared by me, Bc. Michaela Brandnerová, student of master degree on Department of Addictology on 1st Faculty of Medicine of Charles University, with help and surveillance from my supervisor Ing. Mgr. Bc. Venduly Běláčkové Ph.D. The main purpose of the research is to investigate how cannabis users perceive “quality” of the drug and how they manage the risks pertaining to cannabis consumption.

At the same time, this research focuses on identifying user techniques that are used to prevent physical and mental side effects. You will be asked questions about the quality of cannabis, how do you recognize it, how to obtain cannabis and how do you use it to avoid possible side effects.

The risks associated with the research are linked to the fact you are disclosing your and other (not identified) individuals’ criminal activities that in case they were linked to your personal identity would lead to criminal prosecution.

To help us protect your privacy, make sure, you do not use a real name and surname when you are talking about yourself or about the others. If you want to mention your friend's name, it is fine, as long as you do not use their surname or any other information that might identify them directly. For this reason we have generated a random name or nickname for

you, and please, if you mention other people, it will also be better to assign them a name or nickname. I also ask you not to mention any other facts that would cause you or others to be identified.

Due to these measures, the risks of disclosure of information is minimised and only one who will be able to connect the obtained information with you is only an Interviewer. However, I can promise you that no voluntary disclosures from my side will be made.

Moreover, I would like to point out that possession of a drug for own use in a small amount is not a criminal offense and it is not even a cultivation of cannabis for own use in small quantities.

The measures include not contacting other respondents by the interviewer herself. After we finish the interview, I will ask if you would be willing to recommend any other person to this research and if you would hand over announce about this research so the recommended person could contact me.

The structure of the interview which shall take approximately one hour of your time will be as follows. I will fill in a questionnaire with the basic information about your *sociodemographic characteristic* and your *personal use* of psychoactive substances. In the course of the interview, I will also ask you particular questions about your *experience with cannabis*, including descriptions of situations you were exposed to in more detail. At the end of the interview, you will be given time to provide me with additional information you find useful as to the subject of the research.

I want you to know that you have the option to *interrupt* the interview and discontinue it at any time during the interview. Unfortunately, you will not *benefit* directly from participating in this research study (you will not be paid for it) but in a long term I hope it can be used to evaluate and change current drug policies.

**Do you have any questions regarding the potential risks and benefits in regards to your participation in this research study? By agreeing to the interview, you claim not to be under influence of any legal or illegal substance. Do you agree to participate in the study now?**

## **Interview**

### **1) Gender**

- a) male                      b) female

### **2) Age**

### **3) Region**

### **4) Family status**

- a) not married      b) married ( b) with children/ c) without children)

### **5) The highest obtained education**

- a) elementary school      b) high school with /without graduation      c) higher vocation school  
d) University degree      e) Ph.D

### **6) How would you describe your job/employment/**

- a) Employed      b) Self-employed      c) both employed +self-employed  
d) on pension      e) on invalid pension      f) student  
g) in household      h) on family allowance      i) unemployed  
j) other \_\_\_\_\_

### **7) What is your monthly income?**

- a) 0- 15 000Czk      b) 15 000- 30 000Czk      c) 30 000Czk  
d) I do not want to share      e) I do not have any

### **8) Who do you share a household with?**

- a) Alone                                      b) with parents                                      c) with a partner  
d) with a partner/children      e) with friends/other people                      f) on campus

### **9) Have you ever smoked tobacco, such as cigarettes, cigars or a water pipe?**

Cigarettes: YES –NO; Cigars YES –NO, Water pipe: YES –NO Other devices:

- 1) I have tried it      2) occasionally                      3) regularly but not daily                      4) daily

### **10) Did you smoke tobacco during the last 30 days?**

YES–NO

- 1) occasionally                      2) regularly but not daily                      3) daily

### **11) Did you drink any alcohol in the last 12 months?**

YES –NO

### **12) How often do you drink alcohol?**

- a) 4 times a week or more often                      b) 2-3 times a week  
c) 2-4 times a month                      d) once a month or less often

**On how many days did you use another illicit drug (other than cannabis or hashish) in the last 30 days?? YES - NO**

Other illicit drugs: \_\_\_\_\_

- 30 days: a) daily or almost daily                      b) several times a week  
                    c) at least once a week                      d) less than once a week

**13) Did you use cannabis or hashish in the last 12 months? Did you use cannabis or hashish in the last 30 days?**

12= YES – NO,                      30dnũ = YES - NO

**14) During the last 30 days, on how many days did you use hashish or marihuana?**

- a) daily or almost daily, b) several times a week, c) at least once a week, d) less than once a week

**15) How difficult do you think it would be to get some cannabis or hashish within 24 hours?**

- a) impossible,      b) very difficult,                      c) quite difficult,                      d) quite easy,      f) very easy

**16) At what age did you use hashish or marihuana for the first time? Describe the situation.**

(Motivation, From who? Advices + help with intoxication? Effects, did you use cannabis with the beginner? Did you tell him/her some advices?)

**17) Where did you get the information about the cannabis and how to use it?**

**18) Can you please tell me everything about the last time you used cannabis?**

**How did you get it? Describe the situation.**

(From who did you get the cannabis? Did the person give you information about the cannabis you got? How did you feel after use? How was the quality of the cannabis you smoked?)

**19) What characteristics do you consider in judging the quality of cannabis?**

**20) Can you recognize that purchased cannabis is a good quality and how? Before use/ after use?**

**21) What type of cannabis suits you?**

**22) How do you get the quality cannabis? How many times during the previous 12 months did you have the quality cannabis?**

**23) Do exist the different varieties of cannabis? Can you distinguish them? According to what?? (strains? fertilizers?)**

**24) What is your experience with different varieties? Please describe.**

**25) When you obtain the cannabis, do you have interest what kind of variety is it? ( strain) Do you ask about the origin and how it was cultivated?**

**26) How do you receive the cannabis? – How many ways of receiving cannabis have you tried? (Share, Buy, Sell, Give, Receive for free, Grow)**

- **RECEIVE CANNABIS BY SHARING**

(Can you please tell me everything about the last time you received cannabis by sharing? Explain to me the scenario in which you were offered to smoke? Why did you receive cannabis for free? Do you know where the person got the cannabis? What kind of risks did you perceive at the setting? How much cannabis have you shared? Some people try to pay back a person who shares cannabis with them, for instance smoke with him next time, buy him a drink or just treat him nicely. If it this was your case when you last smoked cannabis, can you please describe it to me? Whose cannabis was it? How frequently do you smoke cannabis with this person? How was the quality of the cannabis you smoked?)

- **BUYING CANNABIS**

(Why did you buy the cannabis? How much did you pay for your cannabis? What amount of cannabis did you buy? How was the price negotiated (good price, was it a fixed price, did you get any discount)? How was the quality of the cannabis you bought? Do you have option to chose from more than one product? What did seller tell you about the quality? Did you discuss the quality? What kind of risks did you perceive at the setting? How would you describe your relationship to the person you bought this cannabis from? How frequently do you buy from this particular person and why? What did you do with purchased cannabis? Do you have option to ask for specific strains or for some expected effects? What do you know about the cannabis you bought, where did it come from (country, indoor/outdoor grown)? Do you trust your seller? Do you believe that he or she tells you the truth about origin of cannabis? Did you have an option to try cannabis before you bought it to make sure of the quality? Why is it better to buy than grow your own cannabis?)

- **TRADING SOMETHING ELSE FOR CANNABIS**

(Can you describe me the situation when you last traded something else for cannabis with other people? Why not for money? What amount? What quality? What is a good trade?)

- **RECEIVING CANNABIS FOR FREE**

(Who initiated the trade (please, don't provide any identifying information about the people you

mention)? Why did you receive the cannabis for free? How was the quality? What role plays the quality in giving the cannabis to other people? How regularly do you receive cannabis for free? Do you know what cannabis you have received and origin of it? Did you try to pay for it? What amount did you get?

- **CULTIVATING CANNABIS**

What type of equipment and other circumstances do you need so that you can start to grow cannabis? Where did you get the equipment?

Why did you start growing cannabis? What kind of risks did you perceive when growing your cannabis? What do you do to avoid the risks of being caught by police (like close windows in a house, go to a hidden setting)? How long have you been smoking before you started to grow it? Who would you get cannabis from before you started to grow it (please, don't provide any identifying information about the people you mention)? Do you grow from clones or from seeds or do you have mother plant?

Why do you prefer to grow it rather than to buy it?

What is the quality of cannabis compared to what you can get on the black market?

How much of the cannabis you grow covers your personal use? What do you do with the rest? Do you think that you use more than when you only buy cannabis? How do you choose the strains? According to what? Do you prefer to grow outdoor or indoor and why? How can you influence to grow quality cannabis? What do you do for it? Please describe (growing method, fertilizers, genetics, drying method).

- **SELLING CANNABIS**

(Why did you choose to sell cannabis rather than to share it or smoke it yourself (if these options are relevant)? Who initiated the trade (please, don't provide any identifying information about the people you mention)? How the previous situation differs from the situations when you usually get cannabis for free? What kind of risks did you perceive at the setting? How did you meet the people you sold it to? From whom did you get the cannabis you were selling? Do you give a choice to buy more than one variety? How the quality differs? What kind of cannabis would you rather sell and what kind of cannabis would you rather smoke by yourself or share with somebody? What kind of cannabis would you rather sell to a friend? What amount and for how much did you sell it? When did you decide what price they were going to pay you? Is it your main income? How does the price you paid for cannabis affect your willingness to sell it? Do you give some discounts?

- **GIVING CANNABIS FOR FREE**

For how much and what amount of cannabis did you give out for free? Why did you give cannabis for free? How did the previous situation differ from the situations when you usually share cannabis? What kind of cannabis would you rather give out for free and what kind of cannabis would you rather smoke by yourself or share with somebody?

(Who initiated the trade (please, don't provide any identifying information about the people you mention)? Why did you receive cannabis for free? What was the quality? What role plays the quality in giving the cannabis to other people? How regularly do you receive cannabis for free? Do you know what cannabis you have received and origin of it? Did you try to pay for it? What amount did you get?

- **TRADING CANNABIS FOR SOMETHING ELSE**

(Can you describe me the situation when you last shared cannabis with other people? Why not for money? What is the amount you trade? For what are you willing to trade cannabis? Who initiated the trade (please, don't provide any identifying information about the people you mention)? What was the quality you traded?

- **SHARING CANNABIS**

Can you describe me the situation when you last shared cannabis with other people? In what way it is more beneficial for you to share than to smoke cannabis alone? What was the quality of the shared cannabis? What advantage you perceive in sharing cannabis? Sometimes when cannabis is shared, some people happen to be passed a joint of cannabis that they don't want to smoke – if this happened there, can you tell me about it? Can you please describe me the place where you shared cannabis, how did it look like? What kind of risks did you perceive at the setting? With whom would you share and with whom do not? What kind of cannabis would you rather share and what kind of cannabis would you rather smoke by yourself? How does the price you paid for cannabis affect your willingness to share it with other people? When you share cannabis, do people tend to pay you back for it and how much?

**27) Why did you use cannabis last time? Describe the situation.**

(Why do you use cannabis? What are the required effects which cannabis users seek for? (recreational use/medical use))

**28) Does the quality affect the price? Does more expensive cannabis mean that it is better?**

**29) How did you smoke your cannabis (joints, pipes, blunts) – and why like this?**

(How do you prepare it, what do you need for it, do you mix cannabis with something and in what ratio? Do you know other method of administration? What is the best way how to use cannabis? Do you recognize that you smoked enough? Do you recognize it in time? Do you know some follow ups cause by specific method of ingestion?

- 30) Do you know some safer way of using? Why you use it or do not use it?**
- 31) How can influence the method of using the desired effects? Can you notice some negative health consequences from using specific devices?**
- 32) Have you ever tried to change the method of administration? Why and what is different? What kind of equipment you use to reach desired effect? What kind of method of administration did you try?**
- 33) Have you ever went through the negative experience? Can you describe me the situation? How would you prevent it?**
- 34) How do you prevent the physical side effects? When you feel the side effect, what do you do to reduce it? (Amount, concentration, potency, paraphernalia, number of breaths, length of holding the smoke?)**
- 35) How do you prevent the mental side effects? When you feel the side effect, what do you do to reduce it?? (Amount, concentration, potency, paraphernalia, number of breaths, length of holding the smoke?)**
- 36) Is the setting important? Can you please describe me the place where you smoked cannabis, how did it look like and what is the advantage of it?**
- 37) When someone is offering the cannabis, do you have interest what kind of variety is it? How is it strong? So you know how much you can use.**
- 38) Can you describe me the situation when you last used cannabis only by yourself? Why alone?**
- 39) What are the benefits of smoking cannabis to share it with other people than smoke alone??**
- 40) Do you know some other elements how can you influence the intoxication?**
- 41) Have you ever tried to stop using cannabis?**



(Why? What were the negative consequences? What were the positive consequences after you stopped? Did you notice some withdrawal symptoms? Why did you start to use cannabis again?)

**42) Would you like to add something related to the topic of the research?**

**Thank you for your participation in the study. In case you want to recommend some other people to take part in the study, please give them announce with information so that they can contact us.**