



National Agency for
Cannabis Control

BULLETIN 02



BULLETIN

APRIL - JUNE 2026

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ATTENDING THE GLOBAL CANNABIS REGULATORY SUMMIT 2025 | LONDON, 19 – 21 APRIL 2026

On April 19-21, 2026, the Agency participated in the “Global Cannabis Regulatory Summit 2026” in London, an international forum bringing together regulators, policymakers, standards experts, patient representatives and industry stakeholders. The discussions at the summit showed that medicinal *cannabis* is increasingly being considered as a sector relevant to health, scientific research, the pharmaceutical industry, the food industry and the development of university curricula worldwide.



However, the main message was clear: the development of this sector can only be sustainable if it is preceded by standards, regulation, traceability and accountability in the public interest. For Albania, participation in this summit reinforced a fundamental principle: trust is not built by quickly opening up the sector, but rather by the state's ability to establish clear rules, strong institutions and constant supervision. In this sense, the model that Albania is developing does not aim to open up an unregulated market, but rather to create a system where every step of the activity is licensed, verifiable and traceable. Only in this way can medicinal cannabis be considered a health, scientific and regulatory matter, rather than being seen as an area of abuse or misinterpretation.

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WHAT DOES EU-GMP LOOK LIKE IN PRACTICE: THE AGENCY VISITED ONE OF THE MAIN PRODUCERS OF MEDICINAL CANNABIS IN THE REGION | SKOPJE, APRIL 27, 2026

On 27 April 2026, the Director General, Ms. Anila Aliu, accompanied by the Agency's staff, visited the medicinal cannabis production unit of the company Pharmarolly Holdings B.V., located in Skopje, North Macedonia. The visit was carried out based on contacts established during the Global Cannabis Regulatory Summit 2026 held in London, where the company's CEO, Mr. Stephen Malloy, expressed readiness for cooperation with the Agency and invited for a technical inspection.

PharmaRolly has been active in North Macedonia since 2019 and was certified to EU-GMP standards in July 2024. The company exports medicinal cannabis to markets such as Germany, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom, which requires a high level of control, quality, and regulatory compliance.

During the visit, the Director General and the Agency's staff were closely informed about the organizational structure of the production chain, including cultivation, extraction systems, drying and storage processes, quality control and procedures related to the implementation of EU-GMP standards according to GACP standards. The visit was of practical significance for Albania, as it showed that international standards are not just formal documents, but a way of working at every stage of the operation, from the factory to the product, documentation, control and export.

For the Agency, such experience helps to create a supervision model based on operational reality, constant control and full traceability, in accordance with Law No. 61/2023.



I would like to thank Steve Malloy for his hospitality and the valuable opportunity to visit the EU-GMP certified facilities in Skopje. This exchange of experiences gave us a very realistic idea of the high standards, discipline and operational controls that extend from cultivation to the quality control system, which serves as an excellent model of how medicinal cannabis is managed within a regulated framework. - Anila Aliu, General Director, NACC

Grateful for this kind of cross-border collaboration. It helps the industry move forward and, most importantly, improves access to services for patients.- Stephen Malloy, CEO, Pharmarolly Holdings

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WHAT CAN ALBANIA LEARN FROM THE COUNTRY THAT HAS TRANSFORMED MEDICAL CANNABIS INTO A STATE-RUN SYSTEM? | ROME, MAY 12, 2026



The study visit to Rome, held under the European Commission's TAIEX programme, provided the Agency's representatives with a detailed understanding of the Italian institutional and regulatory model for medicinal cannabis. During the meetings held at the Italian Ministry of Health, experts from the Ministry, UCS and AIFA presented the legal framework governing the cultivation, production, import/export and monitoring of medicinal cannabis, as well as the obligations arising from international conventions and European legislation.



The key lesson for Albania is straightforward: a sensitive sector cannot rely solely on licensing, but requires constant regulation, digital identification systems, mandatory standards, and a clear division of responsibilities between institutions.

Particular attention was paid to the functioning of the SIUCS system for the authorisation and reporting of controlled substances, the import and export procedures, reporting to the International Narcotics Control Board, as well as the Italian model of GMP inspections and risk-based supervision. The Italian model shows that developing an effective system requires time, clear institutions and enforceable rules. In Italy, medicinal cannabis is managed within a regulated framework, where authorisation, import, export, reporting and traceability are linked to specialised systems and international obligations.

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INSIDE A MEDICAL CANNABIS FACTORY IN FLORENCE: VISIT TO A MILITARY CHEMICAL-PHARMACEUTICAL FACILITY | FLORENCE, MAY 13, 2026



Inside the Military Chemical-Pharmaceutical Establishment (SCFM) in Florence, a historic institution founded in 1832 and currently authorized to produce medicinal cannabis in Italy, Agency representatives were introduced to how a controlled production chain works. Among the topics of this chain were: hydroponic cultivation, real-time monitoring of various parameters, production batch identification, plant traceability, drying, storage, laboratory and production of active pharmaceutical ingredients according to GMP standards.

Particular emphasis was placed on physical security measures and access control. This element is essential for a sector where, as with production, prevention of trafficking and documentation of each process are equally important. The visit also laid the foundation for technical cooperation with SCFM in the field of laboratory analysis. After the cooperation agreement between the parties was formalized, the institution expressed its readiness to analyze *cannabis* samples from Albania.

The Florence visit confirmed that when medicinal *cannabis* is considered a medicinal product and a controlled substance, it requires institutional discipline, high standards, reliable laboratories, control systems and full public accountability. It is on this logic that the organization is building its role in Albania.

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NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL STRATEGY 2025–2030 | TIRANA, APRIL 7, MAY 25, 2026

On April 7, 2026, the Agency participated in the first meeting of the Inter-Agency Working Group established by Order No. 42 of the Minister of Health and Social Welfare dated 22.01.2026, to draft the National Drug Control Strategy 2026-2030.

The working group includes representatives from 23 state institutions and is tasked with compiling a situation analysis, drafting a strategy and action plan, and consulting with experts and international organizations.

The Agency's contribution to this process is its expertise in the regulation and supervision of *cannabis* for medical and industrial purposes, especially in preventing the trafficking of legal products into the illegal market.

This approach is consistent with the strategy's philosophy: supply reduction, demand reduction, and harm reduction, where *cannabis* regulation is considered part of a larger public policy for safety, health, and institutional accountability.

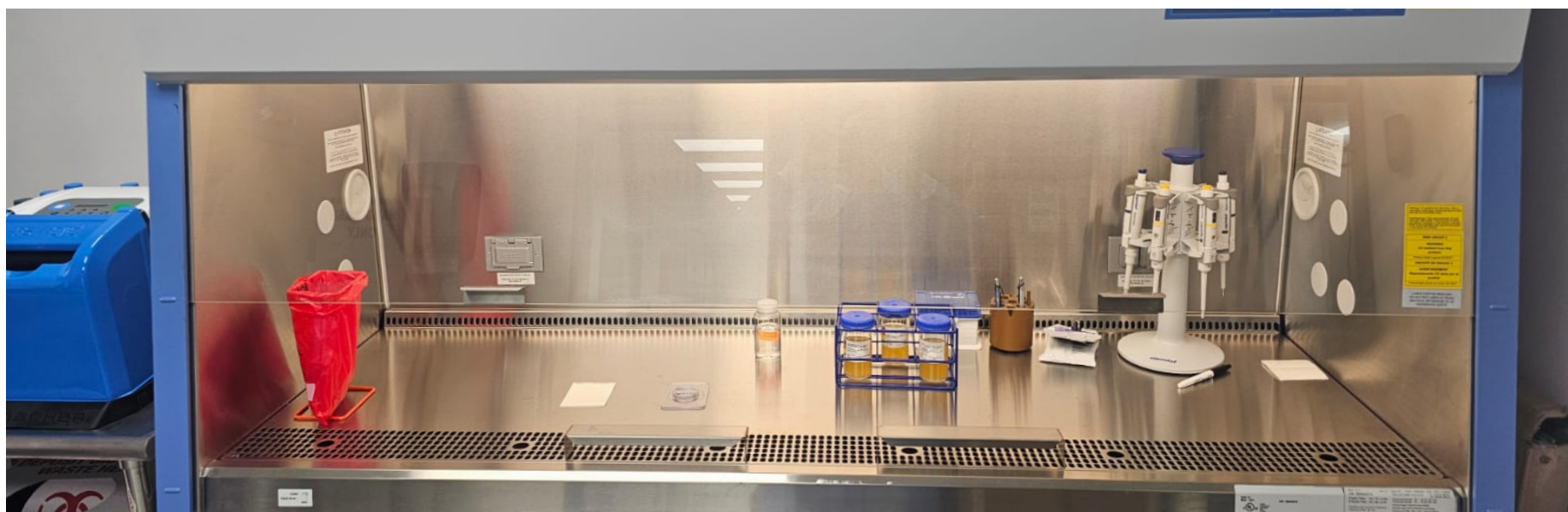
Drug Policy Workshop | Tirana, May 25, 2026



On May 26, 2026, a national workshop on drug policy was held at the GIZ premises in Tirana with representatives of Albanian institutions and European partners, with the main goal of drafting a national drug control strategy.

The event was organized by GPDPD/GIZ in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare. The day included presentations on European standards by DG-HOME and EUDA, a session on human rights in drug policy, and presentations on the current state and trends of data by local institutions. The Trimbos Institute moderated the discussion on the possible framework of the strategy.

RESULTS FROM THE SAMPLE: HOW IS MARIJUANA TESTED IN OKLAHOMA? | OKLAHOMA CITY, JUNE 8, 2026



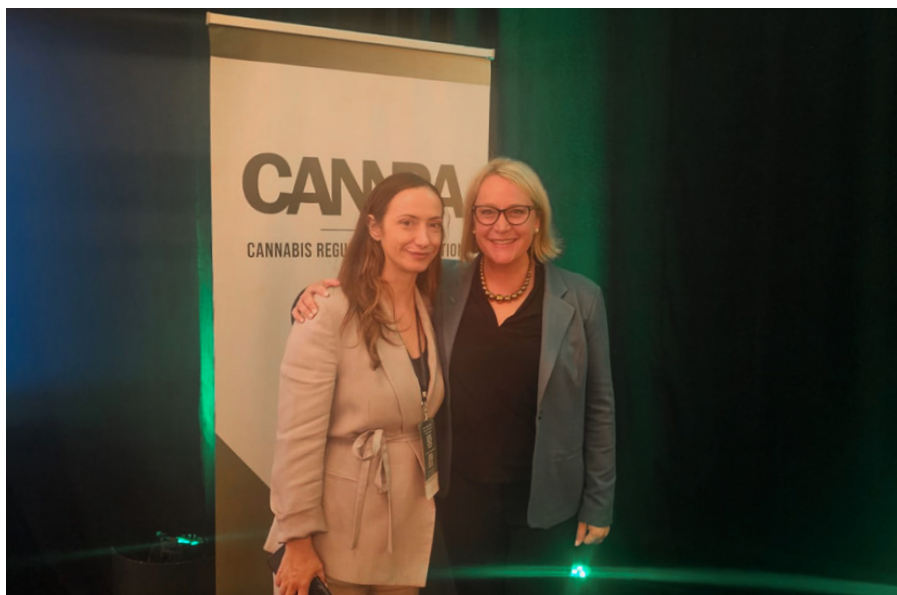
Agency representatives conducted a survey visit to the Oklahoma Medical Marijuana Authority (OMMA) reference laboratory. The purpose of the visit was to closely monitor the laboratory's control system, which is a key link to the reliability of the control system and patient safety.

Sample management procedures, laboratory organization, and internal quality protocols were presented during the visit. Special attention was paid to the equipment used and specific analyses for microorganisms, heavy metals, pesticides, residual solvents, mycotoxins, and cannabinoid profiles.

A particular area of interest for the Agency was the analytical monitoring of pesticides. OMMA's laboratory infrastructure and organization provide a valuable model for building our national capacity and monitoring market integrity.



ALBANIA AT CANNRA 2025 | OKLAHOMA CITY, JUNE 8-10, 2025



The Agency's representatives, led by Director General Ms. Anila Aliu, participated in the 2026 edition of the CANNRA External Stakeholder Meeting. The event brought together regulatory authorities, reference laboratories, academic institutions and industry experts from the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Albania. During the working session, the latest regulatory, political and scientific developments in the medical and industrial *cannabis* sector were discussed, with a special focus on changes in US federal policy, developments in the regulatory system, product safety and scientific research.

Technical sessions focused on market monitoring, the use of data analytics to detect laboratory irregularities, the development of international standards for cannabinoid-based products, and industry oversight mechanisms. Special attention was also paid to professional capacity building and human resource training.

During the event, bilateral meetings were also held with representatives from regulatory authorities, universities, and industry, where opportunities for cooperation in developing the Agency's institutional capacity were discussed.

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MEETING WITH EUDA: TOWARDS EUROPEAN CANNABIS REPORTING STANDARDS | TIRANA, JUNE 23, 2026



On 23 June 2026, as part of the European Drugs Agency (EUDA) mission to the National Drugs Observatory, a meeting with the Agency's experts was held at the Agency's office. The meeting discussed the importance of collecting and analyzing data on *cannabis* in Albania and the possibilities for further cooperation in presenting accurate data comparable to European standards.

Of particular interest to the Agency were various EUDA instruments, such as the European Web Survey on Drugs (EWSD), the International Cannabis Cultivation Questionnaire (ICCQ) and ESPAD (European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs), which could serve as an indicative model for the Albanian reality.

MEET THE AGENCY STAFF



Graduated in Pharmacy from the University of Medicine in Tirana, her professional experience includes contributions to the regulatory field of medicines, pharmacovigilance, and bylaws.

Ina Spahiu

The use of medical and industrial cannabis is one of the fastest growing areas, where scientific research, innovation, and regulatory frameworks are closely intertwined. The opportunity to work for this agency allows me to closely monitor the progress of this field and be part of implementing a regulatory framework that aims to ensure high standards, transparency, and alignment with international best practices.



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