

TECHNOLOGICAL PROSPECTING IN PUBLIC HEALTH POLICIES: AN INNOVATIVE APPROACH FOR THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

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“Maconha” refers to one of the species of *Cannabis sativa*, plant of great potential of medicinal application due to substances from its extract, such as tetra-hidrocanabinol (THC) and canabidiol (CBD). Although all existing evidence, trading, planting and consuming its derivatives are forbidden in national territory, except by judicial authorization, with its infringement resulting in fines up to imprisonment. The interdiction in Brazil is a result of a prohibitionist movement towards all drugs in global scale, that occurred in the last century and remains until today, leaving a social stigma linked to this drug. As a result of the prohibition, attached to the emergence of new health treatments, judicialization has become a tool to grant access to *Cannabis* based drugs, offering solution to healthcare demands, and thus guaranteeing access to fundamental rights. However, in December 2019, after the approval of ANVISA, it was decided that temporarily, the manufacture, import and marketing of some *Cannabis* based drugs are considered legal in national territory until the end of 2022. This decision facilitates the support from public institutions to those who needs these products and has become one of the first steps of the process towards decriminalization of the plant’s derivatives, and for a change of stigma in Brazilian territory. The actual criminalization entails a series of negative impacts inherent to the construction of the public policies that regulate these derivatives. Furthermore, despite the positive perspective, the prohibition generates a shortage of information about the theme, which is prejudicial to the structure of a possible national market and in the decision-making process in the public policy sphere. Therefore, the current work proposes a critical analysis over the scenario in which *Cannabis sativa*’s derivatives are subject in Brazil, utilizing the Advocacy Coalition Framework method, described by Paul Sabatier, as an approach to evaluate potential changes in public health policies that regulates *Cannabis*. As well as a technological prospecting of its technologies and substances through bibliometric analysis of patents in *Patentscope*, by *VantagePoint*[®] software, aiming to provide researchers, public managers, and investors, consolidated data and an alternative point of view around the topic, along with a solid instrument for the decision-making process.