

Supplementary material

Table S1. Similarities and differences in the characteristics and overall scores of the Coffeeshop, the Adapted Coffeeshop, and optimal policy model. The symbol X in bold and on a grey field denotes that the instrument option of the optimal model is deviant from either the Coffee shop model, the Adapted Coffeeshop model or both.

Description of instrument options	Coffee shop	Adapted Coffeeshop	Optimal model
Possession: tolerate user quantity	X	X	X
Packaging: 'Plain packaging' plus prevention message	X	X	X
All advertising is prohibited	X	X	
All advertising is allowed			X
Sales across companies: prohibited	X		
Sales across companies: regulated		X	
Sales across companies: similar to pharmaceutical legislation			X
Sales to users: regulated	X		X
Sales to users: similar to pharmaceutical legislation		X	
No age limit for using and buying ecstasy			X
The age limit for using and buying ecstasy is 18 yrs.	X	X	
Punishable by not adhering to the age limit: nobody	X	X	
Punishable by not adhering to the age limit: the seller			X
Legal requirements for selling: only license holders may sell	X	X	X
Pricing policy: none	X		
Pricing policy: a legally determined minimum price for sale to users		X	X
Quality: no requirements are laid down by law	X		
Quality: requirements are laid down by law		X	X
Sanctioning QA rules: not applicable	X		
Sanctioning QA rules: violation is punished lightly		X	
Sanctioning QA rules: violation is punished severely			X
Monitoring: extensive	X	X	X
Health education: the government largely subsidizes	X	X	X
Control prevention: the government formulates goals and priorities	X		
Control prevention: predominantly by prevention organizations		X	X
Harm reduction as prevention perspective	X	X	X
Type of government responsible for prevention policy: all	X	X	X
Production of ecstasy: prohibited	X		
Production of ecstasy: similar to pharmaceutical legislation		X	X
Legal status of export of ecstasy: illegal	X	X	X
International treaties: toleration	X	X	
International treaties: inter se			X
Priority crime fighting high (against serious MDMA-related crime)	X	X	
Priority crime fighting selective (high priority for fighting serious MDMA-related crime, but low priority for that of consumers)			X
Maximum penalty: current maximum penalty is sufficiently high	X		
Maximum penalty: increase the current maximum penalty		X	X

Confiscation: level of expertise and effort is sufficient	X		
Confiscation: more expertise and effort needed	X		X
Overall score compared to the current situation	+ 5,528	+ 10,721	+ 13,270

Table S2. The 22 policy instrument options of the X-shop model. The four adaptations of optimal model are reflected in italic.

Policy instrument	Policy instrument option
1 <i>Possession of MDMA</i>	<i>User quantity is legal and a large quantity is condoned</i>
2 Packaging of MDMA-products	'Plain packaging' + prevention message
3 <i>Advertising MDMA-products</i>	<i>All advertising is prohibited</i>
4 Sales of MDMA-products between companies	Similar to pharmaceutical legislation
5 <i>Sales of MDMA-products to users</i>	<i>Similar to pharmaceutical legislation</i>
6 <i>Age limit purchase and/or use of ecstasy</i>	<i>Age limit is 18 years</i>
7 Punishable when selling ecstasy	Seller is punishable if the age limit is violated (however, not applicable in this model)
8 Legal requirements for selling	Only license holders may sell ecstasy
9 Pricing policy for sale of ecstasy to users	A legally determined minimum price
10 Quality rules MDMA-products	Quality requirements are laid down by law
11 Sanctioning of quality rules	Violation is punished severely
12 Monitoring of product quality, prevalence and incidents	Extensive
13 Health education about the use of ecstasy	The government largely subsidizes
14 Control over prevention policy	Predominantly by prevention organizations
15 Health information about the use of ecstasy	Harm reduction
16 <i>Prevention policy</i>	<i>All governmental bodies are responsible</i>
17 Production of MDMA	Similar to pharmaceutical legislation
18 <i>Export</i>	<i>Export is illegal</i>
19 International treaties	Inter se
20 Priority crime fighting	Selective *
21 Penalty for illegal production and trafficking of MDMA	Increase current maximum penalty
22 Confiscation of money and goods (criminal profits)	More expertise and effort needed

Option 1, 3, 5, 6, 16 and 18 of the optimal model were adapted. The original options in the optimal model were: (1) 'condone user quantity' as possession option, (2) 'allowed' as advertising option, (3) 'regulated' as the sales to users option, (4) 'national/regional' as the government responsible for prevention policy, (5) 'no age limits' as age limit to purchase and (6) 'export is legalized' as export option. * high priority for serious MDMA-related crime, but low priority for that of consumers.

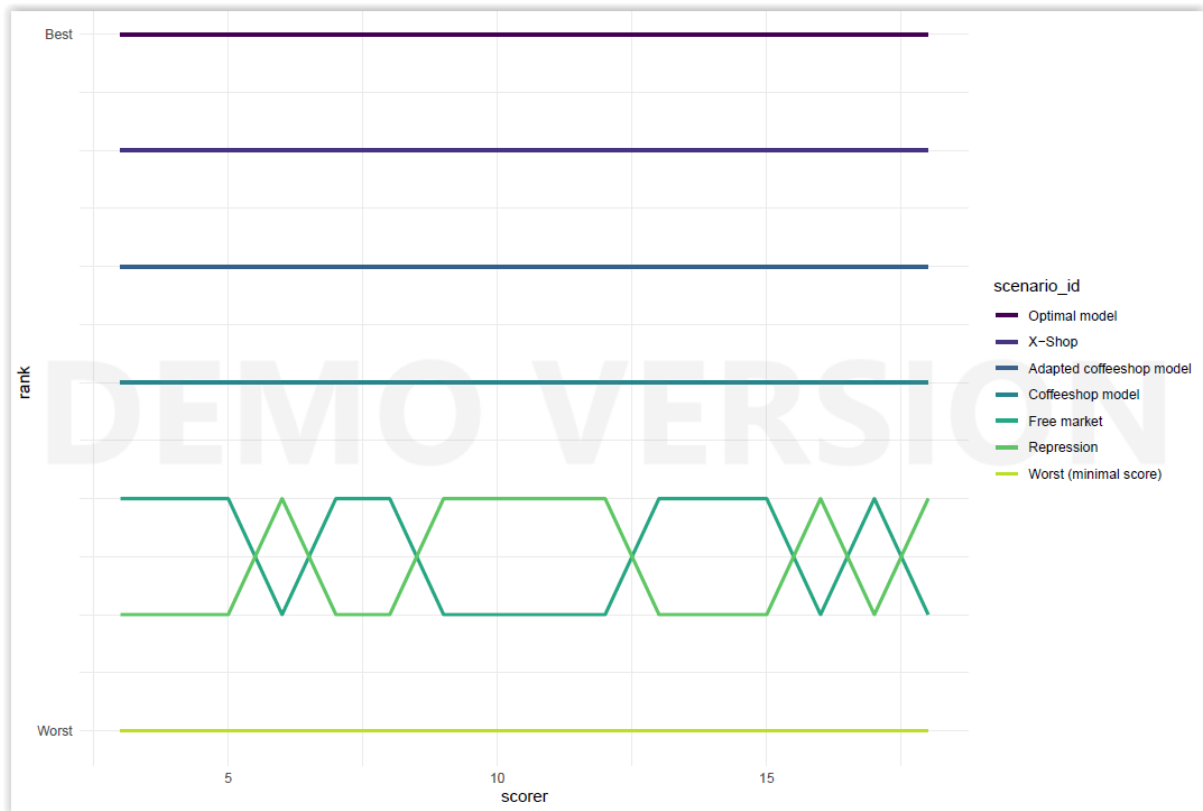


Figure S1. Rank order of the six models when the individual weighting factors of the experts are used to obtain the overall score of each model.

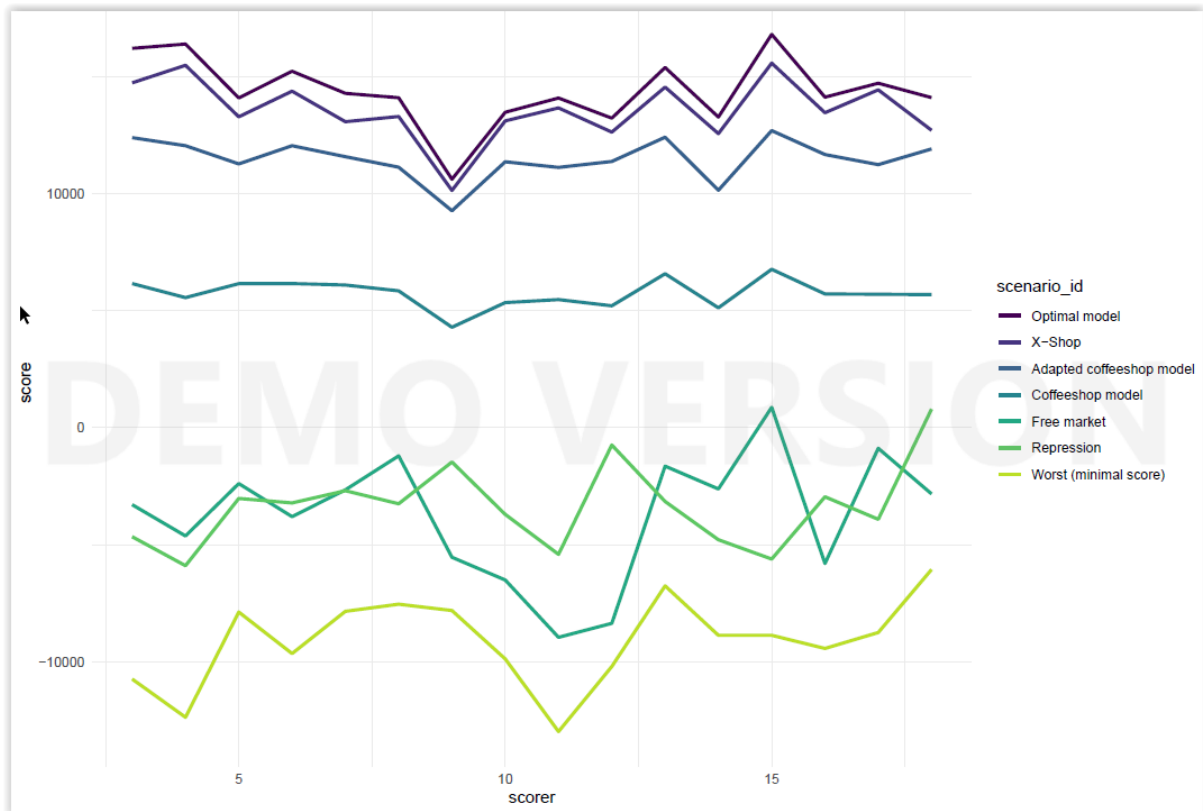


Figure S2. Overall scores of the six models using the individual weighting factors of the experts.