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International Conference

Gambling in the Czech Republic and its New Regulatory Framework

Gambling Risks

Assessing and Comparing the Risk Potentials of Different Gambling Types

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Main Questions

- I. Does gambling types differ in their potential to facilitate the development of problem gambling?
- II. How can the risk potential of gambling types and products be quantified and assessed?

Risk Factors for Problem Gambling

The development of pathological gambling is based on a complex **interaction of various risk factors** that are associated with the ***individual*** himself or herself, the **social environment** and **specific features of gambling**.

**Does gambling types differ
in their potential to facilitate the
development of problem gambling?**

Epidemiological Studies

National surveys in Germany, UK, Australia, USA:

- ▶ highest prevalence rates of problem gamblers for slot machines, table games in casinos, sports betting and poker
- ▶ low rates for scratch cards and other lotteries
- ▶ Odds-ratios:
 - Lotteries 0.4-0.8
 - Scratch Cards 1.9
 - Sport betting 5.3-10.7
 - Table games in casinos 8.5
 - Poker 11.7
 - Slot machines 10.6-18.2

(Bühringer et al., 2007; Buth & Stöver, 2008; Meyer et al., 2011; BZgA, 2012; Sproston, Erens & Orford, 2000; Wardle et al., 2007; Productivity Commission, 2010)

Studies on Treatment Demands

- ▶ Germany, patient survey (Meyer & Hayer, 2005)
79.3% slot machines
6% 'Lotto 6 out of 49'
- ▶ UK, patient survey (GamCare, 2007)
most frequent casino table games, betting, slot machines
2% scratch cards, 0.5% lotteries
- ▶ Austria, patient survey (Spielsuchthilfe, 2007)
84% slot machines
13.4–21.3% roulette, betting and casino games
1.9% scratch cards, 4.2% lotteries

**How can the risk potential of gambling
types and products
be quantified and assessed?**

Assessment of Risk Potential

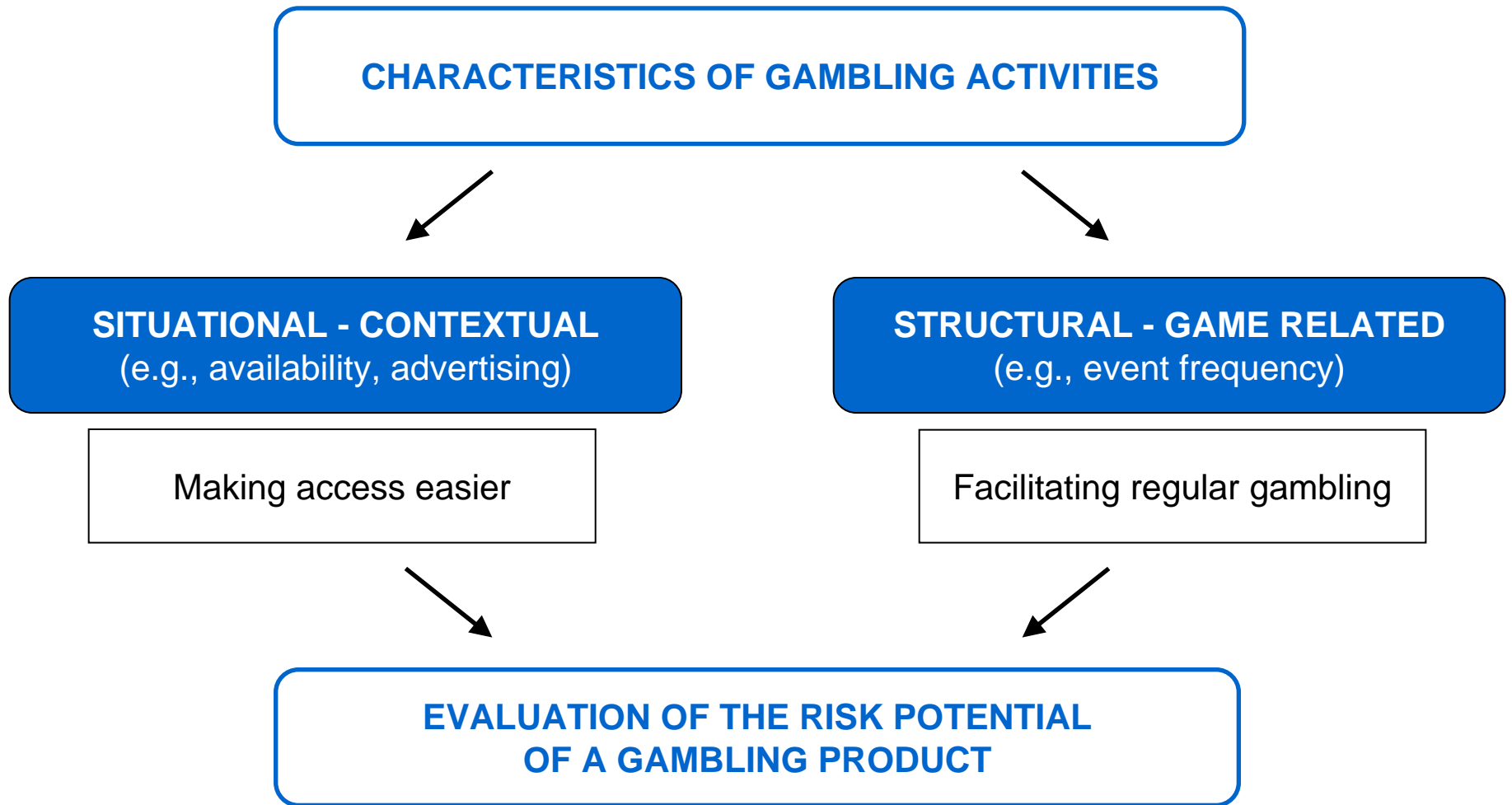
I. Odds ratio (OR) in epidemiological studies

- ▲ given validity
- ▼ require large sample size
- ▼ no distinction between gambling products
- ▼ do not cover changes in gambling market

II. Criteria based on characteristics of gambling activities

- ▼ require empirical validation
- ▲ distinction between gambling products possible
- ▲ evaluation of future products possible

Characteristics of Gambling Activities



Abbott (2007); Parke & Griffiths (2007)

Assessment Tools

GAM-GaRD (Griffiths et al., 2008)

Gambling Assessment Measure – Guidance about Responsible Design

10 items with divergent scaling and scores:

- event frequency
- multiple game/stake opportunities
- stake size
- prize-back ratio
- jackpot size
- near-miss
- opportunities
- continuity of play
- accessibility
- currency/ease of pay
- illusion of control features

Assessment Tools

Product Evaluation Method for Reducing Potential Hazards (Veikkaus, 2008)

8 items:

- basic product elements
- risk of financial loss
- prize and stake structure
- role of skills
- chance and rules
- product and environment attractiveness
- social aspects
- additional attractive aspects
- accessibility

Assessment Tools

ASTERIG (Wissenschaftliches Forum Glücksspiel, 2010; Peren, 2011; Blanco et al., 2013)

Assessment Tool to Measure and Evaluate the Risk Potential of Gambling Products

Risk potential criteria	Weight (fix)	Score (0-10)	Range of value	
Event frequency	8	0 - 10	0 - 80	
Interval of payback	6	0 - 10	0 - 60	
Jackpot	5	0 - 10	0 - 50	
Continuity of playing	8	0 - 10	0 - 80	
Chance of Winning	6	0 - 10	0 - 60	
Availability	7	0 - 10	0 - 70	
Multiple playing-/ stake opportunities	6	0 - 10	0 - 60	
Variable stake amount	6	0 - 10	0 - 60	
Sensory product design	4	0 - 10	0 - 40	
Near wins	6	0 - 10	0 - 60	
Totals	62	0 - 100	0 - 620	Risk score 0 - 10

Summary

- ▶ Relationships between certain gambling types and specific risk potentials are empirically supported by epidemiological studies and studies on treatment demands.
- ▶ Components of gambling activities can be divided into situational and structural characteristics which can serve as criteria for the assessment of the risk potential of gambling products.
- ▶ Assessment tools allow an objective evaluation and comparison of the risk potential of present and future gambling products based on those criteria.



Thank you for your attention!

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