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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

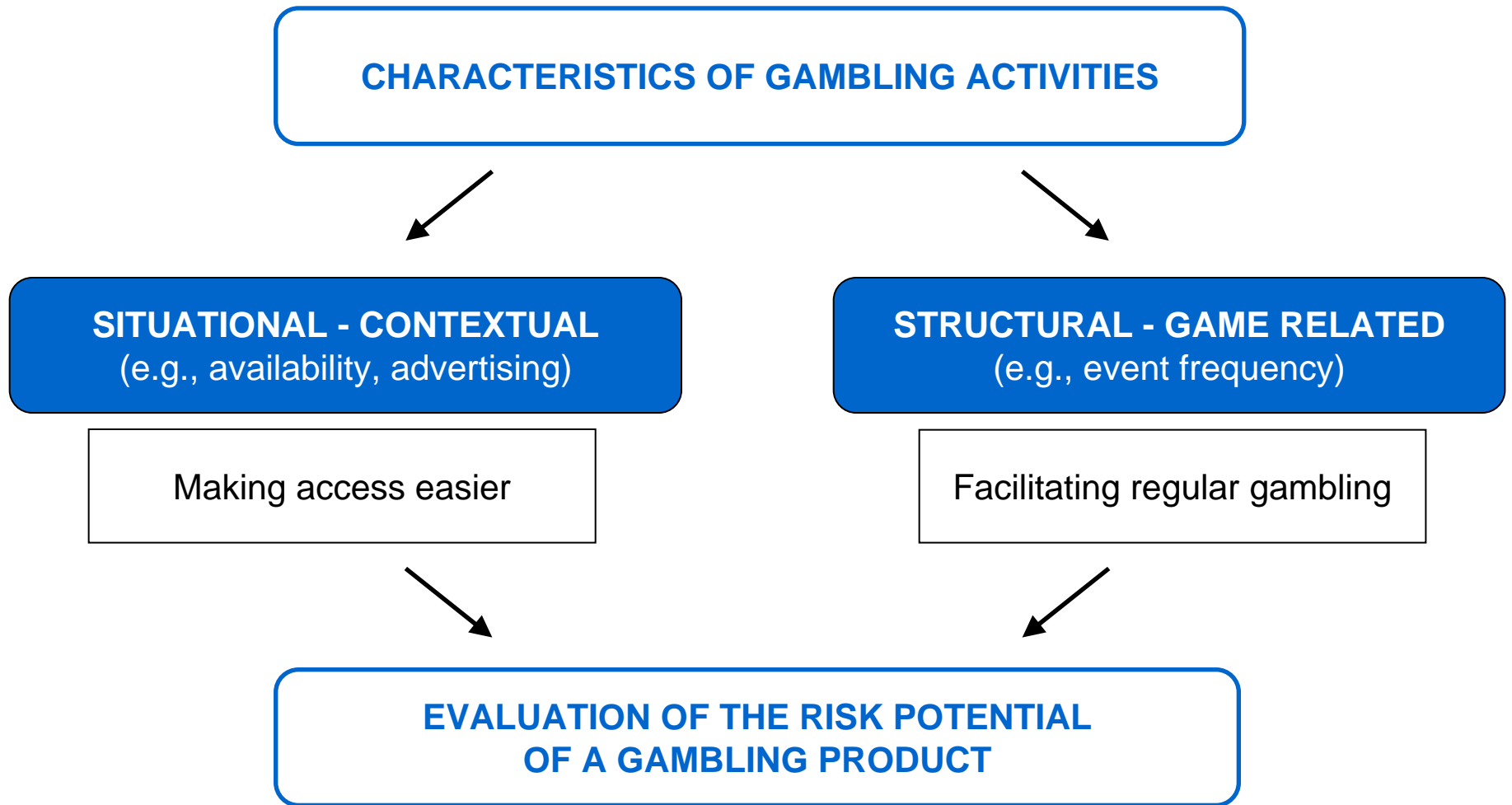
- ▲ given validity
- ▼ require large sample size
- ▼ no distinction between gambling products
- ▼ do not cover changes in gambling market

## 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	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>0 - 100</b>	<b>0 - 620</b>	<b>Risk score 0 - 10</b>

# 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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