

# Cross-boarder gambling in Europe and the role of the Internet

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# Topics addressed:

1. Gambling across borders
2. Internet Gambling
3. Legislation
4. Conclusions



# 1. Gambling across borders; offline examples

- Divonne & Evian
- Austria; Granska Gora
- Val D'Aosta; Switzerland & Italy
- Malta & Sicily
- Novo Gorica; Italy & Slovenia





## 2. Internet Gambling

- Over 800 gambling sites available
- Low threshold, easy access
- Risks: **yes** Regulations: **no**
- 80% of excessive Internet use is pornography related
- 2% is gambling



# 3. Legislation

- “ Continental traditional Western Europe ”
  - Italy, Spain, France, Belgium, Germany, Portugal
- “ More tolerant and liberal Europe ”
  - UK, Scandinavian countries, Netherlands



- **Italian example**
- Offline advertising campaign for online gambling
- No law enforcement action undertaken
- Public debate in media
- “Stretching’ existing law



- **Tiny jurisdictions**

- Andorra, Liechtenstein, Gibraltar have granted licenses for online gambling
- San Marino is considering to do so
- Isle of Man: licenses based on the Budd Report by the UK government



- Dutch example (1)
  - Holland Casino Digital
  - Governed by the company's Responsible Gambling Policy
  - Monitored by Jellinek, Dutch Institute for Mental Health, GA selfhelp



- **Dutch example (2)**
- Online & offline registration
- First 30 days: points only
- Loss-limit (fixed for 18 - 21 y.o.)
- Online entry ban
- Offline entry ban = online entry ban
- Hyperlinks to addiction services
- E-mail counseling services



# Legislation; summary

- Big differences among EU states.
- Will EU be able to bridge the gap?
- Current status quo will only benefit unregulated growth of offline and online industry, thus putting more and more EU residents in 'at risk' position.



## 4. Conclusions

- No regulation in isolation
- People will gamble, at 'best value for money'
- Flexible regulations most successful
- European harmonization will benefit all involved
- Denial is not a river in Egypt!



**Thank you for your attention!**

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