



GAMBLING IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC IN 2016

This issue of “Focused” contains a summary of the annual report on gambling in the Czech Republic produced by the National Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Addiction (the National Focal Point). Covering the year 2016, it also addresses some major developments from early 2017, a year which brought a dramatic change in the legal framework of the operation of gambling. The report presents the latest information and trends concerning gambling-specific regulation and policies, the gambling market, gambling activities, problem gambling, the social implications of gambling, and gambling-related crime, as well as the prevention and treatment of problem gambling.

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Executive Summary

- > Since 2014 the issue of gambling has been incorporated into the 2010–2018 National Drug Policy Strategy and the related Gambling Action Plan for the Period 2015–2018, which was approved by the Government in November 2015.
- > Since 1 January 2017 a new legal framework for gambling has been laid down by Act No. 186/2016 Coll., on gambling (“the Gambling Act”), and a new piece of legislation, Act No. 187/2016 Coll., on the taxation of gambling. The new legislation opened the market for operators from the European Economic Area, introduced more rigorous regulation, and made it possible to operate the majority of gambling activities online.
- > The new gambling law introduces a number of measures to prevent problem gambling, such as the mandatory registration of players engaging in gambling on electronic gaming machines (EGMs), fixed-odds betting, and online gambling, the obligation on the part of operators to make self-commitment measures available to players (including limits on the amounts of bets and losses and the number of log-ons and the time period spent on one’s user account), the possibility of self-exclusion and statutory exclusion from gambling (pertaining to individuals on subsistence allowances or in personal bankruptcy and those who were ordered by a court to refrain from gambling) and the obligation to provide information (about gambling-related harm, the length of the gambling

session, an overview of the total net loss, etc.).

The operator is also not allowed to provide a person engaging in a gambling activity with any bonuses in the form of food, drinks, tobacco products, or stimulants. In addition, the new legal regulation does not allow for "special arrangement establishments", i.e., for example, restaurants with EGMs). Gambling venues will have to be closed from 3 a.m. to 10 a.m. and after 120 minutes of gambling on EGMs a person must take a mandatory 15-minute break.

- > Gambling activities permitted under Act No. 202/1990 Coll., on lotteries and similar games ("the Lotteries Act"), effective until the end of 2016, can still be operated in accordance with the Lotteries Act, specifically during its transitional period of effect, until the end of 2022. For the majority of EGMs this permit should expire by the end of 2017. Thus, for a transitional period, there can still be special arrangements establishments, gambling venues operated according to the Lotteries Act need not close during the night hours, and the mandatory break between gambling sessions need not be adhered to (see above). Within one year following the Gambling Act becoming effective (i.e. from 1 January 2018), the gambling activities operated according to the Lotteries Act must comply with the requirements laid down in the Gambling Act concerning registration and user accounts (in EGMs), registration (in fixed-odds betting), and registration and the obligation to provide relevant information (in online gambling). While the majority of EGMs were operated in 2017 without the adoption of the measures mentioned above, as of June 2017 the obligation to provide relevant information and offer self-exclusion options had been fulfilled by all the major operators of web-based gambling in the Czech Republic.
- > Since 1 January 2017, when the Gambling Act became effective, the operation of land-based gambling has been overseen by the Customs Administration of the Czech Republic, which is authorised to conduct criminal proceedings in addition to administrative proceedings. In the first three months of 2017 the Customs Administration carried out 323 inspections and seized 234 EGM devices operated in contravention of the law.
- > An analysis of online traffic showed that in 2016 websites providing unlicensed gambling activities were visited twice as much as those offering authorised gambling. According to the Ministry of Finance, at the beginning of 2017 90% of the unlicensed operators of online gambling

exited the Czech market thanks to the effect of the Gambling Act. In the first five months of 2017 the Ministry of Finance initiated six sets of administrative proceedings aimed at blocking unauthorised gambling websites. There was also a rise in the rate of the detection of criminal activities associated with the operation of gambling.

- > There is a growing tendency in municipalities regulating the availability of EGMs within their territories using generally binding ordinances ("municipal ordinances"). In 2016 such ordinances had been adopted in 621 municipalities, which is almost 10% of all the municipalities in the Czech Republic. There is a growing proportion of ordinances which completely ban the operation of EGMs (these accounted for 59% of all the municipal ordinances in 2016).
- > As a result of regulation at the local level, the supply of EGMs has been moved outside the boundaries of the municipalities enforcing their gambling-specific ordinances, free transportation is offered to "commuting" gamblers, and instances of the illicit operation of EGMs, especially in the form of what are termed "quiz machines" and illicit gambling venues, has become more common.
- > The preliminary data suggests that in 2016 the money lost by players on gambling in the Czech Republic amounted to a total of CZK 39.3 billion (29% more than in 2015), which is also the aggregate gross income of gambling operators. CZK 196.4 billion was wagered in gambling and CZK 157.1 billion was paid out as prize money.
- > The largest amount of money was gambled away on EGMs, which accounted for 63% of the market in terms of the amount of losses, followed by online fixed-odds betting (13%) and numerical lotteries (12%). The share of online fixed-odds betting is growing in the long term.
- > In 2016 the rate of the contribution from EGMs grew to 28% (+ a daily fee of CZK 80 for each EGM) and to 23% for all the other gambling activities. On 1 January 2017 the rate of tax on EGMs increased further, to 35%. In 2016, public budgets thus received CZK 10.5 billion worth of contributions from gambling, which was CZK 2.4 billion (30%) more than in 2015. Following the relatively stable gambling-generated revenues for public budgets in the period 2013-2015, amounting to some CZK 8 billion, there was a dramatic increase in income for both the national budget and the aggregate municipal budgets, which was due to the growing market and the increase in the taxation rate. EGM-specific contributions amounted to CZK 8.0 billion (77%) and contributions from the remaining gambling activities generated CZK 2.5 billion (23%). In addition, the operators of numerical and instant lotteries and fixed-odds betting contributed almost CZK 700 million to the Czech Olympic Committee.
- > As of the end of 2016 a total of 57,452 EGMs were authorised in the Czech Republic, with 8,037 of those being slot machines licensed by municipalities. Furthermore, 2,300 live casino games were authorised. The number of EGMs has been declining since 2011, when it climaxed at almost 102,000 machines. From 2015 to 2016 the number of EGMs dropped by 4.8%. In addition, the number of slot machines licensed by municipalities



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in gambling venues and special arrangements establishments declined by 20.5%.

- > At the end of 2016 EGMs and live games licensed by the Ministry of Finance were available in 4,061 gambling venues, casinos, and special arrangements establishments (the number of gambling venues where only municipality-licensed slot machines are operated is not centrally recorded). The total number comprised 3,423 gambling venues and special arrangements establishments and 638 casinos. The number of gambling outlets dropped by 16.0% against the previous year. While there was a dramatic year-on-year decline in the number of gambling venues and special arrangement establishments (by 875, i.e. 20.4%), the number of casinos rose by 100 (18.6%). However, the majority of the casinos are effectively gambling venues, as they are permitted to offer not more than one or two live games in addition to EGMs (in 2016 such outlets accounted for 73.7% of gambling establishments).
- > In the last 12 months 20–30% of survey participants had engaged in lotteries, 10–15% in land-based fixed-odds betting, 4–6% in EGMs or live casino games, and 6–10% had gambled online. With the exception of lotteries, where the level of experience appears relatively equal, men reported a rate of participation in gambling activities in the last 12 months that was approximately four to five times higher than that of women. In addition to lotteries, men reported fixed-odds betting as the most common gambling activity they had engaged in. Women, too, were most likely to report participation in fixed-odds betting, as well as gambling on EGMs and engaging in live games.
- > The surveys conducted from 2012 to 2016 (three independent series are available) indicate that the levels of experience with gambling among the population grew between 2012 and 2015. The data generated across studies seems to be consistent in showing that in 2016 the levels of gambling did not exceed the highs reached in the previous years. A decline was experienced as regards all gambling activities other than lotteries, i.e. EGMs and live casino games, land-based fixed-odds betting, and online gambling. There was also a decline in the level of gambling in the last 12 months among those in the young adult age category (15–34 years).
- > In 2016 a school survey on a scale similar to that of the 2015 ESPAD survey was conducted in the Czech Republic. Gambling in the last 12 months was reported by a total of 11.2% of the 16-year-old students participating in the study (18.2% of the boys and 2.8% of the girls). As in the previous years, the students were most likely to have engaged in online gambling. The boys reported a higher level of gambling, in particular as regards online fixed-odds betting. On the contrary, the girls were more likely to participate in lotteries.
- > The data from 2016 suggests a slight increase in the number of people at risk of problem gambling (the estimate for 2016 being over 500,000 individuals). There was also an increase in the number of those falling within the highest risk category, i.e. pathological gamblers (80,000–120,000 people). Players on slot machines and those engaging in online fixed-odds betting and other types of web-based gambling appeared to be at the greatest risk of gambling-related problems. Women accounted for about one fifth of the problem gamblers. 3.9% of the respondents from the ESPAD school survey were found to be at risk of problem gambling, which is equivalent to approximately 13,000 people in the 15–19 age category.
- > The most serious socioeconomic consequence of problem gambling for individuals and the people close to them is indebtedness. In 2016 the average debt incurred by problem gamblers registered with debt counselling services amounted to CZK 1.2 million.
- > Over 16% of the offenders currently serving a prison sentence committed a theft to fund their gambling or to pay off their gambling-related debts.
- > In 2016 the Methodological Recommendations on the Primary Prevention of Risk Behaviour among Children and Students at Schools and Education Facilities were extended to include Appendix 21, which addresses the issue of gambling. In 2016 the Government Council for Drug Policy Coordination supported a total of nine projects aimed specifically at preventing gambling. Společnost Podané ruce, a public service company, issued a Czech version of the “Stacked Deck” prevention curriculum dedicated to the prevention of gambling among children and adolescents and piloted it in the Czech setting. There was an increase in the number of web-based projects aimed at raising public awareness about professional help available to gamblers and the risks related to gambling.
- > A survey conducted among addiction treatment services in 2016 showed that in the Czech Republic there are over 90 programmes that cater to problem gamblers. Only 10–20 of these, however, can be referred to as programmes that specialise in working with problem gamblers (i.e. programmes with staff, a site, or time specifically dedicated to this target group). Important services for pathological gamblers include debt and financial counselling; however, the availability and intensity of these in addictological services is low. Web-based professional help is on the rise.
- > The level of the uptake of treatment by problem gamblers remains low. Professional care is provided mainly by addictological and psychiatric facilities, both inpatient and outpatient, that provide counselling and treatment. Annually, 1,300–1,500 pathological gamblers receive treatment in outpatient psychiatric clinics and 500–550 admissions to psychiatric inpatient facilities are recorded. Support for programmes as part of the subsidy proceedings administered by the Government Council for Drug Policy Coordination is growing: 58 programmes providing services to a total of 1,214 problem gamblers, i.e. 67.2% clients more than in 2015, were supported in two rounds of subsidy proceedings in 2016. ✕

Gambling Regulation and Policy

> Since 2014 the issue of gambling has been incorporated into the 2010–2018 National Drug Policy Strategy. The Gambling Action Plan for the Period 2015–2018 was approved by the Government in November 2015 as a tool to facilitate the implementation of the Strategy. The priorities of the Action Plan are aimed at raising public awareness of gambling, preventing the development of problem gambling and its early identification, increasing the availability of relevant helping services and the level of problem gamblers' contacts with such services, ensuring the strict enforcement of regulatory measures, curtailing the illicit market, and pursuing a comprehensive gambling policy, including funding and regular monitoring. The progress evaluation conducted in 2016 identified the need to strengthen enforcement activities in relation to compliance with the ban on gambling by individuals under 18 and the Action Plan was extended to include a new activity.

Replacing Act No. 202/1990 Coll., on lotteries and similar games ("the Lotteries Act"), Act No. 186/2016 Coll., on gambling ("the Gambling Act"), and Act No. 187/2016 Coll., on the taxation of gambling, became effective on 1 January 2017. The Gambling Act opened the market for operators

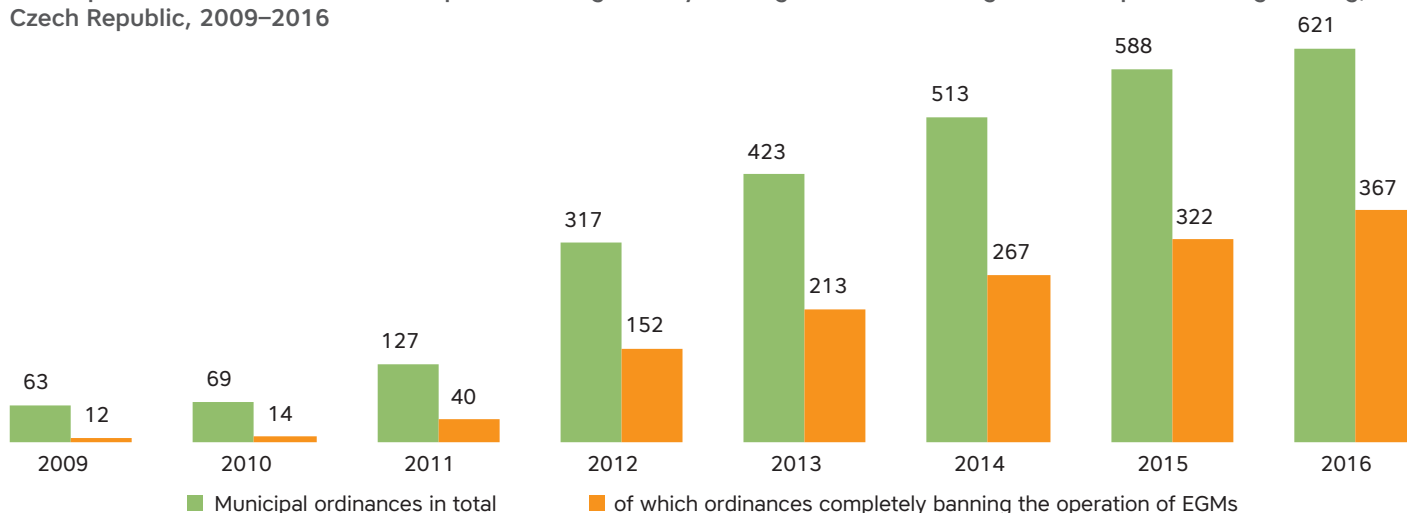
from the European Economic Area, made regulatory measures both clearer and more specific, and made it possible to operate the majority of gambling activities online.

The Gambling Act incorporates a number of measures aimed at preventing problem gambling. However, they have not been implemented in practice to a large extent, as gambling activities permitted by the Lotteries Act can still be operated under this law during a transitional period, but not later than until the end of 2022. Permissions under the Lotteries Act applicable to the vast majority of EGMs should expire by the end of 2017.

The Lotteries Act prohibited consumer contests (or consumer lotteries), with the exception of consumer lotteries involving non-monetary prizes and those in which the sums of non-monetary prizes per one operator did not exceed CZK 200,000 and the values of individual payouts did not exceed CZK 20,000. The Gambling Act does not regulate consumer contests. Since 2017, according to the law on the taxation of gambling, they have thus been operated under the same regime as advertising contests and draws. Examples of deregulated consumer contests in 2017 include the contest

GRAPH 1

Development of the number of municipalities with generally binding ordinances to regulate the operation of gambling, Czech Republic, 2009–2016



Effects of Regulation at the Municipal Level

The situation concerning the supply of gambling opportunities in the city of Brno in relation to the issue of addiction was examined by the Analysis of the Drug Situation in Brno, a study which found that the market had responded to the ban on EGMs effective in Brno since 1 January 2015 in several ways:

- > illicit gambling venues and "quiz machines" emerged,
- > the supply of EGMs moved outside the Brno city limits,
- > gambling operators began to offer refunds of transportation costs for "commuting" gamblers,

- > the level of online gambling increased. In many places where there used to be gambling venues in Brno, betting shops were opened. In some places conventional slot machines were replaced by live betting terminals.

Gamblers in recovery seemed to welcome the regulation by the city authority, as it is particularly important in terms of relapse prevention. Those who wanted to quit gambling found the regulation helpful, but those who were determined to keep gambling travelled out of town in search of opportunities to play on EGMs.

run by the Blesk daily for a total of CZK 17.6 million worth of prizes and the contest of the Globus chain for prizes with a total value of CZK 15 million.

Municipalities can regulate the availability of certain types of gambling activities (including EGMs, bingo, live casino games, and small-scale tournaments) on their territory by means of generally binding ordinances ("municipal ordinances"). They can either ban certain types of gambling on their territories completely or regulate the time and place of the operation of such gambling activities.

The number of municipalities that have issued ordinances to regulate the supply of gambling opportunities keeps growing. The greatest increase was recorded between 2011 and 2012. As of 31 December 2016 ordinances to regulate gambling were in effect in a total of 621 municipalities (10% of all the municipalities in the Czech Republic), which is 33 municipalities more than in the previous year. The proportion of municipalities which have imposed a complete ban on the operation of EGMs on their territories is also growing. While in 2009 such ordinances were adopted in 19% of all the municipalities with gambling-specific ordinances in place, in 2016 they had been introduced in 59% of the municipalities (Graph 1).

The regional capitals that have introduced a general ban on the operation of EGMs within their limits are Brno, České Budějovice, and Jihlava. ✕

Gambling Supply

> As of the end of 2016 a total of 57,452 EGMs were authorised in the Czech Republic, of which 49,415 were licensed by the Ministry of Finance, with 8,037 slot machines being licensed by municipalities. There were 2,300 live casino games with authorisations. The number of EGMs has been declining since 2011, when it climaxed at almost 102,000 machines (Graph 2). From 2015 to 2016 the total number of EGMs dropped by 2,879 (-4.8%). As of 31 December 2016 the largest numbers of authorised EGMs

per 10,000 inhabitants were in the Karlovy Vary (106.5) and Pilsen regions (79.1), the smallest in the Vysočina region (26.0).

As of the end of 2016 EGMs and live games licensed by the Ministry of Finance were available in 4,061 gambling venues, casinos, and special arrangements establishments (there were 4,836 such outlets in 2015). Hence, the total number of all types of gambling outlets fell by 16% year on year. The total number comprised 3,423 gambling venues and special arrangements establishments and 638 casinos. The declining trend in the number of gambling venues and special arrangements establishments continued (a year-on-year decline by 20.3%, more or less the same as the drop recorded from 2014 to 2015). On the other hand, since 2011 the share of casinos in the total number of gambling outlets has been rising: establishments registered as casinos accounted for almost 16% of all the outlets in 2016 (Graph 3). However, the majority of the casinos are effectively gambling venues, as they are permitted to offer not more than one or two live games in addition to EGMs (73.7% in 2016).

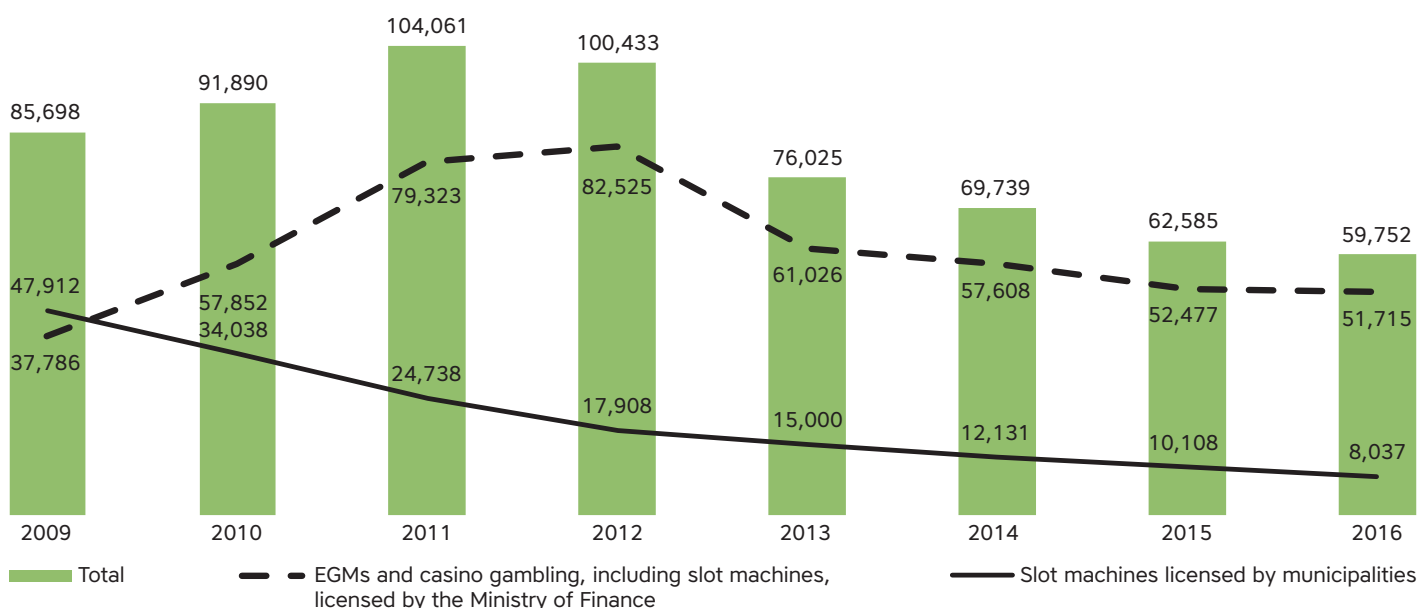
In terms of distribution by districts, as of 31 December 2016 the largest numbers of gambling outlets per 10,000 inhabitants were recorded in the districts of Cheb (9.0), Hodonín (7.8), and Břeclav and Uherské Hradiště (7.7 each). The largest numbers of casinos per 10,000 inhabitants were reported in the districts of Teplice (25.7), Pilsen-City (23.8), Ostrava (18.5), Liberec (17.3), Cheb (16.3), Ústí nad Labem (13.4), Jablonec nad Nisou (13.3), Děčín (13.0), and Prague (10.1). As in the previous years, Prague had the greatest absolute number of casinos (129, while in 2015 there were 158 casinos).

The most significant year-on-year changes in the number of gambling venues and casinos were observed in the cities of Prague and Brno. A total of 86 gambling outlets (57 gambling venues and 29 casinos) ceased to exist in Prague, 83 (81 gambling venues and two casinos) in Brno. Other major drops in the numbers of gambling establishments were recorded in the Olomouc (by 34), Karviná (by 33), and Ostrava (by 30) districts.

As of 1 January 2017 fixed-odds betting was operated by 12 companies through a total of 8,009 outlets with unique

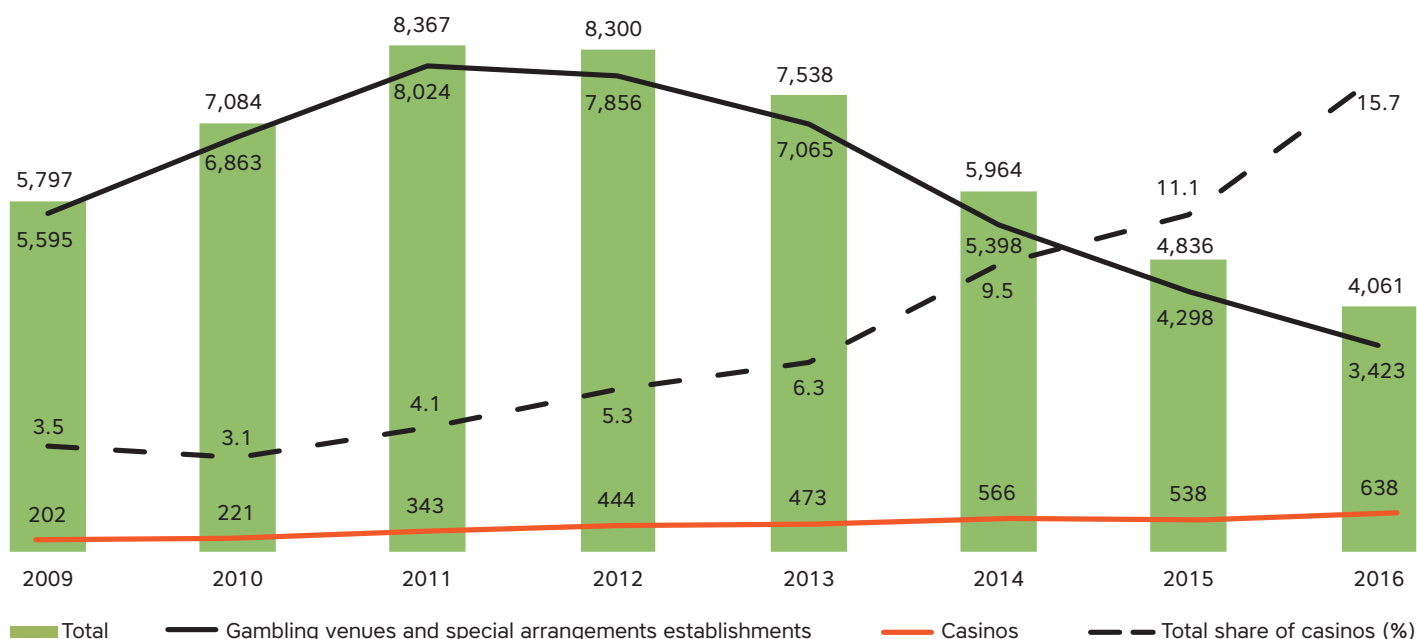
GRAPH 2

Number of EGMs and live casino games from 2009 to 2016



GRAPH 3

Number of gambling venues, including special arrangements establishments, and casinos, 2009–2016



addresses (while the number is the same as in the previous year, it is 5.2% more than in 2015). There were 7.6 betting shops per 10,000 inhabitants of the Czech Republic. The greatest density of such establishments was in the Zlín region (11.2 outlets per 10,000 inhabitants) and the Karlovy Vary region (10.5). The largest numbers of betting shops were reported in the Moravia-Silesia (1,145, i.e. 14.3%), South Moravia (891, i.e. 11.1%), and Central Bohemia regions (853, i.e. 10.7%). ✕

Economic Indicators

> The preliminary data suggests that in 2016 the money lost by players on gambling in the Czech Republic amounted to a total of CZK 39.3 billion. CZK 196.4 billion was wagered on gambling and CZK 157.1 billion was paid out as prize money (this is the money actually paid in and out). Since 2014 the amount of money gambled has been growing; in 2016 it was 59% higher than in 2013, with a year-on-year increase by 29%. The level of gambling operators' income hovered around

CZK 30 billion from 2008 to 2015. In 2016 it rose by 29% against the previous year to CZK 39.3 billion (Graph 4).

The total amount of money wagered on gambling (bets) indicates a marked increase in fixed-odds betting; its share has been rising dramatically since 2008. While in 2008 fixed-odds betting accounted for 9.3% of the market, it represented no less than 28.8% in 2016. In particular, this increase is due to the boom of online fixed-odds betting, which was practically non-existent in the Czech Republic in 2008, but by 2016 over one quarter (25.6%) of all the money gambled was being put into online fixed-odds betting. Since 2011 EGMs appear to have been losing their predominance on the market: their 77.1% share in 2011 dropped to some 60% from 2014 to 2016 (it was exactly 60.2% in 2016). The years 2014 and 2015 differed dramatically in terms of the market shares of slot machines. Having dropped from 58.9% to 11.3% between 2002 and 2014, the share of slot machines almost doubled against the previous year in 2015 (from 11.3% to 21.1%, the increase probably being due to the growth in the number of slots in casinos), then going down again to 18.7% in 2016. Since 2002 the share of live casino games has continued to decline (from 14.4% in 2002 to

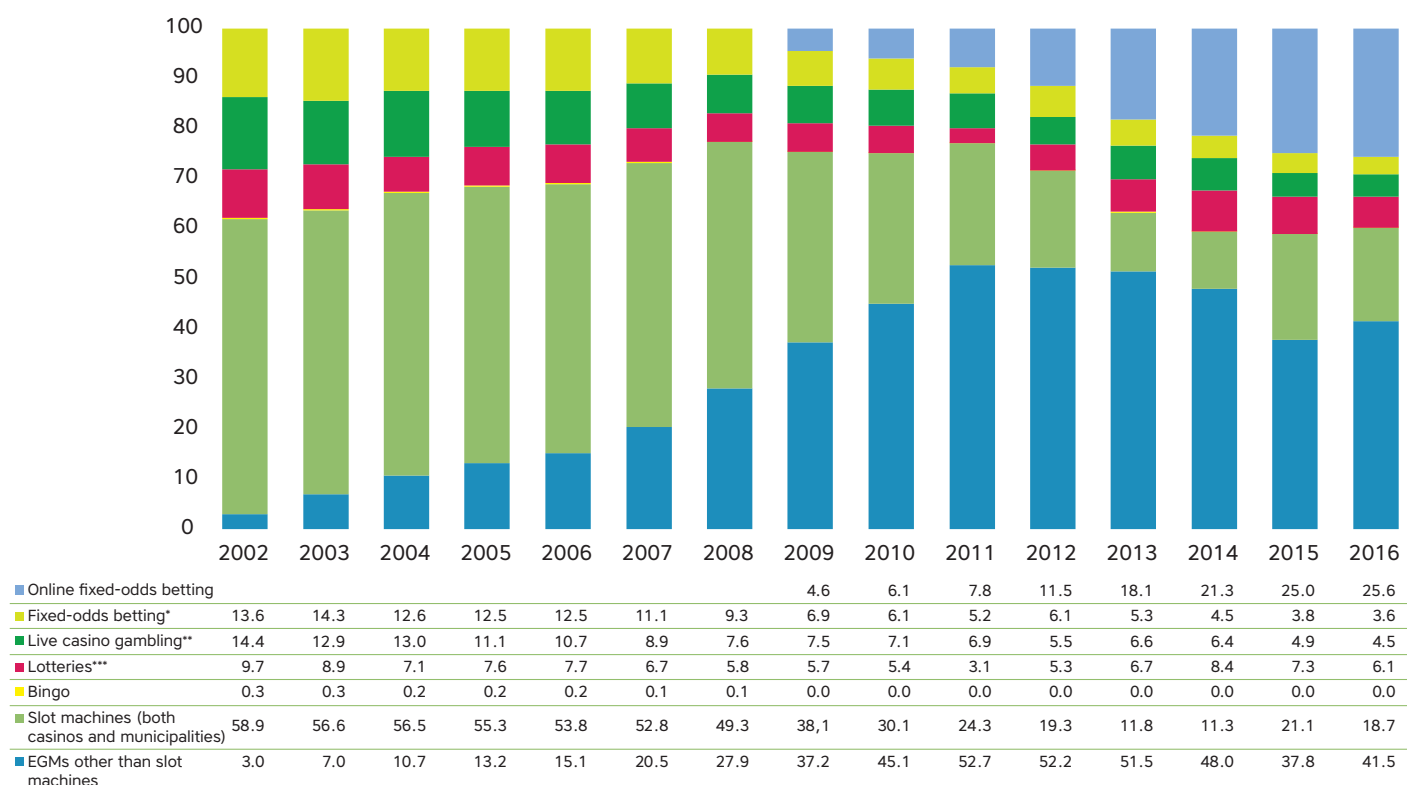
GRAPH 4

Volume of the gambling market in the Czech Republic, 2002–2016 (CZK billion)



GRAPH 5

Market shares of different gambling activities according to the amount of money gambled, 2002–2016



Note: * including fixed-odds, horse-race, and pool betting, ** including live casino-based gambling and card tournaments, *** including lotteries with monetary or tangible prizes, raffles, numerical lotteries, and instant lotteries

4.5% in 2016). The share of lotteries dropped by two thirds between 2002 and 2011 (from 9.7% to 3.1%), then it grew for three years to reach 8.4% in 2014 and it has since declined to record a level of 6.1% in 2016 (Graph 5).

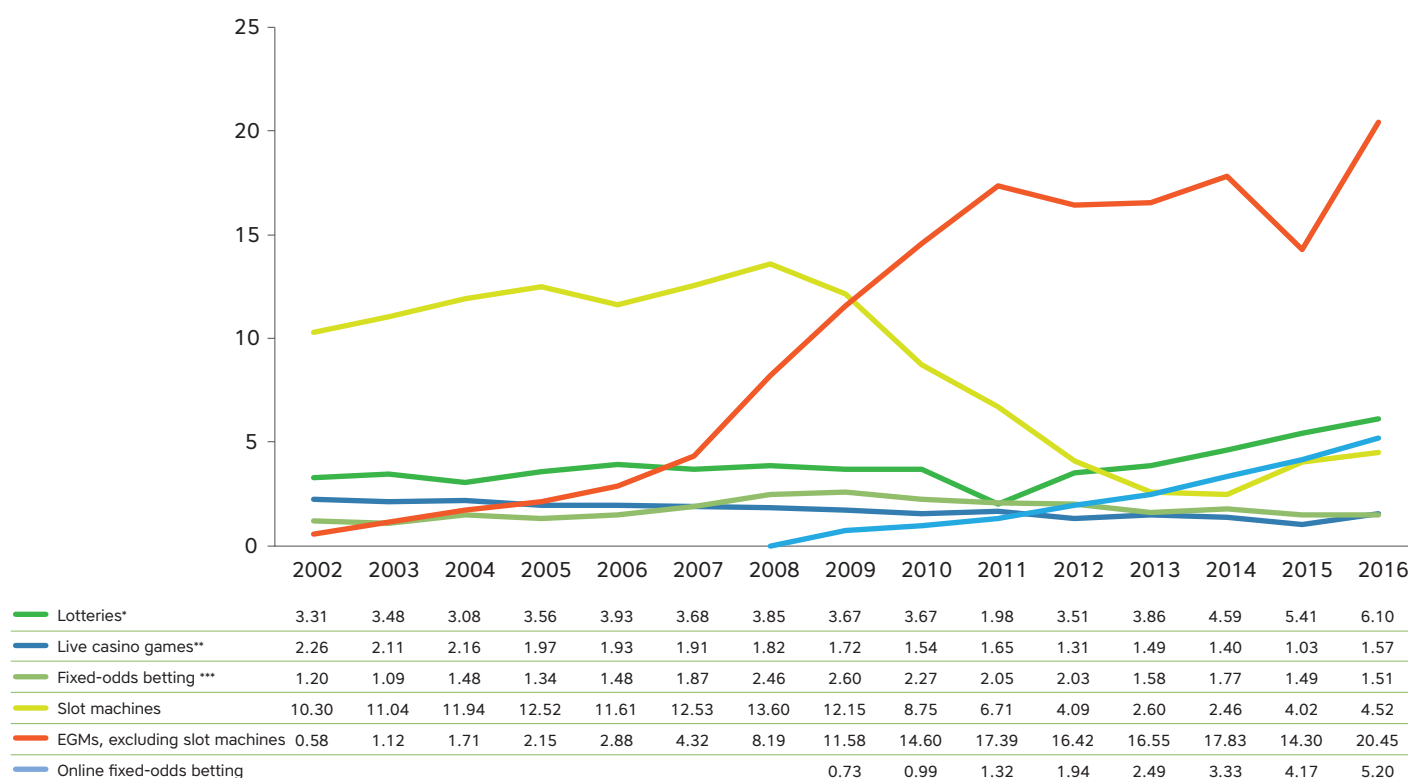
Graph 6 shows the development of the gambling market in the past 15 years by gambling activities in absolute figures of gambling income. The volume of money lost (gambling operators' income) by individuals engaging in online fixed-odds betting has been growing rapidly since 2008, when the data about this gambling activity was not collected. While in 2009 and 2010 players lost less than a billion Czech crowns, in 2014 the amount exceeded three billion and in 2016 it reached CZK 5.2 billion. The amounts of money gambled away annually on slot machines declined from CZK 13.6 billion in 2008 to CZK 2.5 billion in 2014. In the last two years it has shown a rising tendency, reaching CZK 4.5 billion in 2016. There has been a sustained rise in the annual amounts of money lost in gambling on other EGMs. Its greatest acceleration was recorded from 2007 to 2011, with the largest year-on-year increase reported in 2016, when, following a previous drop in 2015, the amount rose from CZK 14.3 billion to CZK 20.4 billion, i.e. by CZK 6.1 billion (42.9%). In comparison with CZK 2.0 billion in 2011, the amount of money lost by Czechs on lotteries has more than tripled – to CZK 6.1 billion.

From 2013 to 2015 the total amount of contributions from income generated by the operation of gambling (gambling tax, in fact) reached some eight billion Czech crowns. The year 2016 witnessed a dramatic increase in both the operators' income and the rate of contributions, especially with regard to EGMs. The taxation of EGMs was raised from 20% to 28% and the daily charge for each EGM went up from CZK 55 to 80. The tax on the remaining gambling activities increased

from 20% to 23%. This was reflected in a significant increase in the total amount of contributions, which reached CZK 10.5 billion in 2016, of which CZK 8.0 billion (77%) worth of contributions was generated from the operation of EGMs and CZK 2.5 billion (33%) from other gambling activities. In total, there was a year-on-year increase in the amount of contributions by CZK 2.4 billion (29.9%). The EGM-specific contribution recorded a 31.1% increase (i.e. CZK 1.9 billion) and contributions from the remaining types of gambling rose by 26.2% (CZK 0.5 billion). According to the Lotteries Act, municipalities are the beneficiaries of some parts of the contributions from gambling. From 2013 to 2015 they were allocated 80% of the contributions from the operation of EGMs and 30% of the contributions from the operation of other types of gambling. The national budget received 20% of the contributions from EGMs and 70% of those yielded by other gambling activities. In 2016 this ratio changed as regards the main source of contributions from gambling, i.e. EGMs. Instead of the previous 20%, 37% of the contributions from EGMs were allocated to the national budget. In addition to the higher taxation and the increase in the revenues from the operation of EGMs, this was reflected in the significant growth in the income earned by the state from EGMs: more than doubled, from CZK 1.23 billion to CZK 2.67 billion. While the share earmarked for municipal budgets diminished, from 80% to 63%, thanks to increased turnover and the rise in the tax rate, in 2016 the municipalities received CZK 464 million (10%) more than in 2015. Contributions from other gambling activities forwarded to both the national budget and municipal budgets increased considerably as well (by CZK 357 and 152 billion, i.e. 26% each, respectively). In 2016, thus, CZK 4.39 billion went to the national budget and CZK 6.10 billion to the municipal budgets. The municipal budgets received CZK 5.37 billion (89%) from EGMs and

GRAPH 6

Operators' income from selected types of gambling activities, 2002–2016 (CZK billion)



Note: * including lotteries with monetary or tangible prizes, raffles, numerical lotteries, and instant lotteries, ** including live casino-based gambling and card tournaments, *** including fixed-odds, horse-race, and pool betting

TABLE 1

Contributions from gambling to the national and municipal budgets, 2013–2016 (CZK million)

Contributions from gambling		2013	2014	2015	2016
Municipal budgets	EGMs	4,878	5,015	4,905	5,369
	other gambling activities	621	512	583	735
	Total	5,499	5,527	5,488	6,104
National budget	EGMs	1,202	1,243	1,230	2,673
	other gambling activities	1,447	1,204	1,358	1,715
	Total	2,650	2,447	2,587	4,388
Public budgets in total	EGMs	6,080	6,258	6,134	8,043
	other gambling activities	2,068	1,716	1,941	2,450
	Total	8,148	7,975	8,076	10,492

CZK 0.74 billion (11%) from other types of gambling (Table 1).

In 2016 the gambling-specific income for public budgets amounted to CZK 992 per inhabitant, which was CZK 227 more than in 2015.

In addition to the contributions from gambling, in 2016 the operators of numerical and instant lotteries and fixed-odds betting remitted a little less than CZK 700 million to the Czech Olympic Committee (COC). This tax benefit on the basis of a donation in favour of the COC existed until the end of 2016.

The greatest income per inhabitant generated by gambling contributions for municipal budgets was reported by municipalities in the Znojmo and Domažlice districts, with their average municipal revenues reaching or exceeding the level of CZK 2,500 per inhabitant. Other districts with well-above-average municipal revenues per capita include Český Krumlov, Cheb, Tachov, Prachatice, and Teplice. All these cases concern districts situated on the borders with

Germany and Austria, where the income per inhabitant was higher than CZK 1,000 and grew by more than 10% in comparison with the previous year.

As regards medium-term changes in revenues for municipal budgets, since 2013 the total income of municipalities in the Prachatice and Znojmo districts generated by gambling-specific contributions has more than doubled, with the Prachatice district reporting as much as a 144% increase. Such income has also more than doubled in the Domažlice and Teplice districts. Conversely, in the medium term, income from gambling-generated contributions recorded the greatest decline in Brno, by almost 80%, and in Žďár nad Sázavou, by two thirds. The largest drops could be seen in those municipalities which had introduced strict measures to regulate gambling. The largest growth has been recorded in municipalities located in districts adjacent to Austria and Germany. ✕

Gambling in the General Population

> Following up on a research project carried out in 2012, the National Survey on Substance Use (the 2016 National Survey) was conducted on a representative sample of the adult population of the Czech Republic. The questionnaires included a segment of 25 items concerning gambling. In addition, the year 2016 saw another wave of an omnibus survey titled “The Prevalence of Drug Use among the Population of the Czech Republic” (The Prevalence of Drug Use), which also looks into the respondents’ experience with engaging in various types of gambling activities other than lotteries. Another wave of a survey on Czech citizens’ opinions about and attitudes to the issues of health care and health (the 2016 Citizen Survey) also took place in 2016. It included questions about people’s experience with all types of gambling activities. The study samples of all the surveys comprised members of the population above 15 years of age.

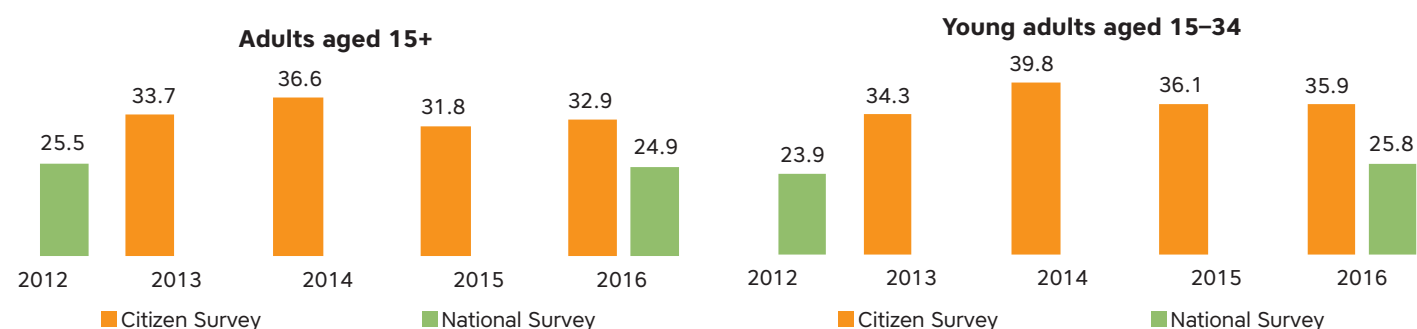
In summary, having participated in lotteries at some point of their lives was reported in 2016 by 40–50% of the population above 15, lifetime experience with land-based fixed-odds betting was indicated by 20–26%, and 16–17% had gambled

on EGMs or played live casino games, while 10–16% of the adult respondents had engaged in online gambling at least once in their lifetime. Men reported far higher levels of gambling than women, with the exception of lotteries, where both genders showed relatively equal levels of experience. In addition to lotteries, men reported fixed-odds betting as the most common gambling activity they had engaged in. Women, too, were most likely to report participation in fixed-odds betting, as well as gambling on EGMs and engaging in live games.

In the last 12 months and last 30 days, respectively, 20–30% and 10–11% had engaged in lotteries, 10–15% and 4–7% in land-based fixed-odds betting, 4–6% and 2% in EGMs and live casino games, and 6–10% and 2–4% of the respondents had gambled online. With the exception of lotteries, men reported a rate of participation in gambling activities in the last 12 months that was approximately four to five times higher than that of women, while the former’s frequency of gambling was seven to nine times higher than that of the latter as regards the time frame of the last 30 days.

GRAPH 7

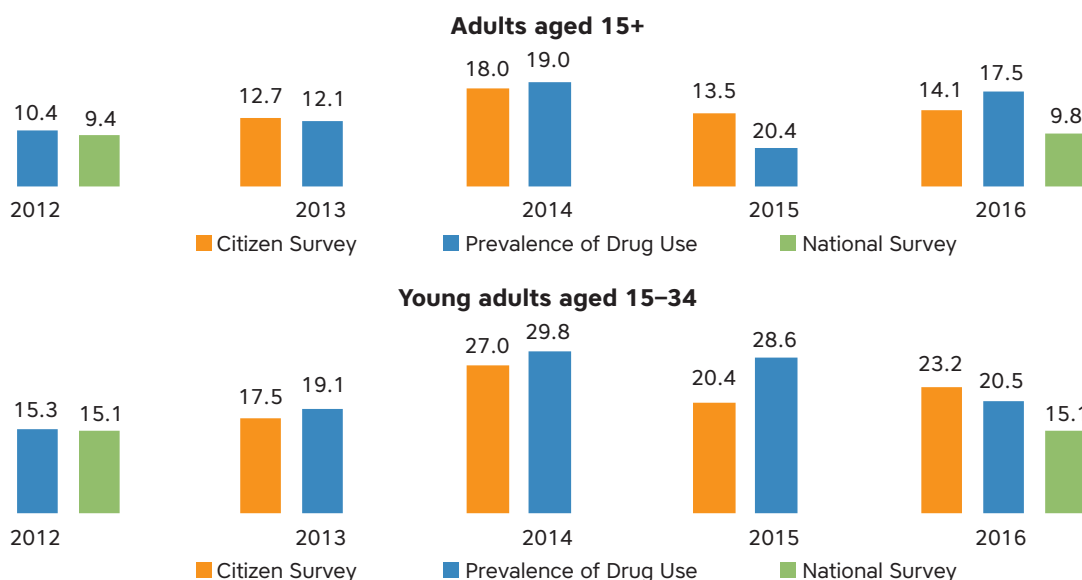
Prevalence of gambling in the last 12 months among the adult population aged 15+ and the population of young adults aged 15–34 – comparison of surveys carried out from 2012 to 2016 (%)



Note: The 2012 National Survey covered the 15–64 age group.

GRAPH 8

Development of gambling other than lotteries in the last 12 months among the adult population as a whole and among young adults aged 15–34, 2012–2016



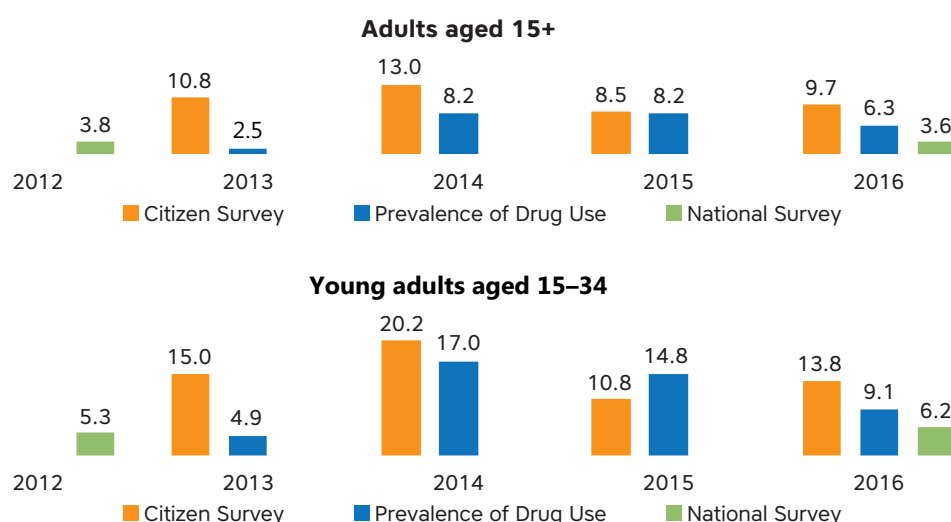
The surveys conducted from 2012 to 2016 indicate that the levels of experience with gambling among the population grew between 2012 and 2015. The data generated across studies seems to be consistent in showing that in 2016 the levels of gambling did not exceed the highs reached in the previous years. In comparison with 2014 and 2015, when the highest levels of gambling were recorded, a decline was experienced as regards all gambling activities other than lotteries, i.e. EGMs and live casino games, land-based fixed-odds betting, and online gambling. When compared to the previous years, the level of gambling in the last 12 months among

the young adult age category (15-34 years) was also lower (Graph 7 to Graph 10).

As in the previous years, having engaged in gambling activities other than lotteries in the last 12 months was reported with the highest frequency by the respondents from the 15-24 age category, followed by those aged 25-34. Apart from lotteries, fixed-odds betting, closely followed by web-based gambling, was the most prevalent gambling activity in all the age groups. Regarding the time frame of the last 12 months, the prevalence rates are generally the highest among the youngest age

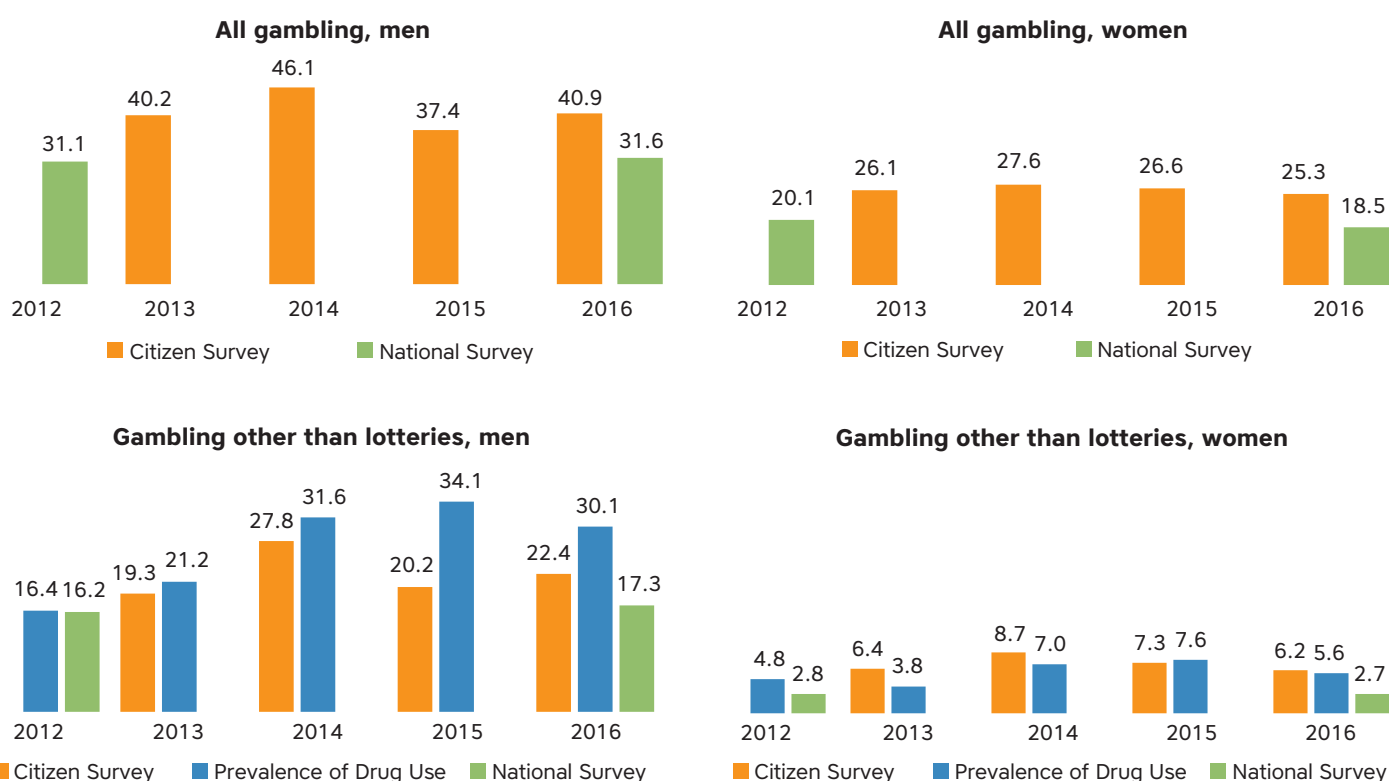
GRAPH 9

Prevalence of online gambling in the last 12 months among the adult population aged 15+ and the population of young adults aged 15-34 – comparison of surveys carried out from 2012 to 2016 (%)



GRAPH 10

Prevalence of gambling in the last 12 months among the adult population aged 15+, by gender – comparison of surveys conducted from 2012 to 2016 (%)



Note: The 2012 National Survey covered the 15-64 age group.

Gambling among Children and Adolescents

A validation study was carried out in 2016 in order to verify the findings of the 2015 ESPAD survey. The sample comprised 2,417 respondents who turned 16 in 2016.

Gambling in the last 12 months was reported by a total of 11.2% students participating in the study (18.2% of the boys and 2.8% of the girls). The most common online gambling activity was fixed-odds betting, while lotteries were predominant among offline types of gambling. Boys were found to be more likely to engage in gambling than girls, with the exception of lotteries, participation in which is more common among girls.

A total of 2.4% of the 16-year-olds (4.1% of the boys and 0.4% of the girls) reported having gambled for money twice a week or more frequently. The respondents were most likely to spend less than half an hour per day gambling. However, a total of 1.5% of the students (2.5% of the boys and 0.4% of the girls) spent more than two hours per day gambling on average. At some point in the previous year, altogether 4.3% of the students (7.0% of the boys and 1.1% of the girls) had spent more than two hours gambling for money on a single occasion. In terms of the type of school, students at secondary vocational schools without the school-leaving examination (maturita) or apprentice training centres spent the greatest amount of time gambling for money.

In comparison with the 2015 ESPAD survey, there was an increase in the rate of students who reported gambling

in the last 12 months, specifically from 9.1% to 11.2%. In particular, this increase was observed among boys (from 15.3% to 18.2%). There was also an increase in the instances of single gambling sessions exceeding two hours (from 3.7% to 4.3%). On the other hand, there was a slight decline in the frequency of regular gambling and the time spent gambling for money on a daily basis.

This study also generated estimates of problem gambling. The Lie/bet screening scale scores suggest that a total of 3.9% of the students may currently be at risk of problem gambling, with 3.0% of them falling within the low-risk category and 0.9% within the high-risk category as a result of their gambling. There was a higher percentage of respondents at risk of problem gambling among boys (6.6% vs. 0.9% of the girls) and among students at secondary vocational schools without the school-leaving examination and apprentice training centres.

The results generated using the CSPG (Consumption Screen for Problem Gambling) indicate that 6.3% of the students were currently at risk of problem gambling (10.4% of the boys and 1.4% of the girls), with 2.5% of them falling within the low-risk category and 3.8% within the high-risk category. This scale, too, showed a significantly higher percentage of individuals at risk of gambling-related problems among boys and among students at secondary vocational schools without the school-leaving examination and apprentice training centres.

categories, 15–24 and 25–34, and appear to decline with growing age. The exception is lotteries, which are most prevalent among people aged 35–54.

The highest amount ever wagered on a single day was generally CZK 100–1,000. Some players on EGMs and those engaged in online gambling also reported amounts less than CZK 100. On the other hand, up to 20.6% of those participating in online gambling activities other than lotteries had bet more than CZK 1,000 on a single day at some point in their gambling careers. EGM and online players spent a considerable amount of time gambling (more than an hour a day was reported by 69% of EGM players and half of those engaged in web-based gambling other than lotteries). ✕

Problem Gambling

> The National Survey provides estimates of problem gambling generated using the Lie/bet and PGSI (Problem Gambling Severity Index) measures. On the basis of the Lie/bet screening scale, a total of 2.4% of the population aged 15 and above (4.0% of the men and 0.8% of the women) were found to be at risk of gambling-related problems, with 1.2% (2.1% and 0.3% respectively) of the respondents falling within the low-risk category and 1.2% (1.9% and 0.5% respectively) within the high-risk category. After the sample had been narrowed down to only those who had engaged in gambling

in the last 12 months an estimated 9.5% of the players (12.6% of the men and 4.4% of the women) were identified as being at risk of the development of problem gambling. After the estimate had been narrowed further to only those who had engaged in gambling other than numerical and instant



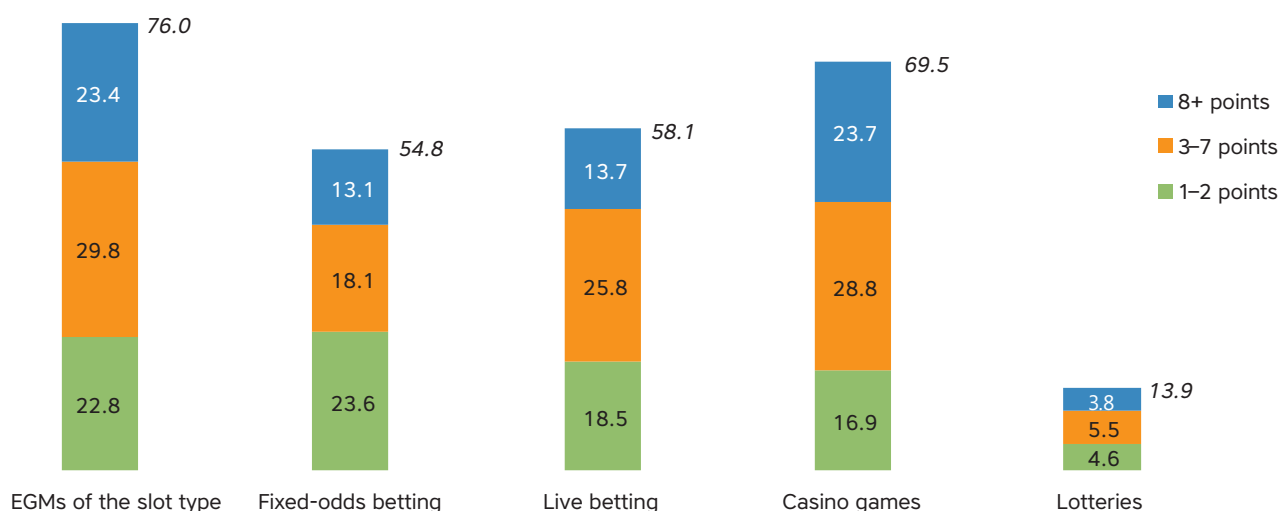
Problem Gambling

Problem gambling (pathological gambling, gambling disorder) refers to disordered control over one's gambling behaviour, characterised mainly by a high intensity of gambling (a considerable amount of time spent gambling), gambling of an episodic nature, and large amounts of money spent on gambling, with subsequent negative effects for the player and their environment.

The estimates from the period 2012–2014 indicate that approximately 5% of the adult population were at risk of the development of problem gambling (ca. 450,000 individuals), with 0.6–1.2% of the adult population (i.e. ca. 55,000–110,000) falling within the highest risk range. The latest data from 2016 suggests a slight increase in the total number of people at risk of problem gambling (up to 5.7% of adults aged 15 and above, i.e. over 500,000 individuals) and also as regards the highest risk category, i.e. a growth in the number of pathological gamblers (0.9–1.4%, i.e. 80,000–120,000 individuals).

GRAPH 11

Results of the PGSI screening tool for land-based and online gamblers irrespective of the gambling setting, by gambling activities, 2016 National Survey (%)



Note: The figures in italics stand for the means of the total proportions of all the people at some degree of risk (one or more points on the PGSI scale).

lotteries in the last 12 months 24.1% of the players (23.2% of the men and 30.0% of the women) were found to be at risk of the development of problem gambling. The highest representation of problem gamblers was in the 15–34 age category. After lotteries had been excluded, the rate of problem gambling ranged from 20% to 30% across age categories. When extrapolated to the Czech population aged 15 and above, the rate of people at risk of gambling-related problems according to the Lie/bet scale was equivalent to some 211,000 individuals (174,000 men and 37,000 women), with approximately 107,000 of them falling within the low-risk category and 104,000 within the high-risk category.

The results obtained using the PGSI screening tool suggest that a total of 5.7% of the 15+ population (10.0% of the men and 1.6% of the women) were at risk of gambling-related problems, with 2.2% (3.8% and 0.7% respectively) of the respondents falling within the low-risk category, 2.1% (4.1% and 0.3% respectively) within the moderate-risk category, and 1.4% (2.2% and 0.6% respectively) within the high-risk category. After the sample had been narrowed down to those who had engaged in gambling in the last 12 months an estimated 23% of the players (31.6% of the men and 8.8% of the women) were identified as being at risk of the development of problem gambling, of whom 8.9% fell within the low-risk, 8.6% within the moderate-risk category, and 5.5% within the high-risk category. After the sample had been narrowed further to only those who had engaged in gambling other than numerical and instant lotteries in the last 12 months 58.4% of the players (57.9% of the men and 60.0% of the women) were found to be at risk of the development of problem gambling. The highest representation of problem gamblers was in the 25–34 age category. After the estimate had been narrowed down to those who had gambled in the last 12 months the proportion of gamblers in the 15–24 age category grew higher and after the inclusion of only those who had engaged in gambling activities other than numerical and instant lotteries a greater representation of gamblers falling within older age categories (55–64 and 65+) was also observed. When extrapolated to the Czech population aged 15 and above, the rate of people at risk of gambling-related problems was equivalent to some 500,000 individuals, with approximately 196,000 of them falling within the low-risk

category, 191,000 within the moderate-risk category, and 122,000 within the high-risk category.

Another wave of a biannual survey among physicians was also carried out in 2016. For the third time, the survey incorporated a module with question concerning the prevalence of pathological gambling among their patients. This particular survey arrived at a mean estimate of the number of pathological gamblers of approximately 81,000–104,000 individuals, with about 9,000–11,000 being under 18 years of age.

The occurrence of problem gambling varies with the type of gambling activity. A greater proportion of at-risk gamblers was found among players on land-based EGMs or those engaging in casino-based games, as well as among those participating in fixed-odds and live betting (Graph 11). Surprisingly, women accounted for a considerable proportion of the individuals at high risk of gambling-related problems, as regards both land-based gambling other than lotteries and online gambling. It needs to be noted, though, that the absolute number of female gamblers is generally low.

The degree of risk of the development of problem gambling is associated with the frequency of gambling, time spent gambling, and the money gambled. The last-12-month gamblers at high risk of gambling-related problems show the highest frequencies of gambling, the greatest amount of time spent gambling, and the highest bets, as far as both land-based and online gambling are concerned.

The most serious socioeconomic consequence of problem gambling for the individuals and the people close to them is indebtedness. In 2016 the average debt incurred by problem gamblers registered by debt counselling services amounted to CZK 1.2 million.

A survey among workers deployed in socially excluded communities suggests that gambling represents a problem of medium concern relative to other issues; indebtedness, low education/qualifications, and unemployment are rated as the most pressing issues. When asked about the most serious problem related to gambling, social workers engaged

in socially excluded communities pointed out the indebtedness of gamblers and their families and gambling by recipients of social security benefits. ✕

Crime

> Gambling-related crime can be divided into primary and secondary. Primary crime refers to illegal gambling and other violations of the Lotteries Act and, since 2017, the Gambling Act, too. Until 2016 the regulation of the operation of gambling was in the remit of municipalities, regional authorities, and the Ministry of Finance, specifically the Financial Administration. Since 2017 the Customs Administration has been the authority commissioned to enforce the law in relation to the operation of land-based gambling and the Ministry of Finance has been commissioned to oversee online gambling.

The most common violations identified by audits in 2016 included the unauthorised operation of a lottery or other such games, operation before the licence became effective, a failure to announce a change of authorised person, operation in violation of a generally binding ordinance, and a low-quality or missing record from casino-based monitoring facilities. In 2016 the Financial Administration dealt with 759 violations of the Lotteries Act in a total of 141 sets of administrative proceedings. Overall CZK 34.3 million worth of fines were imposed. Administrative proceedings were also held to decide about contributions from gambling operated without authorisation. CZK 197.8 million worth of statutory contributions were assessed retrospectively in 2016.

In April 2016 a specialised inter-agency team comprising governmental bodies and institutions concerned with the tackling of illicit gambling ("Gambling Cobra") was established. Since 2015 the issue of illicit gambling has also been at the centre of the interest of the "Winning" police team. As for gambling-related crime, the law enforcement authorities are particularly concerned about what are termed "quiz machines" and illicit gambling venues.

Since 2015 the Ministry of Finance has made it possible to report clandestine gambling venues and illicit gambling at cerneherny@mfcz.cz (referred to as the "illicit gambling reporting centre"). Any violations of the Gambling Act can also be reported via the website of the Customs Administration.¹

The number of primary gambling-related criminal offences recorded by the police in 2015 and 2016 was far higher than in the previous years. 88 criminal offences of the unauthorised operation of gambling were reported in 2016, with 56 individuals being prosecuted in connection with these (in 2014 there were 43 offences and 10 people). The data of the Ministry of Justice also shows a significant increase in the number of people who were prosecuted, indicted, and convicted in relation to primary gambling-related crimes in 2016.

Traffic on foreign websites offering gambling was looked into by Analysis of Czech Users' Behaviour on Foreign Gambling

Servers, a study which, from May to October 2016, examined all seven existing Czech websites licensed by the Ministry of Finance to operate gambling and over 90 websites without such a licence. The monthly average number of visitors to these 98 websites (seven with licences and 91 unlicensed) from May to October 2016 was 6.45 million. 1.90 million people (29%) had visited the licensed websites, while unlicensed websites had been visited by 4.55 million people (71%) per month. The busiest gambling website visited from the Czech Republic was the unlicensed bet365.com. There were six unlicensed websites among the first ten with the highest traffic (Table 2).

The websites of the licensed online gambling operators showed a more intensive involvement on the part of their visitors, including a higher average number of pages displayed on the website per visit (nine pages) and the average length of the visit (12.5 minutes). As regards the unlicensed websites, the average number of pages displayed per visit was four and a visit lasted 5.4 minutes on average.

As early as at the beginning of 2017 the Ministry of Finance urged the operators of illegal online gambling to wind up their activities or obtain a licence as required, warning them about the possibility of their websites being blocked if they failed to comply. According to the Ministry of Finance, by 19 January 2017 approximately half of the operators of illegal online gambling had proceeded on their own initiative to restrict access to their sites from the Czech Republic until they had obtained the authorisation. According to the Ministry of Finance, during the first month of the Gambling Act being in effect, i.e. in January 2017, 90% of the unlicensed gambling offered in the Czech Republic disappeared from the internet. In the first five months of 2017 the Ministry of Finance commenced administrative proceedings in connection with the illegal operation of online gambling. At the time of writing the total amount of fines levied for 2017 (although not legally effective yet) had reached CZK 155 million. Illicit operators will also be subjected to tax proceedings resulting in a tax assessment. In the first five months of 2017 a total of six sets of proceedings concerning the blocking of unlicensed websites were commenced. In July 2017, 1xbet.com became the very first website to be placed on the List of Unauthorised Online Games.

TABLE 2
Summary of the busiest gambling websites in the Czech Republic from May to October 2016

Website	Monthly average number of visitors (thousand)	Licensed by the Ministry of Finance
bet365.com	1,286	No
tipsport.cz	1,179	Yes
bohemiacasino.com	1,026	No
leovegas.com	809	No
ifortuna.cz	475	Yes
playmillion.com	272	No
stargames.com	236	No
lottoland.com	118	No
chance.cz	102	Yes
betclik.com	97	No
williamhill.com	94	No
sazkabet.cz	91	Yes

¹ <https://www.celnisprava.cz/cz/o-nas/kontakty/Stranky/oznameni-poruvani-predpisu.aspx> [2017-06-15]

Secondary gambling-related crime includes criminal offences committed by gamblers in connection with their participation in gambling activities, criminal offences committed in order to obtain the wherewithal for gambling, and offences which have a strong association with their urge to play. Data concerning secondary gambling-related crime is not systematically accounted for by any statistical registers maintained by law enforcement institutions. Studies of pathological gamblers in treatment indicate that pathological gamblers very often commit criminal offences. According to a study carried out in 2015, 46%, 33%, 19%, and 9% of the gamblers had committed a theft, embezzlement, drug offence, and robbery, respectively, at some point in their lifetime. A certain relationship between gambling and criminal offending can be inferred from the estimates of the level of gambling-related risk among the population of offenders serving a prison sentence. Estimates from 2016 indicate that at some point in their lives 28% of prisoners had fallen within the category of those at risk of the development of problem gambling, with 16% ranking among those at high risk. Over 16% of the offenders currently serving a prison sentence had committed a theft to fund their gambling or to pay off their gambling-related debts. ✕

Prevention

> In 2016 the Methodological Recommendations on the Primary Prevention of Risk Behaviour among Children and Students at Schools and Education Facilities were extended to include Appendix 21, which addresses the issue of gambling and contains a summary of the protective and risk factors which may help education professionals in planning school-based prevention activities or in identifying students at risk of gambling.

Společnost Podané ruce, a public service company, issued a Czech version of the “Stacked Deck” prevention curriculum. Adapting it to the Czech setting in 2015 as “Hra na hraně”, the company piloted the programme in schools and low-threshold facilities for children and adolescents. The evaluation of the pilot programme showed that it had a positive effect. In 2016 the Expert Services Centre of *Společnost Podané ruce* also held two training courses for prospective providers of the programme.

With the exception of the system of prevention within the school system, in the Czech Republic there is no national programme or coordinated system to prevent problem gambling, whether among the general population or the gambling population, and the degree of implementation of preventive measures is generally low. The Gambling Action Plan incorporates the objective of raising public awareness of the availability of professional help for gamblers and of gambling-related risks, as this is also an area of concern.

The new legislation provides for a number of measures to prevent problem gambling such as the mandatory registration of players engaging in EGM gambling, fixed-odds betting, and online gambling, the operators’ obligation to make self-commitment measures available to players (including limits on the amounts of bets and losses and the number of log-ons and the time period spent on one’s user account), the possibility of self-exclusion and statutory exclusion (applicable

to individuals on subsistence allowances, those in personal bankruptcy, and those who were ordered by a court to refrain from gambling) and the obligation to provide relevant information (such as that concerning gambling-related harm, the length of gambling sessions, and the total net losses). The operator is also not allowed to provide a person engaging in a gambling activity with any bonuses in the form of food, drinks, tobacco products, or stimulants. In addition, the new legal regulation does not allow for “special arrangement establishments” (i.e., for example, bars with EGMs). Gambling venues will have to be closed from 3 a.m. to 10 a.m. and after 120 minutes of gambling on EGMs a person must take a mandatory 15-minute break from gambling.

In view of the fact that the majority of the gambling activities available on the market in 2017 had been licensed in line with the previous legislation, the preventive measures described above were reflected in practice only exceptionally. As a result, in 2017 a special arrangements establishment can exist, gambling venues need not be closed during the night hours, and no mandatory 15-minute break must follow each 120-minute EGM session. No register of individuals excluded from gambling has been established yet, either. No self-exclusion from gambling can thus be effectively implemented. It is expected that the preventive measures specified above will not be introduced on a larger scale until 2018. By 1 January 2018 operators of gambling activities licensed according to the previous legal regulation (the Lotteries Act) will be required to have complied with the conditions prescribed in the new law (the Gambling Act) in relation to registration and user accounts (in EGMs), registration, centralised determination of odds and a record of betting opportunities (in fixed-odds betting), and registration and an obligation to provide relevant information (in online gambling).



foto: flickr.com / Gamble, Matthew Powell (CC BY-ND 2.0)

While the majority of EGMs were operated in 2017 without the above-mentioned measures being adopted, the obligation to provide relevant information and offer self-commitment options had been fulfilled as of June 2017 by all the major online gambling operators in the Czech Republic. However, one of the operators offering the self-commitment measures invited players to always set the “no commitment” option. Such appeals to players contradict the spirit of the law and may be classified according to the Ministry of Finance as an administrative offence under Section 123 (1) (b) of the Gambling Act. ✕

TABLE 3

Websites providing information, counselling, and help in relation to gambling in the Czech Republic

Website	Target group	Test for risk of problem gambling	Online counselling service	Information for players	Downloadable materials	Helpline
f63.cz	Problem gamblers, people close to them and relatives, helping professionals	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
gambling.podaneruce.cz	Problem gamblers, people close to them and relatives, helping professionals	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
hazardni-hrani.cz	Problem gamblers, people close to them and relatives, helping professionals, gambling operators	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
koncimshranim.cz	Problem gamblers	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
neprohraji.se	Problem gamblers	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
neprohraji.vot.cz	Problem gamblers, people close to them, and relatives	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
poradna.adiktologie.cz/zavislosti/gamblerstvi/	Problem gamblers	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
standby.wtf*	Children and parents	No	Yes	No	Yes	No

Note: * The standby.wtf website primarily focuses on helping people who have issues with their excessive use of the internet and other modern communication technologies.

Treatment

> A questionnaire survey among addiction treatment services showed that in the Czech Republic there are over 90 programmes that cater to problem gamblers. Only 10–20 of these, however, can be referred to as programmes that specialise in working with problem gamblers (i.e. programmes with staff, a site, or time specifically dedicated to problem gamblers). The most common primary problem gambling activity among gamblers in treatment is EGMs, followed by fixed-odds betting and online gambling. Gamblers' issues which helping professionals address with the highest frequency include debts, alcohol use, mental health, and relationships. There are three self-help Gamblers Anonymous groups in the Czech Republic.

Annually, outpatient psychiatric clinics treat some 1,300–1,500 patients diagnosed with pathological gambling. In 2015 there were 1,457 patients receiving treatment in 268 outpatient facilities, with women accounting for 14%. In 2015 the highest number of patients per 100,000 inhabitants was recorded in the Olomouc region (44.1), with the Hradec Králové region coming second (25.2).

While the numbers of individuals admitted to psychiatric inpatient facilities because of their pathological gambling range from 500 to 550 in the long term, the proportion of women has been increasing continuously (from 5–6% before 2008 to 10.5% in 2015).² The age of the patients is rising: the proportion of patients under 29 dropped between 2004 and 2015, while that of patients in the 55+ age category grew.

Two rounds of subsidy proceedings administered by the Government Council for Drug Policy Coordination which were

dedicated to programmes aimed at gamblers took place in 2016. A total of 58 programmes received support, with 32 of them, including two online counselling services, specifically targeting problem gamblers. Services were provided to a total of 1,214 clients who were problem gamblers. Specialised programmes reported 1,126 (92.8%) clients, including 63 clients reported by online counselling services. The majority of clients from among problem gamblers were reported by outpatient counselling facilities. Seven programmes focused on aftercare for clients who had completed their treatment programme.

The year 2016 saw a significant year-on-year increase in the number of grants awarded to programmes providing services to problem gamblers. In addition, the number of clients grew from 726 in 2015 to 1,214 in 2016, i.e. a 67.2% increase, mainly in Prague and the Central Bohemia and Moravia-Silesia regions.

The Government Council for Drug Policy Coordination promotes the establishment of new programmes for problem gamblers and their families and partners. One of the main goals is to create a network of specialised regional centres. Thus far such centres have been established in seven regions – Prague, South Moravia, South Bohemia, Liberec, Olomouc, Ústí nad Labem, and Zlín. Specialised counselling centres have been opened in Prague and České Budějovice.

In the Czech Republic there is still no counselling helpline dedicated specifically to the issue of problem gambling. The number of web-based preventive and awareness-raising projects targeted at people engaged in gambling and their families, partners, friends, etc. seems to be growing (Table 3). ✕

² Information on the number of hospitalisations is available with a year's delay.

This issue is based on the document Gambling in the Czech Republic in 2016 – Annual Report [MRAVČÍK, V., ROUS, Z., CHOMYNOVÁ, P., TION LEŠTINOVÁ, Z., DRBOHLAVOVÁ, B., KOZÁK, J., GROHMANNOVÁ, K., JANÍKOVÁ, B., VLACH, T., KIŠŠOVÁ, L. 2017. Výroční zpráva o hazardním hraní v České republice v roce 2016. MRAVČÍK, V. (Ed.). Praha: Úřad vlády České republiky. ISBN 978-80-7440-182-4]. For detailed information and its sources specified according to citation standards see the Annual Report.



National Monitoring
Centre for Drugs
and Addiction

ANNOUNCEMENTS / LINKS OF INTEREST

Information about substance use and gambling in the Czech Republic is available at

<https://www.drogy-info.cz/>, <https://www.drogy-info.cz/en/>.

All the publications released by the National Focal Point (National Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Addiction), including all the issues of the "Zaostřeno" bulletin, are downloadable in electronic form from <https://www.drogy-info.cz/publikace/>, <https://www.drogy-info.cz/en/publications>.

Any orders for hard copies of the publications should be sent to grygarova.marketa@vlada.cz.

Map of Aid

<https://www.drogy-info.cz/en/map-of-aid/>

– changes in contact information should be sent to grygarova.marketa@vlada.cz.

Calendar of events

<https://www.drogy-info.cz/kalendar-akci/> – information about training events and seminars that concern addictology or are relevant to it and can be posted in the calendar should be sent to grygarova.marketa@vlada.cz.

Když musíš, tak musíš ("When You Have To, You Just Have To")

Orders for the new edition of the project featuring six DVDs with documentaries on drugs should be sent to grygarova.marketa@vlada.cz.

For the UniData and PrevData applications for maintaining a record of the clients and interventions of drug services, including user support, visit <https://www.drogovesluzby.cz/>.

Website of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA)

www.emcdda.europa.eu/.

The EMCDDA European Drug Report

www.emcdda.europa.eu/edr2015.

National smoking cessation website

<https://www.koureni-zabiji.cz/>.

National smoking cessation hotline (800 35 00 00)

National gambling-related harm reduction website

<https://www.hazardni-hrani.cz/>.