

## **THE INFLUENCE OF GAMBLING ON CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES IN THE REGION OF GORIŠKA**

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### **Abstract**

The discussion of social consequences of gambling includes also the influence of gambling on the occurrence of criminal activities. The start-point of the present article is based on criminological theories which explain causal-consecutive connection between crime and gambling. We performed an examination of relevant studies about the existence of correlation between gambling and crime and a comparison of statistical data about criminality in the region of Goriška with the regions where there is no gambling or it is present in a minor extent.

**Keywords:** gambling, criminality, region of Goriška, Slovenian regions

### **Introductory start-points and definition of the problem**

Gambling represents for the environment and society numerous advantageous economic results: economic development, diminished unemployment, increased profits, increased tax receipts and other advantages (Prašnikar and others 2005, Pahor 2006, Stokowski 1999a), which leads to the amelioration of well-being and life quality. At the same time we face also the negative social consequences of gambling. Numerous authors identified them with the fields that concern the influence of gambling on the population demographic structure (Stokowski 1999b), the change of values and the attitude towards gambling, which should represent a step aside from traditional values (Miers 1997) and with that the downfall of the traditional society, traffic aggravation, an increased extent of public jobs (Stokowski 1999b, Oh 1999), the phenomenon of problematic and pathologic gambling (Walker

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1995), the influence on the family life, the occurrence of suicide and criminality<sup>3</sup>.

The influence and the connection of crime with gambling in the present study is first discussed in the context of basic criminological theories that explain the causal-consecutive connections between crime and gambling, relevant scientific studies about the connection between crime and gambling, with which we also identify frequently appearing forms of crime within gambling.

Criminal activities connected to gambling are roughly divided into 3 basic groups: integrity of the gamble alone, organized crime and secondary crime. The threatening of the integrity or of the honesty of gambling games is present especially in the modification of gamble requisites and instruments, in the form of arrangements between the gambler and the employee in the casino, the paying out of expected percentage of payment and in other forms of fraud.

Gambling is connected to organized crime, money-laundering and corruption, which is presented in the form of public servants bribery by the illegal casino managers, in the form of officials bribery, who confer gambling licenses or in the form of politics bribery, who have an influence on the changing of gambling legislation. Organized criminal groups can also become providers of goods and services for the gambling industry, which they can offer for elevated prices (Kurež 2008: 118).

Secondary crime, connected to gambling, is presented in the form of thefts, car stealing, robberies, drug trafficking, prostitution, rape, causing physical injuries, homicides, murders. We can find a lot of problematic gamblers among the authors of these criminal activities, who find themselves in trouble because of the most different reasons. Gambling can indirectly influence the crime of a white collar in the form of forgery, fraud and imposture. The gamblers are threatened by theft, addressing to prostitutes and drug dealers. Regarding the criminal activity, hotel rooms and the casino property are also in the firing line (ibid: 119).

The criminological theories, focused on the interpretation individual and interactive level, make the point that the motives of a criminal act are

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<sup>3</sup> The criminality is determined as an individual occurrence that represents the violation penal legislation. Criminality defines actions that attack and threaten the human basic values and in the same time they are noted as punishable in the penal legislation (Meško 2006: 16-17).

part of an individual's personality or the reflection of social factors. An individual's criminal activities connected to gambling, on the basis of the individual theory are based on the model of an individual's rational choice, in connection to that the potential criminal-law sanctions or the intimidation theory, according to which it could prevent or obstruct the illegal activities regarding how strict the criminal-law sanctions are, have an influence on that choice (Zimring and Hawkins in Smith and others 2003: 34).

The next individual theory, the theory of social learning, presupposes that a criminal behavior, like all the other forms of behavior, is trained namely by an immediate experience as also by imitating a role model. A learning process such as this presumes that an individual will turn into a person committing crimes provided that he keeps company with individuals that expose him to deviant behavior and belief patterns (Akers v Smith and others 2003:34).

In opposition to the individual theories the interaction theories accentuate the concept of self-control. Criminal activities explain the control theory with the break of social controls. Individuals with a strong self-control are rarely involved in criminal acts as individuals with a lower self-control. Gottfredson and Hirschi (in Smith and others 2003: 35) indicate an unsuitable socialization as a reason for a low level of self-control, especially an ineffective parental education, which could be responsible also for the occurrence of other destructive behavior of a person (alcohol abuse, drugs, etc.).

Self-control is connected to a larger concept of the social ties theory, whose central thesis is that crime is the consequence of weak and torn ties between an individual and society, which includes the connection with the so-called "important others", the responsibility of conventional behavior, the involvement in conventional activities and the belief or approval of conventional norms, social and moral standards and values. The weaker the ties among these four components are, the bigger is the possibility that an individual will commit a criminal act (Smith and others 2003: 36).

Structural theories accentuate the meaning of opportunities that enable an individual or stimulate him to commit a criminal act (Sacco and Kennedy in Smith and others 2003: 37). The theory of protecting space, which affirms that criminal activity can be prevented by a self-protective behavior of people and a more severe control, which explains the presence of criminal activities in less protected areas, is based on the theory of opportunities (Meško and others 2002 in Korež 2008: 104).

This means that a more strict security control can cause the transferring of criminality away from the casino area, where the control is not that tight (Kurež 2008: 104).

The theory of routine activities is intended for explaining criminal activities like robbery, theft, physical assaults, etc. The main supposition of this theory is that the probability of crime occurrence augments in places where in the same time and space there is a big convergence of motivated perpetrators, appropriate victims and the absence of formal and informal guardians, who could tour away potential perpetrators (ibid: 104). This convergence is connected to individual's normal, legal or routine activities. A large concentration of people represents potential victims for thieves and violent persons, and also potential drugs abusers, users of prostitute services, etc. Cash transaction in casinos represents a large magnet for organized crime, which can transform illegal incomes by money-laundering into a legally won income. This is why the local gambling community is believed to be a magnet for different types of criminal activities (ibid: 105).

The application of the criminological theory in the field of explaining crime connected to gambling is showed that "crime in the casino area and its surroundings can increase, provided that the security control there is incomplete or there is a large quantity of extremely attractive potential targets, which surpass the potential risk of being captured. As far as the control is effective or there is no sufficient amount of attractive potential targets, the crime searches for opportunities elsewhere, which represents a potential for the so-called transferring of criminality outside the casinos areas" (ibid: 106).

The authors of studies of crime forms connected to gambling warn about the problems about the general definition of crime connected to gambling and the typology for characterizing forms of that kind of crime (Campbell and others 2005: 38). The definition of criminal activities represents a difficulty – which ones are influenced directly by gambling, meaning that they developed with gambling, and indirectly, these are the criminal activities that can manifest also in a non-gambling environment (theft, rape, etc.).

- Smith and others (2003: 8) prepared a classificatory system of criminal acts for necessity of studying crime connected to gambling, which includes the following categories:
- Illegal gambling – gambling activities not allowed by the legislation,
- Problematic gambling criminality – activities that enable addicted gamblers to continue gambling (falsification, fraud, dissimulation, cheat, etc.),

- Gambling crime – crime that happens in the casino and in its vicinity (crediting, money-laundering, money falsification, theft, aggressions, prostitution, vandalism, etc.),
- Family abuse – victimization of family members, caused by another family member's gambling (family violence, child abuse, suicide, etc.).

Based on the criminality characteristics and on the study researches and other contributions of numerous authors, the following four categories of crime connected to gambling have been identified:

- Honesty or the integrity of the games alone,
- Infiltration of organized crime and
- Street and other crimes or secondary criminality (Thompson and others 1996: 3-6; Albanese 1997: 351-366; Morris and Block 1997: 663-688; Albanese 1999: 3-7; Luin 1999: 122; Smith and others 2003: 8-21; Stitt and others 2003: 253-283; Campbell and others 2005: 38-48).

The difficulties with honesty or gambling integrity represent a secondary product of gambling and they manifest themselves as falsifying gambling requisites, devices or instruments, like e.g. marking the playing cards, using weighted dices, rigging and setting gambling machines, irregular weighted gambling roulette, etc.; like secret agreements between the gambler and the employee in the casino, e.g. inserting non mixed cards, etc.; and like other various scams, like e.g. bets taken after the result is already known or any type of behavior agreed in advance between the gambler and the employee, etc. (Thompson and others 1996: 3; Smith and others 2003: 12; Campbell and others 2005: 46).

As for organized crime<sup>4</sup> connected to gambling, it represents one of the most serious manifesting forms of money-laundering, whose primary goal is avoiding the discovery of criminal financial irregularities and the tax paying, so that the money becomes a part of legal paying circulation (Dobovšek 1999: 130; 2005: 308). Money-laundering represents all the techniques used for converting dishonestly and illegally gained incomes into an honest and legal income (Dobovšek 2005: 308).

The gambling industry is sensitive to the manifesting of corruption. Most of the corruption is related to cases of abuse of government clerks'

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<sup>4</sup> The American definition of organized crime says that it's an union of two or more people with the intention of establish a monopoly in a specific geographic area, with criminal activities of the type that brings a continuous financial income (Criminal Investigation Specific Offenses, 1971: 218).

positions, nepotism, appropriation of public sources, giving preference to certain solutions, etc. In the private sector it manifests in the forms of economic agreements abuse and of business usage violation (ibid: 308-309).

In gambling there are especially known cases of corruption of public officials by the managers of illegal casinos. Bribery can already occur in the processes of giving gambling licenses. The infiltration of organized crime into gambling activities is shown in supplying gamblers with loans, illegal drugs and white slavery, which cause a dependence of criminal groups and performing various favors in return. In relation to the usurious crediting, certain groups for collecting debts based on violence and threatening were formed (ibid: 307-308).

Secondary crime – criminal activities, that happen in a casino or its surroundings and do not include elements of organized crime or gambling integrity, are in a larger measure a consequence of the activities that accompany gambling and are attached to it.

Belonging among the authors of secondary criminal activities connected to gambling, there are the so-called problematic gamblers. The appearing forms of crime, directly or indirectly caused by problematic gamblers, are connected to the attempts to assure for themselves the necessary financial means for gambling or repaying gambling debts (Volberg in Campbell and others 2005: 42).

Some theories and empirically acquired data show just a little connection between problematic gambling and proneness to committing crimes (Smith and others 2003: 17; Campbell and others 2005: 42), while associations of anonymous gamblers affirm that the connection between problematic gambling and crime is much stronger (Brown 1987: 98-112).

The Australian Productivity Commission – APC13 in the report Australia's Gambling Industries asserts that problematic gamblers cause a large spectrum of criminal acts. This appears in the form of money and goods theft in the family or at work, cheques falsification, pick pocketing, etc. In case of necessity the problematic gamblers also undertake more serious criminal activities which can also contain elements of physical violence. This kind of activities include car stealing, drug trafficking, armed or unarmed robberies, prostitution, violence at home, rape, murders, etc. As a rule, problematic gamblers decide for criminal acts because of losing at gambling, accumulated debts, draining their own financial funds, borrowing from family and friends, usurious loans, etc. (APC 1999).

Gambling can also influence the crime of a white collar (Sutherland), which, within his profession, is caused by people with a higher social status (Albanese 1999: 6) and it includes all the criminal acts that the perpetrator commit with cheat or fraud, falsification and they are aimed towards the public administration and influence the public morale, security, well-being, etc. (ibid). The most common persons committing these kinds of crimes are the so-called problematic gamblers. Albanese (1999) in his study, in which he studied the connection between gambling and criminality of a white collar, proves that not one factor of gambling causes frauds, as one of the three occurring forms of crime of a white collar. He discovered that the criminality of a white collar is influenced by the fact how an individual understands his financial problems. Provided he thinks that this is something that can endanger him or his family, it has an influence on committing a criminal act of forgery, cheat or fraud.

### **Review of studies about the causal connection of gambling and crime**

The review of studies about crime and gambling includes studies that deny the connection of gambling with crime or they are indifferent to it, and studies that confirm the connection of gambling with the occurrence of crime.

A relevant study from the field of connection between gambling and crime is the study of Jay Albanese by the title *The Effect on Casino Gambling on Crime* from 1985. The author of the study researched the connection on the case of Atlantic City and he ascertained that the introduction of gambling activities brought a nominal augmentation of criminal acts, but he gave also the explanation that it's not because of a direct influence of gambling, but because of the influence of the increased average daily population in the city. In this way he attributes the increase of the number of criminal acts to the increased number of people in the city and as reflection, the general augmentation of crime in the country (Albanese 1985: 44).

In 1999 Albanese prepared a study by the title *Casino Gambling and White-Collar Crime: An Examination of Empirical Evidence*. In that study he researches the influence of gambling on the so-called white collar crime, which includes the criminal acts of forgery, cheats and frauds (Albanese 1999: 6). He used for this method FBI's data analysis about the arrests and the number of criminal acts of forgery, cheat and fraud from 1988 to 1996 and he compared the data and trends from local

gambling communities with the data and trends from local non-gambling communities in the USA as a whole. He also analyzed the contents of newspapers articles about forgery, cheats and frauds. The key finding of the study is that gambling does not have a significant influence on the trends and levels of criminality of forgery, cheats and frauds (Albanese 1999: 1).

In 1991, Daniel Curran and Franc Scarpitti were verifying the statements from Albanese's study from 1985. Their study *Crime in Atlantic City: Do Casinos Make a Difference?* confirmed Albanese's statements, in fact they conclude in general that the level of criminality has not increased significantly after the introduction of gambling (Curran and Scarpitti 1991: 444).

The study *Impact of Casinos on Crime: The Case of Biloxi, Mississippi* is from 1996. Semoon Chang, the author of the study measured the influence of gambling on 118 types of criminal activities that happened in Biloxi (Chang 1996: 431). The research perceived a little increase of the whole criminality level in the first year after the opening of the casino, but in the second year the level returned to the level of the year before the opening of the casino (ibid: 435-436).

In the same year Patricia A. Stokowski did a study entitled *Crime Patterns and Gaming Development in Rural Colorado* in which she compared the criminality level in three provincial cities of Colorado before and after the introduction of gambling. With the method of analyzing official data about criminality she stated that there was a nominal increase of the number of criminal acts in some categories, but it was not proportional with the increase of the visitors' number. The number of visitors increased more than the number of criminal acts, which means that, by taking into consideration the additional visitors, the relative level of criminality has actually lowered (Stokowski 1996: 63-69).

Peter Reuter's study *The Impact of Casinos on Crime and Other Social Problems: An Analysis of Recent Experiences* represents the analysis of the data about experiences of local communities that introduced gambling in the last 10 years. The study, carried out in 1997, represents a comparison and an analysis of the official data about criminality in 7 gambling and 8 non-gambling cities and it states that in the gambling cities the level of violent criminal acts in the first year after the opening of the casino remained almost unchanged, in the next years it has slightly increased. In the non-gambling cities the level of criminality has increased a little in the first year after the opening, then in the second year it has slightly decreased. After a two-year period there were no

more differences in the increasing of the criminality level between the gambling and non-gambling cities (Reuter 1997: 10).

In 1999, an ample study was made about the economic and social consequences of gambling in USA entitled National Gambling Impact Study. An analysis of past relevant studies and statistic data has shown that in some cases gambling leads to the increase of the criminality level, but it was not possible to prove it quantitatively.

In 2003, Smith, Harold and Hartnagel with the study Examining Police Records to Assess Gambling Impacts: A Study of Gambling-Related Crime in the City of Edmonton have studied the influence of gambling on the noted criminality extent in the city Edmonton in Canada. They analyzed the official national police statistics and the statistics of the police station in Edmonton. Based on the analyzed data they could not confirm the general thesis that gambling cause an increase of criminality and the existence of several forms of illegal gambling like internet bets, advising for races and illegal gambling houses (Smith and others 2003: 96).

Among the studies that confirm the connection between gambling and crime, there is the study of Simon Hakim and Andrew Buck who studied in 1989 the influence of gambling legalization in Atlantic City and its surroundings. They stated that the number of criminal acts lowers with the distance from Atlantic City and the increase of police expenses (Hakim and Buck 1989).

In 1996, Thompson, Gazel and Rickman finished the trilogy of studies about the influence of Indian gambling on Wisconsin. In the third study entitled Casino and Crime in Wisconsin they study the influence of gambling on crime. They stated that the introduction of casinos in Wisconsin caused a 6% increase of the criminality level. The augmentation of violent criminal acts, thefts and burglary could also be significant (Thompson and others 1996: 10-14).

In 1993 in the study Assessing the Impact of Casino Gambling on Crime in Mississippi Giacopassi and Stitt analyzed the official criminality data in Biloxi in Mississippi. The authors discovered an augmentation of financial crime, which followed the introduction of gambling, but in general the research did not perceive an important difference among the levels of criminality before and after the introduction of gambling.

In 2003 Stitt and Giacopassi with Nicholom prepared an upgrade of the study from 1993 and they analyzed the levels of criminality in 6 new

local gambling communities and compared them with 6 local control communities in which casinos are not present (Stitt and others 2003: 260). In the study *Does the Presence of Casinos Increase Crime? An Examination of Casino and Control Communities* they came to the conclusion that crime augmented in some local gambling communities, and that the introduction of casinos does not necessarily lead to the increase of crime (Stitt and others 2003: 253).

In 2005 Aborn and Bennett did a research entitled *Gambling: Who's really at risk?*

The connection between gambling and crime. The research analyzed the criminal data in the American local gambling communities in the period of 10 years after the opening of the first casino (Aborn in Bennett 2005: 1). The research states that the levels of criminality in the local gambling communities have substantially increased, they also stated that gambling have a main influence on the increase of criminality in the near local communities (ibid: 2-11).

The studies that confirm the connection between gambling and crime state that the number of criminal acts lowers with the augmenting distance from gambling places, which does not coincide with the criminological theory of protected space and transferred criminality.

The comparison of statistic data about criminality within the region of Goriška with regions where there is no gambling activity

Among the European countries, Slovenia stands out for its high percentage, which is represented by the gross incomes from gambling in the gross social product, and for a high percentage of gross incomes of casinos in the gross incomes of the whole gambling activity (*The development strategy of gambling in Slovenia, 2010: 20*). The region where gambling is the most developed is Goriška, with three casinos and seven gambling salons, which in 2009 made 55% of the whole gross income from special gambling games in the Republic of Slovenia (ibid: 12). In Slovenia there is in total 33 active gambling salons.

Slovenian gambling is orientated towards foreigners<sup>5</sup>, especially Italians. This is proven also by the number of casinos and gambling salons in the regions bordering on Italy. In the regions of Goriška, Primorska in Kras, at the end of 2009, there were 5 functioning casinos of the total 10 operative and 19 gambling salons of the total 34 operative (ibid: 11). Based on the presented data we derived the hypothesis that regarding the presence of gambling activity there is a higher level of risk for criminality in the region of Goriška.

The ten-year comparison on criminality percentage<sup>6</sup> in Slovenia showed that the number of criminal acts has increased for 19,6% from 2001 to 2010, the number of the so-called classic criminal acts, like murders or homicides, bad and serious physical injuries, sexual offences, robberies and robbery thefts and stealing motor vehicles, has not changed substantially or it has even lowered a little (Kolenc and others 2011: 103). The number of criminal acts against property in the whole criminality structure has lowered from 71,5 to 60,7%, while the percentage of economic criminality in the whole criminality in a decade has increased from 9,7 to 14,6% (ibid).

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5 Casinos in Goriška, Primorska and Kras registered in 2009 between 92 (casino Portorož) and 96,5% (casino Park) of foreign visitors. The gambling salons on the stated area noted between 33 and 98% of foreign visitors. In the casinos in the country's interior the percentage of foreign visitors ranged among 23 (Ljubljana), 48 (Bled) and 58 % (Šentilj), in the gambling salons the percentage of foreign visitors ranged from 1 to 20%. In the casinos in Kranjska Gora and Rogaška Slatina and in the gambling salon in Kranjska Gora, which is situated in an distinctive touristic place, the percentage of foreign visitors in 2009 is 84% (the development strategy of gambling in Slovenia, 2010: 8

6 The statistic data of criminality show all the criminal acts, except for the ones from the street traffic area, and children's activities, for which the police, based on the ninth paragraph of the article 148 of the Law of criminal proceedings, has filed criminal complaints or reports to complete the criminal complaints. They do not include reported or uncovered criminal acts, where there was no confirmation of suspected offence or there was no basis for a criminal prosecution according to the tenth paragraph of the article 148 of the quoted law (Annual report of police work, 2011: 57).

**Table 1: Criminal acts by units in the years from 2001 to 2010.**

Unit	Percentage of criminal acts.									
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
PU Celje	9,3	10,1	10,8	10,1	9,4	9,3	9,1	8,9	9,2	8,9
PU Koper	6,2	5,0	4,9	4,2	4,5	4,0	3,9	4,2	5,0	5,9
PU Kranj	4,7	5,1	4,7	5,1	4,8	5,2	5,2	5,1	6,5	7,2
PU Krško	3,1	2,8	3,0	2,8	2,6	2,5	2,2	2,5	2,3	2,3
PU Ljubljana	48,7	50,9	52,4	51,7	50,7	51,5	51,1	50,0	48,3	49,0
PU Maribor	12,1	9,7	9,7	12,3	13,7	14,2	16,1	15,7	15,1	13,9
PU Murska Sobota	4,3	4,0	3,5	3,4	3,4	3,1	2,8	3,1	3,2	2,7
PU Nova Gorica	4,0	4,3	3,5	3,0	3,4	2,7	2,9	3,1	3,0	3,0
PU Novo mesto	3,6	3,9	4,1	4,3	4,5	4,1	3,4	3,9	3,9	4,1
PU Postojna	1,8	2,1	1,7	1,6	1,5	1,9	1,8	1,8	1,7	1,4
PU Slovenj Gradec	2,1	2,1	1,8	1,5	1,4	1,5	1,5	1,5	1,7	1,7
GPU	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,1	0,1	0,0	0,1	0,0	0,1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>

Source: Kolenc and others 2011: 107.

We can gather from the table that in Police department Nova Gorica in the last decade criminality is decreasing, comparing to the year 2002 when it was the highest (3,9%), in 2009 and 2010 lowered for almost one percent (3,0%). In comparison with other regions where gambling is not present neither in a 40 km range, if we consider the theory of crime transferring into the surroundings of gambling cities, Goriška does not stand out by the number of criminal acts.

The number of criminal acts in 2011 in the region of Goriška is statistically the lowest compared to other regions, at the same time in comparison to 2010 we can perceive a decrease of 10,5% of the number of criminal acts. The data shows that the number of criminal acts is the highest in the regions of Ljubljana, Maribor and Celje, where there is one or two casinos in the distance of 40 km.

Table 2: Criminal acts by units.

	Number of criminal acts		increase in %	Number of searched criminal acts		Number of searched acts in %		Criminal acts discovered by police		Criminal acts discovered by police (%)	
	2010	2011		2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011
PU Celje	9.417	9.001	-4,4	5.717	5.138	60,7	57,1	1.717	1.307	18,2	14,5
PU Koper	6.318	6.019	-4,7	3.455	3.077	54,7	51,1	1.013	784	16,0	13,0
PU Kranj	6.428	5.772	-10,2	3.845	2.824	59,8	48,9	1.662	515	25,9	8,9
PU Ljubljana	44.023	44.988	2,2	19.608	19.419	44,5	43,2	3.089	3.641	7,0	8,1
PU Maribor	12.429	11.857	-4,6	6.549	6.295	52,7	53,1	2.005	1.927	16,1	16,3
PUM. Sobota	2.439	2.862	17,3	1.690	1.973	69,3	68,9	516	530	21,2	18,5
PUN. Gorica	2.640	2.362	-10,5	1.464	1.299	55,5	55,0	596	424	22,6	18,0
PUN. mesto	5.721	5.815	1,6	3.732	3.460	65,2	59,5	1.311	1.337	22,9	23,0
GPU	74	46	-37,8	73	44	98,6	95,7	38	29	51,4	63,0
Total	89.489	88.722	-0,9	46.133	43.529	51,6	49,1	11.947	10.494	13,4	11,8

Source: The police work report for 2001, 2012: 59.

Regarding the violation of regulations for public order by units, Goriška is again the region with the lowest number of violations in 2010 as in 2011. It is followed by Murska Sobota, Novo Mesto where gambling is not present (anymore), and Koper and Kranj, each one with two casinos. The violations of public order regulations are the most present in the regions of Maribor, Celje and Ljubljana.

Table 3: Violations of public order regulations by units.

	Number of violations		Change in %	Number of other violations*		Change in %	Total		Change in %
	2010	2011		2010	2011		2010	2011	
PU Celje	3.945	4.296	8,9	1.684	1.901	12,9	5.629	6.197	10,1
PU Koper	2.514	2.311	-8,1	5.386	5.479	1,7	7.900	7.790	-1,4
PU Kranj	2.430	2.476	1,9	1.407	1.263	-10,2	3.837	3.739	-2,6
PU Ljubljana	9.774	9.595	-1,8	7.186	7.510	4,5	16.960	17.105	0,9
PU Maribor	4.969	4.242	-14,6	4.327	4.645	7,3	9.296	8.887	-4,4
PU Murska Sobota	2.034	1.877	-7,7	1.085	1.122	3,4	3.119	2.999	-3,8
PU Nova Gorica	1.273	1.264	-0,7	838	948	13,1	2.111	2.212	4,8
PU Novo mesto	2.374	2.175	-8,4	2.858	3.430	20,0	5.232	5.605	7,1
GPU	19	24	...	6	6	...	25	30	...
<b>Total</b>	<b>29.332</b>	<b>28.280</b>	<b>-3,7</b>	<b>24.777</b>	<b>26.304</b>	<b>6,2</b>	<b>54.109</b>	<b>54.584</b>	<b>0,8</b>

\* Traffic violations are not included in this number

Source: The police work report for 2011, 2012: 70.

Criminal acts connected to the integrity of gambling games are included in the general statistics of criminal acts, because the casinos report them to the police, but they are being registered by the Office for the control of organizing gambling, by the concessionaires for casinos and the concessionaires for gambling salons. The office exercises their control directly, indirectly and over an information system (Work report 2011, 2012: 23).

The Office exercises a specific control over the information system in which the concessionaires information control systems are also directly connected. With this system the Office directly controls the individual working processes on the gaming devices daily which are in use from the moment the concessionaire or the organizer starts his business to the moment he ends it. The 31 December 2011 there was 7.625 gaming devices with 8.336 gambling places and 231 gambling tables included in the information system in the Office. The 31 December 2011 there was 41 casinos and gambling salons, one internet casino and two organizers, which means 16.060 controls of that kind in 2011 that were controlled daily (ibid: 24).

In reference to the performing of the control function, in 2007 the Office enacted 170 provisions about the correction of irregularities, 144 in 2008, 113 in 2009, 493 in 2010 and 163 in 2011. The number of provisions about the correction of irregularities in comparison to past years was increasing until 2006, in 2007, 2008 and 2009 it was a little lower, in 2010 the number increased greatly, especially as a consequence of procedures in connection with prohibited internet gambling, and in 2011 it lowered. In 2007 there were 15 issued administrative warnings, 59 in 2008, 126 in 2009, 27 in 2010 and 19 in 2011 (ibid).

In 2011 the Office, in reference to the carrying out of direct and indirect control of the field of organizing special gambling games, issued with the concessionaires 60 provisions for the correction of ascertained irregularities and pronounced 10 warnings for the correction of irregularities by the provisions of the supervisory control law (ibid: 28).

In the field of direct supervision the Office fluently examines and analyses the data, which the concessionaires for casinos and gambling salons have to send, about:

- The realization of the games, tips and entrance fees;
- Negative daily statements of account at individual gambling tables;
- Ascertained irregularities that happened because of non-compliance with the regulations or because of a technical error in a gaming device;
- Given and received credits, expenses and investments;
- Purchases and changes of gambling chips location;
- Tournaments organization;
- Chances and completions of internal organizing regulations and new internal organizing regulations that the concessionaires for gambling salons were obliged to accept after the asserting of the new Regulations book of organizing special gambles in gambling salons and
- Changing the proprietarily structure and the nominal capital (ibid: 29).
- The supervision is also exercised by the means of studying and analyzing the data that are noted by the information system in the Office, which is directly connected to the concessionaires information control systems that enables the Office to follow directly the individual working procedures on the gaming devices that are in use.

The information system of the Office notes among other things:

- The basic data of every gaming device;

- The data about happenings on the gaming devices (e.g. filling up and emptying, major prizes, alarms, errors);
- Counters values per hour on the gaming devices (e.g. values of insert banknotes, papers and chips, values of written paper receipts and paid chips, values of bets, prizes worth, number of played games) and
- Performed cash transaction (e.g. paying cash of major winnings, purchase and repurchase of chips, purchase and repurchase of paper receipts, the amount of emptying the banknotes receiver) (ibid: 30).

The Office for the supervision of organizing gamble games also exercise the function of a misdemeanour authority in the field of preventing money-laundering. The Office collaborates in the composition of a list of indicators for recognizing suspicious transactions for the subjects that it supervises and within its competences as a supervising agency, it also examines the performing of provisions of the quoted law (ibid: 7).

Table 5: supervisions by provisions of ZPPDFT (Prevention of money-laundering and terrorist financing act) in 2011.

	Inspections	Measures
Casinos	19	0
Gambling houses	60	1
Gambling events	1	0
Total	80	1

Source: work report 2011, 2012: 33.

### **Concluding statements**

Among the negative influences of the gambling activity there is the occurrence of criminal acts, among which we class property damage, violent behavior, economic crimes and prostitution. We presented the basic criminal theories that explain the causal-consecutive connections between crime and gambling and we identify the most commonly appearing forms of crime that manifest within or because of the gambling activity.

The review of scientific researches reports, whose subject of study is the connection between the so-called American type of gambling<sup>7</sup> and crime

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<sup>7</sup> It's a type of gambling that is meant for a larger population, multiplicity, and not for exclusiveness, in comparison to the European type.

and other relevant documents of the discussed problems, showed that the opinions about the influence of gambling on crime are divided. The dichotomy of studies orientation should be searched also in a general definition of the gambling activity – a distinctive pro-gambling orientation or a distinctive anti-gambling orientation. In general the studies do not establish essential direct causal connections between gambling and crime.

Some local researches (Prašnikar and others. 2005, Zagoršek and others, 2007) have perceived an increase of the number of criminal acts per resident, but this increase is still lower than the Slovenian average. The single categories of criminal acts also have a lower average than the general average in Slovenia. Murders and criminal acts against sexual integrity are way under the Slovenian average. Based on the acquired data, the researches conclude that gambling did not contribute to the increase of criminality in Goriška.

Also the analysis of the data for the last two years showed that regarding the existing gambling in the region of Goriška, in comparison to other Slovenian regions, there is no perceiving total consequences. Even more, according to the criminality statistic data, Goriška belongs among the five most secure regions in Slovenia.

On the other hand due to the limitation of this study it is difficult to estimate the long term effects of gambling activity in the region. In addition new studies are required to measure the influence in the time of crisis. Finally a case must be raised upon the non-detected negative consequences of gambling activities and the criminal activity in a neighbouring Italian region. All these questions need to be addressed in future research.

A safe environment should be understood as an intention to protect and preserve a safe and quality life for the locals and a prevention of consecutive personal and public expenses, it should also be understood as an important factor for the development of tourism, which represents for Goriška and the entire country a very perspective economic branch.

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