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The Global Gambling Control Scorecard

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UNIVERSITY
GUIDE
2022

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Plan of the presentation

- Background and rationale for the Global Gambling Control Scorecard (GGCS)
- GGCS methodology
- Preliminary results
- Next steps



GGCS project team

- **PI:** Heather Wardle (UoG)
- **Co-I's:** Susan Batchelor, Chris Bunn, Emma McIntosh, Rory O'Connor; Gerda Reith (all UoG)
- **Project coordinator:** Daria Ukhova (UoG)
- **Other contributors:** Mayukh Devadas (UoG), Virve Marionneau (Uni Helsinki), Swantje Muhlhouse (UoG)
- **Project partners at WHO:** Vladimir Poznyak, Dzmitry Krupchanka
- **Project partners in Georgia:** Guga Beselia (Gambling Research and Prevention Centre)

Disclosure of interests

In the last 5 years:

- **Financial links** in the gambling sector: No co-author has directly or indirectly, received financial funding or support from the gambling sector (including lotteries), both personally or through their employers (University of Glasgow). Some authors have received regulatory settlement funding from regulators and/or grants from government.
- **Non-financial links** in the gambling sector: No co-author has any structural cooperation or collaboration with the gambling sector, directly or indirectly. Where necessary for research purposes or where required by the government funders, some co-authors declare occasional interaction with the gambling sector to achieve project aims (e.g., attending events where industry are present for research purposes; presenting information about government-funded research as required by government clients to industry stakeholders).
- This project is **funded** by a UKRI joint Impact Acceleration Account (IAA) grant from the University of Glasgow.



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Background and rationale



Background and rationale

- Gambling generates a wide range of societal and individual harms requiring multisectoral policy responses (Wardle et al., 2024)
- First global review of gambling policy (Ukhova et al., 2024):
 - Gambling policies remain siloed
 - Predominance of individual-frame approaches to gambling harm prevention
 - No systems to monitor gambling harm prevention policies internationally



- Global Gambling Control Scorecard – a monitoring tool outlining the key features of a strong, integrated gambling control system.



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GGCS methodology

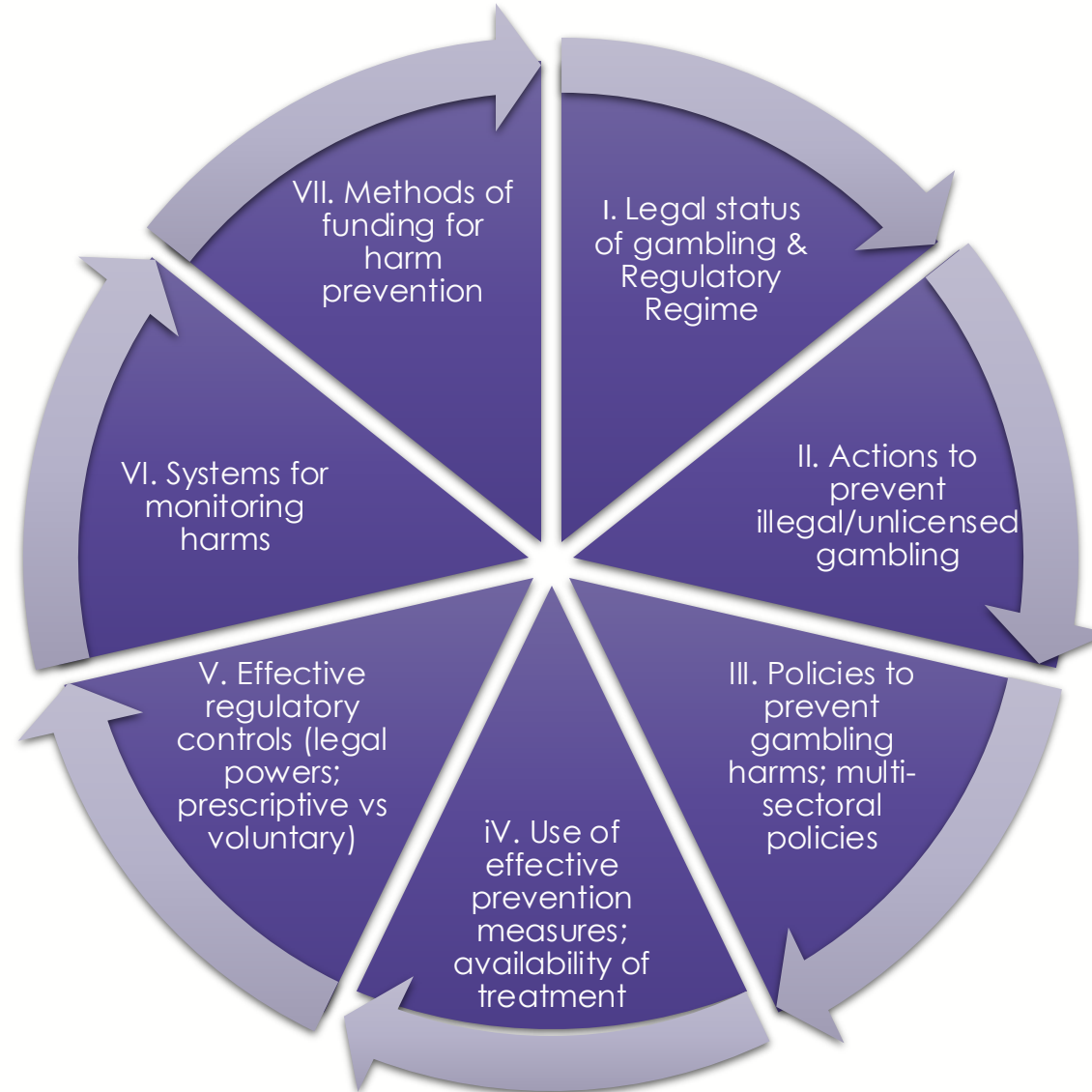


GGCS development

- Metrics devised based on:
 - a) expert consensus (e-Delphi) study (N=36; 24 from HICs; 12 from LMICs);
 - b) review of evidence of efficacy conducted as part of the Lancet Public Health Commission on Gambling;
 - c) WHO *GLOBAL SURVEY ON PROGRESS ON SDG HEALTH TARGET 3.5* questionnaire sections on gambling disorder.
- Implementation case study in Georgia
- Starting with Europe, available over the summer 2025



GGCS: Key dimensions





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GGCS: Preliminary results



Scorecard dimension I – Legal and regulatory regime

	GE	PL	DE	GB
Legal status of various types of gambling	✓	✓	✓	✓
Regulatory regime for various types of gambling (monopoly vs. licensing)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Gross Gambling Yield/Revenue	✓	✓	✓	✓
Gambling regulator	✓	✓	✓	✓
Budget of gambling regulator	✗	✗	✓	✓



Scorecard dimension I – Legal and regulatory regime

	G			
Legal status of various types of gambling	✓			
Regulatory regime for various types of gambling (monopoly vs. licensing)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Gross Gambling Yield/Revenue	✓	✓	✓	✓
Gambling regulator	✓	✓	✓	✓
Budget of gambling regulator	✗	✗	✓	✓

Several CEE countries maintaining/(re-)introducing monopoly regimes on a number of gambling types (beyond lottery), e.g. EGMs and online casino in PL



Scorecard dimension II – Actions against illegal gambling

	GE	PL	DE	GB
Specific policies to prevent/minimize harm from illegal gambling				
Actions covered in legislations/regulations: ○ Web-site blocking ○ Payment blocking ○ Fines				



Scorecard dimension III: Policies to prevent gambling harms; multisectoral action

	GE	PL	DE	GB
Policy focus on gambling harms	✓	✓	✓	✓
Gambling in national mental health strategies	✓	✓	✗	✗
Gambling in national strategies on addictions	✓	✓	✓	✗
Gambling in national suicide prevention strategies	✗	✗	✗	✓
Gambling in national financial literacy strategies	✗	✗	✗	✗
Multisectoral approach in national gambling harm prevention strategies	✗	✗	✗	✗



Scorecard dimension III: Policies to prevent gambling harms; multisectoral action

	GE	PI	DE	GB
Policy focus on gambling harms				✓
Gambling in national mental health strategies				✗
Gambling in national strategies on addictions				✗
Gambling in national suicide prevention strategies			✗	✓
Gambling in national financial literacy strategies	✗	✗	✗	✗
Multisectoral approach in national gambling harm prevention strategies	✗	✗	✗	✗

OECD actively promoting national financial literacy strategies in its member states, but no focus on gambling in any of them



Scorecard dimension IV: Use of effective prevention measures; availability of treatment

	GE	PL	DE	GB
Minimum legal age limit	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mandatory age verification (land-based)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mandatory age verification (online)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Centralised self-exclusion register	✓	✗	✓	✓
Policies restricting gambling advertisement	✓	✓	✓	✗
National-level publicly funded awareness-raising PH campaigns	✗	✓	✓	✗



Scorecard dimension IV: Use of effective prevention measures; availability of treatment

	GE	PL	DE	GB
Minimum legal age limit	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mandatory age verification (land-based)	✓			✓
Mandatory age verification (online)				✓
Centralised self-exclusion register				✓
Policies restricting gambling advertisement	✓	✓	✓	✗
National-level publicly funded awareness-raising PH campaigns	✗	✓	✓	✗

Highly restrictive advertisement policies in some EE countries, e.g. nearly full ban in Latvia and Georgia



Scorecard dimension IV: Use of effective prevention measures; availability of treatment (continued)

	GE	PL	DE	GB
Caps on number of gambling venues	✗	✓	✓	✗
Caps on number of slot machines	✗	✓	✗	✗
Limits of speed and intensity of products	✗	✗	✓	✓
Requirements to situate venues/EGMs away from at-risk populations	✗	✓	✓	✗
Smoking ban in gambling venues	✗	✗	✓	✓
Restrictions on alcohol availability in gambling venues	✗	✗	✓	✓
Mandatory limit setting on money spent gambling	✗	✗	✓	✗
Mandatory limit setting on time spent gambling	✗	✗	✗	✗
Legally mandated interventions based on user tracking	✗	✗	✓	✓



Scorecard dimension IV: Use of effective prevention measures; availability of treatment (continued)

	GE	PL	DE	GB
National strategy/action plan on treatment services for gambling disorder (WHO survey)	✗	✓	✗	✓
Treatment services for gambling disorder (WHO survey)	✓	✓	✓	✓
How the majority of people in need pay for treatment of gambling disorder (WHO survey)	✗	✓	✓	✓
National training programmes and/or guidelines for health and social care professionals on the identification of and management of gambling harms	✗	✗	✗	✓
National guidelines/standards of treatment and care specifically for gambling disorder	✗	✓	✓	✓



Scorecard dimension V: Effective regulatory controls

	GE	PL	DE	GB
Gambling regulator with legally defined remit and power	✓	✓	✓	✓
Regulator with a right to suspend and revoke licenses	✓	✓	✓	✓
Provisions on funding gambling regulator in gambling legislation	✗	✗	✓	✓
Prescriptive/rules-based regulations for advertisement and marketing	✓	✓	✓	✓
Prescriptive/rules-based regulations on game design to minimise risk of gambling harms	✗	✗	✓	✓



Scorecard dimension V: Effective regulatory controls

Gambling regulators having generally lower level of independence and power in EE jurisdictions than in WE ones

Gambling regulator with legally defined remit and power

Regulator with a right to suspend and revoke licenses

Provisions on funding gambling regulator in gambling legislation

Prescriptive/rules-based regulations for advertisement and marketing

Prescriptive/rules-based regulations on game design to minimise risk of gambling harms

✓	✓	✓	✓
✓	✓	✓	✓
✗	✗	✓	✓
✓	✓	✓	✓
✗	✗	✓	✓



Scorecard dimension VI: Systems for monitoring of harms

	GE	PL	DE	GB
Prevalence data for adolescents	✓	✓	✓	✓
Prevalence data for adults	✓	✓	✓	✓
Industry statistics	✓	✓	✓	✓
Policy provisions on monitoring of effectiveness of gambling harm prevention policies and programmes	✗	✗	✓	✗



Scorecard dimension VI: Systems for monitoring of harms

	GE	PL	DE	GB
Prevalence data for adolescents	✓			
Prevalence data for adults	✓			
Industry statistics	✓	✓	✓	✓
Policy provisions on monitoring of effectiveness of gambling harm prevention policies and programmes	✗	✗	✓	✗

Legally mandated sharing of industry data with the public – only in a few WE jurisdictions



Scorecard dimension VII: Funding for gambling harm prevention

	GE	PL	DE	GB
Gambling harm prevention, treatment and support funded via earmarked public funding (collected either via a levy on industry turnover or profits OR via general taxation)	✗	✓	✗	✓



Next steps

- Development of online resource
- Coding other regions
- Incorporating WHO survey data
- Reaching out to national regulators and CSOs for data triangulation



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Thank you!

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