(Družbeno) odgovorno igralništvo
Responsible gambling

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Gambling

- Intensive growth in second half of 20th century

- Slovenia: after independence in 1991

- Interest in expansion: gambling industry & governements

- Preassumption: gambling is innocuous pastime that participants can engage in with few, if any, ill effects

- Popularisation of gambling through job creation potential, government debt reduction capacity and efficacy in supporting worthy causes

Key stakeholders

1. Gambling providers (gambling industry)

2. Individual gamblers

3. Policy makers: state or government

Problem:
- state (government) is simultaneously acting as gambling provider, regulator, and beneficiary
- profit logic ruled over public interest-driven regulation and governance.

Concept of Responsible Gambling

- In the 80ies, along with the development of gambling studies

- A result of growing awareness of gambling related problems: prevalence studies showed high rates of problem gambling; there were media reports of gambling-related suicides, bankruptcies and crimes committed by problem gamblers; research indicated that gambling was not the economic revitalisation it was intended to be; citizens opposed to proposed gambling venues….

RG Measures:

- self-exclusion or time out, which band players to enter casino and/or put their account on temporary (reversible) hiatus;

- Reality Check (a pop-up that is triggered at certain time intervals to remind players to take a break / stop playing);

- Time Limits are used for setting strict time limits on playing sessions;

- Deposit Limits / Account Tracker are used for enforcing a limit on deposits;

- Permanent Account Closure lets players close their account, and cut off all contact from the gambling operator

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Basic Assumptions (Hancock & Smith, 2017)

- Gambling is a legal, regulated form of entertainment or recreation.

- The ultimate decision to gamble resides with the individual, but to make this decision intelligently, players must be informed of how the games work and the possible consequences of their actions.

- Gambling may harm a small number of players.

- RG programs should primarily target high-risk populations and problem gamblers.

- RG measures should be carefully evaluated for undermining the enjoyment of recreational gamblers

- The social benefits of legal gambling exceed the social costs.

- Scientific research can and should guide harm reduction strategies.

- Key RG stakeholders have similar goals and need to work collaboratively.

- Gambling providers must not knowingly exploit vulnerable citizens

- → individual responsibilty of gamblers: once informed about the risks, gamblers assume the burden of gambling responsibly; they must consider the individual and social consequences of their gambling choices !

- → informed choice (libertarians = individual freedom of choice)

- → accountability of regulators and gambling industry ?!

(protection of profits, misleading gambling products are not taken into account)

- → problem gamblers (impaired control) should seek medical treatment

- MISSING: consumer protection, public health approach

Re-Framing RG

- With **consumer protection**: broader definition of RG would specify who is responsible for what and how!

- **A public health perspective**: impact of gambling in society; place the obligation for securing the public interest squarely on governments (focus on prevention instead solely on problem gamblers)

- The definition of RG needs also to address gambling formats (EGMs, automated casino table games,…)

- research that is independent of industry funding and influence;

Thank you!

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