

DANISH PROBLEM GAMBLING COMMITTEE



ANNUAL REPORT
2023

SUMMARY

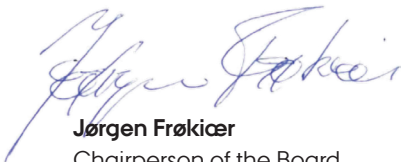
In 2023, the primary task of the Danish Problem Gambling Committee (DPGC) has been to establish the organisation as an impartial funding committee for the financing of Danish high quality research projects in the field of gambling disorder and problem gambling.

To achieve this, the committee has focused on four main areas:

- The start-up of the committee including formation of the Board and a strong, independent Funding Committee
- The release of the first call for research applications
- The awarding of selected research projects
- The foundation of an engaged and fruitful dialogue with the Industry Monitory Group

The founding general meeting was held in January 2023. During the spring 2023, the independent Funding Committee was founded and the DPGC was established. In June, the DPGC collaborated with Aarhus University on hosting the panel debate "Gambling disorder – challenges, dilemmas, and solutions" at the annual democratic festival "Folkemødet" on Bornholm. In October, the DPGC financed two multi-year research projects; one of them being a PhD project. In November, the first meeting with the Industry Monitory Group was held, and plans for a future constructive dialogue was established.

We are pleased that the DPGC has reached all deliverables set out for 2023. In 2024, we will strive to continue the development of the committee and to consolidate our position as a strong interdisciplinary foundation for research into gambling disorder and problem gambling in Denmark.



Jørgen Frøkiær
Chairperson of the Board





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A STRONG INITIATIVE FOR FINANCING RESEARCH WITHIN PROBLEM GAMBLING IN DENMARK

The Danish Problem Gambling Committee (DPGC) is an initiative launched to accommodate for the lack of Danish research into the field of gambling disorder and problem gambling behaviour. With the help of several donators, the primary objective of the DPGC is to finance high-quality research projects with valuable national and international impact. The DPGC will strive to underpin the foundation of a solid Danish research community by supporting both experienced and young talented researchers in establishing themselves in this field of research.

One of the most important accomplishments in the start-up of the DPGC has been the appointment of an outstanding independent Funding Committee consisting of an international group of excellent researchers with extensive knowledge and experience within research in general and research into problem gambling. Expenses for 2023 are displayed in Appendix A.



2023 LANDMARKS FOR THE COMMITTEE



With the Danish Problem Gambling Committee it is our great desire to create a solid foundation for the next generation of researchers.

Enhanced opportunities for the realisation of research projects, financing of PhD projects, mentoring schemes, and strengthening of the collaborative network are just some of the initiatives which will help us reach our goals."

Jørgen Frøkiær

Chairperson of the Board

January 6

Founding general meeting

March – April

Foundation of the independent Funding Committee

May 10

Public release of the Danish Problem Gambling Committee

June 16

Hosting a panel discussion at Folkemødet on Bornholm

June 27

Release of the first call for research applications

August 27

Deadline for applications for the first call.
Received applications: 5

October 27

Evaluation in the independent Funding Committee.
Awards: 2

November 2

Meeting with the Industry Monitory Group

FINANCING OF TWO DANISH RESEARCH PROJECTS

For the 2023 call from the DPGC, it was possible to apply for larger research projects, including PhD projects. A total amount of 3,500,000 DKK was to be distributed. The DPGC received a total of five grant applications that were evaluated by the independent Funding Committee (further information is displayed in Appendix B). Two research projects received grants. Both projects were multi-annual and they were set out to be initiated during 2024:

PROJECT I

Internet-based treatment compared to face-to-face cognitive behavioural therapy for patients with Gambling Disorder – a randomized controlled trial of treatment effects

The study constitutes a randomized controlled trial where a new internet-based treatment for gambling disorder will be tested and compared with standard outpatient treatment.

The study is organised as a PhD project and arises from the Research Clinic for Gambling Disorder at Aarhus University Hospital.

The study falls within the focus area of the DPGC concerning *Treatment*.

The project was granted 2,400,000 DKK.

PROJECT II

Gamblified game mechanics in Danish children and young people's gaming

The study aims to investigate the relationship between gaming and gambling among children and young people. More specifically, the study addresses loot boxes and similar elements in computer games.

The study constitutes a comprehensive survey, and it arises from the Department of Communication, University of Copenhagen.

The study falls within the focus area of the DPGC concerning *Prevention Focusing on Children and Young People*.

The project was granted 1,100,000 DKK.

CONTINUOUS DIALOGUE WITH THE INDUSTRY MONITORING GROUP

The DPGC's support for Danish research into gambling disorder and problem gambling is made possible on the basis of donations from five gambling companies with license to operate in Denmark. Representatives from each donating company form part of an Industry Monitoring Group under the DPGC.

The donating gambling operators have no influence on which research is supported by the DPGC. However, the gambling operators contain great knowledge regarding game data, customer behavior, commercial aspects etc. The Industry Monitoring Group therefore serves as a free forum facilitating knowledge sharing, networking, mutual inspiration, and identification of areas where cross-sectorial research may be relevant.

The first meeting in the Industry Monitoring Group was held in November 2023 at the Department of Clinical Medicine at Aarhus University Hospital in Aarhus. Representatives from four of the five donating gambling operators participated together with the daily manager of the DPGC and two members of the Board. At the meeting, the gambling operators were informed about grants distributed from the DPGC in 2023, and professor and board member Søren Ginnerup Kristiansen gave the presentation "Gambling Research at Aalborg University – projects, themes and issues". The presentation gave rise to several fruitful discussions: The balance between financial gain and public health, gambling advertising, and the value of sharing of gambling data and the opportunities it may provide.

DONATING GAMBLING OPERATORS:

- Kindred Group
- Danske Spil A/S
- Spilnu.dk
- Mr Green
- Betsson Group

ACCOMPLISHED AND PLANNED EVENTS

FOLKEMØDET ON BORNHOLM 2023

During the annual democratic festival Folkemødet on Bornholm in June 2023, the DPGC excelled by collaborating with Aarhus University on hosting a panel discussion on the research ship Aurora. The title of the panel discussion was "Gambling disorder – challenges, dilemmas and solutions".

Participants in the panel discussion were:

- **Jeppe Bruus**, Minister of taxation
- **Anna Stenbro**, Psychologist and researcher
- **Marcus Mossalski**, Activist, has previously suffered from gambling disorder
- **Kim Olesen**, General manager at Kindred Group

The panel discussion was very successful and well-attended and topics such as the impact of gambling advertising and the importance of early prevention were discussed. At the same time, it was acknowledged that more solid research is crucial to accommodate for this.



FOLKEMØDET

GAMEBOX FESTIVAL 2024

Together with Jyske Bank, Esport Denmark, and some other institutions, the DPGC is co-organizer of the conference "Gaming, Gambling and Youth Culture" during the Gamebox Festival in April 2024.

The committee's contribution to the conference constitutes a donation of 50,000 DKK and the invitation of two key note speakers who will present some of the existing research on the intersection between gaming and gambling. Furthermore, a panel discussion will take place with delegates from several institutions, including politicians, representatives from the gambling industry, skin traders, etc.



DANISH PROBLEM GAMBLING COMMITTEE FOCUS AREAS



TREATMENT



PREVENTION
(children and young people)



PREVENTION
(online gambling platform)



COLLECTION AND
SHARING OF KNOWLEDGE

DAILY MANAGEMENT

Marie Weinreich Petersen
(special consultant)
mawept@clin.au.dk

THE BOARD

Jørgen Frøkiær
(chairperson)
Thomas Stokholm
(deputy chairperson)
Anne Mette Thorhauge
Per Fink
Thomas Marcussen
Christian Møller Dahl
Søren Ginnerup Kristiansen

THE FUNDING COMMITTEE

Ellen-Margrethe Hauge
(chairperson)
Charlotte Ulrikka Rask
Mads Uffe Pedersen
Faltin Karlsen
Jakob Jonsson
Ståle Pallesen

APPENDIX A: EXPENSES FOR 2023

	Budget (DKK)	Expenses (DKK)
RUNNING COSTS		
Daily management	456,000	318,843
Conferences	120,000	50,000
Other operational costs	185,000	78,058
SUBTOTAL (DKK)	761,000	446,901
GRANTS		
	3,500,000	
PhD Projects		2,400,000
Other Research Projects		1,100,000
SUBTOTAL (DKK)	3,500,000	3,500,000
TOTAL (DKK)	4,261,000	3,946,901

APPENDIX B: STATISTICS FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS 2023

GRANTS AND SEX DISTRIBUTION OF MAIN APPLICANT

	Number of applications	% of total	Number of grants	Success rate
Female	3	60%	2	67%
Male	2	40%	0	0
TOTAL	5	100%	2	40%

FOCUS AREA

	Number of applications	Number of grants	Success rate
Treatment	2	1	50%
Prevention (children and young people)	3	1	33%
Prevention (online gambling platforms)	0	0	--
Knowledge collection	0	0	--

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION

	Number of applications	Number of grants	Success rate
Capital Region of Denmark	1	1	100%
Region Zealand	0	--	--
North Denmark Region	2	0	0
Central Denmark Region	2	1	50%
Region of Southern Denmark	0	--	--

