

# DANISH PROBLEM GAMBLING COMMITTEE

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ANNUAL REPORT  
2024



## SUMMARY

In 2024, the Danish Problem Gambling Committee (DPGC) established itself as a robust interdisciplinary foundation for advancing research on gambling disorder and problem gambling in Denmark. As part of this development, the committee has prioritized key areas, including:

- Serving as a central hub for connecting researchers, stakeholders, and policymakers
- Issuing calls for research applications and conducting thorough assessments of submissions
- Maintaining an active and productive dialogue with the Industry Monitoring Group, a collaboration that was well initiated during the committee's inaugural year.

During the spring 2024, the DPGC co-organized the conference "Gaming, Gambling and Youth Culture" at the Gamebox Festival in Herning, Denmark. Call for research applications and assessment of these were conducted through the summer. In November, the DPGC co-sponsored the conference "Financial Youth Cultures across Gaming, Gambling, and Investing" at University of Copenhagen, Denmark. In the same month, the annual meeting with the Industry Monitoring Group was held.

In 2025, we will further advance the committee's development and solidify our position as a strong, interdisciplinary foundation for research on 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) was founded in January 2023 to address the shortage of Danish research on gambling disorder and problem gambling behavior. Our primary goal is to fund high-quality Danish research with both national and international impact.

To foster a strong Danish research community, the DPGC supports both established and emerging researchers. A key achievement has been the establishment of an independent Funding Committee, composed of international experts with extensive research

experience, particularly in problem gambling and related fields. This complements our strong board, which includes representatives from universities and research institutions across Denmark.

Since its inception, the DPGC has reached several key milestones and has hosted several significant events - 2024 has been no exception as detailed in this report. A breakdown of the 2024 expenses is provided in Appendix A.



## 2024 LANDMARKS FOR THE COMMITTEE



When it comes to understanding risk factors for developing, treating and preventing any condition, high-quality research is the key, it is essential – and this is just as true for addictive disorders as gambling disorder and problem gambling.”

**Marie Weinreich Petersen**  
Special Consultant

### March 19

Release of the call for research

### April 19

Hosting research conference  
at Gamebox Festival

### June 28

Deadline for applications  
Received applications: 4

### August 22

Evaluation meeting in the independent  
Funding Committee  
Awards: 0

### November 21

Meeting with the Industry Monitory Group

### November 21

Co-sponsor of conference hosted at  
University of Copenhagen

## NO FUNDING OF GRANT APPLICATIONS IN 2024

For the 2024 call from the DPGC, it was possible to apply for larger research projects, including PhD projects. A total amount of 3,000,000 DKK was to be distributed. The DPGC received a total of four grant applications (further information is displayed in Appendix B).

Distributions from the DPGC are based on the vision of promoting high-quality research into gambling addiction and problematic gambling behaviour. Applications are assessed by the DPGC's independent funding committee, which consists of recognized researchers from both Denmark and abroad.

Unfortunately, no applications were assessed fully qualified for receiving funding from the DPGC in 2024. Two of the applications presented promising research projects. The applicants received constructive feedback on their submissions and were encouraged to revise and reapply in 2025.

The Board of the DPGC recognizes that the research field in Denmark has limited capacity to absorb research funding and sees it as an important task going forward to address this issue. To this end, the Board has initiated initiatives that include:

- Raising awareness of the DPGC among research support units at Danish research institutions
- Providing feedback to rejected applicants with promising projects, encouraging them to reapply with revised applications
- Targeted dissemination of information about future grant announcements to relevant researchers and research institutions in Denmark

Unused funds from 2024 will be carried over for distribution in 2025.



## THE ANNUAL MEETING WITH THE INDUSTRY MONITORING GROUP

The DPGC's support for Danish research into gambling disorder and problem gambling is made possible based on 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. 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 2024 meeting in the Industry Monitoring Group was held in November 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 one member of the Board.

At the meeting, the Industry Monitoring Group was informed about the result from the application round and the Board's initiatives for increasing and improving the application pool for the application round in 2025.

Two researchers were invited to participate and share their research on the meeting: Psychologist and PhD candidate Anna Westh Stenbro from Aarhus University Hospital, who has received funding from the DPGC for her PhD project, delivered the presentation "*When Research is Applied in Practice*," focusing on development and implementation of the internet-based treatment program for gambling addiction "*Spillefri*."

Psychologist and associate professor Rune Kristian Lundedal Nielsen from the IT University in Copenhagen presented "*Should Video Game Addiction Be Re-defined?*" which explored the intersection of gaming, gambling, and loot box-related harm.

Both presentations sparked several productive discussions. One topic was whether it might eventually be feasible to distribute internet-based treatment programmes such as "*Spillefri*" through gambling operators to reach and help the largest number of people as quickly as possible. Another discussion addressed the potential for increased regulation in the gaming market, with suggestions to draw inspiration from existing regulations in the gambling sector.

### DONATING GAMBLING OPERATORS:

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

## ACCOMPLISHED EVENTS

### GAMEBOX FESTIVAL 2024

The DPGC co-organized the “Gaming, Gambling, and Youth Culture” conference at the Gamebox Festival in April 2024, alongside Jyske Bank, Esport Denmark, and others. The committee contributed financially and invited two keynote speakers to present research on the intersection of gaming and gambling:

#### “Virtual Economies, Platform Economies, and the Grey Area Between Gaming and Gambling”

by Anne Mette Thorhauge, Associate Professor at the Department of Communication, University of Copenhagen

#### “Gaming or Gambling: What Do We Actually Know About Loot Boxes?”

by Rune Kristian Lundedal Nielsen, Associate Professor at the IT University of Copenhagen.







The event also featured the panel discussion “*How do we protect our children and young people from gambling and betting*”. The panel discussion was moderated by creative director and journalist Thomas Stokholm and panel participants were:

- Johan Eklund,  
Psychologist at the Research Clinic for Gambling Disorder, Aarhus University Hospital
- Bergur Løkke Rasmussen,  
at the time Member of the European Parliament
- Sørine Vesth Rasmussen,  
Tech Policy at Børns Vilkår, Member of the EU Working Group on Tech Regulation
- Morten Rønde,  
CEO of the Danish Gambling Association
- Roico Corneliusen,  
Director of Esport Denmark

### CO-FOUNDER OF CONFERENCE

In November, the Center for Tracking and Society and the Department of Communication at the University of Copenhagen hosted the conference “**Financial Youth Cultures Across Gaming, Gambling, and Investment.**”

The DPGC contributed as a co-sponsor of the event, which was partly based on the research project “*Gamblified Game Mechanisms in Danish Children and Young People’s Gaming*,” funded by the Committee.

The conference focused on highlighting the challenges at the intersection of young people’s gaming behavior, gambling, and financial trends, as well as discussing possible solutions to these issues. The day featured presentations from a range of inspiring speakers, including Minister of Taxation Rasmus Stoklund, Director of the Danish Gambling Authority Anders Dorph, and Head of Policy at the Danish Consumer Council Tænk, Uffe Rabe Krag.



## PLANS FOR 2025



We are planning an online Research Conference in the start of 2025, streamed both in and outside Denmark, covering topics like gambling advertising, lower-risk gambling limits, and gambling-related harm. The Director of the Danish Gambling Authority, Anders Dorph, will introduce the event. Invitations will go to research institutions, treatment centres, gambling operators, and politicians, including tax, health, and culture spokespersons.

We are continuously working to enhance the DPGC's international reach. Key strategies include prioritizing research projects with the potential to generate value both in Denmark and globally. Additionally, projects that establish or show potential for international collaborations will be highly regarded during the evaluation process.

The prevention of problem gambling is most effectively strengthened through joint efforts between researchers, clinicians, gambling companies, and policymakers. In partnership with Aarhus University Hospital, we are hosting a meeting with the newly appointed Minister of Taxation, Rasmus Stoklund. The meeting will focus on addressing the issue of problem gambling and highlighting the vital role of research in this area.

## 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](mailto: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



[danskludomanikomite.dk](http://danskludomanikomite.dk)



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APPENDIX A:  
EXPENSES FOR 2024

	Budget (DKK)	Expenses (DKK)
RUNNING COSTS		
Daily management	332,512	337,181
Conferences	120,000	11,468
Other operational costs	155,000	76,695
SUBTOTAL (DKK)	607,512	425,344
GRANTS		
	3,000,000	0
PhD Projects		-
Other Research Projects		-
SUBTOTAL (DKK)	3,000,000	0
TOTAL (DKK)	3,607,512	425,344

## APPENDIX B: STATISTICS FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS 2024

### GRANTS AND SEX DISTRIBUTION OF MAIN APPLICANT

	Number of applications	% of total	Number of grants	Success rate
Female	2	50%	0	0%
Male	2	50%	0	0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>

### FOCUS AREA (applications may address more than one focus area)

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

### GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION

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

