

DANISH PROBLEM GAMBLING COMMITTEE



ANNUAL REPORT
2025

SUMMARY

2025 marked the final year of the initial funding period of the Danish Problem Gambling Committee (DPGC). It was also the year in which the Committee distributed the largest amount of research funding to date: a total of 6.421.826 DKK, enabling the launch of three additional large-scale research projects.

The committee has prioritized several key areas, including:

- Serving as a central platform for connecting researchers, stakeholders, and policymakers
- Issuing calls for research applications and conducting thorough and transparent assessments of submitted proposals
- Advancing efforts to extend the Committee's initial funding period, with the aim of ensuring continuity and expanding future funding opportunities
- Developing an internationalisation strategy to gradually broaden the Committee's reach beyond Denmark

In January 2025, the DPGC organized an online conference on problem gambling with attendees from all around the world.

Initiatives have already been undertaken to secure the continuation of the DPGC beyond 2025. In 2026, the Committee will further advance its development and strengthen its position as a robust, interdisciplinary foundation for research on gambling disorder and problem gambling in Denmark.



Jørgen Frøkiær
Chairperson of the Board

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A SUSTAINED COMMITMENT TO ADVANCING RESEARCH WITHIN PROBLEM GAMBLING IN DENMARK

Since its establishment in 2023, the DPGC has played a central role in strengthening the Danish research landscape within gambling disorder and problematic gambling behavior. Addressing a limited national research base, the Committee's core mission remains the same: to support rigorous, high-quality Danish research with relevance and impact both nationally and internationally.

An important priority for the DPGC has been the development of a robust and inclusive research environment. To this end, funding is directed toward both early-career researchers and well-established scholars, ensuring continuity and renewal within the field. One of the Committee's key structural achievements has been the

creation of an independent Funding Committee, consisting of internationally recognised experts with substantial experience in problem gambling and closely related research areas. This body operates alongside the DPGC board, which brings together representatives from Danish universities and research institutions.

Over the years, the DPGC has marked its progress through a series of milestones and research-related activities. The year 2025 continued this trajectory, with multiple initiatives and events contributing to the ongoing development of the field, as outlined in the present report.



2025 LANDMARKS FOR THE COMMITTEE



Only recently have we begun to build a genuine research environment in this field. The questions are many, but evidence-based answers have been too few. The need for research has never been greater.

Jørgen Frøkiær
Chairperson

January 15

Online international research conference

March 12

Release of the call for research applications

June 30

Deadline for applications
Received applications: 7

September 3

Evaluation meeting in the independent Funding Committee
Awards: 3

November 19

Webinar with the Industry Monitory Group

FINANCING OF THREE DANISH RESEARCH PROJECTS

Project I:

Youth gambling in Denmark – prevalence, patterns, drivers, and contexts: Toward early intervention in youth gambling

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 areas of the DPGC concerning prevention focusing on children and young people and treatment with a particular focus on 15-19-year-olds.

The project was granted 3,170,832 DKK.

Project II:

Teenagers and gambling streaming in Denmark: a mixed-methods design study

The study is organised as a postdoc project and arises from the Department of Communication at University of Copenhagen.

The study falls within the focus area of the DPGC concerning prevention with a focus on children and young people.

The project was granted 2,047,169 DKK.

Project III:

Gamblified experiences of young teens – meaning, agency and vulnerability

The study arises from the Department of Applied Business Research at UCL University College.

The study falls within the focus areas of the DPGC concerning prevention with a focus on children and young people and prevention on online gambling platforms.

The project was granted 1,203,825 DKK.

ONLINE WEBINAR WITH THE INDUSTRY MONITORING GROUP

The DPGC's support for Danish research on gambling disorder and problem gambling is funded through donations from five gambling companies licensed to operate in Denmark. Each donating company is represented in an Industry Monitoring Group under the DPGC.

The donating operators have no influence over which research the DPGC supports. Accordingly, the Industry Monitoring Group functions as a free forum for knowledge sharing, networking, mutual inspiration, and identifying areas where cross-sector research may be relevant.

The 2025 meeting of the Industry Monitoring Group was held in November as an online webinar featuring invited researchers as speakers. This format enabled participation from a larger number of companies and attendees. Representatives from four of the five donating gambling operators took part in the meeting.

Three researchers were invited to present DPGC-funded projects:

Jakob Winther Eriksen, psychologist and PhD student at Aarhus University Hospital, presented the project *Youth gambling in Denmark: Prevalence, patterns, drivers, and contexts: Toward early intervention in youth gambling*.

Thomas Marcussen, psychologist at Aarhus University Hospital, presented the project *Gamblified experiences of young teens – meaning, agency and vulnerability*.

Anne Mette Thorhauge, associate professor, University of Copenhagen, presented the project *Teenagers and gambling streaming in Denmark: A mixed-methods study*.

All presentations generated productive discussions, highlighting the value of bringing together researchers and industry representatives in a shared forum.

DONATING GAMBLING OPERATORS:

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

ACCOMPLISHED

EVENTS 2025

ONLINE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

In January 2025, the DPGC hosted an internationally streamed online research conference, with participants from research institutions, treatment centers, gambling operators, and political stakeholders, including spokespersons for taxation, health, and culture.

The scientific program covered a range of highly relevant topics, including the impact of gambling advertising, lower-risk gambling limits, and gambling-related harm. The conference was opened by Anders Dorph, Director of the Danish Gambling Authority. Invited speakers included, among others, Jakob Johnsson, clinical psychologist and PhD, Sustainable Interaction, Karolinska Institutet, Department of Clinical Neuroscience, and David C. Hodgins, PhD, R.Psych, FRSC, Department of Psychology, University of Calgary.

INTRODUCTION

Anders Dorph, Director of the Danish Gambling Authority

KEYNOTE: PREVENTING GAMBLING PROBLEMS – A STEP-WISE APPROACH FOR DUTY-OF-CARE

Jakob Johnsson, Clinical psychologist, PhD, Sustainable Interaction, Karolinska institutet, Department of Clinical Neuroscience

KEYNOTE: HOW MUCH IS TOO MUCH? DEVELOPMENT AND IMPACT OF LOWER RISK GAMBLING GUIDELINES

David C. Hodgins, PhD, R.Psych, FRSC, Department of Psychology, University of Calgary

PART OF THE SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME



INTERNATIONALISATION STRATEGY

In 2025, the Danish Problem Gambling Committee developed an internationalisation strategy to strengthen the global relevance, visibility, and impact of the research it supports. The strategy builds on the DPGC's commitment to funding research with strong national relevance and clear international significance, while fostering a research environment that connects Danish scholars with the wider international research community.

The strategy formalises and further develops existing international elements within the DPGC's work, including the use of an independent international funding committee, evaluation criteria that emphasise international relevance, and the encouragement of interna-

tional research collaboration. It also outlines concrete initiatives to enhance accessibility and engagement, such as strengthened focus on international dissemination of research findings.

Overall, the purpose of the internationalisation strategy is to ensure that research funded by the DPGC contributes meaningfully to international knowledge development, supports cross-border collaboration, and positions Danish problem gambling research within a broader global context, while remaining firmly grounded in national needs and priorities.



PLANS FOR 2026

Strengthening cross-sector collaboration

The prevention of problem gambling is most effectively advanced through coordinated efforts among researchers, clinicians, gambling operators, and policy-makers. In 2026, the DPGC will continue to strengthen this cross-sector collaboration. In partnership with Aarhus University Hospital, the DPGC will host a meeting with the Minister of Taxation, Ane Halsboe-Jørgensen. The meeting will focus on addressing problem gambling as a societal challenge and on highlighting the critical role of research in informing effective prevention, regulation, and treatment initiatives.

Expanding the DPGC's international reach remains a strategic priority.

Advancing international research impact

In 2026, particular emphasis will be placed on supporting research projects with the potential to generate impact both within Denmark and internationally. Projects that establish, strengthen, or demonstrate clear potential for international research collaboration will therefore be given increased weight in the evaluation process.

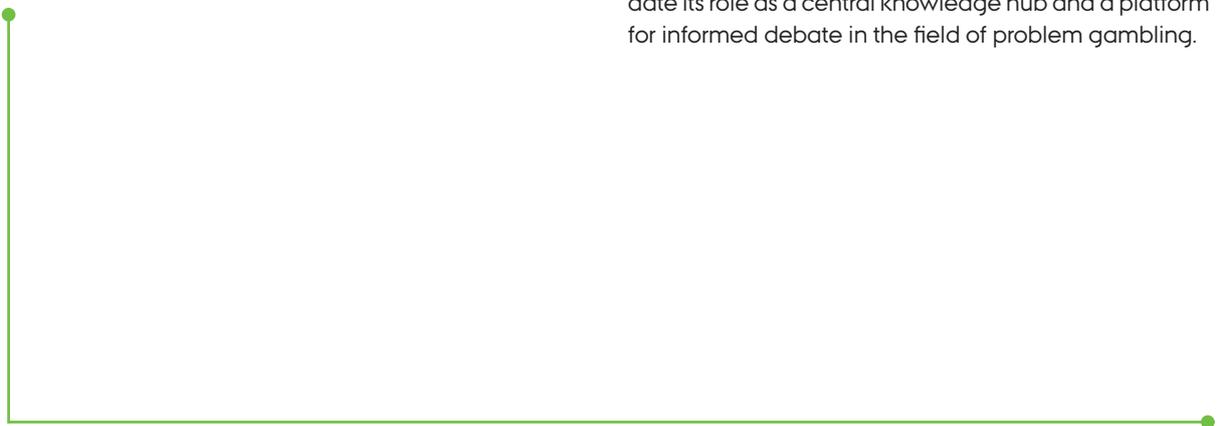
Support strategic European partnerships

The internationalisation strategy developed in 2025 will provide the foundation for these efforts and will guide future initiatives aimed at strengthening the DPGC's global engagement and visibility. As part of this work, the DPGC plans to pursue collaborations in 2026 with the European Association for the Study of Gambling (EASG) and the Gambling Regulators European Forum (GREF), thereby further supporting international knowledge exchange and collaboration.

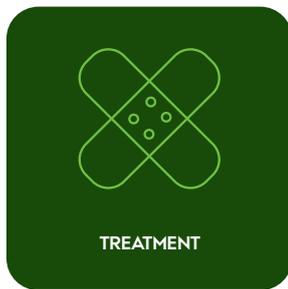
Expanding Our Voice in 2026

In 2026, the Danish Problem Gambling Committee will launch a new online web magazine dedicated to strengthening knowledge, dialogue, and transparency within the field of problem gambling. The primary focus of the publication will be to provide a structured and up-to-date overview of developments in Denmark, including research, clinical practice, and political initiatives. Special attention will be given to children and young people.

In addition, the web magazine will contribute to international knowledge sharing by disseminating Danish experiences and perspectives to a broader audience. Through this initiative, the Committee seeks to consolidate its role as a central knowledge hub and a platform for informed debate in the field of problem gambling.



DANISH PROBLEM GAMBLING COMMITTEE FOCUS AREAS



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

Charlotte Ulrikka Rask
Mads Uffe Pedersen
Faltin Karlsen
Jakob Jonsson
Ståle Pallesen

