

GAMBLING, POLICY ISSUES AND THE PUBLIC GOOD

The case of Finland

ABSTRACT

Gambling is regulated in the Nordic countries in the name of preventing social and public health harms. In Finland, gambling has been accepted and made acceptable because gambling proceeds are donated to charitable and non-profit causes. These proceeds are seen, however, as a positive side effect of the gambling operation, not as the main cause of it. Prevention of problem gambling has been a better argument in the debate concerning the maintenance of the gambling monopoly system. While the other Nordic countries seem to be ready to consider opening up their national gambling market to foreign gambling operators, Finland holds to its monopoly system in the name of safety, responsibility and public good causes.

KEYWORDS: Gambling, gambling policy, public good, problem gambling, prevention, Finland