



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI PADOVA

EXCESSIVE GAMBLING: PROMOTING AND PROTECTING HEALTH IN A DIGITALISED
WORLD

5th International Multidisciplinary Symposium

18TH - 20TH June 2025 MONTREUX

Multi-level Governance in Gambling Policy A Comprehensive Examination of Italy

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Background

- » Introduction:
- » Brief background on gambling regulation and the importance of multi-level governance
- » Aim of the study: To explore the multi-level governance of gambling policies in Italy.

Theoretical background

- » Concept of multi-level governance
- » Importance of the local level in gambling regulation



HP

HISTORY

- » HP1: In 2012, Italy witnessed the "revolt of municipalities", i.e., a peak of municipal gambling regulation (Pedroni, 20214)

MULTILEVEL

- » HP2a: The regional context influences the emergence of municipal regulation; the **more demanding** the regional laws, the **more active** the municipal level will be.
- » HP2b: The regional context influences the emergence of municipal regulation; the **more** that **regional laws call for municipal** intervention, **the more active** the municipal level will be.

TIME

- » HP3: Local time regulations are not influenced by the requirement implicit in the regional regulation.
- » HP4: Time limitations are consistent with the regional regulation, hence concentrated on night-time and mealtimes.



Methodology

Sampling Frame:

- » Focus on administrative acts that directly regulate gambling activity
- » Three sampling criteria:
 - Acts issued by a local authority
 - Acts directly regulating gambling
 - Comparable acts (regulations, resolutions, ordinances)
- » Sample limited to 2,072 acts: 986 regulations, 802 ordinances, 201 government resolutions, 83 council resolutions

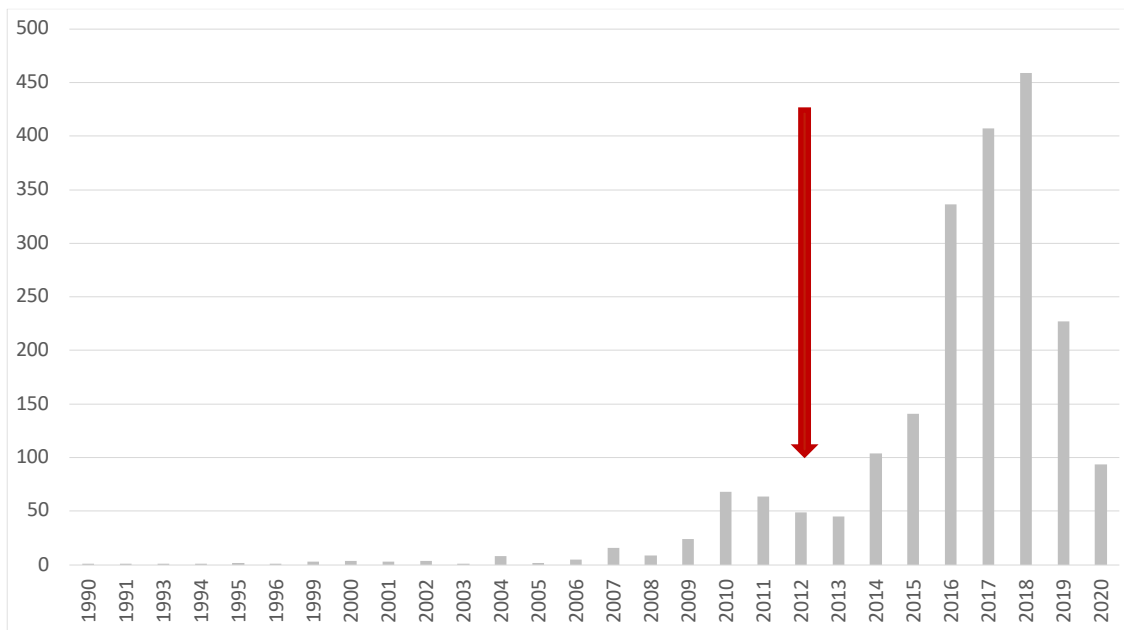
Data Collection:

Data gathered in 2021 using keywords, consulting public notice boards, archives, and gambling sites

Data set:

- » Comprehensive dataset of 2,000 local regulatory acts
- » Includes information on distances between EGMs and sensitive locations
- » Includes information on operating hours and time limitations

Findings - Regulatory Activity Over Time



» Refuting HP1:
Surge in regulatory
activity between
2016 and 2019

gs – Regional Context

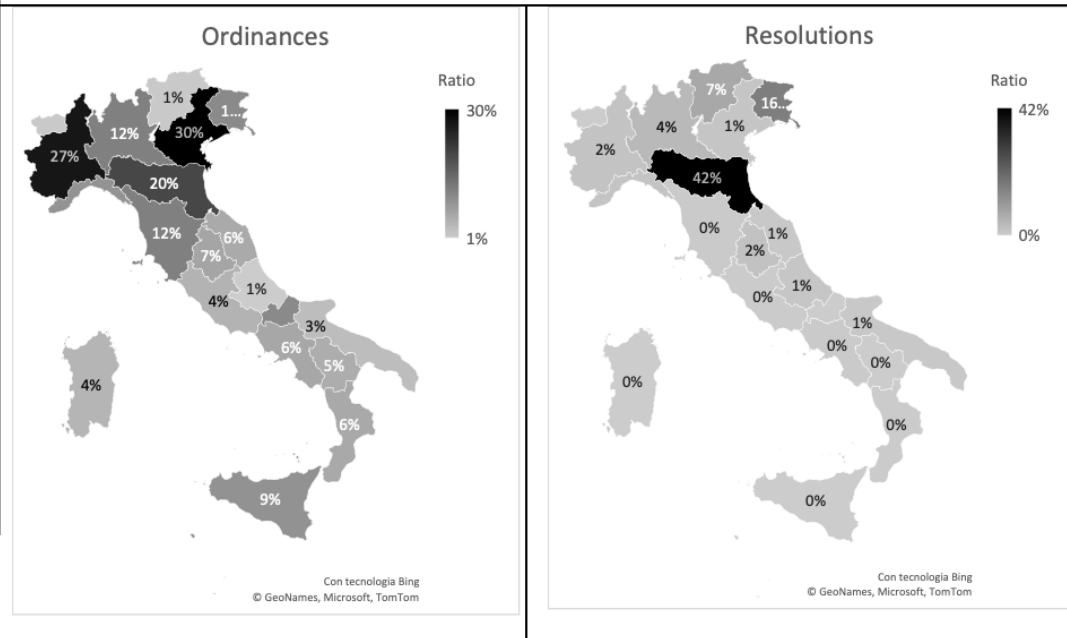
Ratio
98%

3%

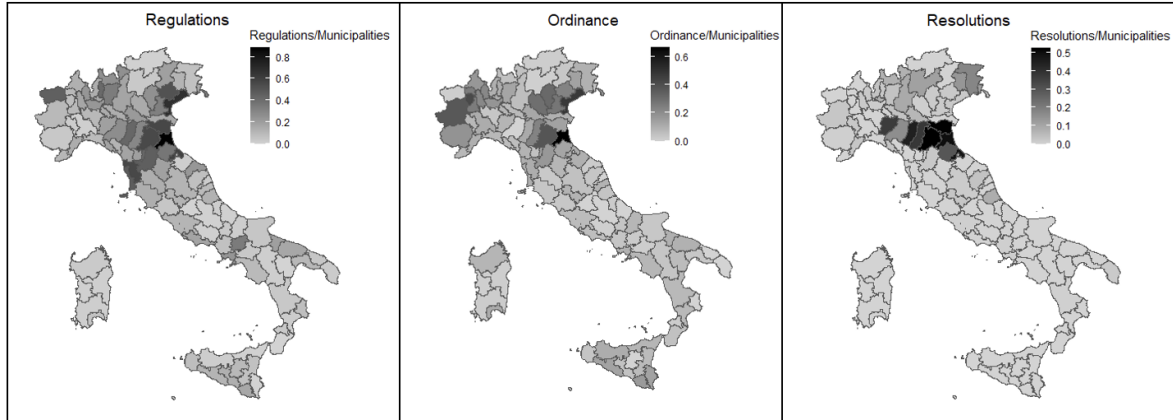
250 m	300 m	500 m	Delegated to Municipalities
Apulia	Abruzzi, Liguria, South-Tyrol, Trentino, Piedmont (S), Calabria (S)	Basilicata, Lombardy, Lazio (2013- 22)*Piedmont (L), Lazio, Marche, Molise, Sardinia, Umbria, Aosta ValleyCalabria (L), Friuli- Venezia-Giulia,	Emilia- Romagna, Veneto

12%

gs – Regional Context



Findings – Regional Level

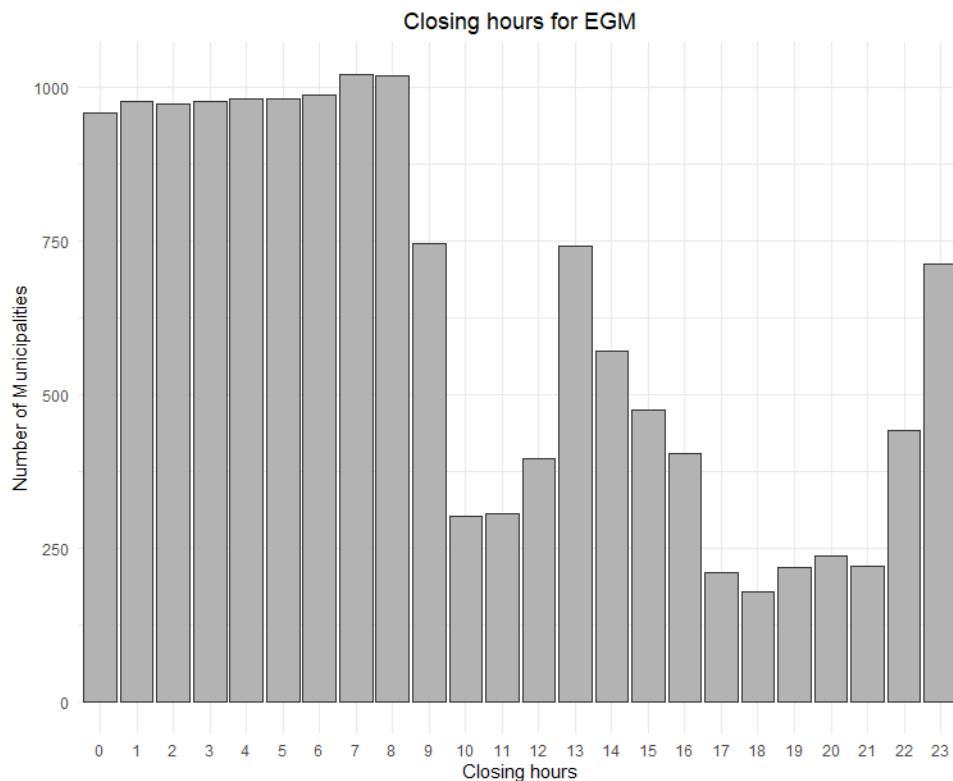


- » Partial support for HP2a and HP2b
- » Uneven distribution of municipal regulatory activism across regions

Findings – Time limitations 1

- » Given the Italian average (5.41%),
 - » Laws tasking municipalities would suggest more activism in Aosta Valley, Marche, Molise, Piedmont, Sardinia, Umbria, and Veneto,
 - » but Molise (0.74%), Sardinia (1.86%), Umbria (2.17%), and Marche (4.00%) are below the indicating other factors.
 - » Regions not requiring municipal action show varied results
 - » Low in Apulia (1.56%), Abruzzi (1.35%), and Liguria (1.71%);
 - » high in Trentino (5.88%), Lombardy (7.44%), and Sicily (5.88%).
- » Support for HP3
 - » Municipalities are independent in activating on the time issue

Findings – Time limitations 2



- » Support for HP4
- » Time limitations consistent with regional regulation
- Concentration on night-time and mealtimes

Limitation

- » Incomplete dataset
- » Geographical scope and data availability
- » Temporal constraint
- » Evolution of the phenomenon

Conclusion

- » Significant regulatory disparities exist between different local jurisdictions in Italy
- » Effectiveness of gambling regulations depends on cooperation and coordination between national, regional, and municipal authorities
- » Absence of a unified national strategy has led to inconsistencies in application and enforcement of laws
- » Municipalities play a crucial role in adapting national and regional policies to local needs
- » Industry's opposition to stricter regulations complicates efforts to develop effective public health measures
- » Current fragmentation highlights the need for better alignment across governance levels

Thanks a lot

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