

TSI Project “Promoting the Mental Health of Children and Youth by Addressing the Risks of Online Gambling and Gaming”

AGENDA

International Conference on Reviewing Practices to Address Risks of Online Gambling and Video Gaming for Children and Youth

Peer Exchange

**Hybrid format (in-person and online participation)
22-23 September 2026**

**Hotel Grand Hotel Excelsior
Valletta, MALTA
CASTILLE Meeting room**

Video link:

DAY 1:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85973559013?pwd=YjWu3dX9FYdp2dsVRgjGRAQ9YkAUy0.1>

Meeting ID: 859 7355 9013

Passcode: 887567

DAY 2 Morning

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87445366613?pwd=Q7GM2o97ZPMVet7CHCryL30zt2bwFQ.1>

Meeting chat link

<https://us06web.zoom.us/jc/87445366613>

Meeting ID: 874 4536 6613

Passcode: 838101

The Conference is organised under the project co-funded by the European Union via the Technical Support Instrument and implemented by the Council of Europe, in cooperation with the European Commission.

Background

The Technical Support Instrument project “Promoting the mental health of children and youth by addressing the risks of online gambling and gaming” launched in October 2024 supports eight EU Member States (Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Portugal and Slovenia) in enhancing their responses to the risks related to online gambling and video gaming among children and youth.

The project brings together evidence, policy experience and practical approaches to prevention, treatment, harm reduction and awareness raising.

As part of the project, a **Situation Analysis of Current Responses in Europe and Globally Addressing Children and Youth Online Gambling and Video Gaming** was developed, together with a **Review of International Practices to address the risks of online gambling and video gaming for children and youth** to identify **evidence-based and transferable approaches in prevention, treatment and harm reduction** related to online gambling and video gaming. The findings and recommendations will support countries in strengthening their national responses and contribute to the development of an **initial toolbox of interventions**.

Conference Aim

The **International Conference** aims to bring together project partners, policymakers, practitioners, and international experts to present and discuss identified national practices and initiatives, share the findings and recommendations of the Review of International Practices Report and facilitate the exchange of knowledge and dialogue among EU participating member states, including those demonstrating promising and evidence-based practices in the field.

The conference will:

- Present key findings and recommendations from the **Report on the Review of International Practices** to address the risks of online gambling and video gaming for children and youth;
- Explore relevant **Council of Europe standards and good practices**;
- Showcase **national promising practices** from EU Member States and beyond;
- Facilitate **peer learning** and **exchange** between participating EU Member States.

Working language: English

Co-Host: Ministry for Social Policy and the Family, Republic of Malta

AGENDA

DAY 1 – FROM EVIDENCE TO PRACTICE

Tuesday, 22 September 2026

8.00 – 9.00	REGISTRATION
9.00 – 9.30	OPENING SESSION • Welcome by representatives from Republic of Malta • Welcome by the SG REFORM (EU Commission Reform and Investment Task Force) (registered video or online intervention) • Welcome by the Council of Europe • Welcome by Kateřina Horáčková, Pompidou Group Bureau Member
9.30 – 10.30	SESSION 1: FINDINGS FROM THE REVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL GOOD PRACTICES TO ADDRESS THE RISKS OF ONLINE GAMBLING AND VIDEO GAMING FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH <i>Moderator: Prof. Marilyn Clark, Department of Psychology, Faculty for Social Wellbeing, University of Malta, MSc Addiction Studies Course Coordinator</i> • Dr Andrea CZAKÓ, Council of Europe Consultant, Research Fellow, Flinders University, Australia (online) • Prof Zsolt DEMETROVICS, Council of Europe Consultant, Professor of Psychology, Flinders University, Australia (online) Q&A *** 10.30 – 11.00: Coffee break & Group Photo ***
11.00 – 12.30	SESSION 2: FROM RIGHTS TO RESPONSIBILITIES: COUNCIL OF EUROPE STANDARDS AND APPROACHES FOR A SAFER DIGITAL ENVIRONMENT <i>Moderator: Elena YURKINA, Head of Unit, Human Rights and Justice Cooperation Department, Council of Europe</i> I. CHILDREN'S RIGHTS & THE DIGITAL ENVIRONMENT • Children in the Digital Environment: Rights, AI and Social Media, Anne de Zeeuw, Directorate General of Democracy and Human Dignity, Council of Europe (online) II. REGULATION & PROTECTION • From Evidence to Standards: Developing a Committee of Ministers Recommendation on the Risks and Harms of Online and Digital Addictions, Kateřina Horáčková, Pompidou Group Bureau Member • Video games and the protection of minors - A dynamic ecosystem at regulatory crossroads, Eric Munch, Legal Advisor, European Audiovisual Observatory, Council of Europe • Athletes at risk: the new threat of Sports Betting Addiction. Perspective of the Council of Europe Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions, Rute Soares, Advisor to the Secretary of State for Sport, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport, Vice-Chair of the Network of National Platforms of the Macolin Convention, Portugal III. CULTURE, EDUCATION & ONLINE COMMUNITIES • Tackling Hate Speech and Toxicity in Online Gaming, Martin Fischer, GameOverHate, Media & Game Educator, Germany (online) • From Risk Awareness to Critical Engagement: Educating for a Video Game Culture, Dr. Gaia Amadori, Member of Council of Europe's Video Game Culture Working Group Q&A
12.30 – 14.00	Lunch & Networking

14.00 – 15.30	SESSION 3: WHAT WORKS? SHOWCASE OF NATIONAL PRACTICES Prevention, Treatment and Harm Reduction in Practice <i>Moderators: Dr Anna Grech, Department of Psychology, Faculty for Social Wellbeing, University of Malta</i> MALTA • Gambling and Gaming prevention activities for children and youth, Jareth Grima, Dr Gianluca Bezzina, Agency Sedqa, Foundation for Social Welfare Services. Ministry for Social Policy and the Family. • Harm reduction measures for children and youth, Dr Maris Catania, University of Malta PORTUGAL • Developing a Specialised Treatment Response to Gaming Disorder, Dr Mario Santos, <i>Institute on Addictive Behaviours and Dependencies</i> • “Me and the others”: An Evidence-Informed programme, Maria Cazenave, <i>Institute on Addictive Behaviours and Dependencies</i> POLAND • Don’t take a blind guess - program, co-funded by KCPU, pre-liminary results of its implementation, Dr. Magdalena Rowicka, Assistant Professor at the Maria Grzegorzewska University, Warsaw, Poland (online) • Tools for modern times - program Dr. Magdalena Rowicka, Assistant Professor at the Maria Grzegorzewska University, Warsaw, Poland (online) Q&A *** 15.30 – 16.00: Coffee break ***
16.00 – 17.00	SESSION 4: WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM OTHER COUNTRIES? Evidence-Based Experiences and Lessons from Across Europe <i>Moderator: Delina CICI, Senior Project Officer, Human Rights and Justice Cooperation Department, Council of Europe</i> FINLAND • From Evidence to Practice: Implementing and Communicating Lower-Risk Gambling Guidelines in Finland, Sari Castrén, Associate Professor, Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare / University of Turku / University of Helsinki GERMANY • 10 Years of “Git Gud, Get Real”: A Therapeutic Approach for Adolescents with Internet Gaming Disorder, Dr Daniel Illy, Chief Physician, Asklepios Fachklinikum Brandenburg, Germany (online) SWITZERLAND • Clinical and Public Health Responses to Gaming and Gambling-Related Harms, Dr Sophia Achab, Director of WHO Collaborating Centre for training and research in mental health, Director of treatment program ReConnecte at University Hospitals of Geneva Q&A
17.00 – 17.15	DAY 1 REFLECTION Tigran KARAPETYAN, Head of Division, Human Rights and Justice Cooperation Department, Council of Europe
SIDE EVENT (same venue) 17.15 – 18.00	CONNECTING THE DOTS Advancing the European Response to Problematic Use of the Internet: The BootStRaP Network, Best Practices and Policy Impact (see dedicated Side Event Agenda)

DAY 2 – FROM EXCHANGE TO ACTION Wednesday, 23 September 2026	
9.00 – 9.10	Welcome to Day 2 Tigran KARAPETYAN , Head of Division, Human Rights and Justice Cooperation Department, Council of Europe
9.10 – 12.00	SESSION 5: WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM EACH OTHER? Exchange of National Practices in Prevention, Treatment and Harm Reduction <i>Moderator: Prof. Marilyn Clark, Department of Psychology, Faculty for Social Wellbeing, University of Malta, MSc Addiction Studies Course Coordinator</i> CYPRUS Treatment Services in Cyprus: Achievements, Challenges and Lessons Learned, Eva Symeonidou, Officer, Policy Department, Cyprus National Addictions Authority CROATIA Self-Exclusion Register & Strengthening Public–Private Cooperation in Addressing Behavioural Addictions, Mia Mardešić, Croatian Institute for Public Health HUNGARY The Stake is You Campaign – Progress, lessons and impact, Dr. Anna Faggyas, Legal Advisor, Gambling Licensing and Procedures Division, Supervisory Authority for Regulatory Affairs Hungary’s Initiatives for healthy internet use, Dr. Peter Földi, EU and international policy officer, Department for International and European Union Affairs, Ministry of Health Online gaming – risks and harms: Gaming habits of children aged 12-16 in Hungary, Laura Aniot, Child Protection Expert, National Media and Infocommunication Authority. SLOVENIA Logout&Restart Programme, A Promising Approach to Addressing Gaming-Related Harm, Julija Menoni, Counselor, Lecturer and Researcher, Logout Center DENMARK Insights and data from the Danish Gambling Authority’s National Gambling helpline, StopSpillet, Stine Hald Mårtensson, Chief Consultant, StopSpillet Q&A *** 10.30 – 11.00: Coffee break ***
12.00 – 12.15	FROM GOOD PRACTICE TO NATIONAL ACTION Conclusions and closing reflections <i>Moderator: Jonathan Silvio, Director, Coordination and Implementation Directorate, Ministry for Social Policy and the Family of the Republic of Malta</i> Dr Michael Falzon, Minister for Social Policy and the Family of the Republic of Malta Hana Lucic, Simone Boselli, Policy Officer, Technical Support Instrument, SG REFORM, Brussels (online) Tigran KARAPETYAN, Head of Division, Human Rights and Justice Cooperation Department, Council of Europe
12.15 – 14.00	Lunch & Networking