Mapping of local gambling initiatives in Italy

Abstract: The dataset provides the complete enumeration of gambling policies implemented by Italian Municipalities between 2003 and 2021. The dataset comprises information on all municipalities existing in 2017 and following years (thus considering also merging). The following variables are available: Municipality ISTAT Code (ID), Municipality Name (Name) Province, Region, Researcher, and a series of variables identifying the number and the type of rulings adopted ("regolamento", "ordinanza" and "delibera"). The rulings are distinguished between identified and downloaded or only identified (because the document is no longer available). Additional variables describe municipal activism with other administrative acts (Anti-gambling Manifesto, events, projects or tax reductions).
Overall, the dataset comprises 8031 units.

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Content
Municipality ISTAT Code (ID): Unique identifier ISTAT code (nominal variable)
Municipality (Name): Italian name of the municipality as per 2017 record and following years (nominal variable)
Province: Two-letter code of the ISO 3166-2:IT standard identifying the province or the metropolitan city where the unit of analysis (municipality) is located (nominal variable)
Region: Unique identifier ISTAT code (nominal variable)
Researcher (IR): Code to identify the researcher who performed the randomized mapping (nominal variable [0,40]).
Researcher (IR2): Code to identify the researcher who performed the geographical mapping

(nominal variable [0,71]).

Regolamento (Reg): Variable providing the number of gambling regulations issued by the municipal council (Regolamento deliberato dal Consiglio Comunale) found or mentioned in other sources (interval variable [0,4])

Regolamento identificato (Regi): Variable providing the number of gambling regulations issued by the municipal council identified and found (interval variable [0,4])

Regolamento non identificato (Regin): Variable providing the number of gambling regulations issued by the municipal council identified because only mentioned by other sources (interval variable [0,3])

Ordinanza (Ord): Variable providing the number of gambling regulations issued by the mayor (Ordinanza sindacale) found or mentioned in other sources (interval variable [0,3])

Ordinanza identificata (Ordi): Variable providing the number of gambling regulations issued by the mayor identified and found (interval variable [0,3])

Ordinanza non identificata (Ordin): Variable providing the number of gambling regulations issued by the mayor identified because only mentioned by other sources (interval variable [0,2])

Delibera di giunta (Deli): Variable providing the number of gambling regulations issued by the municipal government (Delibera di Giunta) found or mentioned in other sources (dummy variable)

Regolamento Edilizio (Rege): Dummy variable identifying municipalites having a building regulation (Regolamento edilizio) with specific provisions limiting the opening of legal gambling activities

Union: Italian name of the Union or of the Social Plan as in the documentation (nominal variable)

Subscription of the "Manifesto dei Sindaci" (Manifesto_d): Dummy variable identifying municipalities having subscribed the "Manifesto dei sindaci per la legalità contro il gioco d'azzardo" (interval variable [0,1])

Year of the subscription (Manifesto): Variable identified the year of subscription of the "Manifesto dei sindaci per la legalità contro il gioco d'azzardo", if the only information available was the subscription the current year was used (2020) (interval variable [2013, 2020])

Dedicated tax regulation (Tari): Variable providing the number of tax regulations issued by the municipal council favouring the limitation of gambling venues (interval variable [0,3])

Presence of a council debate (Dibattito): Variable providing the number non-binding official documents certifying the presence of a political debate (Ordini del giorno, Delibere di Consiglio, etc.) (Regolamento deliberato dal Consiglio Comunale) (interval variable [0,2])

Project (Proj): Variable providing the number of projects developed by the Municipality to promote safer gambling behaviours (interval variable [0,4])

Board (Board): Dummy variable identifying municipalites having a ruling by the prefect on allowed games and additional limitation (interval variable [0,1])

Sources
ID, Municipality, Province, Region
Official data retrieved from the ISTAT website (April 28, 2020)
Other variables
Bassoli, M., Baratin, A., Cagnoli, F., Andreato, M., Antonello, P., Bassi, A., Bellotti, D., Bordin, B., Bresolin, G. P., Brugin, S., Carion, A., Carlotto, G., Casarotto, R., Chinellato, C., Chinellato, E., Dal Santo, G., Dalla Via, T., Di Felice, L., Farinelli, P., … Zerajic De Giorgio, M. E. (2021). 2020 Dataset on local gambling regulations in Italy. https://doi.org/10.25430/researchdata.cab.unipd.it. 00000569
Data collected by the "URBES - Observatory on Urban Policies" research group

Methodology
Sampling frame
The units of analysis are Italian municipalities. The mapping procedure adopted a sampling frame for Italian municipalities based on the ISTAT list of municipalities in the year 2017 (January 1) as main inclusionary criteria (7983 units), corrected for those municipalities active in the year 2020. The resulting list thus also includes some municipalities that later merged into new municipalities in 2018, 2019 and 2020, for a total of 8031 units.

As for the variables, we did not set any time limits, thus considering all documentation available. During the period March 15 – July 1, 2021, we divided all municipalities into 71 groups via geographical partition. Researcher were aware of the work of Bassoli et al. (2021) therefore could leverage on previous information to check for consistency and look for new information. The researcher followed the following protocol (Bassoli and Pedroni 2015).

Mapping protocol
The protocol was developed by Bassoli and Pedroni (2015) and later adapted for this dataset. Every Italian municipality is obliged by law to publicize local rulings through an online public notices board hosted by a dedicated website.

We gathered information on the presence of local ruling using a standard procedure of web-search based on keywords. We identified three phases for our search: the web search, the municipal website and gambling dedicated websites. As for the first phase, we opted for the Google™ search-engine because it is the most widely used search engine and the one with a stronger user-led learning algorithm. We then identified two possible sets of key words for each type of act (regolamento, ordinanza and delibera):

- Comune + [name of the municipality] + azzardo + [type of act]
- Comune + [name of the municipality] + ludopatia + [type of act]

and two additional key words influenced by the language used in the official documents and tested by Bassoli and Pedroni (2015)

- Comune + [name of the municipality] + gioco + regolamento
- Comune + [name of the municipality] + apparecchi + ordinanza

As for the second phase, we analysed both the online public notices board (with only recent publications) and its archive (with older documents). The keywords used to find relevant documents in the online archives were "apparecchi", "azzardo" and "ludopatia". While within each document (to check the document relevance) the key words were the following: "awp", "sale giochi" and "slot machines".

Finally, for the third focal phase, we selected six websites identified using key-informants: agimeg.it, avvisopubblico.it, gioconews.it, jamma.tv, legalita.net, and pressgiochi.it.

All the information obtained on the web was inserted in two documents: the database and a survey gathering information about each document, which is available upon request.

Thereafter the researchers update the previous dataset " 2020 Dataset on local gambling regulations in Italy" (Bassoli et al. 2021) with new information, along with the personal archives of Dr Paolo Jarre (accessed March 2020), of Prof Pedroni (accessed in November 2020) and of Prof Bassoli (accessed in February 2021)

Methodological caveat

The focus of the research was identifying formal regulations (regolamento, ordinanza and delibera). Therefore, the variables Reg, Regi, Regin, Ord, Ordi, Ordin, and Deli were collected using consistent procedures and a thorough mapping of the building regulation (Rege).

Other information contained in the dataset is of lower quality. For example, the variables indicating the subscription of the "Manifesto dei sindaci per la legalità contro il gioco d'azzardo" (Manifesto_d, Manifesto), the presence of tax deduction (Tari), the presence of a political debate (Dibattito) or the development of specific projects (Proj) were collected to provide only a general understanding of local gambling activism. The keywords were not coherent with a thorough mapping of the building regulation (Rege).

The dataset does not contain information about the temporal validity of each document thus, hindering the possibility of determining the level of policy coverage per year.

Publications

N.A.

References

Bassoli and Pedroni (2015), Protocollo di mappatura per tesisti, Novedrate: eCampus.

Bassoli, M., Baratin, A., Cagnoli, F., Andreato, M., Antonello, P., Bassi, A., Bellotti, D., Bordin, B., Bresolin, G. P., Brugin, S., Carion, A., Carlotto, G., Casarotto, R., Chinellato, C., Chinellato, E., Dal Santo, G., Dalla Via, T., Di Felice, L., Farinelli, P., … Zerajic De Giorgio, M. E. (2021). 2020 Dataset on local gambling regulations in Italy. https://doi.org/10.25430/researchdata.cab.unipd.it. 00000569