



Bingo Sector Overview

EUBINGO, the Federation of European Bingo Associations is composed of the Bingo Association of the Licensed Bingo Industry in Great Britain, the Spanish Confederation of Organisations of Bingo Games Managers (Confederación Española de Organizaciones de Empresarios del Juego del Bingo), the Italian Federbingo (Federazione Nazionale Concessionari Bingo), and the Star Bingo Group of Ireland. The primary aim of EUBINGO is to represent the interests of its members at EU level. We provide below a snapshot of the bingo sector in Europe.

General Overview

- Bingo is a game of chance, in which the player uses a scorecard or an electronic representation thereof bearing numbers and plays by marking or covering numbers identical to numbers drawn by chance, whether manually or electronically. A bingo game is won by the player who first marks or covers the “line” which is achieved when, during one game, for the first time all five numbers on one horizontal row on one scorecard are drawn; or the “house” or “bingo” is achieved when, during one game, for the first time all fifteen numbers on one scorecard are drawn.
- Prizes are either given in kind (Denmark, Finland and the UK) and paid immediately (Sweden), or are cash prizes (Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain and the UK).
- Bingo is primarily a locally based, SME-driven activity which rarely transcends national borders.
- The Bingo sector is estimated to employ 80,000 people across the EU.
- The Bingo sector represents 0.06% of EU GDP.



Taxes and Revenue

- Bingo services and charitable gambling generate about 5.6 billion euro per year.
- The Bingo sector represents 10.2% of total Gross Gaming Revenues (GGRs) for the entire gambling sector.
- Taxation regimes for bingo range from 4% in Slovakia to 29% in some regions of Spain.

Regulation of the Sector

- Regulation relating to bingo varies widely not only from one Member State to the other, but even between different gaming jurisdictions within the same Member State.
- Some jurisdictions maintain specific legal requirements as to the type of legal entity entitled to offer bingo services such as Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands, Portugal and Sweden, or nationality requirements for the operators, so that only domestic companies can offer bingo services (the Netherlands, Spain and Sweden). Some regions prohibit the provision of bingo services entirely (within Portugal).



COUNTRY PROFILES – these relate to the countries in which EUBINGO members operate



GREAT BRITAIN

- In 2003 there were 699 fully equipped bingo clubs operating in Great Britain, 95 of which were seasonal venues and 604 which were non-seasonal.
 - Gross revenues for the bingo sector in Great Britain in 2003 were 2.8 billion euro.
 - The tax rate applied to profits is set at 15% of gross profits. Additionally a 17.5% VAT tax on the bingo activities (such as admission and participation fee) is levied.
 - Bingo is governed by the Gaming Act 1968 and the Gaming (Bingo) Act 1985. A new Gambling Act 2005 will take effect in September 2007.
 - The employment figure for the UK bingo sector in 2006 was approximately 17,500.
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IRELAND

- There are 25 fully equipped bingo clubs operating in the Republic of Ireland
 - Gross revenues for the Bingo sector in the Republic of Ireland are 27.13 million euro.
 - The tax rate applied to profits is set at 22% of gross profits.
 - Bingo is governed by the 1956 Gaming & Lotteries Act and the findings of the Supreme Court case Bolger v. Doherty [1970] IR 233 at 235, 1965 in which bingo was recognized to be a form of lottery.
 - The employment figure for the Irish bingo sector was approximately 120.
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ITALY

- There are 300 fully equipped bingo halls operating in Italy.
 - Gross revenues for the Bingo sector in Italy in 2003 was 1.2 billion euro.
 - Average profits before tax is 18.2% of gross revenues.
 - The tax rate applied to profits is set at 20%.
 - The supervision of the bingo game is done through the Italian State Monopolies Authority which grants a six year 'concession' for bingo operation to private entities. A deposit of € 516.456,89 must be deposited to launch a bingo operation.
 - The employment figure for the Italian bingo sector in 2006 was 9,000.
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NORTHERN IRELAND

- There are 36 licensed bingo clubs operating in Northern Ireland.
- The tax rate applied to profits is set at 15% of gross profits.
- The UK Gambling Act 2005 will take effect in Northern Ireland shortly after it enters into force in Great Britain in September 2007.



SPAIN

- There are 465 fully equipped bingo halls in Spain.
- Gross revenues for the Bingo sector in Spain in 2003 was 3.9 billion euro.
- The tax rate applied to bingo revenues fluctuates between 20-29% of total turnover.
- The employment figure for the Spanish bingo sector in 2006 was 18,000.

Gross Gaming Revenue for Member States by Sector i.e. stake minus payout 2003 (€ thousands)

| Country | Total | Bingo Services | % of Total |
|----------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Austria | 893,540 | 0 | |
| Belgium | 679,310 | 0 | |
| Cyprus | 72,580 | 0 | |
| Czech Republic | 861,820 | 0 | |
| Denmark | 856,430 | 40,270 | 4.7 |
| Estonia | 23,750 | 0 | |
| Finland | 1,240,870 | 5,870 | 0.4 |
| France | 7,585,500 | 0 | |
| Germany | 8,700,300 | 0 | |
| Greece | 1,068,200 | 0 | |
| Hungary | 580,180 | 5,600 | 0.9 |
| Ireland | 1,143,640 | 27,130 | 2.4 |
| Italy | 6,240,710 | 110,990 | 1.8 |
| Latvia | 66,830 | 1,350 | 0.2 |
| Lithuania | 25,680 | 0 | 0 |
| Luxembourg | 96,580 | 0 | 0 |
| Malta | 153,540 | 850 | 0.5 |
| Netherlands | 2,060,800 | 0 | 0 |
| Poland | 432,410 | 1,620 | 0.3 |
| Portugal | 945,040 | 120,000 | 1.3 |
| Slovakia | 216,150 | 0 | 0 |
| Slovenia | 60,430 | 0 | 0 |
| Spain | 7,933,116 | 3,929,580 | 49.5 |
| Sweden | 1,584,000 | 63,300 | 3.9 |
| U.K. | 10,972,020 | 2,754,710 | 25.1 |
| Totals | 54,679,196 | 5,554,860 | 10.2 |

Sources: Comisión Nacional del Juego and Draft Study of Gambling Services in the Internal Market of the European Union of 24 April 2006; Chapter II; Swiss Institute of Comparative Law; EUROSTAT.

