

Policy scaling tools, which translate national addiction policies into numbers and measure how strict and/or comprehensive they are, show that there are no unified and integrated addiction policies implemented throughout Europe

addiction policies
 monitoring
 scales

Policy scales have been used for many decades measuring the strictness and comprehensiveness of alcohol and tobacco policies (Joossens & Raw 2014; Karlsson, Lindeman & Österberg 2012). A brand new scale to measure gambling policies developed within the Alice Rap project, together with updated alcohol and tobacco scales, offered an opportunity to compare the outcomes and results for how these addictive substances and behaviours are governed in Europe.

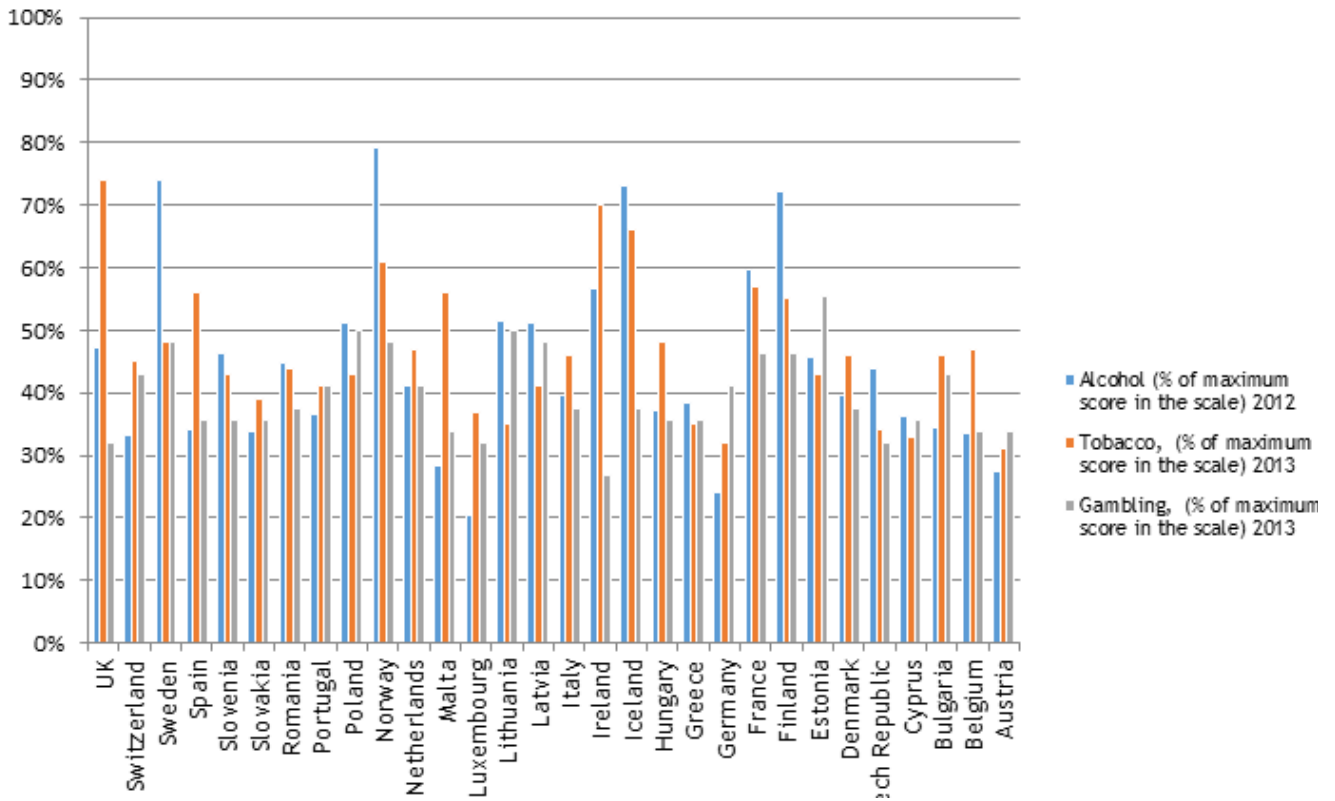


Figure: Relative gambling, tobacco and alcohol policy scores

When comparing alcohol, tobacco and gambling policies with the help of the policy scales, a picture of the addiction policy field in Europe took shape and bivariate correlation analysis showed that a statistically significant correlation was found between:

- Alcohol policies and tobacco policies
- Alcohol policies and gambling policies

But not between tobacco and gambling policies. However, it seems more accurate to say that countries tend to combine liberal and strict policy measures for the different addictive substances and behaviors as they see fit, rather than speaking of an integrated and unified addiction policy including all substances and behaviours.

In addition to these three scales, a policy scale for illicit drugs was created, but due to the illegal status of the substances measured it could not be constructed in the same way as the scales for alcohol, tobacco and gambling. The drug scale ended up being strictly descriptive in nature, and therefore left out of the comparison above.

READ MORE

Lindeman, M., Karlsson, T. & Österberg, E. (2015): Policy Scales. Addiction and Lifestyles in Contemporary Europe: Reframing Addictions Project (ALICE RAP): [Deliverable 14.1](#)

Karlsson, T., Lindeman, M. & Österberg, E. (2012): Does alcohol policy make any difference? Scales and consumption. In: Anderson P, Braddick F, Reynolds J & Gual A eds. (2012) *Alcohol Policy in Europe: Evidence from AMPHORA*. 2nd ed, pp. 17-25. [The AMPHORA project](#). ISBN: 978-84-695-7411-9.

Joossens, L. & Raw, M. (2014): *The Tobacco Control Scale 2013 in Europe*. Brussels: Association of European Cancer Leagues

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