

Geographical research of gambling in the Czech Republic



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Aims of the presentation



1) Evaluation of the gambling research

- Especially focused on the research in the Czech environment

2) Introduction of available data concerning gambling in the Czech Republic

- Outcomes based on geographical analysis of these data

Gambling – importance



- **Negative influence**
 - Health and economic problems not just of individuals (gamblers) but also their families
 - Increased crime rates in the vicinity of gambling halls, casinos, etc.
 - Social deprivations: areas around gambling halls
- **„Positive“ effect**
 - Increased tax income of municipalities or even entire regions

A Brief Modern History of Gambling



- Lotteries in the Austro-Hungarian Empire
- Slot machines in 1930s
- State lottery company SAZKA
 - Founded in 1956
 - Prevention of illegal betting and financing a new sporting organization „Československý svaz tělesné výchovy“
- Transformation period (after 1989) – huge development of gambling, mainly of EGMs
 - Technical progress of gaming machines
 - Weak regulation of public policies

Phenomenon of gambling in the Czech Republic

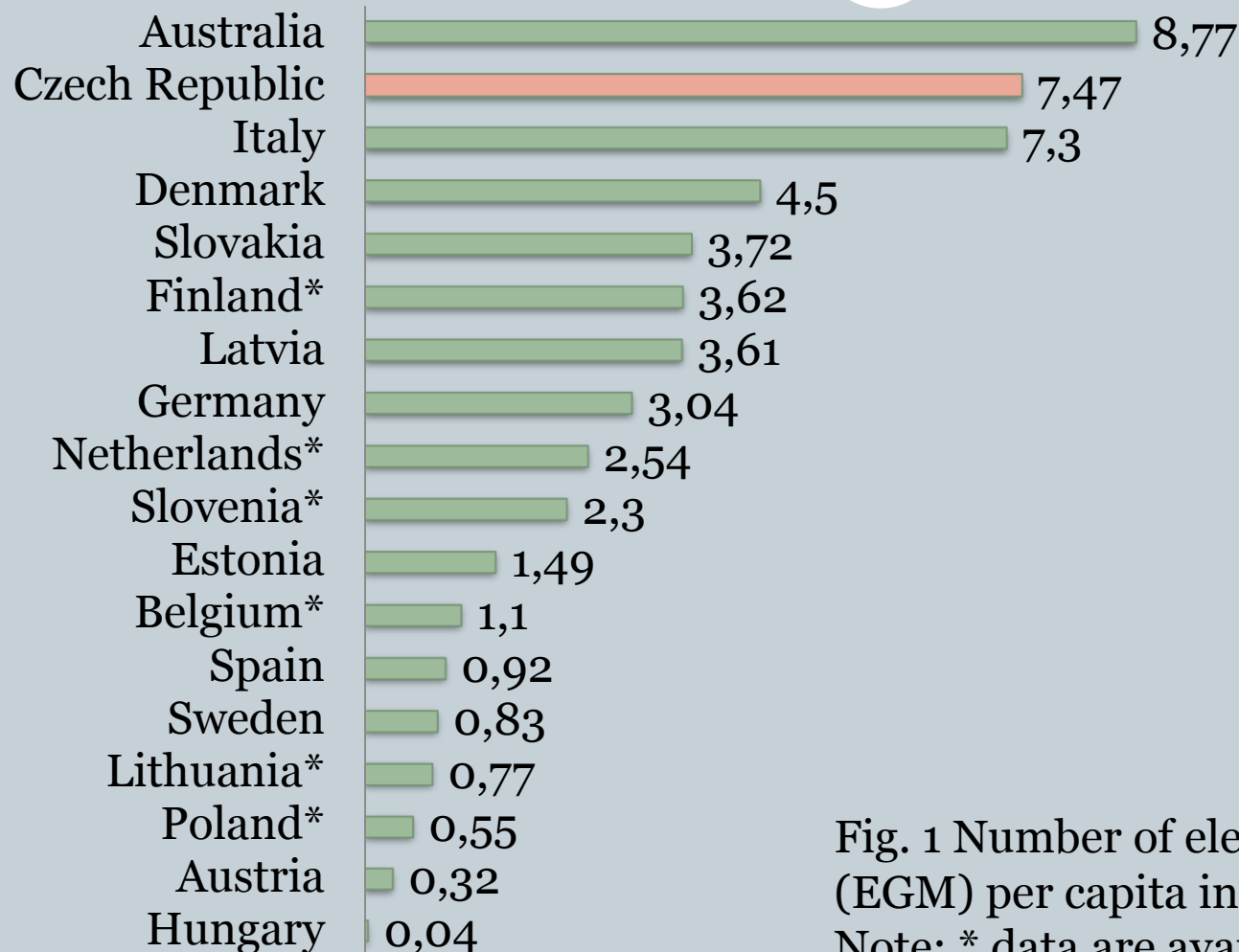


Fig. 1 Number of electronic gaming machines (EGM) per capita in 2013

Note: * data are available only for 2011

Gambling research in the Czech Republic



- Problem gambling and pathological gambling
 - Especially medical research
 - Demographic groups – seniors, adolescent
 - Addictological services
 - Treatment, prevention of problem gambling
- Regulation of gambling
 - Comparing legislative framework with other countries
- ⇒ Lack of geographical research of gambling
 - ⇒ (up to date just few bachelor and diploma thesis and paper from Perlín-Bednářová)

Geographical research of gambling abroad



- Focused mainly on accessibility and availability of gambling services
- Usually concentrated on the local scale
 - Marshall, D.; McMillen, J., Doran, B. The Geography of Gambling: Accessibility of EGMS in Suburban Canberra [online]. In: Proceedings of the 14th National Association for Gambling Studies Conference. Gold Coast, Qld.: National Association for Gambling Studies, 2004: 171-177.
 - Marshall, D. (2005). The gambling environment and gambler behaviour: Evidence from Richmond-Tweed, Australia. *International Gambling Studies*. 5, 63-83.
 - Raento, P. & D. G. Schwartz, eds. (2011). *Gambling, Space and Time. Shifting Boundaries and Cultures*. University of Nevada Press, Reno.
 - Raento, P., ed. (2012). *Rehapelaaminen Suomessa [Gambling in Finland]*. Gaudeamus Helsinki University Press, Helsinki
 - Valentine, G., Hughes, K.A. (2012) Shared space/distant lives? Understanding the meaning of personal relationships, family and intimacy at home through the lens of internet gambling *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers* 37(2): 242-255.

Available data concerning gambling in the Czech Republic



- **EGMs**
 - List of permitted machines in every municipality in the Czech Republic by Ministry of Finance – websites of Ministry of Finance
 - It is possible to apply for the list of machines permitted by municipalities
- **Incomes of municipalities**
 - MONITOR portal – municipalities' budgets
- **Regulation of gambling**
 - Generally binding ordinances (GBO) – municipalities have to announce that council adopted GBO (websites of Ministry of Finance)
 - Referendums – the year 2014 is so called „the year of referendums“ – 1/3 of them about gambling regulation



Results

Examples of municipalities' incomes from gambling industry

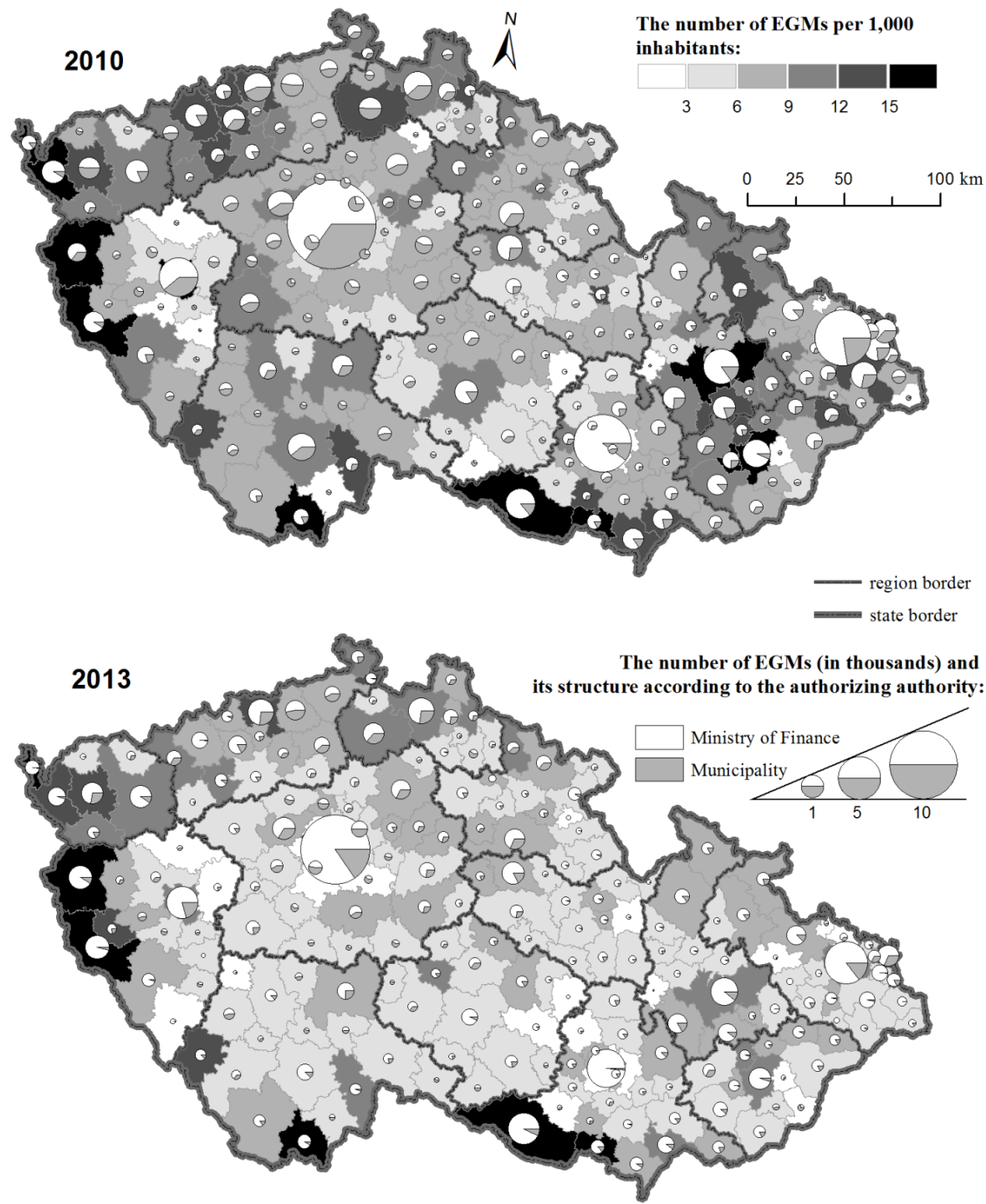


Table 1: The largest cities in the Czech Republic and their income from gambling industry in period 2010-2013 (million CZK)

City	2010	2011	2012	2013
Prague	248.1	255.2	716.3	872.7
Brno	66.1	111.1	227.2	280.1
Ostrava	57.6	80.8	220.4	268.7
Pilsen	40.8	52.0	134.4	155.0
Olomouc	16.7	26.8	91.0	110.7

Source: Authors' own elaboration based on Ministry of Finance data

Fig. 2 Spatial distribution of EGMs for administrative districts of municipalities with extended powers in 2010 and 2013



Spatial distribution of EGMs



- Decreasing the share of machines permitted by municipalities
 - In 2010 – more than 30% of all EGMs in the country were slot machines permitted by municipalities; in 2013 – less than 20%
- Gambling is related mostly with large cities or small municipalities in border areas
 - Municipality of Chvalovice (Czech-Austrian border) has just 597 inhabitants but more than one thousand EGMs (at the end of 2013)
 - Another examples of areas with very high number of EGMs in the Czech border areas neighbouring Austria and Germany: Dolní Dvořiště; Česká Kubice or Rozvadov

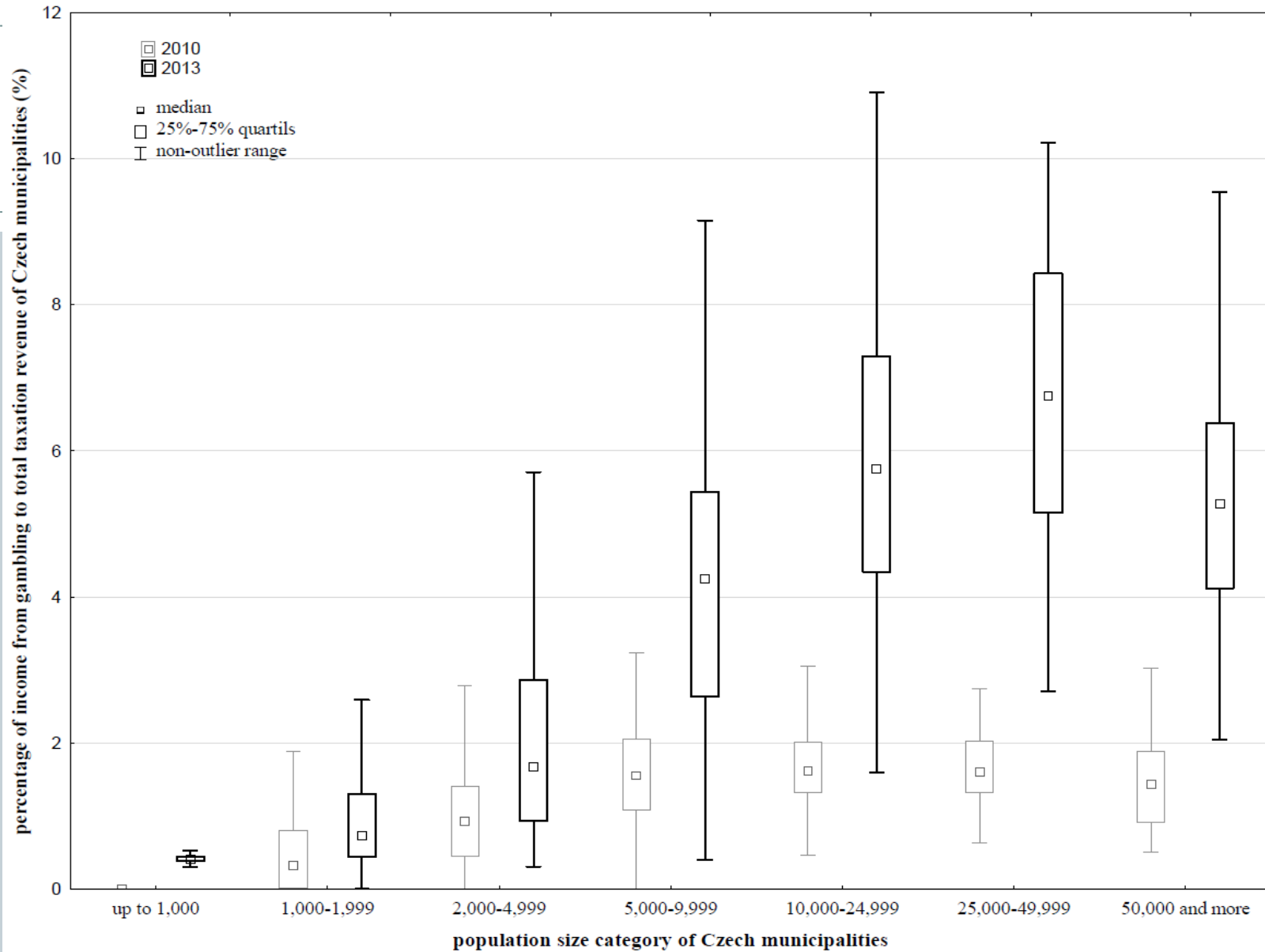


Fig. 3 Box plot of incomes from gambling to total taxation revenue of Czech municipalities based on the size category of Czech municipalities in 2010 and 2013

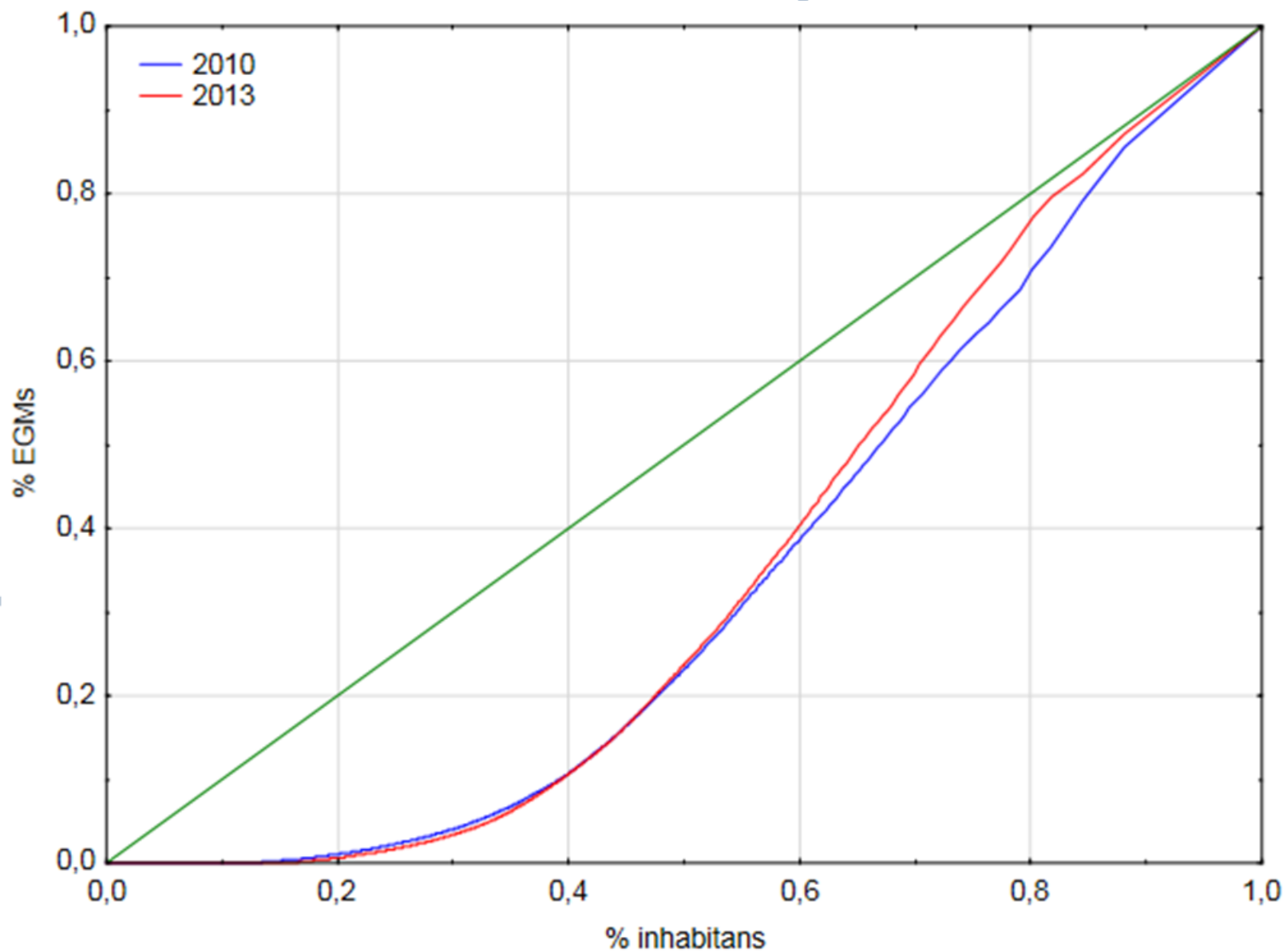


Fig. 4 Lorenz curve of spatial concentration of EGMs in the Czech municipalities in 2010 and 2013

Other possibilities for geographical research



- To date: we have identified more affected regions by gambling than others – mostly they have different motivation to not prohibit gambling but regulate it
- It is necessary to do our own qualitative research, not just use secondary data
 - Local authorities
 - Specific gambling participants
 - Cultural aspects
- Urban environment
- Comparative analysis – V4 countries

Conclusions

- Geographical research of gambling is needed
 - Spatial concentration and distribution; accessibility and availability of EGMs
- There are three different scales – national, regional and local
 - Every scale needs special approach, different methods





Thank you for your attention