



Country Report - Serbia

Legislation

In Serbia the organisation of any game of chance is representing an activity of general interest to the Republic of Serbia. The Republic is entitled to organise games of chance. The Republic may transfer its right to organise games of chance to a body corporate seated on the territory of the Republic, as the game organiser. The right to organise games of chance may be transferred based on license; permit; consent. The license, permit and consent cannot be transferable to third parties.

The Games of Chance Board is an administrative body of the Ministry of Finance which performs administrative activities of the state concerning games of chance. The Games of Chance Board is appointed for the following main activities: preparing the proposed games of chance catalogue, granting its consent for decisions taken by the Serbian State Lottery to organise a classic game of chance; making public calls and considering offers received at tenders for obtaining a license to organise special games of chance, carrying out other technical related activities, issuing and revoking licenses and withdrawing consents for the organisation of a game of chance; prescribing the technical requirements for game organisers, grant approval for the retention of risk deposits to secure prize funds, etc.

Types of Games of Chance in Serbia are:

- 1) Classic games of chance (lottery, sports betting, lotto, keno, tombola and fonto);
- 2) Special games of chance;
- 3) Prize-winning competitions in which prizes are awarded in goods and services.

The Serbian State Lottery is entitled to organise classic games of chance.

The right to organise special games of chance in gaming facilities is granted through a license issued by the government. The right to organise special games of chance on gaming devices and the right to organise sports betting and other events is granted on the basis of consent by the Board.

The Serbian State Lottery is entitled to organise games of chance over the Internet and can engage another body corporate to organise it but have to guarantee for the awarding of prizes won.

Size of industry

-Number of amusement machines-

By the latest data on 12 May there are approximately 19,000 slot machines, owned by 88 companies with licences to operate on 2,199 locations in Serbia. There are 27 companies registered for betting on approximately 1500 locations.



-Cost of the various licences –

For organising games of chance on slot machines there are following costs and requirements: company must have capital stock equal to not less than the dinar equivalent of 150,000€. The capital stock must be entered in the appropriate register and maintain until expiration of the approval. Organiser of the games on slot machines must have in his account at a domestic bank a registered deposit of 300€ in dinar equivalent for each gaming device, or issued bank guarantee in the same amount during the entire approval validity period. Also it is necessary to secure a risk deposit of 100€ per one slot machine in dinar equivalent at the cashier, on each day when a game is organised.

Game organisers are also paying a fee for obtaining an approval to organise games on slot machines of 180€ per year, per slot machine installed three years in advance. For each new slot machine installed during the approval validity period, should be pay this amount proportional to the number of months remaining until the expiration of the approval.

As for approval for betting, companies also must have capital stock if 150,000€, until the expiration of the approval.

Organisers of betting must have in their account a registered deposit of 3,000€ for each betting shop, or shall secure a bank guarantee in the same amount during the entire approval validity period. Betting organisers must secure a risk deposit of 150€ per betting shop. Betting organisers have to pay a fee for obtaining an approval to organise betting of 100€ per month, for each betting shop.

Revenue from gaming licences in Serbia for 2008 is 50 million euro, which is 500,000€ more than the previous year.

-Growth of industry-

Gaming industry in Serbia is showing a tendency of growing and progressing. There is a great desire from both organisers and Ministry of Finance to regulate and improve gaming industry to become as an example in this part of Europe.

Taxation

Game organisers on slot machines are paying in advance 35€ per month as tax on organising games of chance on slot machines for each slot machine installed. Any game organiser who achieves an annual turnover per gaming devices in excess of 12,000€ in dinar equivalent, must pay 5% tax on any sum above 12,000€. (This tax is subject of change in new legislation) Betting organisers are paying 5% tax applied to a tax base equal to the total funds collected as wagers; however, the fee cannot be less than the dinar equivalent of 500€ per month, for each betting shop.

New Legislation

New improved legislations are expected soon in Serbia. JAKTA association is taking active part in creating and preparing those changes.

European Gaming and Amusement Federation
Europäische Verband der Unterhaltungsautomatenwirtschaft
Fédération Européenne des Jeux et d'Amusement

