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**Finland and the Russian gambling market**

Gambling operations in border regions are common internationally, but Finnish cross-border gambling offers have been scarce. This paper discusses how Finnish gambling operators have attempted to access the Russian market since the 1990s, based on previous literature and existing statistical information. The aim is to describe whether and how Finnish actors have exported gambling to Russia or Russians, and what kind of political and economic factors have influenced the commercial relationship. The analysis focuses on three periods determined by regulatory changes in Russian gambling and the related possibilities for the Finnish gambling offer. These are the growth period of the 1990s, the restrictive gambling law of 2006 and the new market environment, and the period starting from 2014 characterised by challenges to tourism and business following the financial crisis and the coronavirus pandemic.

**Olga Dovbysh**  
**Hyperlocal media as a communication channel between state and society in Russia's regions**

Hyperlocal media in Russia, represented mainly by city public groups on social network websites, have recently become important elements of local media ecosystems in Russia's regions. Along with the dissemination of information on local news and affairs, these groups act as platforms for public discussions and support community initiatives and local activism. The active involvement of local state bodies in these groups has made these sites important spaces of public participation as well as a communication channel between city administrations and local society. Taking the example of city public groups, this article explores to what extent non-professional and non-commercial media initiatives can enhance public engagement and citizen participation in local governance, as well as to what extent these digital media can serve as communication channels between state bodies and citizens in the Russian regions. The empirical data include eighteen interviews with owners and moderators of public city groups, conducted during the author's fieldwork in seven Russian cities in 2017-2018. Based on the empirical evidence, I explore how grassroots digital media shows growing potential for public engagement. Compared to professional local newsrooms, these groups demonstrate higher freedom in the selection of topics and issues for public discussion. Moreover, hyperlocal media offer wider opportunities for local citizens to express their opinions by commenting and publishing their own materials. Constraining factors include co-optation strategies of state bodies, evidence of "pseudo-participation" and a significant gap between the share of people involved in "information engagement" and in offline activities.