SZILAGHI

CONSULTING

2026 EDITION

A PRACTICAL LICENSING DECISION GUIDE

Best & cheapest gambling licenses in 2026

Compare entry costs, time to license, banking acceptance, and the operational requirements that matter after approval.

25
jurisdiction register entries

17
fixed-fee license variants compared

5
revenue-dependent regimes

Reviewed
10 November 2026
Szilaghi Editorial Team

01 / EXECUTIVE VIEW

Where to start

The lowest quoted license fee is seldom the lowest launch budget. Start with product, player markets and payment access; only then compare statutory prices.

LOWEST REPORTED ESTIMATE

Tuvalu

≈ €14,100

3–4 weeks — Entry

Estimated commercial-source pricing; not a confirmed regulator fee.

FASTEST

Anjouan

€17,800

2–4 weeks — Entry

The shortest stated timeline in the fixed-fee comparison.

LOWEST TIER 1 B2C START

Malta Type 1

From €45,000

4–6 months — Tier 1

For operators prioritizing a higher-recognition regulatory setting.

LOWEST LISTED EU PRICE

Cyprus betting

€30,000

3–6 months — Tier 2

Sports betting; a €550,000 guarantee is separate.

EU-REGULATED B2B

Romania Class 2

€45,500

2–3 months — Tier 1

Relevant for game studios, platforms and other suppliers.

1. **Define what you sell.** B2C casino or betting, B2B platform or content, affiliate, or payment services may require different approvals.
2. **Map player markets.** A license issued in one place does not automatically authorize gambling offers in another.
3. **Validate payments before filing.** Ask prospective PSPs, EMIs and banks about license, ownership and business-model requirements.
4. **Model total year one.** Add substance, company setup, audits, platform integration and working capital to government costs.

02 / THE RANKING

Fixed-fee licenses: positions 1–9

Year-one and annual figures are government or statutory costs, not professional fees. Ranked by year-one euro cost; shorter processing time breaks ties.

#	License / regulator	Year one	Year 2	Time	GGR / duty	Banking
1	Tuvalu † TGA · TV USD 15,850 original View regime guide ›	≈ €14,100	€14,100	3–4 weeks	0% (unverified)	Entry
2	Anjouan AOFA · ALSI · KM EUR 17,828 original View regime guide ›	€17,800	€17,800	2–4 weeks	0%	Entry
3	Kunaisa Kunaisa · PA EUR 19,500 original View regime guide ›	€19,500	€19,500	6–10 weeks	0% declared	Entry
4	Nevis NOGA · KN EUR 28,000 original View regime guide ›	€28,000	€28,000	8–12 weeks	0% foreign GGR	Entry
5	Curaçao B2B CGA · CW EUR 29,082 original View regime guide ›	€29,100	€24,500	2–5 months	0% international GGR	Tier 2
6	Cyprus (betting) NBA · CY EUR 30,000 original View regime guide ›	€30,000	€30,000	3–6 months	15% net betting revenue	Tier 2
7	Tobique TGC · CA EUR 43,000 original View regime guide ›	≈ €43,000	€25,000	4–8 weeks	0% TGC levy	Entry
8	Malta (Type 1 B2C) MGA · MT EUR 45,000 original View regime guide ›	From €45,000	€40,000	4–6 months	15%/10% on players in Malta	Tier 1
9	Romania Class 2 (B2B) ONJN · RO EUR 45,500 original View regime guide ›	€45,500	€35,000	2–3 months	No GGR tax	Tier 1

† See the outstanding verification notes. Values were transferred from a 10 November 2026 register snapshot, not a live feed.

● Tier 1 ● Tier 2 ● Entry

Fixed-fee licenses: positions 10–17

Year-one and annual figures are government or statutory costs, not professional fees. Ranked by year-one euro cost; shorter processing time breaks ties.

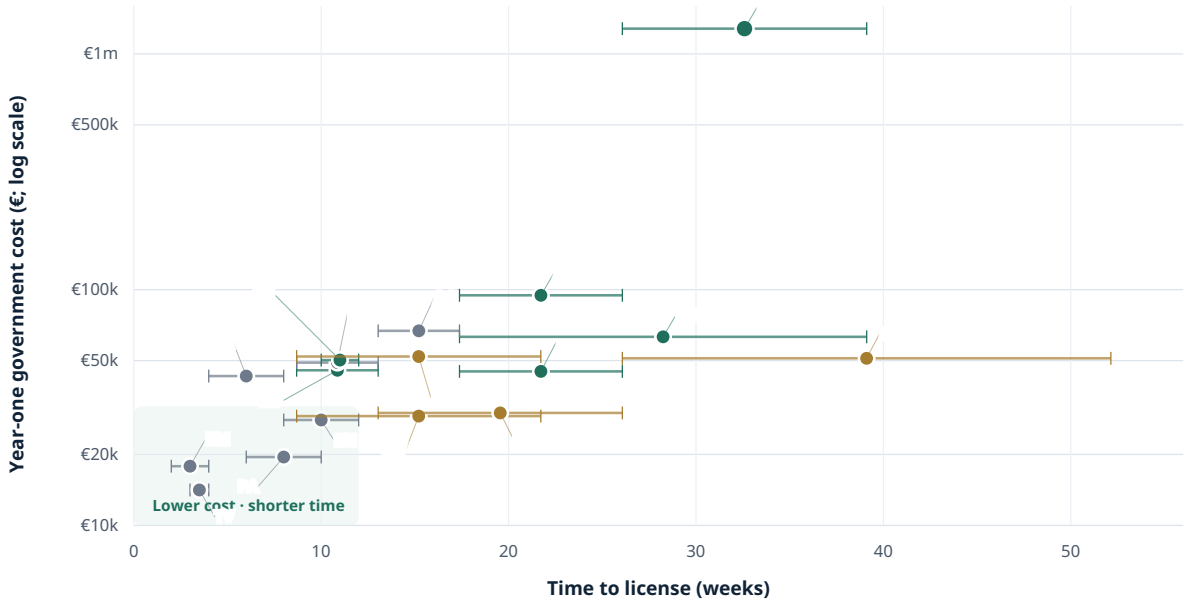
#	License / regulator	Year one	Year 2	Time	GGR / duty	Banking
10	Kahnawà:ke CPA † KGC · KGC USD 55,000 original View regime guide ›	€49,000	€17,800	2–3 months	0% stated KGC levy	Entry
11	Isle of Man GSC · IM GBP 42,000 original View regime guide ›	€50,300	€44,000	10–12 weeks	0.1–1.5% duty on GGY	Tier 1
12	Estonia EMTA · EE EUR 51,140 original View regime guide ›	€51,100	€0	6–12 months	5.5% GGR (2026)	Tier 2
13	Curaçao B2C CGA · CW EUR 52,042 original View regime guide ›	€52,000	€47,400	2–5 months	0% international GGR	Tier 2
14	Ontario AGCO · ON CAD 100,000 original View regime guide ›	€63,100	€63,100	4–9 months	~20% AGGR share to iGO (not tax)	Tier 1
15	Antigua and Barbuda FSRC · AG USD 75,000 original View regime guide ›	€66,900	€66,900	3–4 months	3% (to reconfirm)	Entry
16	Alberta AGLC · AB CAD 150,000 original View regime guide ›	€94,600	€94,600	4–6 months	3% GGR + ~20% net share (approx. 22.4% GGR)	Tier 1
17	Romania Class 1 (B2C) † ONJN · RO EUR 1,280,000 original View regime guide ›	€1,280,000	€1,280,000	6–9 months	30% GGR, minimum €480,000	Tier 1

† See the outstanding verification notes. Values were transferred from a 10 November 2026 register snapshot, not a live feed.

● Tier 1 ● Tier 2 ● Entry

The trade-off in one picture

The scatter plot compares year-one government cost (log scale) with reported processing time. Dots are color-coded by the register's banking acceptance tier.



Cheap and fast

Anjouan starts at about €17,800 with a 2–4 week timeline. Confirm target-market legality and payment support before deciding.

Tier 1 costs more

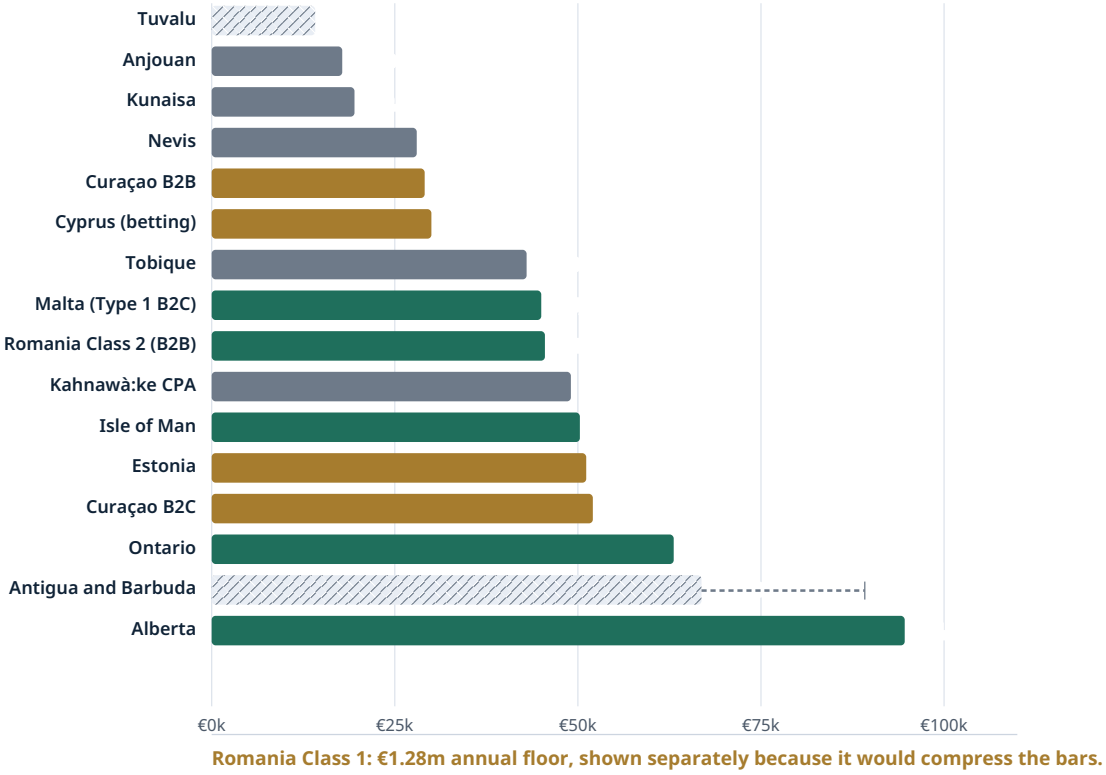
Malta and Romania Class 2 sit around €45,000 in year-one government charges; their suitability depends on B2C versus B2B scope.

Horizontal whiskers show a reported time range. Months are plotted as approximate weeks. Estimates and disputed costs are not independent regulatory quotations.

04 / VISUAL COMPARISON

How much does year one cost?

Sorted fixed-fee regimes, displayed in euros. The high-cost Romania Class 1 B2C regime is intentionally shown separately to preserve a readable comparison.



Romania Class 1: €1.28m annual floor, shown separately because it would compress the bars.

Reading this chart: The bars exclude revenue-based gaming duties, guarantees, locked-up capital, professional fees and most operational costs. Tuvalu is estimated; Antigua and Barbuda is indicative. Malta is shown at its minimum starting cost.

05 / BY BUSINESS MODEL

Which license fits your business?

Compare the operating model and markets first, then narrow the jurisdiction shortlist. These are starting points, not universal recommendations.

Startup testing an early business case

Anjouan offers a comparatively low government entry cost and a stated 2–4 week licensing timeline. Before committing, check where players will be located, whether suppliers accept the jurisdiction, and whether a suitable PSP will onboard your entity.

Explore the guide ›

Crypto-first casino

Do not treat a low-cost offshore license as automatic approval for crypto processing. Confirm AML/CTF controls, wallet monitoring, source-of-funds procedures, custody model and where crypto gaming activity is lawful. Compare the relevant guides before choosing.

Explore the guide ›

EU-facing B2C operator

A company established in the EU is not automatically licensed to offer gaming across the EU. Cyprus is betting-specific; Malta can be considered for suitable B2C models; national permissions may still be required in target markets.

Explore the guide ›

B2B game studio or platform

Check whether your service is gambling-critical and requires a supplier license. Compare Anjouan's reported B2B option with Curaçao B2B (€29,100 year one) and Romania Class 2 (€45,500 year one).

Explore the guide ›

Payment provider

A gambling license held by a merchant does not replace payment-services authorization. Evaluate the merchant's licensing market, risk model, player locations, transaction flows, chargebacks and AML controls first.

Explore the guide ›

Affiliate or marketing business

Whether licensing or registration is required depends on local marketing and gambling rules, activities performed and target markets. Do not buy a B2C operator license solely because you promote other operators.

Explore the guide ›

Operator prioritizing banking

Start with the acceptance tier, target PSPs and practical compliance record. Malta or Isle of Man may be worth evaluating for B2C models; Romania Class 2 is a relevant supplier option. No tier guarantees an account.

Explore the guide ›

Cheapest is not the total budget

A statutory fee is only one line in a licensing plan. The register's acceptance tiers indicate general market positioning, not verified approval probabilities.

Tier 1

More recognized settings.

Typically assessed by more established financial counterparties, but onboarding still depends on beneficial owners, jurisdiction of customers, AML controls and the business model.

Tier 2

Intermediate acceptance.

Often requires careful provider selection and fuller documentation. Availability varies widely between high-risk PSPs, EMIs and banks.

Entry

Lower-cost entry regimes.

May suit narrow use cases but can face stricter provider policies. Verify card-acquiring and crypto-processor acceptance before paying licensing fees.

Build the actual year-one budget

01 Government charges

Application, issuance, annual licensing and contributions.

02 Capital & guarantees

Funds held or committed; do not mistake these for spent fees.

03 Local substance

Offices, directors, representatives, MLRO and key functions.

04 Technology & testing

Platform audit, RNG/technical certification and hosting.

05 Formation & operations

Entity incorporation, corporate admin, policies and accounts.

06 Payments & compliance

PSP reserves, KYC, screening, AML and reporting workflows.

> **Example of hidden difference:** Cyprus's €30,000 one-year betting license has a separate €550,000 guarantee. Estonia lists €1 million of capital separately. Both can materially change cash needs.

07 / WHAT IS NOT RANKED

A different cost model or no license

Five regimes have pricing that varies with revenue or regulatory calculations, so their minima cannot be compared directly with fixed-fee entries.

Jurisdiction	Minimum / approach	Tax or rights
United Kingdom Tier 1	from £7,000 (GGY band)	40% RGD plus levy
Gibraltar Tier 1	£50,000–£200,000 by GGY	0.15% duty; first £100k exempt
Bulgaria Tier 2	€25,565 responsible-gambling contribution plus GGR component	20% GGR betting; 10% CIT casino
Peru Tier 2	Nominal TUPA fees; ≈ PEN 3.3m guarantee separate	12% taxable base + 1% ISC stakes
Colombia Tier 2	811 SMMLV fixed plus variable rights	15% rights/min 17%; 16% consumption tax on GGR

Not ranked as an available license

These five entries remain in the overall 25-regime register but are excluded from the fixed-fee ranking for the reasons below.

Jurisdiction	Why it is not ranked
Brazil	Closed to new applications under MP 1.394/2026
Chile	No comparable online license in force yet
Costa Rica	No comparable iGaming license
Canada federal	No federal gambling license; provinces regulate
Finland	New market opens 1 July 2027 (coming 2027)

Market availability and regulatory status can change. Confirm present law and filing windows with the regulator before relying on these classifications.

The licensing readiness checklist

Use this sequence before selecting the lowest price on a comparison table.

01 Identify the activity

Distinguish B2C operator, betting, casino, B2B game supply, platform, affiliate and payments.

02 Map target markets

List where users, servers, payments and owners will be based. Check offer restrictions.

03 Screen banking early

Obtain a realistic pre-assessment from a bank/EMI and at least one PSP.

04 Budget all requirements

Account for upfront fees, capital, guarantees, annual costs and ongoing audits.

05 Prepare owners and entity

Gather UBO disclosures, source-of-wealth evidence, corporate records and business plan.

06 Prove technical readiness

Document AML/KYC, responsible gambling, fraud, game certification and IT security.

07 Validate scope and timing

Confirm whether approvals cover each product, domain, supplier and player market.

08 Submit and maintain

File only after requirements are clear; plan regulator reporting and renewals.

Before you pay an application fee

Get a written match between the license, your product and your player markets.

Licensing timelines start from different application milestones and depend on completeness, regulator workload, controls and platform readiness.

09 / FREQUENT QUESTIONS

Answers before you apply · 1 of 2

Short, practical answers to the questions that most often change license selection.

What is the cheapest gambling license in 2026?

Tuvalu has the lowest reported estimate in this snapshot, about €14,100, but that number is based on commercial sources and may exclude an application component. Anjouan is shown at €17,828 in the register.

What is the fastest license in this comparison?

Anjouan is listed at 2–4 weeks. Timelines are indicative, not promises of approval.

What is the cheapest EU gambling license?

Cyprus shows €30,000 for a one-year betting license, with a separate €550,000 guarantee. That does not make it a general online casino license.

Is Anjouan cheaper than Curaçao?

Using this comparison, yes: Anjouan is €17,828, while Curaçao B2B is €29,082 and Curaçao B2C is €52,042 in year-one government charges.

Which gambling license do banks accept?

There is no automatic acceptance. The register categorizes Malta, Isle of Man, Ontario and Romania in its Tier 1 group. Every institution makes an independent decision.

What is the cheapest B2B license?

Anjouan has a lower reported entry cost, while Curaçao B2B and Romania Class 2 are alternatives with different requirements and banking positioning.

09 / FREQUENT QUESTIONS

Answers before you apply · 2 of 2

Short, practical answers to the questions that most often change license selection.

Is the government fee the total setup cost?

No. Local substance, incorporation, technical audits, compliance, platform, payments and working capital can be significant. Capital and guarantees are shown separately.

Can I use a license everywhere?

No. Licensing and permission to target local players are distinct. Check each market where the product is offered.

Can I change jurisdictions later?

An operator can apply in another jurisdiction, but it is a new compliance and licensing exercise, not an automatic upgrade or transfer.

Do offshore casinos pay zero GGR tax?

Some register entries show a local gaming levy of 0% or a limited foreign-GGR charge. That does not remove corporate, withholding, VAT or destination-market tax obligations.

What do banking acceptance tiers mean?

They are general comparisons of perceived onboarding practicality. Tier 1 is higher-recognition, Tier 2 intermediate, and Entry more restrictive in many payment-provider policies.

Why does the PDF show disputed fees?

The guide retains the register snapshot rather than silently changing prices. Kahnawà:ke, Tuvalu and Romania Class 1 have issues listed in the methodology and need official reconciliation.

How to read this guide

The figures reflect an editorial snapshot taken on 10 November 2026. They require routine regulatory rechecking and should not be treated as individual quotes or legal opinions.

Ranking. Fixed-fee license variants are sorted by year-one government fees: one-off application or issuance fees plus annual government charges, converted to euros and rounded to the nearest €100. Ties use the shorter time-to-license range. Capital and financial guarantees are separate. Revenue-based taxes are not added to annual license fees.

FX basis. ECB reference rates for 10 November 2026: €1 = US$1.1214, £0.83545 and CAD 1.5852. Original currencies appear beneath each license in the ranking.

Banking tiers. Tier 1, Tier 2 and Entry follow the jurisdiction register's acceptance classifications. They do not predict acceptance by any particular bank, EMI, card scheme, crypto processor or PSP.

Unresolved prices. Tuvalu's US$15,850 is an estimate from commercial sources and may exclude US$1,200 in initial charges. Kahnawà:ke's first annual fee appears included in its 2026 application fee, suggesting US$35,000 rather than US$55,000 in the snapshot. Romania Class 1 may require €14,000 above the €1.28 million annual floor. These items must be reconciled before publication as final prices.

Research links

- Live jurisdiction register
- European Central Bank: reference rates
- Malta Gaming Authority fee reference
- Kahnawà:ke Gaming Commission: fee notice

NEXT STEP

Not sure which fits?

Book a **free 20-minute fit call** to compare jurisdictions against your product, player markets, payments and operating budget.

Explore the 25-regime register ›

Szilaghi Editorial Team

Reviewed by Alex Szilaghi. Licensing gambling businesses since 2004; with in-house Romanian avocați working under Law 51/1995. Szilaghi Consulting reports over 580 licenses obtained in multiple jurisdictions.

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