

## Youth Partnership

Partnership between the European Commission  
and the Council of Europe in the field of youth

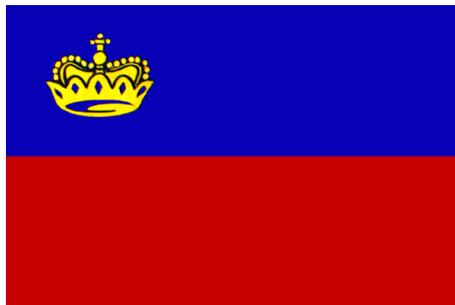


EUROPEAN UNION



COUNCIL OF EUROPE  
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

# COUNTRY SHEET ON YOUTH POLICY IN LIECHTENSTEIN



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*Disclaimer: The content of this document, commissioned by the EU-CoE youth partnership, is on the entire responsibility of the author and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of either of the partner institutions (the European Union and the Council of Europe).*

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# 1. Context and principles of national youth policy

## 1.1 Context of national youth policy

## 1.2. Principles of national youth policy

The legal basis of a national youth policy is defined in the Youth Act of Liechtenstein (Kinder- und Jugendgesetz, 2008). Within this framework fundamental rights have been implemented, as defined in the UN-Convention of Children's Rights, such as the right of participation at all levels. (art. 3d, art.87, 88) Youth participation is guaranteed by law on all levels (national, local).

Also an independent Ombudsperson for children's and youth rights, a national youth council have been implemented on this new legal basis.

<http://www.gesetze.li/Seite1.jsp?LGBI=2009029.xml&Searchstring=Jugendgesetz&showLGBI=true>

The legal basis are the articles 87/88 of the Youth Act which obliges the nation and municipalities

to ensure and develop adequate possibilities and procedures for children and young people to participate at all levels in society-also in decision making processes. The measures envisaged to promote different forms of participation on local, regional and national levels are for example:

Youth initiative projects in the framework of the EU-programme Erasmus +

"Youth projects competition" (Jugendprojektwettbewerb)

Youthparliaments in some municipalities and the National students' parliament (JUBEL, target group under-16- years- old). JUBEL means "youth participation in Liechtenstein"(JUgendBEeteiligung Liechtenstein).

There is no defined target group concerning the age. But mainly targeted are children and young people up to the age of 25 years.

Since 2014 the youth work of the municipalities is merged in the Youth Work Foundation Liechtenstein OJA (Offene Jugendarbeit Liechtenstein). It is a federation of the youth work which allows to co-ordinate the social services in a large extension. Synergies can be exploited and joint projects launched. The OJA is the successor of the former umbrella organisation VLJ (association of youth work), which was an open network without budget. The former youth magazine 'flash' is replaced by OJA-flash.

## 2. Statistics on young people

Number and Percentage of young people from the ages of 15 and 29: 6'652 (17.7%)<sup>1</sup>

Number and Percentage of young people from the ages of 0 to 20 in global population: 8'199 (21.8%)

Number and Percentage of young people (0 to 20) by gender in global population: m 4'210 (11.2%), f 3'989 (10.6%)

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<sup>1</sup> The percentage relates to the entire population in 2015.

## 3. Actors and Structures

### 3.1 Public authorities

#### 3.1.1 National public authorities:

**Ministry in charge of youth:** Ministry for Social Affairs

- Minister: Dr. Mauro Pedrazzini

- Duration of mandate: 2017-2021

(see <http://www.regierung.li/ministerien/ministerium-fuer-gesellschaft/>)

- Main tasks:

The division Youth Services which operates in the function as a Children and Youth Office (Kinder- und Jugenddienst) is integrated in the Office of Social Affairs (Amt für Soziale Dienste) and is subordinated to the mentioned ministry and also takes charge of ministerial tasks.

Services provided by the Children and Youth Division:

a) Youth Support:

Difficulties at school, Behavioural problems in a child e.g. fears, aggressiveness, bedwetting, Separation and divorce: changes in the parental home, visiting and custody, rights, Problems between parents and growing children, Crises and conflicts in puberty, Child abuse, Risk / child neglect

Financing a childminder or crèche, Child adoption, Paternity recognition,

b) Youth Development Bureau:

Specialist support, co-ordination and advice in the field of youth work at the municipal and national level:

- financial support for youth organisations, youth groups, youth centres and projects in the youth field, for youth leader training as well as for day care centres;

- co-operation with persons and organisations that are involved in youth work;

- national research in the youth field (national youth report, national youth studies, analysis of developments, topics as youth violence, mobility, participation );

- guiding and coordinating projects in the youth field as well as assistance and counselling;
- public information about youth topics;
- trainings for youth workers.

Ministerial tasks like drafting recommendations on youth matters, - regional and international networking and co-operation in the youth sector.

The division Youth Services supervises the national agency „aha“ which is responsible for the initiatives for young people in the framework of Erasmus+ of the European Commission (former Youth for Europe).

The division Youth Services represents Liechtenstein in the CDEJ (Council of Europe) and the „Platform“ where European regions organise international study visits for young people.

c) Minors Protection Bureau:

Implementation of teaching-centred protection for minors

Instruction, advice and the provision of information in matters relating to the protection of minors

Overseeing proper adherence to the protection of minors

Risk behaviour, drug-related behaviour and preventative measures

- Number of people who work in this ministry in the youth department: 8

- Director responsible for Youth in the Ministry: Hugo Risch

- Contact person in the youth department competent for European youth policy: Nancy Barouk-Hasler

<http://www.llv.li/#/1287/kinder-und-jugendliche>

Other national public bodies who are directly involved in youth policies

- Other Ministries: Minister of Sports

- Offices: Sports Office

(See <http://www.regierung.li/ministries/ministry-for-infrastructure-economic-affairs-and-sport/sport>)

Parliament commission in charge of youth issues

Not existing. For information about the Parliament structure see <http://www.landtag.li/>

### **3.1.2 Regional public authorities with competencies in the youth field**

not existing

### **3.1.3 Local public authorities with competencies in the youth field**

Youth Commission

The Youth Commission is counselling the Community in the Youth Affairs, specially regarding to developing provisions for young people.

## **3.2 Youth welfare services (comprising public and/or non public actors)**

see 3.1.1.

## **3.3 Non-public actors/structures & youth services with competencies in the youth field**

Youth Information in Liechtenstein: In December 1999 the youth information centre „aha“-Tips and information for young people” was opened- within only a short period of preparation. It is well accepted and frequented by young people and embedded in the regional youth work. „aha“ operates the national agency for the Youth Initiatives in the framework of Erasmus+, offers youth leader workshops and initiates or counsels youth projects. (see [www.aha.li](http://www.aha.li))

### **3.3.1 Youth Councils**

The Youth Participation in Liechtenstein rather shows a learning process than a successful example. Young people increasingly participate in or initiate (short-time) projects like youth exchanges, youth initiatives. The implementation of a pilot project on “Youth Participation” (JUBEL = Jugendbeteiligung) has taken place in 2008 at the national level. The project aims to encourage the social commitment of young people in Liechtenstein.

Around 80 school class speakers between twelve and sixteen years old take the chance to gather in a youth parliament. They discuss about their wishes and needs, collect ideas...

They meet politicians and experts who support them in the implementation of their projects' ideas. They will realise their projects with the help of their schoolmates.

### **3.3.2 Youth NGOs**

Open meeting places for young people play an important part in youth work. In all of the 11 communities in Liechtenstein there is a youth centre/youth club for, staffed by professional youth workers.

There are guidelines for governmental support and funding of youth work since 1995 (last revision in 2009). The main idea is that institutions which work with a long- term concept (e.g. youth centers, youth clubs), receive a fixed annual amount which they govern on a self-responsible basis. Other groups or organisations receive fundings for special projects.

There are about 400 sports clubs and cultural associations in Liechtenstein. Most of them have either youth divisions or accept children and youngsters as members. There is only one nationally and internationally organised youth association as such: the Scouts. About 10% of Liechtenstein's youth is or has been a member of Scouts.

In 2014 the Foundation OJA was established. It is offering services for young people in youth clubs and 'in the field' of the municipalities mainly in the form of leisure time provision. The aim is to develop broad services for young people and secure the quality of youth work.

OJA is also the publisher, in cooperation with other institutions, of the youth magazine 'OJA FLASH'. The youth workers together with young people create the various issues of 'FLASH'.

### **3.4 National network(s) for knowledge on youth linking all actors in the field (policy makers, researchers, young people and their organisations, NGOs)?**

A network for knowledge on youth doesn't exist due to the lack of scales. The research centre "Liechtenstein-Institut" or private organisations will carry out a study on demand. The office of social affairs is functioning as EKCYP correspondent and observes the actual development.

## **4. Legislation**

National legislation on youth

Legal Basis: UN-Convention of the Rights of Children are adopted.

Child and Youth Act (Kinder- und Jugendgesetz vom 10. Dezember 2008)

There are guidelines for governmental support and funding of youth work since 1995 (revised following to the new Child and Youth Act in 2009).

Regional and local legislation on youth

Not existing

## 5. National Policy Programmes on youth

National programmes on youth.

- Initiatives for young people in Erasmus+,

Programmes and actions for specific target groups

- Anti - Bullying and Anti-Violence Programme „Respect-please!“ [www.respect-bitte.li](http://www.respect-bitte.li)
- Alcohol/Smoke/Drug Prevention Programme „Du sescht wia!“ [www.duseschtwia.li](http://www.duseschtwia.li)
- Youth Campaign all different-all equal in Liechtenstein under the alemanic slogan: alle anderscht-alle gliich
- Liechtenstein also participates in several other regional or international youth protection programmes such as “Kennidi”, “smartconnection” and “Gateway”.

## **6. Budget / Public expenditure allocated to youth**

National level (support of youth activities)

The spendings of the communities have exceeded CHF one million (expenditure for buildings not included).

## **7. European Dimension of youth policy**

This section should outline how European strategies, policy commitments and programmes are implemented at the national level.

### **7.1 Council of Europe.**

Liechtenstein is member of the CDEJ.

The country contributes to the European Youth Foundation?

### **7.2 European Union.**

#### **7.2.1 Implementation of the Youth in Action programme**

The National Agency for the programme Youth in Action and Eurodesk is operated by the youth information center “aha-Tipps und Infos für junge Leute”.

The youth information center aha has been entrusted with running Liechtenstein’s “Youth in Action” programme since 2000. The priority targets for support are projects dealing with the issues of European citizenship, young people’s participation in democratic life and cultural diversity.

See further information on: <http://www.aha.li/europa>

#### **7.2.2 Follow up of the EU Youth Strategy (2010 – 2018) on the national level**

There is no official follow-up of the EU-Strategy

## **8. Further sources of information on youth policy in Liechtenstein**

Official Family and Youth Policy (“Familienportal, Massnahmenkatalog und Leitbild”):  
[www.familienportal.li](http://www.familienportal.li)

Ombudsperson for Children and Youth: [www.oskj.li](http://www.oskj.li)

Foundation Youth Work (OJA): [www.oja.li](http://www.oja.li)

Pupil’s participation (Jugendbeteiligung): [www.jubel.li](http://www.jubel.li)

Youth information center (aha-Tipps und Infos für junge Leute) [www.aha.li](http://www.aha.li)