



GOVERNMENT  
PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN



# Sustainability in Liechtenstein

Second Report on the implementation  
of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



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# 1. Introduction

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“Shaping Liechtenstein together, sustainably and reliably” is the overarching goal of the Government for the legislative period 2021–2025. Sustainability is understood in the classical sense: No more resources are used than recovered. It also means to not stand still, but to drive forward renewal, to advance and to shape the future together.

Reliability means predictability and the ability to plan with a long-term perspective – in both domestic and foreign policy. Thanks to reserves built up over the past decades, Liechtenstein is in many areas in a privileged position to proactively address current and future challenges. The COVID-19 pandemic has shown us how quickly drastic decisions have to be made to effectively address such situations. Thanks to the good health care system, there were no serious bottlenecks in health care provision, and thanks to a robust economy and substantial economic support measures, the overall economic consequences were well contained. The report outlines numerous strategies and measures with which we intend to meet current and future challenges, some of which have already been initiated.

Sustainability is therefore at the very centre of the Government’s current activities. The Government considers the implementation of the SDGs to be essential in preserving a liveable country and planet for future generations. The SDGs are more than an international obligation – Liechtenstein has a vested interest in their implementation.

Internationally, Liechtenstein remains a reliable partner in strengthening the rule of law, international humanitarian law, and human rights. In the context of the brutal Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, this commitment has gained new meaning. This is also highlighted in the report.

Last but not least, the report shows that private sector and civil society actors play a key role in the implementation of the SDGs. In the future, cooperation of all stakeholders will continue to play an overriding role in the joint implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

## 2. Summary and key points

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### National implementation

Overall, the implementation of the SDGs in Liechtenstein is developing positively. As the report shows, several SDGs are well implemented, in particular SDGs 1 (Poverty), 2 (Hunger), 3 (Health), 4 (Education), 6 (Water), 8 (Work), and SDG 16 (Peaceful Societies). The COVID-19 pandemic clearly demonstrated the strong crisis resilience of the state, the economy, and society, as well as the central importance of cross-border cooperation for crisis response.

Even so, the report also highlights a clear need for action:

- Reconciling family and career as well as political participation of women must be improved to achieve de facto gender equality.
- Mobility in Liechtenstein is currently not sustainable and continues to develop negatively, with increasing motorised individual transport.
- Climate protection develops positively, but needs further strengthening through effective measures to achieve climate neutrality by 2050.
- Despite increasing recycling quotas and decreasing energy and CO<sub>2</sub> intensity of the economy, resource use remains too high due to current consumption and production patterns.
- The ODA percentage falls short of the international target of 0.7, although expenditures have been significantly increased.

Since the 2019 report, several strategies and concepts for improving sustainability have been adopted, all of which were developed with broad stakeholder involvement. These strategies partly build on each other and reflect the interrelationships between the various SDGs:

- The 2025+ Education Strategy aims towards an education system supporting people in all age groups to develop their individual potentials and to enable them to participate actively, responsibly and self-determinedly in a humane, open and democratic society.
- The 2050 Climate Vision formulates the goal of climate neutrality for Liechtenstein by 2050, which was consequently enshrined in law. Concrete measures were defined in particular in the 2050 Energy Vision, the 2030 Energy Strategy, the 2030 Mobility Concept, the 2050 Climate Strategy, and the 2022 Agricultural Policy Report. In 2023, the target for reducing greenhouse gas

emissions by 2030 was increased from 40 % to 55 % compared to the reference year 1990.

Implementation is accompanied by regular monitoring reports to the Parliament.

In order to increase policy coherence, the Government committed itself in 2022 to subject all new draft legislation and international treaties to an SDG analysis. The SDGs are thus a fixed component of all consultation reports as well as government reports and motions submitted to the Parliament.

### Contribution to global implementation

Through international solidarity, Liechtenstein provides support to developing countries in implementing the SDGs. The focus is on poverty reduction (SDG 1), access to education (SDG 4), food security (SDG 2), promotion of human rights and the rule of law (SDG 16), environmental and climate protection, and migration (SDG 10). Due to the crises and conflicts, expenditure on international solidarity has been significantly increased: Total ODA spending in 2022 increased by about 22% compared to 2018, reaching a new record of CHF 31.5 million.

The private sector and civil society also show a high level of international solidarity. Particularly the philanthropy sector makes contributions that clearly exceed the public ODA expenditures.

The guiding principle of Liechtenstein's engagement in international organizations is the conviction that international challenges can only be solved through multilateral cooperation. This is reflected in the commitment to more effective environmental and climate protection, but also in Liechtenstein's long-standing commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights, to combating impunity for the most serious violations of human rights, to international humanitarian law, and to the crime of aggression.

### Participation of civil society

There is growing public awareness on the importance of the SDGs or sustainable development in general. The drafting process for this report was accompanied by a consultation with various stakeholders. The high response rate underlines the great interest in the implementation of the SDGs.

# 3. Implementation process in Liechtenstein

Liechtenstein’s first implementation report was written in 2019 and presented at the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). Since then, the challenges faced by every country in the world with regards to sustainable development have not diminished. In its programme for 2021 to 2025, the Liechtenstein Government states that the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals is both a global and national necessity. Accord-

ingly, the programme is based on the various dimensions of sustainability. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated some of these challenges and also clearly underlined the way that countries, people, and economies are intertwined.

The government programme includes a wide range of specific goals and measures:

**Social sustainability:** Provide long-term funding for the health and social care system; improve reconciliation of family and working life; preserve and promote a high quality education system and lifelong learning; promote the cultural scene; promote amateur and elite sport; continue the strong international commitment to protect and strengthen human rights, the rule of law and international law.



**Economic sustainability:** Maintain and improve the competitiveness of the country as a business location; ensure international conformity and future viability as a financial centre; ensure access to global markets for economic actors; implement short-, medium- and long-term mobility solutions.



**Environmental sustainability:** Act to combat climate change and promote energy security; strengthen sustainable agriculture; increase the attractiveness of workplaces and living spaces; ensure protection against natural hazards.



**Financial sustainability and confidence in government:** Ensure financial independence and examine the devolution of responsibilities to local government; maximise Liechtenstein’s integration in the region and its connections with strategic partners; participate actively in international organisations; create a customer-oriented administration; ensure the attractiveness of civil service jobs; develop the justice system in a targeted fashion.



These goals and measures mentioned are linked to existing and new strategies, which are discussed in more detail in the following chapter. In May 2023 the Government updated its programme and published the webpage [www.regierungsprogramm.li](http://www.regierungsprogramm.li), showing the implementation progress of all measures. Their status is continuously updated.

The 2019 report identified several key projects that have now been adopted and are being implemented, including the 2025+ Education Strategy (SDG 4), the 2030 Energy Strategy (SDG 7), and the 2030 Mobility Concept (SDG 9). All the strategies and concepts adopted involve specific measures that will be implemented in the short, medium and long term. Several include annual reports to Parliament (Landtag) on the implementation status.

The various strategies and concepts have been and are being developed with the close involvement of all stakeholders. For example, public consultations are held through workshops and other participatory measures. In the case of legislative processes, consultation reports are always publicly accessible and all interested parties are able to submit comments during the consultation phase. External opinions on consultation reports are available to the public as well as government reports and motions. Since the second half of 2022, consultation reports and reports and motions to Parliament have included a chapter on the SDGs that explains how they are impacted by a motion or government project. In this way, the interdependencies of the sustainability goals are taken into account in every legislative process and in every package of measures proposed to Parliament. This promotes policy coherence in order to achieve greater sustainability.

Awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals is growing steadily in both civil society and the private sector. In recent years, a non-governmental organisation has been formed to bring together organisations dedicated to implementing the SDGs, and new initiatives have been launched to implement specific aspects of the 2030 Agenda. Existing initiatives are focusing more strongly on the SDGs and businesses have entered into partnerships with NGOs to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs. The business and financial communities are aligning their actions more and more with sustainability criteria and are developing corresponding strategies. The municipalities are also in-

creasingly orienting themselves towards the SDGs. For example, in 2022 the municipality of Vaduz adopted a sustainability strategy that was developed through a participatory process. This is one of the reasons why the inclusion of these stakeholders was considered vital when producing this report. An online survey asked stakeholders to assess the implementation of the individual SDGs in Liechtenstein and invited them to name their own projects and actions that contribute to the implementation of the SDGs.

The relevant ministries are responsible for implementing the various SDG-related projects. The Office for Foreign Affairs was tasked with producing this report.

# 4. Implementation of the individual SDGs

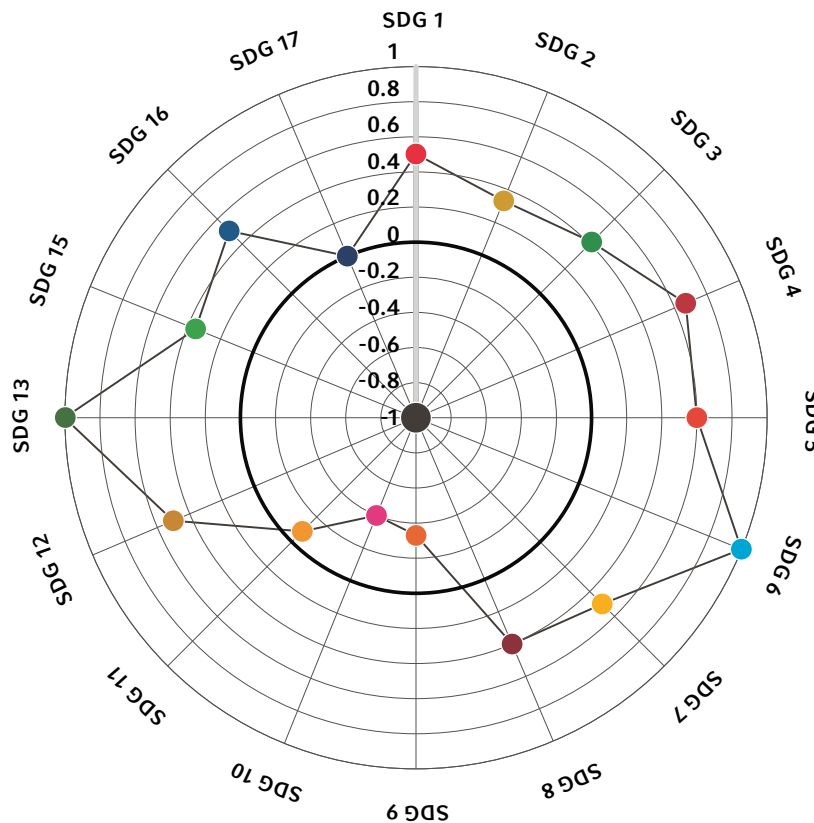
## Overall trends concerning implementation of the individual SDGs

For an overall analysis of the SDGs a distinction should be made between the level of implementation and the implementation trend. To analyse the level of implementation, information was gathered from reports, strategies, figures and other contributions from all relevant public agencies. The analysis of the level of implementation is chiefly based on this information.

For many years now, the Liechtenstein National Statistical Office (Amt für Statistik) has maintained a national indicator system for sustainable development that consists of 55 indicators and is published annually. Since 2021, 33 gender equality indicators and 26 environmental indicators have also been available. The indicators are not currently based directly on the SDGs. For the purpose of this report, existing indicators were matched to the relevant SDGs. In addition, further relevant indicators from national statistics were used, with the result that a total of 69 indicators were used for this report.

The indicators are used to assess the implementation trend of the individual SDGs, rather than the level of implementation. For most of the SDGs several indicators are available to identify the trend. An overall trend was identified for each SDG on the basis of the available indicators, as shown in the following diagram. For explanations of the methodology, please see Chapter 7.

The chart below shows that 12 SDGs display a positive trend. Three SDGs, on the other hand, display a negative trend, namely SDGs 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), 10 (Inequality) and 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) – in other words, sustainability is declining in these areas. SDG 17 displays a neutral trend. SDG 14 was not assessed, as explained in more detail on p. 59.



**Explanation:** A positive number means that the SDG is showing a positive trend (i.e. towards greater sustainability), 0 means that there is no significant change. A negative number means that the SDG is showing a negative trend (i.e. towards less sustainability)



# SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

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## **Overall assessment**

- In general, SDG 1 is well implemented in Liechtenstein and the country has a good social welfare system.
  - Extreme poverty does not exist in Liechtenstein. Only a few households do not reach the subsistence level from their own resources and are dependent on social welfare benefits.
- 

## **Situation in Liechtenstein**

With a Gross National Income (GNI) of over CHF 161,000 per resident, Liechtenstein is one of the world's wealthiest countries. Absolute poverty as defined in target 1.1 (1.25 dollars per day) does not exist in Liechtenstein. However, the high per-capita income also goes hand in hand with a high price level. Accordingly, subsistence levels are higher than in other countries in absolute terms.

In order to better assess the poverty situation and the existing poverty risks in Liechtenstein and to be able to compare them with other countries, the Government commissioned a new poverty report, which it presented in May 2023. The report shows that 14.1% of the Liechtenstein population is at risk of poverty. This puts Liechtenstein in the mid-range of European comparison states. If assets are also taken into account, 5.4% of the Liechtenstein population are considered to be at risk of poverty. The poverty line, which was calculated on the basis of the national social assistance law, corresponded to a disposable income of CHF 23,400 or less for a one-person household in 2020. Overall, 3.1% of the population did not reach this level and are therefore at risk of poverty. When taking into account assets, however, only 0.9% of the Liechtenstein population are considered low-income and low wealth.

The social welfare systems in Liechtenstein are very well developed as a whole and contribute significantly to reduc-

ing the risk of poverty. The poverty report shows that the share of people at risk of poverty would be 33% higher without government transfer payments. The state offers appropriate support for all individuals and families that do not reach the national subsistence level from their own resources. In this respect, all residents of the country have basically two instruments available to them:

Financial social support secures the subsistence level. Under the Social Support Act (Sozialhilfegesetz), there is no fixed subsistence level in Liechtenstein. Instead, the subsistence level is established on the basis of the individual situation of the persons or families concerned and should be commensurate with the general standard of living and take the individual situation of those in need into account. There is an entitlement to financial social support, if a person's income is insufficient to meet the subsistence level, established on a case-by-case basis. Short-term measures to secure livelihoods are also enacted, as happened most recently during the COVID-19 pandemic and in response to rising energy costs.

Pensioners, whose income from an old age or survivor's pension (AHV) or disability pension (IV) is insufficient to ensure an appropriate living standard or residence in a care home, are granted supplementary benefits. Here, too, there is a legal entitlement to those benefits if the personal and financial conditions are met.

In 2021, the social assistance rate in Liechtenstein was just 2.2%. In other words, only very few households in Liechtenstein are dependent on financial assistance to reach the subsistence level. The rate of supplementary benefits for persons drawing a pension is also moderate at 8.8% (2021).

In addition to these welfare benefits, other support options exist for low-income households. These include, for example, rent subsidies and reductions in health insurance premiums.

Low-income households in Liechtenstein therefore have a relatively high resistance to crises. The risk of poverty is correspondingly low.

### **Challenges**

Poverty in Liechtenstein is extremely low, and the number of low-income households has fallen. The COVID-19 pandemic also did not lead to an increase in poverty-stricken households in 2020 and 2021. This is due in no small part to the Government's swift adoption of effective measures to mitigate the economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In particular, reintegrating unemployed persons into jobs in the labour market that provide sufficient income will remain a challenge in the future. Going forward, it is also important to secure the state's ability to finance short-term measures when faced with crisis situations.

### **Measures**

The Poverty Report, published in May 2023, provides a basis for assessing whether action needs to be taken to combat the risk of poverty in Liechtenstein.

Over recent years, there have been several occasions when it has been necessary to respond to crises at short notice and take specific, targeted action. The Government used a variety of means to help businesses deal with the economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. These were successful in securing jobs and household incomes. The persistently low unemployment rate is evidence of the impact of the measures taken (see also the comments on SDG 8).

In 2023, the Government has taken several steps to ease the burden on low-income households and cushion the impact of higher energy prices caused by Russia's aggression

against Ukraine. These include increasing the basic needs allowance of welfare benefits by the percentage that households spend on energy on average. In addition, low-income households can apply for a flat-rate energy allowance based on household size and income. Rent subsidies for families were also increased. Pensioners who receive supplementary benefits are entitled to a higher flat-rate housing allowance.

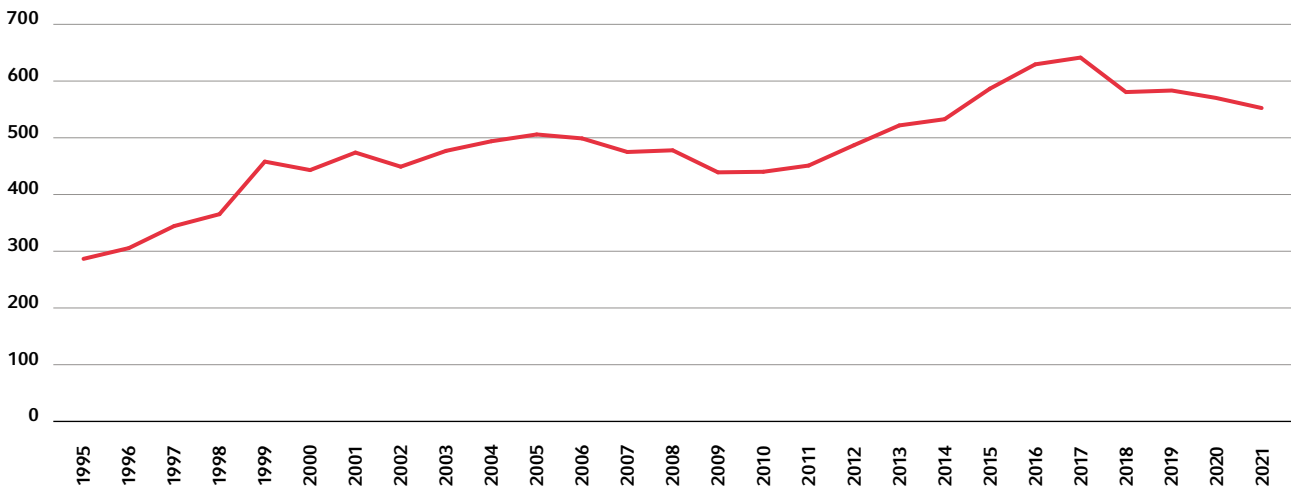
The Government considers it critical to empower social assistance beneficiaries to lead independent lives, with the focus on a long-term (re-)integration of all people into the labour market. Poverty can only be kept at a low level in the long term through regular earned income.

In order to further reduce dependence on social assistance, the Liechtenstein authorities provide personal assistance, counselling, employment programmes and financial aid for languages courses or for external childcare. The aim is to further reduce dependency on social assistance.

## Statistical indicators

### Social assistance beneficiaries

Number of households



Assessment → neutral

Source: National Statistical Office – Sustainable development indicators

Desired development: Decrease

Trend: Increase, sharp decrease since 2017

Explanation of the diagram: The number of households receiving social assistance increased by 93% during the reference period from 1995 to 2021. It should be noted, however, that the total number of households also increased by 166% in the period from 1990 to 2020.

### Working Poor

Number of households



Assessment ↗ positive

The number of working-poor households (including self-employed) has decreased.

Source: National Statistical Office – Sustainable development indicators

Desired development: Decrease

Trend: Decrease

# SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

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## **Overall assessment**

- Food security is ensured, so SDG 2 is generally well implemented.
  - The proportion of organic farming in Liechtenstein is very high and continues to grow.
- 

### **Situation in Liechtenstein**

The remarks concerning SDG 1 make it clear that poverty risks at the national level are low. It can also be concluded that nobody in Liechtenstein needs to go hungry. As for most countries around the globe, ensuring food security and healthy nutrition plays an important role in Liechtenstein and is a long-term task of the state.

Providing the population with diverse foodstuffs is achieved through domestic agricultural production and, above all, through imports. Thanks to the customs treaty with Switzerland, Liechtenstein is integrated in the Swiss customs area, which means it has unrestricted access to its agricultural and foodstuffs market.

The domestic agricultural sector is relatively small. Only 0.7% of all employees were employed in the agricultural sector in 2021. At the same time, the agricultural sector contributed 0.2% to gross value added in 2020.

Protecting the incomes of farmers is of great importance to ensure that agricultural production is sustainable in the long term. The provision of environmental, landscape conservation and animal protection services is likewise in the public interest and is promoted and subsidised by the state.

Farmers can obtain financial support from the state in various ways.

The Liechtenstein Government has been committed to an ecological approach to agriculture for years. In addition, all farms are committed to careful management of resources. The measures taken by the Government to promote sustainable agriculture are having the intended effect. The area of organically farmed agricultural land has continuously increased since 2005, reaching the relatively high figure of 41% in 2020. In the same year, the figure for the European Union was 9.1%, and 17% for Switzerland. This means Liechtenstein takes a leading position internationally in terms of sustainable agriculture. Organic farming also contributes directly to a healthier diet of the population.

### **Challenges**

Perhaps more than any other sector, agriculture is very dependent on climatic conditions and accordingly is strongly impacted by climate change. The dry summer of 2018 and the dry winter of 2022/23 have raised awareness about climate change amongst farmers and the public and especially about the conflicts between different groups of persons using the available water resources. Agriculture must therefore adapt to progressive climate change with a sus-

tainable management approach. At the same time, agriculture contributes to climate change and has to join other sectors of the economy and the public in reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Agricultural enterprises in Liechtenstein are generally extremely willing to do this, as long as their efforts are compensated fairly.

The 2022 Agricultural Policy Report addresses these challenges and sets out specific measures to help farmers deal with the impact of climate change.

### Measures

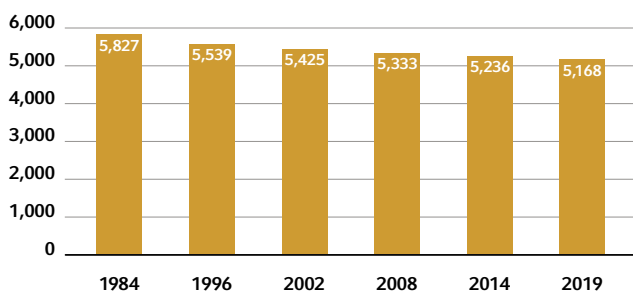
In the 2022 Agricultural Policy Report, the Government clearly defines its vision of an agriculture that produces sustainable foodstuffs whilst caring for and conserving the countryside. It is the task of government to create the conditions required for professional and viable agriculture.

Specific policy measures in the report are divided into the following areas: education, social affairs and society, markets, economy and technical progress, ecology and climate. For example, there are plans for the mandatory participation of agricultural workers in continuing education programmes; the establishment of a central marketing facility under private sponsorship; the introduction of a sustainability assessment for farms; the reduction of GHG emissions and optimising the use of pesticides.

## Statistical indicators

### Utilised agricultural area

in ha



Assessment ▾ **negative**

The utilised agricultural area (including alpine pastures) has declined.

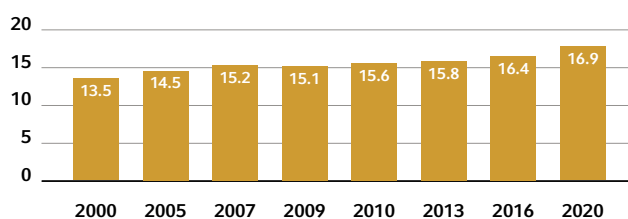
Source: National Statistical Office – Environmental indicators

Desired development: Stability

Trend: Decrease

### Ecological compensation areas

Managed semi-natural habitats and wildflower strips as a proportion of the utilised agricultural area (as a percentage)



Assessment ▴ **positive**

The proportion of ecological compensation areas as a percentage of the utilised agricultural area has increased.

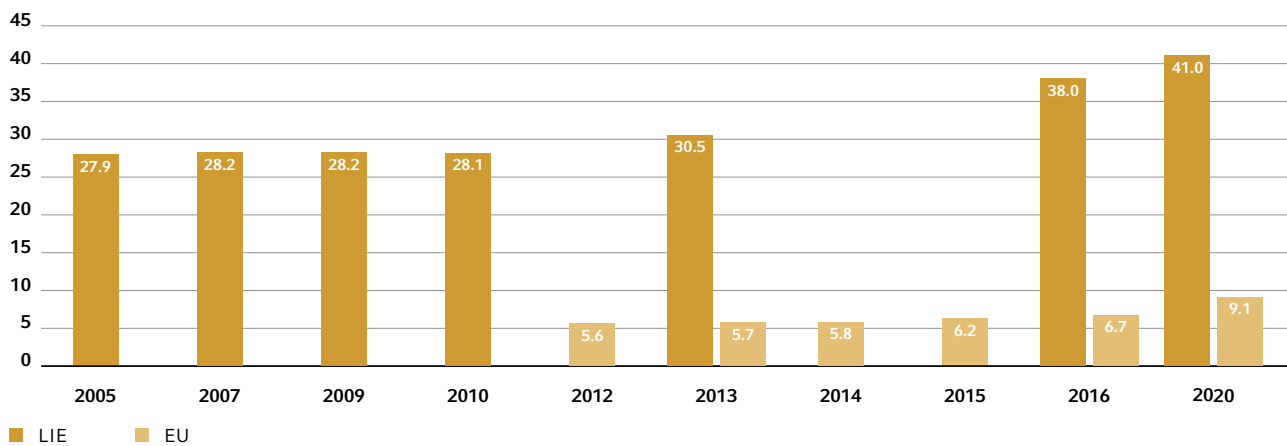
Source: National Statistical Office – Sustainable development indicators

Desired development: Increase

Trend: Increase

## Area of organically farmed land in Liechtenstein and the EU

as a percentage of the total utilised agricultural area



Assessment  positive

The proportion of organically farmed land as a percentage of the total agricultural area utilised has increased.

**Source:** National Statistical Office – Environmental indicators; Eurostat.

**Desired development:** Increase

**Trend:** Increase

# SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages



## Overall assessment

- Healthcare in Liechtenstein is of a very high standard and healthcare services are available quickly and to everyone.
- However, healthcare costs have stabilised at a very high level, which remains a challenge for the future.

## Situation in Liechtenstein

In general, healthcare provision in Liechtenstein is of high quality and availability. This became particularly clear during the COVID-19 pandemic, when the healthcare system remained fully functional at all times.

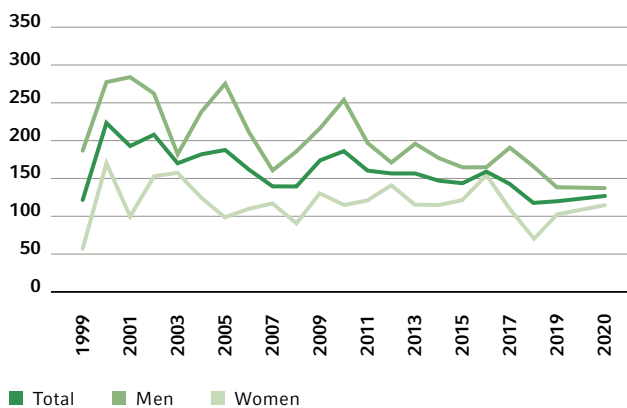
All Liechtenstein residents have unrestricted and equal access to health services. For all residents there is mandatory healthcare insurance (OKP), which ensures the provision of healthcare services. Each insured person pays a per-capita premium and a contribution to costs. However, children aged under 16 are exempt from the premium payment and contribution. Persons aged between 16 and 20 pay half the premiums of adults aged over 20 and do not have to pay a contribution. As of 1 January 2023, insured persons who have reached the regular pension age also no longer have to pay contributions. Adults with a low household income receive a contribution to their premiums and contributions. The state supports healthcare through substantial subsidies from general taxation.

With around 315 residents per practising physician, the density of physicians is high in international comparison, especially as a large proportion of hospital services are provided in neighbouring countries. Primary inpatient care is provided by the Liechtenstein National Hospital. However, there are also additional agreements with 22 hospitals, clin-

## Statistical indicators

### Mortality rate

up to age 65 per 100,000 residents



Assessment → neutral

The overall mortality rate up to age 65 has not significantly changed.

**Source:** National Statistical Office – Sustainable development indicators  
**Desired development:** Decrease  
**Trend:** no significant change

ics, treatment centres and rehabilitation centres abroad, especially in Switzerland. In terms of long-term care, there are six care homes available in Balzers, Triesen, Vaduz, Schaan, Eschen and Mauren, along with a residential care group in Triesenberg. For necessary care at home, the organisations “Familienhilfe Liechtenstein” and “Lebenshilfe Balzers” provide services, also at short notice.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, no serious bottlenecks in the health care system occurred. Liechtenstein also rapidly set up testing facilities for the general public, in some cases free of charge, and always provided free vaccinations. Liechtenstein also made an active contribution to the global fight against the pandemic by supporting COVAX, the worldwide initiative to improve access to vaccines.

Liechtenstein’s good healthcare provision is reflected in the trends shown by statistical indicators. Life expectancy has increased significantly since the start of the survey. After a decline in 2020 influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic, it increased again in 2021, reaching 86.4 years for women and 81.6 years for men. Life expectancy at age 65 also shows an upwards trend.

The main causes of death in Liechtenstein in 2021 were diseases of the cardiovascular system (including diabetes mellitus) at 31%, cancer at 26.6%, COVID-19 at 5.2% and other diseases of the respiratory organs at 4.8%. Maternal mortality, child mortality and the number of persons injured in road traffic accidents were very low.

The number of cases of reportable infectious diseases has fluctuated between 57 and 98 per year for some time – COVID-19 infections not included. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, more than 21,000 people have tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 (including multiple infections).

The number of persons resident in Liechtenstein that are infected with HIV is recorded in official statistics, but no epidemiological evaluation is conducted due to the low number of cases. On average, there were 0.75 new HIV infections per year between 2010 and 2021.

### Challenges

Considerable challenges are posed by the health costs per insured person since these costs are increasing by 3% per annum as a long-term average. Thanks to measures imple-

mented in terms of fees, and also an increase in contributions, the costs per insured person began to stabilise in 2013. That is a considerable achievement in international comparison. In 2021, however, the costs per insured person rose again by some 2% compared to the previous year, and 2022 saw an overall cost increase of 6%. The current challenge is to continue to keep costs stable.

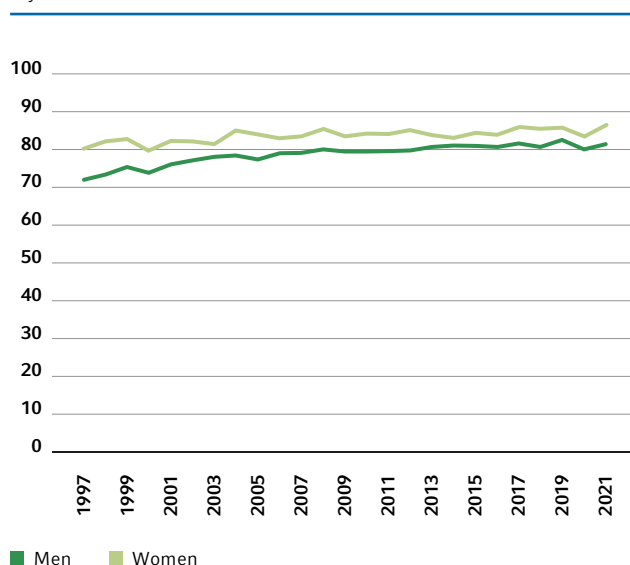
General challenges can be identified with respect to health-related behaviour. Numerous health problems are directly related to lack of exercise, poor nutrition and obesity, and the consumption of nicotine and alcohol. There are certain challenges with respect to the consumption of legal and illegal drugs or abuse of medication, especially among young people.

### Measures

The state and local authorities offer numerous preventive and health-promoting measures. These includes free check-ups every five years. In addition, women are invited to attend a gynaecological screening every 2.5 years. Furthermore, there are various briefings, campaigns, projects

### Life expectancy at birth

in years



Assessment positive

Life expectancy at birth is increasing.

Source: National Statistical Office

Desired development: Increase

Trend: Increase



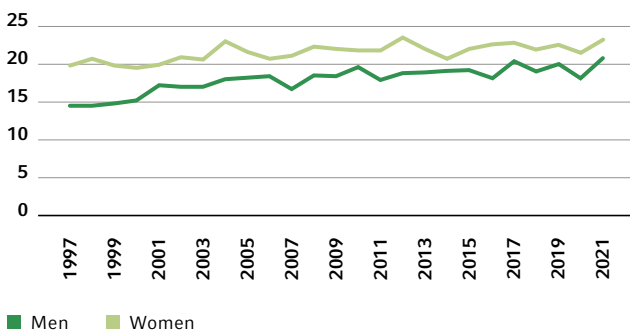
and target group-specific or topic-specific measures. Awareness-raising campaigns in the fields of nutrition, exercise, nicotine and alcohol have shown that simple measures can achieve a great deal.

In autumn 2021, the Association for Human Rights in Liechtenstein (VMR) and the Office of Public Health, in consultation with the Liechtenstein Medical Association, began offering intercultural interpreting services in doctors' practices. The pilot project will run for two years from the beginning of 2022 to the end of 2023 and will be free of charge for patients and practices alike. This is another step towards providing an accessible and inclusive healthcare system for all.

In addition, road traffic campaigns such as #streetfluencer highlight potential hazards to reduce the risk of accidents.

### Life expectancy at age 65

in years



Assessment positive

Life expectancy at age 65 is increasing.

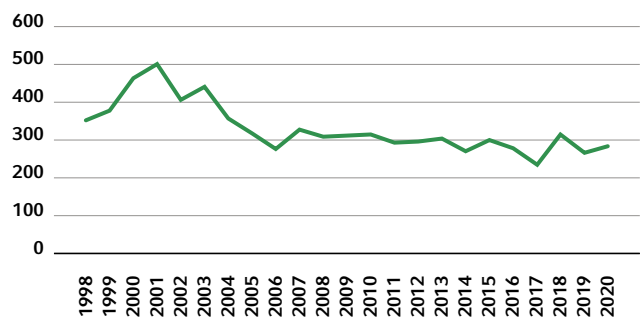
Source: National Statistical Office

Desired development: Increase

Trend: Increase

### Road traffic injuries and fatalities

per 100,000 inhabitants



Assessment positive

The number of road traffic injuries and fatalities has declined.

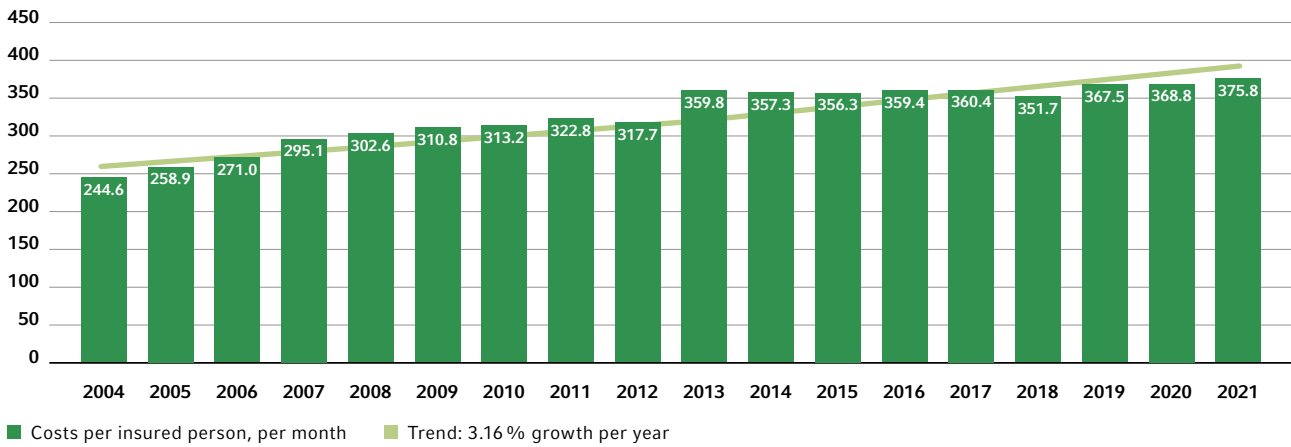
Source: National Statistical Office – Sustainable development indicators

Desired development: Decrease

Trend: Decrease

## Cost of mandatory health insurance

per insured person, per month



Assessment ▾ **negative**

The cost of mandatory health insurance for insured persons is increasing.

**Source:** National Statistical Office – Health insurers' statistics

**Desired development:** Stable or decline

**Trend:** Increase

# SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

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## ***Overall assessment***

- Liechtenstein has a very high-quality education system that contributes significantly to positive social development.
  - The proportion of people with a higher level of education continues to grow, and the gender gap in educational attainment is narrowing.
  - Liechtenstein's dual vocational training system is a key factor in its educational success.
  - Education for sustainable development forms an integral part of the curriculum.
- 

## **Situation in Liechtenstein**

The Liechtenstein Government regards ensuring high-quality and inclusive education as one of its key priorities. Equal access to education and the organisation of the education system play a key role in Liechtenstein's development. Citizens have access to a wide range of education and training opportunities for lifelong learning, with a focus on inclusive, equal and high-quality education.

A high level of education is critical for the innovative capacity and competitiveness of a country and for the functioning of a liberal democracy and society. The importance attached to education in Liechtenstein is underscored by the fact that 3% of its GNI is allocated to education.

Public education begins for children with kindergarten at the age of 4; it is at parents' discretion whether their children attend kindergarten. However, the second year of kindergarten is obligatory for children whose mother tongue is not German. Compulsory schooling starts at the age of 6 and lasts 9 years. It consists of 5 years of primary school and 4 years at a school at secondary level I.

The Liechtenstein education system gives equal weight to vocational and academic education and focuses on equal opportunities and inclusion. The dual vocational training system is a key factor in Liechtenstein's success. In this system, attendance at a specialist vocational college alternates with working days at a selected company. This provides young people with comprehensive theoretical and practical training that later qualifies them to work in a particular occupation. The vocational qualification can be extended by attending a vocational college to take the Matura (higher school leaving certificate), which qualifies them to attend universities of applied sciences and certain university courses.

Following secondary level II, all young adults have equal access to further education at the tertiary level. Even low-income individuals have the possibility to benefit from tertiary education thanks to the highly developed system of grants in Liechtenstein. The proportion of people with tertiary education across all population groups is growing steadily, a testament to the excellence of the education system.

The considerable educational diversity in Liechtenstein likewise includes the promotion of talent, with a wide range of training offered in cultural skills, such as through the music school or art school. This training paves the way to attend conservatories or art colleges, or simply allows people to pursue their personal development.

The wide range of educational options in Liechtenstein means that all children, young people and adults can develop their potential, also aided by integrated and inclusive support. Children with special learning needs (both children with learning impairments and children who are particularly gifted) are supported in lessons by differentiated class teaching or by special needs teachers. Mentally or physically disabled children and young people are included in regular schools and classes and supported by trained staff. Trained school psychologists and school social workers are available to advise teachers, parents and children. In addition, there are specific schools for pupils with special needs, such as the Special Needs Centre (HPZ) and the Timeout School. All educational facilities are designed to meet the needs of children, disabled people and with a focus on gender equality.

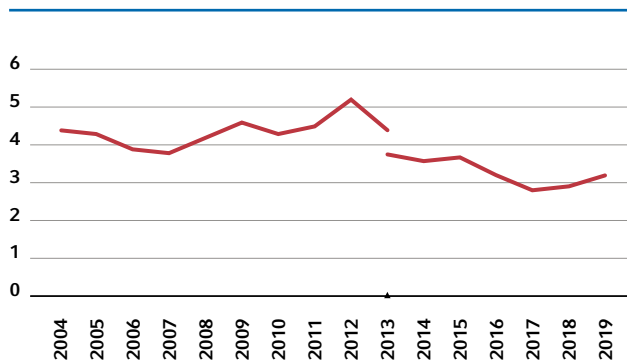
School classes in Liechtenstein are deliberately kept small, with a maximum of 24 pupils per class to one teacher. This allows a high degree of individualised and differentiated teaching. Liechtenstein averages just under 9 children per teacher, a figure that has decreased over recent years and provides another indicator of the high quality education.

The Liechtenstein curriculum LiLe for the primary level and secondary level I places the emphasis on holistic and sustainable education. Subjects and disciplines are not regarded in isolation but are linked together. The skills objectives of the curriculum simultaneously promote methodological, personal and social skills. Another special feature of LiLe is the emphasis on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) subjects; the use and application of these skills is also supported by the country's pepperMINT experimental laboratory ("MINT" is STEM in German). This laboratory is available to all children and young people, and also to teachers to help them plan their lessons. It awakens creativity, an inquiring mind, the joy of learning and an interest in science. It particularly encourages girls to take an interest in STEM subjects, which in turn has a direct impact on equal opportunities for women regarding access to and

## Statistical indicators

### Spending on public education

as a percentage of GNI



Assessment ▾ negative

Spending on education as a percentage of GNI has decreased.

**Note:** The method for calculating GNI changed in 2013 from ESA 1995 to ESA 2010. 2013 is the reference year for the assessment.

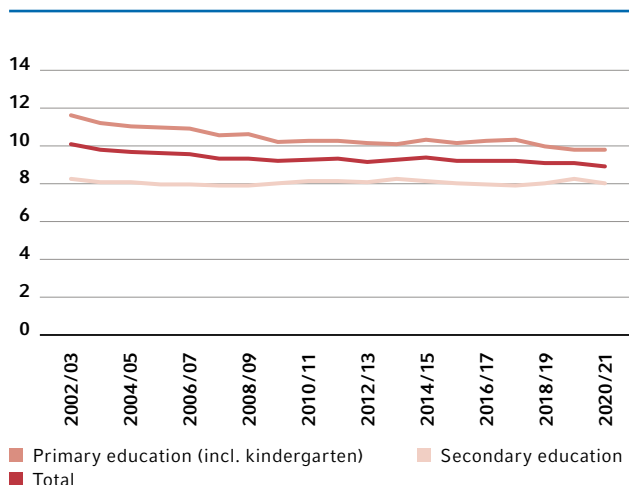
**Source:** National Statistical Office – Sustainable development indicators

**Desired development:** Stability

**Trend:** Decrease

### Teacher-pupil ratio

Number of pupils per teacher



Assessment ▴ positive

The teacher-pupil ratio has improved.

**Source:** National Statistical Office – Sustainable development indicators

**Desired development:** Stability

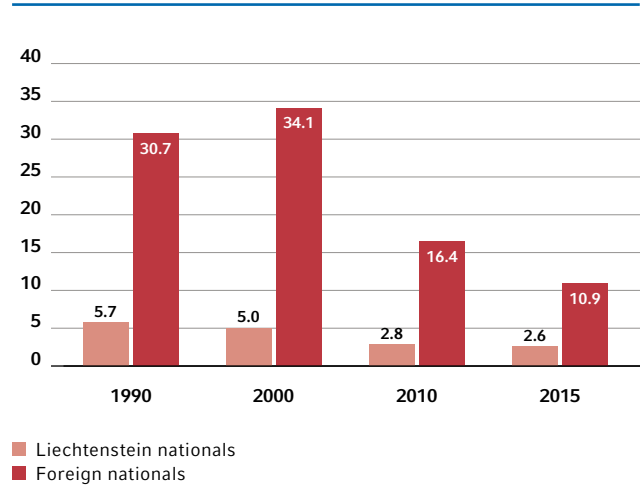
**Trend:** Decrease (fewer pupils per teacher)


entry into traditionally male professions. It is worth mentioning that pepperMINT is supported by both the state and the private sector.

Sustainability has been reinforced in the LiLe curriculum by the introduction of the school subject "Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)". Lessons include seven interdisciplinary aspects: Politics, democracy and human rights; natural environment and resources; gender and equality; health; global development and peace; cultural identities and inter-cultural understanding; economy and consumption. This teaches children that political, economic, environmental, social and cultural processes are linked, and that what we do today has an impact on the future, and that there are interactions between local and global actions. In this way, LiLe makes a specific contribution to communicating the SDGs to students.

### Early school leavers

Percentage by country of origin



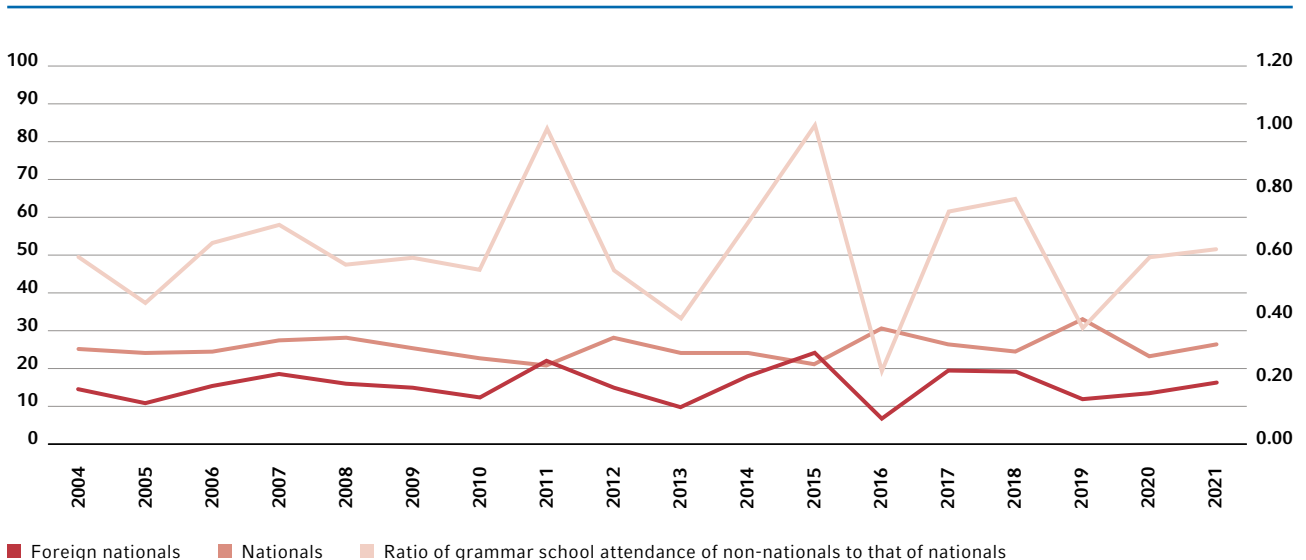
Assessment  positive

The percentage of early school leavers has decreased.

**Source:** National Statistical Office – Sustainable development indicators  
**Desired development:** Decrease  
**Trend:** Decrease

### Grammar school ratio by country of origin

as a percentage



Assessment  positive

The ratio of grammar school attendance of non-nationals to nationals has increased.

**Source:** National Statistical Office – Sustainable development indicators  
**Desired development:** Increase  
**Trend:** Increase

A national survey showed that the burden of the COVID-19 pandemic was rather low in Liechtenstein's educational institutions. Schools in Liechtenstein were required to implement distance learning for a much shorter period than schools in most other European countries. The impact of isolation or quarantine due to a coronavirus disease on academic performance was estimated to be rather low. This is evidence of the good care provided to children in Liechtenstein schools.

### Challenges

The vision of the 2025+ Education Strategy is that the education system should help everyone in Liechtenstein to realise their full potential and enable them to be active, responsible and self-determined members of a humane, open and democratic society. In order to realise this vision and continuously develop and advance the education system in terms of quality, several strategic goals have been defined that simultaneously address the major challenges of education in the 21st century: Educational institutions need sufficient autonomy (creative freedom) to mobilise local knowledge in the best possible way and to meet the needs of their stakeholders. Another challenge is how to maintain and promote the individualisation of different types of education. Vocational and academic education should continue to have equal recognition in both society and business. It is also important to ensure that everyone receives a good education, and to promote lifelong learning. Educational institutions should be learner-friendly and inclusive. It is also important to provide for the development and promotion of intercultural, transcultural and linguistic competencies.

### Measures

The 2025+ Education Strategy sets out areas of action for meeting the strategic goals. However, these have not been defined conclusively on purpose in light of ongoing social and economic developments and technical progress. The areas of action include:

- Continuing to develop quality concepts in educational institutions;
- Using a performance survey as a tool for optimising school and teaching quality;
- Increasing the autonomy of educational institutions in order to align tasks, competencies and responsibilities with future challenges;

- Expanding part-time study and professional development opportunities;
- Raising awareness amongst the public and educators about the right to inclusive education;
- Promoting intergenerational learning in schools, training companies and in professional development courses.

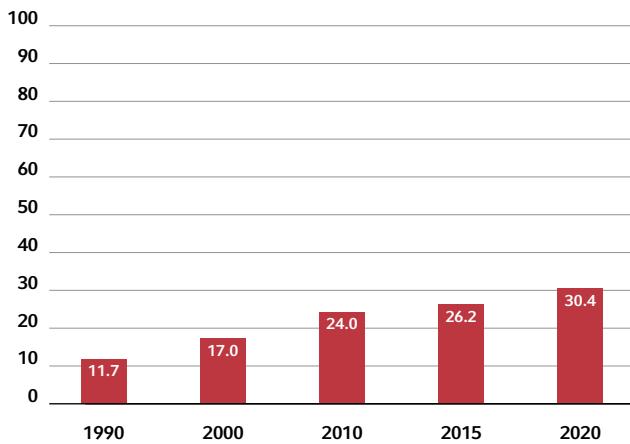
To ensure up-to-date and high-quality teaching in the long term, a range of professional development courses – which are updated yearly – are available to all teaching staff in Liechtenstein. The range of courses is managed by a dedicated unit at the Office of Education. The courses and seminars are free of charge for everyone involved in education across the country and generally cover topical subjects in the areas of teaching, upbringing, education, health, nutrition, sustainability, environment, self-management and specific curriculum-related and subject-related content.

Digital expansion is being driven forward by the Information and Communication Technology Project (ICT Project), which equips schools with the infrastructure and mobile terminals that they need. Teachers are required to participate in professional development courses in the IT field. In this way, the ICT Project lays the foundation for pupils to acquire the IT and media skills they need to navigate an increasingly digitised world. Another recent innovation is the launch of Code Camps during the summer holidays. These allow children of primary school age to take their first steps in programming and discover the creative side of the digital world.

By becoming party to the Marrakesh Treaty in 2021, Liechtenstein committed to making it easier for people with visual impairments to access works of literature, science, and art, thus contributing to the improvement of equal opportunities for sighted and visually impaired people.

## Proportion of the population educated at tertiary level

as a percentage



Assessment ↗ **positive**

The proportion of the population educated at tertiary level has increased.

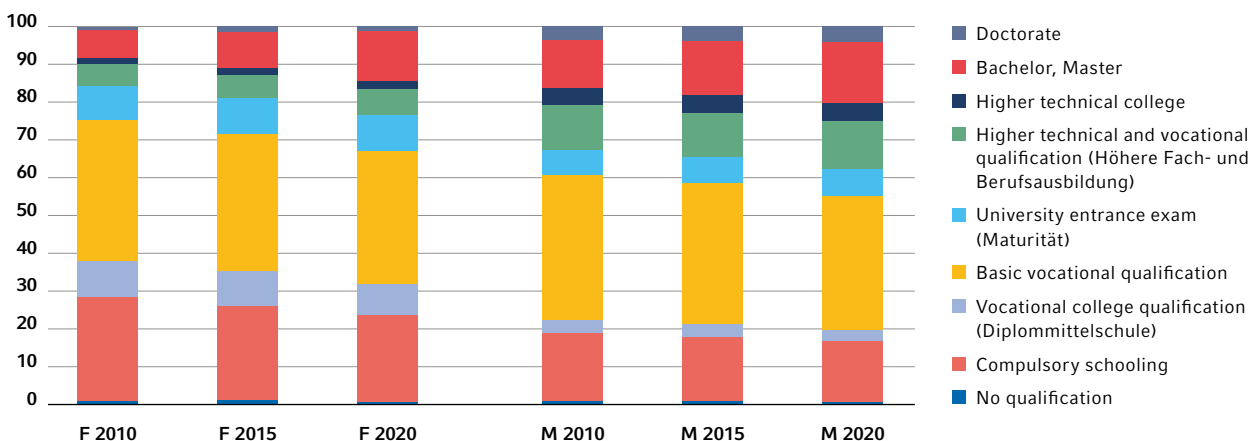
**Source:** National Statistical Office – Sustainable development indicators

**Desired development:** Increase

**Trend:** Increase

## Educational attainment of Liechtenstein population

by gender



Assessment ↗ **positive**

The proportion of women who have as a minimum completed vocational education (i. e., more than compulsory schooling) has increased more than that of men. This means the gender gap in educational attainment is narrowing.

**Source:** National Statistical Office – Census

**Desired development:** Narrowing the gender gap in educational attainment

**Trend:** Decrease

# SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

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## **Overall assessment**

- Men and women are equal under Liechtenstein law.
  - The trend is positive with regards to gender equality in professional life and in politics.
  - The main challenge is still how to improve reconciliation of work and family life.
- 

## **Situation in Liechtenstein**

In recent decades, de jure discrimination between men and women has been progressively eliminated, with the result that genders are now equal in legal terms. Progress has been made in terms of de facto equality. However, women continue to be underrepresented in leadership positions and in politics, and reconciling work and family life also remains a major challenge.

The Liechtenstein Constitution states in Article 31(2) that men and women are equal. In addition, legal protection against gender discrimination is provided by the Gender Equality Act (Gleichstellungsgesetz). The Act governs the rights and legal remedies available to people who are affected by gender discrimination at work or with respect to access to goods and services. For the benefit of those affected, the Gender Equality Act allows for an easing of the burden of proof, whereby discrimination has only to be demonstrated credibly. It bans direct and indirect discrimination based on gender, marital status, family status, pregnancy or motherhood in private-sector and public employment and in other occupational fields. The same applies to access to goods and services that are available to the public.

In 2016, the Criminal Code was expanded to include a comprehensive ban on discrimination. Since then, public incite-

ment to hatred or discrimination, including on the basis of gender, has been a crime and may be punished with a prison sentence of up to two years. The term “gender” includes not only women and men, but also transgender and intersex persons. It is also a criminal offence to refuse an offered service that is intended for the public to a person or group of persons based on the afore-mentioned characteristics.

In 2021, the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention) entered into force in Liechtenstein. As part of the ratification process, adjustments were made to the Code of Civil Procedure and the Non-Contentious Proceedings Act in the area of victim and witness protection. This included introducing the possibility of separate hearings, the questioning of minors by experts, ensuring the secrecy of the home address of victims and witnesses, and trial accompaniment.

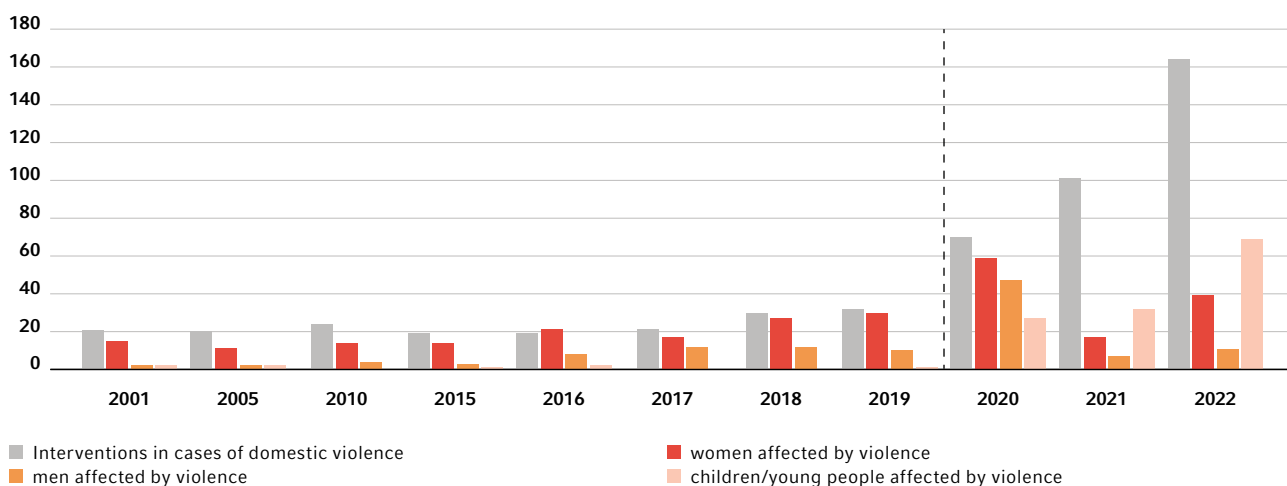
The Convention mandates the implementation of effective, comprehensive, and coordinated policies across the country for a holistic response to violence against women. In the ratification process, numerous existing measures were supplemented by new steps. For example, in 2020, the police adjusted how data on domestic violence was collected in line with the wording of the Convention, which in turn



makes the comparison of data collected on domestic violence after 2020 vs. 2019 and earlier difficult. At the same

time, it shows that there is growing awareness of this type of violence.

### Police interventions in cases of domestic violence and victims of violence



The de facto equality of women in politics, in society and in the working world has still not been fully achieved. Gaps between the genders can be seen in various respects. In the working world, women are significantly less likely to hold management positions than men: in 2020, 75% of persons in management positions were male. In executive positions, on average, there were five men for every woman. The proportion of women on boards of directors is currently 32.2%, with an upward trend. Since 2019, the only imbalance in favour of women has been on boards of trustees. However, in the full-time judiciary (including the public prosecutor's office), the proportion of women has declined in recent years.

There are also differences in terms of wages. The median wage of women was roughly 86% of the median wage of men in 2020, but the gap is narrowing. A 2016 study found that 42% of wage gaps are not due to objective characteristics such as occupational status, industry, or education level. There are currently no general studies about the level of the non-objectively explicable wage gap. Studies that cover specific training and functions within a company show that non-explicable wage differences are very low.

In politics, it should be noted that, for the first time, there are more women than men in government in the current

legislative period (2021–2025). In general, however, women continue to be underrepresented in Parliament (Landtag) and on municipal councils. In the current legislative period, women make up 28% of the Parliament. At municipal council level, the proportion of women is 36.5% for the period 2023–2027. This represents a decrease from the historic high of the 2019–2023 period (41.3%), but the long-term trend shows an increase in the percentage of women on municipal councils.

### Challenges

In recent years, a great deal has been achieved in terms of gender equality in Liechtenstein, especially in legal terms. Statistical data show, however, that there is still a need for action with respect to equality in professional life and the political participation of women, even though the trend with regards to SDG 5 is assessed as positive overall.

To achieve actual gender equality in all areas of life, an improvement in the reconciliation of work and family life is of the utmost importance. This has still not been adequately achieved, for women in particular but also for men. This is a major impediment to women's careers. The public debate is currently focused on the introduction of paid parental leave, paid paternity leave, and the right to caregiver leave.

Another challenge is the equal representation of women in political office. In the 2021–2025 legislative period, there are more women than men in government for the first time, and the trend in both the Parliament (Landtag) and municipal councils is towards parity. The trend is also positive in terms of the number of female candidates being elected to the Parliament and municipal councils. However, at the current rate, it will still take decades to achieve parity in these two political bodies.

### Measures

Even before the ratification of the Istanbul Convention, numerous measures were in place to combat and prevent domestic violence. Liechtenstein law contains comprehensive bans on gender-specific violence against girls and women and therefore aids prevention and law enforcement. That includes the right to protection against violence, enabling the preventive eviction of the potential offender and the imposition of a ban on entering the joint home. In addition, numerous crimes relating to domestic violence can be prosecuted ex-officio. With the amendments to the Code of Civil Procedure and the Non-Contentious Proceedings Act as part of the ratification of the Istanbul Convention, further steps were taken to improve victim and witness protection. Victims of domestic violence may also contact the victim support office. Since 2019, the police have had a specialist unit for threat management, with a domestic violence coordination unit. In 2021, in accordance with Article 10 of the Istanbul Convention, a coordinating body was set up to coordinate, implement, monitor and evaluate policies and other measures to prevent and combat all forms of violence covered by the Convention. The state also supports a number of public awareness campaigns to prevent gender-based violence, including low-threshold services such as the emergency card “Hilfe bei Gewalt in Ehe und Partnerschaft” (Help in the event of domestic violence), which is available in eight languages.

In its programme for 2021–2025, the Government has pledged to promote a better reconciliation of work and family life. Measures include ongoing monitoring of the utilisation and financing of childcare institutions and the adjustment of services to meet demand; a dialogue with the business community to improve the reconciliation of work and family life; and the further development of family policy based on the results of a nationwide survey of families. The participatory drawing up a national gender equality strategy is also planned.

Last autumn, the Government launched a consultation process on the introduction of paid parental leave, paid paternity leave, and the right to caregiver leave. The proposals attracted widespread interest from civil society and the private sector. The Government is currently reviewing the submissions for consultation and plans to introduce new laws or amend existing laws before the end of 2023.

Along with the Government, the private sector is also working to improve the reconciliation of work and family life. Several Liechtenstein companies support external childcare, inter alia through financial contributions, as well as by establishing their own daycare centres. The Liechtenstein Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LIHK) included the reconciliation of work and family life in its vision for 2025 and is working with its member companies on further improvement in this field.

Since 2019, the Government has recognised particularly family-friendly companies with an award. These companies receive a certificate that recognises their commitment to promoting the reconciliation of work and family life by providing working arrangements such as flexible hours and childcare.

Since 2008, the state as an employer has been committed to gender equality and has expressly made equal opportunities between women and men a goal of human resources policy in the State Personnel Act (Staatspersonalgesetz).

In 2021, the National Statistical Office published 33 gender equality indicators for the first time. These provide an overview of the development of equality between women and men in Liechtenstein in five areas: politics, economy, public service, health, and education.

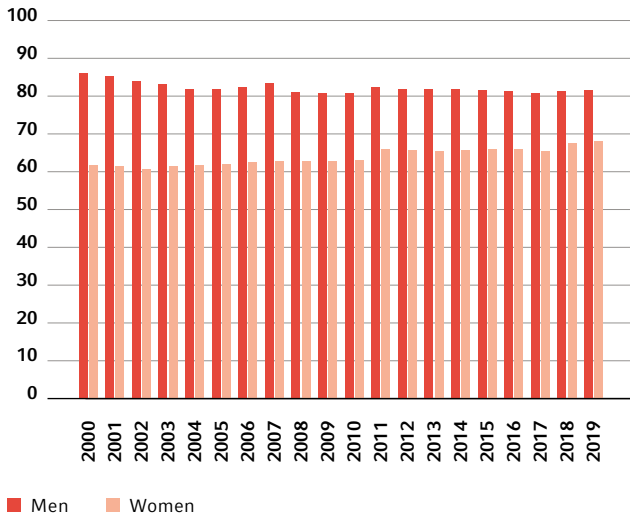
Also, since 2021, there has been a guideline for gender-equitable language that applies to the public administration as a whole.

To achieve gender equality in political bodies, there are civil society initiatives such as “Diversity in Politics”, and state-supported measures such as a politics course for women, with a view to facilitating women’s entry into politics. Political parties are also increasingly striving to achieve parity in the composition of their electoral lists.

## Statistical indicators

### Employment rate

as a percentage



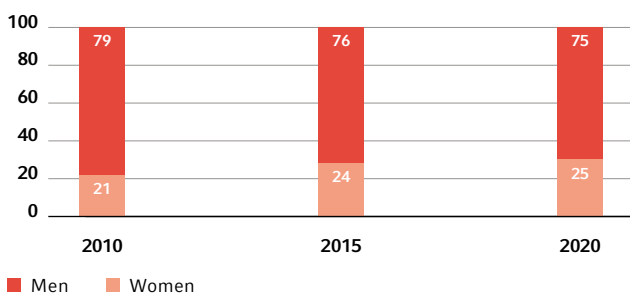
Assessment ↗ **positive**

Rates of participation of men and women in the labour force have converged between 2000 and 2019.

**Source:** National Statistical Office – Gender equality indicators  
**Desired development:** Decrease  
**Trend:** Decrease

### Proportion of persons in management positions

by gender as a percentage



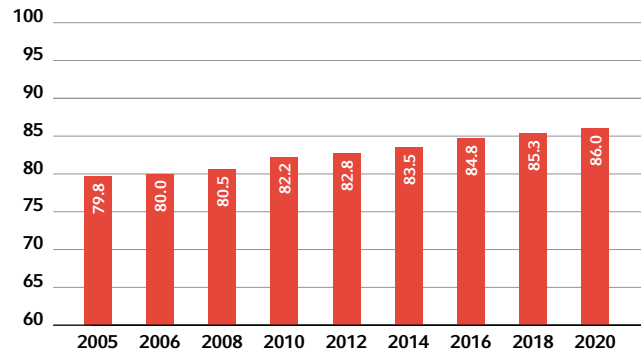
Assessment ↗ **positive**

The proportion of women in management positions has increased.

**Source:** National Statistical Office – Gender equality indicators  
**Desired development:** Increase  
**Trend:** Increase

### Wage gap between men and women

Ratio of the median wage of women to that of men as a percentage



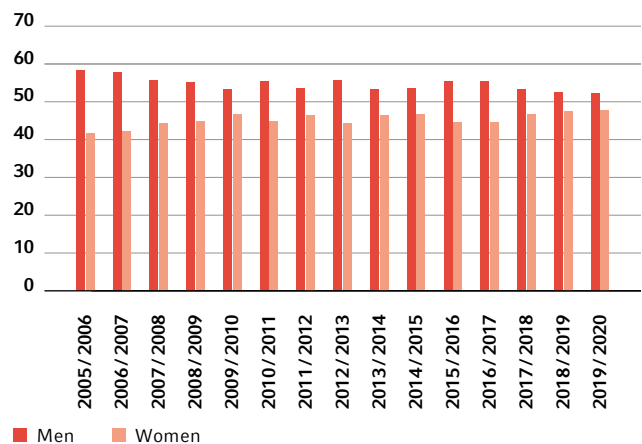
Assessment ↗ **positive**

The wage gap between men and women has narrowed.

**Source:** National Statistical Office – Sustainable development indicators  
**Desired development:** Decrease  
**Trend:** Decrease

### Enrolments in tertiary education by gender

as a percentage



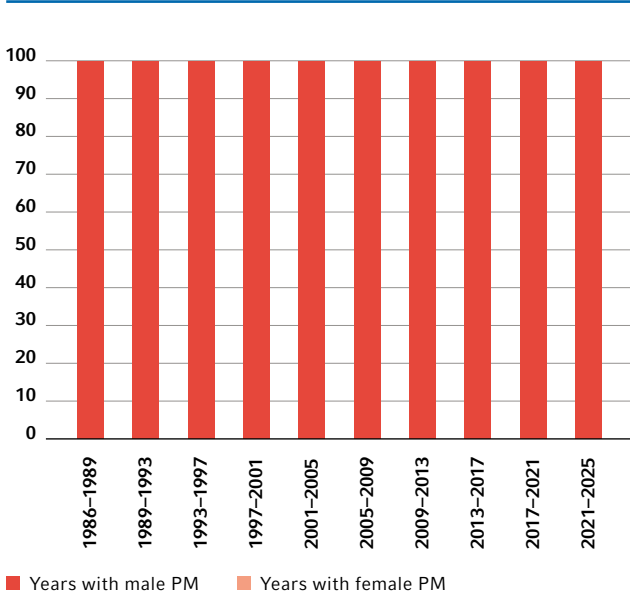
Assessment ↗ **positive**

The proportion of male and female students from Liechtenstein has evened out during this period.

**Source:** National Statistical Office – Gender equality indicators  
**Desired development:** Increase  
**Trend:** Increase

### Prime Minister by gender

as a percentage

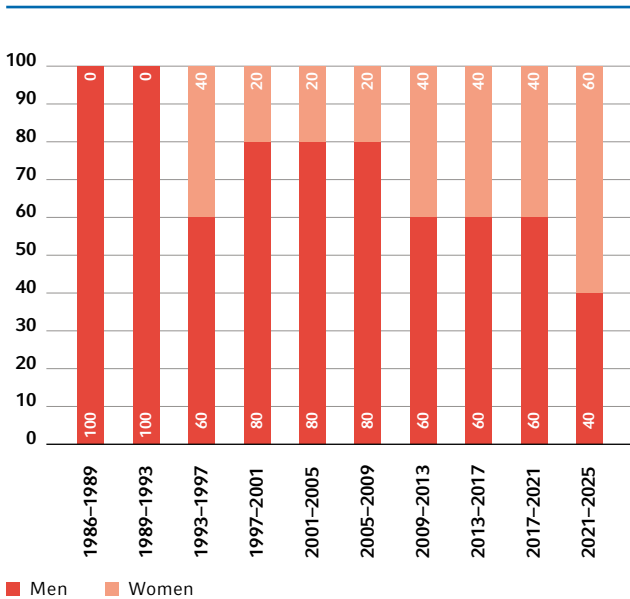


Assessment ⬇️ **negative**

Source: National Statistical Office – Gender equality indicators  
 Desired development: Increase  
 Trend: No change

### Proportion of government members by gender

as a percentage

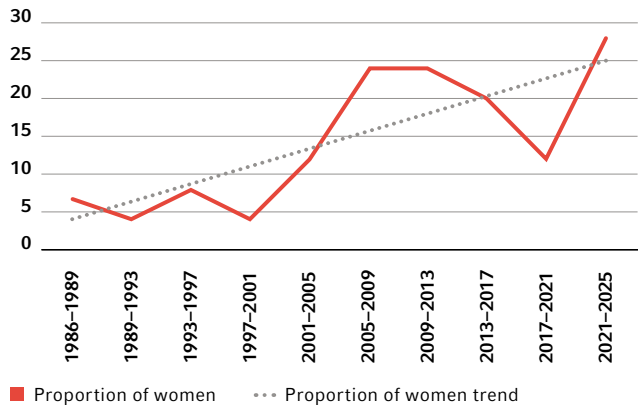


Assessment ⬆️ **positive**

The proportion of women in government has increased.

Source: National Statistical Office – Gender equality indicators  
 Desired development: Increase  
 Trend: Increase

### Proportion of women in Parliament



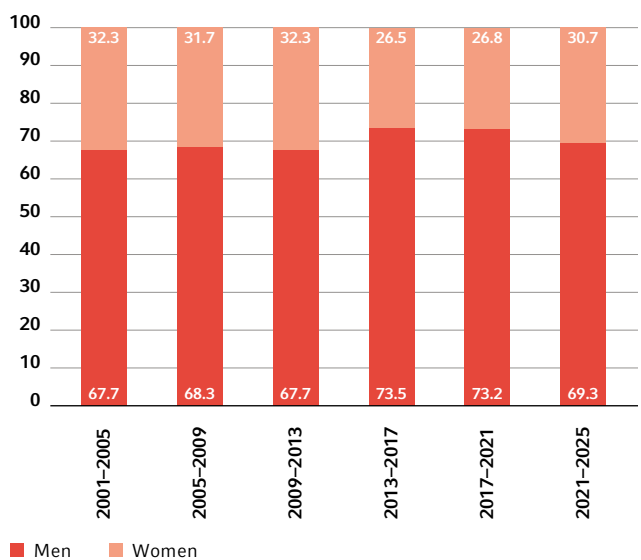
Assessment ⬆️ **positive**

The proportion of women in Parliament has increased.

Source: National Statistical Office – Gender equality indicators  
 Desired development: Increase  
 Trend: Increase

### Proportion of parliamentary candidates

by gender as a percentage



Assessment ➡️ **neutral**

The proportion of female parliamentary candidates is stable.

Source: National Statistical Office – Gender equality indicators  
 Desired development: Increase  
 Trend: no significant change

### Proportion of women on municipal councils



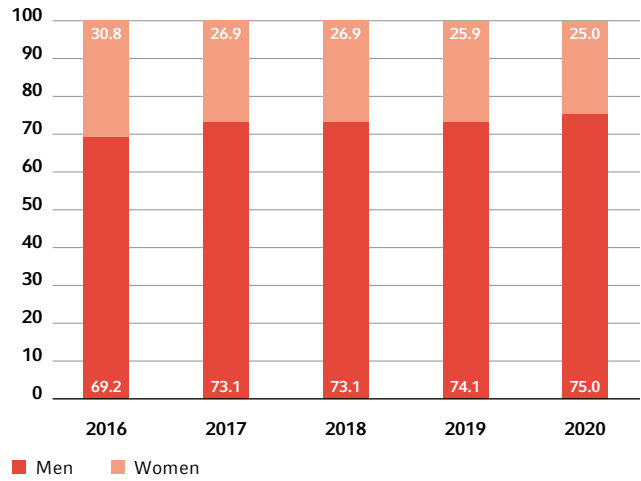
Assessment ↗ **positive**

The proportion of women on municipal councils has increased.

Source: National Statistical Office – Gender equality indicators  
**Desired development:** Increase  
**Trend:** Increase

### Full-time judges by gender

as a percentage



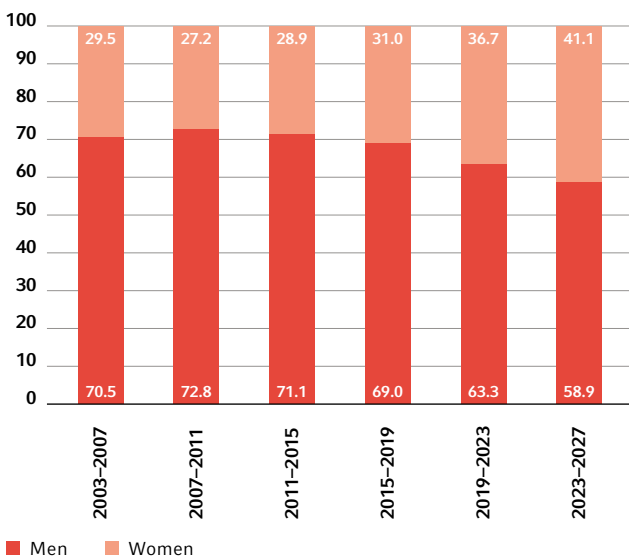
Assessment ↘ **negative**

The proportion of female judges has decreased.

Source: National Statistical Office – Gender equality indicators  
**Desired development:** Increase  
**Trend:** Decrease

### Proportion of candidates for municipal councils

by gender as a percentage



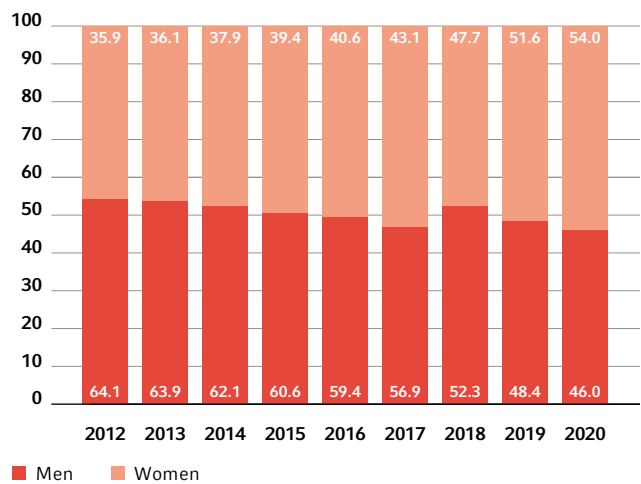
Assessment ↗ **positive**

The proportion of female candidates for municipal councils has increased.

Source: National Statistical Office – Gender equality indicators  
**Desired development:** Increase  
**Trend:** Increase

### Boards of trustees members by gender

as a percentage



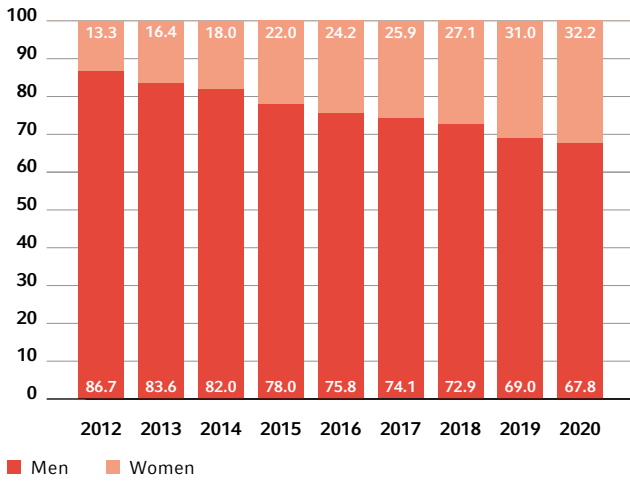
Assessment ↗ **positive**

The proportion of women on boards of trustees has increased.

Source: National Statistical Office – Gender equality indicators  
**Desired development:** Increase  
**Trend:** Increase

## Board of directors members by gender

as a percentage



Assessment  **positive**

The proportion of women on board of directors has increased.

**Source:** National Statistical Office – Gender equality indicators

**Desired development:** Increase

**Trend:** Increase

# SDG 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

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## **Overall assessment**

- In Liechtenstein, the availability of clean and affordable drinking water for all, as well as access to safe sanitation, is guaranteed.
  - Water management is exposed to risks in the context of climate change, which are to be countered through a range of programmes and strategies.
- 

## **Situation in Liechtenstein**

Liechtenstein has abundant drinking water resources of excellent quality. On the one hand, spring water is available, which in most cases is carefully treated by UV sterilisation before it enters the system. On the other hand, untreated groundwater is also used as drinking water. In this way, everyone in Liechtenstein has access to running, clean drinking water. In terms of chemical composition, drinking water in Liechtenstein barely differs in quality from purchased mineral water. This is due not least to extensive protection of the catchment areas of the springs and pumping stations. To ensure that water resources are suitably protected, regulations stipulate in great detail what activities are allowed when and where for spring areas and groundwater pumping stations.

The municipalities are responsible for establishment, inspection and maintenance of the infrastructure. They operate seven water supply facilities across the country. Investments are made regularly by the municipalities. They invest in high standards in a forward-looking way to ensure that this impeccable quality can be ensured in the future too.

Drinking water quality is monitored on an ongoing basis by the relevant state and municipal bodies.

Liechtenstein is also very well positioned with respect to sanitation. All wastewater from households and companies undergoes wastewater treatment and does not enter the environment untreated.

The indicators for sustainable management of drinking water show a positive trend overall. It can be seen, for example, that drinking water consumption in Liechtenstein has decreased by almost 40% since 1982. Both individuals and companies are significantly more economical in their use of the available drinking water. It can also be seen that the nitrate concentration in groundwater has remained practically unchanged in recent years. The nitrate concentration is also an indicator for the presence of other contaminants.

## **Challenges**

Despite abundant drinking water resources, there are a number of risks in the future, especially due to climate change. Effects on the water cycle are expected, such as changes in the seasonal distribution of precipitation, the

discharge regime and the groundwater levels. Extreme events occurring with greater frequency, such as dry periods and heavy precipitation, also pose a challenge. Periods of drought can lead to conflicts over the use of water as resources dwindle. Heavy rainfall can lead to capacity bottlenecks in terms of urban drainage and to flooding. In addition to climate-related effects on water availability, drainage and flooding, a decline in quality of the water resources is also possible, e.g. through increased leaching of contaminants into the groundwater or due to a rise in temperatures.

### Measures

To protect surface waters and groundwater, an inventory of water bodies was conducted in 2015 and a government management plan and action plan was published in 2019. Interim reports on the implementation status are produced at regular intervals (most recently in 2022). Sustainable water management is also a key component of the Government's 2050 Climate Strategy and Climate Change Adaptation Strategy. The 2022 Agricultural Policy Report also contains measures relating to source water protection.

Existing measures under these strategies and programmes include:

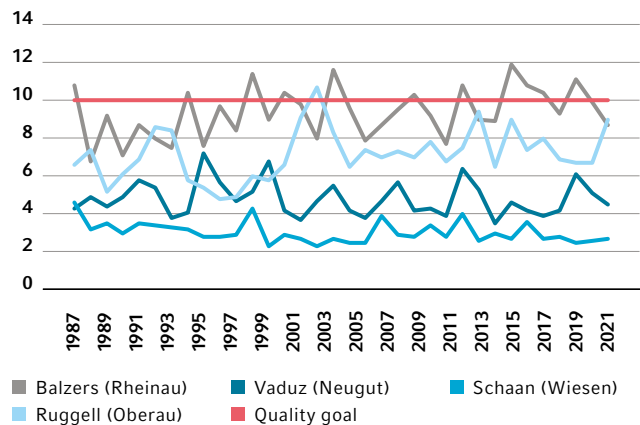
- The return of non-polluted rainwater from settlements to the natural water cycle;
- Safeguarding areas that are particularly suited to the use of groundwater by identifying them as protected areas;
- Installing one-way valves to prevent contaminated water from flowing back into drinking water pipes;
- Running a prevention campaign for the proper disposal of polluted water;
- Agricultural policy measures to improve water quality.

As part of the "Clean Drinking Water" project, since 2018 building owners have been gradually asked to have domestic installations for existing and new properties and buildings inspected at their own expense and to have any defects remedied. This involves checking installations in buildings and connections to the water network.

## Statistical indicators

### Nitrate content in groundwater

Concentration (annual maximum value) in  $\text{NO}_3^-/\text{l}$



Assessment positive

Nitrate contamination of groundwater has decreased.

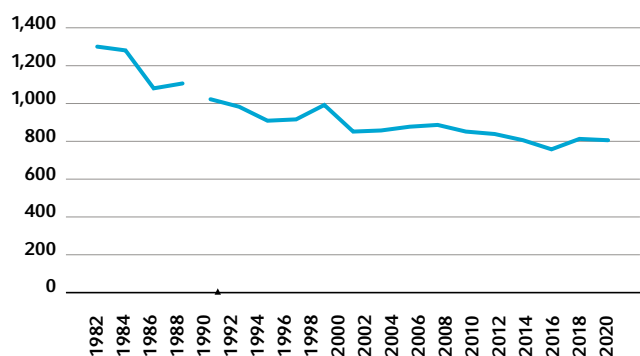
Source: National Statistical Office – Sustainable development indicators

Desired development: Decrease

Trend: no significant change

### Drinking water consumption

in litres per resident, per day



Assessment positive

Drinking water consumption per resident, per day has decreased.

Source: National Statistical Office – Sustainable development indicators

Desired development: Decrease

Trend: Decrease



# SDG 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all



## Overall assessment

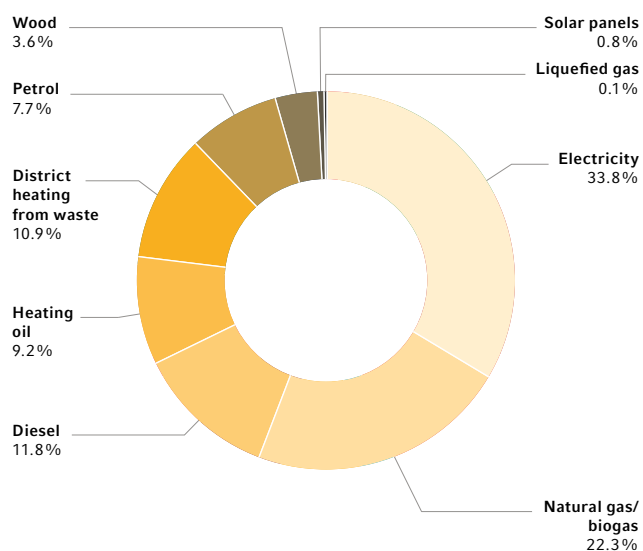
- In general, Liechtenstein has a secure energy supply. It is the world's first "energy country" and ranks in a top position in installed photovoltaic capacity per person.
- However, in light of the current geopolitical situation, it is clearly important to continue increasing self-sufficiency in renewable energy and improving energy efficiency.
- The proportion of domestic renewable energy is increasing, but Liechtenstein continues to miss its target in this respect.

## Situation in Liechtenstein

Liechtenstein currently has a secure energy supply, which is available at any time and affordable for the population and for companies. Electricity is the main energy source, accounting for roughly a third of total energy consumption, followed by natural gas/biogas (22.3%) and diesel (11.8%). Overall, there is a high dependence on energy imports from abroad: Merely 12.6% of total energy consumption can be met by domestic energy sources.

The Government has been pursuing a clear strategy for years with respect to ensuring Liechtenstein's long-term energy supply. Against this backdrop, the 2030 Energy Strategy and 2050 Energy Vision were adopted in 2020, derived from the 2050 Climate Vision and building on the experience of the 2020 Energy Strategy adopted in 2012. The 2030 Energy Strategy is aligned with national, European and global objectives, such as the SDGs. The 2050 Energy Vision outlines a vision of the future in which the energy demand in Liechtenstein is reduced by 40% compared to 2008, the energy supply is converted to 100% renewables, and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the energy sector are reduced by 100%. As an interim target for 2030, the 2030 Energy

## Energy consumption in 2021



Strategy envisions a 20% reduction in energy demand compared to 2008 (Target 1), a 30% share of renewable energy with 17% domestic production (Target 2), and a 40% reduction in GHG (Target 3). Currently, the Government assumes that Target 2 can be achieved, provided that energy consumption is reduced in accordance with Target 1. The Government is also aware of the need for the public administration to set a good example and is taking steps to convert administrative buildings to non-fossil-fuel heating systems and to exploit the potential for (additional) photovoltaic installations.

In the scope of energy efficiency and CO<sub>2</sub> legislation, numerous measures have been implemented and incentives created to use renewable energy sources (e.g. financial subsidies for renewable energy sources and improved building insulation). In addition to state subsidies, the municipalities also make an important contribution to the 2030 Energy Strategy through their own measures. The indicators show that these measures have had a significant impact. For example, energy consumption per capita has fallen by approximately 19% since 2006. The proportion of domestic renewable energy in total energy consumption has grown over the last decade.

The consistent commitment to increasing energy efficiency and the proportion of renewable energy is particularly evident in the example of the installed capacity of photovoltaic systems. With an installed photovoltaic capacity of 883 watts per person, Liechtenstein occupies a top position worldwide. Liechtenstein is also the first state in the world to be allowed to call itself an “energy country”. As of November 2012, all municipalities have the “Energy City” label. This certificate is awarded to municipalities that lead the way by implementing a sustainable energy policy. “Energy Cities” promote renewable energy sources and environmentally friendly mobility and make efficient use of resources.

### Challenges

The Russian aggression against Ukraine and the associated threat of an energy shortage in the winter of 2022/23 made it clear that an expansion of renewables is not only a necessity in terms of climate policy: Dependence on fossil fuels has political implications, the effects of which are felt by every household in Liechtenstein through energy prices. It is, therefore, important to continue to consistently implement

the measures set out in the 2030 Energy Strategy in order to achieve the target of net zero by 2050. The second annual monitoring report from 2021 on the implementation of the 2030 Energy Strategy showed positive trends in electromobility, the use of heat pumps, and the expansion of district heating and district steam heating, as well as installations of photovoltaic systems. However, current supply difficulties and the availability of skilled workers to install the systems in the short and medium term are limiting factors.

### Measures

The threat of an energy shortage in the winter of 2022/23 required short-term action by the Government. Accordingly, the Government adopted a “2022 Energy Action Plan” in the early summer of 2022. Along with actions to strengthen security of supply, additional support programs for energy efficiency and solidarity-based measures to save energy also played an important role in the Action Plan.

To cushion the impact of higher energy prices, the Government has taken several steps to ease the burden on energy-intensive companies and low-income households in 2023 (see comments under SDG 2).

The 2030 Energy Strategy sets out the specific medium-term targets that must be achieved between 2021 and 2030 and the steps that must be taken to improve energy efficiency and the expansion of renewable energies in order to hit the target of net zero by 2050. The following measures have already been implemented:

- With an amendment to the Ordinance on the Promotion of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energies (Energy Efficiency Ordinance), as of 1 March 2023, the attractive market remuneration of surplus solar electricity fed into the grid will be continued and secured by a minimum remuneration.
- The investment costs for systems in new buildings and existing buildings will be met with different levels of investment subsidies.
- According to the law as it stands today, subsidies for measures may only be paid once. In future, subsidies should be available to replace existing installations with new ones after an ordinary service life of 20 years.
- The promotion of heating systems based on renewable energy sources such as wood and pellet heating systems, air-source heat pumps and ground-source heat

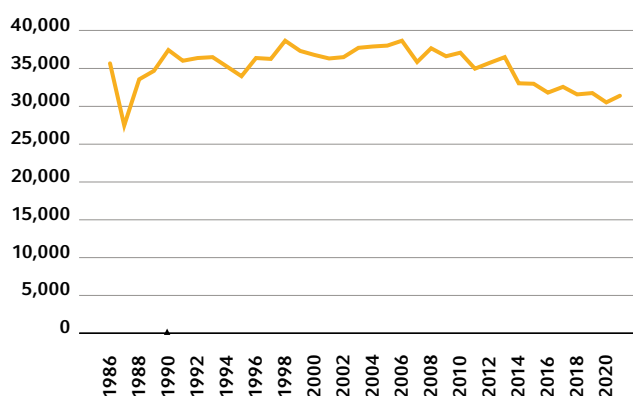
pumps will be increased by 30–50%, and the administrative burden of applying for funding will be reduced. This is intended to promote the switch to climate-friendly energies in the building sector.

The Parliament has passed a motion to the Government to introduce an obligation to install photovoltaic systems on residential and non-residential buildings, new-builds, and comprehensive roof renovations. The Government has also drafted a bill to significantly improve the energy efficiency of buildings, especially in the areas of heat generation and building insulation. It is currently undergoing parliamentary consultation.

## Statistical indicators

### Energy consumption

*in kWh per resident*



Assessment ➔ **positive**

Energy consumption per resident has decreased.

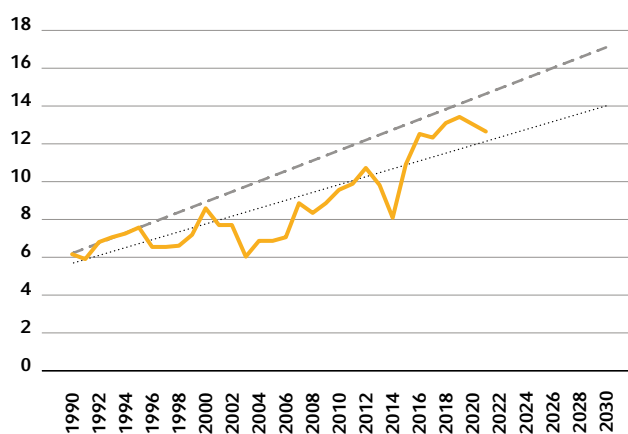
Source: National Statistical Office – Sustainable development indicators

Desired development: Decrease

Trend: Decrease

### Renewable energy

*Proportion of domestic renewable energy in overall energy consumption*



■ Consumption as a percentage

... Trend, proportion as a percentage

--- Target path

Assessment ➔ **neutral**

The proportion of domestic renewable energy in overall energy consumption has increased but is still not on target.

Source: National Statistical Office – Sustainable development indicators 2030 Energy Strategy

Desired development: Increase

Trend: no significant change

# SDG 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

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## **Overall assessment**

- The Liechtenstein economy is characterised by a high level of innovation and a broad diversification of companies.
  - The economy's resilience in the face of crisis was demonstrated during the COVID-19 pandemic and in coping with the consequences of Russia's aggression against Ukraine.
  - Unemployment, and above all youth unemployment, remain at a very low level.
  - The number of jobs exceeds the number of inhabitants, which means the number of commuters is growing.
- 

## **Situation in Liechtenstein**

As a business location, Liechtenstein is characterised by an internationally outstanding industry, a strong and innovative financial centre, a high-quality service sector, and diverse and heterogeneous trade. The broadly diversified economic structure of Liechtenstein creates jobs and contributes significantly to the country's prosperity. Liechtenstein's success is based on its stable economic, legal and financial situation, its politically reliable environment and a liberal economic system.

Through its customs treaty with Switzerland and its membership in the European Economic Area, Liechtenstein has access to the Swiss and European Single Market. This is particularly important for Liechtenstein, because its domestic market is limited due to the country's small size. Comparatively high production costs and the strong Swiss franc mean that the Liechtenstein economy also has to be at the cutting edge of innovation and technology. It has achieved this in certain niche industries.

The Liechtenstein economy creates a great many jobs in relation to the size of the country. A population of just over 39,000 people was matched by close to 44,000 recorded jobs at the end of 2021. Although the labour force participation rate in Liechtenstein has increased somewhat in recent years, the growing demand for labour cannot be met from within. As a result, Liechtenstein depends on workers from neighbouring countries. This is reflected in the high percentage of commuters in the total labour force, which stood at 56.2% in 2021 and has been rising steadily for years.

Liechtenstein's economy plays an important role for the entire Lake Constance region (border region of Germany, Austria and Switzerland) because of the number of jobs and value that it creates. Unemployment has been extremely low for years and continues to decline. In 2021, it stood at just 1.6%, and youth unemployment was also extremely low at 1.5%. In the same year, the average duration during which persons received daily unemployment benefits was 71 days. Businesses compete with each other to retain employees and specialists, which greatly strengthens the position of workers in the labour market.

A basic prerequisite shaping this development is the high level of education in Liechtenstein. The dual vocational training and education system has proved its worth and secures new talent for the future. Working conditions are very good in Liechtenstein. Evidence of this is the relatively low and declining number of working-poor households. Active measures are in place to prevent informal employment and wage dumping. In an international comparison, the low tax burden on income and moderate non-wage labour costs reduce the risk of informal employment. Collective labour agreements (CLAs) negotiated by social partners regulate minimum wages and other working conditions. Compliance with these agreements is regularly monitored. These CLAs apply to 15 industries in Liechtenstein and represent around a third of the labour force.

Liechtenstein was able to minimise the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on economic performance thanks to its robust economy and through a wide range of support measures. Although the immediate slump in economic output was strong, the economy recovered more quickly than in most other countries. In 2021, its gross domestic product (GDP) was already higher than the pre-pandemic level in 2019. Global supply chain problems and the increase in food and energy prices worldwide due to the impact of the Russian aggression against Ukraine also led to an increase in inflation in Liechtenstein resp. in the Swiss franc area, but at around 3% in 2022, it was much lower than in most other European countries.

### Challenges

Liechtenstein finds itself in an exceptionally good starting position with regards to economic output, the labour market and working conditions. The country's small size and virtually non-existent domestic market mean that it has to maintain its capacity for innovation and the broad diversification of its economy. This represents an ongoing challenge for the state and the economy.

GDP and GNI are already at a very high level. However, GDP growth has been levelling off for years, and labour productivity has not significantly changed in recent years. Economic growth is, therefore, principally based on growth in employment. Therefore, the conservation of optimal framework conditions for Liechtenstein as a business location and further promotion of innovative capacity will also remain of central importance in the future.

SDG 8 is well implemented domestically, but Liechtenstein companies are also active abroad. Therefore, it is important that the private sector complies with environmental, social, labour and human rights standards in production and supply chains.

### Measures

Back in 2019, the Liechtenstein Government published its "Digital Agenda", which promotes Liechtenstein's attractiveness as a business location through digitalisation projects in nine areas, including e-government, education, promotion of innovation, and FinTech. Several measures based on this agenda have already been implemented:

- In 2020, Liechtenstein adopted the Token and Trusted Technology Service Provider Act. This law sets out the legal framework for all token economy applications to ensure legal certainty for many current and future business models. The "token" is defined as a new legal object that maps rights into digital transaction systems based on trusted technologies such as a blockchain. In addition to providing legal certainty, it improves consumer protection and regulates the application of the laws in force.
- By the end of 2022, 99.2% of the country was connected to the fibre-optic network, the highest rate in the world.
- Since the beginning of 2023, businesses can use solely digital communication with public authorities. Private citizens also have online access to most official processes.

A European Digital Innovation Hub has been set up in Liechtenstein to support and advise small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and public sector organisations in their digital transformation in the coming years. It is funded 50% by the state and 50% by the EU.

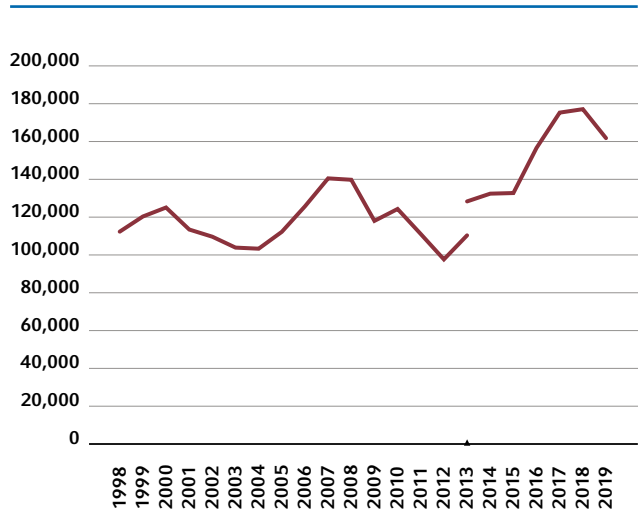
Innovation checks and digital checks provide SMEs with funding instruments so that they can embark on long-term research and innovation projects or introduce the latest digital technology (including training for employees).

The 2021–2025 government programme includes simplifying the process of setting up a business and expanding the existing offer for financing start-ups and young companies. Since 2022, successful applicants for a renowned coaching programme for start-ups have had the costs covered by the state.

Internationally, the Liechtenstein Government and a number of major private companies and charitable foundations are committed to combating modern slavery and human trafficking through a public-private partnership. Through the promotion of due diligence, development of responsible investment and promotion of inclusive financial technologies, the global financial sector is in a key position to effectively fight modern slavery and human trafficking. Through the FAST Initiative (Finance against Slavery and Trafficking), a catalogue of actions has been developed, especially for financial institutions, to prevent and to contribute to the prevention of these crimes. The initiative was developed together with the Centre for Policy Research at the United Nations University (UNU) and is based at the UNU. FAST enjoys the financial support of five partner states.

## Gross National Income

per resident in CHF



Assessment ↗ **positive**

GNI per resident has increased.

**Note:** The method for calculating GNI changed in 2013 from ESA 1995 to ESA 2010. 2013 is the reference year for the assessment.

**Source:** National Statistical Office – Sustainable development indicators

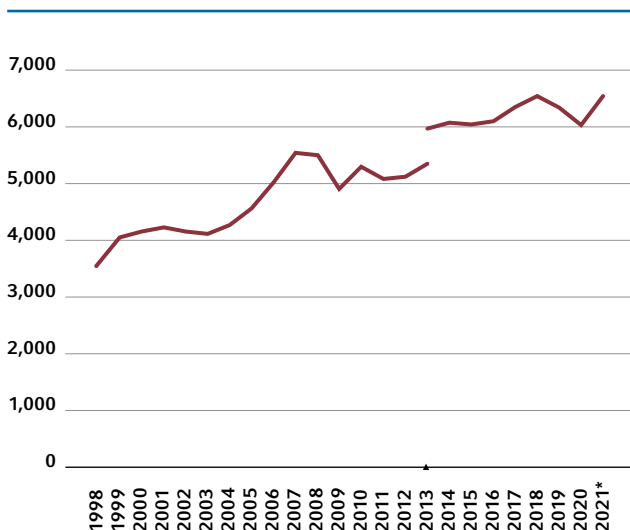
**Desired development:** Increase

**Trend:** Increase

## Statistical indicators

### Gross Domestic Product

in CHF million at current prices



Assessment → **neutral**

GDP has not changed significantly.

**Note:** The method for calculating GDP changed in 2013 from ESA 1995 to ESA 2010. 2013 is the reference year for the assessment. \*The 2021 figure is an estimate.

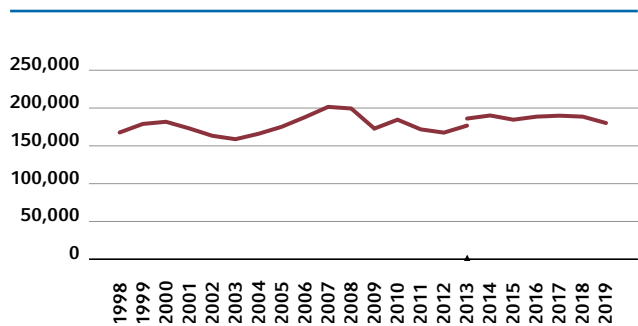
**Source:** National Statistical Office – National income and expenditure

**Desired development:** Increase

**Trend:** no significant change

### Labour productivity

Gross value added per employee (full-time equivalents) in CHF



Assessment → **neutral**

Labour productivity has not significantly changed.

**Note:** The method for calculating gross value added changed in 2013 from ESA 1995 to ESA 2010. 2013 is the reference year for the assessment.

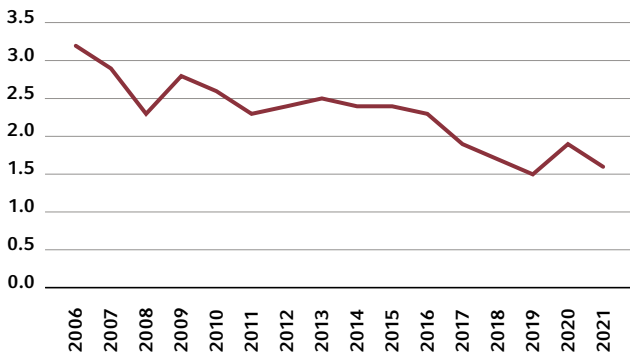
**Source:** National Statistical Office – Sustainable development indicators

**Desired development:** Increase

**Trend:** no significant change

## Unemployment rate

as a percentage



Assessment  **positive**

Unemployment has decreased.

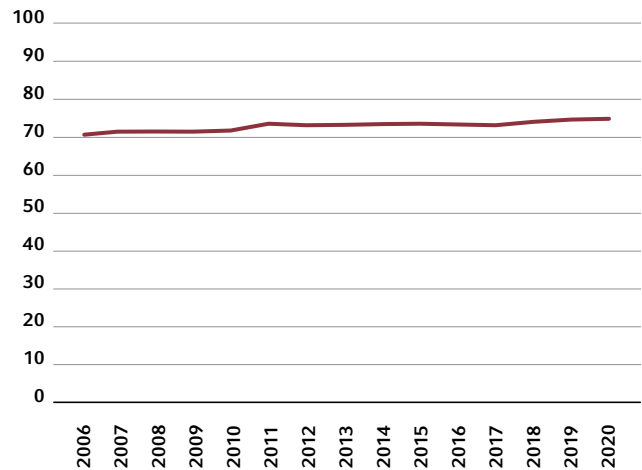
Source: National Statistical Office – Sustainable development indicators

Desired development: Decrease

Trend: Decrease

## Employment rate

Proportion of 15–64 year olds in the labour force to the population of the same age group as a percentage



Assessment  **positive**

The employment rate has increased.

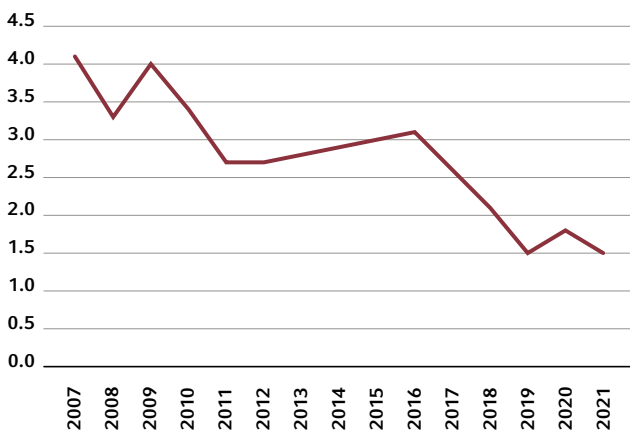
Source: National Statistical Office – Sustainable development indicators

Desired development: Increase

Trend: Increase

## Youth unemployment

as a percentage



Assessment  **positive**

Youth unemployment has decreased.

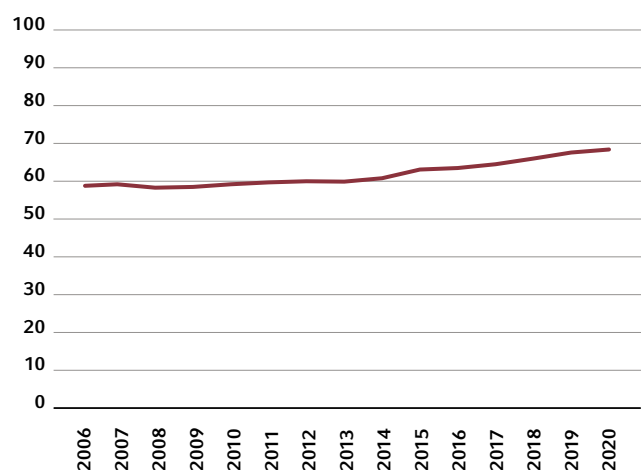
Source: National Statistical Office – Sustainable development indicators


Desired development: Decrease

Trend: Decrease

## Employment rate of older workers

Proportion of 55–64-year-olds in the labour force to the population of the same age group as a percentage



Assessment  **positive**

The proportion of older workers has increased.

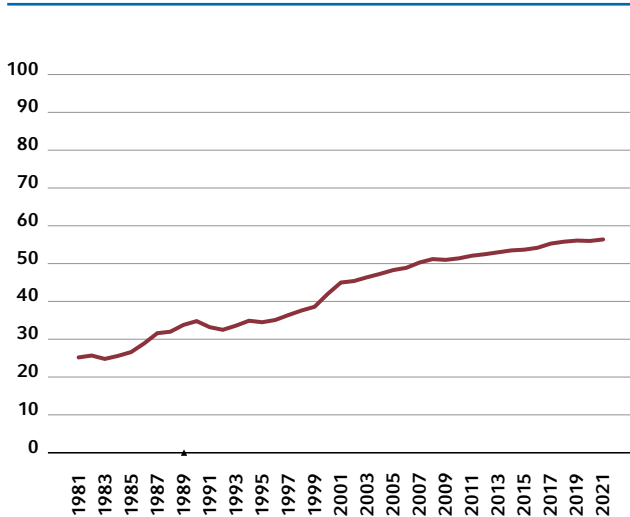
Source: National Statistical Office – Sustainable development indicators

Desired development: Increase

Trend: Increase

## Proportion of commuters

Proportion of commuters as a percentage of the labour force as a percentage



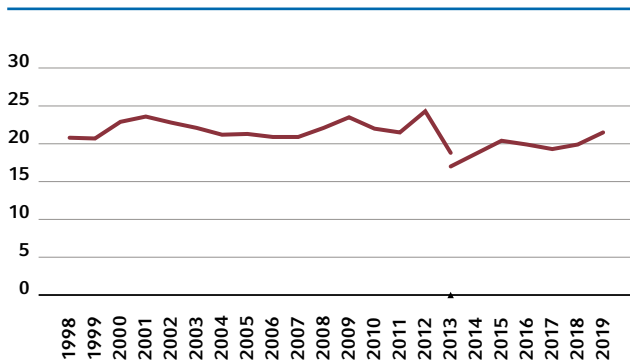
Assessment ▾ negative

The percentage of commuters in the labour force has increased.

**Source:** National Statistical Office – Sustainable development indicators  
**Desired development:** Stability  
**Trend:** Increase

## Tax-to-GDP ratio of public authorities

Sum of taxes and net social contributions as a percentage of GDP



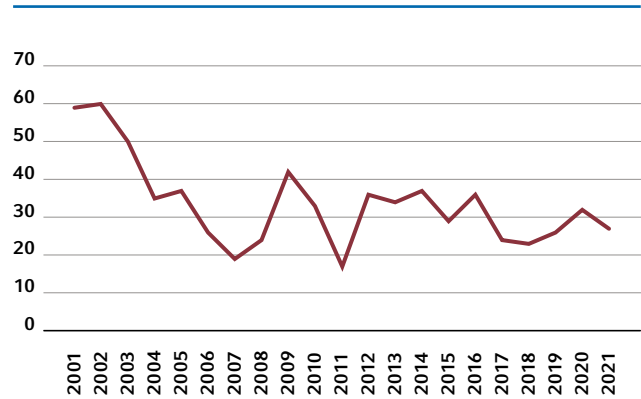
Assessment ▾ negative

The tax-to-GDP ratio of public authorities has increased since 2013.

**Note:** The method for calculating GDP changed in 2013 from ESA 1995 to ESA 2010. 2013 is the reference year for the assessment.  
**Source:** National Statistical Office – Sustainable development indicators  
**Desired development:** Stability  
**Trend:** Increase

## Working Poor

Number of households



Assessment ▴ positive

The number of working-poor households (including self-employed) has decreased.

**Source:** National Statistical Office – Sustainable development indicators  
**Desired development:** Decrease  
**Trend:** Decrease



# SDG 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation



## Overall assessment

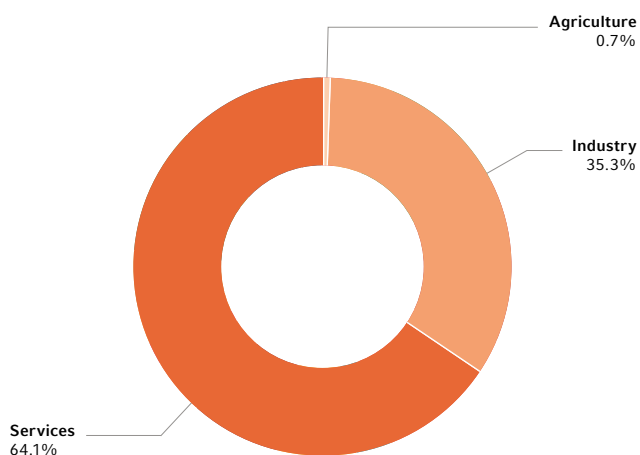
- Liechtenstein has one of the highest levels of industrialisation in the world and the economy is characterised by a strong capacity for innovation.
- This development is based on its excellent infrastructure, although there is still room for improvement, particularly in the area of sustainable transport.

## Situation in Liechtenstein

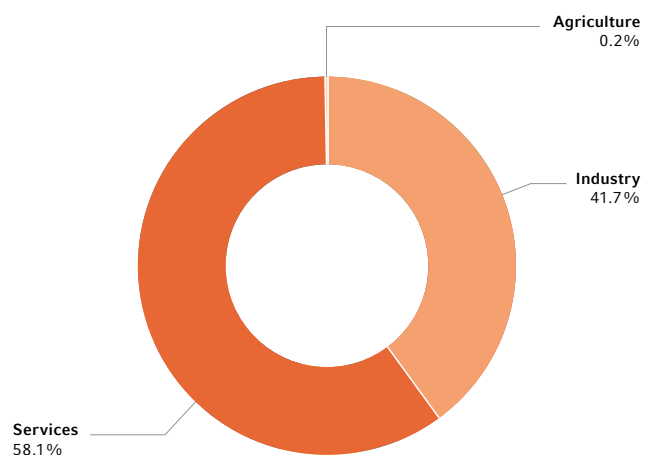
The country has a well-developed and reliable infrastructure, which forms the basis of its broad-based and inclusive economic development. The transport and telecommunications infrastructure is of a high standard. For example,

Liechtenstein has the world's most developed network in terms of connecting all buildings to fibre optic internet (see comments on SDG 8). The Liechtenstein economy enjoys broad diversification and, compared to the rest of the world, has a particularly high level of industrialisation:

### Employees by economic sector 2021



### Proportion of gross value added in 2020



Industry and manufacturing make a major contribution to domestic gross value added (41.7%) and, together with financial and insurance services (21%), are the most important sectors of the Liechtenstein economy.

Liechtenstein is characterised by its high capacity for innovation. Large and small companies in Liechtenstein are successful in global markets, often playing leading roles in technological development in niche areas. The financial community in Liechtenstein also shows an extraordinarily high degree of innovation, for example in the area of fintech. The comparatively high and rising number of patent applications filed by Liechtenstein companies is a testament to their high level of innovation.

As already mentioned under SDG 8, Liechtenstein offers a high number of jobs, of which more than half are filled by commuters from neighbouring countries. Therefore more than 20,000 people commute to Liechtenstein every day. This places a heavy burden on the traffic infrastructure, particularly at peak periods.

In 2020, the Liechtenstein Government adopted the 2030 Mobility Concept, which aims to meet the mobility needs of the population and ensure future-oriented, sustainable and safe mobility in Liechtenstein. The concept sets out measures relating to the expansion of public transport, pedestrian and bicycle traffic, more efficient use of the existing infrastructure, the creation of additional transport infrastructure facilities, and improving road safety.

The public administration has introduced a mobility management system that aims to reduce work-related motorised private transport for its employees. Since its introduction in 2008, it has reduced private vehicle use from 72.5% to 54%.

### Challenges

The preservation of, and increase in, the attractiveness of Liechtenstein as a business location presents a continuing challenge. This is especially true against the backdrop of increasing globalisation and digitalisation, which have a major impact on the economy. The state must, therefore, create optimal framework conditions so that the private sector can develop optimally, even in the age of digitalisation.

Ensuring sustainable mobility is of key importance to the country. The transport infrastructure is subject to ever-greater burdens. Due to the increasing share of commuters and population growth, increasing traffic volume has to be overcome. Making transport more sustainable is one of the key tasks for the future. However, the statistical indicators show a negative trend in this respect. The motorisation rate in Liechtenstein, i.e. the number of passenger cars per 1,000 inhabitants, has been rising steadily and, by international standards, is relatively high. Additionally, the proportion of walking and cycling and public transport decreased (in the same period). In 1970, this was above 50%, but by 2015 it had sunk to just 25%. The main reason for this is the increase in motorised individual transport.

### Measures

In order to maintain and increase the innovative capacity of Liechtenstein's private sector in the long term, the Government has implemented a series of measures. For measures on digitalisation and digital transformation, reference is made to the measures listed under SDG 8.

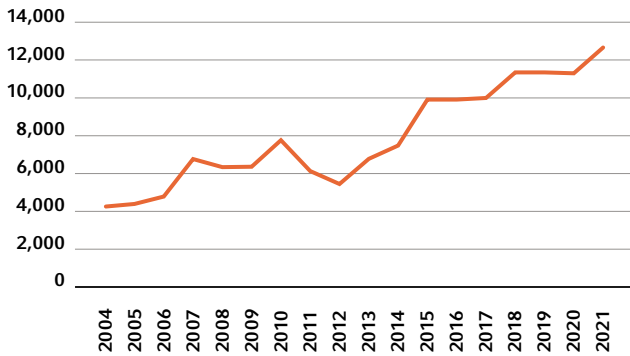
Many measures are also being examined, implemented or have already been implemented in the area of sustainable mobility:

- A new bus priority system has been designed in order to help meet the goals of the 2030 Mobility Concept. This improves the prioritisation of public transport vehicles at traffic signals, uses bus gates to dose traffic, and prevents overtaking at bus stops. All these measures are to be implemented by 2025.
- A pilot project has been launched to test a bicycle rental scheme in order to improve the integration of bikes and public transport.
- The network of traffic counting points for motorised private transport and bicycle traffic has been significantly expanded to improve the quality and accuracy of traffic data and thus provide a better basis for policy decisions.
- A country-wide bicycle route concept is currently being developed.
- An ambitious plan for the electrification of the public transport bus fleet has been developed. The first electric buses have been in operation since 2022 and by 2032 all public transport services are to be provided electrically.

## Statistical indicators

### Patent Applications

at the European Patent Office per million inhabitants



Assessment ▲ positive

The number of patent applications has increased.

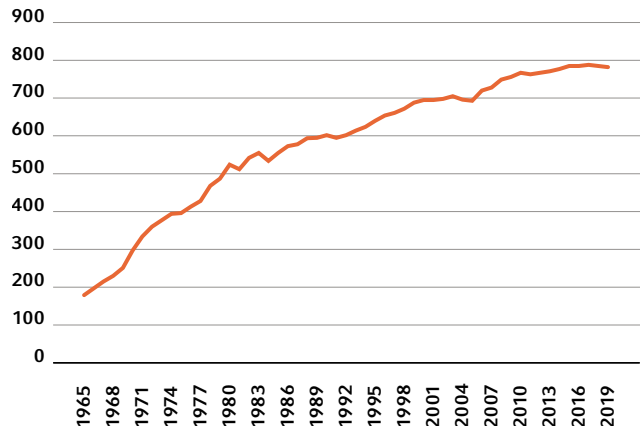
Source: European Patent Office, Eurostat

Desired development: Increase

Trend: Increase

### Motorisation rate

Passenger cars per 1,000 residents



Assessment ▼ negative

The number of passenger cars per 1,000 inhabitants is increasing.

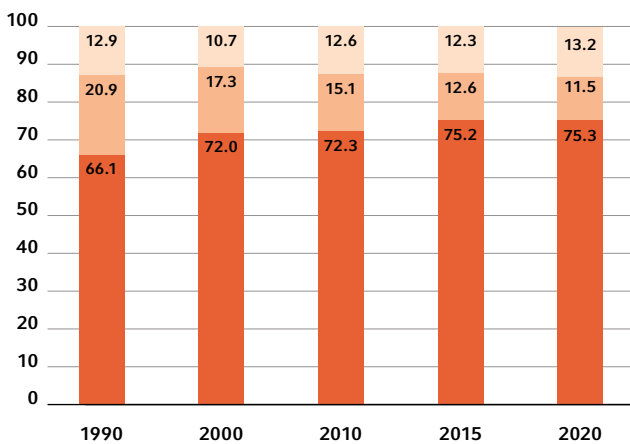
Source: National Statistical Office – Sustainable development indicators

Desired development: Decrease

Trend: Increase

### Choice of transport for commuting

as a percentage



■ Motorised private transport
 ■ Public transport
 ■ Walking and cycling

Assessment ▼ negative

The proportion of sustainable personal transportation (public transport, walking and cycling) has decreased.

Source: National Statistical Office – Census

Desired development: Increase

Trend: Decrease

# SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

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## Overall assessment

- Equal opportunities are tending to improve as a result of the overall increase in the educational level of the population. At the same time, however, educational differences between Liechtenstein nationals and non-nationals are widening.
  - The Gini coefficient<sup>1</sup> shows consistently high levels of inequality in incomes and particularly in wealth distribution.
  - Liechtenstein is committed to international solidarity in efforts to reduce inequalities between countries. This is reflected in increased ODA expenditure, though this has not been accompanied by an increase in ODA as a percentage of GDP.
- 

## Situation in Liechtenstein

As already explained under SDG 1 and 2, extreme poverty does not exist in Liechtenstein. However, inequality in relation to income distribution is showing an upward trend. Whilst the ratio of the top 20% of incomes to the bottom 20% was 11.8 in 2000, it had grown to 13.3 by 2019. This is also reflected in the Gini coefficient on income, which is rather high in international comparison. The same applies to the distribution of wealth in the country, for which the Gini coefficient is around 0.86. At the same time, welfare is at a high level, and the social assistance rate is extremely low. Practically all social classes benefit from above-average income levels.

Ensuring equal opportunities and combatting discrimination in all its forms are also important issues for the Liechtenstein Government. Equality before the law is enshrined

in Article 31 of the national constitution. The Criminal Code also penalises public incitement to hatred or discrimination based on race, language, nationality, ethnicity, religion, belief, gender, disability, age or sexual orientation as a criminal offence that carries a sentence of up to two years imprisonment. Other special laws, such as the Gender Equality Act and the Disability Equality Act, protect against discrimination. Liechtenstein is also party to the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and virtually all of the major UN human rights conventions. Systematic discrimination against individual groups cannot be observed in Liechtenstein.

Migration plays a prominent role in the current global political situation, as well as in domestic politics. Liechtenstein has been known as a classic immigration country for decades. The migration balance is consistently positive, which

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<sup>1</sup> The Gini coefficient is a measure of inequality that takes into account the overall distribution of income resp. wealth in the population. It shows the extent of inequality on a scale from 0 (perfect equality: everyone has the same amount of income/wealth) to 1 (maximum inequality: one person has all the income/wealth). The lower the value, the more even the distribution.

means that more people permanently immigrate to Liechtenstein than emigrate. Accordingly, the proportion of foreigners in the Liechtenstein population is also high. For many years, this has been constant at around one third. The goal of the Government is to keep the proportion of foreigners in the population constant in the long term in order to implement a socially, ecologically and economically sustainable migration policy.

In 2021, Liechtenstein adopted a new integration strategy based on the existing integration concept and an integration study carried out in 2020. The main objective of this strategy is to continue improving opportunities for migrants and their participation in society. Integration is recognised as a complex cross-cutting task. In addition to pursuing the basic goals of “supporting and challenging” migrants, it is understood as a two-way process that must involve the host society. The strategy’s objectives are divided into six areas: information, communication and counselling; language; education and work; living together; law and state; and equal treatment, anti-racism and anti-discrimination.

International solidarity is a key area of Liechtenstein’s foreign policy in order to help reduce inequality between countries. In 2022, Liechtenstein contributed around CHF 31.5 million to aid and development projects in developing countries. This represented an increase of almost 24% over the previous year, setting a new record. In this way, Liechtenstein is responding to the growing need for assistance caused by new crises (see more detailed explanations on SDG 17 and in Chapter 5).

### Challenges

Current European and international developments in the field of migration are also of particular relevance to Liechtenstein. Above all, the war in Ukraine and resulting flow of migrants have posed particular challenges for relevant state actors in Liechtenstein. The Government adopted a law on temporary protection as a basis for creating a timely and well-organised procedure for dealing with the large number of Ukrainian refugees. This gives certain groups of people from Ukraine a temporary right of residence in Liechtenstein, meaning they do not have to go through the official asylum procedure. This will ease the burden on the asylum system, and people in need of protection will quickly gain clarity about their residence status in Liechtenstein.

## Statistical indicators

### Gini coefficient income and wealth



Assessment ➔ neutral

The Gini coefficient for income and particularly for wealth distribution reveals a constant high level of inequality.

Source: National Statistical Office – Tax statistics

Desired development: Decrease

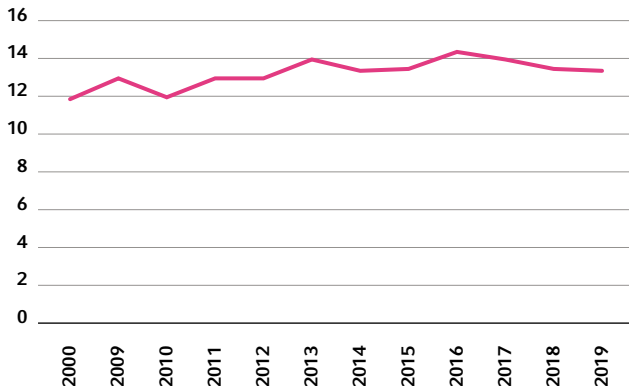
Trend: no significant change

As of April 2023, almost 600 people had filed an application for protection in Liechtenstein since the beginning of the war in Ukraine, and around 450 of them resided in Liechtenstein. This is well in excess of the usual number of asylum-seekers in Liechtenstein, which is generally around 100 per year. This meant that the Government also had to speedily organise the rental of additional accommodation to provide adequate housing for all Ukrainian asylum seekers. Ukrainian schoolchildren were given intensive German courses to help them integrate quickly into the school system. As far as possible, Liechtenstein will continue to advocate for a humane and holistic migration policy at European level.

International solidarity remains one of its key foreign policy priorities, and a further increase in the ODA percentage is being sought. However, despite consistent, substantial increases in ODA-related spending, the 0.7% target is unlikely to be reached in the near future. The strong links be-

### Inequality of the distribution of income

Ratio of earnings among the top 20% to the income of the lowest 20%



Assessment ⬇️ **negative**

Inequality in income distribution has increased.

**Source:** National Statistical Office – Sustainable development indicators  
**Desired development:** Decrease  
**Trend:** Increase

tween Liechtenstein’s economy and other countries (high commuter percentage, high export percentage) mean that GNI is subject to strong annual fluctuations (sometimes in the range of ±10%). In recent years, GNI has regularly grown significantly more than GDP. This factor makes reliable, long-term ODA percentage planning difficult.

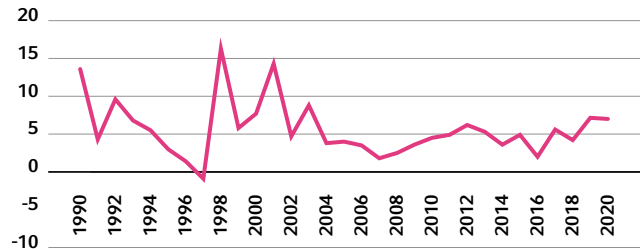
### Measures

Based on the Integration Strategy and the goals defined therein, annual action plans are developed by a steering group (for the first time in 2022). These each contain clear plans and responsibilities and are evaluated at the end of the year. The following are some of the measures implemented in 2022:

- Language: The Integration Strategy was produced in a “simple language” version.
- Information, communication and counselling: Integration.li, a new information platform, was created to facilitate access to important information and provide initial orientation in Liechtenstein for migrants.
- Inclusive: The Government invited participation in an integration dialogue to actively involve migrants in the country’s integration efforts and improve mutual understanding.

### Net migration

per 1,000 inhabitants



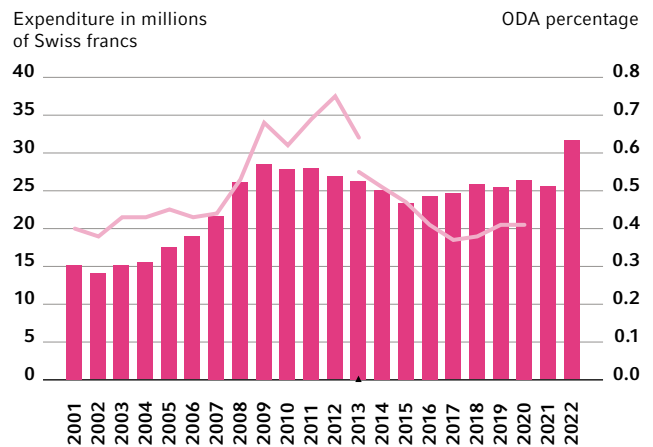
Assessment ⬆️ **positive**

The number of immigrants is higher than the number of emigrants.

**Source:** National Statistical Office – Sustainable development indicators  
**Desired development:** Stability  
**Trend:** no significant change

### Official development cooperation

as a percentage of GNI



Assessment ⬇️ **negative**

**Note:** The method for calculating GNI changed in 2013 from ESA 1995 to ESA 2010. 2013 is the reference year for the assessment.  
**Source:** Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Justice and Culture  
**Desired development:** Increase  
**Trend:** Decrease

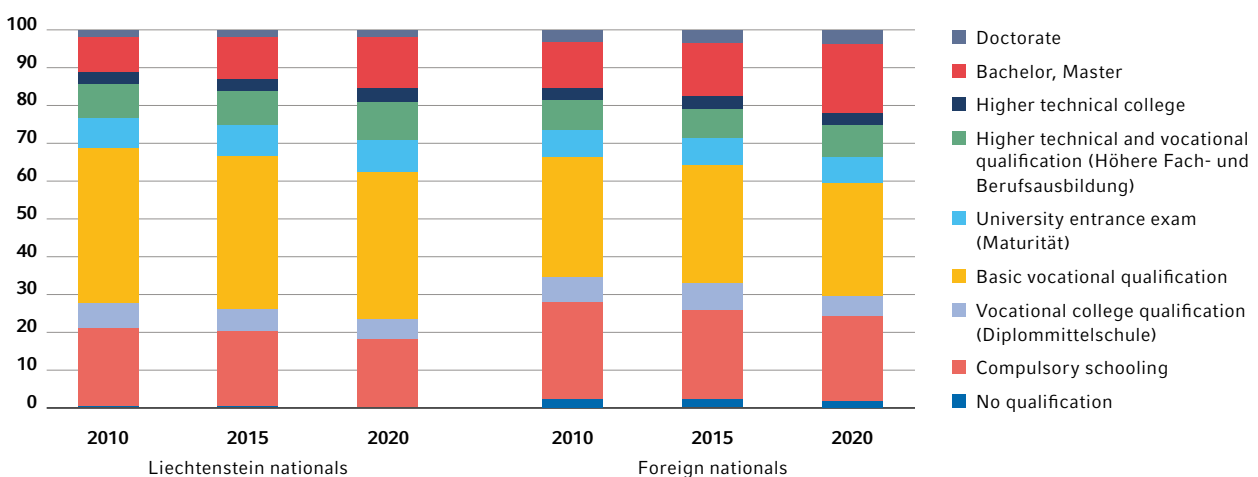
On Anti-Racism Day in spring 2023, the Violence Prevention Commission, the Association for Human Rights and the Equal Opportunities Unit of the Office of Social Services came together to launch a nationwide awareness campaign “Discrimination is a crime – Tolerance is your right”. The campaign aims to raise awareness of the criminal nature of discriminatory statements and actions. It is intended to help prevent discrimination and encourage people affected by it to press charges. The campaign is also part of the annual action plans in the Integration Strategy.

Many other measures are being implemented or are currently under consideration. Examples include support with language acquisition (including improved communication about what is on offer, language courses for adults with learning difficulties); “early learning” as a basis for equal educational opportunities; dialogue between and with different religious communities; and promoting the intercultural competence of municipal administrations and public agencies.

With regard to international solidarity, the Government is striving to increase its commitment, as evidenced in particular by the regular increase in ODA expenditure. In this way, it aims to substantially increase the ODA percentage in the medium term.

### Level of education of the Liechtenstein population

By country of origin



Assessment ▾ **negative**

The proportion of Liechtenstein citizens who have at least a vocational education (i.e., more than compulsory schooling) is rising faster than among non-nationals. Therefore, the education gap is widening.

Source: National Statistical Office – Census

Desired development: The gap in educational attainment between nationals and non-nationals is narrowing

Trend: Increase

# SDG 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

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## **Overall assessment**

- The public transportation network is well developed; the entire population has access to it in the immediate vicinity of residential areas.
  - There is potential for improvement in sustainability with regard to choice of transportation.
  - In a country with limited land and a growing population, the increase in settlement areas leads to rising housing costs.
- 

## **Situation in Liechtenstein**

Liechtenstein has a total area of 160km<sup>2</sup>, of which around 42% is forest, 32% is agricultural land and only 11% is settlement areas. This means that settlement areas correspond to around 18km<sup>2</sup>. The country consists of eleven municipalities, with the largest municipality having just over 6,000 inhabitants. Liechtenstein has no cities in the classical sense; the country has a rural character. The municipalities of Liechtenstein and the neighbouring regions in Switzerland (St. Gallen and Graubünden) and Austria (Vorarlberg) form a closely networked agglomeration area.

The total settlement area in Liechtenstein increased by around 45% between 1984 and 2014; this growth was at the expense of agricultural land in particular. Looking at population growth in the same period, Liechtenstein's settlement area per capita has not changed significantly since 1984. Access to affordable housing is guaranteed for all people in Liechtenstein, and there is an oversupply of housing. Nevertheless, real housing costs have been rising steadily since 1980, and this has been exacerbated recently by inflation. For the population, there is a large variety of green and recreational areas available.

The National Roadmap for Spatial Development is the central planning instrument that identifies and coordinates all significant spatial activities. It focuses on the areas of countryside, settlement, infrastructure, public buildings and facilities, as well as transport. The current National Roadmap in force from 2011 is under revision at the moment. New strategies and concepts such as the 2030 Mobility Concept flow into this work. Additionally, each municipality in Liechtenstein has access to various planning instruments for town planning (in particular, building regulations and a zoning plan).

Municipal waste disposal works very reliably in Liechtenstein. Household waste is collected weekly and incinerated. However, a large portion of municipal waste is recycled separately. Municipalities have appropriate recycling centres, where waste is separated and collected for recycling. Municipal waste has increased by about 590% since the 1970s, but recently has shown a slight downtrend. The recycling rate for waste is currently almost 68% and shows a tendency to increase.

The public transportation network in Liechtenstein is well developed; hence the entire population has access to public



transport near their place of residence. There are also excellent cross-border transportation links. However, it must also be noted that motorised private transport still accounts for the bulk of traffic in Liechtenstein (see remarks on SDG 9). Liechtenstein's air quality is developing positively, with a perceptible downtrend in the concentrations of ozone, nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter.

Disaster risk management and civil protection are of high priority in Liechtenstein. Protection against natural hazards of all kinds, such as floods, landslides, mud flows or avalanches, is well-developed. The forest also plays a key role in protection: over 52% of the country's forests (3,611 ha) have this function, with around 27% of these having an "important" or "very important" protective function.

### Challenges

Population growth as well as growing commuter traffic together present major challenges in terms of the sustainability of settlements. The unchanging settlement area per capita, coupled with a growing population, means that the settlement area is expected to further increase in the future. One of the main reasons for this is that there are still a large number of single-family homes in Liechtenstein in comparison to multi-family dwellings.

A more sustainable design for mobility will also be a key challenge in the future. For this, see the detailed remarks under SDG 9.

With regard to disaster risk management, impacts from climate change are also to be expected. Specifically, it is assumed that the following risks will increase in Liechtenstein in the future:

- Floods
- Landslides and mud flows
- Rockfalls and rockslides
- Forest fires due to prolonged droughts
- Storms

### Measures

An array of measures is already being implemented:

- Adaptation of the country's natural hazard maps to changing situations
- Statistical analysis of extreme precipitation events

- Integrated risk management (monitoring as well as the implementation of structural and spatial protective planning measures and contingency planning)
- Revision of forest community mapping, taking climate change into account
- Introduction of emergency meeting points as hubs for information and assistance in the event of a disaster or emergency

The 2050 Climate Strategy contains specific measures for dealing with the increased climate-related risks.

In 2020, the spatial concept was adopted as the conceptual basis for the revision of the National Roadmap. The concept sets out several approaches, which are to be concretised in the National Roadmap:

- Increase cooperation between municipalities and regions to ensure good transport, energy and communications infrastructure.
- Increase settlement density, the importance of town centres and protect the countryside.
- Gear transportation towards the increased settlement density in order to ramp up the importance of public transport, walking and cycling as means of transport.
- Develop semi-natural recreation and tourism areas in a way that is compatible with the landscape and environment.

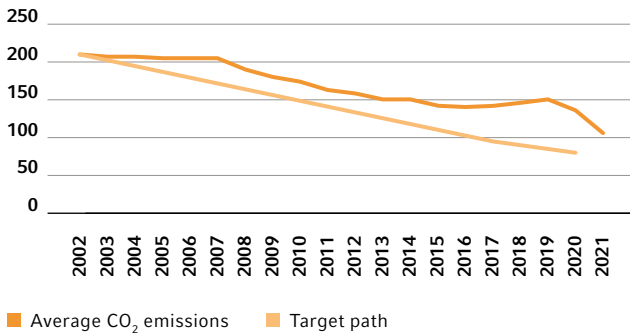
The 2030 Mobility Concept lays the foundation for long-term, sustainable transportation and mobility planning to help achieve the goals of the spatial concept and other policy programmes related to sustainability and environmental compatibility (see SDG 9 for more details). The 2050 Climate Strategy and 2022 Agricultural Policy Report also contain measures that contribute to the implementation of the spatial concept.

The platform "Development Concept Liechtenstein Unterland and Schaan" was launched in response to growing traffic congestion in the lowland area. The goal is to create a master plan that defines long-term development for transport, settlement and the economy as well as the countryside and which will define future spatial structure. A 2050 Vision has already been prepared and presented. A strategy is currently being drawn up based on this Vision, including action areas and specific measures.

## Statistical indicators

### Average CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from new passenger vehicles

in g CO<sub>2</sub>/km



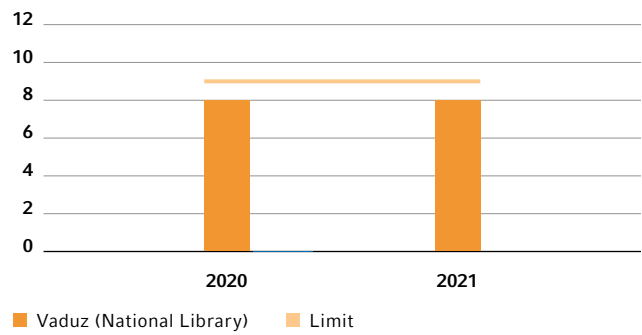
Assessment → **neutral**

CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from new passenger cars have reduced, but the target has not been achieved.

**Source:** National Statistical Office – Sustainable development indicators  
**Desired development:** Decrease  
**Trend:** no significant change

### Fine particulate concentration

Annual mean (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) in µg/m<sup>3</sup>



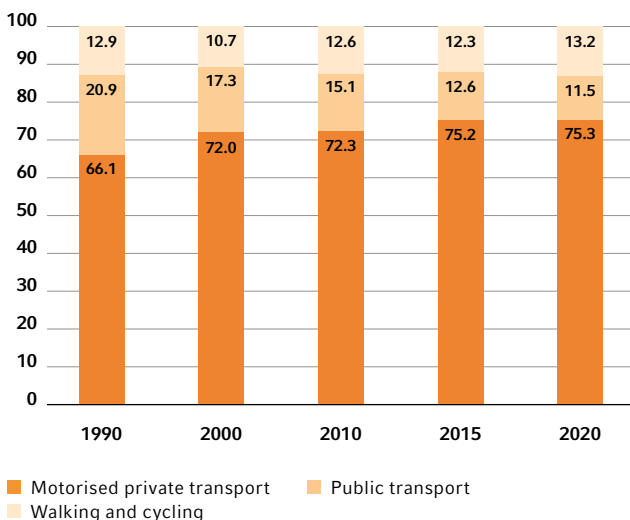
Assessment → **neutral**

The fine particulate concentration has not changed.

**Source:** National Statistical Office – Environmental indicators  
**Desired development:** Decrease  
**Trend:** no significant change

### Choice of transport for commuting

as a percentage



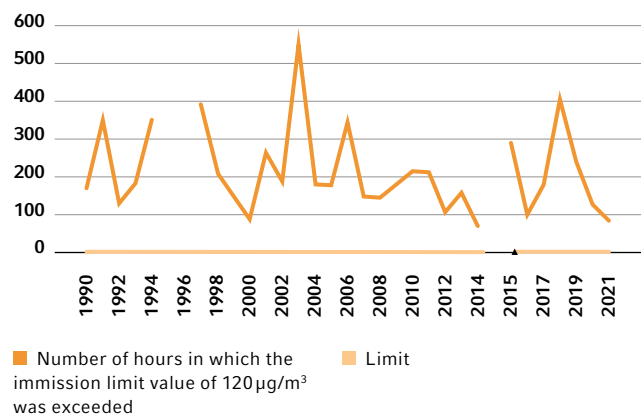
Assessment ↘ **negative**

The proportion of sustainable personal transportation (public transport, walking and cycling) has decreased.

**Source:** National Statistical Office – Census  
**Desired development:** Increase  
**Trend:** Decrease

### Ozone concentration

Number of hours in which the immission limit value of 120 µg/m<sup>3</sup> was exceeded



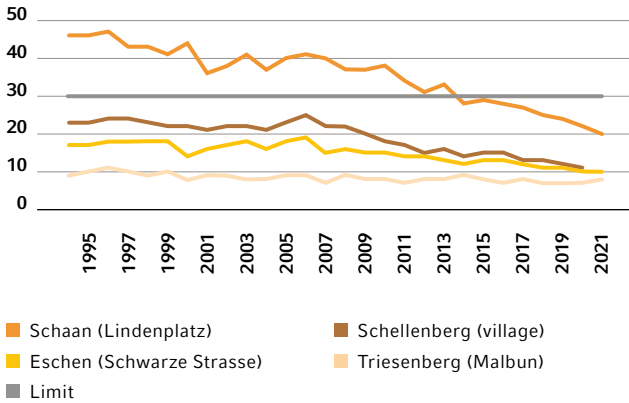
Assessment ↗ **positive**

The ozone concentration in the air has decreased.

**Note:** 2015 is the reference year for the assessment.  
**Source:** National Statistical Office – Sustainable development indicators  
**Desired development:** Decrease  
**Trend:** Decrease

## Nitrogen dioxide concentration

Annual mean value in  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  at various measuring stations



Assessment ↗ **positive**

The nitrogen dioxide concentration in the air has decreased.

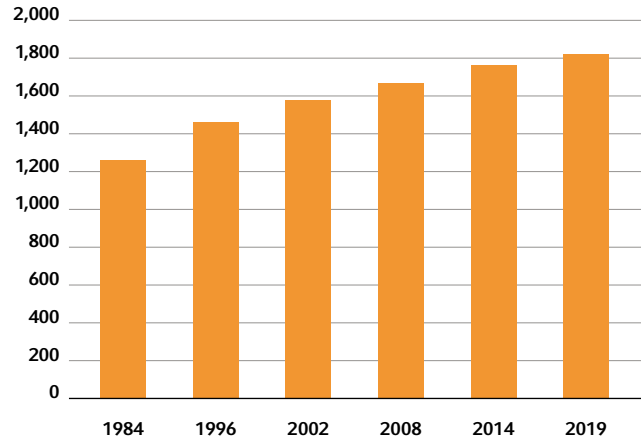
Source: National Statistical Office – Sustainable development indicators

Desired development: Decrease

Trend: Decrease

## Settlement area

in ha



Assessment ↘ **negative**

The settlement area has increased.

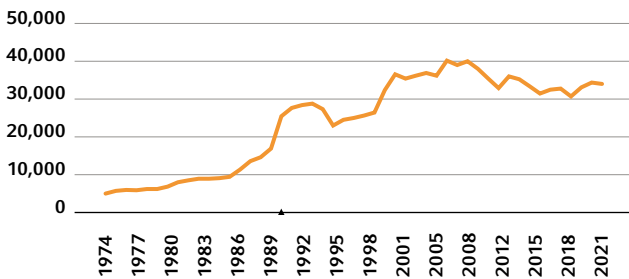
Source: National Statistical Office – Environmental indicators

Desired development: Stability

Trend: Increase

## Municipal waste

Incinerated municipal waste in tonnes, including separated municipal waste



Assessment ↘ **negative**

The volume of municipal waste produced has increased.

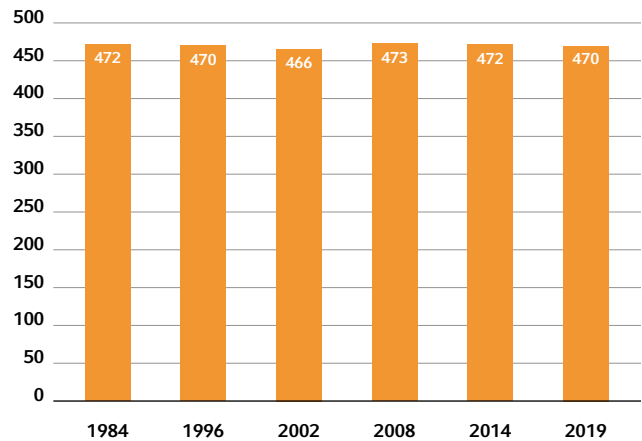
Source: National Statistical Office – Environmental indicators

Desired development: Decrease

Trend: Increase

## Settlement area per resident

in  $\text{m}^2$  per resident



Assessment ↗ **positive**

The settlement area per resident has stayed constant.

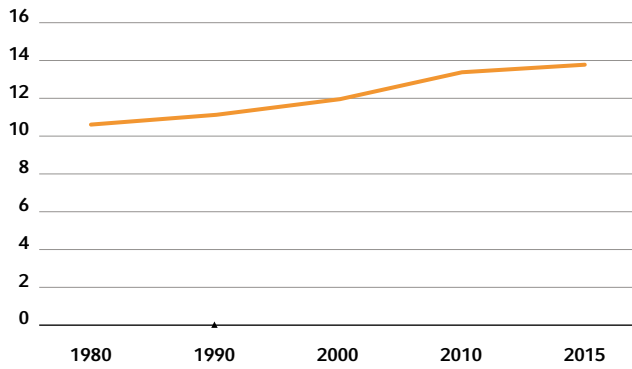
Source: National Statistical Office

Desired development: Stability

Trend: no significant change

## Housing costs

Average net rental price (excluding utilities) per month and m<sup>2</sup> in CHF



Assessment ▾ **negative**

Net rental prices per m<sup>2</sup> have increased.

**Source:** Census, National consumer price index

**Desired development:** Decrease

**Trend:** Increase

# SDG 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

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## Overall assessment

- Patterns of consumption and production in Liechtenstein are becoming more sustainable.
  - However, resource consumption is still too high and must be reduced.
- 

### Situation in Liechtenstein

In 2021, average per-capita GHG emissions amounted to 4.68 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents (CO<sub>2</sub>eq). Just under 80% is attributable to the energy sector with heating and transport, followed by agriculture at 12.4%, industrial gases at 4.3% and waste and wastewater at 1%. This does not include GHG emissions from imported goods or the consumption of goods abroad, which are expected to be about twice as high as at home (see subsection on challenges). Emissions from changes of land use and forests are also not included.

However, the available statistical indicators show that resource efficiency in Liechtenstein is developing positively. The waste recycling rate has been increasing for years. This also underscores the fact that people in Liechtenstein are aware of the issue and actively support waste recycling. The energy and CO<sub>2</sub> intensity of Liechtenstein's economy has been declining since the end of the 1990s. Drinking water consumption is also falling (see SDG 6), which indicates an overall positive trend, even though the carbon footprint per Liechtenstein resident remains very high.

The state has already created stronger incentives to operate in a more resource-efficient and less environmentally harmful way. These include measures for more environmentally friendly mobility and support for the expansion of

photovoltaic systems. As a percentage of total fiscal revenues, revenues from environment-related taxes have been declining for several years, although they have increased in absolute terms. A clear statement of the impact of these taxes on sustainable consumption and production patterns cannot be made on the basis of the available indicators.

### Challenges

Due to its size, Liechtenstein is dependent on imports and overseas production. The positive developments in resource efficiency should, therefore, be viewed in a more differentiated way. The improvement in domestic resource efficiency is also linked to the partial relocation of resource and energy-intensive production abroad. In addition, most GHGs generated by consumption in Liechtenstein are generated abroad, for example by imported raw materials processed in Liechtenstein, by imported goods purchased in the country, through foreign travel and through investments in the financial centre. Exact figures on the extent of these GHGs are difficult to obtain. However, it is estimated that indirect emissions per person due to the consumption of imported goods amount to around 14 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>eq – much more than the carrying capacity limit calculated for our planet of 0.6 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>eq – and meaning that around two thirds of total GHG emissions are generated abroad. Consumption not only leads to the production of GHGs, but also to the destruction of natural habitats. However, biodi-

versity has to be kept intact to protect the climate. The aim is to raise public awareness of this fact and, for example, to avoid transporting consumer goods over long distances wherever possible and practical in order to increase regionality and sustainability. Despite this positive trend, there is no doubt that additional efforts are required to improve resource efficiency.

### Measures

In its 2050 Climate Strategy, the Government sets out various areas where action is required to promote sustainable consumption and thus significantly reduce the level of emissions caused by consumption. These include:

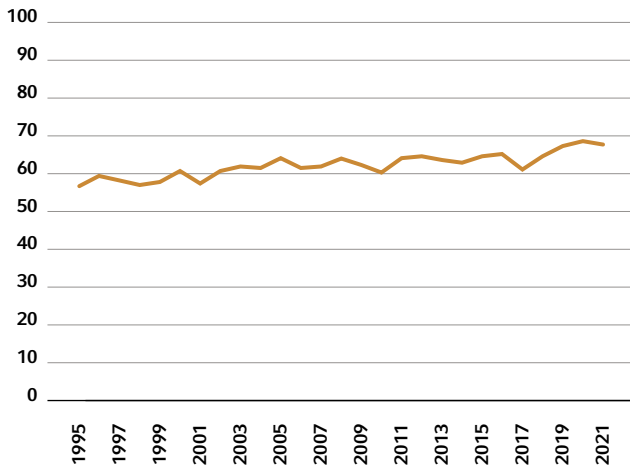
- **Climate-friendly nutrition:** The focus is on raising public awareness. To this end, an interagency concept is being developed to show the impact of daily dietary choices on the climate and biodiversity. The focus is on educating people about the benefits of organically produced, seasonal and regional, mainly plant-based foods.
- **Climate-friendly public procurement:** The GHG emissions of procurements are now to be taken into account over the entire life cycle and avoided wherever possible. To this end, public procurement contracts have to include specifications related to ecology and climate in the performance specifications and/or the suitability or award criteria. This not only intensifies the exemplary role of public procurement, but also has a major influence on making production and the supply chain as climate neutral as possible and can also result in overall cost savings.
- **Sustainable consumption:** A functioning circular economy enables the sustainable use of resources, increases the security of supply of raw materials and strengthens the business location. Following the developments in Switzerland and the EU and building on the existing 2070 Waste Plan, Liechtenstein is now examining how to continue improving the basic conditions and incentives for promoting the circular economy.

**Climate-neutral financial flows:** Today's investment decisions determine how GHGs will be emitted in the future. In this way, the potential for a financial centre to make a contribution in this respect is significant. Everyone who works in the financial centre should be made aware of the impact of their business activities, and the topic "climate and the financial centre" should be gradually included in education and training courses. In addition, publicly owned companies should be examined from the perspective of sustainability, and state financial assets and occupational pension schemes invested or designed in a climate-neutral manner in the longer term.

## Statistical indicators

### Waste recycling rate

as % of municipal waste



Assessment  **positive**

The waste recycling rate has increased.

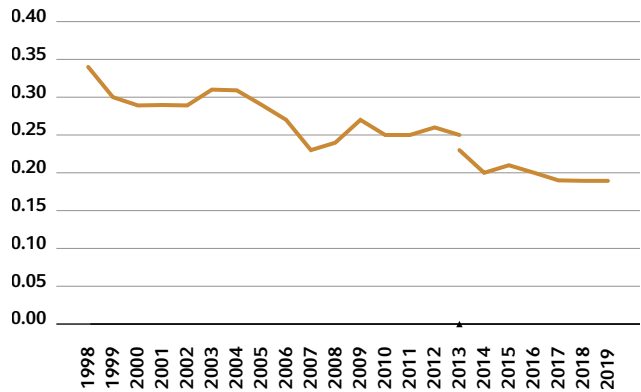
**Source:** National Statistical Office – Environmental indicators


**Desired development:** Increase

**Trend:** Increase

### Energy intensity of the economy

Energy consumption in relation to GDP in kWh per CHF



Assessment  **positive**

The energy intensity has decreased.

**Note:** The method for calculating GDP changed in 2013 from ESA 1995 to ESA 2010. 2013 is the reference year for the assessment.

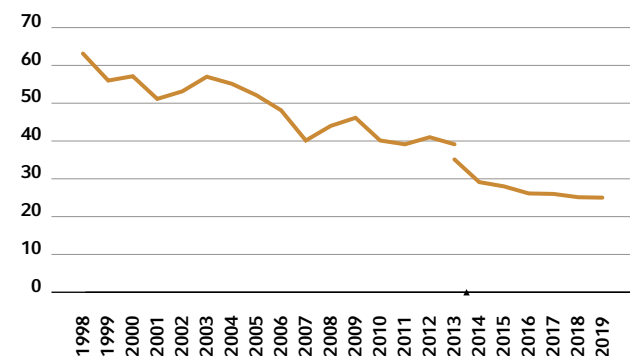
**Source:** National Statistical Office – Sustainable development indicators

**Desired development:** Decrease

**Trend:** Decrease

### CO<sub>2</sub> intensity of the economy

CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in relation to GDP in g CO<sub>2</sub> per CHF



Assessment  **positive**

The CO<sub>2</sub> intensity of the economy has decreased.

**Note:** The method for calculating GDP changed in 2013 from ESA 1995 to ESA 2010. 2013 is the reference year for the assessment.

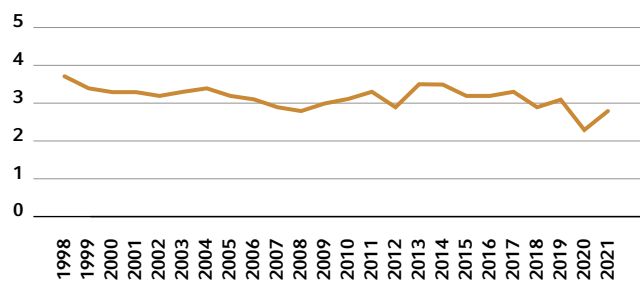
**Source:** National Statistical Office – Sustainable development indicators

**Desired development:** Decrease

**Trend:** Decrease

### Environmental taxes

Income from environmental taxes as a percentage of national fiscal revenue



Assessment  **negative**

Environmental taxes as a percentage of fiscal revenue has decreased.

**Source:** National Statistical Office – Environmental indicators

**Desired development:** Increase

**Trend:** Decrease

# SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

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## **Overall assessment**

- In an international comparison, Liechtenstein has relatively low greenhouse gas emissions per capita and aims to be climate neutral by 2050.
  - Measures taken to reduce emissions are having an effect, but there is further potential for improvement.
- 

## **Situation in Liechtenstein**

Combating climate change is a key priority in the country's domestic and foreign policy. Together with partner states, Liechtenstein has for many years advocated an ambitious climate policy that is equally binding for all states. Liechtenstein is also aware that, as a highly industrialised state, it has a responsibility to take the lead in the fight against climate change. The Government has set ambitious climate targets and is working systematically to achieve them.

At international level, Liechtenstein is a party to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Kyoto Protocol (including its 2012 amendment), and the Paris Agreement (Climate Convention). Within the framework of the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, for whose entry into force Liechtenstein had actively campaigned for years, the country committed itself to reducing its GHG emissions by 20% by 2020 compared to the reference year 1990. This target was achieved in 2020 without any compensatory measures abroad, a major reason being the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result of the measures taken by the Government to contain the pandemic, traffic reached an all-time low in 2020. It can be assumed that, without the pandemic, it would not have achieved its target without taking measures abroad.

It is true that the pandemic contributed to the achievement of the reduction target, but it should also be stressed that direct GHG emissions in Liechtenstein have been falling sharply since 2006, which can be attributed to the expansion of renewable energies and major improvements in energy efficiency. Whilst domestic GHG emissions decreased by 20% between 1990 and 2020, GDP more than quadrupled over the same period and the population grew by nearly 35%. This steady reduction of GHG emissions paired with a strongly growing economy and population is testament to the effectiveness of Liechtenstein's climate policy.

With the ratification of the Paris Agreement, Liechtenstein set its target (Nationally Determined Contribution, NDC) for reducing GHG emissions at 40% by 2030, compared to 1990 levels. This target was also set out in the Emissions Trading Act, making its achievement legally binding. In autumn 2020, the Government adopted its 2050 Climate Vision, which set the goal of climate neutrality by 2050, a target that was also included in the Emissions Trading Act. In autumn 2022, Parliament approved the Government's long-term climate strategy, which included an increase in the GHG reduction target to 50% compared to 1990. In March 2023, Parliament increased Liechtenstein's reduction target to 55% by 2030 by amending the Emissions Trading Act. At least 40% of the reduction compared to 1990 must



be achieved through domestic measures. Climate action is also reflected in many sector-specific government policies and strategies. These include the 2030 Energy Strategy, the 2050 Energy Vision and the 2030 Mobility Concept (see remarks on SDGs 7 and 9).

In March 2020, the Government decided that Liechtenstein would participate for the first time in PACTA 2020, an internationally coordinated climate impact test. The test was conducted by “2° Investing Initiative”, a global, non-profit think tank. It measures the compatibility of investments in climate-relevant sectors with the 2°C target set out in the Paris Agreement. The test analysed the country’s externally managed assets. Banks, asset managers, pension funds and insurance companies could participate voluntarily. The results were published in 2021 and showed that assets managed by Liechtenstein institutions are not yet fully compatible with the goals of the Paris Agreement. Another climate impact test was carried out in 2022, but the results are not yet available. The participation of the financial sector in this study has been positive and demonstrates its willingness to align its activities with the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Liechtenstein participates voluntarily in climate financing, which is provided for under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement. Since 2012, around CHF 15 million has been allocated to climate-related projects in developing countries, with a particular focus on adaptation to climate change.

### Challenges

When implementing climate targets, particular attention must be paid to ensuring they are socially and economically compatible. As noted in the remarks on SDG 7, fossil fuels continue to play an important though declining role in the country’s energy supply. Breaking this dependency is the biggest challenge for the coming decades. In general, the main potential for reducing emissions seems to lie in the transport and building sectors. Effective regulations for existing buildings and new construction are needed in order to continue reducing dependence on fossil fuels. Without new regulations, reductions in the industrial sector are almost impossible to achieve. In the transport sector, measures taken to date have not yet had the desired effect. The trend towards powerful and heavy vehicles continues to rise, and motorised personal transport is tending to increase. Additionally, agriculture has to make a further con-

tribution to reducing emissions, which will also be a challenge.

Direct GHG emissions per capita are relatively low in European comparison at around 4.8 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>eq (EU27=7.0 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>eq per capita). However, it must be taken into account that consumption, the procurement of materials and products, and increasing numbers of commuters all cause indirect GHG emissions abroad. These must also be given greater consideration in future.

### Measures

The 2050 Climate Vision of October 2020 includes a number of goals that must be achieved by 2050 if Liechtenstein is to become climate neutral:

- Domestic GHG emissions should be reduced by 90%, with the remainder reduced via negative emission technologies or offsetting at home and abroad.
- In the energy sector, the aim is to reduce GHG emissions by 100% and switch completely to renewable energy. In the agricultural sector, emissions are to be reduced by 52% by 2050.
- Indirect emissions abroad should be reduced as far as socially and economically possible through changes in consumption.
- Emissions via financial assets are to be reviewed and reduced as far as economically and socially possible.

In the long-term 2050 Climate Strategy, the goals formulated in the 2050 Climate Vision were set out with specific areas of action and far-reaching measures in certain areas, such as:

- Energy – buildings and industry, as well as mobility and space
- Agriculture
- Industrial gases
- Waste and water
- Changes to land use and forest
- Indirect emissions

An example of a concrete measure in the 2050 Climate Strategy is, for example, the significant improvements in the energy efficiency of buildings, especially in the area of heat generation and building insulation from 2024 onwards. This includes in particular the switch to environ-

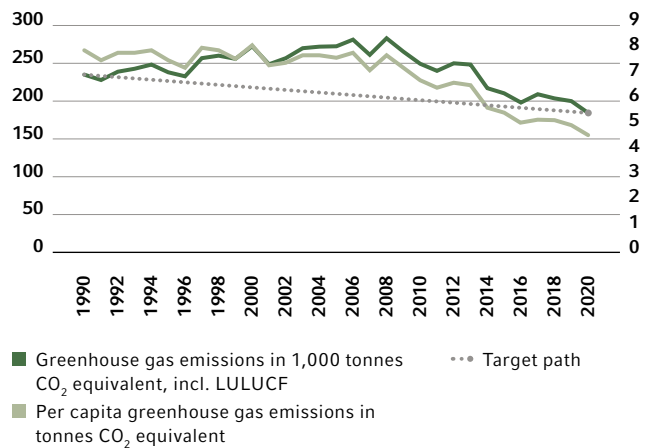
mentally friendly heating systems. These measures are currently being discussed in Parliament.

The Government has also launched a process to develop an action plan for making the public administration more climate-friendly, which will include non-fossil-fuel heating, renewable electricity production, mobility (business and commuter transport), catering, public procurement (IT, paper, etc.) and offset certificates. The action plan is to be in place by the end of 2023 and is intended to show that the public administration is keen to set an example in terms of climate action.

Internationally, Liechtenstein is committed to pushing an ambitious climate action and climate justice agenda. At the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UNFCCC, Liechtenstein regularly calls for more ambitious climate targets. In particular, the group of countries that set high GHG emission reduction targets should be expanded to include all major emitters. Complementing the UNFCCC negotiations, Liechtenstein actively participated as a member of a core group led by Vanuatu in introducing a resolution<sup>2</sup> to the UN General Assembly requesting the International Court of Justice to formulate a legal opinion on the accountability of States for climate damages, particularly in the case of least developed countries (LDCs). This is intended to provide greater clarity on the rule of law in the context of climate change.

## Statistical indicators

### Development of greenhouse gas emissions



Assessment ↑ **positive**

The target of an 80% reduction in GHG for 2020 compared to the reference year 1990 was achieved.

**LULUCF:** Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry

**Source:** National Statistical Office – Sustainable development indicators

**Desired development:** Decrease

**Trend:** Decrease

<sup>2</sup> Resolution A/77/276 was adopted in the General Assembly by consensus on 29 March 2023

# SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

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Together with Uzbekistan, Liechtenstein is one of only two states that have no direct access to the sea and are also surrounded by neighbouring states that also have no direct access to the sea (doubly landlocked).

Nevertheless, Liechtenstein is aware that oceans and seas play a central role in the global ecosystem. By improving domestic sustainability and through its international solidarity (see SDG 17), Liechtenstein indirectly contributes to the sustainable development of oceans, seas and marine resources.

Liechtenstein's increasing recycling rate (see SDG 14) and specific projects, are contributing to the reduction of plastic waste that could end up in the oceans.

# SDG 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse soil degradation and halt biodiversity loss

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## **Overall assessment**

- Ecosystems, such as terrestrial ecosystems and inland water ecosystems, forests, wetlands and mountains are in good condition and adequately protected.
  - Liechtenstein is committed to global environmental protection and nature conservation and participates in close regional cooperation within Europe.
  - In Liechtenstein – as in the rest of the world – biodiversity is under increasing threat.
- 

## **Situation in Liechtenstein**

Liechtenstein is party to every important international legal instrument in the field of environmental protection and nature conservation and is actively committed to their implementation. In particular, the sustainable management of forests is important, as in many cases they serve an important protective function against natural hazards. The forest area has tended to increase over the past 30 years due to the extensification of alpine farming, as has the ecological quality of the forest. However, due to a lack of natural regeneration, the protective forests show a tendency towards ageing.

In the area of biodiversity, the latest surveys of the Red List of Threatened Species show that the endangerment of reptiles, amphibians and fish has not increased significantly, and that the threat to breeding birds has even decreased slightly. In recent years, various wild animals that were eradicated decades ago have also been sighted again in Liechtenstein or the surrounding area.

Water bodies in Liechtenstein's valley region are often buffered against more intensive land use such as agriculture by extensively used, unfertilised meadow strips. Water pollution is only evident in isolated cases. For agricultural irrigation, water is primarily taken from the inland canal and sometimes from bodies of water that are fed by the inland canal. This can lead to problems, especially when the water flow is low.

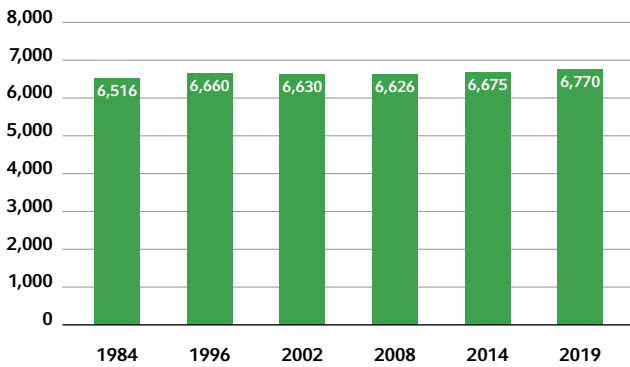
Long stretches of straight and structurally poor waterways such as the inland canal are gradually being revitalised. This creates new habitats for flora and fauna, and parts are open to the public for recreation purposes. These renaturation measures also serve to raise awareness of the biodiversity of flora and fauna.

The spring water of the Prealps and the groundwater in the water body of the Rhine Plain are largely free of contaminants and thus meet the high standards set for drinking water. Whilst the amount of spring water will decrease in the

## Statistical indicators

### Woodland

in ha



Assessment  **positive**

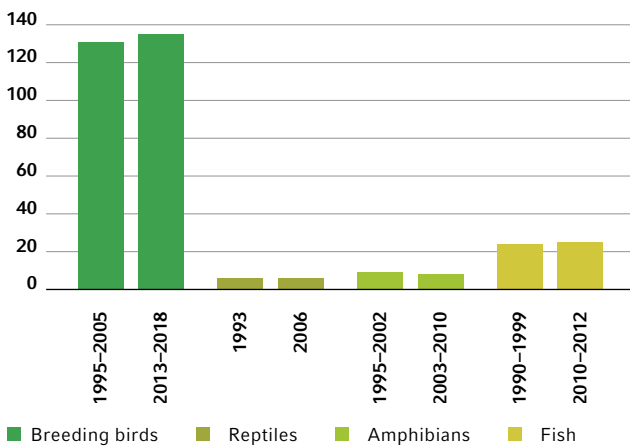
Source: National Statistical Office – Environmental indicators


Desired development: Stability

Trend: no significant change

### Native species

Number of identified native species



Assessment  **neutral**

The number of native species has not significantly changed.

Source: National Statistical Office – Sustainable development indicators

Desired development: Increase

Trend: no significant change

long term due to changes in the distribution of precipitation, it can be assumed that sufficient groundwater will continue to be available in the Rhine Plain and that there will be no overexploitation. In addition, groundwater protection areas are being expanded and groundwater protection plays an overriding role in rezonings.

### Challenges

Conserving and improving biodiversity is currently the biggest challenge in the context of SDG 15. In particular, it is expected that climate change will bring further negative effects. The climate change adaptation strategy identified the following risks:

- Endangering of habitats and species
- Endangering of biotope connectivity and network
- Spread of alien species
- Reduction of the gene pool leading to the reduction of genetic diversity
- Impairment of ecosystem benefits

The expansion of the settlement area in Liechtenstein represents another challenge for biodiversity. With the increase in surfaces being sealed by asphalt or concrete, the ecological function of soil as a habitat is lost (see SDG 11).

Conserving biodiversity is also very important in agriculture and poses an ongoing challenge. Even though areas that support biodiversity amount to 21% of agricultural land, a comparatively high figure, and some efforts have been made to improve biodiversity, many agricultural areas have still not achieved the quality required to ensure biodiversity is effectively preserved.

### Measures

The conservation and promotion of biodiversity is a priority goal of the Liechtenstein Government. In March 2023, it decided to draw up a comprehensive Biodiversity Action Plan in order to meet the objectives set by the 15th meeting of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 15) in Montreal.

The Biodiversity Action Plan will complement the measures already identified in the Climate Adaptation Strategy and the 2050 Climate Strategy for the conservation and promotion of biodiversity. These include the rewetting of peatlands, the development of a biodiversity concept for public

buildings and facilities, the greening of public areas and the promotion of nature-friendly gardens. A particularly important measure is the renaturation of straight, structurally poor watercourses in the valley floor. Targeted restoration measures should improve habitats and encourage an interconnected effect.

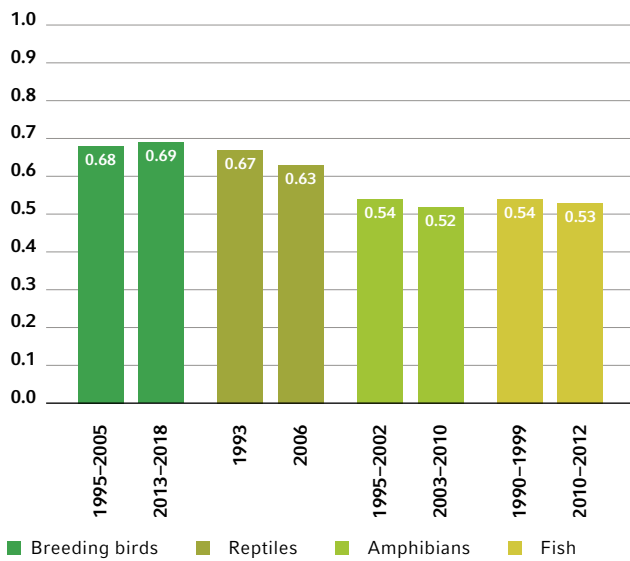
A neophyte concept has already been implemented. It aims at early detection and control of invasive alien species as well as the conservation of habitats that are particularly affected. In 2022, a countrywide shrub exchange campaign invited residents of Liechtenstein to bring alien plants or neophytes from their gardens for disposal free of charge

and exchange them for native, ecologically valuable shrubs from the National Forest Service.

In 2023, an Ordinance on the Promotion of Biodiversity Promotion Areas (Biodiversity Promotion Ordinance; BFV) was introduced. This creates and enhances the basis for the targeted promotion of biodiversity enhancement areas in agriculture. It gives greater prominence to ensuring the botanical quality of habitats and how they are connected.

The Liechtenstein 2030+ Forest Strategy is also in the pipeline, which aims to help ensure forests are robust and climate-friendly with a high level of biodiversity.

### Red List Index



Assessment → **neutral**

The threat to native species has not significantly changed.

**Source:** National Statistical Office – Sustainable development indicators

**Desired development:** Increase

**Trend:** no significant change

# SDG 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

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## **Overall assessment**

- Liechtenstein is a well-functioning constitutional state with a stable and inclusive political system.
  - Liechtenstein distinguishes itself internationally through an active and consistent commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights, the rule of law, and international law.
  - The promotion of criminal accountability, the fight against corruption and money laundering, and the implementation of all standards in the area of international tax cooperation are amongst Liechtenstein's priorities in this respect.
- 

## **Situation in Liechtenstein**

The Liechtenstein constitution guarantees comprehensive protection of fundamental and civil rights. Liechtenstein is also party to the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) as well as the majority of the UN human rights conventions. All people in Liechtenstein enjoy equal access to justice. They have access to a wide variety of available legal actions and complaint options against official decisions. The state court acts as a constitutional court. It can examine laws and regulations with regard to their constitutionality and hear individual complaints against violations of constitutionally guaranteed rights. Once all domestic instances have been exhausted, the inhabitants of the country may, as a last resort, lodge an appeal with the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR). Liechtenstein has also recognised the right to address individual complaints to the UN Committees on civil and political rights against torture, racial discrimination, discrimination against women, and for the rights of the child.

The political system in Liechtenstein is very transparent and participatory. The National Constitution defines Liechtenstein as a constitutional hereditary monarchy on a democratic and parliamentary basis. No law can enter into force without the consent of the Reigning Prince and Parliament. In addition to electing Parliament every four years, the people have numerous effective instruments for political participation at their disposal. In the case of legislative proposals, the Government conducts a consultation procedure during which all interested parties can comment on the proposal before the matter is referred to Parliament. In order to strengthen policy coherence with regards to sustainability, in 2022 the Government made a commitment to subject all new legislative proposals to an SDG analysis. For example, the SDGs are an integral part of all consultation reports as well as reports and motions submitted to Parliament.

Emergency powers were never enacted in Liechtenstein during the COVID-19 pandemic. Parliament maintained its

ability to act and the Government kept it regularly informed on the latest situation. It sat regularly, even during the pandemic, in compliance with the rules that were in force at the time. For example, it adopted a law on accompanying administrative and judicial measures related to the coronavirus (COVID-19-VJBG), three packages of comprehensive and targeted economic support measures, and various supplementary credits. In each session, the Government answered the questions of MPs about the current situation and the measures taken. These discussions were all livestreamed on the internet and the national TV channel. By involving the people's representatives in this way, the Government's policies enjoyed broad support during the COVID-19 pandemic.

By gathering 1,000 signatures, voters can choose to have a referendum against parliamentary resolutions and call for a plebiscite. Likewise, the people can launch legal (1,000 signatures) or constitutional (1,500 signatures) initiatives, which must be dealt with by Parliament. If Parliament rejects an initiative, a referendum is held on it.

Liechtenstein is a safe country; crime or violence in public spaces is not an evident problem. Social cohesion and social peace are guaranteed. The number of violent offences committed ranges from 200 to 250 per 100,000 inhabitants on a long-term average. The clearance rate for criminal offences under the Criminal Code was just under 70% in 2022. Since 2019, the police have also been recording figures on cybercrime, distinguishing cybercrime in the narrower sense (crimes in which attacks on data or computer systems were committed by exploiting information and communication technology) and in the broader sense (crimes in which information and communication technology are used to plan, prepare and carry out the offences). The short survey period does not yet allow any conclusions about trends regarding these offences.

There are effective measures to combat and prevent violence. To combat all forms of violence in public spaces, there is a Violence Prevention Commission, which implements various awareness-raising measures. Of particular note are the successful measures by the Commission for the Prevention of Extremism and Radicalisation. Since 2011, no incidents of violence motivated by right-wing extremism have been registered in public. For information on combating domestic violence, please refer to the remarks

on SDG 5. Of particular note is the 2021 accession to the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention). This led, among other things, to amendments to the Code of Civil Procedure and the Non-Contentious Proceedings Act to further improve the protection of victims and witnesses. Also, a coordination group was created to coordinate, implement, monitor and evaluate policies and other measures to prevent and combat the forms of violence covered by the Convention.

As a financial centre, Liechtenstein pursues a clear strategy of transparency and tax cooperation. The Liechtenstein Declaration of 2009 and Government Declaration of 2013 laid the foundation for an open and internationally oriented financial centre. Through its membership in international organisations, Liechtenstein has committed itself to the implementation of international standards in the fight against corruption and money laundering and undergoes regular reviews. These include, for example, the evaluation by the Council of Europe's Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) or the review under the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). Liechtenstein is also a member of the OECD's Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes and the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting and consistently implements the standards established by these bodies in the area of tax cooperation.

The consistent implementation of these standards is also confirmed by various reviews. In the 2022 peer review of the automatic exchange of information conducted by the OECD's Global Forum, Liechtenstein achieved a very good result. In addition, the Council of Europe's Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism (MONEYVAL) gave Liechtenstein a very good rating in its 5th Country Report in 2022.

The FAST Initiative (Finance against Slavery and Trafficking) initiated by Liechtenstein, offers close cooperation with the financial centre to combat illicit financial flows. The initiative brings together the private sector and the Government in a public-private partnership. The Liechtenstein financial community's expertise is thus used for a project in the area of sustainability goals (see also SDG 8).



## Challenges

Liechtenstein has a lean, customer-friendly and efficient public administration. The Government and its official agencies are keen to ensure continuous improvement. This also includes expanding digital options in order to simplify administrative procedures via various channels. This brings its own challenges, such as maintaining the highest security standards and ensuring the digital options are user-friendly and accessible for all sections of the population.

Liechtenstein's justice system works very well, but there is room for improvement in order to continue meeting the needs of a modern judiciary that is equipped to cope with the country's needs, both today and tomorrow.

To ensure social cohesion in the long term a constant commitment is required. In the case of Liechtenstein, there are two areas in particular where challenges have been identified:

- Increasing digitalisation in communications and, above all, the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, have once again led to a growth in extremism. Different forms of online communication were in great demand in times of social distancing. This revealed that people can easily and instantly find other people around the world who share their views, opinions and beliefs. These networking opportunities are increasingly being used by groups that share misanthropic, anti-democratic opinions or spread conspiracy theories.
- This has also led to an increase in insulting or discriminatory comments against certain social groups in newspapers and on internet forums. Problematic content against the Government's policies during the COVID-19 pandemic was displayed at rallies and – as in other European countries – the measures were presented as a basic threat to constitutional freedoms and a right of resistance was derived from this. In the medium and long-term, the impact of this growing radicalisation remains unclear. Hate speech can have a long-term negative impact on political discourse as well as on social cohesion.

## Measures

The digitalisation of public services has long been a priority goal of the Government. SDG 8 deals with the "Digital Agenda" and various measures that have already been im-

plemented. With regards to transparent institutions, here are a few examples of measures that are already in place:

- Since 2020, natural persons in Liechtenstein have had the option of using a digital identity – the eID – to securely identify and register for public administration services. The eID meets the highest security requirements with regards to the level of trust, data security and data protection and can now also be used as a means of identification in other European countries.
- Integrated digital administrative services are also to be created by 2026, so that natural and legal persons only have to provide their data and information once (the "once only" principle).
- Using these digital options requires basic competence in the digital sphere, so media literacy plays an important role in the 2025+ Education Strategy, which is aimed at all age groups.

In order to make the implementation progress of the measures contained in the government programme transparent and accessible, the Government launched the website [www.regierungsprogramm.li](http://www.regierungsprogramm.li) in May 2023. It provides information on the status of the measures (completed/being implemented) and is continuously updated. It also explains how the measures have been or are being implemented.

With regards to the justice system, the Government has proposed measures to further professionalise the judiciary, increase the efficiency of the courts and improve the quality of justice. In future, for example, the courts will have more full-time than part-time judges, and specialist panels will be set up to deal with foundation law and trust law. The consultation process has now been completed and the Government is reviewing the various submissions.

At international level, Liechtenstein continues its long-standing commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights, to the rule of law at the international level, and to combating impunity for the most serious crimes under international law. Furthermore, Liechtenstein also contributes to achieving SDG target 16.7 by highlighting the importance of self-governance and autonomy arrangements in line with the right to self-determination as a means to prevent and sustainably resolve conflicts.

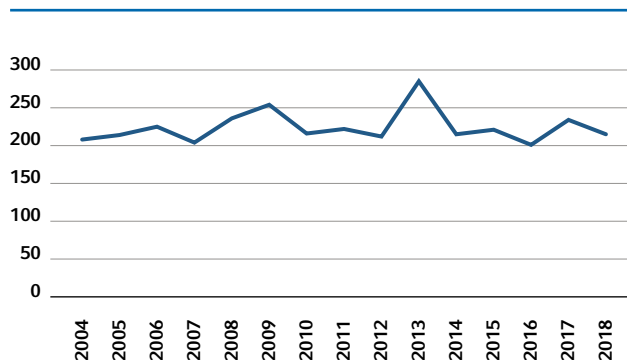
The UN General Assembly Resolution 76/262, also known as the “Veto Initiative”, drafted by Liechtenstein, aims to strengthen the role of the General Assembly in accordance with its mandate under the UN Charter and to act in the event of Security Council deadlocks through the use of the veto. By enhancing the role of the General Assembly, the veto initiative aims to strengthen inclusive multilateralism and the international rule of law. Likewise, Liechtenstein continues efforts to promote the ACT Code of Conduct<sup>3</sup> to prevent and end genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

Liechtenstein, together with like-minded states, is actively calling for the creation of a special international tribunal for the crime of aggression. This commitment serves not least the rule of law at the international level and the deterrence of massive violations of the prohibition of the use of force in the future. The adaptation of the Kampala Amendments to the Rome Statute, which give the International Criminal Court jurisdiction over the crime of aggression, is also a priority of Liechtenstein: the aim is to harmonise jurisdiction over this crime with that for the other three core crimes – genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

## Statistical indicators

### Violent crimes

per 100,000 inhabitants

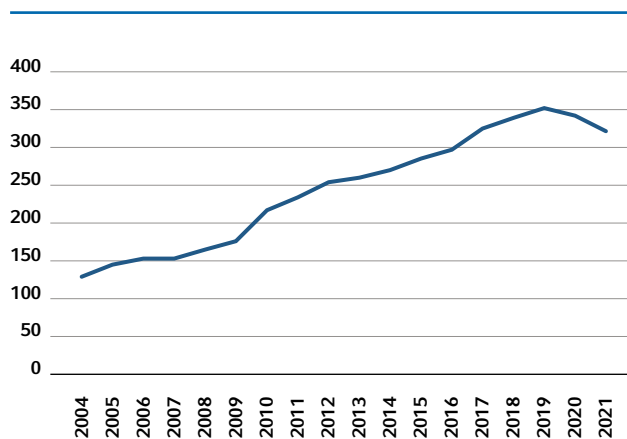


Assessment → neutral

The number of violent crimes has not significantly changed.

Source: National Statistical Office – Sustainable development indicators  
 Desired development: Decrease  
 Trend: no significant change

### Number of associations



Assessment ↗ positive

The number of associations has increased.

Source: National Statistical Office – Sustainable development indicators  
 Desired development: Increase  
 Trend: Increase

<sup>3</sup> ACT stands for accountability, coherence and transparency. By endorsing the ACT Code of Conduct, States commit, among other things, not to vote against Security Council products relating to genocide, war crimes and crimes.

# SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development

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## **Overall assessment**

- A functioning and constructive multilateralism is a core concern of Liechtenstein, including with regards to the global implementation of the SDGs.
  - Liechtenstein's aid and development projects are designed to make long-term and concrete contributions to sustainable development.
  - Liechtenstein is committed to a universal, rule-based, inclusive and non-discriminatory trading system headed by the WTO.
- 

## **International solidarity**

International solidarity – consisting of development cooperation and humanitarian aid – is the central instrument through which Liechtenstein makes a substantial contribution to global sustainable development. This is mainly achieved through financing aid and development projects in developing countries. The guiding principle of international solidarity is to support developing countries in specifically improving the framework conditions for development, empowering people to lead independent lives and promoting partnerships with various actors to this end (states, non-governmental organisations and private actors). Liechtenstein's commitment to international solidarity is as broad-based as possible, with a particular focus on reaching the poorest and most vulnerable people in the world and improving their prospects. By doing so, Liechtenstein makes a significant contribution to achieving the overarching goal of the 2030 Agenda, "Leave no one behind".

In this context, Liechtenstein has recently responded to the increased need for support with a significant expansion of international solidarity. In doing so, Liechtenstein makes every effort to ensure that new and extraordinary crises do not lead to a reduction of the engagement in existing partner countries. Two examples are worth mentioning in this regard:

- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, an additional budget of CHF 1 million was allocated for international solidarity in 2020. This made it possible to support additional emergency aid and health projects in developing countries.
- Due to the Russian aggression against Ukraine, Parliament approved an additional budget of CHF 1.8 million for humanitarian projects in Ukraine and neighbouring countries in 2022.

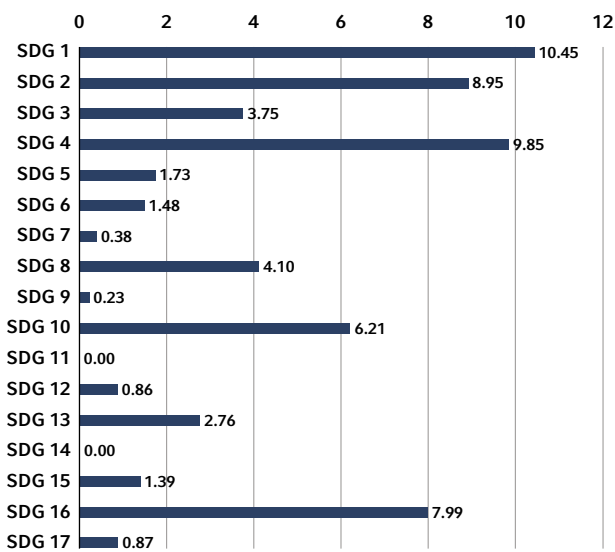
Thus, the country's total official development assistance (ODA) spending reached some CHF 31.5 million in 2022, an increase of about 24% compared to 2021. In doing so, Liechtenstein is also underlining how it takes the interests

of the Global South seriously and how it will not reduce its engagement in existing regions, even if a new crisis hotspot flares up in Europe.

All projects supported by Liechtenstein within the framework of international solidarity are reviewed with regards to their contribution to the implementation of individual SDGs. In this way, detailed information can be provided on how these projects contribute to which SDGs. Typically, each project contributes to several SDGs at once. This analysis has shown that projects financed by Liechtenstein make an overall contribution to the implementation of almost all SDGs. The following chart illustrates the priorities of Liechtenstein's international solidarity:

### Contribution per SDG in 2022

*in millions CHF*



The vast majority of Liechtenstein's projects make a direct or indirect contribution to combating poverty (SDG 1), which also contributes to the overarching goal of international solidarity. The thematic focuses are on the following areas:

- Primary education and vocational training (SDG 4)
- Food security through sustainable agriculture (SDG 2)
- Protection and promotion of human rights and the rule of law (SDG 16)
- Migration (SDG 10)
- Promoting sustainable economic growth and decent work (SDG 8).

The chart also shows that Liechtenstein made just under CHF 2.8 million available for climate financing (SDG 13) in 2022.

Especially with regard to education projects, the positive experiences of the Liechtenstein educational system can be used. The projects will provide partner countries with targeted support in developing their educational infrastructure and pedagogical foundations, as well as in improving networking between educational institutions and the private sector in the area of vocational training.

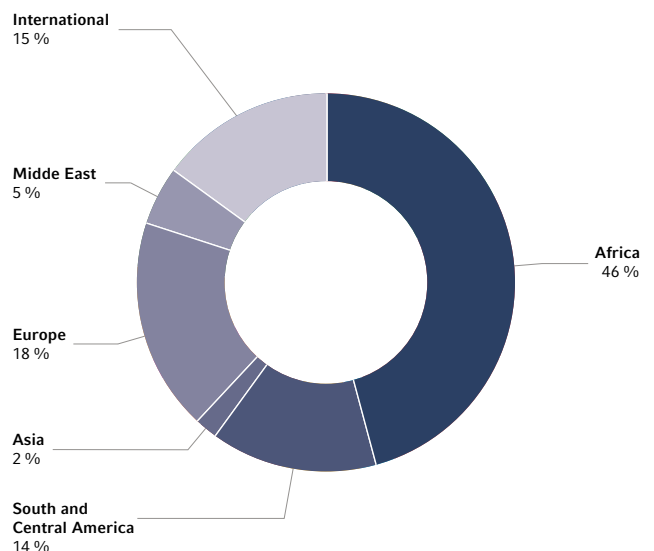
Additionally, there are cross-cutting themes which are an important component of all development and aid projects:

- The projects are gender-sensitive and promote the equality and empowerment of women.
- The projects promote the inclusion of vulnerable groups and social minorities.

The most recent available ODA percentage of 0.41 is from 2020. Since then, ODA-related spending has increased significantly, reaching a new peak in 2022. The Government is confident that this will also significantly increase the ODA percentage for 2021 and 2022.

The geographical priority for international solidarity is Africa:

### Distribution of Liechtenstein contributions in 2022 by region



## Multilateral engagement

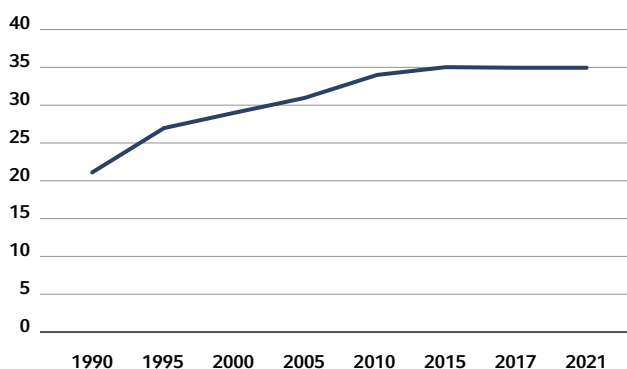
Liechtenstein has had no armed forces and has not been involved in any armed conflicts since 1868. Respect for international law and a multilateral system in which the sovereign equality of all states applies form the basis for Liechtenstein's security and recognition at the international level. Liechtenstein is convinced that global sustainable development cannot be achieved without constructive and inclusive multilateralism. Liechtenstein has been a member of the UN since 1990 and considers it to be the central forum for seeking solutions to common global challenges and promoting international law and the international rule of law. Global partnerships are essential to resolving global issues, and Liechtenstein is committed to this. Liechtenstein's engagement focuses on the protection and promotion of human rights, the rule of law, and international law. These issues form the basis for constructive multilateralism and collective security.

From Liechtenstein's perspective, it is of utmost importance to protect the existing international order and defend the UN Charter. The Russian aggression against Ukraine is a serious violation of this order. Therefore, right from the start, Liechtenstein, together with other states, has firmly condemned the invasion, has quickly and consistently implemented the sanctions agreed by the EU and shown solidarity with the Ukrainian people and the victims of the war. It is vital to ensure there is accountability for the crimes committed in Ukraine. This is why Liechtenstein is also supporting projects that seek to find evidence for future criminal trials. In this regard, reference is made to the two Liechtenstein initiatives listed under SDG 16.

Another key issue is climate change, which in future may also affect perceptions of human rights. Liechtenstein actively supports the advancement of international law and the rule of law in the context of climate change. Under Vanuatu's leadership, Liechtenstein was a member of the core group that introduced a resolution to the UN General Assembly inviting the International Court of Justice to formulate a legal opinion on the obligations of states in the context of climate change. The legal opinion should lead to a better understanding of what responsibility states bear for the impact of climate change, particularly on least developed countries. Resolution 77/276 was adopted by consensus by the UN General Assembly on 29 March 2023.

## Statistical indicators

### Membership of international organisations



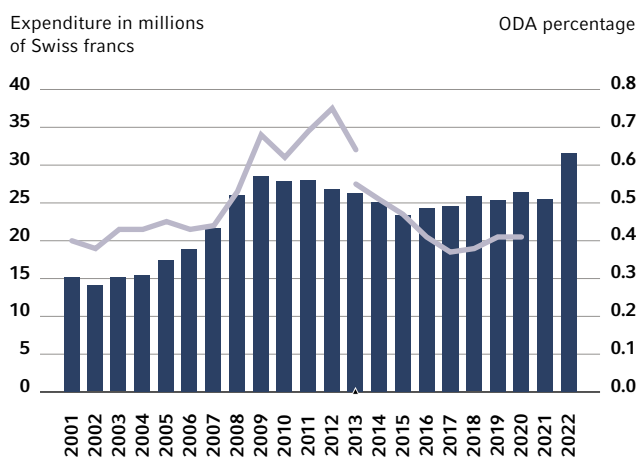
Assessment ▲ positive

The number of memberships has increased.

**Source:** National Statistical Office – Sustainable development indicators  
**Desired development:** Increase  
**Trend:** Increase

### Official development cooperation

as a percentage of GNI



Assessment ▼ negative

**Note:** The method for calculating GNI changed in 2013 from ESA 1995 to ESA 2010. 2013 is the reference year for the assessment.

**Source:** Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Justice and Culture

**Desired development:** Increase

**Trend:** Decrease

## 5. Non-state actors and sustainability

### Key statements

- The online survey on the implementation of the SDGs in civil society and the private sector met with a broad response. The more than 50 responses show there is a great deal of interest in this topic.
- The respondents see the greatest need for action in SDGs 7 (energy), 11 (sustainable cities and settlements) and 13 (climate).
- The implementation of SDGs 6 (clean water and sanitation), 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions), 8 (decent work and economic growth), 17 (partnerships), and 4 (education) are given the highest rating.
- The qualitative feedback revealed a generally positive assessment of the social, healthcare and education systems in Liechtenstein.
- The areas that attracted the most criticism were the energy situation (dependence on imports as well as energy costs), the high proportion of motorised personal transport and the large carbon footprint.
- Several respondents also suggested improving the data on sustainable development and revising the indicator system for measuring the implementation of the SDGs.

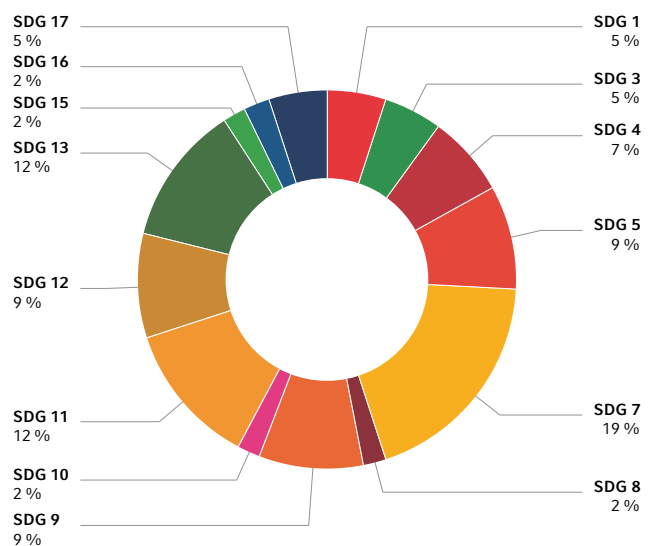
The implementation of SDGs at the national as well as the global level cannot be carried out by states alone. There is also a need for significant contributions and behavioural changes on the part of the private sector, civil society and individuals. Amongst the population, there is a growing awareness of the importance of sustainable development in general. The process of drafting the report was accompanied by a consultation phase with interest groups and the private sector. The high number of responses show that the actors surveyed are very interested in the implementation of the SDGs.

Participants in the online survey were invited to assess the implementation of the individual SDGs, to name the SDG where they see the greatest need for action, and to identify the three SDGs that are particularly important from the perspective of their organisation. They were also asked to explain their assessments and to describe their organisation's commitment to implementing the SDGs.

Overall, it emerged that the participants see the greatest need for action in SDG 7 (energy), followed by SDGs 11 (sustainable cities and settlements) and 13 (climate change).

Implementation of the SDGs in Liechtenstein on a scale of 1 (very poor) to 7 (very good) was given an average rating of 4.8. SDGs 6 (clean water and sanitation; 5.9); 16 (peace, justice, and strong institutions; 5.5); 8 (decent work and

### Greatest need for action

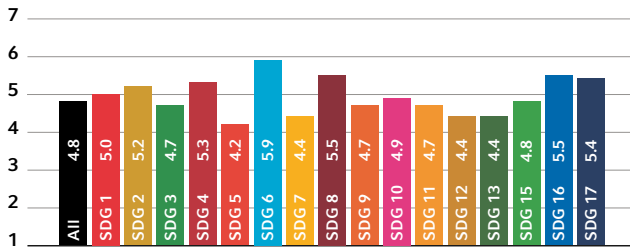


“Which SDG do you see as needing the most action in the future?”  
(Percentage of mentions from 43 responses)

economic growth; 5.5), 17 (partnerships; 5.4), and 4 (education; 5.3) received the highest scores.

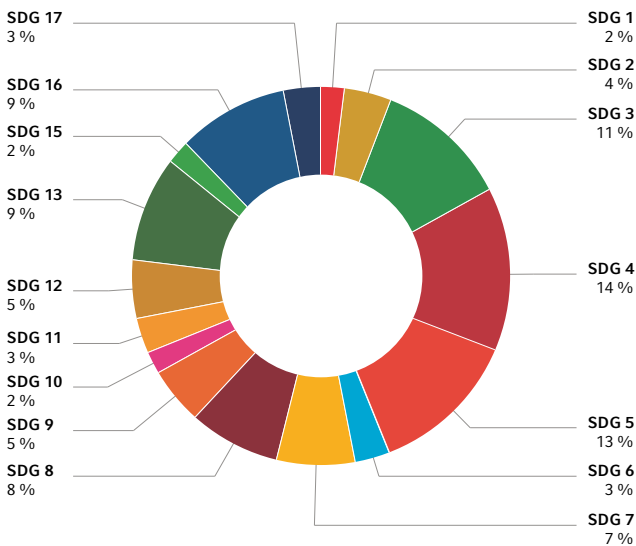
On the question of which SDG was of particular importance, all the SDGs were mentioned, but SDG 4 (education; 14%), SDG 5 (gender equality; 13%), and SDG 3 (health; 11%) were most frequently selected.

## Assessment of the implementation in Liechtenstein



“How do you assess the implementation of this SDG in Liechtenstein?”  
(Mean of ratings from a total of 51 respondents; 1=very poor; 7=very good)

## SDGs with particular importance



“Which sustainability goals do you think are particularly important from your organisation’s perspective?” (Percentage mentions from 51 responses, up to three mentions possible)

## Qualitative assessment of individual SDGs



**SDG 1:** The social welfare system was generally rated positively, but the lack of data on poverty<sup>4</sup> was criticised. However, some participants said they believed the risk of poverty was increasing in certain sections of the population (e.g., the middle class, women, and people with disabilities). The involvement of charitable foundations in providing social assistance (which is not currently systematically recorded) was also mentioned several times.



**SDG 2:** The high proportion of organic farming was welcomed multiple times, and further expansion of sustainable food production was advocated. In this context, some actors were particularly critical of consumer behaviour and pointed out that sustainably and/or locally produced food is expensive. However, the country’s limitations when it comes to food self-sufficiency was also recognized.

<sup>4</sup> At the time of the survey, the poverty report (see SDG 1) had not yet been released.



**SDG 3:** Several respondents said the healthcare system was very good, but many were concerned by the steady rise in healthcare costs. Some respondents pointed out deficits, such as in the psychosocial area, access for people with disabilities, and housing and care for elderly people in light of demographic change.



**SDG 4:** The education system is perceived as very good overall and seen as a key factor in the country's sustainable development. At the same time, several respondents believed there was room for improvement with regards to inclusion for children with disabilities and children with a migrant background. Certain respondents believed that streaming children into three types of schools at a young age is disadvantageous in terms of equal opportunities.



**SDG 5:** It was noted that progress has been made in this area, but the majority of respondents who commented on this SDG pointed out that there is still a great deal to be done. Many respondents particularly criticised the fact that women are still under-represented in leadership positions. Reconciling family and working life was mentioned several times, and this was considered important for achieving gender equality. There were also calls for a gender equality strategy and for improved protection against domestic violence.

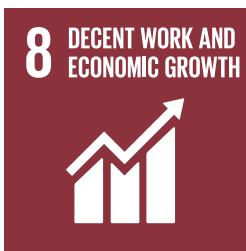


**SDG 6:** The national implementation of SDG 6 is generally rated as very good. However, some respondents pointed out that there is a lack of awareness about the need to use water sparingly. They also mentioned the risks of climate change in relation to the future availability of water. Some respondents said it was necessary to raise public awareness of sustainable water use.





**SDG 7:** The majority of respondents viewed the country's dependence on energy imports as a major challenge that can only be mitigated to a limited extent by expanding the country's own renewable energy sources. The fact that a lot of work is being done to promote sustainable energy sources, and that these are subsidised, was welcomed. At the same time, respondents also see an even greater need to expand renewables and pointed out that energy consumption as a whole is too high.



**SDG 8:** Overall, the implementation of this goal was rated good. The shortage of labour and skilled workers was mentioned several times as a major challenge for the economy. Some respondents also pointed out that Liechtenstein's economy is heavily dependent on commuters and that this poses challenges in terms of mobility and accessibility. Some respondents also suggested that the view of economic growth should be less limited to quantitative economic measures in order to assess the sustainable development of the economy.



**SDG 9:** The high proportion of personal transport was criticised, and respondents were almost unanimous in calling for more extensive public transport. The importance of good cross-border public transport connections was also emphasised. In doing so, respondents were primarily concerned with meeting the needs of the many commuters from neighbouring countries, who are vital for Liechtenstein's businesses.



**SDG 10:** Only a few respondents commented qualitatively on this SDG. Inequality was not considered a problem in Liechtenstein, but the main focus was on ensuring equal opportunities for all.



**SDG 11:** With regards to this SDG, respondents once again criticised the high volume of traffic and called for action to improve and expand sustainable transport. Urban sprawl was also mentioned, which is caused by rising housing costs and leads to increased demands on infrastructure.



**SDG 12:** Some respondents criticised the high consumption of resources at home and abroad, which is mainly driven by consumer behaviour. Some respondents called for action to reduce the consumption footprint. This included awareness-raising measures, ideas for stricter regulation of imports, and placing greater emphasis on sustainability criteria in public procurement.



**SDG 16:** The implementation of SDG 16 was generally assessed positively. Representatives of certain stakeholders called for better prevention and protection with regards to violence against certain social groups (e.g., women, people with disabilities, people with a migrant background). It was suggested that more indicators should be used for this SDG.



**SDG 13:** Some respondents viewed the climate targets set out in the 2050 Climate Strategy positively, but said it remains to be seen how well the strategy is implemented. Several respondents believed that emissions generated by consumption abroad should be included to a greater extent. However, some argued that a small country like Liechtenstein cannot have a significant impact on climate change and that it is the major emitters who should be doing more.



**SDG 17:** Only a few respondents commented on this SDG. Amongst these, the main suggestion was to increase the country's commitment to development cooperation and hence increase the ODA percentage. The sustainability of the global trade and financial system was also questioned.



**SDG 15:** Respondents who commented on this SDG, among other things, stressed the need to improve biodiversity, create more conservation areas, and to pay more attention to protected forests.

### **Suggestions made by survey participants**

Actors from civil society and the private sector play a key role in achieving the SDGs. Measures that are very specific to particular organisations or businesses have been implemented, for example steps to prevent food waste in the hospitality industry. More comprehensive action – such as in the areas of education and gender equality – is also being taken. The feedback received in the survey suggests that actors simultaneously take several SDGs into account in their activities, showing that they view sustainability as a comprehensive concept. They also carry out public relations activities, either specifically on the implementation of one or more SDGs or by publicising their actions through sustainability reports. For example, one organisation reported on its actions to promote sustainable transport, whilst business associations in particular are keen to show how their member companies are contributing to the implementation of the SDGs through sustainability reporting. These reports simultaneously raise awareness of the issue amongst their members and in society as a whole. The feedback also indicates that the philanthropy sector is very active in helping to fund projects both domestically and internationally, aligned with specific SDGs and the interconnectedness between the goals.

## 6. Areas for action in the future

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Within the framework of this report, the level of national implementation of the SDGs was determined on the basis of the available information. The report details the areas in which sustainability in Liechtenstein is moving in a positive direction and where further measures need to be taken. It should be noted that, in almost every area, Liechtenstein starts from a good or very good basis upon which it can work to make further improvements. However, it must pay special attention to areas where the trend is negative and effective solutions still need to be found. First and foremost, this is the area of mobility. It also needs to monitor the increase in inequality. The Government does not consider this to be a problem as long as equal opportunities are guaranteed for all sections and strata of the population. This is currently the case, but it is important to ensure that this situation does not change.

In the area of general implementation of the SDGs, the Government believes the following areas of action are particularly important for the future:

- Despite improvements in the data situation, there are still too few indicators available for the systematic evaluation of the level of implementation and development of SDGs in Liechtenstein. The 2023–2024 statistical programme envisions that existing indicators will be revised and brought closer to the SDGs. This process is vital for an even better assessment of the sustainability situation in Liechtenstein.
- The systematic review of draft legislation and international treaties with regards to their impact on the SDGs has laid an important foundation for strengthening policy coherence. However, for this tool to be fully effective, it is important that the SDG analyses prepared by the Government are also used as a basis for discussion in the consultations and in Parliament. This is a challenge for everyone involved.
- There is already very strong cooperation between the state and all stakeholders in Liechtenstein. Constructive and close cooperation will continue to be crucial, especially when it comes to finding viable solutions to the future challenges that have been shown in this report.

# 7. Methodology

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The sustainable development indicators, the environmental indicators and the gender equality indicators form the basis for measuring the implementation of the sustainability goals. A total of 69 indicators were used, which were assigned to the individual SDGs.

The **assessment** of the individual indicators comprises the trend that has been identified and the development that is desired:

 **Positive**

(towards sustainability):

Trend = desired development

 **Negative**

(away from sustainability):

Trend  $\neq$  desired development

 **Neutral**

There is no discernible trend or the observed trend is insufficient to meet a quantitative target set by the Government

The **trend** represents the change between the reference year and the last available value. The reference year is usually the first year in the time series; in the case of exceptions, the reference year is marked with a ▲. If the change between the initial value and final value is less than or equal to  $\pm 5\%$ , this is assessed as "no significant change". If the change is greater than  $\pm 5\%$ , the development is assessed as an increase or decrease.

The **desired development** is based on the evaluation criteria established in the methodology on sustainable development indicators or environmental indicators. The same evaluation criteria were used to assess the equality indicators.

