



ESPN Thematic Report on Progress in the implementation of the 2013 EU Recommendation on “Investing in children: Breaking the cycle of disadvantage”

Liechtenstein

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of the 2013 EU Recommendation
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Summary

Since 2013 no changes in policies or mechanisms in respect of child poverty and social exclusion have taken place. Thus, the initiatives launched by the Agenda 2020 in 2010, show a very good level of target achievement (evaluated in 2015). The social cohesion, the benefit system and state contribution to all kind of support measures targeting child well-being have been maintained unchanged. As these supportive instruments have been on a high level compared to other European countries in 2013, their positive effect remained unchanged with regard to the situation of Liechtenstein's families.

Specific points of interest are:

- Social welfare benefits have remained unchanged since 2010, therefore they are still on a high level, leading to a low percentage of poor households in Liechtenstein. In terms of insufficient household income, there are various benefits to ensure an adequate standard of living, e. g. social welfare benefit, supplementary social benefits, child allowance etc. Never the less, the number of households that have received social benefit has increased since 1995. In 2015, 587 households in Liechtenstein claimed social benefits, compared to 286 households in 1995.
- State contribution to the statutory health insurance system has been reduced in two steps with the effect of higher premium payments for individual contributors which was an additional burden on families' budgets. However, the social benefit for persons with insufficient income has not been adjusted.
- Children in Liechtenstein have a legal right of free access to primary and secondary education and vocational training without discrimination. Education spending has been protected and the investment structure has remained unchanged.
- Children living in Liechtenstein are not legally entitled to early childhood education and care up to the age of attending primary school. Child care is still costly in Liechtenstein, and the increasing demand therefore cannot be covered by profit oriented private organisations. As a first step, the family policy as part of the Liechtenstein Agenda 2020 implemented a financial support to out-of-house childcare facilities. This has extended in a moderate way the number and the offer of child care facilities in Liechtenstein, but it did not include the setup of public early childhood education facilities. This lack of state support most severely hits families with children and single parent households, and needs further development and structural changes.
- In Liechtenstein no legal entitlement exists for part-time work or flexible working arrangements vis-à-vis the employer. Another weak factor within the current legislation is the missing legal right to work from home or remotely, either temporarily or on request. Changing this legislation would give employees the possibility to part-time or flexible working time arrangements and would enable parents to reconcile family and work in a sustainable way.
- Within the Agenda 2020 supportive measures have been launched with respect to getting young people ready and fit for a job. In 2015, the Liechtenstein Employment Service (AMS) established a variety of measures with good results from the first year onward.
- Since 2013 no changes in policies or mechanisms regarding children's rights to participate in the given initiatives of the Agenda 2020 have been made. Thus, there is still a high level of supportive initiatives to support the participation of all children in play, recreation, sports and cultural activities.

From the authors' point of view, the following priority recommendations for further improving Liechtenstein's policies for investing in children can be made:

- When young mothers of today want to work, they aspire to something more than the possibility of home office work. Young people consider it important to work in a team

with social contacts at work. Thus, the government has to provide more flexible child care facilities on an affordable basis.

- Facing the changing social trends, investing in small day nurseries with parental participation on a clear legal basis with own regulations (measures for the professional development, educational qualifications, etc.) should be forced. In addition, this would also generate jobs for those mothers/fathers who decide to stay at home after child birth and would like to offer their time for child care to others. The potential success of such a child care would be the small scale and that it feels like being at home with mother.
- Finally the current given school time table has to be revised and adapted to the standard working hours for employees. Currently the approach of core times including lunch break at school is discussed to integrate childcare between the standard teaching lessons in the morning and afternoon.

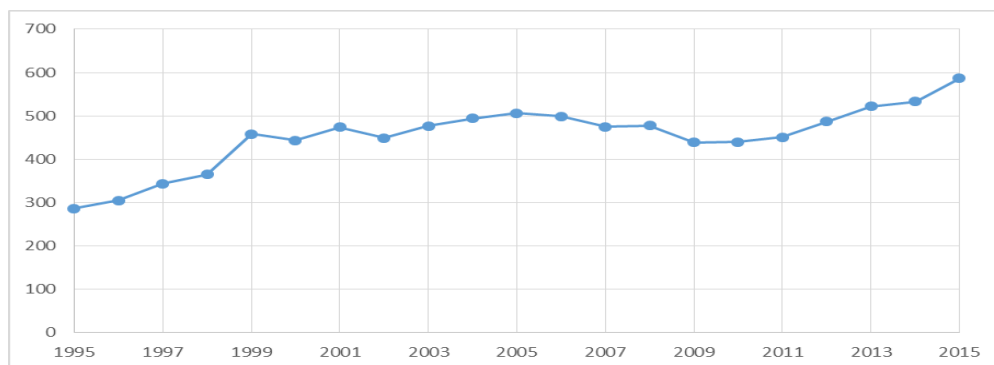
1 Overall situation with regard to child poverty and social exclusion

By hitting both employment and welfare systems, the financial and economic crisis has affected children and their families in Liechtenstein in a less intensive way than in many other European countries. Main reasons for this are the existing social benefits schemes and the progressive tax system, which allow social stability and redistribution of income within the Liechtenstein society. A key focus of the government's modern family policy, which is part of the Agenda 2020 of Liechtenstein's government, is to grant the relevant minimum of financial support to prevent children from growing up in poverty.

Liechtenstein's way of financially supporting families is by giving the benefits directly to the individual families, mainly through the Office of Social Services (Amt für Soziale Dienste, ASD)¹. In addition, the Office provides individual assistance by counselling and care and treatment advice. There is no funding to schools, e.g. for free school meals.

Household income, both in terms of salary and welfare benefits, is one of the main determinants of whether or not a child lives in poverty. Parents' levels of employment and an adequate minimum income are essential to determining adequate household income and therefore the level of child poverty. The number of households which have received social benefit has increased since 1995. In 2015, 587 households in Liechtenstein claimed social benefits, compared to 286 households in 1995. As Liechtenstein has not set up the "AROPE" indicator, the following charts will give an overview on the development of child poverty until present in Liechtenstein.

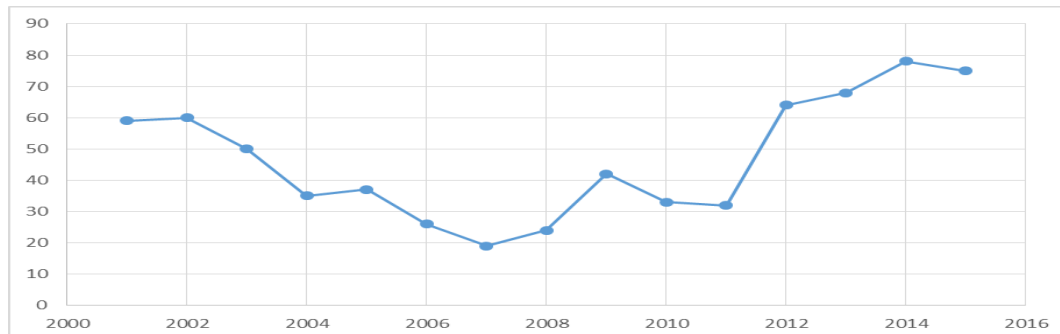
1.1. Figure: Number of households receiving financial social assistance



¹ Source: <http://www.llv.li/files/asd/pdf-llv-asd-familienfoerderung-3.pdf>

The number of registered working-poor households has increased since 2001. In 2001 the total number of working-poor households in Liechtenstein was 59, compared to 75 households in 2015.

2.1. Figure: Number of working poor registered households in Liechtenstein



Based on a political discussion in 2016, Liechtenstein's government calculated the number of in-work poverty households, consisting of two working adults with at least a 150% level of employment (i.e. the equivalent of 1.5 persons working full-time throughout the year) and two children, with no financial or property assets. From the total population of Liechtenstein, 14.2% (1,324 households) were living in this specific target group.² The 60% poverty risk threshold for these households corresponds to an annual equivalised income of 73,732 Swiss Francs (around 68,400 EUR). The "working poor households" within this target group came up to 161 households (12%) if child benefits were excluded from the total income. When child benefits are included, the at-risk-of-poverty rate dropped slightly (to 11%).

Until now, children living in Liechtenstein are not legally entitled to early childhood education and care up to the age of attending primary school.³ The modern family policy has failed to set up such an obligation until now. The political discussion about this issue has recently resumed.

An additional issue is the in debt situation of young persons between the ages of 12 and 18. Based on information of the Liechtenstein Bankers Association (LBA) every fifth young person is in debt. As part of specific events with the European Money Week, the LBA and its member banks convey basic financial knowledge to young people to promote a responsible approach to money and help them avoid debt. The Caritas Liechtenstein - with its counselling activities and useful knowledge about budgeting, debt traps, account types, payment transactions and financing options - supports these events.⁴

Based on the given situation, the government's position in 2016 did not lead to any specific policy measures to deal with child poverty in Liechtenstein due to the very low number of concerned persons and the existing social benefit structure.

2 Assessment of overall approach and governance

The Agenda 2020 was launched with a main focus on budget consolidation rather than social investment. Beside the government's cut of spending, the social welfare benefits have remained unchanged. They are still on a high level, leading to a low percentage of poor households in Liechtenstein as shown in section one of this report.

The political framework of promoting child well-being can be summarised as follows:

² Calculation is based on the fiscal figures as of the end of 2014; no later data was available.

³ Exception is made for children with an immigrant background for kindergarten attendance.

⁴ Source: <https://www.liechtenstein-business.li/en/news-detail/article/banks-get-involved-in-local-schools/>

- The package of measures to get the state finances back under control showed success in 2016. As the current situation shows a surplus in the state budget, the government decided not to propose further cost-cutting measures for 2017.⁵
- The state contribution to the Health Insurance was substantially decreased and a revision of the Health Insurance Act was adopted by the Liechtenstein parliament in 2016. The main changes of the adopted Act had been a freeze of the state health insurance contribution, and a so called basic premium contribution system with individual selectable levels of franchise and a fixed amount of self-payments. The premium reductions of the state contribution had a significant effect on the individual's premium, which increased by 12% on average and therefore created an additional burden on families' budgets.
- Child care is still costly in Liechtenstein, and the increasing demand therefore cannot be covered by profit oriented private organisations. Work at the low-income level often leads to financial problems which also directly affect child-care, as parents are forced to place their children in uncontrolled placements where the level of child care and well-being might not be sufficient and without monitoring arrangements. Promising investments in modern family policy (e.g. enlargement and flexible structures of child care facilities), installed before 2012, have not been prolonged or have been superseded due to state cost cutting measures and lower tax income in the time period from 2012 to 2016. This lack of state support most severely hits families with children and single parent households.
- A growing concern within the population of Liechtenstein are the increasing net rental costs per square meter for housing. The average costs per square meter went up from 10.5 Swiss Francs (approx. € 9.72) in 1980 to 13.3 Swiss Francs (approx. € 12.3) in 2010. This is an increase of more than 25% within three decades. This makes it more and more difficult for Liechtenstein families to finance own homes. Within the last four years, no measures have been taken by the Liechtenstein government to solve this problem. The housing policy remained unchanged, focusing primarily on supply-side subsidies for new construction and the upgrading of existing dwellings. Individuals and households with low income can be offset by government housing benefit as part of the housing subsidy system in Liechtenstein. This system protects against poverty and homelessness and covers all residents. Beside the housing benefit system, Liechtenstein has a rent allowance in place, which is based on a household income below certain thresholds (legally defined in the Act on Rent Allowance for Families). The rent allowance paid in 2015⁶ was 1.87 million Swiss francs (approx. €1.7), which shows an increase of approx. 2.2% compared to 2014 (1.83 million Swiss francs, approx. €1.67 Mio.)⁷. Nevertheless, it is a trend in Liechtenstein that the share of single parent households receiving rent allowance is high.
- On 10 December 2016 the new national Association for Human Rights was founded in Liechtenstein.⁸ The former Ombudsman's Office for Children and Young Persons is now part of the new Association for Human Rights, which is expected to result in strengthening the involvement and influence of projects and activities in the area of tackling child poverty and social exclusion, or more general promoting child well-being.

⁵ Landesrechnung Liechtenstein (National income statement) 2015:
<http://www.regierung.li/news1.aspx?id=108194&nid=7209>

⁶ By the time of finalizing this report, the statistical data for the year 2015 was not published.

⁷ More recent figures are not available. Source: <http://www.llv.li/files/asd/asd-jahresbericht-2015-mit-inhaltsverzeichnis.pdf>

⁸ Source:
https://www.gesetze.li/lilexprod/lgsystpage2.jsp?formname=showlaw&lglid=2016504000&version=1&search_text=Menschenrechte&search_loc=text&sel_lawtype=conso&compl_list=1&rechts_gebiet=0&menu=0&tablesel=0&observe_date=26.01.2017

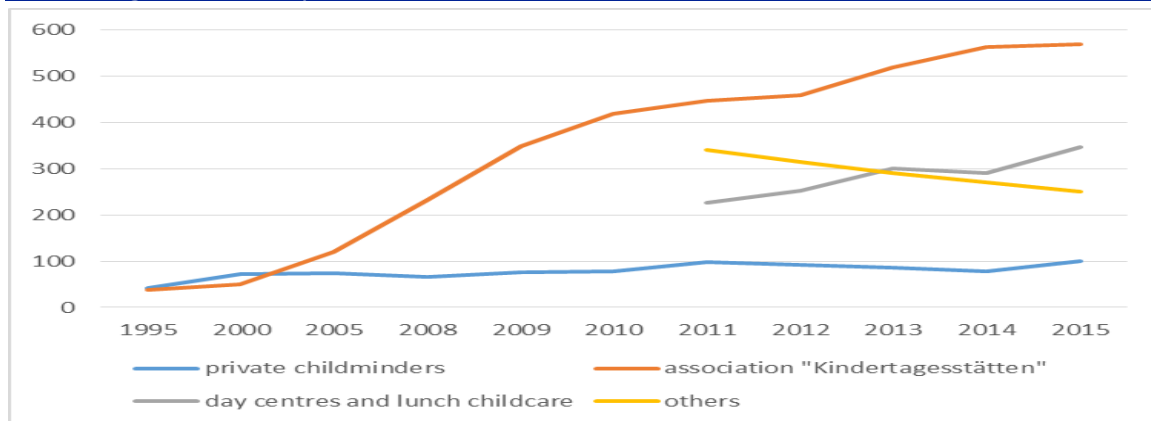
3 Pillar 1 – Access to resources

3.1 Policies to support parents' participation in the labour market

Liechtenstein does not offer any free early education or child care for children under five years old. There is a continuously growing number of parents who request such possibilities for their children to enable themselves to go back to work, but in times of fiscal consolidation, the government has refrained from any kind of measures to cope with this demand. Thus, parents with a good financial background are able to use one of the private early child-care facilities. Families with low income face difficulties in reconciling work and family life for men and women. This is one reason why there is still a high number of mothers who do not return to their work place after the paid maternity.

As a first step the family policy as part of the Liechtenstein Agenda 2020 implemented a financial support to out-of-house childcare facilities, which extended in a moderate way the number and offer of child care facilities in Liechtenstein, but did not include the setup of public early childhood education facilities. The development of child care facilities over time in Liechtenstein is shown below.

3.1. Figure: Development of children in child care facilities in Liechtenstein



Source: Development of child care facilities in Liechtenstein; http://www.liechtenstein-institut.li/Portals/0/contortionistUniverses/408/rsc/Publikation_downloadLink/Menschenrechte_Statusbericht_2015_18122016.pdf

On the other hand, Liechtenstein's industry has a real interest to improve their access to the full talent pool by ensuring reconciliation of family and working life for men and women. Thus, in 2016 two main companies in Liechtenstein enlarged respectively founded a new private day care facility to grant its employees a possibility of adequate child care during business hours. In addition, the Liechtenstein chamber of commerce launched a popular initiative, proposing additional governmental investment in early childhood education/facilities. Main arguments of those who supported the initiative were that through a higher degree of women participation in the labour market a higher household-income for these families would be generated. In addition this would lead to a higher use of the potential of well-educated mothers. This situation brought about a long and controversial discussion on discrimination of the traditional family model with only one breadwinner. Despite voters' rejection of the initiative, which was very much based on a very emotional public discussion, there was substantive and broad consensus about the need of more child care facilities in Liechtenstein.⁹ In 2017, after the government elections, the political parties in Liechtenstein have addressed very recently the increasing demand for formal childcare arrangements again. The aim of the political parties and the government is therefore to increase the availability of affordable childcare

⁹ Source: http://www.liechtenstein-institut.li/Portals/0/docs/Presseberichte/2016/2016_10_20_VB_LI_Aktuell_FZG.pdf

services as well as to extend the public financing of these services. Further requested measures are:¹⁰

- Increase the monthly child allowance (benefit paid by the Old Age and Widow's/Widower's Pension system in Liechtenstein, AHV-IV-FAK)¹¹.
- Women who try to manage both job and family are still most affected by lower household income due to part time work engagement in order to combine childcare and work. Thus, the government is requested to force employers to set up company-based/in-house child care centres and offer flexible working structures for parents by means of flexible legal frameworks, attractive social insurance and tax models, etc.
- A wide availability of low-cost childcare for families in social need (granted and eventually free of charge childcare facility).
- Change the structure of childcare facilities in a way that part-time work in a regular half-day engagement is possible (child care facilities should be open from 07:30 – 12:30). Giving employers the comfort of a structured engagement situation when providing part time working models.

While bigger companies in Liechtenstein have a better availability of financial means and resources to set up more family friendly part time working models and private child care facilities, smaller and especially small commercial enterprises are facing handicaps without state support.

Since no legal entitlement exists in Liechtenstein for part-time work vis-à-vis the employer, national law lacks any regulation to grant workers the legal right to reduce their working time on request.¹² Another weak factor within the current legislation is the fact that, as far as the authors know, there is no legal right to work from home or remotely, either temporarily or on request. It is left up to the employer and the employee to find an arrangement in which the interests of both parties are respected. Changing this legislation would give employees the possibility of part-time or flexible working time arrangements and would enable mothers to get back into working life and have a reconciliation of family and work in a sustainable way.

3.2 Policies to provide adequate living standards through an optimal combination of cash and in kind benefits

A key focus of the government's modern family policy is on granting the relevant minimum of financial support to prevent children from growing up in poverty. Thus, the basic family benefits which are directly related to children comprise:¹³

- maternity allowance with a fixed minimum level;
- a lump-sum birth allowance (also for the adoption of children under the age of 5);
- a monthly child allowance (payable until the child reaches the age of 18);
- a monthly single-parent's allowance (payable until the child reaches the age of 18).

¹⁰ Source: <http://www.vaterland.li/liechtenstein/politik/Postulat-zur-Vereinbarkeit-von-Familie-und-Beruf;art169,266956>

¹¹ The monthly child allowance amounts to 280 Swiss francs (approx. €260) per child if the family has one or two children, and it increases to 330 Swiss francs (approx. €307) per child in the case of multiple births, if there are three or more children in the family or for every child over the age of 10 years.

¹² Paragraph 1173(a) Article 36(a) of the Common Civil Code states that the employer is supposed to inform employees regarding part-time and fixed-term employment contracts. The employer shall consider requests from full-time workers who want to change to a part-time position, as far as possible. The employer is to inform his employees and the trade union about the availability of part-time work.

¹³ Source: <http://www.familienportal.li/index.php?id=71>

These cash benefits have remained unchanged since the Agenda 2020 was set in place, and they have proven to be stable measures to support families.

In Liechtenstein, the minimum income scheme is a granted financial benefit under the condition of exhausting the rights to other social protection benefits on one hand, and as personal help for individuals in terms of counselling on the other. If a Liechtenstein resident achieves an income from employment and/or social transfers (including pensions) which is below the minimum income defined by law, this person is generally entitled to social assistance. Equal to the family benefits listed above, the social assistance has remained unchanged during the last years and was not in focus of cost cutting measures enforced by the government and the parliament.

The third important benefit area is Liechtenstein’s housing policy. It focuses primarily on supply-side subsidies for new construction and the upgrading of existing dwellings. Individuals and households with low income can be offset by government housing benefit as part of the housing subsidy system in Liechtenstein. Beside the housing benefit system, Liechtenstein has a rent allowance in place, based on a household income below certain thresholds. The threshold is legally defined in the Act on Rent Allowance for Families (ARAF) on the basis of chargeable income with respect to the Liechtenstein tax law. Based on the background of rising public expenditures and reduced public income, in 2014 the government the question of whether all benefit instruments of the housing policy can be regarded as efficient. The government stated that the promotion of the housing allowances, which is granted for each minor child if the total household income is below the maximum permissible income, is not in line with the originally set target of the Housing Construction Act, as it reflects much more a measure of family support for a specific group. The Subsidy Act was therefore amended under the given financial situation. In 2014 the government presented a legal proposal to the parliament, which approved the amendment that entered into force on 1 January 2015.

4 Pillar 2 – Access to affordable quality services

After the birth, the Consultancy Services at the Office for Social Services (Amt für Soziale Dienste)¹⁴ offers family guidance, educational counselling and support in case of problems due to difficulties of integration for free, and with support from external specialists, to families living in Liechtenstein. In addition, parenting counsellors from the Red Cross organisation in Liechtenstein can advise parents at their request on the task of parenting an infant, as well as observing and evaluating the baby’s development on a regular basis. This service is free of charge and available to all persons in Liechtenstein. Additionally, there are private institutions which are financially supported by the government and which offer parental services with focus on giving parents a platform for sharing their concerns, finding support by professionals, and learning new approaches for supporting children and their wellbeing.¹⁵ Access to all these services is given without any costs and restrictions.

Children in Liechtenstein have a legal right of access to primary and secondary education and vocational training without discrimination and for free. Vocational training in Liechtenstein follows a two-track or three-track approach. The two-track approach, known as the dual system, combines on-the-job training within a company with teaching in a special vocational school. The three-track approach comprises these two elements plus a range of training courses designed to teach and develop practical skills. These two approaches combine paid employment as an apprentice or a trainee with off-the-job vocational training. This is done on a reduced hours’ basis so that young people can

¹⁴ Source: www.asd.llv.li

¹⁵ Main private institution are the «Eltern Kind Forum»: <http://www.elternkindforum.li/> ; the «schwanger.li»: <http://schweiz.schwanger.li/wir-informieren/eltern-werden>

combine school and work. They provide senior secondary school students with hands-on industry experience and the ability to work towards or complete a nationally recognised qualification, while they complete their senior school certificate.

Within the Agenda 2020 supportive measures have been launched with respect to getting young people ready and fitting them into a job. In 2015, the Liechtenstein Employment Service (AMS) established a variety of measures as follows:

- particular coaching programmes, designed on the specific needs of young people;
- assistance to young people in navigating their way through the vocational education system and to avoid them being churned through training courses that do not lead to jobs;
- supporting young people to identify, plan and work towards their career aspirations in a realistic way;
- bring young people into real-life opportunities to get a taste of varied workplace environments and obtain meaningful work experience and volunteering placements (this initiative was started in 2014 by a specific cooperation with the Liechtenstein Chamber of Commerce called "100pro!"¹⁶ and by various internship arrangements, as well as by foreign internships and apprenticeships within the MOJA project of the EU).

By law, all citizens aged 16 years or older must have health insurance in Liechtenstein. Thus, children below that age have compulsory health insurance by law which grants them access to healthcare. The state defrays the costs thereof. This provides a very high developed medical treatment to children in Liechtenstein. National law in Liechtenstein does guarantee the right to access healthcare. Thus, the compulsory health insurance guarantees protection in the event of sickness, accident and maternity.

The access to the rent allowance is based on a household income below certain thresholds. These thresholds are legally defined in the Act on Rent Allowance for Families (ARAF).

Summarizing it can be said, that the access to the above-mentioned social welfare benefits is given and social assistance is granted on a very high level. These facts are reflected in the very low rate of unemployment, of recipients of social welfare benefits and of working poors.

5 Pillar 3 – Children's right to participate

Liechtenstein offers a wide range of different activities for children. The majority of initiatives are provided by non-profit organisations and public agencies, which are financially supported by the state or municipalities. Their focus lies on children's participation in social, sporting and cultural activities regardless of their nationality, their social standing or their age. Many of the offered initiatives have been in place for many years with a very good record of accomplishment from Liechtenstein families. Especially for families who have moved to Liechtenstein, the integration into Liechtenstein's society and the possibility to interact with others through those regularly organised activities support a positive development of social behaviour. But participation in some leisure activities is dependent on the financial income of the household as e. g. equipment is not provided for free and has to be financed by the parents. An overview on the main initiatives can be found in the annex.

Since 2013 no changes in policies or mechanisms with regard to children's rights to participate in the above described initiatives have occurred. Thus, the given initiatives are in line with the family policy and the integration measures of the government and

¹⁶ Source: <http://www.100pro.li/news/aktuelles/>

therefore support the participation of all children in play, recreation, sports and cultural activities on their optional basis.

Liechtenstein’s school system is compulsory from the age of 6 to the age of 15. Following optional kindergarten, children enter primary school at the age of 6 years where they remain for 5 years. These years in primary education are followed by a middle education (lower secondary school) which is divided into three types of schools with different levels in order to meet individual needs.¹⁷ The mechanism to classify the children into one of the given middle schools is mainly driven by standardized tests, which are made during the last year in primary school. There is no individual evaluation process in place. After middle school, which complete with a lower secondary school certificate, children have to make their choice of either starting a job (by starting a vocational training) or to join the upper secondary education, which depends on the positive references in the secondary school certificate. Liechtenstein’s education mechanisms promote children’s participation in making the decisions for their future lives by selecting the type of school / school level or occupational choice.

In 2012 a group of politically engaged young Liechtenstein citizens founded for the first time a youth council. Their aim is to empower young people from the age of 15 to 28 to influence and inform about decisions that affect their lives. The youth council supports young people to get involved in their municipalities and in democracy at the national level.¹⁸ With financial support of the government and the municipalities, the youth council launched an information campaign (“easy vote”) which provides neutral election information designed for young voters to encourage them to participate in the parliament elections and to use their political rights. The concept was realised at the elections 2013 and 2017.

Summarizing it can be said, that the most common level of involving children’s participation in legal decision-making in areas that affect their lives, is asking children to comment on their individual situation. Thus, children are involved in decisions which have an impact on them as individuals, but not in standard processes to comment on proposed new policies and services.

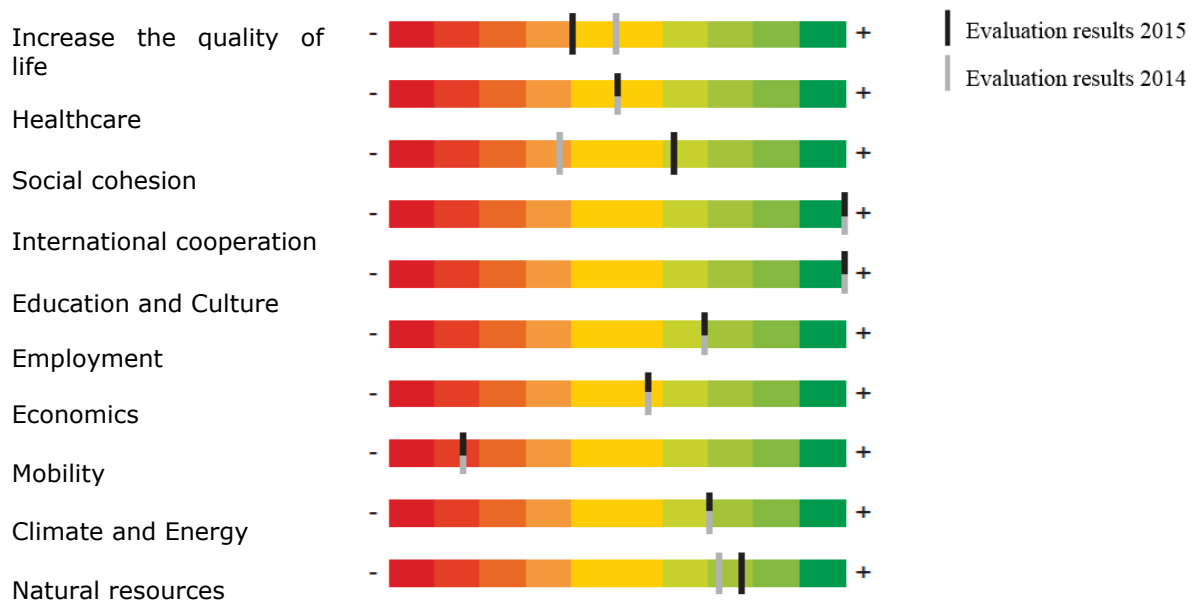
6 Addressing child poverty and social exclusion and child well-being in the European Semester

As Liechtenstein is not part of the European Union the social Investment Package of the European Commission is not applicable. Liechtenstein itself has set up a system of monitoring the Agenda 2020 progress by an independent institution. The latest review of the Agenda 2020 was made in 2015. The following chart shows an overview of the evaluation for each indicator comparing the results of 2014 and 2015:

4.1. Figure: Agenda 2020 evaluation results 2015 and 2014 compared

¹⁷ These are *oberschule* (four-years and equivalent to grammar schools), *realschule* (four-year programs with practical applications) and *gymnasiums* which follow 3 year academic curricula. In the latter case a fourth year follows that may be completed in any one of these institutions.

¹⁸ Source: <http://jugendrat.li/>



Source: Agenda 2020 evaluation results 2015: <http://www.llv.li/files/as/indikatorenen-2015-internet.pdf>

Summarizing it can be said, that the evaluation results of 2015 showed a very good level of target achievement. Social cohesion, the benefit system, and state contribution to all kinds of support measures targeting child well-being have been held up and remained unchanged. As these supportive instruments have already been on a high level in comparison with other European countries in 2013, their positive effect on the situation of Liechtenstein’s families continued.

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Source: <http://www.regierung.li/news1.aspx?id=108194&nid=7209>

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Gesetz über den Verein für Menschenrechte (Association for Human Rights)

Source:

https://www.gesetze.li/lilexprod/lgsystpage2.jsp?formname=showlaw&lgblid=2016504000&version=1&search_text=Menschenrechte&search_loc=text&sel_lawtype=conso&compl_list=1&rechts_gebiet=0&menu=0&tablesel=0&observe_date=26.01.2017

Old Age and Widow's/Widower's Pension system in Liechtenstein, AHV-IV-FAK

Source: <https://www.ahv.li/>

Familien Portal Liechtenstein, Government of Liechtenstein

Source: basic family benefits directly related to children

Eltern Kind Forum

Source: <http://www.elternkindforum.li/>

«schwanger.li» organisation

Source: <http://schweiz.schwanger.li/wir-informieren/eltern-werden>

Jugendrat Liechtenstein

Source: <http://jugendrat.li/>

Monitoringbericht Agenda 2020, Government of Liechtenstein

Source: <http://www.llv.li/files/as/indikatoren-2015-internet.pdf>

Annex: Summary Table – Progress since February 2013

Policy area or approach	Overall have policies/ approaches been strengthened, stayed much the same or been weakened since February 2013 (in the light of the EU Recommendation)?		
	Stronger	Little Change	Weaker
Governance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-dimensional strategy with synergies between policies Children's rights approach & effective mainstreaming of children's policy and rights Evidence-based approach Involvement of relevant stakeholders (including children) 		X X X x	
Access to resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents' participation in the labour market Child & family income support 		x x	
Access to services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ECEC Education Health Housing & living environment Family support & alternative care 		x x x x x	
Children's right to participate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> in play, recreation, sport & cultural activities in decision making 		X x	
Addressing child poverty and social exclusion in the European Semester		na	
Mobilising relevant EU financial instruments		na	

Annex: Summary Table – Official initiatives to support children's participation in social live

topic	association	link	content
Social	Association of playgroups	www.spielgruppenverein-fl.li	Umbrella organisation for all playgroups - age 3 – 6 years, social interaction and child welfare
Social	Consultancy Services by the Office for Social Services (Amt für Soziale Dienste)	www.asd.llv.li	Educational counselling, family guidance; support in case of problems due to difficulties of integration
Social	University of Liechtenstein	http://www.uni.li/kinderuni	Knowhow transfer for children with professional teachers on various topics
Social	Eltern Kind Forum	www.elternkindforum.li	Educational counselling, family guidance; child care facilities
Social	Vereinigung der Kindertagesstätten	www.kita.li	Umbrella organisation for all child-care facilities
Social and cultural	aha	www.aha.li	Recreational activities for children and young persons, counselling on education, money, organisation of vacation work
Social	Müze	http://mueze.li/	Different activities for young children to support the interaction with other children (including parents)
Social	Stiftung offene Jugendarbeit	http://www.oja.li/	Open youth work with local meeting point and activities per municipality
Sport	Liechtensteiner Alpenverein	http://www.alpenverein.li/Verein/JugendundFamilie.aspx	Common sports activities
Sports	Sport clubs	http://sportlich.li/de/sportvereine.html	Almost all Liechtenstein sports clubs offer specific training, groups, activities for children and young people
Cultural	Theatre Liechtenstein	http://www.tak.li/Kinder%7CJugend/TAKProjekte.aspx	Specific program and cultural workshops for children and young people

