



EUROPEAN CLUSTER
COLLABORATION PLATFORM

Country factsheet

Liechtenstein

An initiative of the European Union



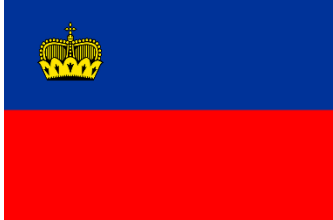


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Introduction



This document presents an overview of the cluster policy in Liechtenstein. Given the importance to contextualise the cluster policies (and related) analysed in the factsheets, a comprehensive outlook of the country in socioeconomic terms can be consulted in the [Economic and financial data on Liechtenstein](#) report by the Government of the Principality of Liechtenstein.

As a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing Russian military aggression against Ukraine, European as well as global economies have been subject to severe output losses. In response, policymakers at various levels have acted decisively and made very significant financial resources available to tackle the threat of a prolonged downturn.

The Principality of Liechtenstein reacted to and addressed the COVID-19 pandemic with a policy mix of direct grants, credit guarantees by the Government for corporate loans (for SMEs), tax deferrals and various labour market measures.¹

In the following, a succinct overview of the cluster policy in Liechtenstein will be provided. The structure of this factsheet generally encompasses:

- 1) an overview of the national cluster policy,
- 2) an assessment of the state of play of the national cluster policy.

¹ https://www.esrb.europa.eu/home/search/coronavirus/countries/html/esrb.covidpmc_Liechtenstein.en.html

01

National cluster policy, programmes and initiatives



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1. National cluster policy, programmes and initiatives




In this section we provide an overview of a national platform initiative on digitalisation, which resembles a classical cluster policy.

The below table showcases information on related aspects which constitute the approach (beginning with 'Policy Objectives', following with 'Policy Focus', etc.).



Within the table the text presented in bold (black) depicts standardised categories across country factsheets (56 in total for 2022), which are applied for comparative purposes. This is followed by a complementary descriptive text to provide more insights about the cluster policy in Liechtenstein.

Policy type:	Broad policy (Digital transition)
Policy name:	digital-liechtenstein.li
POLICY OBJECTIVES 	<p>Strengthening cooperation between companies or industry and RTDI actors.</p> <p>Increasing competitiveness and boosting scale-up of SMEs</p> <p>Supporting internationalisation activities</p> <p>Fostering R&D activities, technology development and implementation</p> <p>Fostering innovation and strengthening innovation ecosystems</p> <p>Promoting entrepreneurship, start-ups and spin-offs</p> <p>Promoting employment and upgrading skills and competences</p> <p>While there are no classical cluster organisations in the Principality, the digital-liechtenstein.li initiative is the central platform for digital innovation and networking for Liechtenstein. The initiative is under the patronage of the Principality and the government and is supported by more than 50 companies and organisations. The initiative bundles the relevant forces from politics, business and science, creates access to relevant networks and enables the crucial transfer of know-how for the digital transformation.</p>






Policy type:	Broad policy (Digital transition)
Policy name:	digital-liechtenstein.li
POLICY FOCUS 	<p>Cross-sectoral</p> <p>The digital roadmap highlights key technology trends and subsequently shows which opportunities and challenges arise for Liechtenstein as a result of digitalisation. The digital roadmap Liechtenstein formulates recommendations for action for politics, business and science and aims to initiate a broad exchange of opinions among the public about the opportunities and risks of digitalisation for Liechtenstein. The implementation of the concrete measures and recommendations for action takes place after consultation with the involved groupings in coordination with all stakeholders and politics.</p>
RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITIES 	<p>Both drafting and implementation</p> <p>The Principality of Liechtenstein</p>
BENEFICIARIES 	<p>Research organisations</p> <p>Academic institutions</p> <p>Technology centres</p> <p>NGOs</p> <p>SMEs</p> <p>Large firms</p> <p>Business associations</p> <p>Policy makers</p>



Policy type:		Broad policy (Digital transition)
Policy name:		digital-liechtenstein.li
		In order to promote the innovative strength of Liechtenstein as a business location in the area of digital transformation, an innovation and digital lab shall be established with the aim of intensifying the transfer of knowledge and technology among economic actors and between business and science. The lab should ensure that SMEs, which do not have the necessary know-how, also have access to it.
INSTRUMENTS 	Financial	Support to R&D projects, SMEs becoming cluster members, etc. Financing networking events Innovation: voucher, support to hire PhDs, cooperation with R&I actors
	Technical assistance	Support for soft skills development: coaching, management training, upskilling/reskilling
	Explanation	
HISTORY 	Period	Unlimited
	Ending year <i>(for policies with limited period)</i>	
	Starting year	2017
	Explanation	The initiative was officially launched in 2017. The defined goals are intended to ensure that Liechtenstein exploits the opportunities of digitalisation for the benefit of the population and the economy and is one of the most modern countries in the world in terms of digitalisation by 2025. Liechtenstein is currently working on an updated version of the Digital Roadmap, which is expected to be released in fall 2022.



Policy type:		Broad policy (Digital transition)
Policy name:		digital-liechtenstein.li
BUDGET 	Overall	
	Annual	EUR 0,75 million
	Source of funding	10% public funding 90% private contributions
POLICY EVALUATION 	Availability	ex-ante
	Results	
POLICY ALIGNMENT WITH THE EU PRIORITIES 		Digitalisation

Source: ECCP (2022)

02

State of play of cluster policy



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2. State of play of cluster policy

This section presents an overview on the state of play of cluster policy in Liechtenstein in the form of a quantitative and qualitative assessment. The data below illustrates how the country ranks in terms of **maturity of cluster policy** at the national level. The maturity assessment is based on a combination of factors presented in Chapter 2, which receive a score based on the existence or absence of a given element in the cluster policy. The regional cluster policy example is not included in this assessment.

Note: the maturity assessment does not reflect the performance of a country, but only the degree of development of their national cluster policy at the moment of data collection (Q3 2022). The assessment illustrates how the country scores for each of the four criteria (policy scope, continuity of cluster policies, evidence of performance, cluster support instruments) compared to the maximum score that they can reach. Please refer to the Annex for the detailed overview of the categories and the scoring system.

The table below presents an overview of **the maturity assessment for Liechtenstein for 2022**. The total score of Liechtenstein is 1 point out of 8.

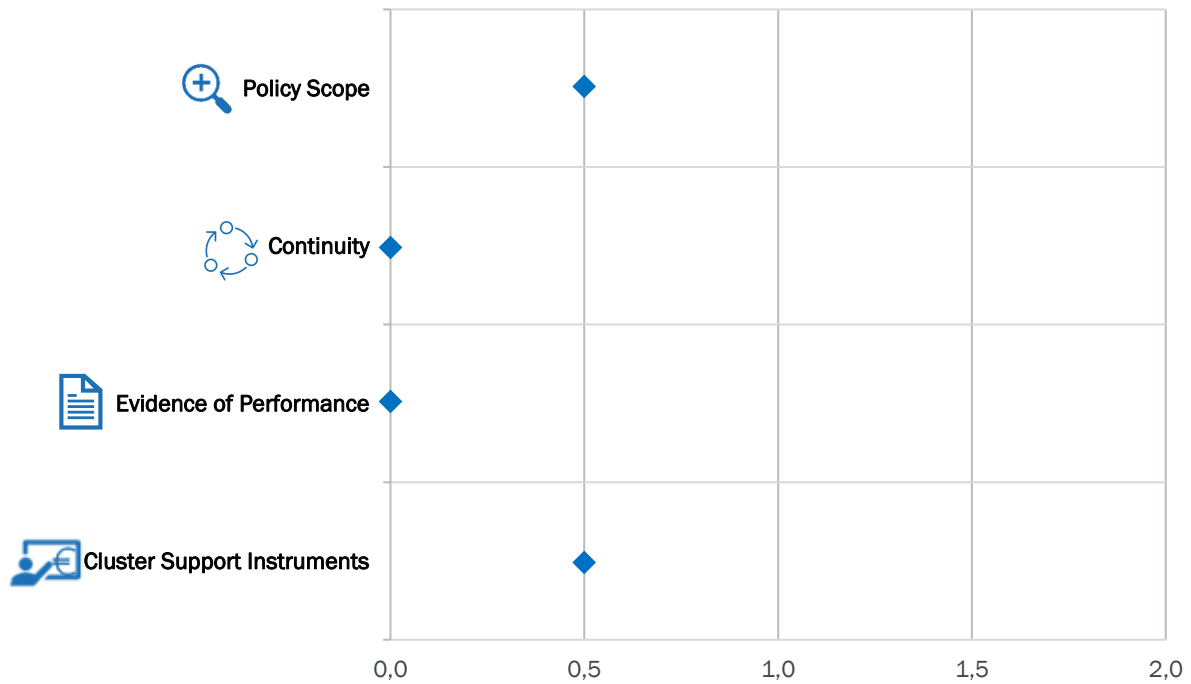
Liechtenstein	MATURITY ASSESSMENT	Max score	Actual score
POLICY SCOPE	Absence of cluster policy	0	
	Broad policy	0,5	0,5
	Sectoral policy	1	
	National and/or regional cluster policy	2	
CONTINUITY	No cluster policy available	0	0
	Cluster policy established recently	0,5	
	Cluster policy established between over 2 and 10 years	1	
	Cluster policy established over 10 years ago	2	
EVIDENCE OF PERFORMANCE	No evaluation and / or monitoring available	0	0
	Existence of evaluations of past policies	0,5	
	Existence of evaluations of past policies	1	
	Existence of monitoring and ex-ante or ongoing / interim evaluation	2	
CLUSTER SUPPORT INSTRUMENTS	No instruments for cluster development	0	
	Financial support for cluster development in the broader and / or sectoral policy	0,5	0,5
	Financial or technical support for cluster development in dedicated cluster policy	1	
	Financial and technical support for cluster development in dedicated cluster policy	2	
TOTAL (8)			1

Source: ECCP (2022)



Drawing from the table above that showcases the scored points in Israel's cluster policy, the Figure below portrays the **degree of maturity** across four categories related to the national level cluster policy.

Figure 1: Maturity of cluster policy - Liechtenstein



Source: ECCP (2022)

The text below provides a **qualitative description** of the state of play of the cluster policy in Liechtenstein, which is complementary to the maturity assessment presented above.

Policy scope

Liechtenstein has no national cluster-specific policy and is thus not actively developing cluster policy. It does however use the digitalisation roadmap to intensify the transfer of knowledge and technology among economic actors and between business and science.

Continuity

The 2017 digital-liechtenstein.li initiative is the central platform for digital innovation and networking for Liechtenstein. The initiative is under the patronage of the Principality and the government and is supported by more than 50 companies and organisations. The initiative bundles the relevant forces from politics, business and science, creates access to relevant networks and enables the crucial transfer of know-how for the digital transformation.

The defined goals are intended to ensure that Liechtenstein exploits the opportunities of digitalisation for the benefit of the population and the economy and is one of the most modern countries in the world in terms of digitalisation by 2025. Liechtenstein is currently working on an updated version of the Digital Roadmap, which is expected to be released in the fall of 2022.



Evidence of performance

There is no policy evaluation.

Cluster support instruments

The digital roadmap Liechtenstein formulates recommendations for action for politics, business and science and aims to initiate a broad exchange of opinions among the public about the opportunities and risks of digitalisation for Liechtenstein. The implementation of concrete measures and recommendations for action takes place after consultation with the involved groupings in coordination with all stakeholders and politics.

Cross-regional / international cooperation

While there are no cluster organisations in Liechtenstein, individual companies and research organisations are involved in cross-border cluster initiatives, such as the Konstanz-based [BioLAGO](#) cluster for the regional health industry.

Bibliography



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Annex

Criterion of maturity assessment	Description	Scoring (points between 0 and 2)
Policy scope	assessment whether the country has a dedicated cluster policy, or cluster creation and/or development is targeted through broader policies, e.g. foreign trade policies, labour and social policies or specific sectoral policies, e.g. industrial policy tourism policies, agriculture policies	absence of cluster policy = 0 existence of broader policies = 0,5 existence of specific sectoral policies = 1 existence of targeted cluster policies = 2
Continuity of cluster policies	assessment of the duration and experience of the country in carrying out cluster policies. This criterion assesses only existence of targeted cluster policies and not broader policies or sectoral policies	absence of policies supporting cluster development = 0 cluster policy established recently (within the last 2 years) = 0,5 cluster policy established between over 2 and 10 years = 1 cluster policy established over 10 years ago = 2
Evidence of performance	assessment whether there are evaluations of past and ongoing policies and a monitoring system in place. The existence of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms determines the degree of policy development in the country	no evaluation and / or monitoring available = 0 existence of evaluations of past policies, e.g. ex-ante = 0,5 existence of monitoring or an ongoing / interim evaluation =1 existence of monitoring and ex-ante or ongoing / interim evaluation =2
Cluster Support Instruments	assessment whether the policies provide any instruments to support the policy implementation, being these financial and/or technical support	no instruments for cluster development =0 financial support for cluster development in the broader and / or sectoral policy = 0,5 financial or technical support for cluster development in dedicated cluster policy = 1 financial and technical support for cluster development in dedicated cluster policy = 2

Source: ECCP (2022)