

Liechtenstein financial centre

Thinking in generations

The Association of Liechtenstein Charitable Foundations and Trusts

Within Europe, Liechtenstein foundation law is considered "state of the art". In recent years, Liechtenstein has developed into a philanthropy centre at the heart of Europe.

The Government of Liechtenstein has defined the promotion of philanthropy as an important pillar of its financial centre strategy. Philanthropic involvement is not just seen as an element of the financial centre, but also as a societal necessity with a positive long-term impact on society as a whole.

Thanks to the internationally competitive conditions, the number of common-benefit foundations in Liechtenstein has risen steadily in recent years. At the end of 2020 1,362 common-benefit foundations were registered in the Principality. A voluntary survey conducted in 2019 on funding volume and funding areas was answered by 340 common-benefit foundations. In 2018, these 340 foundations distributed a funding volume worth CHF 190 million to common-benefit projects and institutions in Liechtenstein and abroad. Funding areas are diverse and include education and training, development cooperation, research and science, health and medicine, art and culture, social issues as well as environment and climate protection. The survey underscores the positive contribution of common-benefit foundations towards social solidarity and the country's international reputation.

Today, philanthropy offers room for innovation and private commitment. Common-benefit foundations often provide impulses and new ideas in society. Liechtenstein has a liberal foundation law. This creates ideal conditions for philanthropic activities. Liechtenstein foundation law is attractive to philanthropists thanks to its clear definitions and boundaries it provides, in particular in respect of foundation governance. It therefore enjoys an excellent international reputation.

With the total revision of the Foundation Law an effective supervisory instrument was also established, the Liechtenstein Foundation Supervisory Authority (STIFA). In addition, the University of Liechtenstein has a chair specialising in foundation law. This consequently helps disseminate and develop know-how across the Liechtenstein financial centre.

Contact

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As the umbrella organisation for associated foundations and trusts, the Association of Liechtenstein Charitable Foundations and Trusts ("Vereinigung liechtensteinischer gemeinnütziger Stiftungen und Trusts" - "VLGST") is dedicated to strengthening the interests of the philanthropy sector in Liechtenstein, promotes the positioning of the location and advocates standards and professionalism. It promotes common-benefit causes in general through the cooperation between various common-benefit foundations. The association offers and arranges services for common-benefit foundations and trusts and nurtures cooperation with other organisations in the field of philanthropy. Interests are to be safeguarded vis-à-vis public authorities and supported by public relations work. The association is a member of the Donors and Foundations Networks in Europe DAFNE.