

**Universal Periodic Review (29th session, Jan-Feb 2018)**  
**Contribution of UNESCO**

[Liechtenstein](#)

**I. Background and framework**

Scope of international obligations: Human rights treaties which fall within the competence of UNESCO and international instruments adopted by UNESCO.

Title	Date of ratification, accession or succession	Declarations /reservations	Recognition of specific competences of treaty bodies	Reference to the rights within UNESCO's fields of competence
Convention against Discrimination in Education 1960	Not a UNESCO Member State and not a State Party to the Convention	Reservations to this Convention shall not be permitted		Right to education
Convention on Technical and Vocational Education 1989	Not a UNESCO Member State and not a State Party to the Convention			Right to education

**Right to education**

**II. Promotion and protection of human rights on the ground**

1. The **Constitution of 2003** does not explicitly recognize the right to education, but provides that “the State shall devote particular attention to education and schooling [...]” and specifies the conditions applicable to free and compulsory education, as well as religious instruction and private education. There is no explicit non-discrimination clause in the Constitution. However, the Constitution lays down the basic principle of equality.
2. The **School Act** (No. 7/1972) provides the main **legal framework** in education and presents the structure of the education system. General compulsory education is organized for a period of nine years. Other legal texts include The Higher Education Act (2004), the Vocational Training Act (2008), the Scholarship Law (2004), the Law on the Equal Treatment of Disabled Persons (2006). The Liechtenstein Act on Children and Youth (2009) protects children and young persons from discrimination due to sexism, racism, political radicalisation or violence.
3. Since it is not a UNESCO Member State, Liechtenstein is not bound by the obligation to submit periodic national reports to UNESCO on the implementation of the Organization's

standard-setting instruments. Liechtenstein has never submitted a periodic report on the education-related instruments of UNESCO.

### **Freedom of opinion and expression**

#### ➤ Constitutional and Legislative Framework:

4. The Constitution of Liechtenstein provides for freedom of expression under Article 40 which states “every person shall be entitled to freely express his opinion and to communicate his ideas by word of mouth or in writing, print or pictures within the limits of the law and morality; no censorship may be exercised except in respect of public performances and exhibitions”<sup>1</sup>.
5. The Information Act of 1999 allows any person to obtain files from state and municipal bodies and private individuals who are performing public tasks<sup>2</sup>.
6. Defamation remains criminalized under Liechtenstein’s Criminal Code with up to three years in prison for offences considered libelous.

#### ➤ Implementation of legislation:

7. A Media Commission (Medienkommission), whose members are appointed by the Parliament, is responsible for overseeing broadcasting matters. The Media Commission works in cooperation with the Government<sup>3</sup>.

#### ➤ Safety of journalists

8. No killings of journalists were reported in Liechtenstein since 2008.

### **III. Recommendations**

9. Below are the recommendations made within the framework of the 2nd cycle of the Working Group (23rd session) on the Universal Periodic Review (March 2013)<sup>4</sup>:

**94.49.** *Continue paying closer attention to the gender and diversity programmes at education institutions.*

**94.66.** *Continue its commendable efforts to promote understanding between nationals and foreign residents, as well as its efforts in the area of education in ethnic and religious tolerance.*

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/details.jsp?id=10157>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.access-info.org/wp-content/uploads/Liechtenstein.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.obs.coe.int/en/country/liechtenstein/tv>

<sup>4</sup> <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G13/125/25/PDF/G1312525.pdf?OpenElement>

**94.72.** *Scale up efforts in the fight against all types of gender-based violence and adopt continuous and permanent education and awareness-raising policies in this area.*

### **Review and specific recommendations**

10. During the last UPR cycle, Liechtenstein was recommended to take additional steps regarding gender equality and diversity programmes, to promote ethnic and religious tolerance in education and to struggle against gender-based violence, including through educational measures. However, to the extent of our knowledge, no specific action has been taken by Liechtenstein in these areas. Liechtenstein could be further encouraged to adopt measures promoting gender equality, diversity and non-discrimination in education.
11. Since Liechtenstein is not a UNESCO Member State and therefore does not report on the application of UNESCO's education-related normative instruments, the Organization has only access to limited information on the country.
12. Regarding the legal coverage of the right to education within the national legal framework, only little reference could be found. Indeed, neither the Constitution nor the School Act explicitly recognize the right to education. No recent amendments could be located on this matter. Therefore, Liechtenstein could be invited to enshrine the right to education in its national legal framework.

#### ➤ **Specific recommendations:**

1. Liechtenstein could be encouraged to enshrine the right to education in its Constitution and School Act.
2. Liechtenstein could be encouraged to adopt further measures promoting gender equality, diversity and non-discrimination in education.

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### **Freedom of expression**

13. Government is encouraged to decriminalize defamation and make it part of the civil code in accordance with international standards.

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### **Freedom of scientific research and the right to benefit from scientific progress and its applications**

14. Liechtenstein has not submitted its National Report on the implementation of the Recommendation on the Status of Scientific Researchers (1974) for the Second Consultation covering the period from 2013 to 2016 (<http://on.unesco.org/2hL0xGz>). Therefore Liechtenstein is encouraged to report to UNESCO on any legislative or other steps undertaken by it to ensure the application of this international standard-setting

instrument in line with the online monitoring questionnaire (<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002468/246830E.pdf>). When replying to the 2013-2016 monitoring questionnaire, Liechtenstein is kindly invited to pay particular attention to the legal provisions and regulatory frameworks which ensure that scientific researchers have the responsibility and the right to work in the spirit of the principles enshrined in the 1974 Recommendation. The issues under consideration are: autonomy and freedom of research and expression; academic freedom to openly communicate on research results; participation of scientific researchers in the definition of the aims and objectives of research; compliance of research methods with respect for universal human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as ecological and social responsibility; freedom of movement of researchers and respect for their economic, social and cultural rights.