



www.ddsi.org

National Dependability Policy Environments

LIECHTENSTEIN

Report Version: Final
Report Preparation Date: 1 November 2002
Classification: Public
Preparation led by: Ernst Basler + Partner (CH)

Contract Start Date: 1 June 2001 Duration: 18 months
Project Co-ordinator: RAND Europe (NL)

Partner: RAND Europe (NL, Project Coordinator); King's College London (UK);
Cell Network (S); IABG (D); Almaweb (I); LINK (P); ELIAMEP (GR);
Ernst Basler + Partner (CH), Isdefe (E)



IST-2000-29202

Project funded by the European Community
under the “Information Society Technology”
Programme (1998-2002)

Table of Contents

Overview of the Country’s Information Infrastructure 3

Main ICT Regulatory and Legal Developments 3

Government and Industrial Activities Related to Dependability 4

Overview of the Country's Information Infrastructure

The Principality of Liechtenstein¹ has a total area of 160 square kilometres and a population of approximately 32,500 inhabitants.² Despite its small size and limited natural resources, Liechtenstein has developed into a prosperous, highly industrialised economy with a vital financial service sector.

In Liechtenstein in 1997 there were approximately 20,000 telephone lines, 21,000 radios and 12,000 televisions in use. 29 telecommunication providers³ are registered and there are four mobile communication providers. One UMTS licence has been allocated in 2001. Although a study on the use of ICT and trends on information society in Liechtenstein is currently being prepared, it is important to emphasise that all schools in Liechtenstein are connected to the Internet. At the same time, private users have a choice of ways to connect to the net (by phone or by CATV). Hence, a high level of availability and use of ICT can be expected in Liechtenstein.

Main ICT Regulatory and Legal Developments

In November 2001, the government of Liechtenstein published a strategic report on e-government. The project is currently in the planning phase and the first steps should be realised by the end of 2002. In July 2001, the government decided to participate in a project for an Internet portal (www.liechtenstein.li) launched by the Prince of Liechtenstein. The public launch of the project was in January 2002 when the site went on-line. The government provides the legal framework for e-commerce. There are different private e-commerce projects for example in the financial sector where security aspects are taken into account.

The development of an information society is of enormous importance for Liechtenstein given that the Principality benchmarks its activities according to developments in other European countries. E-government is expected to play an important role in the information society in Liechtenstein, in order to enhance on-line public access.

The Law of Telecommunications of 20 June 1996 is the centrepiece of the country's legal framework in this area.⁴ In 1998 important steps towards deregulation were initiated along the same lines as in other European Countries. In 1999 the postal contract between Liechtenstein and Switzerland covering regulatory aspects of telecommunication was replaced by a new contract with the Swiss OFCOM (Office of Communication). Furthermore, a new Office of Communication (Amt für Kommunikation) was instituted in Liechtenstein, now constituting the regulatory office for telecommunications services.

¹ See <http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/> (last visited on 17 December 2001).

² Das Fürstentum Liechtenstein – Daten und Fakten, <http://www.liechtenstein-icj-case.li/fuerstentum/59.html> (last visited on 17 December 2001).

³ See <http://www.ak.li/konzessionen/Konzessionsregister.pdf>, <http://www.ak.li/konzessionen/Konzessionsregister.pdf>. The main telecommunication company is Liechtenstein Telekom and major ISPs are .com.li, Creativemedia AG and EUnet AG. (visited on 17 December 2001).

⁴ Telekommunikationsgesetz, <http://www.ak.li/Rechtsgrundlagen/gesetz.htm> (last visited on 17 December 2001).

The ordinance on data privacy in the telecommunications sector regulates basic privacy requirements of ISDN and mobile telecommunication services.⁵ Meanwhile, Liechtenstein implemented the EU-Ordinance No. 2887/2000 regulating unbundling of the local loop (ULL) on 1 October 2001. Moreover, a commission is currently preparing a legal framework for debate in Parliament regarding e-commerce. The main aspects are electronic signature and authentication. As expected, these developments are closely related to Switzerland's progress.

In 1998 a new Law of Information was introduced in Parliament. Its main objective is to promote an open information policy for the public administration. Furthermore, principle duties and rights of the press were defined. In this context, initiatives to foster new electronic media such as e-commerce, video-on-demand and multimedia will be launched. A further outcome is a revision of the copyright law.⁶

The education system of the Principality is provided with high speed access to the Internet and Intranet in light of the "School Web 2000" initiative.

Government and Industrial Activities Related to Dependability

Both government and industry are aware of the issue of dependability. Internal discussions are currently underway and industry is simultaneously trying to find an appropriate level of security, for example in the financial sector. More information will be available after the publication of a report outlining initiatives and findings from these discussions.

⁵ Verordnung vom 3. Juli 2001 über den Datenschutz im Bereich der Telekommunikation (TelDSV), available at <http://www.ak.li/Rechtsgrundlagen/Verordnung2001129.htm> (visited on 3 February 2002).

⁶ IviR – Publications- Natali Helberger – ‚Liechtenstein‘, <http://www.ivir.nl/publications/helberger/Liechtenstein.html> (last visited on 17 December 2001).