

Information sheet

October 2019

The VLGST unites the charitable grant-making foundations and trusts of Liechtenstein and safeguards the interests of the philanthropic sector. It promotes Liechtenstein as a philanthropic center, supports the exchange of experience, and advocates for standards and professionalism. The association was formed in 2010 and currently holds 88 members and 3 associated partners.

Purpose

The purpose of the association is to promote and increase awareness of the concept of philanthropy, in particular the possibilities and capabilities of public-benefit foundations and trusts in Liechtenstein.

As means to achieving this purpose, a network of charitable foundations and trusts was established to exercise political influence and promote the issue of charitable causes in general via collaboration between various nonprofit organisations. Interests are also represented towards the authorities and supported in general by public relations work. The association fosters collaboration with other organisations in the philanthropy sector and can provide or broker services for non-profit foundations and trusts.

The Liechtenstein government strives to develop philanthropy as an important pillar of location policy and to use it as a chance to strengthen Liechtenstein as an economic and financial centre. These efforts are expressly welcomed and supported by the VLGST. Even today, charitable foundations make a substantial contribution to the reputation of Liechtenstein as a financial centre.

Networking

Through intensive cooperation among foundations and trusts on the one hand and with public authorities and organisations on the other, the VLGST wants to support stronger national and

international networking between charitable foundations in Liechtenstein.

The VLGST places special emphasis on international networking both on a bilateral and on a multilateral scale. For example, there is close cooperation with SwissFoundations, the organisation of Swiss grant-making foundations. There are also contacts with ProFonds, the umbrella organisation of charitable foundations in Switzerland, and with the Federal Association of German Foundations.

On a European level, VLGST is a member of DAFNE (Donors and Foundations Networks in Europe), the federation of national associations of charitable foundations. Thus, the VLGST - and with it, Liechtenstein - is represented in the relevant European organisation.

There are also good contacts to the European Foundation Center (EFC), the leading European association of charitable foundations, which also has two Liechtenstein foundations (Medicor Foundation, Nando and Elsa Peretti Foundation) as a member. Good connections also exist with the CEPS (Center for Philanthropy Studies) of the University of Basel.

An important partner for the association is the Chair of Company, Foundation and Trust Law of the University of Liechtenstein, with which there is permanent and good cooperation.

Training and further education

Modern foundation law, good know-how in banks and trust companies, and the chair at the University of Liechtenstein are important pillars for a strong philanthropy sector. For the future, the VLGST believes that there is a requirement for systematic training and further education of the people acting in this field. In cooperation with the CEPS in Basel, an education tool for foundation management has been developed for Liechtenstein. The seminars have been offered yearly since 2016, focussing on a variety of key areas.

Membership and associated partners

The articles of association of the VLGST provide for the membership of foundations that meet the requirements of the articles in full. However, there is also the option of making use of the association's services as an associated partner.

Membership of the association is open to non-profit foundations and trusts under Liechtenstein law that are based in Liechtenstein, are exclusively and irrevocably non-profit, have their own assets, use these assets and any income earned on them for non-profit purposes, have appointed an auditing body in accordance with legal principles and are not fundamentally dependent on donations or collections for their activities.

Non-profit foundations and trusts under Liechtenstein law that do not meet the requirements for membership or for other reasons do not wish to become a member can still benefit by becoming an associated partner. This status will enable them to attend events and benefit from services and training. They have no active or passive voting rights.

Subscription fees were defined as follows at the inaugural general meeting on 15 December 2010:

- One-off joining fee for members and associated partners: CHF 5'000.00
- Annual subscription fee for members and associated partners: CHF 1'000.00

Board

The Board of Association of Liechtenstein Charitable Foundations e.V. comprises the following individuals: Hans Brunhart (Chairman), Dr. Peter Goop, Dr. Christine Rhomberg, Christian Verling and Dr. Thomas Zwiefelhofer.

Administrative Office

Dagmar Buehler-Nigsch serves as Managing Director and leads the operative activities of the association. Maria Bieberschulte and Mag. iur. Alice Naegele support the office, both in the capacity as projects managers.

Contact

Association of Liechtenstein Charitable Foundations and Trusts e.V.

Aeulestrasse 6, Postfach 882
LI-9490 Vaduz
Principality of Liechtenstein
Tel +423 / 399 19 11
info@vlgst.li
www.vlgst.li

Twitter: @VLGST_LI
LinkedIn: linkedin.com/company/vlgst