

# The Challenges of Citizenship in a Small European State

Liechtenstein

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# Defining Citizenship (1)

- How is citizenship defined in your country?
  - No definition in citizenship law
  - Combination of municipal and national citizenship
  - Liechtenstein passport/ID
  - Full political rights only for LIE citizens (elections, direct democracy)
  - Full rights of residence for LIE citizens – return to LIE whenever wanted

## Defining Citizenship (2)

- How does the general public / NGOs / the state ... perceive the basis and rights of citizenship? Is there agreement?
  - Agreement on basis and rights of citizens
  - Debate about access to citizenship
    - By birth: worldwide for children of LIE citizens
    - Naturalisation: long-term duration of residence; shorter term after marriage; no dual citizenship
  - Debate about rights of LIE citizens abroad
    - Political rights: Not admitted to elections and popular votes

# Routes to Citizenship

- Explain what are the main avenues for securing citizenship in your country.
  - By birth: all children of LIE citizens worldwide
  - After marriage: facilitated naturalisation
    - Conditions: 5 years of marriage or registered partnership; 10 years of residence (years after marriage count double)
  - After long-term residence: facilitated naturalisation
    - Conditions: 30 years (years before age of 20 count double)
  - Stateless persons
    - Conditions: Born in LIE; stateless since birth; 5 years of residence
  - Via popular vote
    - Popular vote in one of the eleven municipalities
    - Condition: 10 years of residence

# Types of Citizenship

- What categories of citizenship are possible in your country?
  - Only national citizenship in combination with local citizenship (municipality)
- Is dual/multiple citizenship allowed?
  - Allowed for LIE citizens
    - cf. children of couples with multiple citizenship; after marriage with a foreigner etc.
    - 25% of LIE citizens with residence in LIE with dual citizenship
  - Not allowed in naturalisation
- Can citizenship be offered to foreigners in exchange for services rendered? Under what conditions?
  - No

# Challenges to Citizenship (1)

- Explain what are the main challenges that emerge as a consequence of the citizenship regime to your country.
  - High percentage of foreigners (2018: 34.0%)
  - High demands in naturalisation
    - Facilitated naturalisation: language skills, 30 years of residence, no dual citizenship etc.
    - Ordinary naturalisation: local popular vote; 10 years of residence etc.
  - Many foreigners are long-term residents, but still not naturalised
    - No political rights (elections, referendums)
    - Integration into the political life difficult (committees etc.)
  - Consequence: 1/3 of the people without political rights

## Challenges to Citizenship (2)

- How does being a SMALL STATE nuance / exacerbate / influence these main challenges that have emerged as a consequence of citizenship policies in your country.
  - “Exclusiveness” of LIE citizenship influences discussion in society, parliament and government about citizenship
  - LIE citizenship perceived as symbol of national identity
  - High share of foreigners widely accepted
  - Most foreigners with long-term residence and high level of integration
  - Most foreigners from neighbouring states
  - Restrictive naturalisation policy widely accepted

# Responses to Citizenship

- Explain what are the main strategies and policies that have been developed (by the State, by NGOs, by local communities . . .) to address the challenges resulting from citizenship issues.
  - New citizenship law in 2000: legal entitlement to naturalisation for foreigners with 30 years of residence
  - No dual citizenship
  - No intentions to by the state and local communities to amend citizenship law
  - Consequence: Many foreigners with more than 30 years of residence



# Flashpoints

- Describe a particular episode/s that occurred in your country and which highlight/s some of the challenges in addressing citizenship issues appropriately.
  - Financial naturalisation without residence was stopped in 1955 through famous International Court of Justice case *Nottebohm vs. Guatemala*
  - Popular votes in municipalities still exist as a method of naturalisation
    - 10 years of residence required
    - Standard of naturalisation procedure until 2000
    - Decreasing importance

# Economy, crisis and citizenship

- Have there been any issues in your country which have altered the challenges in addressing citizenship issues?
  - No
- Are there scale/size, national specificities or uniqueness issues invoked and how are these framed in the context of citizenship?
  - “Exclusiveness” of LIE citizenship
  - “Sale” of citizenship until 1955 (Nottebohm case)
  - Restrictive regime
  - ‘Asylum crisis’ without influence on citizenship issues

# Conclusion: Prospects

- Looking forward, what can one expect of citizenship policies and practices in your country?
  - Dual citizenship
    - Government proposal and ongoing parliamentary debate
    - Parliament decision probably in autumn 2019
    - Probably popular vote (referendum) afterwards
  - Demands for language skills when naturalising will rise
  - Demand for 30 years residence will not decrease