

# Small States Security and Defence

Liechtenstein

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# Small States

## Security and Defence – Country Overview

- Historical background
  - Historical integration
    - Member of the Holy Roman Empire (until 1806)
    - Confederation of the Rhine (1806 – 1814)
    - German Confederation (1815-1866)
      - 1868 dissolution of Liechtenstein's army
  - First World War
    - Neutral (by declaration)
    - Linked with Austria by customs treaty
    - Trade restriction by Entente
  - Unsuccessful application for membership in the League of Nations
    - Smallness
  - Second World War
    - Neutral (by declaration)
    - No formal links with Austria/ Germany
    - Part of the Swiss National Economic Supply
  - Founding member of the Conference on Security and Co-Operation in Europe (1975)
  - International political integration: United Nations (1990), Council of Europe (1978)

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## Security and Defence – Country Overview

- Geographical location
  - Central Europe
  - Surrounded by two neutral states
  - Surrounded by mountains and river Rhine (natural border to Switzerland and Austria)
  - 1949: Exchange of strategically important territory with Switzerland after Second World War
- Risk analysis (2012)
  - Natural hazards: thunder storms; storms; snowfalls; floods; cold spell; heat wave; forest fire; earth quake
  - Risks based on technology: crashes (plane; train; cable railway; car); accident transport of dangerous good (train/road); blackout (electricity; water supply; communication infrastructure); civilian nuclear accidents in neighbouring countries; breach in a dam
  - Social hazards: diseases of people and animals; terrorism; running amok; mass panic; supply bottleneck
  - Not: Armed conflict; cyber security

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## Security and Defence – Country Overview

- Government and administration
  - No Ministry for Security and Defence
  - Ministry for Home Affairs, Education and Environment
    - Security related tasks: Public security; civil protection; rescue services
  - Operations staff (“Landesführungsstab”)
    - Minister for Home Affairs; police; public offices for civil protection, infrastructure, public health; representative of the municipalities
- Emergency plans
  - Coordinated by the public office for civil protection
    - Alert for rescue services
    - Alert for people (by sirens)
  - Radio station
  - Protective structures (shelters in public and private buildings)

# Small States National Defence

- National armed forces
  - No armed forces
- Agreements with other countries/international organisations
  - No agreements with other countries/ international organisations that provide a safety guarantee
  - However: various international agreements related to security aspects, e. g. non-proliferation, arms trade, cultural heritage, prisoners of war, refugees
- Where does your country seek shelter in security and defence matters?
  - No security guarantee by Switzerland (or Austria) but part of the Swiss National Economic Supply

# Small States National Defence

- EU cooperation in security and defence
  - Full associated member to Agreements of Schengen and Dublin (including Frontex etc.)
  - Cooperation agreements with Eurojust and Europol
- National debate
  - Overall debate is of low salience
  - Benefits
    - Access to information
    - Increased professionalism of security services
  - Costs
    - Financial costs
    - Increasing bureaucracy

# Small States Role in Peacekeeping

- Country's work in peacekeeping
  - No EU missions / international missions
  - International, impartial and independent mechanism to assist in the investigation and prosecution of persons responsible for the most serious crimes under International Law committed in the Syrian Arab Republic
    - Initiative by Liechtenstein and Qatar
  - Active role in the International Criminal Court
  - Strong commitment to international law

# Conclusion: Main future security challenges

- Main future challenges in security and defence matters
  - Focus on non-military threats in particular
    - Natural hazards
    - Technical hazards
    - Social hazards
  - Considering probability and consequences of hazards
  - Risk analysis still ongoing
  - Focus on disaster management and civil protection