

# PANORAMIC CRYPTOASSETS & BLOCKCHAIN

Liechtenstein



LEXOLOGY

# Cryptoassets & Blockchain

Contributing Editor

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## Liechtenstein

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## GENERAL LEGAL AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

### Legal framework

What legal framework governs cryptoassets? Is there specific legislation governing cryptoassets and businesses transacting with cryptoassets?

Liechtenstein is recognised as a leading jurisdiction in the regulation of blockchain and distributed ledger technology (DLT). In 2018, the government set up a work group to develop a sustainable and technology-neutral regulatory framework, leading to the establishment of the Blockchain Act, officially known as the Law on Tokens and Trusted Technology Service Providers (TVTG). The TVTG regulates licensing and supervision of 'Trusted Technology' service providers and, through the Token Container Model (TCM), provides a civil law basis for the ownership, transfer, and enforcement of rights in tokens. This framework has been in place since 2020 and has laid the groundwork for cryptoasset service providers to operate in a secure and legally certain environment.

The regulatory landscape has further evolved with the EU Markets in Crypto-Assets Regulation (MiCAR), took effect in Liechtenstein from 1 February 2025 through the EEA MiCAR Implementation Act. MiCAR establishes harmonised standards for cryptoassets, introducing clear categories (ie, asset-referenced tokens, e-money tokens, other cryptoassets) of cryptoassets and licensing requirements for cryptoasset service providers (CASP). Liechtenstein's TVTG was amended in February 2024 to ensure full alignment and regulatory consistency with MiCAR. CASP activities, harmonised under MiCAR, such as custody, trading platforms, and portfolio management, will operate under its regime, while TVTG continues to provide a robust civil law foundation for creation, ownership, and transfer of cryptoassets, including non-fungible tokens (NFTs) and other areas beyond MiCAR's scope.

Further, know-your-customer (KYC) and anti-money laundering (AML) laws, particularly the Due Diligence Act (SPG), also apply to offerings of transactions with cryptoassets. Additionally, the Persons and Companies Act contains relevant regulations, as do other financial market laws, ensuring a comprehensive legal framework for cryptoassets and related activities.

Liechtenstein also participates in the EU DLT Sandbox Regime as part of EU Regulation 2022/858, enabling market participants to seek temporary exemptions and conduct innovative trials, such as operating DLT-based multilateral trading facilities and settlement systems for blockchain-based securities, within a controlled legislative environment.

Law stated - 13 Oktober 2025

### Government policy

How would you describe the government's general approach to the regulation of cryptoassets in your jurisdiction?

Liechtenstein's government adopts a proactive, innovation-friendly, and technology-neutral approach to regulating cryptoassets. Its strategy balances the promotion of digital finance and blockchain innovation with high regulatory standards for consumer protection, financial integrity, and compliance.

Liechtenstein was one of the first jurisdictions in Europe to establish a comprehensive legal framework for blockchain and DLT. Recognising the growing market demand for legal certainty, the government convened a working group in early 2018 that ultimately produced the TTVG, better known as the Blockchain Act, which entered into force in January 2020.

This forward-looking approach continues to be actively supported by both the government and the Financial Market Authority (FMA), which remain committed to an innovation-oriented regulatory policy. Dedicated institutions, such as the Office for Financial Market Innovation and the FMA's Regulatory Laboratory, ensure direct engagement with market participants and foster an ongoing dialogue between regulators and the industry.

Beyond crypto regulation, Liechtenstein offers an attractive corporate environment: a flexible company law framework, seamless access to the EEA market, and close economic ties with Switzerland make the Principality particularly appealing to entrepreneurs establishing blockchain or cryptoasset ventures. Importantly, Liechtenstein is no longer just a hub for start-ups; institutional players are increasingly recognising its strategic advantages – particularly the ability to obtain a MiCAR licence locally and passport it across the entire EU.

Law stated - 13 Oktober 2025

## Regulatory authorities

### Which government authorities regulate cryptoassets and businesses transacting with cryptoassets?

The FMA is the competent supervisory authority under both MiCAR and the TTVG. Accordingly, any natural or legal person that issues or publicly offers cryptoassets, or provides cryptoasset services under MiCAR, must obtain authorisation or file the required notification with the FMA. While MiCAR governs most of cryptoasset activities and services, certain asset categories – such as NFTs or other instruments falling outside MiCAR's scope – remain subject to the TTVG. In such cases, service providers must also register with the FMA under the domestic framework.

In addition, the offering and admission to trading of cryptoassets may trigger disclosure obligations, including the preparation and publication of a cryptoasset white paper. Depending on the nature of the activity, further specific authorisations may be required for issuers or service providers to ensure full regulatory compliance.

Further, the FMA oversees all financial market services and providers, including banking, e-money, payment services, asset management, securities and public offerings, and ensures compliance with anti-money laundering and due diligence regulations. As such, the FMA supervises both the conventional and digital financial markets.

For the main criminal offences under MiCAR as well as the Liechtenstein TTVG, the Princely District Court has jurisdiction.

Law stated - 13 Oktober 2025

## Regulatory penalties

## What penalties can regulators impose for violations relating to cryptoassets?

In Liechtenstein, penalties for cryptoasset-related violations sit within a layered framework comprising, in particular, the MiCAR penalties system as implemented domestically by the EEA MiCA Implementation Act (EWR-MiCA-DG), the TVTG, and, where relevant, other financial-market statutes (eg, the Banking Act, E-Money Act, Payment Services Act, AIFM Act, and prospectus rules) as well as the SPG.

The FMA is the competent supervisory and, in most cases, the enforcement authority for the MiCAR/EWR-MiCA-DG and the TVTG and for compliance with the SPG (AML/KYC rules). It is primarily responsible for monitoring compliance, conducting investigations, and taking administrative enforcement action, and it may cooperate with other authorities and refer suspected crimes to the Public Prosecutor's Office.

The FMA can issue remedial and cease-and-desist orders, require corrective measures, suspend or restrict activities, and revoke or withdraw authorisations or registrations. In cases of systematic or serious non-compliance, the FMA can order the cessation of regulated business and appoint a business liquidator or administrator to wind down operations. Such revocation decisions may be published and the regulated entity must bear the associated costs. Administrative penalties include monetary fines and publication of sanctions decisions; daily coercive fines may be used to compel compliance.

Criminal liability attaches to serious or intentional misconduct (eg, unauthorised operation, falsified disclosures, insider dealing, or market manipulation of cryptoassets) and is adjudicated by the Princely District Court in Vaduz. Serious violations under the EWR-MiCA-DG can carry prison terms of up to three years and criminal fines.

Alongside MiCAR, the TVTG continues to apply to cryptoasset and VT activities that fall outside MiCAR's scope. Under the TVTG, serious breaches constitute criminal offences (punishable by imprisonment of up to one year or monetary fines in criminal proceedings), whereas lesser infringements are administrative offences sanctioned by the FMA for administrative TVTG breaches. The FMA can impose fines of up to 100,000 Swiss francs on natural or legal persons.

Where cryptoasset activities also trigger sector-specific regimes (eg, banking, e-money, payment services, prospectus rules, or the SPG), their sanctioning systems apply in parallel.

Law stated - 13 Oktober 2025

## Court jurisdiction

### Which courts have jurisdiction over disputes involving cryptoassets?

In general, the Princely District Court in Vaduz has jurisdiction over disputes involving cryptoassets.

Based on the general jurisdiction rules, the Princely District Court has jurisdiction over all claims that are brought against a company with a seat or a person with residence in Liechtenstein.

The TTVG also explicitly determines that for any claims of a cryptoasset holder in connection with their legal relation to a cryptoasset issuer seated in Liechtenstein, the Princely District Court is competent.

Further, the TTVG determines that all cryptoassets that are subject to Liechtenstein law (because they have been issued by a person or entity with residence or a seat in Liechtenstein or because Liechtenstein law was opted-in) are considered as assets located in Liechtenstein. Based on this, the Princely District Court is also competent for all disputes in connection with cryptoassets that have been issued under Liechtenstein law.

Further, the Princely District Court is competent for all claims of a cryptoasset holder to declare a cryptoasset invalid in case of the loss of a private key and, thus, the loss of the ability to dispose of the cryptoasset opens the possibility of getting a replacement from the issuer.

In relation to MiCAR, no additional or separate provisions apply.

Law stated - 13 Oktober 2025

### **Legal status of cryptocurrency**

**Is it legal to own or possess cryptocurrency, use cryptocurrency in commercial transactions and exchange cryptocurrency for local fiat currency in your jurisdiction?**

The sole legal tender in Liechtenstein is the Swiss franc. Cryptocurrencies do not qualify as legal tender in Liechtenstein, but some cryptocurrencies (eg, Bitcoin) are widely accepted in Liechtenstein.

Liechtenstein does not have any restrictions on owning and using cryptocurrencies for transactions. Also, exchange between fiat currencies and cryptocurrencies is permitted. Even official authorities accept payments in some cryptocurrencies and the registered capital for the formation of entities may be provided in cryptocurrencies.

Law stated - 13 Oktober 2025

### **Fiat currencies**

**What fiat currencies are commonly used in your jurisdiction?**

Liechtenstein has strong treaty ties to the economic and currency areas of Switzerland. Liechtenstein and Switzerland are a monetary union, which means that the official fiat currency of the Principality of Liechtenstein is the Swiss franc. However, regular transactions in euros, US dollars and other major currencies are also conducted.

Law stated - 13 Oktober 2025

### **Industry associations**

## What are the leading industry associations addressing legal and policy issues relating to cryptoassets?

The Liechtenstein government established the Office for Financial Market Innovation, a dedicated body responsible for addressing new technologies and their integration into the legal framework of the financial market. The department gathers market input and feedback, ensuring that regulatory amendments and implementations reflect the evolving industry needs.

The leading industry associations are the Crypto Country Association and CV Labs Vaduz, as well as Technopark Liechtenstein.

Law stated - 13 Oktober 2025

## CRYPTOASSETS FOR INVESTMENT AND FINANCING

### Regulatory threshold

#### What attributes do the regulators consider in determining whether a cryptoasset is subject to regulation under the laws in your jurisdiction?

Historically, for supervisory purposes, cryptoassets in Liechtenstein were classified as security or investment tokens, utility tokens, and payment or currency tokens. The Markets in Crypto-Assets Regulation (MiCAR) has refined and replaced this classification.

What remains unchanged is that the financial regulation applicable to a cryptoasset, its sale, or activities in connection with cryptoassets depends on the specific characteristics and legal nature of the cryptoassets. The regulatory treatment continues to follow the principle of technological neutrality. Cryptoassets issued on a blockchain are not treated differently from traditional instruments if they serve the same economic function. Consequently, if a cryptoasset qualifies as a financial instrument (eg, a security), it falls under existing financial-market laws. In such cases, prospectus obligations, licensing requirements, and other Markets in Financial Instruments Directive (MiFID)-based rules may apply. For cryptoassets that do not meet the definition of a financial instrument, MiCAR may be applicable. Under MiCAR, the differentiation is between asset-referenced tokens (ARTs), which cover cryptoassets referencing multiple assets; e-money tokens (EMTs), which reference a single fiat currency; and other cryptoassets; that is, tokens not qualifying as ARTs or EMTs. In areas that fall outside MiCAR, the Law on Tokens and Trusted Technology Service Providers (TVTG) may apply (eg, NFTs).

Law stated - 13 Oktober 2025

### Investor classification

#### How are investors in cryptoassets classified and treated differently?

There is no specific definition or distinction of a 'cryptoasset investor' according to the TVTG in Liechtenstein.

Under MiCAR, investors in cryptoassets are classified as either qualified investors, meaning professional clients as defined by MiFID II and the EU Prospectus Regulation or retail

investors, covering all others who do not meet the qualified criteria. This distinction matters because MiCAR permits limited regulatory exemptions for offerings made exclusively to qualified investors where the cryptoassets can only be held by them. For other cryptoassets (ie, those that are neither ARTs nor e-money tokens EMTs), if both the offer and the ongoing holding are strictly limited to qualified/professional investors, the issuer is exempt from the requirement to publish a MiCAR white paper and from related marketing obligations. For ARTs, the issuer must always prepare and submit a white paper to the competent authority. However, MiCAR waives prior authority approval of the white paper only where the public offer and holding are limited strictly to qualified investors. For EMTs, no such exemption exists.

It may also apply the investor classifications under MiFID II when cryptoassets are considered financial instruments. Under MiFID II, investors are categorised as retail clients, professional clients, or eligible counterparties, with varying levels of regulatory protection based on their experience and risk tolerance.

Law stated - 13 Oktober 2025

### Initial coin offerings

#### What rules and restrictions govern the conduct of, and investment in, initial coin offerings (ICOs)?

The term 'initial coin offering' is used differently in many countries. Sometimes the term is understood as an initial public offering of utility tokens only. Mostly, the term is used as a general term for initial public token/cryptoassets offerings (IPTO) of cryptoassets of any kind.

Initial coin offerings (ICOs) in Liechtenstein are governed by rules and restrictions that depend on the legal classification of the token or cryptoasset being offered. The regulatory requirements are shaped by three key frameworks: MiFID II (for securities), MiCAR (for most cryptoassets), and TVTG (where MiCAR does not apply).

If cryptoassets offered and issued during an ICO qualify a financial instrument within the meaning of MIFID II and the WPDG, they are subject to the same rules as traditional financial instruments. This includes public offering rules, exchange listings and trading regulations, among others. Public offerings of cryptoassets, which are securities (known as STOs), must generally comply with the EU Prospectus Regulation, requiring an approved prospectus. Liechtenstein allows public offerings up to 8 million Swiss francs without a prospectus, and private placements are exempt as well.

If a cryptoasset to be issued falls under the e-money definition of the e-money law (EGG), its issuance requires an e-money licence from the FMA.

MiCAR governs the offering and admission to trading of cryptoassets. It distinguishes between EMTs, ARTs and other cryptoassets as follows:

- For EMTs, only credit institutions and electronic money institutions licensed under the E-Money Directive can act as issuers. EMTs must be fully backed one by one by the referenced fiat currency, ensuring holders can redeem their EMTS at face value at any time. Issuers must safeguard reserves in high-quality, liquid assets to guarantee stability and payout capacity. Along with this, they are obliged to draft, notify, and

publish a MiCAR white paper approved by the regulator (such as the FMA) and maintain robust capital, governance, operational, custody, complaint, and AML/KYC frameworks. Issuers are prohibited from paying interest on EMTs.

- For ARTs, issuers must be established in the EU and obtain dedicated MiCAR authorisation (unless they are already a credit institution). They are required to maintain sufficient own funds proportionate to the total reserve size, hold segregated reserves with daily valuations, maintain effective redemption mechanisms, and subject the cryptoassets to robust conflict-of-interest and governance standards. ART issuers must publish a white paper. Credit institutions benefit from a specific notification regime, while other entities require prior approval for their white paper.
- For cryptoassets that are neither EMTs nor ARTs, the Issuers must publish a MiCAR compliant white paper before any public offering or trading admission, unless certain exemptions apply (such as offerings exclusively to qualified investors, annual distributions below €1 million, or cryptoassets distributed free of charge). These issuers must also comply with basic conduct, marketing, and transparency standards to ensure market integrity and consumer protection.

If a cryptoasset falls outside the scope of MiCAR, the provisions of the TTVG may apply. In such cases, issuers offering cryptoassets to the public are required to prepare a set of 'basic information', make it publicly accessible, and notify the FMA of the planned issuance, if no exemptions apply.

However, Liechtenstein laws do not impose specific restrictions on investing in ICOs, but such restrictions may apply depending on the rights contained in a specific cryptoasset and the location of the respective buyer.

Law stated - 13 Oktober 2025

## Security token offerings

What rules and restrictions govern the conduct of, and investment in, security token offerings (STOs)?

The legal rules for ICOs also generally apply if the IPO relates to a cryptoasset that qualifies as a security and, therefore, is considered an offering of cryptoassets which are securities (STOs). However, given that an STO relates to a financial instrument under MiFID II, traditional financial market rules apply. In this regard, particularly for public offerings of cryptoassets that qualify as securities, the EU Prospectus Regulation and the national implementing laws must be followed.

According to the MiFID II rules, STOs are regularly subject to prospectus requirements in case the relevant thresholds are met. Liechtenstein made use of the possibility to allow public offerings of financial instruments without prospectus requirements up to a volume of 8 million Swiss francs.

Further exemptions from prospectus requirements apply if the STO:

- is only made to qualified investors;
- the offering is made to fewer than 150 persons; or

- the minimum ticket size is above 100,000 Swiss francs per investor.

Further, private placements are exempt from the prospectus requirements.

If a prospectus is required, there is no additional requirement to publish a white paper under MiCAR or basic information under the TVTG.

Law stated - 13 Oktober 2025

## Stablecoins

### What rules and restrictions govern the issue of, and investment in, stablecoins?

The rules vary depending on whether the stablecoin qualifies as an EMT or an ART under MiCAR as described above.

Law stated - 13 Oktober 2025

## Airdrops

### Are cryptoassets distributed by airdrop treated differently than other types of offering mechanisms?

Distribution by airdrop is usually used as a marketing mechanism and the cryptoassets distributed by airdrop are done so without any consideration.

MiCAR exempts airdrops from regulatory requirements if the cryptoassets are not ARTs or EMTs and are offered for free, meaning no monetary or non-monetary consideration, such as personal data, is exchanged. If the issuer receives fees, commissions or any other benefit in exchange for the cryptoasset, the airdrop is not considered free and must comply with MiCAR's obligations, including white paper publication.

Law stated - 13 Oktober 2025

## Advertising and marketing

### What laws and regulations govern the advertising and marketing of cryptoassets used for investment and financing?

If the cryptoasset qualifies as a security (financial instrument under MiFID II), which shall be offered to the public, the marketing rules of the Prospectus Regulation and the national implementing laws apply.

If the cryptoasset falls within the scope of MiCAR, the regulation's white paper and related marketing provisions apply. All promotional communications must be fair, clear, and not misleading, and they must align with the content of the MiCAR white paper. Materials have to make it explicit that they are advertisements and point investors to the white paper, including where it can be accessed. Issuers and cryptoasset service providers (CASPs) must also ensure that marketing does not downplay risks, exaggerate potential returns, or

inappropriately target retail investors. Before publishing a white paper, no marketing activity for the cryptoasset is permitted. Only market sounding is allowed.

Law stated - 13 Oktober 2025

### Trading restrictions

Are investors in an ICO/STO/stablecoin subject to any restrictions on their trading after the initial offering?

Liechtenstein law does not impose any trading restrictions on investors who obtained cryptoassets in an IPO or in another manner (eg, private placement, airdrop or secondary market). Therefore, investors may freely trade cryptoassets in a peer-to-peer manner, regardless of the nature of the cryptoasset.

However, restrictions apply for the provision of services as a secondary market exchange that brings together interested buyers and sellers. Again, the applicable restrictions depend on the nature of the cryptoassets traded.

If the cryptoassets fall within the scope of MiCAR, the provider of the services is required to obtain authorisation as a CASP under MiCAR.

If the cryptoasset is a security token, therefore, financial instruments within the meaning of MiFID II, the exchange services of a secondary market require licensing as an investment firm.

The Central Securities Depository Regulation (the CSD-Regulation), which is applicable across the entire EEA Market, requires that all transferable securities need to be booked into a central securities depository system. This also applies in the case that the transferable securities are tokenised. However, in practice, tokenised transferable securities could not be booked into the existing CSD system, given that the existing CSD systems do not use blockchain technology. Thus, the EU, with Regulation EU 2022/858 (the EU-DLT Sandbox Regulation), implemented a new DLT sandbox regime that finally provides the legal basis for running blockchain- based exchanges for tokenised financial instruments. This EU-DLT Sandbox Regulation is also applicable in Liechtenstein as an EEA member state.

Law stated - 13 Oktober 2025

### Crowdfunding

How are crowdfunding and cryptoasset offerings treated differently under the law?

In Liechtenstein, there is no separate legal regime exclusively for crowdfunding in cryptoassets. The applicable framework depends primarily on the type of activity performed (eg, acting as an issuer of cryptoassets, placing orders, or providing intermediary services) and on the legal nature of the instrument involved. In practice, different rules apply depending on whether an entity acts as an issuer or as a service provider in connection with an offering, and on how the cryptoasset is classified, namely, whether it is a financial instrument under MiFID II, a cryptoasset within the scope of MiCAR, or a token governed by the TVTG.

Notably, in Liechtenstein, the European Crowdfunding Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2020/1503) is implemented via the EEA Crowdfunding Regulation Implementation Act. This regime applies to crowdfunding service providers (CSPs) that facilitate offers of transferable securities or loans with an aggregate consideration of up to €5 million per project owner within a rolling 12-month period.

Law stated - 13 Oktober 2025

## Transfer agents and share registrars

### What laws and regulations govern cryptoasset transfer agents and share registrars?

There are no dedicated laws specifically for cryptoasset transfer agents or share registrars. Instead, their duties and regulatory requirements are defined by how the cryptoasset is classified and depending on the asset and activity (TVTG, MiCAR, WPFG, WPDG, or PGR).

Law stated - 13 Oktober 2025

## Anti-money laundering and know-your-customer compliance

### What anti-money laundering (AML) and know-your-customer (KYC) requirements and guidelines apply to the offering of cryptoassets?

The prevention of financial crime and money laundering is one of the key aspects for the sustainable functioning of the Liechtenstein financial market. Thus, Liechtenstein law also provides for comprehensive and effective KYC and AML regulations under the SPG, which, in particular, also applies to transactions with cryptoassets.

Furthermore, in 2023, Moneyval's report following a comprehensive assessment of Liechtenstein confirmed that Liechtenstein has a very effective system for combating financial crime and money laundering.

KYC and AML regulation

The cornerstone of the KYC/AML regulation in Liechtenstein is the SPG together with the implementing Due Diligence Ordinance (SPV). AML/KYC duties under the SPG apply in particular to regulated service providers, such as banks, investment firms, e-money and payment institutions, asset managers, NFT trading platform operators as well as for cryptoasset service providers as defined in article 3 paragraph 1 nr 16 a to g, i and j of MiCAR (includes custody, exchange, transfer, trading, advice, etc). Traders in goods also fall under the Act where payments are made in cash or cryptoassets for amounts of 10,000 Swiss francs or more. These entities must in particular verify the identity of clients or investors, monitor transactions, check sources of funds, screen against sanctions, keep records and report suspicious activity to the Liechtenstein Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU).

The SPG in Liechtenstein does not apply merely because a cryptoasset is 'offered'. It applies to obliged entities when they provide the services or carry out the transactions as referenced in the SPG in connection with cryptoassets. In practice, however, most offerings involve one or more SPG-obliged intermediaries, for example, a bank (collection or custody account), a

MiCAR-authorised CASP, a payment provider, or a licensed trustee in Liechtenstein engaged for corporate or administrative functions. Because these intermediaries are within the SPG perimeter, KYC/AML is typically required in fact (to onboard investors and process subscriptions) and as a practical necessity to ensure that raised funds can be held, moved, and used within the financial system.

Law stated - 13 Oktober 2025

### **Sanctions and Financial Action Task Force compliance**

What laws and regulations apply in the context of cryptoassets to enforce government sanctions, anti-terrorism financing principles, and Financial Action Task Force (FATF) standards?

As a member of the EEA and Moneyval, Liechtenstein has been actively involved in combating money laundering and terrorist financing for decades and is guided by international standards. In accordance with international provisions, Liechtenstein implemented the fourth and fifth EU Money Laundering Directives as well as Regulation on information accompanying transfers of funds and therefore implemented the highest KYC and AML standards of the fifth EU Anti-Money Laundering Regulation and the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) standards in the Due Diligence Act.

These assessments are conducted regularly to assess the technical compliance and effective implementation of international standards in the area of AML and countering the financing of terrorism, in line with the 2013 FATF methodology. The entire blockchain sector was subject to thorough review from a compliance and money laundering perspective.

The published Country Report of June 2023 by Moneyval confirms that Liechtenstein has been able to certify high standards, maintain a comprehensive understanding of money laundering and terrorist financing risks and pursue a strong supervisory approach.

Law stated - 13 Oktober 2025

## **CRYPTOASSET TRADING**

### **Fiat currency transactions**

What rules and restrictions govern the exchange of fiat currency and cryptoassets?

The exchange of fiat currency for cryptoassets and cryptoassets for cryptoassets is expressly defined as a cryptoasset service under article 3, paragraph 1 nr 16 lit c and d, Markets in Crypto-Assets Regulation (MiCAR). Any legal entity intending to provide these services must obtain cryptoasset service provider (CASP) authorisation from the FMA in Liechtenstein. However, entities already authorised as a credit institution or investment firm can benefit from the simplified article 60 MiCAR notification procedure instead of full CASP authorisation.

CASPs that provide exchange services under MiCAR are also subject to know-your-customer (KYC) and anti-money laundering (AML) obligations under Liechtenstein's Due Diligence Act (SPG).

Additional regulatory regimes may apply if the cryptoassets are classified as financial instruments, securities, units of an investment funds, or e-money.

Law stated - 13 Oktober 2025

## **Exchanges and secondary markets**

Where are investors allowed to trade cryptoassets? How are exchanges, alternative trading systems and secondary markets for cryptoassets regulated?

Generally, under Liechtenstein law, trading of cryptoassets between respective holders on a peer-to-peer basis outside a regulated trading environment is not prohibited. However, the rules of the smart contract of the respective crypto asset may impose limitations.

If the service of operating a trading platform for cryptoassets is provided, a licence under MiCAR as a CASP is required. However, such trading platforms must not allow the listing and trading of cryptoassets that are considered financial instruments under Markets in Financial Instruments Directive II (MiFID II). These services require a licence under financial market law. Any cryptoasset that qualifies as a financial instrument under MiFID II (eg, shares, bonds, derivatives) must only be traded on a licensed multilateral trading facility (MTF). The provision of such services as an MTF requires a licence as an investment firm. As an innovation route, the EU DLT Pilot Regime allows already authorised investment firms and market operators (or central securities depositories (CSDs)) to run distributed ledger technology (DLT) multilateral trading facility (MTF)/Securities Settlement System (SS)/Trading and Settlement System (TSS) venues for DLT-based financial instruments with targeted exemptions and volume limits.

Law stated - 13 Oktober 2025

## **Custody**

How are cryptoasset custodians regulated?

In Liechtenstein, safekeeping clients' cryptoassets is regulated according to the asset's legal classification.

For cryptoassets, 'custody and administration of cryptoassets on behalf of clients' is a CASP service under MiCAR that requires FMA authorisation. CASP custodians must also meet AML/KYC obligations under Liechtenstein's Due Diligence Act (SPG) and Ordinance (SPV) and comply with the EU Travel Rule for qualifying transfers.

If the crypto asset in custody qualifies as a financial instrument (eg, a tokenised share or bond), MiCAR does not apply. Custody and related services then fall under financial market law.

Law stated - 13 Oktober 2025

## Broker-dealers

### How are cryptoasset broker-dealers regulated?

Broker services comprise, in particular, the receipt and transmission of orders, the execution of orders on behalf of clients, dealing on own account (exchange services), and the underwriting of issues of instruments/assets and/or the placing of instruments/assets on or without a firm-commitment basis.

In Liechtenstein, the regulation as broker dealer as well depends on the asset's legal classification and the specific broker service provided.

For cryptoassets within MiCAR, brokerage-type services as reception and transmission of orders, execution of orders on behalf of clients, placing of cryptoassets, and exchange services (fiat/crypto and crypto/crypto) are CASP services that require authorisation by the FMA. Credit institutions as well as investment firms, and for certain services also asset managers, can use the article 60 MiCAR notification route.

If a cryptoasset is a financial instrument (eg, tokenised shares, bonds, or derivatives), the reception and transmission of orders, execution, dealing on own account, or placings fall outside MiCAR and are regulated under financial-market law. To provide all the services mentioned above, a licence as an investment firm under the Investment Firms Act (WPFG) is required. If only the receipt and transmission of orders in respect of financial instruments or the execution of orders on behalf of clients is provided, an asset manager licence under the Asset Management Act (VVG) is sufficient. A banking licence also permits the provision of the above mentioned services.

In any case, the provision of services as a regulated broker-dealer is subject to the regulations of the KYC and AML regulations of the SPG.

Law stated - 13 Oktober 2025

## Decentralised exchanges

### What is the legal status of decentralised cryptoasset exchanges?

According to the recital of MiCAR, the regulation applies to natural and legal persons, as well as certain other undertakings, that provide or control cryptoasset services and activities – whether directly, indirectly, or in part through decentralised structures. However, where such services are offered in a fully decentralised manner without any intermediary, they do not fall within the scope of MiCAR.

MiCAR sets out the rights and obligations of issuers of cryptoassets, offerors, persons seeking admission to trading, and cryptoasset service providers. Where a cryptoasset has no identifiable issuer, it does not fall within the scope of MiCAR. Nonetheless, service providers offering services relating to such cryptoassets remain subject to MiCAR.

In addition to MiCAR, there are no other laws in Liechtenstein that prohibit decentralised exchanges. Thus, both Liechtenstein law and MiCAR recognise decentralised systems.

Law stated - 13 Oktober 2025

## Peer-to-peer exchanges

### What is the legal status of peer-to-peer (person-to-person) transfers of cryptoassets?

Generally, Liechtenstein laws do not impose restrictions on peer-to-peer transfers of all kinds of cryptoassets owned by the respective peers.

However, depending on whether there is also a provision of services included or the peer-to-peer transfer is conducted in an organised manner or on behalf of another person, a licence may be required.

In any event, however, private peer-to-peer trading limitations may apply based on the rules set out in the smart contract of the respective cryptoasset.

Law stated - 13 Oktober 2025

## Trading with anonymous parties

### Does the law permit trading cryptoassets with anonymous parties?

Liechtenstein law does not impose regulatory limitations on private (non-professional) trading of cryptoassets (tokens) with anonymous counterparties. However, the general AML rules of the SPG, the SPV and the Criminal Code (StGB) must be observed.

In Liechtenstein, the EU Travel Rule (Regulation (EU) 2023/1113) which also covers crypto-transactions is applicable (see article 12, SPG). This requires that information on both the originator and the beneficiary accompany transfers of cryptoassets between service providers.

Law stated - 13 Oktober 2025

## Foreign exchanges

### Are foreign cryptocurrency exchanges subject to your jurisdiction's laws and regulations governing cryptoasset exchanges?

Since MiCAR now applies across the EEA (including Liechtenstein), foreign cryptocurrency exchanges fall under MiCAR if they provide services in or into the EEA (including Liechtenstein) or actively target EEA (Liechtenstein) clients, and they require authorisation as a CASP under MiCAR. MiCAR-authorised foreign exchanges (CSPAs from other EEA countries) can serve clients in Liechtenstein via passporting. By contrast, non-EEA exchanges may not market to or serve EEA clients unless they hold a MiCAR CASP authorisation. An exception is genuine reverse solicitation, where the service is provided solely at the client's own initiative without any EEA-facing marketing.

For the avoidance of doubt, this only applies to MiCAR cryptoassets. Where the asset qualifies as a financial instrument, e-money, or otherwise falls under sector-specific regimes, the corresponding securities, payments, or other financial market law provisions apply instead.

The FMA also constantly monitors the activity of foreign cryptocurrency exchanges in Liechtenstein.

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## Foreign exchanges

Under what circumstances may a citizen of your jurisdiction lawfully exchange cryptoassets on a foreign exchange?

Currently, there are no restrictions for Liechtenstein-resident persons to exchange cryptoassets on a foreign cryptocurrency exchange, even if the cryptoasset traded constitute financial instruments. However, the cryptocurrency exchange itself may be subject to licensing requirements in Liechtenstein.

Law stated - 13 Oktober 2025

## Taxes

Do any tax liabilities arise in the exchange of cryptoassets (for both other cryptoassets and fiat currencies)?

In general, only natural persons resident in Liechtenstein and legal entities with a seat in Liechtenstein are subject to Liechtenstein tax laws. Given the small size of the country and the position as a financial hub, the corporate tax laws are more relevant.

In general, Liechtenstein offers an attractive fiscal environment for companies. In Liechtenstein, the income tax rate for legal entities is 12.5 per cent (flat tax rate), and the minimum income tax is 1,800 Swiss francs. Furthermore, 4 per cent of corporate equity capital can be booked as an expense in order to reduce profits, which means that the effective tax rate is usually below 12.5 per cent. Also, dividends and capital gains, derived from the sale or liquidation of investments in shares or similar equity instruments, are generally not subject to taxes for legal entities, disregarding the holding amount and period.

In addition, Liechtenstein tax laws take a material approach towards trading with cryptoassets. Depending on the rights contained in the respective cryptoasset and the qualification of the cryptoasset as a utility token, a payment token or a security token, different tax rules will apply. As Liechtenstein law does not have capital gains tax on profits from trading with participation, profits from trading with security tokens are tax-free in Liechtenstein and no withholding tax applies. Utility tokens are considered regular commodities and trading profits would be considered trading income that is subject to regular taxation (12.5 per cent in net profits for legal entities).

Law stated - 13 Oktober 2025

## CRYPTOASSETS USED FOR PAYMENTS

### Government-recognised assets

Has the government recognised any cryptoassets as a lawful form of payment or issued its own cryptoassets?

As previously outlined, cryptocurrencies do not qualify as legal tender in Liechtenstein. Consequently, cryptocurrencies are not considered 'money' in a narrow sense. Depending on the specific structure of the cryptoasset, it may qualify as e-money under the Liechtenstein E-Money Act (EGG).

Although cryptocurrencies do not qualify as legal tender, some cryptoassets such as Bitcoin and USDC/USDT, are already widely accepted as a means of payment by enterprises and shops. From a tax perspective, Bitcoin is considered a foreign currency. The Liechtenstein tax authority publishes exchange rates between several common cryptoassets (Bitcoin and Ethereum) and the Swiss franc for tax purposes. Besides that, cryptoassets are also accepted by the Ministry of Justice to provide the initial capital contribution for the formation of legal entities. Further, the Liechtenstein government itself accepts cryptoassets such as Bitcoin, \$EGLD, and ETH as payment for government services (eg, taxes).

Law stated - 13 Oktober 2025

## Bitcoin

### Does Bitcoin have any special status among cryptoassets?

Bitcoin has no particular legal status. For tax purposes, it is considered a foreign currency for which the tax authority publishes applicable exchange rates.

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## Banks and other financial institutions

### Do any banks or other financial institutions allow cryptocurrency accounts?

In Liechtenstein, several banks provide cryptocurrency accounts as well as mere custody of cryptoassets. The number of banks and other financial institutions providing such services has just grown substantially since the implementation of the Markets in Crypto-Assets Regulation (MiCAR) and Law on the Tokens and Trusted Technology Service Providers (TVTG).

As the country is in a customs union with Switzerland, Swiss banks are also relevant for the Liechtenstein market and regularly provide services. Also, an increasing number of Swiss financial institutions and banks provide services for Liechtenstein blockchain projects.

Law stated - 13 Oktober 2025

## CRYPTOCURRENCY MINING

## Legal status

### What is the legal status of cryptocurrency mining activities?

There is no specific regulation of cryptocurrency mining in Liechtenstein. Mining cryptocurrencies in one's own name and on own account does not trigger licensing

requirements. However, depending on the business model, professional mining as a service, on behalf of third parties or with certain participation models, may constitute a service under the Markets in Crypto-Assets Regulation (MiCAR) or the Tokens and Trusted Technology Service Providers (TVTG) or be considered a service that is subject to financial market laws.

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### Government views

What views have been expressed by government officials regarding cryptocurrency mining?

Liechtenstein has taken in general a very crypto-friendly approach and promotes blockchain technology. Crypto mining is generally permitted. However, no official statement has been issued by government officials regarding cryptocurrency mining.

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### Cryptocurrency mining licences

Are any licences required to engage in cryptocurrency mining?

Private mining does not require a licence. However, professional mining may require a licence depending on the respective business model.

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### Taxes

How is the acquisition of cryptocurrency by cryptocurrency mining taxed?

Mining companies that conduct their activities on a commercial basis may become subject to tax, as well as accounting and general commercial law obligations, if they exchange their mined coins for fiat or offer related services.

Holdings in cryptocurrencies are always considered as assets and are regarded as assets for the benefit of taxation.

Law stated - 13 Oktober 2025

## BLOCKCHAIN AND OTHER DISTRIBUTED LEDGER TECHNOLOGIES

### Node licensing

Are any licences required to operate a blockchain/DLT node?

Operating a node in Liechtenstein does not require any licensing.

However, depending on the individual business model and the data obtained and processed, the node operator may provide services under the Markets in Crypto-Assets Regulation

(MiCAR) or the Tokens and Trusted Technology Service Providers (TVTG) and require a licence. Data processing may also be subject to the rules of the General Data Protection Regulation.

Law stated - 13 Oktober 2025

### **Restrictions on node operations**

#### **Is the operation of a blockchain/DLT node subject to any restrictions?**

Operating a node in Liechtenstein does not require any licensing.

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### **DAO liabilities**

#### **What legal liabilities do the participants in a decentralised autonomous organisation (DAO) have?**

The status of a decentralised autonomous organisation (DAO) and its members is assessed on a case-by-case basis, depending on the effective business model on the organisational structure of the DAO. If the DAO has no legal wrapper, such as a limited liability company, or is a foundation or association, the organisation could constitute a partnership under civil law (GesBR).

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### **DAO assets**

#### **Who owns the assets of a DAO?**

Who owns DAO's assets depends on how (or whether) the DAO is legally wrapped and what the underlying legal arrangements say. If the DAO operates through a legal person (eg, a foundation, association, or company such as a GmbH/AG/Anstalt), the entity itself owns the treasury and other assets. The board, council or management administer them for the entity, and cryptoasset holders do not own the assets merely by holding or voting, unless specific membership or proprietary rights are granted. If the DAO is unincorporated (no wrapper), it may be re-characterised as a civil partnership, in which case the assets are typically owned jointly by the partners or participants pursuant to the agreement (express or implied).

Law stated - 13 Oktober 2025

### **Open source**

#### **Is DLT based on open-source protocols or software treated differently under the law than private DLT?**

There is no difference in the treatment of open-source protocols and private distributed ledger technologies (DLT) from a regulatory standpoint. However, private DLT software may constitute intellectual property that may be protected.

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## Smart contracts

### Are smart contracts legally enforceable?

The enforceability of a smart contract depends on the underlying legal agreement and how it would be classified and enforced under Liechtenstein civil law. Accordingly, enforceability exists only where the smart contract complies with the requirements of traditional civil law and can be classified and enforced on that basis.

Law stated - 13 Oktober 2025

## Patents

### Can blockchain/DLT technology be patented?

Software inventions are, in principle, patentable, provided they are claimed in the appropriate form. Purely abstract software concepts or algorithms without technical reference are generally not patentable. Patent law, like many other patent rights, requires that a software invention have a technical character and provide a technical solution to a technical problem.

Software is protected by intellectual property rights (ie, the source or machine code is protected by copyright) regardless of whether it is patented or not. However, copyright protects only the concrete implementation of the software, not the underlying idea or functionality.

A software invention can be patented if it meets the criteria for patentability; in particular, novelty and inventive step. In other words, the software invention must not already be publicly available and must represent a non-obvious technical advancement.

The key to patenting software often lies in the wording of the patent claims. These must clearly define the technical nature of the invention and highlight the technical contribution that the software makes to solving a technical problem.

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## UPDATE AND TRENDS

### Recent developments

#### Are there any emerging trends, notable rulings or hot topics related to cryptoassets or blockchain in your jurisdiction?

The most important recent legislative development for Liechtenstein's FinTech sector is the full application of the Markets in Crypto-Assets Regulation (MiCAR). While the Tokens and Trusted Technology Service Providers (TVTG) provided an early domestic

framework, MiCAR now introduces uniform standards across the EU and EEA for issuers of cryptoassets and cryptoasset service providers. Liechtenstein has adapted to this change early on and transposed MiCAR into national law through the EEA-MiCA Implementation Act (EWR-MiCA-DG) even before the regulation became applicable across the wider EEA.

On 24 June 2025, MiCAR was formally incorporated into the EEA Agreement. This means that MiCAR is now directly applicable throughout the entire EEA, enabling full passporting rights into all EU and EEA member states.

Despite MiCAR's entry into force, the TVTG remains applicable in Liechtenstein. The country's legal architecture is thus defined by a dual regime: MiCAR governs activities harmonised at the EU / EEA level, while the TVTG continues to apply in areas outside MiCAR's scope – such as non-fungible tokens and the civil law aspects of cryptoassets.

**Law stated - 13 Oktober 2025**