Investment, Wealth and Philanthropy Hubs

International Tax Framework for Investment, Wealth and Philanthropy Hubs

Taxation Law Research Programme (TLRP) | HKU Law

Faculty of Law | The University of Hong Kong | 10 July 2025



Professor Dr Martin Wenz

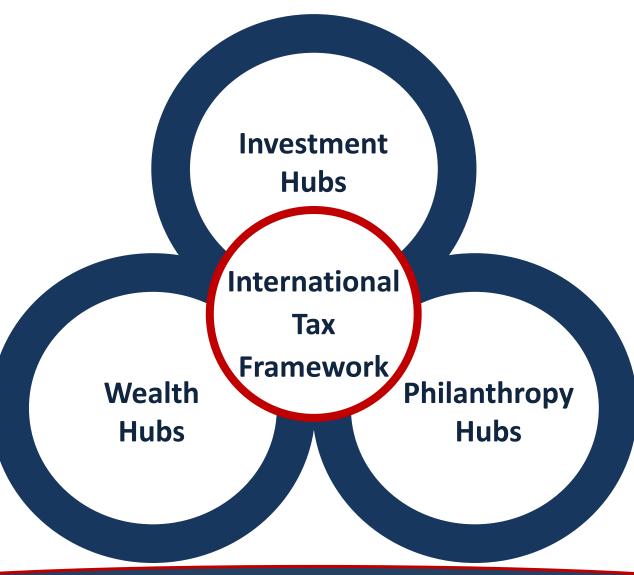
Chair in Business Taxation and the Laws of International and Liechtenstein Taxation Liechtenstein Business Law School Academic Head Liechtenstein Executive School University of Liechtenstein, Vaduz







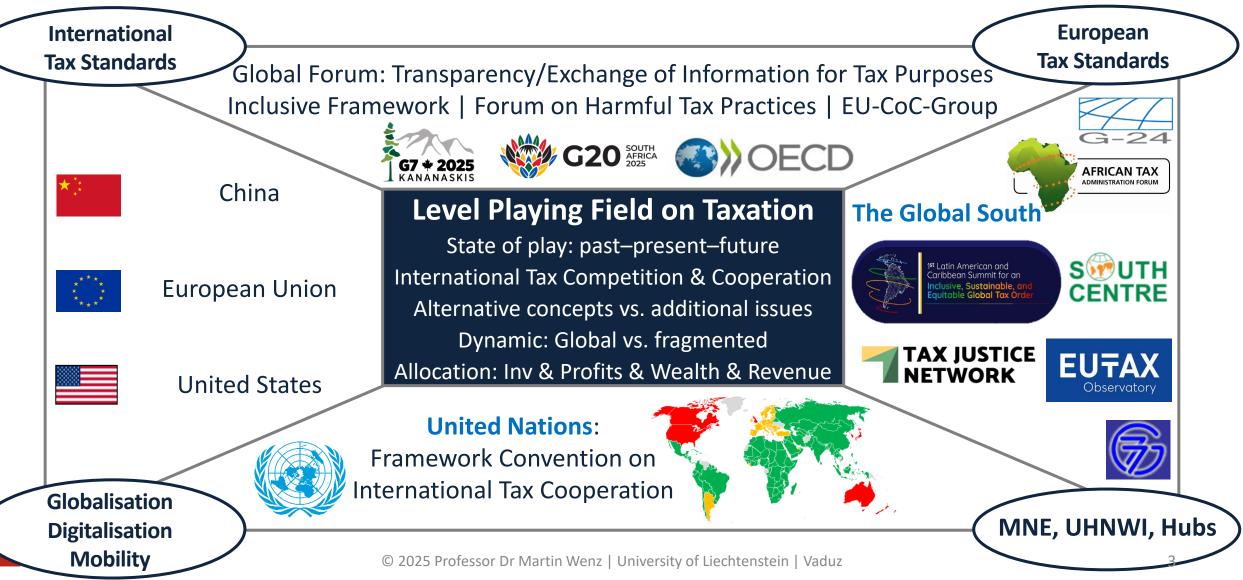
Outline



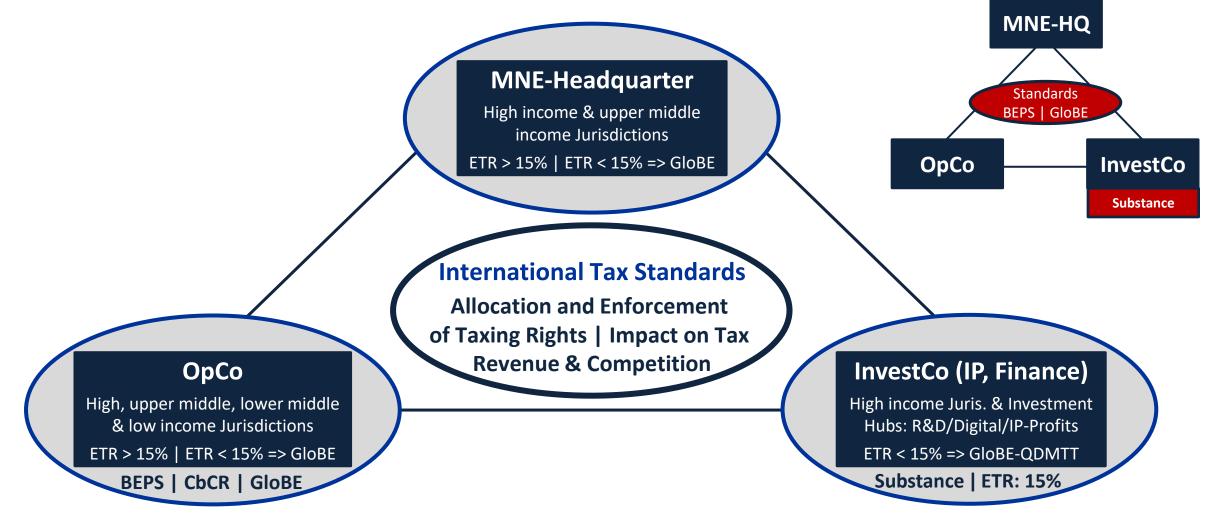


Impact on future position of Investment, Wealth and Philanthropy Hubs

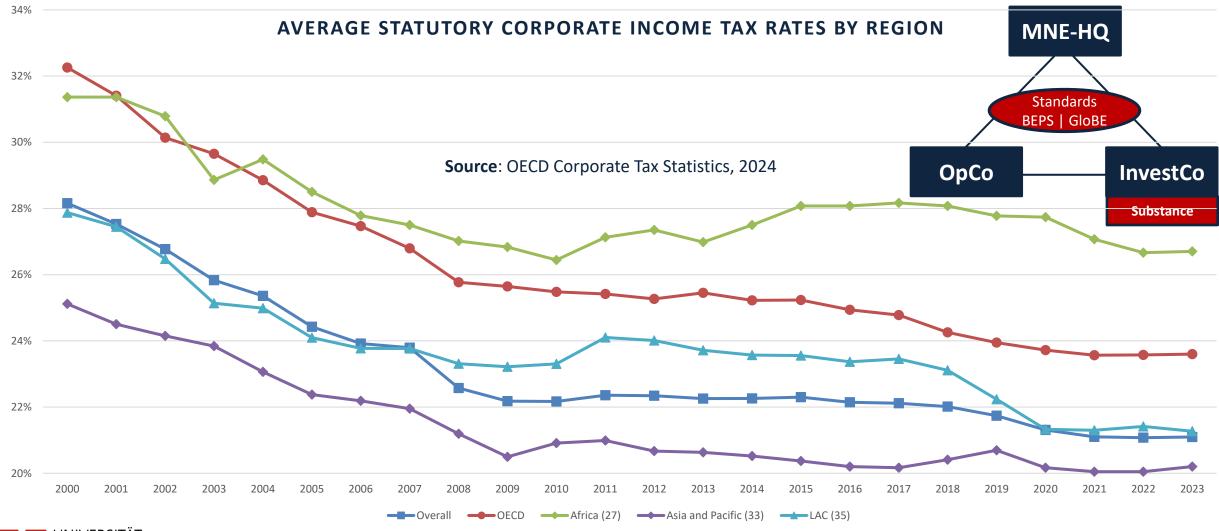
International Level-Playing Field on Taxation



International Tax Standards regarding MNE: Taxing Rights, Profits & Tax Revenue, Tax Competition

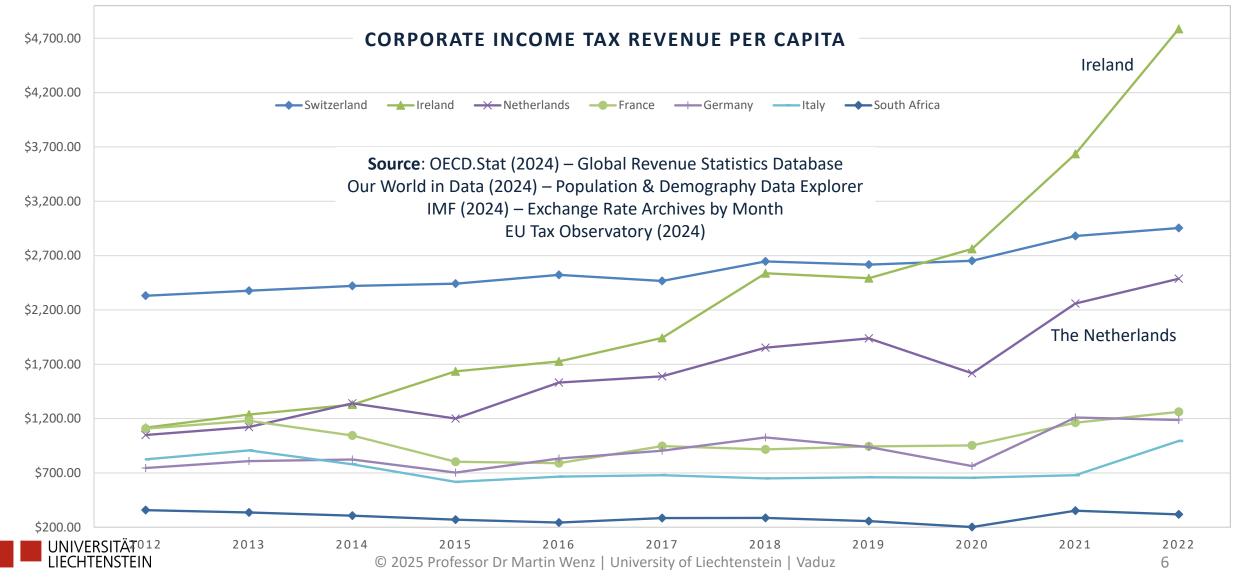


Corporate Income Tax: The International Race to the Bottom



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Global Profit Shifting: Limited Effect of BEPS-Reforms limiting profit shifting by substance requirements



International Taxation of MNE: Empirical evidence on international taxation of MNE profits

Reported profits of large MNEs in different Jurisdiction-income-Groups

» 50.1% of MNE-profits are reported in High-income Jurisdictions + 18.8% in Investment (Hubs: ∑ 68.9%)

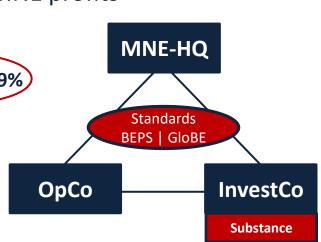
■ High income ■ Upper middle income ■ Lower middle and low income ■ Investment hubs

50.1% 27.7% 3.4% 18.8%

Reported profits of large MNEs in different Jurisdiction-average ETR-Groups

- » 6.8% of MNE-profits are reported in Jurisdictions with average ETRs < 5% + 14.6% in Jurisdictions with average ETRs between 5% and 15%: ∑ 21.4%
- » 68.9% of MNE-profits are reported in jurisdictions with average ETRs between 15% and 25%
- » 9.7% of MNE-profits are reported in jurisdictions with average ETRs exceeding 25%

■ 0-5% ■ 5-15% ■ 15-25% ■ >25%



Data (2017-2020): OECD CbCR data, US Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), Torslov, Wier and Zucman (2023), Bureau van Dijk Orbis Database | Reported average annual net profits of USD 5,929 bn, total profits for the whole 4-year period = USD 23,715 bn

Source: OECD Taxation Working Paper No. 67: Effective tax rates of MNEs: New evidence on global low-taxed profit, 21 November 2023, pp. 29-30

9.7%

^{» 27.7%} of total MNE-profits are booked in Upper middle-income Jurisdictions + 3.4% in Lower middle- and Low-income Jurisdictions: ∑ 31.1%

International Taxation of MNE: Empirical evidence on international taxation of MNE profits

Low-taxed profits of large MNEs in different Jurisdiction-income-Groups

» 38.6% of low-taxed MNE profits are reported in High-income Jurisdictions + 41.4% in Investment Hubs: ∑ 80%

» 18.3% of low-taxed MNE profits are booked in Upper middle-income Jurisdictions + 1.7% in Lower middle- and Low-income Jurisdictions: ∑ 20%

High income

38.6% 18.3% 1.7<mark>% 41.4%</mark>

Low-taxed profits of large MNEs in different Jurisdiction-average ETR-Groups

- » 18.7% of low-taxed MNE profits are reported in jurisdictions with average ETRs < 5% + 28.2% in jurisdictions with average ETRs between 5% and 15%: ∑ 46.9%</p>
- » 49.7% of low-taxed MNE profits reported in jurisdictions with average ETRs between 15% and 25%
- » 3.5% of low-taxed MNE profits reported in jurisdictions with average ETRs exceeding 25%

■ 0-5% ■ 5-15% ■ 15-25% ■ >25%

MNE-HQ

Standards BEPS | GloBE

Data (2017-2020): OECD CbCR data, US Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA),

taxation of MNE profit, 9 January 2024,

OpCo

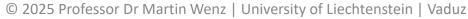
p. 33

InvestCo

Substance

International Tax Architecture: G20/OECD/FHTP-Classification of non-compliant Jurisdictions





International Tax Architecture: EU-Classification of non-compliant jurisdictions

EU-List of non-EU non-cooperative Jurisdictions (NEUNCJ) -> Tax Good Governance Principles (TGGP)

Objective and relevance

Update: 18 February 2025 | next update: October 2025

Annex I: The aim of the EU list of non-EU non-cooperative jurisdictions, which is published as an annex to conclusions adopted by the Ecofin Council **is not to name and shame countries**, but to encourage positive change in their tax legislation and practices, through cooperation

Annex II: Jurisdictions that do not yet comply with all international tax standards but have committed to implementing reforms are included in a state of play document including sunset to switch to Annex I

Annex III: For the EU list to be effective, it is important that EU member states put in place efficient defensive measures in non-tax and tax areas. Defensive measures help to protect tax revenues and fight against tax fraud, evasion and abuse

Annex I: 11 non-cooperative Jurisdictions (NCJ) in tax matters

American Samoa, Anguilla, Fiji, Guam, Palau, Panama, Russian Federation, Samoa, Trinidad and Tobago, US Virgin Islands, Vanuatu

Source: Council of the EU: Revised EU list of non-cooperative jurisdictions for tax purposes, 18 February 2025.

Annex II: 8 Jurisdictions (NCJ), but committed to implement TGGP soon

Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Brunei Darussalam, Eswatini, Türkiye, Vietnam, Seychelles

-> Criteria 2.1 – Existence of harmful tax regimes e.g., foreign source income exemption regime (treatment of income and capital gains) -> Hong Kong, Singapore V

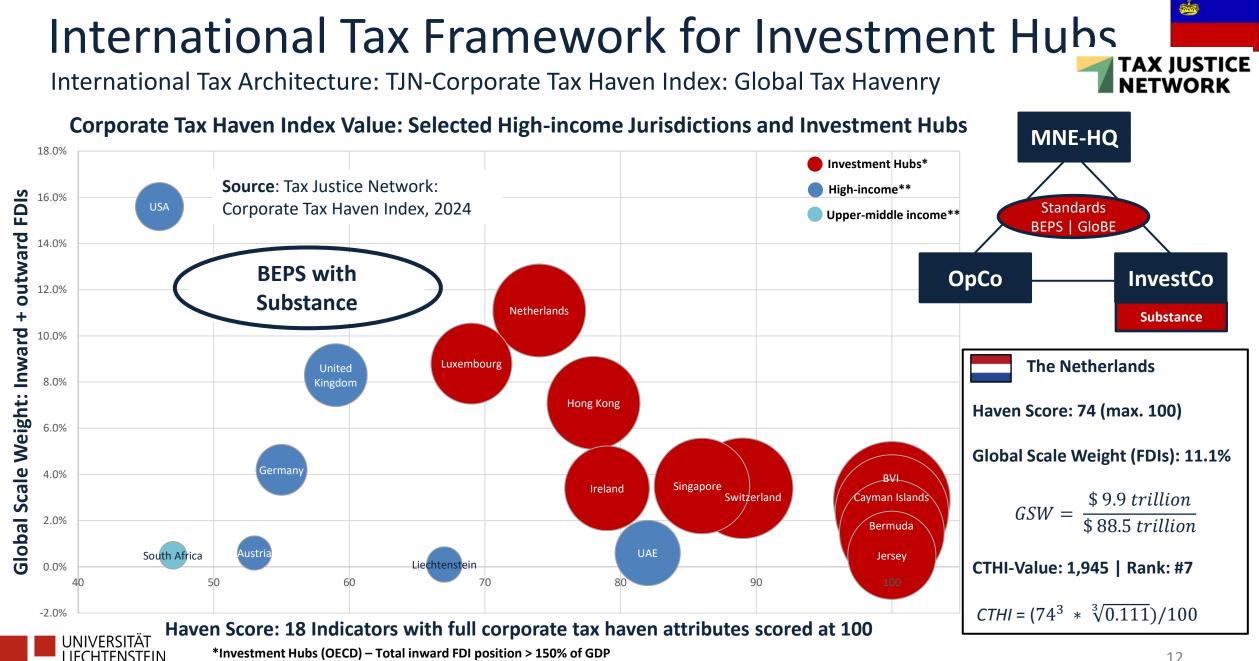
Annex III: Defensive measures

- Monitoring and increased audit risks
- Countermeasures, i.e., non deductibility of expenses, CFC rules, withholding tax measures and limitation of participation exemption
- Documentation/reporting/disclosure requirements 10

Taxation of Business Entities, Wealth, Philanthropic & Charitable Structures & Family Offices

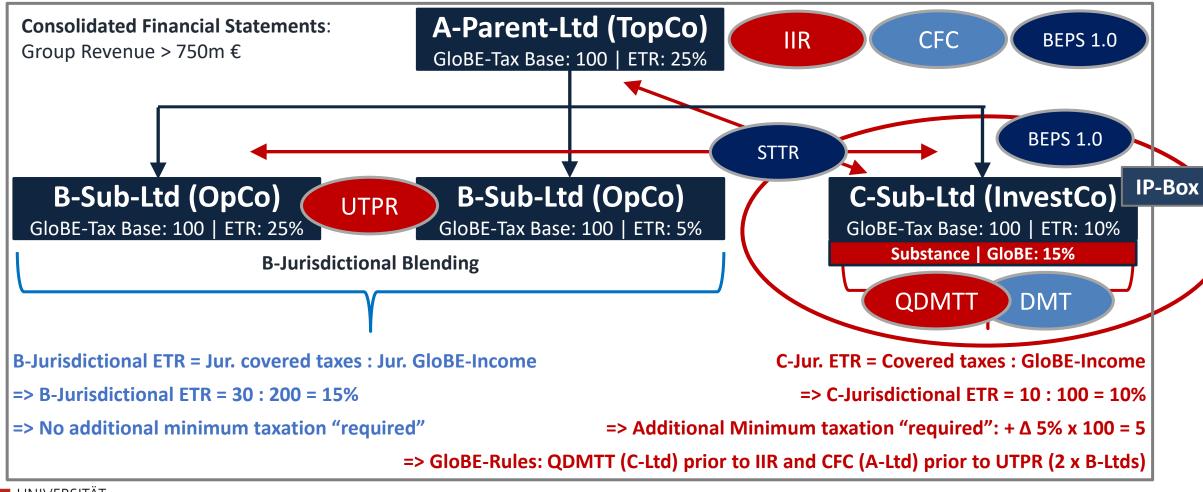
GloBE-Taxation	Corporate Income Tax	Asset Structures/FOs	Philanthropy/Charitable
GloBE-Tax Acts: GloBE-Rules	National Tax Acts	National Tax Acts	National Tax Acts
MNE/LSDG: € 750m turnove	All legal entities	All legal entities	All legal entities
Economic activities	Economic activities	No economic activities	No economic activities
Tax Base: Excess Profits	Base: Profits subject to cit	No Tax Base	No Tax Base
Tax Rate: 15%	Tax Rate: e.g., 12.5%	Lump-sum tax	Tax exemption
Active business and economic activities	Wealth, Philant	nal Taxation of hropic & Charitable & Family Offices	Pure administrative, charitable or philanthrop vs. economic activities
Transparent taxation of tr	usts, partnerships, investment	funds etc.	
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**Income Classification (World Bank) – High Income: GNI/Capita > 14,005 US\$; Upper-middle Income: GNI/Capita 4,516 – 14,005 US\$

Pillar 2: Comprehensive backstop mechanism with jurisdictional blending to prevent BEPS and to curb tax competition at 15% of MNE profits in all source countries (GloBE) and at 9% on certain gross payments (STTR)



Pillar 2: New International Benchmark Tax System | Prevent BEPS, curb tax competition & cancel out incentives

Tax Rates

ETR: ≥ 15%

Pillar 2/STR: \geq 9%

on certain gross

payments

Financial Accounting Net Income / Loss

Net taxes expense

- Excluded dividends (> 10% or > 1 year)
- +/-Excluded equity gains (-) / losses (+) (>10%)
- Policy disallowed expenses
- Accrued pension expense
- Other items +/-
- **GloBE-Income**
- GloBE-Substance-Based-Income Exclusions
- **GloBE-Excess Profits (ExP)**

Additional allowances, exemptions, rate reductions etc.

Direct subsidies. QRTCs, MTTCs

 $\mathbf{ETR}_{\mathbf{j}} = \frac{\sum \text{Covered Taxes of all CEs in the jurisdiction}}{\sum \text{GloBE Income of all CEs in the jurisdiction}}$

 $QDMTT_i = (15\% - ETR_i) \times (GloBE Income_i - SBIE_i)$

Tax Basis GloBE-Income -> ETR GloBE-Substance-Based-**Income Exclusions: SBIE** 5% (8/10%) carrying value of tangible Benchmark assets and of payroll Tax System: Top-up Tax on Reference **Excess** Profits

Corporate Income Tax System

Worldwide CIT-System with ALS, BEPS-Minimum Standard, jurisdictional blending and a Top-up Tax-Rule Order to prevent BEPS, to curb tax competition & to cancel out incentives

P2-GloBE-Rule Order (Allocation of Taxing Rights): STTR -> DMT -> QDMTT -> CFC -> IIR -> UTPR DMT (GloBE-Income) \geq QDMTT (Ex Profits) $QDMTT \ge IIR \rightarrow CFC$ as covered tax? Pillar 2/GloBE-

> **P2-GloBE-Minimum Effective Tax Rate** \geq **15%** on overall profits (ExP) **P2-Minimum Statutory Tax Rate** ≥ 9% on certain gross payments

Traditional income- vs. expenditurebased tax incentives: IP-Boxes, reduced CIT-Rates, R&D-super-deductions etc.

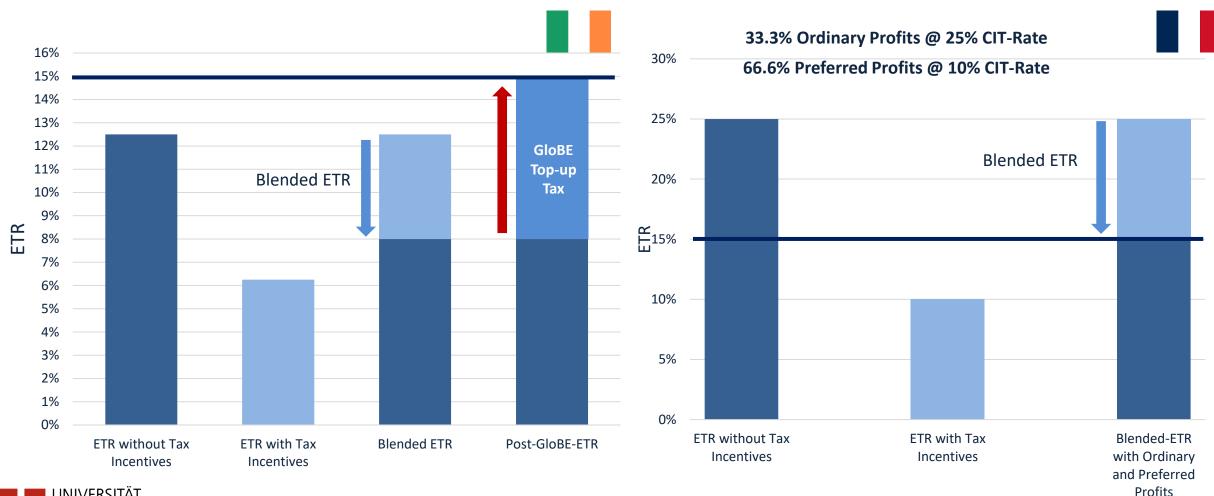
Direct subsidies

ORTCs: Qualified Refundable Tax Credits MTTCs: Marketable Transferable Tax Credits 14

© 2025 Professor Dr Martin Wenz | University of Liechtenstein | Vaduz $TT_i (IIR/UTPR) = (15\% - ETR_i) \times (GloBE Income_i - SBIE_i) - QDMTT$

Impact of Pillar 2 (STTR/GloBE-Rules) on tax systems and tax incentives: Low vs. high-tax countries

Low-tax countries: No cross-border or domestic BEPS possible



High-tax countries: Domestic BEPS possible by blending



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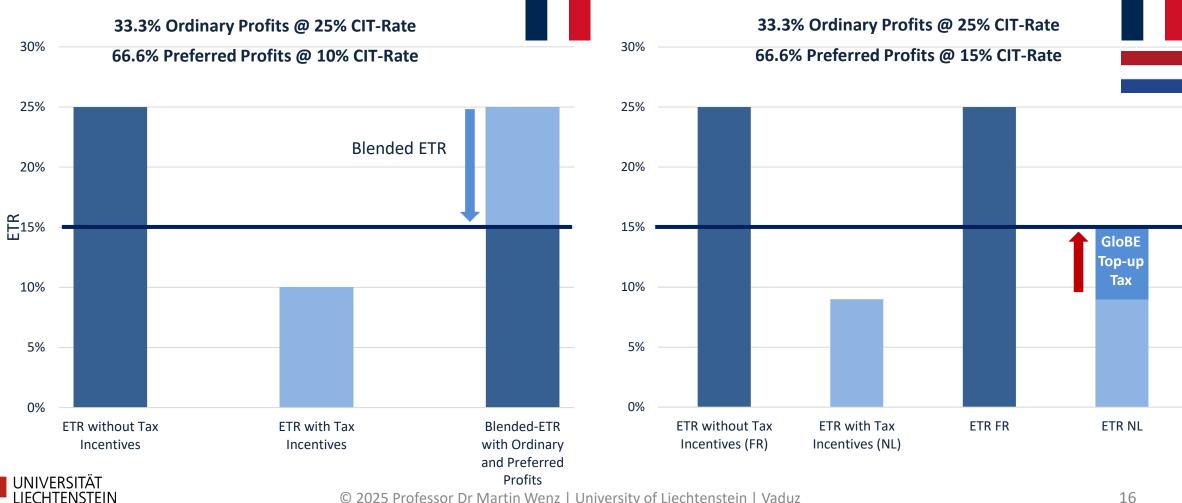
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Impact of Pillar 2 (STTR/GloBE-Rules) on tax systems and tax incentives: Cross-border vs. domestic BEPS

High-tax countries: Domestic BEPS possible by blending

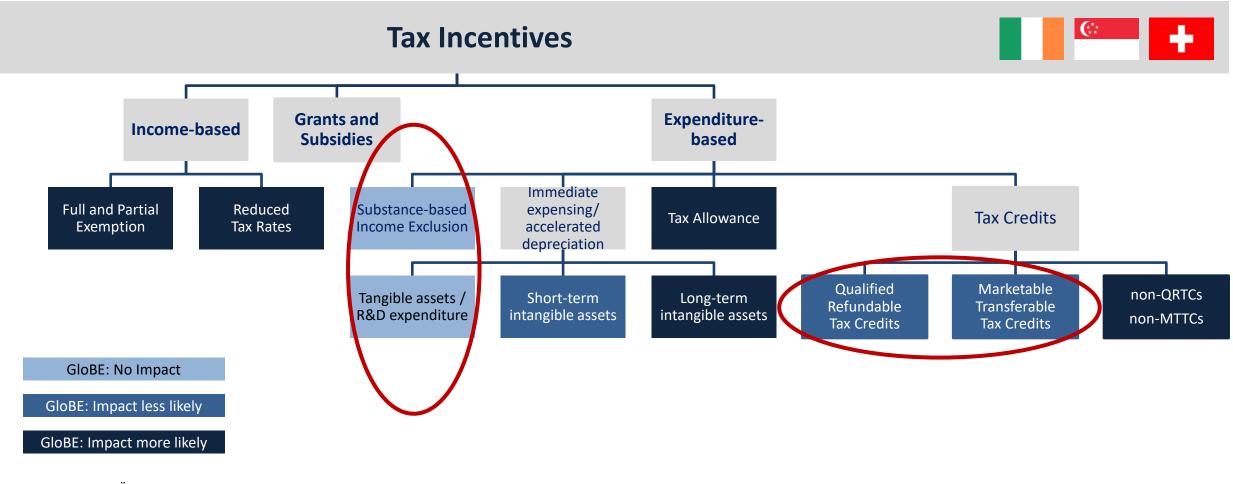
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High- and low tax countries: No Cross-border BEPS



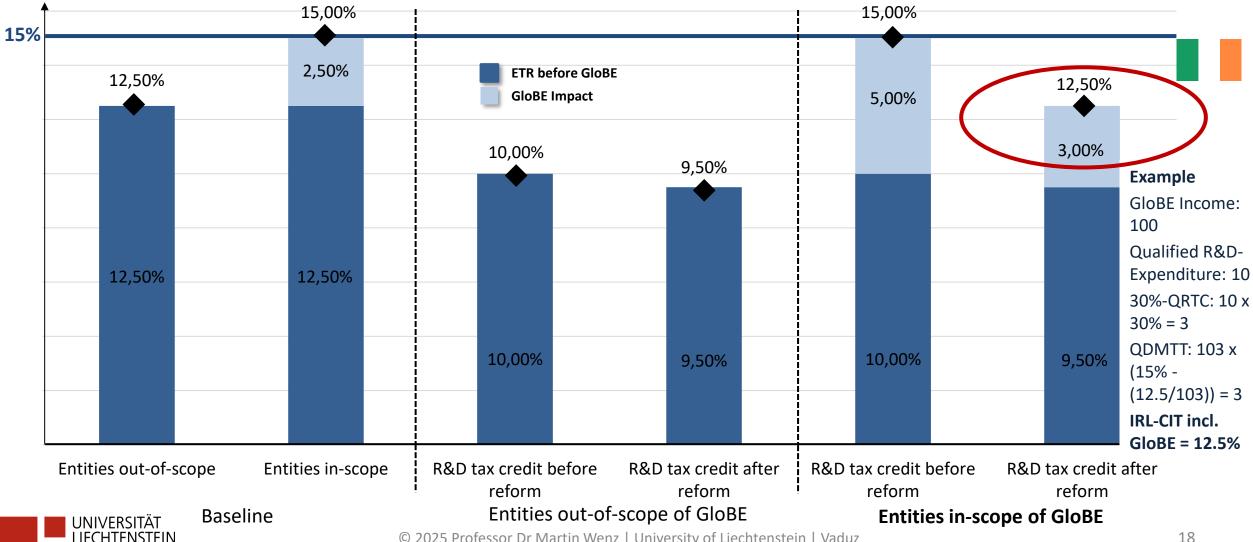
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Pillar 2: Tax treatment of and impact on tax incentives under GloBE



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Redesign of tax incentives after GloBE: The Irish R&D-Tax Credit (QRTC) before and after Pillar 2-changes



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Redesign of tax incentives after GloBE: The new Singapore Refundable Investment Credit (SRIC)

The new Singapore Refundable Investment Credit (SRIC) -> Model for other countries and cantons?

- Open approval as QRTC: SRIC as non-GloBE-related benefit vs. qualified as GloBE-related benefit
- Impact on Qualification status of Singapore-QDMTT

Supporting high-value & substantive economic activities -> Expenditure-based Tax Incentives: 10/30/50%

- Investing in new productive capacity (new manufacturing plant, production of low-carbon energy etc.)
- Expanding or establishing the scope of activities in digital services, professional services, supply chain management
- Expanding or establishing headquarter activities and Centres of Excellence
- Setting up or expansion of activities by commodity trading firms
- Carrying out R&D and innovation activities
- Implementing solutions with decarbonisation objectives

Awarded on an approval basis through

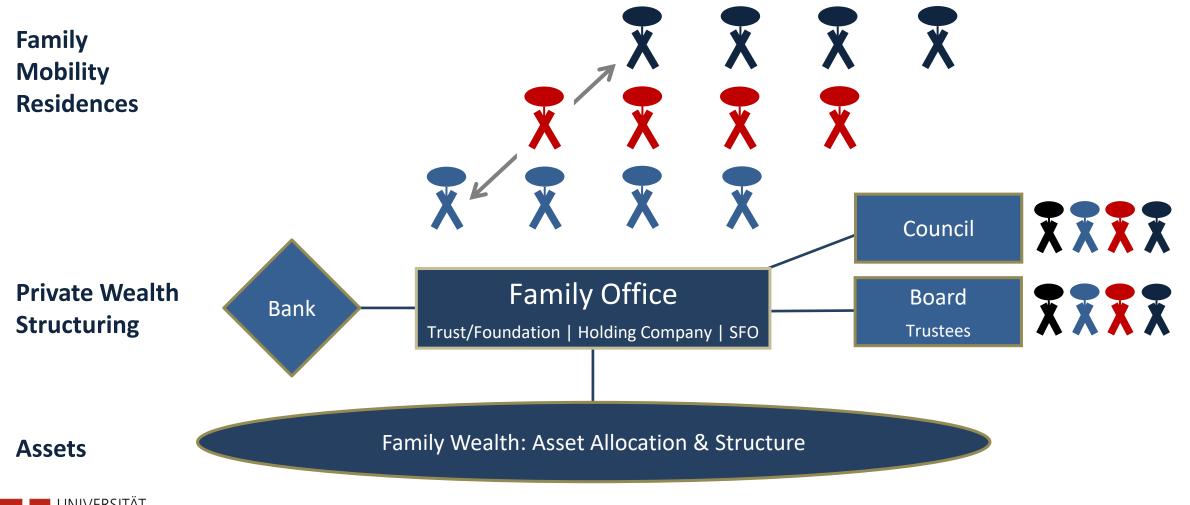
- The Singapore Economic Development Board or
- Enterprise Singapore
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Q-Status of GloBE-Tax Rules: Jurisdiction must not provide MNE with tax incentives that are related to the GloBE-Rules incl. QDMTT

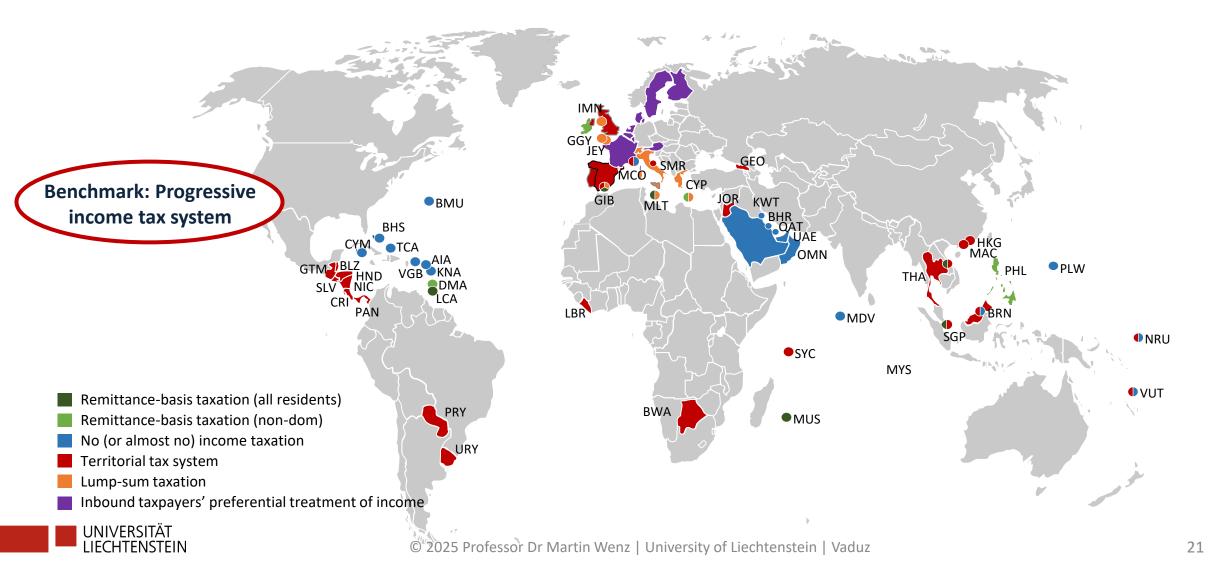


Hallmarks to approve qualified tax incentives

International taxation of mobile individuals (UHNWI) with Family Offices & Wealth Structures



Favourable tax systems for individuals (UHNWI) incl. Family Offices (FO)



Migration of Millionaires and Wealth 2025

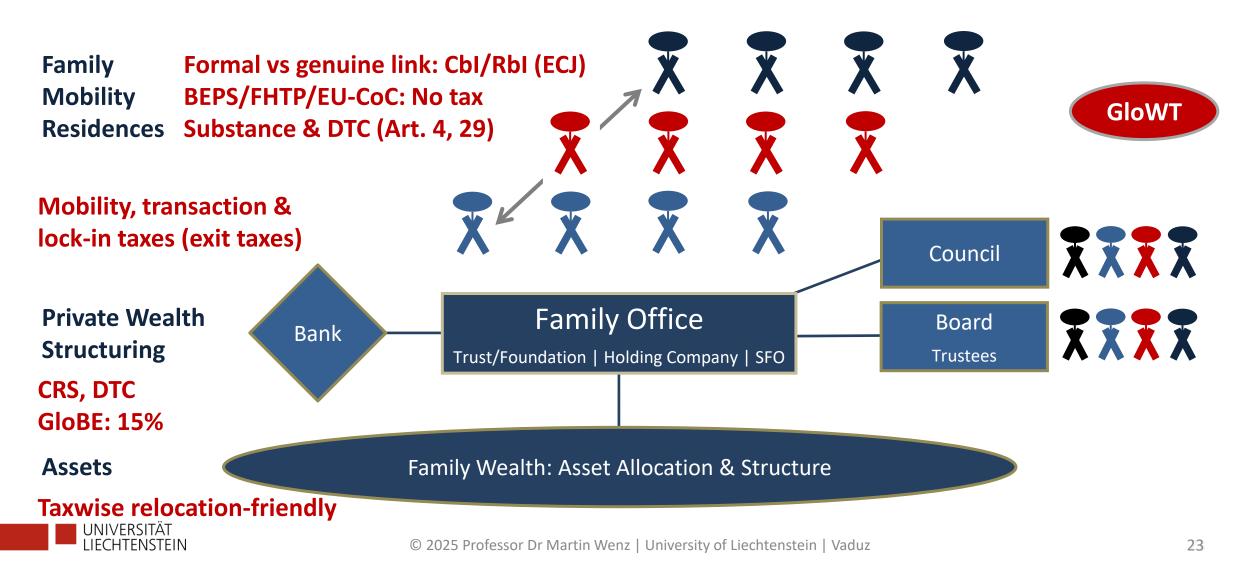
		1 only
Immigration	Millionaires	USD bn
UAE	+ 9,800	+ 63
USA	+ 7,500	+ 43.7
Italy	+ 3,600	+ 20.7
Switzerland	+ 3,000	+ 16.8
Saudi Arabia	+ 2,400	+ 18.4
Singapore	+ 1,600	+ 8.9
Hong Kong	+ 800	+ 5.3

Emigration	Millionaires	USD bn
UK	- 16,500	- 91.8
China	- 7,800	- 55.9
India	- 3,500	- 26.2
South Korea	- 2,400	- 15.2
Russia	- 1,500	- 14.7
Brazil	- 1,200	- 8.4

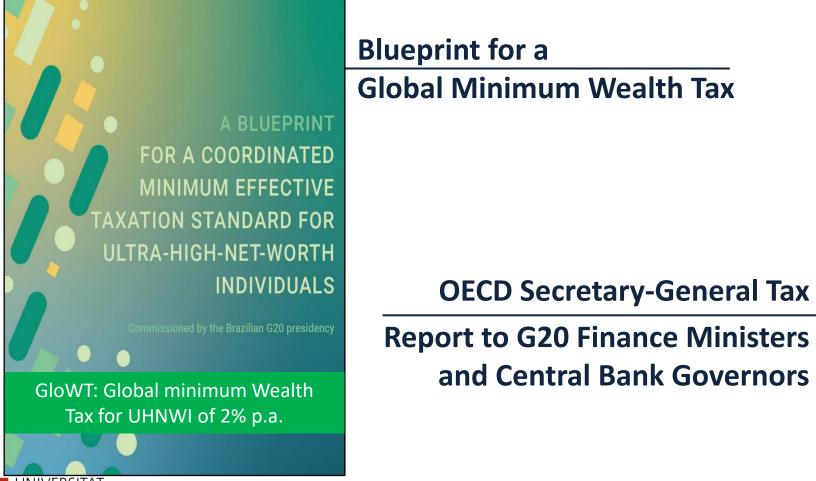
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Source: Henley & Partners, The Henley Private Wealth Migration Report 2025

International taxation of mobile individuals (UHNWI) with Family Offices & Wealth Structures: Challenges



Effective taxation of UHNWI | Global Minimum Wealth Tax | G20 and OECD Reports



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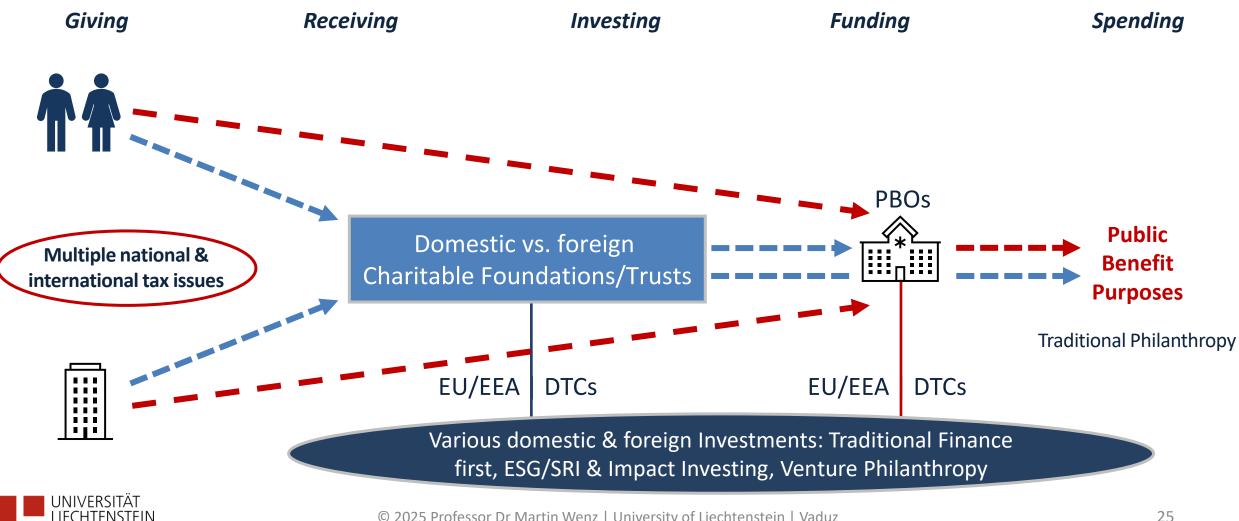
OECD SECRETARY-GENERAL TAX REPORT TO G20 FINANCE MINISTERS AND CENTRAL BANK GOVERNORS

G20 South Africa, February 2025

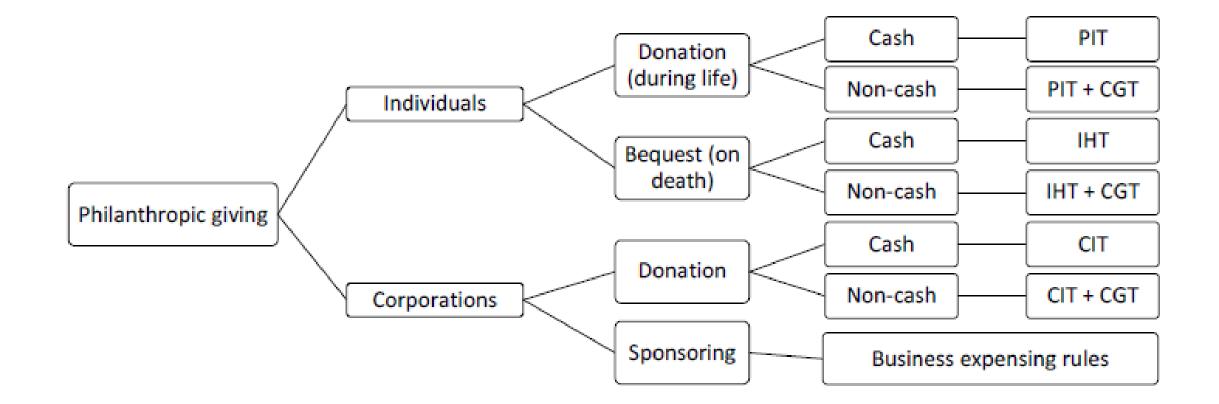
"With full respect to tax sovereignty, we will seek to engage cooperatively to ensure that ultra-high-net-worth individuals are effectively taxed."

C

Comprehensive national and international tax model for philanthropy and for various philanthropic activities



Tax implications according to the characteristics of philanthropic giving





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Source: OECD, Taxation and Philanthropy, 2020, p. 76 26

Recognised worthy purposes: Country overview

	Welfare	Education	Science	Health-care	Cultural	Environmental	Disaster relief	Civil society	Community service	Human rights	Development finance	Child-care	Humanitarian aid (abroad)	Religious	Amateur sport	Animal protection	Civil- protection	Consumer protection	Other	
Australia	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	х	×	×		×	×	×	×	×		х	SGN:
Austria	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×		×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×			
Germany	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×		
Luxembourg	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×		×	×	×	×	×	×			
Netherlands	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×		×	×			
Singapore																			×	
Switzerland	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×		×			×		×		
Liechtenstein	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×		×	×	×	х	
New Zealand	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×		
Ireland / UK	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×		Sour Taxa
US	х	х	x	х	© 20 X	25 Prot X	fessor D X	r Marti X	in Wenz X	Univ	ersity of X	Liecht X	enstein X	Vadu: X	x	x	х	x	х	Phila p. 45

not contain a specification of what constitutes an entity with worthy purposes or activity of public benefit. SGN: Recognises charitable purposes as defined in common: (i) relief of poverty, (ii) advancement of education: (iii) advancement of religion; & (iv) other purposes beneficial to the community, such as healthpromotion, advancement of arts & heritage, & environmental protection. Source: OECD, Taxation and Philantbropy, 2020,

Notes (amended)

NZL: The tax act does

Tax Incentives for donations by individuals and corporations: Country overview

	Deduction	Credit	Matching	Allocation	Other	
Australia	×					Notes (amended) NZL: The tax credit is
Austria	×					wholly refundable.
Germany	×					X denotes the tax
Luxembourg	×					incentive for corporations O denotes the tax
Netherlands	×					incentive for individuals (if different from that of
Singapore	×					corporations)
Switzerland	×					
Liechtenstein	×					
Hong Kong (China)	×					
New Zealand	×	0				
Ireland / UK	×		0			Source : OECD, Taxation and Philanthropy, 2020, pp. 79, 97
US	Х	© 2025 Professor Dr Mi	artin Wenz University of	f Liechtenstein Vaduz	Х	28

Tax Incentives for cross-border donations: Country overview

	Country incentivises cross-border donations
Australia	No
Austria	Yes, if EU/EEA and countries where administrative cooperation exists
Germany	Yes, if EU/EEA and some connection to Germany
Luxembourg	Yes, if EU/EEA
Netherlands	Yes, if entity registered
Singapore	No
Switzerland	No
Liechtenstein	Yes, if EU/EEA/Switzerland
Hong Kong (China)	No
New Zealand	No, except for specific cases
Ireland / UK	Yes, if EU/EEA and entity registered / Yes, if EU/EEA (subject to BREXIT)
US	No, except under DTA 2025 Professor Dr Martin Wenz University of Liechtenstein Vaduz

Notes (amended)

- 1. EU refers to countries that are Member States of the European Union.
- 2. EEA refers to the European Economic Area and includes EU countries and also Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. It allows them to be part of the EU's single market.
- 3. Switzerland is neither a Member States of the EU nor the EEA. It is not subject to decisions by the ECJ. It may be that Switzerland can benefit from the ECJ ruling for incoming donations based on the principle of free movement of capital that prohibits restrictions on the free movement of capital not only between EU-Member States but also between EU-Member States and third states.

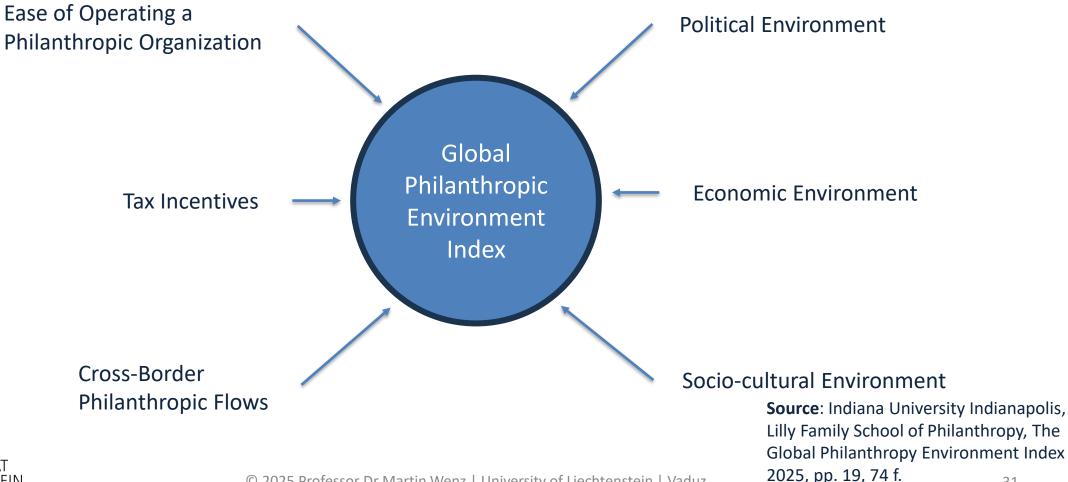
Source: OECD, Taxation and Philanthropy, 2020, p. 110 29

Preferential tax treatment of foreign Public Benefit Organisations (PBO): Country overview

	Country provides preferential tax treatment to foreign PBO
Australia	Generally no, but may obtain approval
Austria	Yes, if within EU/EEA and countries where administrative cooperation exists
Germany	Yes, if within EU/EEA
Luxembourg	Yes, if within EU/EEA
Netherlands	Yes, must be registered
Singapore	No (but see: MoF, OHAS 2024-2028)
Switzerland	Νο
Liechtenstein	Yes, if EU/EEA/Switzerland
Hong Kong (China)	No
New Zealand	Generally no, but may obtain approval
Ireland / UK	Yes, if within EU/EEA but must be registered / Yes, if EU/EEA (subject to BREXIT)
US	No © 2025 Professor Dr Martin Wenz University of Liechtenstein Vaduz

Source: OECD, Taxation and Philanthropy, 2020, p. 118

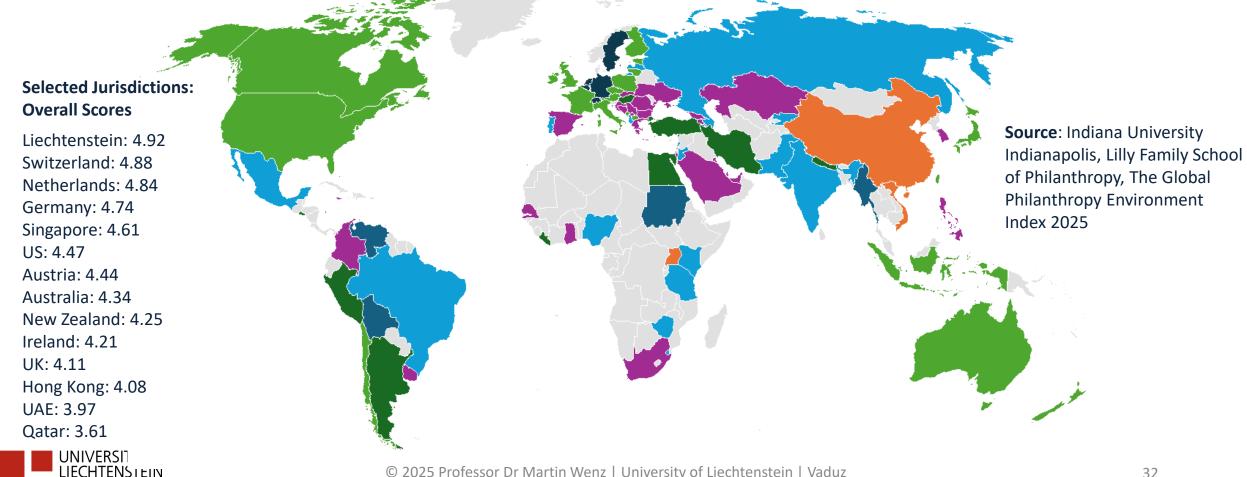
The Global Philanthropy Environment Index (GPEI 2025): 6 distinct factors measured for 95 countries



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The Global Philanthropy Environment Index (GPEI 2025): Overall Scores according to the applied scoring model

1.50 - 1.99 **2**.00 - 2.49 **2**.50 - 2.99 **3**.00 - 3.49 **3**.50 - 3.99 **4**.00 - 4.49 **4**.50 - 5.00



The Global Philanthropy Environment Index (GPEI 2025): Tax-related factors measured by the questionnaire

Tax Incentives: Laws and regulations governing fiscal incentives and disincentives of giving and receiving donations domestically

- Fiscal incentives for individuals making charitable donations domestically
- Fiscal incentives for organizations receiving domestic donations

Cross-Border Philanthropic Flows: Laws and regulations governing fiscal incentives and disincentives of giving and receiving donations across borders

- > Extent to which the legal regulatory environment is favorable to sending cross-border donations
- > Extent to which the legal regulatory environment is favorable to receiving cross-border donations

Source: Indiana University Indianapolis, Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, The Global Philanthropy Environment Index 2025, p. 75 33



The Global Philanthropy Environment Index (GPEI 2025): Tax Incentives Scores

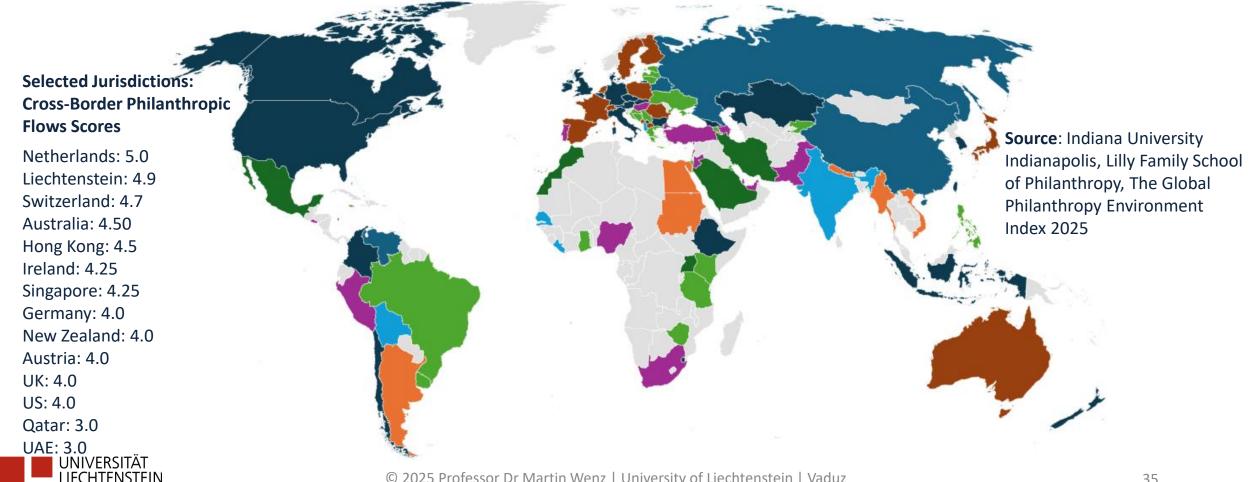
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1.50 - 1.99 **2**.00 - 2.49 **2**.50 - 2.99 **3**.00 - 3.49 **3**.50 - 3.99 **4**.00 - 4.49 **4**.50 - 5.00

Selected Jurisdictions: Tax Incentives Scores Source: Indiana University Germany: 5.0 Indianapolis, Lilly Family School Netherlands: 5.0 of Philanthropy, The Global US: 5.0 Philanthropy Environment Liechtenstein: 4.9 Index 2025 Switzerland: 4.9 Singapore: 4.85 New Zealand: 4.8 Austria: 4.5 Hong Kong: 4.5 Ireland: 4.25 Australia: 4.20 UK: 3.75 Qatar: 2.25 UAE: -UNIVERSITÄ

The Global Philanthropy Environment Index (GPEI 2025): Cross-Border Philanthropic Flows Scores

■ 1.00 - 1.49 ■ 1.5 - 1.99 ■ 2.00 - 2.49 ■ 2.50 - 2.99 ■ 3.00 - 3.49 ■ 3.50 - 3.99 ■ 4.00 - 4.49 ■ 4.50 - 5.00

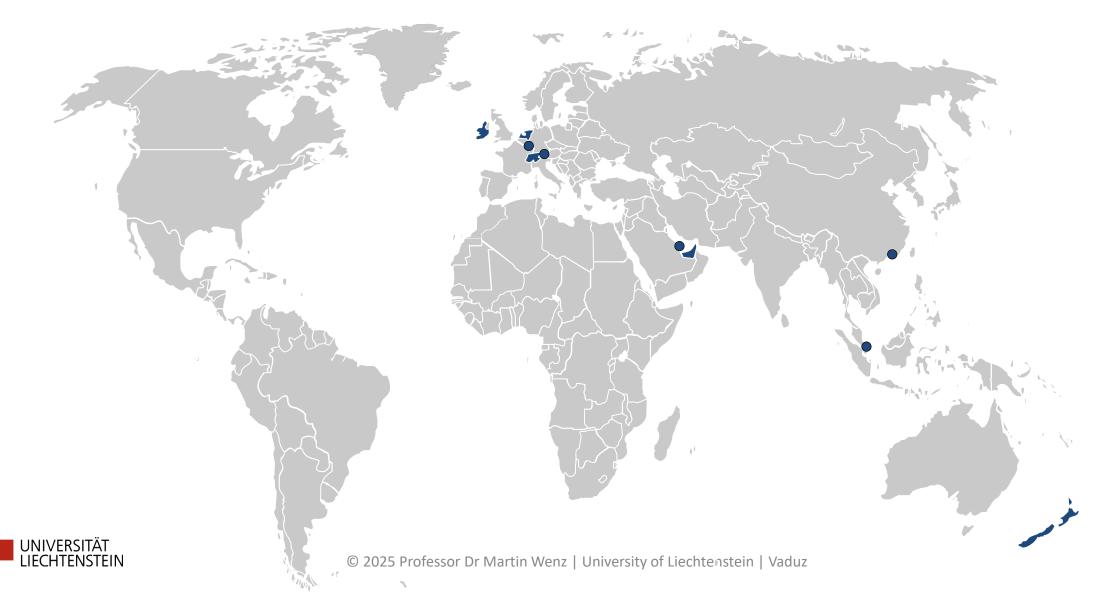


The Global Philanthropy Environment Index (GPEI 2025): Individual Scores for selected jurisdictions

Country	Overall	Cross-Border Philanthropic Flows	Tax Incentives	Ease of Operating a PO	Political Environment	Economic Environment	Socio-Cultural Environment
Liechtenstein	4,92	4,90	4,90	4,90	4,90	5,00	4,90
Switzerland	4,88	4,70	4,90	5,00	4,80	5,00	5,00
Netherlands	4,84	5,00	5,00	5,00	4,75	4,50	4,80
Germany	4,78	4,00	5,00	4,83	4,80	4,80	5,00
Singapore	4,61	4,25	4,85	4,93	5,00	4,50	4,10
Austria	4,44	4,00	4,50	4,9	4,84	4,20	4,44
New Zealand	4,25	4,00	4,80	4,70	4,00	4,00	4,00
Ireland	4,21	4,25	4,25	4,63	4,15	3,50	4.50
Hong Kong	4,08	4,50	4,50	4,00	3,50	4,00	4,00
United Arab Emirates	3,97	3,00	n.a.	3,33	4,00	5,00	4.50
Qatar	3,61	3,00	2,25	4,17	3,75	4,50	4.00



Project on Investment, Wealth and Philanthropy Hubs: CH, HK, IRL, LIE, LUX, NL, NZL, QA, SG, UAE ...



Investment, Wealth and Philanthropy Hubs

International Tax Framework for Investment, Wealth and Philanthropy Hubs

Taxation Law Research Programme (TLRP) | HKU Law

Faculty of Law | The University of Hong Kong | 10 July 2025



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