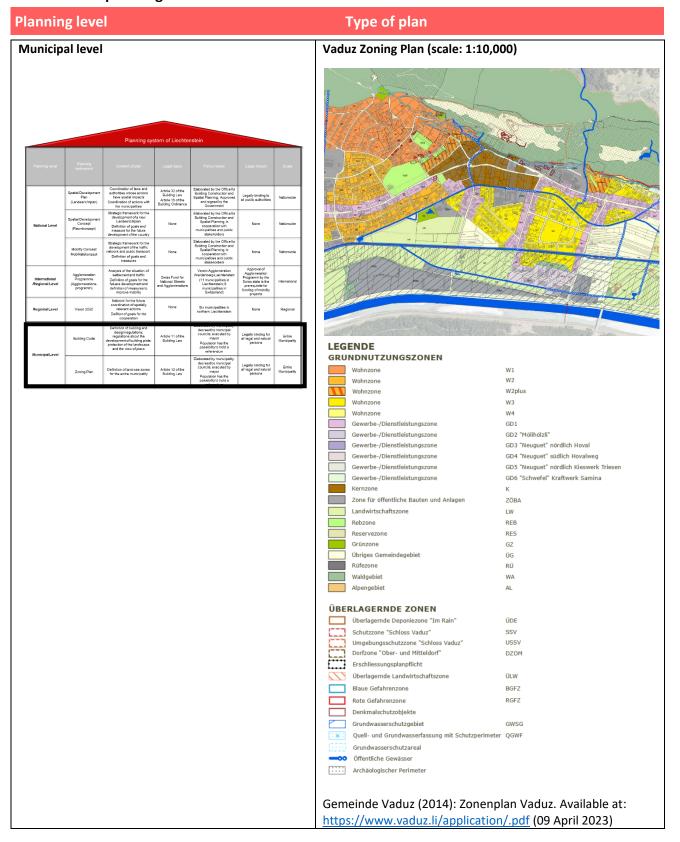


Fact sheet for planning levels



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Facts: The development of the town centre of Vaduz – A combination of hard and soft planning

Initial situation and location

Vaduz, with its 5,700 inhabitants, is the capital of Liechtenstein and the seat of the Princely Family of Liechtenstein, and hence the city considers that it must maintain a 'prestigious appearance' (Gemeinde Vaduz 24.04.2011, p. 2). The village centre has changed massively in the last 70 years, developing from a rural village to an international centre of the finance industry, the arts (Kunstmuseum Liechtenstein, Hilti Art Foundation) and daytrip tourism. This development has occasioned controversial discussions between different interests and stakeholders, with many locals feeling left behind by the interests of those sectors. In the last 10 to 15 years, the development of the village centre of Vaduz has been shaped by a combination of hard and soft planning instruments.

Legal basis

- The hard planning instruments (Building Code, Zoning Plan) are legally defined in the national building law. The municipal councils decreed these instruments and they are legally binding.
- The town centre development strategy is an informal planning instrument that included extensive public participation and an analysis of the built environment, green spaces, public spaces and buildings in the town centre.

Competences

The municipalities are responsible for planning within their municipal borders. They must have a
zoning plan and a building code as prescribed in the national building law. All other instruments,
especially soft instruments, can be developed and implemented on behalf of the municipalities.

Binding force

The building code and zoning plan are municipal ordinances with binding effect for all public authorities, public planning agencies as well as private individuals. Municipalities usually rework the building code every 10-20 years.

Tasks and content

- Hard planning instruments: The municipal building code and zoning plan define the town centre as a core zone (*Kernzone*) where multifunctional uses (such as commerce, gastronomy, services, entertainment) as well as high-density housing are allowed. The building code also obliges to municipality to develop a design plan for the core zone (Gemeinde Vaduz 10.06.2014, p. 9). Furthermore, to guarantee the 'prestigious appearance' the municipality has decreed "rules for the design of publicly accessible places" which regulate specificities such as the colours and labelling of parasols as well as the colour of tablecloths on tables set up in public spaces owned by the municipality (Gemeinde Vaduz 24.04.2011, p. 3-4).
- Soft planning instrument: In March 2017 the municipality of Vaduz initiated a participatory process with representatives of different stakeholder groups (the local economy, pensioners, youth, culture, education, etc.) to develop a strategic framework for the future development of the village centre and to make it more attractive for the local population, commuters and tourists. Different participatory formats with various stakeholder groups were held, resulting in 13



'strategic building blocks' (strategische Bausteine) that ranged from public space, access to water, accessibility for pedestrians, housing, work etc.

Process of town centre development

After the local council had passed the development strategy for the village centre in autumn 2018, a three week participatory festival entitled 'Basecamp: Vadozner Huus' was held in cooperation with the Institute of Architecture and Planning at the University of Liechtenstein and a private spatial planning consultancy. The festival was held on top of a parking garage that was built in the 1970s, which was defined in the strategy as the anchor point for the future development of the centre. The idea behind the festival was to gather specific ideas for the redevelopment of the area of the parking garage. The results of the festival were presented to the local council, which decided half a year later to demolish the parking garage and create public green space (Liechtensteiner Vaterland (2020): Marktplatz-Areal soll ebenerdig werden. Available at: https://www.vaterland.li/liechtenstein/gesellschaft/gemeinden/marktplatz-areal-soll-ebenerdig-werden;art170,417661 (09 April 2023)). As yet, however, the works to demolish the parking garage have not started, as negotiations with the neighbouring landowners are proving tricky.

Notes and links

Gemeinde Vaduz (2022): Reglemente. Available at:

https://www.vaduz.li/service/reglemente/reglemente/navigate/1285/712 (09 April 2023)

Gemeinde Vaduz (2018): Zentrumsentwicklung Vaduz. Strategie. Available at:

https://www.vaduz.li/application/files/6316/1294/5552/PublikationZentrumsentw Web.pdf (09 April 2023)