



European Network of National Observatories on Childhood

ESTONIA

Form for the compilation of good practises in the post adoption phase for the Seminar on post adoption Art.9 c) Hague Convention

Estonia is country of origin, every year we place around 20 Estonian children into families in Finland, Sweden or United States of America. There had been take also few adoptions into Estonia from other countries, mostly inside the family or into relatives families.

Post-adoption services

1. Do the social services promote the establishment of a trust relation with the prospective adoptive parents before the adoption is pronounced in particular in the meetings that are aimed at their training and preparation? (so that in case of problems in the post adoption phase the adoptive parents are more likely to contact the social services)

In Estonia prospective adoptive family should participate on the Pride Training and additionally family should go through the home visits and interview with regional child protection worker, which will prepare the family for future role of adoptive family and which should prevent possible problems Estonia.

2. Please indicate the possible types of services (counselling, groups of mutual aid, psychotherapy, scholastic support, family mediation, etc...).

There are no specific post-adoption services in Estonia, but the adoptive family has access to all services meant to the families with children, like counselling, group counselling, self support groups, trainings for parents, support person for child or family, etc...

3. Who is the subject that has the responsibility of the service?

All the services for families with children are provided by the local government, only specific counselling and group counselling are provided by the County (regional) level child protection worker. As the coordination and arrangement of domestic adoption has duty of the County level.

4. Staff employed in the Service (number, professional characteristics, etc..).

Every County has one child protection worker responsible for adoption issues, plus pair of Pride trainers who share trainings before and after adoptions. Every Municipality has responsibility to arrange the child protection and as the number of inhabitants is very different in municipalities the number of workers is also. Good practice is that there is one worker for every one thousand child living in area, plus service givers.

5. Duration of the Service (until when?, until the minor is 18 years old?)



In general child and family have right to the specific services (meant to all families with children, not only to adoptive families) when there are under 18 years old children in family.

6. Is there collaboration and integration among the different public subjects involved (services, school, etc..) and between these and the private bodies in the carrying out of the service?

No.

7. Is there an evaluation system of the service? Are data on the use of the service by families available?

Yes, but as these services are for all families I will not give the data and statistics here.

8. Who elaborates the reports on the post-adoption phase required by the authorities of States of origin?

If there is need, then County (regional) level social worker.

9. Are there good practices in the country relating with the beginning of the relation with the adoptive family on the immediately subsequent period after the pronouncement of adoption?

Access to the origins

10. In the framework of the support services in the post-adoption phase, is there a service to support those who want to collect information about their origins? (Right to the access to the origins recognized also in the art. 7 (1) of the Convention on Rights of the Child).

According Estonian legislation every person has right to access to the documentation about him /her. County (regional) level social worker helps adoptee to find his/her origins. Person has also right to turn directly to Register Office to get such information.

11. Are there limits and conditions for the access to the information about the origins (age, consent of the adoptive parents and/or biological parents)?

There are no limits to get information from Registry Office or first level Court.

12. Who is the competent subject to address the request (public services, the central authority, an administrative office, etc..)?

In case of domestic adoption adult adoptee should contact first County level social worker, in case of international adoption person should contact the central authority (Estonian Ministry of Social Affairs) or directly Registry Office.

13. Are there centres and/or services specialized in the assistance in this sector?



No, but County social worker has responsibility to act as go-between if there is need.

- 14.** Does a central organ exist which has to collect and preserve the information on the origins

No, the information will be filed in the County Government and in the Court.

- 15.** What are the modalities of functioning and access to the service? What are the professional roles engaged in the support phase in the research on information on the origins?

County level social worker usually takes first contact and helps to create the communication between child or grown up adoptee and his or her origin.

- 16.** How long has the information on the origins to be preserved?

For 75 years.

- 17.** Is it possible to check if and how the valorisation and the preservation of the links with the origins is promoted (cultural and social events with other adoptive parents group, travel opportunities to the country of origin with other adoptive family, etc.)? Is this kind of activity carried out by public or private bodies?

- 18.** Are there good practices in the country relating to the support to adopted adults who wish to collect information on their origins?

Yes, there has been several cases when family or origin and grown up adoptee create the positive relationship.

Adoptive failures

- 19.** Who is responsible of the child in case of an adoption failure?

If child lives in Estonia, then local government and the County social worker will find new placement for the child and give needed services like counselling. If here is question about intercountry adoption, new country and the child protection authorities there will take responsibility about the future live of the child.

- 20.** Which kinds of support and accompaniment for the child and the adoptive family are realised in these hypothesis?

Usually family and child will get counselling and new placement for the child.



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21. Are the authorities of the State of origin informed in the case of intercountry adoption?

Yes.

22. What are the interventions for the minor protection carried out in case of revocation of the adoption? Is an immediate placing in a new family provided or is a first insertion in a welcome structure for children considered?

23. Are there good practices in the country relating to the interventions of support to the adoptive families in difficulty and/or support in cases of removal of the child from the adoptive family?
