



European Network of National Observatories on Childhood

## FINLAND

### Form for the compilation of good practises in the post adoption phase for the Seminar on post adoption

Art.9 c) Hague Convention

#### 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)

-Yes.

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

- first of all the Finnish society offers adoptive families same services than to other Finnish families (family counselling, school welfare officer services, financial support, health care services etc.)
- adoption counselling. The adoptive family has right to gain support and advices when necessary (they have this right also years after the adoption)
- when the adopted child has arrived into her/his new family, social workers follow up the life in the family (this is a part of adoption counselling)
- adoption counsellor (they give counselling mostly on the phone, but they also take part to seminars etc.). Adoption counsellor is a project started year 1998. Behind the project are all three Finnish agencies providing the adoption services. Operation is financed by Finnish Slot Machine Association.
- support persons / contact persons named for the adoptive family
- seminars and lectures on the issue
- regional activities
- cultural groups
- discussion groups (for example peer groups)
- camps for the children and youth
- get-togethers for the youth and young adults adopted from abroad
- organizational activities
- recreational services
- help with the trips to visit child's home country
- "the post adoption follow up" offered by the agencies providing the adoption services



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

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

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

The adoptive family has right to gain support and advices when necessary (they have this right also years after the adoption)

6. Is there collaboration and integration among the different public subjects involved (services, school, etc.)

- yes

and between these and the private bodies in the carrying out of the service?

- yes

7. Is there an evaluation system of the service?

- No

Are data on the use of the service by families available?

- No

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

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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?

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### 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).

- yes



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)?

access to the documents may be denied, if it may be dangerous to the health or development of the adoptee or if access would otherwise be contrary to the interest of the adoptee or another private interest.

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

a municipal welfare body, an adoption agency or a service provider

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

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

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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?

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

For a minimum of 100 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.

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

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### **Adoptive failures**

20. Who is responsible of the child in case of an adoption failure?

child welfare officials. A service provider providing inter-country adoption service shall monitor, together with the provider of adoption counselling, the success of the placement and, if the



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placement fails, assist the municipal welfare body or the adoption agency in measures relating to the child.

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

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

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**23.** 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?

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**24.** 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?

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