



European Network of National Observatories on Childhood

GREECE

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

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Filled in by Ms. Lambrini-Ninetta D. Zoi (MSW)

Adviser to the Deputy Minister, in consultation with Ms. Ioanna Papathanasiou, Officer at the Family Care Directory of the Hellenic Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity.

lzoi_ninetta@yahoo.gr, lzoi@mohaw.gr, esykf.projects@hol.gr

Tel. +30 210 52 30 108
+30 210 32 29 327

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...).

Mostly counselling

There are no specifically structured support systems for post adoption services. Those needing them are receiving the services of the overall system (welfare, mental health, legal, medical etc). Nevertheless, upon request of the adoptive parents the adoption agencies are providing services of consultation primarily.

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

The State - Social Services Department of each Prefecture of the country and a few state residential childcare institutions that are carrying out adoptions.

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



Usually Social Workers and Psychologists, the number varies from Institution to Institution and Department to Department. These Departments have a variety of tasks and responsibilities; they are not exclusively there for adoption and post adoption services.

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

As it has been already mentioned at the 2nd Question of the previous Questionnaire on 30.06.2005 according to the Greek law (*Article 3 of the Presidential Decree 226/99 Government Gazette of the Hellenic Republic, No. 190 A' - First Issue dated 20.09.1999*), the above mentioned Departments that are responsible for adoptions are obliged to continue the cooperation with the adoptive family, for three years, with at least one visit annually, aiming to follow up the adjustment of the child in the new environment and offering relevant counselling.

Moreover, whenever it is necessary to support further both the adoptive parents and adopted child the Department also in cooperation with other specialized local social services are supporting them.

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?

YES – it varies case by case, not structured, not regularly assessed.

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

NO – not a formal one nation wide. NO

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

Not all Social Services Departments at each Prefecture of the country are eligible to carry out international adoptions. The above-mentioned Presidential Decree states the entitled to carry out international Departments; those are taking care of every matter that concerns and/or is evolving from the international adoption.

In the case of International adoptions, we consider difficult for a Department far away i.e. in a different town from the town residence of the adoptive parents to be able to serve the family systematically.

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?

Unfortunately we do not have any concrete data at Ministerial level.



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 – the same services that are eligible to carry out adoptions, i.e. the Social Services Department of each Prefecture of the country and a few state residential childcare institutions that are carrying out adoptions.

- 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)?

Every adopted child after accession to adulthood, i.e. after 18 years old has the right to access the information about her/his origins. Consent of the adoptive or biological parents is not required.

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

The same services that are eligible to carry out adoptions as described above in Qs 4 and 10.

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

NO

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

YES recently law gave this responsibility to the Hellenic Institute for Social Care and Solidarity.

- 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?

(It is not clear the term modality here! The question is not fully understandable.)

Senior Social Workers and Psychologists with in service training are carrying out these services.

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



There are no limitations.

- 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?

There are no concrete provisions in the law on this. Just the CRC provisions.

There are no available data on this at Ministerial level. We estimate that this kind of activity is carried out with differentiated emphasis from the professionals.

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

We estimate YES. But there is not a system in collecting such data.

Adoptive failures

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

The State – Public Residential Care Institutions

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

There are no specifically structured support systems. Those needing them are receiving the services of the overall system (welfare, mental health, legal, medical etc). Nevertheless upon request of the adoptive parents and/or adopted child the adoption agencies are providing services.

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

It depends on the bilateral agreements.

- 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?

It depends on the case, the age of the child, the place-area of residence and the level of development of the overall support – social solidarity system.



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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?

We estimate YES. But there is not a system in collecting such data.