



★ European ★ Network of ★ National ★ Observatories on ★ Childhood

RESULTS OF THE WORKING GROUP N.2 POST ADOPTION SERVICES

Coordinator: Annita Koni (CY)

Reporter: Lambrini-Ninetta Zoi (GR)

26 persons have participated to this working group, from about 16 EU Countries.

The group started with the acceptance of the Post adoption services definition presented in the plenary, i.e.:

ChildONEurope Survey on adoption – II Phase

“Post adoption services: Interventions by professional staff within a public or private structure created ad hoc for providing support to new adoptive families once the adoption has been pronounced”.

Then the Group Facilitator Mrs. Annita Koni (CY), introduced to the group the main working questions:

Art. 9 c) Hague Convention

- Meanings, boundaries and scope of the post adoption phase
- Integration among public and private services involved in the post-adoption phase
- Instruments for the evaluation of the interventions
- Which instruments are needed to guarantee an adequate child hearing?

Prior to the discussion the floor was given to Mr. Giorgio Macario (IT) who presented a proposal for a *methodological oriented debate* on post adoption services based on the importance to maintain an “open mind” paying a specific attention to the contextualization and the identification of the main instruments for post adoption.

The group came to a very active, interesting and rich in information dialogue.

A. The main points from the discussion are the following:

- There is not a universal model of post adoption services, we can only refer to guidelines and key issues for post adoption services
- The issue of the differences between domestic and international adoptions
- The group agreed that adoption is a process that starts from the preparation phase
- The planning of post adoption services should comply and complement the process of preparation for adoption



★ European ★ Network of ★ National ★ Observatories on ★ Childhood

- The importance of taking into consideration the overall both mainstreamed social services framework and the specialized services for adoption in the country of the adoptive family
- The importance of training for professionals both in the mainstream services and the specialized services on adoption matters as well as the specialization on post adoption services for international adoptions.
- The group emphasized the fact that there is no a YES or NO answer to obligatory or non obligatory post adoption services
- The importance of co-building services i.e. the importance of ensuring the participation of both the adoptive parents and the adoptive child to the whole process of providing services (all phases: preparation, planning, implementation and evaluation of the service). This indication using the methodological suggestion brings to consider participants in the education process more as *authors* than as simple *actors*.
- The significance of the cooperation between the public and the private bodies and other institutions and their representatives-other professionals for example: school, local communities, health services in order to co-build dynamic educational contexts and particularly a participated evaluation.
- The necessity to raise public awareness on adoption issues i.e. systematic efforts in avoiding discrimination and supporting integration
- The importance of informing from the very beginning the adoptive parents about the reasons of monitoring as well as welcoming their active involvement; especially in the international (inter-country) adoption one country entrusts in another county the well being of a child consequently there is a need for evident based reassurance that they made the best decision fro the child.
- The necessity to take into consideration the importance of building a relationship of trust between service providers and adoptive families, even in cases that the legislation or the bilateral agreements order for specific reporting monitoring.

B. Examples of good practices:

- Group work: self help groups, peer groups, cultural groups
- Individual counseling and support, multidisciplinary teams for family mediation
- Help lines for both adoptive parents and adopted children
- Projects that help children to find their origins (e.g. camps, study visits) not only biological origins but also cultural ones, not only in an individualistic context but also in a socialized context.
- Supporting the establishment of associations of adoptive families - parents, adopted children (e.g. providing funding from the state).