

XIII EurAdopt International Conference

May 24-25th, 2018 Milan

The Intercountry Adoption Dilemma

“How can we provide the highest level of protection to abandoned children?”

Intercountry adoption (ICA) is changing in respect of the number of children being adopted and the willingness of families open to adoption. The social cultural scenario has altered both in the countries of origin and in the receiving countries. The positive impact of ICA is also being challenged. Media attention questioning adoptions carried out in the past is having a negative influence and is sometimes dissuading potential parents from the positive experience of adoption.

Thursday, May 24th: The Intercountry Adoption Impact

The first day will deal with data analysis that shows a significant reduction in the number of ICAs in the world. We will try to understand the determinants of the reduction as well as having a discussion on positive or negative outcomes for the best interest of the children. Experts from both countries of origin and receiving countries will participate in the debate.

14,00 **Introduction**

Angelo MORETTO, *Chairperson of EurAdopt*

14,10 **Welcome by the Authorities**

Chairman: TBN

The children

14.40 **Children without a family**

Mia DAMBACH, *Director*

ISS/IRC – International Social Service, Switzerland

15.00 **The decline in global numbers of Intercountry Adoption**

Peter SELMAN, *Visiting Fellow*

School of Geography, Politics and Sociology - Newcastle University, Great Britain

Is ICA still a good option?

15.20 **The impact of ICA from the point of view of a receiving country**

Jolijn VAN HAAREN, *Senior Programme Advisor*

UNICEF, Netherlands

15.40 **The impact of ICA from the point of view of a country of origin**

Alphonsine SAWADOGO/OUEDRAOGO, *Social Affairs Administrator*

Ministry of Women, National Solidarity and Family, Burkina Faso

16.00 **Coffee break**

16.30 **Adoptions within Europe**

Enrica DATO, *lawyer, Chief Legal Office*

AiBi - EurAdopt organisation, Italy

16.50 **Pre- and post adoption support**

Maria DORÉ, *Executive Board member of EurAdopt*

Director of Adoptionscentrum – EurAdopt member organisation, Sweden

17.10 **Debate and Conclusion**

Friday, May 25th: A good adoption

The second day will look at the conditions required for CAs to become a real support for child protection and to properly address the children's needs. We will also address the changing social and cultural environment as well as the changing characteristics of prospective adoptive parents. This also includes looking at good practices within the field of ICA.

ICA is changing

9.00 **How to ensure right procedures**

Laura MARTINEZ MORA, *Principal legal officer* *TBC

Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference on Private International Law, The Netherlands

9,20 **Round Table of Central Authorities**

Good practices and cooperation between countries

- Eduardo Alexander FRANCO SOLARTE, *Deputy Director of Adoptions* *TBC

ICBF Colombian Institute of Family Welfare, Colombia

- Maryse JAVAUX VENA, *Legal Advisor*

Swiss Central Authority

- Sh. Deepak KUMAR, *CEO*

CARA Central Adoption Resource Agency, India

- Laura LAERA, *Vice President*

Commission for Intercountry Adoptions, Italy

- Petya TODOROVA *Head of Department Social Affairs*

International Legal Child Support and IA Directorate - Ministry of Justice, Bulgaria

11,00 Coffee break

How are the adopted children doing?

11,30 **The voice of the children**

Video

11,40 **Learning from breakdowns in intercountry adoptions**

Cécile JEANNIN, *Coordinator Research and Publication Unit*

ISS/IRC – International Social Service, Switzerland

12,00 **Fifty years of ICA; how are children and families coping?**

Alessandra SANTONA, *psychologist, Professor*

University of Milano Bicocca, Italy

12,20 **Debate**

13,00 Lunch

Dealing with your own origin

14,00 **A need to know: the importance of origins**

Adam PERTMAN, *President*

NCAP - National Center on Adoption and Permanency, USA

14,20 **Back to the birth countries**

Marco CHISTOLINI, *psychologist, Scientific Manager*

CIAI –EurAdopt member organisation, Italy, Italy

14,40 **Testimonies from adoptees**

16,00 **Debate and Conclusion**