

COUNTRY PROFILE

1993 HAGUE INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION CONVENTION¹

RECEIVING STATE

COUNTRY NAME: Norway

PROFILE UPDATED ON: 27.09.2019

PART I: CENTRAL AUTHORITY

1. Contact details²

Name of office:	Barne-, ungdoms- og familiedirektoratet Norwegian Directorate for Children, Youth and Family Affairs
Acronyms used:	Bufdir
Address:	PO Box 2233, 3103 Tønsberg
Telephone:	+47 466 15 000
Fax:	
E-mail:	postmottak@bufdir.no
Website:	www.bufdir.no
Contact person(s) and direct contact details (please indicate language(s) of communication):	Kristin.Ugstad.Steinrem@bufdir.no Bente.Hoseth@bufdir.no Elisabeth.Saettem@bufdir.no English

If your State has designated more than one Central Authority, please provide contact details for the further Central Authorities below and specify the territorial extent of their functions.

¹ Full title: the *Hague Convention of 29 May 1993 on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption* (referred to as the "1993 Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention" or the "1993 Convention" in this Country Profile). Please note that any reference to "Articles" (or Art. / Arts for short) in this Country Profile refers to Articles of the 1993 Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention.

² Please verify whether the contact details on the Hague Conference website < www.hcch.net > under "Intercountry Adoption Section" then "Central Authorities" are up to date. If not, please e-mail the updated contact information to < secretariat@hcch.net >.

PART II: RELEVANT LEGISLATION

2. The 1993 Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention and domestic legislation	
<p>a) When did the 1993 Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention enter into force in your State?</p> <p><i>This information is available on the Status Table for the 1993 Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention (accessible via the Intercountry Adoption Section of the Hague Conference website < www.hcch.net >).</i></p>	1.1.1998
<p>b) Please identify the legislation / regulations / procedural rules which implement or assist with the effective operation of the 1993 Convention in your State. Please also provide the date of their entry into force.</p> <p><i>Please remember to indicate how the legislation / regulations / rules may be accessed: e.g., provide a link to a website or attach a copy. Where applicable, please also provide a translation into English or French if possible.</i></p>	<p>The Norwegian Adoption Act https://lovdata.no/dokument/NLE/lov/2017-06-16-48 Entry into force: 1 July 2018</p>

3. Other international agreements on intercountry adoption³	
<p>Is your State party to any other international (cross-border) agreements concerning intercountry adoption?</p> <p><i>See Art. 39.</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Regional agreements (please specify):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Bilateral agreements (please specify):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Non-binding memoranda of understanding (please specify):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>

PART III: THE ROLE OF AUTHORITIES AND BODIES

4. Central Authority(ies)	
<p>Please briefly describe the functions of the Central Authority(ies) designated under the 1993 Convention in your State.</p> <p><i>See Arts 6-9 and Arts 14-21 if accredited bodies are not used.</i></p>	<p>Grants accreditation and authorisation to adoption organisations, issue Art 23 certificate for intercountry adoptions finalised in Norway, appellate instance for decisions on prior consent for intercountry adoption (denials) made by the 5 regional offices. Register adoptions finalised in the state of origin. Arrange adoption preparatory courses for PAPs.</p>

³ See Art. 39(2) which states: "Any Contracting State may enter into agreements with one or more other Contracting States, with a view to improving the application of the Convention in their mutual relations. These agreements may derogate only from the provisions of Articles 14 to 16 and 18 to 21. The States which have concluded such an agreement shall transmit a copy to the depositary of the Convention" (emphasis added).

5. Public and competent authorities	
<p>Please briefly describe the role of any public and / or competent authorities, including courts, in the intercountry adoption procedure in your State.</p> <p><i>See Arts 4, 5, 8, 9, 12, 22, 23 and 30.</i></p>	<p>There are 5 regional offices subordinate to the CA/Buudir. They are public authorities which have been delegated some procedural functions under Art 22 (1). They make decisions in the first instance on applications for prior consent for ICA carried out by accredited organisations. The Eastern regional office is the first instance on a national level in those exceptional cases where an intercountry adoption is not mediated through an organisation, and carries out the functions under Articles 16 no 2, 17, litra b, c and d, 18, 19, 20 and 21 in those cases.</p>

6. National accredited bodies⁴	
<p>a) Has your State accredited its own adoption bodies?</p> <p><i>See Arts 10-11.</i></p> <p>N.B. the name(s) and address(es) of any national accredited bodies should be communicated by your State to the Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference (see Art. 13).⁵</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No – go to Question 8</p>
<p>b) Please indicate the number of national accredited bodies in your State, including whether this number is limited and, if so, on what basis.⁶</p>	<p>There are 3 accredited bodies in Norway. There are no general rules concerning limitation and so far there has not been any need to introduce limitations.</p>
<p>c) Please briefly describe the role of national accredited bodies in your State.</p>	<p>The accredited bodies assist the PAPs in the adoption process. When approved/granted the prior consent, the PAPs forward all necessary documents to the adoption organisation, which controls them, provide translations, legalize the documents and send them to the state of origin. All contact with the state of origin is done by the organisations. They receive the matching proposal and inform the prospective adopters about it, issue the Article 17 c agreement (delegation under Art 22 (1)), and give practical and other information to the families about the travel to the state of origin.</p>
6.1 The accreditation procedure (Arts 10-11)	
<p>a) Which authority / body is responsible for the accreditation of national adoption bodies in your State?</p>	<p>CA/Buudir</p>

⁴ "National accredited bodies" in this Country Profile means adoption bodies based within your State (receiving State) which have been accredited under the 1993 Convention by the competent authorities in your State. See further *Guide to Good Practice No 2 on Accreditation and Adoption Accredited Bodies* (hereinafter "GGP No 2"), available on the [Intercountry Adoption Section](#) of the Hague Conference website < www.hcch.net > at Chapters 3.1 *et seq.*

⁵ See GGP No 2, *ibid.*, Chapter 3.2.1 (para. 111).

⁶ See GGP No 2, *supra*, note 4, Chapter 3.4.

<p>b) Please briefly describe the <i>procedure</i> for granting accreditation and the most important accreditation <i>criteria</i>.</p>	<p>The Norwegian 2017 Adoption Act Section 31 read: "Authorisation to operate adoption mediation (operation authorisation) The adoption authority may grant organisations a time-limited authorisation to operate adoption mediation. Authorisation may only be granted to organisations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) whose main purpose is to mediate adoptions b) that work to promote the best interests of the child c) that are managed and staffed by persons qualified to work on intercountry adoptions d) whose purpose is not financial gain. <p>The Ministry may issue regulations concerning the requirements that may be made of an organisation prior to granting operation authorisation as well as requirements regarding the organisation's activities and winding up of the organisation."</p>
<p>c) For how long is accreditation granted in your State?</p>	<p>Up to 7 years according to Section 19 in regulations pursuant to the Adoption Act.</p>
<p>d) Please briefly describe the criteria and the procedure used to determine whether the accreditation of a national adoption body will be <i>renewed</i>.</p>	<p>More or less the same procedure by renewals.</p>
<p>6.2 Monitoring of national accredited bodies⁷</p>	
<p>a) Which authority is competent to monitor / supervise national accredited bodies in your State?</p> <p><i>See Art. 11 c).</i></p>	<p>CA/Bufdir</p>

<p>b) Please briefly describe how national accredited bodies are monitored / supervised in your State (<i>e.g.</i>, if inspections are undertaken, how frequently).</p>	<p>The management of the accredited bodies are kept under constant review by the Central Authority. The Ministry has prescribed rules for the bodies' keeping of accounts. The accredited bodies' by-laws and any amendments are to be approved by the CA/Bufdir. The same applies to working agreements which the bodies enter into with the authorities or organizations in the countries of origin. The bodies' annual report and the annual accounts with auditor's certificate are to be submitted to the Central Authority for inspection.</p> <p>Any major changes during the accreditation period are to be reported to the Central Authority rapidly. The Central Authority holds regular meetings with the accredited bodies as well as ad hoc meetings whenever needed.</p>
<p>c) Please briefly describe the circumstances</p>	

⁷ See GGP No 2, *supra*, note 4, Chapter 7.4.

in which the accreditation of bodies can be revoked (<i>i.e.</i> , withdrawn).	Breach of conditions in the accreditation or if the adoption procedures in the state of origin is no longer in conformity with the provisions of the 93HC.
d) If national accredited bodies do not comply with the 1993 Convention, is it possible for sanctions to be applied?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify possible sanctions (<i>e.g.</i> , fine, withdrawal of accreditation): Order to correct any practice in conflict with the Convention or withdrawal of accreditation. <input type="checkbox"/> No

7. Authorisation of national accredited bodies to work in other Contracting States (Art. 12)⁸	
7.1 The authorisation procedure	
a) Which authority / body in your State is responsible for the authorisation of national accredited bodies to work with, or in, other Contracting States?	CA/Bufdir
b) Is authorisation granted as part of the accreditation procedure or is a separate authorisation procedure undertaken?	<input type="checkbox"/> Authorisation is granted as part of the accreditation procedure. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A separate procedure is undertaken for authorisation.
c) Is authorisation granted to national accredited bodies to work in <i>all</i> States of origin or must national accredited bodies apply for authorisation to work in specific, pre-identified State(s) of origin?	<input type="checkbox"/> Authorisation is granted generally: once authorised, national accredited bodies are able to work in <i>all</i> States of origin. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Authorisation is granted specifically: national accredited bodies must apply for authorisation to work in one or more pre-identified State(s) of origin.
d) Please briefly describe the <i>procedure</i> for granting authorisation and the most important authorisation <i>criteria</i> . ⁹ If your State does not have authorisation criteria, please explain on what basis decisions concerning authorisation are made. Please also explain whether your State has any criteria concerning how the national accredited body must establish itself in the State(s) of origin or whether this is left entirely to the requirements of the State of origin (<i>e.g.</i> , requirements that the body must have a local representative in the State of origin, or must establish a local office).	<p>The 2017 Adoption Act, Section 32 read: “The adoption authority may grant organisations authorised pursuant to section 31 specially time-limited authorisation to mediate adoption of children from individual countries. An authorisation is granted subject to authorisation of the organisation by each individual country to mediate adoptions from that country.</p> <p>The Ministry may by regulations issue further provisions concerning mediation authorisation.”</p> <p>When applying for authorisation to work in a State of origin, the organisations must give the CA information about the entire adoption process in the State of origin, all entities involved, their tasks, the legislation, the legal effects of the adoption, the matching process. Information also must be given about which documents that must follow the PAPs application, which medical and other information will be given about the child, to whom and at which stage in the process this information will be given, possibilities</p>

⁸ In relation to authorisation of accredited bodies, see further GGP No 2, *supra*, note 4, Chapter 4.2.

⁹ In relation to authorisation criteria, please see GGP No 2, *supra*, note 4, Chapters 2.3.4.2 and 4.2.4.

	<p>to require more information about the child, the costs, any agreement between the organisation and the State of origin (CA or others), how many post adoption reports are required. We also want to know if contribution to humanitarian projects is necessary.</p> <p>Applications for authorisation for new countries of origin are to be accompanied by detailed information on the adoption systems of these countries, legislation, the amount of information given and the quality of health reports etc, expenses, donations, co-operating organizations and persons etc.</p> <p>The organisation must have been granted permission by the State of origin to work in the said state, but in some cases we give the accreditation first, on condition that such permission is given by the State of origin later.</p> <p>An assessment of all available information is made, and if it is necessary to collect more information e.g. from our embassy in the country concerned or from the organisation itself. Information from ISS is also a good and reliable source of information. An overall assessment is made when the application is complete, where authorisation is granted or denied. The CAs decision can be appealed to the Ministry.</p>
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e) For how long is authorisation granted?	Authorisation is granted for 2 or 3 years.
f) Please briefly describe the criteria and procedure used to determine whether authorisation will be <i>renewed</i> .	In principle the same as for first-time authorisation. In addition, the adoption system and adoption process of the country concerned must have proved satisfactory.
7.2 Monitoring the work of your authorised national accredited bodies in other Contracting States	
a) Please briefly describe how your State ensures that authorised national accredited bodies (including their representatives, co-workers and any other staff ¹⁰ in the State of origin) are monitored / supervised by your State in relation to their work / activities <i>in the State of origin</i> .	We refer to our answer to question no 6.2 b). Representatives from the Central Authority undertake official trips to selected countries of origin to receive further information on the adoption systems of the countries concerned, to have talks with Central Authorities and other adoption authorities and co-operating organizations, and to inspect the work of the accredited body in the host country. Relevant written sources of information from e.g. ISS about the adoption system in other states are also taken into account.
b) Please briefly describe the circumstances in which the authorisation of national accredited	Breach of conditions in the authorisation, or if the adoption procedures in the state of origin is no longer in conformity with the

¹⁰ For an explanation of the terminology used concerning the staff of the national accredited body working in the State of origin, see the GGP No 2, *supra*, note 4, Chapters 6.3 and 6.4.

bodies can be revoked (<i>i.e.</i> , withdrawn).	provisions of the Convention.
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8. Approved (non-accredited) persons (Art. 22(2))¹¹

<p>Is the involvement of approved (non-accredited) persons permitted in intercountry adoption procedures in your State?</p> <p>N.B. see Art. 22(2) and check whether your State has made a declaration according to this provision. You can verify this on the Status Table for the 1993 Convention, available on the Intercountry Adoption Section of the Hague Conference website.</p> <p>If your State has made a declaration according to Art. 22(2), the Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference should be informed of the names and addresses of these bodies and persons (Art. 22(3)).¹²</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, our State has made a declaration under Article 22(2) and the involvement of approved (non-accredited) persons is possible. Please specify their role:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>
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PART IV: THE CHILDREN PROPOSED FOR INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION

9. The adoptability of a child (Art. 4 a))

<p>Does your State have its own criteria concerning the adoptability of a child (<i>e.g.</i>, maximum age) which must be applied <i>in addition to</i> the requirements of the State of origin?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes – please specify:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No, there are no additional criteria concerning adoptability – the requirements of the State of origin are determinative.</p>
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10. The best interests of the child and subsidiarity (Art. 4 b))

<p>Does your State request information / evidence from the State of origin to satisfy itself that the State of origin has respected the principle of subsidiarity (<i>i.e.</i>, proof that family reunification was attempted, or that the possibility of in-country permanent family placements has been explored)?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes – please specify: The HC Article 16 report on the child must contain information that the principle of subsidiarity has been respected.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
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11. Children with special needs

<p>Does your State have its own definition of the term “special needs children” which is applied in intercountry adoption cases?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes – please provide the definition used in your State: Children above 5 years of age, groups of siblings more than 2 and children with special medical, psychological or social needs.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No – the definition used in the State(s) of origin is determinative.</p>
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¹¹ See GGP No 2, *supra*, note 4, Chapter 13.

¹² See GGP No 2, *supra*, note 4, Chapter 13.2.2.5.

12. The nationality of children who are adopted intercountry¹³	
Do children who are adopted intercountry to your State acquire the nationality of your State?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, always. Please specify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) At what stage nationality is acquired by the child: When the adoption is finalized, either in the state of origin or in Norway; and (ii) The procedure which must be undertaken (or whether acquisition of nationality is <i>automatic</i> upon the occurrence of a particular event, <i>e.g.</i>, the making of the final adoption decision): Automatic upon the making of the final adoption decision either in the state of origin or in Norway. A few other conditions in the Norwegian Nationality Act § 5 (law no 51/2005); at least one of the adoptive parents must be Norwegian and the child must be less than 18 years of age. <input type="checkbox"/> It depends – please specify which factors are taken into consideration (<i>e.g.</i> , the nationality of the prospective adoptive parents (“PAPs”), whether the child loses his / her nationality of the State of origin): <input type="checkbox"/> No, the child will never acquire this nationality.

PART V: PROSPECTIVE ADOPTIVE PARENTS (“PAPs”)

13. Limits on the acceptance of files	
a) Does your State place any limit on the total number of applications for intercountry adoption which are accepted at any one time?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify the limit applied and the basis on which it is determined: If needed, the CA can decide that the accredited body can have a maximum of <i>e.g.</i> 10 applications in the state of origin waiting for matching at any time. <input type="checkbox"/> No
b) Does your State allow PAPs to apply to adopt from more than one State of origin at the same time?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify whether any limits are applied: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No – PAPs may only apply to adopt from one State of origin at any one time.

14. Determination of the eligibility and suitability of PAPs wishing to undertake an intercountry adoption¹⁴ (Art. 5 a))	
14.1 Eligibility criteria	
a) Do PAPs wishing to undertake an intercountry adoption have to fulfil any criteria in your State concerning their relationship status(es)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, the following person(s) may apply in our State for an intercountry adoption: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Married, heterosexual couples:

¹³ Regarding nationality, see further the *Guide to Good Practice No 1 on the implementation and operation of the 1993 Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention* (hereinafter, “GGP No 1”), available on the [Intercountry Adoption Section](#) of the Hague Conference website < www.hcch.net >, at Chapter 8.4.5.

¹⁴ *I.e.*, this section refers to the eligibility criteria applied, and suitability assessment undertaken, in relation to PAPs who are habitually resident in your State and who wish to adopt a child who is habitually resident in another Contracting State to the 1993 Convention: see further Art. 2 of the 1993 Convention.

<p>Please tick any / all boxes which apply and indicate in the space provided whether any further conditions are imposed (e.g., duration of marriage / partnership / relationship, cohabitation).</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Married, same-sex couples: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Heterosexual couples in a legally registered partnership: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Same-sex couples in a legally registered partnership: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Heterosexual couples that have not legally formalised their relationship: (cohabitants) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Same-sex couples that have not legally formalised their relationship: (cohabitants) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Single men: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Single women: <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): <input type="checkbox"/> No, there are no relationship status criteria for PAPs.
<p>b) Are there any age requirements in your State for PAPs wishing to undertake an intercountry adoption?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minimum age requirements: 25 years of age - Norwegian Adoption Act Section 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Maximum age requirements: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Difference in years required between the PAPs and the child: It is recommended in guidelines that the age difference should not exceed 45 years. <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): <input type="checkbox"/> No
<p>c) Are there any <i>other</i> eligibility criteria which your State requires PAPs to fulfil?</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Additional / differing criteria must be met for PAPs wishing to adopt a child with special needs (please specify): Assessment of the PAPs is made by the Advisory Committee for Adoption Cases in relation to a specific child, cf. Adoption Act Section 42. Special resources are required. <input type="checkbox"/> Couples must supply evidence of infertility: <input type="checkbox"/> For persons with children already (biological or adopted), there are additional criteria (please specify): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): Stable marriage/relationship, stable economy, good health, no criminal record. Adoption preparatory course must be completed before PAPs can apply for adoption. <input type="checkbox"/> No
<p>14.2 Suitability assessment¹⁵</p>	
<p>a) Which body(ies) / expert(s) perform the assessment of whether the PAPs are suitable persons to undertake an</p>	<p>The the 5 regional offices. CA/Bufdir in appellate cases, in practice</p>

¹⁵ This suitability assessment will usually form one part of the report on the PAPs (Art. 15): as to which, see GGP No 1, *supra*, note 13, Chapter 7.4.3 and Question 17 below.

intercountry adoption?	denials.
b) Please briefly describe the procedure which is used to assess the PAPs and determine their suitability to undertake an intercountry adoption.	A social report is drawn up by the foster care service at the regional offices, they interview the PAPs, have several meetings with them and give a recommendation as to whether the PAPs are considered eligible and suited to adopt. Based on the social report and other additional information, the PAPs are granted prior consent for adoption or not.
14.3 Final approval	
Which body / person gives the final approval that the PAPs are eligible and suited to undertake an intercountry adoption?	The prior consent is given by one of the 5 regional offices. The CA/Bufdir is appellate instance for denials. The prior consent states which country the PAPs are allowed to adopt from, the age frame of the child (now 0-5 years in all cases) and if they are approved for adoption of siblings. The prior consent is valid for 3 years with a possibility to be prolonged for 2 more years.

15. Preparation and counselling of PAPs (Art. 5 b))	
a) In your State, are courses provided to prepare PAPs for intercountry adoption?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Whether the courses are mandatory: Yes. - At what stage of the adoption procedure they are offered: Before the application is forwarded to the regional office. - Who provides the courses: The CA - Whether they are provided to PAPs individually or collectively (<i>i.e.</i>, in a group): Collectively. - Whether they are provided "in person" or electronically: In person. - How many hours the courses last: 2 weekends (Saturd+Sunday) with 4 weeks in between. - The content of the courses: Motive for adoption, attachment, the child's biological background, identity, the travel to the state of origin and the first period with the child, the life as an adoptive family, the waiting time. - Whether there are specific courses for PAPs wishing to adopt a child with special needs: No. - Whether the courses are (or can be) targeted at preparing PAPs for the adoption of a child from specific States of origin: No. <input type="checkbox"/> No
b) Aside from any courses provided, what, if any, (other) counselling or preparation is provided to individual PAPs (<i>e.g.</i> , meeting with adoptive parents, language	Preparation and counselling are given and administered by the three accredited adoption organizations, but also during the public approval procedure. The accredited

<p>and culture courses)? Please specify, in each case:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) If it is mandatory for PAPs to use the service; (ii) Who provides the service; and (iii) At what stage in the adoption procedure the service is provided. 	<p>organizations also give individual counselling during the process of adoption. These services are not mandatory and are given at any stage in the adoption process.</p>
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PART VI: THE INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION PROCEDURE

16. Applications	
<p>a) To which authority / body should PAPs apply for an intercountry adoption?</p>	<p>To one of the 5 Regional offices for children, youth and family affairs.</p>

<p>b) Please indicate which documents your State requires to be included within the PAPs' file for transmission to the State of origin:¹⁶</p> <p><i>Please tick all which apply.</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> An application form for adoption completed by the PAPs</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A statement of "approval to adopt" issued by a competent authority</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A report on the PAPs including the "home study" and other personal assessments (see Art. 15)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Copies of the PAPs' passports or other personal identification documents</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Copies of the PAPs' birth certificates</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Copies of the birth certificates of any children living with the PAPs</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Copies of marriage, divorce or death certificates, as applicable (please specify in which circumstances):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Information concerning the health of the PAPs (please specify in which circumstances and what type of information is required):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Evidence of the financial circumstances of the family (please specify in which circumstances and what type of information is required):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Information concerning the employment status of the PAPs (please specify in which circumstances and what type of information is required):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Proof of no criminal record</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other(s): please explain Most of these documents are required in the assessment process and before the prior consent is granted in Norway, but it depends on the requirements in the state of origin which documents that must be included in the PAPs file for transmission to the state of origin.</p>
<p>c) Is it compulsory in your State for an accredited body to be involved in an intercountry adoption procedure?¹⁷</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify at which stage(s) of the procedure an accredited body must be involved (e.g., for the preparation of the home study, for the submission of the adoption file to the State of origin, for all stages of the procedure): The accredited body must be involved for all stages of the procedure, see also answer to question 6. c).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No. Please specify who assists PAPs if no accredited body is involved in the adoption procedure:</p>
<p>d) Are any <i>additional</i> documents required if PAPs apply through an accredited body?</p> <p><i>Please tick all which apply.</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> A power of attorney issued by the PAPs to the accredited body (i.e., a written document provided by the PAPs to the accredited body in which the PAPs formally appoint the accredited body to act on their behalf in relation to the</p>

¹⁶ Please remember that a specific State of origin may have other / additional requirements concerning the documentation that must be submitted to it. A list of documents required by the specific State of origin can be found in the State of origin's Country Profile.

¹⁷ See GGP No 1, *supra*, note 13, paras 4.2.6 and 8.6.6: "independent" and "private" adoptions are not consistent with the system of safeguards established under the 1993 Convention.

	intercountry adoption): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A contract signed by the accredited body and the PAPs: <input type="checkbox"/> A document issued by a competent authority of the receiving State certifying that the accredited body may undertake intercountry adoptions: <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): <input type="checkbox"/> No
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17. The report on the PAPs (Arts 5 a) and 15(1))

a) Which body(ies) / expert(s) prepare the report on the PAPs? Please include all those involved with the preparation of any of the documents which are included within such a report.	See answers to 14.2 a) and b).
b) Is a "standard form" used for the report on the PAPs in your State?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, please provide a link to the form or attach a copy: <input type="checkbox"/> No. Please indicate whether your State has any requirements concerning the information which must be included in the report on the PAPs and / or the documentation which must be attached to it:
c) For how long is the report on the PAPs valid in your State?	The social report/home study must be updated if the prior consent needs to be prolonged. An advance approval is valid for 3 years with a possibility to be prolonged for 2 more years.
d) Who is responsible in your State for renewing the report on the PAPs if the period of validity expires before the intercountry adoption is completed and what is the procedure for renewal?	The PAPs are responsible themselves to make sure that the period of validity of the prior consent has not expired. If the validity expires before the ICA is completed, they must forward a new application well in advance in order to have an renewal of the prior consent, but they are also reminded by the accredited bodies.

18. Transmission of the PAPs' file to the State of origin

a) Who sends the finalised application file of the PAPs to the State of origin?	The accredited bodies.
b) If no accredited body is involved with the intercountry adoption application (see Question 16 c) above), who assists the PAPs with compiling and transmitting their application file?	The Eastern regional office is involved in the exceptional cases where prior consent to adopt without the arrangement of an accredited body is granted. <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable – an accredited body will always be involved (see response to Question 16 c) above).

19. Receipt of the report on the child (Art. 16(2)) and acceptance of

the match (Art. 17 a) and b))	
19.1 Receipt of the report on the child (Art. 16(2))	
Which authority / body in your State receives the report on the child from the State of origin?	The accredited bodies.
19.2 Acceptance of the match	
a) Does your State require that the matching be accepted by a competent authority in your State?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please provide the following details: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Which authority determines whether to accept the match (<i>e.g.</i>, the Central Authority or another competent authority): and - The procedure which is followed (<i>e.g.</i>, the report on the child is transmitted <u>first</u> to the competent authority to determine whether the match is accepted and only if this authority accepts the match is the report sent to the PAPs): <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Go to Question 19.2 b)</u></p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No. Please explain the procedure which is followed once the authority / body referred to in Question 19.1 has received the report on the child from the State of origin: If the matching proposal is in accordance with the advance approval, the report is given to the PAPs who must consider it and consult a medical doctor or other professionals if necessary. <p>If the child has special needs, a statement must be obtained from the Advisory Committee for Adoption Cases. It is composed of a medical doctor, a clinical psychologist and a psychiatrist. The CA decides whether the placement is to be approved or not, but considerable importance must be attached to the Committee's statement, cf. Adoption Act Section 22.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Go to Question 19.2 c)</u></p>
b) Which criteria must be fulfilled for the relevant authority in your State to accept the match?	
c) Does your State impose any requirements on PAPs concerning the length of time they are given to decide whether to accept a match?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, in addition to any requirements of the State of origin, our State has a time-limit – please specify: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No, the requirements of the State of origin are determinative in this regard.
d) Do PAPs receive any kind of assistance from your State when deciding whether to accept a match?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes – please specify what type of assistance is provided (<i>e.g.</i> , counselling): Counselling is given by the accredited bodies. <input type="checkbox"/> No

20. Agreement under Article 17 c)	
a) Which competent authority / body	The accredited bodies according to delegation

agrees that the adoption may proceed in accordance with Article 17 c)?	under HC93 Art 22 (1) and the CA in cases concerning special needs children.
b) At what point in the adoption procedure is the Article 17 c) agreement given in your State?	<input type="checkbox"/> Our State waits for the State of origin to provide its agreement first OR <input type="checkbox"/> Our State sends its agreement to the State of origin with a notice that the match has been accepted OR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): Both alternatives above are applicable depending on the state of origin.

21. Travel of the PAPs to the State of origin¹⁸

a) Does your State impose any travel requirements / restrictions on PAPs in addition to those imposed by the State of origin?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify the additional requirements / restrictions: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
b) Does your State permit an escort to be used to bring the child to the adoptive parents in your State in any circumstances?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify in which circumstances: Escort is not recommended, but allowed if this is accepted in the state of origin. <input type="checkbox"/> No

¹⁸ See GGP No 1, *supra*, note 13, Chapter 7.4.10.

22. Authorisation for the child to enter and reside permanently (Arts 5 c) and 18)	
a) Please specify the procedure to obtain authorisation for the child to enter and reside permanently in your State.	When a prior consent is granted and the adoption has been carried out in accordance with the conditions in the prior consent, the child will have the right to enter and reside permanently in Norway.
b) Which documents are necessary for a child to be able to enter and reside permanently in your State (e.g., passport, visa)?	Passport, visa if required.
c) Which of the documents listed in response to Question 0 b) above must be issued by your State? Please indicate which public / competent authority is responsible for issuing each document.	Passport is issued by Norwegian Embassies.
d) Once the child has arrived in your State, what is the procedure, if any, to notify the Central Authority or accredited body of his / her arrival?	The adoptive parents must send adoption documents, court order etc. to the CA for registration. Information about the routines and procedures for this is given by the accredited bodies, and is also available on the CAs website www.bufdir.no .

23. Final adoption decision and the Article 23 certificate	
a) If the final adoption decision is made in your State, which competent authority: (i) Makes the final adoption decision; and (ii) Issues the certificate under Article 23? <i>N.B. According to Art. 23(2), the authority responsible for issuing the Art. 23 certificate should be formally designated at the time of ratification of / accession to the 1993 Convention. The designation (or any modification to a designation) should be notified to the depositary of the Convention. The answer to (ii) above should therefore be available on the Status Table for the 1993 Convention (under "Authorities"), available on the Intercountry Adoption Section of the Hague Conference website.</i>	(i) CA/Bufdir (ii) CA/Bufdir
b) Does your State use the "Recommended model form – Certificate of conformity of intercountry adoption"? <i>See GGP No 1 – Annex 7.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
c) Please briefly describe the procedure for issuing the Article 23 certificate. <i>E.g., how long does it take to issue the certificate? Is a copy of the certificate always given to the PAPs? Is a copy sent to the Central Authority in the State of origin?</i>	It is issued when the adoption is finalised in Norway after the child's arrival and after a probation period if that is required by the state of origin.

d) In cases in which the Article 23 certificate is issued in the State of origin, which authority or body in your State should receive a copy of this certificate?	CA
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PART VII: INTRA-FAMILY INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTIONS

24. Procedure for the intercountry adoption of a child who is a relative of the PAPs ("intra-family intercountry adoption")	
a) Please explain the circumstances in which an intercountry adoption will be classified as an "intra-family intercountry adoption" in your State. Please include an explanation of the degree of relationship which a child must have with PAPs to be considered a "relative" of those PAPs.	A single person or couple resident in Norway wants to adopt a relative from their country of origin. The degree of relationship itself is not decisive, but the child's need to be adopted.
b) Does your State apply the procedures of the 1993 Convention to intra-family intercountry adoptions? <i>N.B. If the child and PAPs are habitually resident in different Contracting States to the 1993 Convention, the Convention is applicable, irrespective of the fact that the child and PAPs are related: see further GGP No 1 at para. 8.6.4.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes – go to Question 25 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, in general, although there are some differences in the procedures for intra-family intercountry adoptions – please specify: Go to Question 25 <input type="checkbox"/> No – go to Question 24 c)
c) If your State does not apply the Convention procedures to intra-family intercountry adoptions, please explain the laws / rules / procedures which are used in relation to: (i) The counselling and preparations which PAPs must undergo in your State; (ii) The preparation of the child for the adoption; (iii) The report on the PAPs; and (iv) The report on the child.	(i) (ii) (iii) (iv)

PART VIII: SIMPLE AND FULL ADOPTION¹⁹

25. Simple and full adoption	
a) Is "full" adoption permitted in your State? <i>See GGP No 1 at Chapter 8.8.8 and note 19 below.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> In certain circumstances only – please specify: <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain):

¹⁹ According to the 1993 Convention, a **simple** adoption is one in which the legal parent-child relationship which existed before the adoption is not terminated but a new legal parent-child relationship between the child and his / her adoptive parents is established. A **full** adoption is one in which the pre-existing legal parent-child relationship is terminated. See further Arts 26 and 27 and GGP No 1, *supra*, note 13, Chapter 8.8.8.

<p>b) Is "simple" adoption permitted in your State?</p> <p><i>See GGP No 1 at Chapter 8.8.8 and note 19 below.</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> In certain circumstances only (e.g., for intra-family adoptions only) – please specify:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain):</p>
<p>c) Does the law in your State permit "simple" adoptions to be converted into "full" adoptions in accordance with Article 27 of the 1993 Convention?</p> <p><i>See Art. 27(1) a).</i></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes – please provide details of how this is undertaken and please specify whether this is done on a regular basis when a State of origin grants a "simple" adoption or only in specific cases: Section 49 in the Adoption Act deals with the legal effects of a recognised foreign adoption, and says that a foreign adoption that is recognised pursuant to section 46 or section 47 has the same legal effect as a Norwegian adoption, unless otherwise provided by an agreement with another state.</p> <p>This means that even if the adoption is from a country with only "simple" adoptions, it will be converted into a "full" adoption in Norway because this is the only adoptions in Norway.</p> <p>A reservation is made for cases where otherwise is provided by an agreement with another state. HC Article 27 requires consents from the parties involved to convert a "simple" adoption into "full". In practice, such consents are always obtained to ensure conversion into a "full" adoption.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No – go to Question 26</p>
<p>d) If conversion of a "simple" adoption into a "full" adoption is sought in your State following an intercountry adoption, how does your State ensure that the consents referred to in Article 4 c) and d) of the 1993 Convention have been given in the State of origin to a "full" adoption (as required by Art. 27(1) b))?</p> <p><i>See Art. 27(1) b) and Art. 4 c) and d).</i></p>	<p>See answer to 25 c).</p>
<p>e) Following a conversion in your State, please explain which authority is responsible for issuing the Article 23 certificate in relation to the conversion decision. Please also explain the procedure which is followed.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The competent authority and the procedure is the same as stated in response to Question 23 above.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):</p>

PART IX: POST-ADOPTION MATTERS

26. Preservation of, and access to, information concerning the child's origins (Art. 30) and the adoption of the child

<p>a) Which authority in your State is responsible for preserving information concerning the child's origins, as required by Article 30?</p>	<p>CA</p>
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b) For how long is the information concerning the child's origins preserved?	For ever.
<p>c) Does your State permit the following persons to have access to information concerning the child's origins and / or information concerning the adoption of the child:</p> <p>(i) the adoptee and / or his / her representative(s); (ii) the adoptive parent(s); (iii) the birth family; and / or (iv) any other person(s)?</p> <p>If so, are there any criteria which must be met for access to be granted (<i>e.g.</i>, age of the adopted child, consent of the birth family to the release of information concerning the child's origins, consent of the adoptive parents to the release of information concerning the adoption)?</p> <p><i>See Art. 9 a) and c) and Art. 30.</i></p>	<p>(i) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes – please explain any criteria: The adoptee must have reached the age of 18, cf. Section 39 in the Norwegian Adoption Act. <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>(ii) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes – please explain any criteria: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>(iii) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes – please explain any criteria: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>(iv) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes – please explain any criteria: If the adopted person is no longer alive, his or her direct lineal descendants have a right to be informed of the identity of the birth parents of the adopted person, Adoption Act Section 39 third paragraph. <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
d) Where access to such information is provided, is any counselling or other guidance / support given in your State?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes – please specify: Counselling is offered by the authorities. <input type="checkbox"/> No
e) Once access to such information has been provided, is any <i>further</i> assistance offered to the adoptee and / or others (<i>e.g.</i> , regarding making contact with his / her biological family, tracing extended family)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes – please specify: In addition to counselling, one of the accredited bodies in Norway arrange travels to states of origin. These services are however not free of charge. <input type="checkbox"/> No

27. Post-adoption reports

a) Absent specific requirements of the State of origin in this regard, who is responsible in your State for <i>writing</i> post-adoption reports and <i>sending</i> such reports to the State of origin?	<p>Section 23 of the Adoption Act says that if the authorities of the country from which the child was adopted demand follow-up reports prepared or approved by a public authority concerning the child's situation in Norway, the adoption authority shall prepare such reports for a maximum of three years following the child's arrival in Norway.</p> <p>The municipality shall assist in providing information for these follow-up reports and shall prepare follow-up reports if so requested by the adoption authority.</p>
b) Absent any specific requirements of the State of origin in this regard, is there a model form which is used by your State for post-adoption reports?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes – please specify whether use of the form is mandatory and indicate where it may be accessed (<i>e.g.</i> , provide a link or attach a copy): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No – in which case, please specify the content expected by <i>your</i> State in a post-adoption report (<i>e.g.</i> , medical information,

	information about the child's development, schooling): The report must fulfill the requirements set by the state of origin.
c) How does your State ensure that the requirements of the State of origin in relation to post-adoption reporting are fulfilled?	The Ministry has delegated to the regional offices in Bufetat the responsibility to monitor that the requirements in Section 23 of the Adoption Act are complied with.

28. Post-adoption services and support (Art. 9 c)

<p>Apart from the matters raised in Question 26 above, what, if any, post-adoption services and support is / are provided by your State to the child and / or PAPs following completion of an intercountry adoption (e.g., counselling, support to preserve cultural links)?</p> <p>In particular, please state whether any specific post-adoption services or support are provided in your State in the case of special needs children.</p>	<p>All adopted children benefit from the same social, medical and other services as other children in Norway.</p>
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PART X: THE FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION²⁰

Receiving States are also kindly requested to complete the "Tables on the costs associated with intercountry adoption", available on the [Intercountry Adoption Section](#) of the Hague Conference website.

29. The costs²¹ of intercountry adoption	
a) Are the costs of intercountry adoption regulated by law in your State?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes – please specify any relevant legislation / regulations / rules and indicate how they may be accessed (e.g., link to a website or attach a copy). Please also briefly explain the legal framework: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
b) Does your State monitor the payment of the costs of intercountry adoption?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes – please briefly describe how this monitoring is undertaken: See answer to 6.2 b). <input type="checkbox"/> No
c) Are the costs of intercountry adoption which must be paid in your State paid through the accredited body involved in the particular intercountry adoption (if applicable – see Question 16 c) above) or directly by the PAPs themselves? <i>See the "Note on the financial aspects of intercountry adoption" at para. 86.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Through the accredited body: There are no fees to Norwegian authorities for processing an adoption application. <input type="checkbox"/> Directly by the PAPs: <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain):
d) Are the costs of intercountry adoption which must be paid in your State paid in cash or only by bank transfer? <i>See the "Note on the financial aspects of intercountry adoption" at para. 85.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Only by bank transfer: <input type="checkbox"/> In cash: <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain):
e) Which body / authority in your State receives the payments?	The accredited bodies.
f) Does your State provide PAPs (and other interested persons) with information about the costs of intercountry adoption (e.g., in a brochure or on a website)? N.B. Please also ensure that your State has completed the "Tables on the costs associated with intercountry adoption" (see above).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes – please indicate how this information may be accessed: On the websites of the accredited bodies: www.adopsjonsforum.no www.inoradopt.no www.verdensbarn.no <input type="checkbox"/> No

²⁰ See the tools developed by the "Experts' Group on the Financial Aspects of Intercountry Adoption", available on the [Intercountry Adoption Section](#) of the Hague Conference website: i.e., the *Terminology adopted by the Experts' Group on the financial aspects of intercountry adoption* ("Terminology"), the *Note on the financial aspects of intercountry adoption* ("Note"), the *Summary list of good practices on the financial aspects of intercountry adoption* and the *Tables on the costs associated with intercountry adoption*.

²¹ See the definition of "costs" provided in the harmonised Terminology, *ibid*.

30. Contributions, co-operation projects and donations²²	
<p>a) Does your State permit contributions²³ to be paid (either through your State's Central Authority or a national accredited body) to a State of origin in order to engage in intercountry adoption with that State?</p> <p><i>For good practices relating to contributions, see the "Note on the financial aspects of intercountry adoption" at Chapter 6.</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes – please explain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What type of contribution is permitted by your State: - Who is permitted to pay it (<i>i.e.</i>, the Central Authority or a national accredited body): - How it is ensured that contributions do not influence or otherwise compromise the integrity of the intercountry adoption process: <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>b) Does your State undertake (either through the Central Authority or national accredited bodies) co-operation projects in any States of origin?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes - please explain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What type of co-operation projects are permitted by your State: Humanitarian projects etc. - Who undertakes such projects (<i>i.e.</i>, the Central Authority and / or national accredited bodies): The accredited bodies. - Whether such projects are mandatory according to the law of your State: Not mandatory. - Whether such projects are monitored by an authority / body in your State: CA, see answer to 6.2 b). - How it is ensured that co-operation projects do not influence or otherwise compromise the integrity of the intercountry adoption process: According to regulations pursuant to the Adoption Act, they must be kept financially separated from the adoption activities. <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>c) If permitted in the State of origin, does your State permit PAPs or accredited bodies to make donations to orphanages, institutions or birth families in the State of origin?</p> <p><i>N.B. This is <u>not</u> recommended as a good practice:</i> see further the "Note on the financial aspects of intercountry adoption" at Chapter 6 (in particular, Chapter 6.4).</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes – please explain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To whom donations may be made (<i>e.g.</i>, to orphanages, other institutions and / or birth families): - What donations are intended to be used for: - Who is permitted to pay donations (<i>e.g.</i>, only accredited bodies or also PAPs): - At what stage of the intercountry adoption procedure donations are

²² See the definitions of these terms provided in the harmonised Terminology. In addition, on contributions and donations, see Chapter 6 of the Note, *supra*, note 20.

²³ See further the harmonised Terminology, *supra*, note 20, which states that there are two types of contributions: (1) contributions demanded by the State of origin, which are mandatory and meant to improve either the adoption system or the child protection system. The amount is set by the State of origin. These contributions are managed by the authorities or others appropriately authorised in the State of origin which decide how the funds will be used; (2) contributions demanded by the accredited body from PAPs. These contributions may be for particular children's institutions (*e.g.*, for maintenance costs for the child) or for the co-operation projects of the accredited body in the State of origin. The co-operation projects may be a condition of the authorisation of that body to work in the State of origin. The amount is set by the accredited body or its partners. The payment may not be a statutory obligation and accredited bodies may present the demand in terms of "highly recommended contribution", but in practice it is "mandatory" for the PAPs in the sense that their application will not proceed if the payment is not made.

	<p>permitted to be paid:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How it is ensured that donations do not influence or otherwise compromise the integrity of the intercountry adoption procedure: <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>
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31. Improper financial or other gain (Arts 8 and 32)

a) Which authority is responsible for preventing improper financial or other gain in your State as required by the Convention?	CA and the accredited bodies.
b) What measures have been taken in your State to prevent improper financial or other gain?	By monitoring and supervision of the accredited bodies, see answer to 6.2 b).
c) Please explain the sanctions which may be applied if Articles 8 and / or 32 are breached.	Order to correct any practice in conflict with the Convention or withdrawal of accreditation/authorisation.

PART XI: ILLICIT PRACTICES²⁴

32. Response to illicit practices in general

Please explain how your Central Authority and / or other competent authorities respond to intercountry adoption cases involving alleged or actual illicit practices. ²⁵	We would examine the case and if necessary withdraw the authorisation temporarily or permanently.
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33. The abduction, sale of and traffic in children

<p>a) Please indicate which laws in your State seek to prevent the abduction, sale of and traffic in children in the context of your intercountry adoption programmes.</p> <p>Please also specify which bodies / persons the laws target (e.g., accredited bodies (national or foreign), PAPs, directors of children's institutions).</p>	<p>Section 30 in the Adoption Act states that adoption mediation by private individuals is prohibited. Adoption mediation may only be carried out by organisations so authorised by the adoption authority.</p> <p>Section 11 in the Adoption Act says that it is not permitted to provide or promise financial inducements or other benefits in order to influence a person whose consent to an adoption is required or who is to express an opinion concerning an application for adoption or for prior consent to adopt.</p> <p>Section 33 in the Adoption Act says that it is not permitted to provide financial inducements or other benefits to organisations, persons in organisations or</p>
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²⁴ "Illicit practices" in this Country Profile refers to "situations where a child has been adopted without respect for the rights of the child or for the safeguards of the Hague Convention. Such situations may arise where an individual or body has, directly or indirectly, misrepresented information to the biological parents, falsified documents about the child's origins, engaged in the abduction, sale or trafficking of a child for the purpose of intercountry adoption, or otherwise used fraudulent methods to facilitate an adoption, regardless of the benefit obtained (financial gain or other)" (from p. 1 of the *Discussion Paper: Co-operation between Central Authorities to develop a common approach to preventing and addressing illicit practices in intercountry adoption cases*, available on the [Intercountry Adoption Section](http://www.hcch.net) of the Hague Conference website < www.hcch.net >).

²⁵ *Ibid.*

	other persons who mediate an adoption with the intention of influencing an adoption process or the outcome of an adoption case.
b) Please explain how your State monitors respect for the above laws.	By monitoring the activities of the AAB, in particular ensure that all legal conditions are fulfilled when accreditation and authorisation is granted.
c) If these laws are breached, what sanctions may be applied? (e.g., imprisonment, fine, withdrawal of accreditation.)	Section 51 in the Adoption Act deals with penal sanctions, and says that any person who violates the prohibition provided in sections 11, 30 or 33, shall be liable to fines or imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months.

34. Private and / or independent adoptions

Are private and / or independent adoptions permitted in your State?

N.B. "Independent" and "private" adoptions are not consistent with the system of safeguards established under the 1993 Convention: see further GGP No 1 at Chapters 4.2.6 and 8.6.6.

Please tick all which apply.

- Private adoptions are permitted – please explain how this term is defined in your State:
- Independent adoptions are permitted - please explain how this term is defined in your State:
- Neither private nor independent adoptions are permitted.

PART XII: INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY

35. The scope of the 1993 Convention (Art. 2)

a) If foreign national PAPs, habitually resident in your State, wish to adopt a child habitually resident in another Contracting State to the 1993 Convention, are they permitted to do so under the law of your State?

Example: Indian PAPs are habitually resident in the USA and wish to adopt a child habitually resident in India.

Yes – please explain whether this would be treated as an *intercountry* or *domestic* adoption in your State²⁶ and please briefly explain the procedure which would be followed, as well as any specific criteria / conditions which would apply: Clearly an intercountry adoption where the HC93 and the intercountry adoption procedures as stated in the Norwegian Adoption Act, regulations and guidelines, must be followed.

No

b) If foreign national PAPs, habitually resident in your State, wish to adopt a child also habitually resident in your State, are they permitted to do so under the law of your State?

Example: Indian PAPs are habitually resident in the USA and wish to adopt a child also habitually resident in the USA.

Yes – please explain whether this would be treated as an *intercountry* or *domestic* adoption in your State²⁷ and please briefly explain the procedure which would be followed, as well as any specific criteria / conditions which would apply: This would be dealt with as a domestic adoption, but the procedures to examine the PAPs eligibility and suitability as in intercountry adoptions are more or less the same.

No

c) If a State of origin treats an adoption by PAPs habitually resident in your State as a *domestic* adoption when, in fact, it should be processed as an intercountry adoption under the 1993 Convention, how does your State deal with this situation?

Example: PAPs who are nationals of State X habitually reside in your State. They wish to adopt a child from State X. Due to their nationality, the PAPs are able to adopt a child in State X in a domestic adoption procedure (in breach of the 1993 Convention). They then seek to bring the child back to your State.

We would contact the CA in the state of origin and try to reach an agreement on how to solve the case and to find a solution in the best interests of the child. If an adoption already has taken place, we would try to rectify the situation through co-operation and apply the Convention as far as possible to make it possible to recognise the adoption.

²⁶ According to the 1993 Convention (see Art. 2), this is an *intercountry* adoption due to the differing habitual residences of the PAPs and the child. The Convention procedures, standards and safeguards should therefore be applied to such adoptions: see further, GGP No 1, *supra*, note 13, Chapter 8.4.

²⁷ According to the 1993 Convention (see Art. 2), this is a *domestic* adoption due to the fact that the habitual residence of the PAPs and the child is in the same Contracting State: see further, GGP No 1, *supra*, note 13, Chapter 8.4.

PART XIII: SELECTION OF PARTNERS FOR INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION²⁸

36. Selection of partners	
a) With which States of origin does your State currently partner on intercountry adoption?	Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Colombia, the Philippines, Madagaskar, Peru, South Africa, South Korea, Thailand, Taiwan, Hungary and Vietnam.
b) How does your State determine with which States of origin it will partner? In particular, please specify whether your State only partners with other <i>Contracting States</i> to the 1993 Convention. <i>To see which States are Contracting States to the 1993 Convention, please refer to the Status Table for the 1993 Convention (accessible via the Intercountry Adoption Section of the Hague Conference website < www.hcch.net >).</i>	See answer to 7.1 d). Norway co-operates with 2 non-convention states: South Korea and Taiwan.
c) If your State also partners with <i>non-Contracting States</i> , please explain how it is ensured that the safeguards of the 1993 Convention are complied with in these cases. ²⁹	See answer to 7.1 d). <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable: our State only partners with other <i>Contracting States</i> to the 1993 Convention.
d) Are any formalities required in order to commence intercountry adoptions with a particular State of origin (e.g., the conclusion of a formal agreement ³⁰ with that State of origin)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes – please explain the content of any agreements or other formalities: ³¹ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

²⁸ In relation to the choice of foreign States as partners in intercountry adoption arrangements, see further GGP No 2, *supra*, note 4, Chapter 3.5.

²⁹ See GGP No 1, *supra*, note 13, Chapter 10.3 regarding the fact that “[i]t is generally accepted that States Party to the Convention should extend the application of its principles to non-Convention adoptions”.

³⁰ See note 3 above concerning Art. 39(2) and the requirement to transmit a copy of any such agreements to the depositary for the 1993 Convention.

³¹ *Ibid.*