

RECEIVING STATE

COUNTRY NAME: Finland

PROFILE UPDATED ON: 16.6.2025

PART I: CENTRAL AUTHORITY

1. Contact details ¹	
Name of office:	Central Authority = The Finnish Adoption Board. It's subordinated to National Supervisory Authority for Welfare and Health (Valvira)
Acronyms used:	
Address:	P.O. BOX 43, FI-00521 Helsinki, Finland
Telephone:	+358 295 209 111
Fax:	+358 295 209 700
E-mail:	adoption@valvira.fi
Website:	https://valvira.fi/en/finnish-adoption-board
Contact person(s) and direct contact details (please indicate language(s) of communication):	Language of communication: English Mrs Irene Pärssinen-Hentula Manager; Chair of the Finnish Adoption Board Tel. +358 295 209 247 irene.parssinen-hentula@valvira.fi, adoption@valvira.fi Mrs Päivi Pietarila Senior Officer; Secretary of the Adoption Board Tel. +358 295 209 499 adoption@valvira.fi

¹ Please verify whether the contact details on the "Adoption Section" of the HCCH website < www.hcch.net > under "Central Authorities" are up to date. If not, please e-mail the updated contact information to < secretariat@hcch.net >.

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.

PART II: RELEVANT LEGISLATION

2. The 1993 Adoption Convention and domestic legislation	
<p>a) When did the 1993 Adoption Convention enter into force in your State?</p> <p><i>This information is available on the Status Table for the 1993 Adoption Convention (accessible via the Adoption Section of the HCCH website < www.hcch.net >).</i></p>	<p>1 st July 1997</p>
<p>b) Please identify the legislation / regulations / procedural rules which implement or assist with the effective operation of the 1993 Adoption 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>Adoption Act (22/2012) entered into force 1st July 2012 (https://www.finlex.fi/api/media/statute-foreign-language-translation/115674/mainPdf/main.pdf?timestamp=2012-01-20T00%3A00%3A00.000Z)</p> <p>Adoption Degree (202/2012) entered into force 1 st July 2012 (https://finlex.fi/api/media/statute-foreign-language-translation/114249/mainPdf/main.pdf?timestamp=2012-05-03T00%3A00%3A00.000Z)</p>
3. Other international agreements on intercountry adoption ²	
<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>

² 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).

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 Adoption Convention in your State.</p> <p><i>See Arts 6-9 and Arts 14-21 if accredited bodies are not used.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - supervision of accredited bodies - expert authority in adoption matters - co operation with other CA:s -accreditations and authoritations to accredited bodies
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>Social welfare office of the wellbeing services counties and adoption office (adoption counselling)</p> <p>Accredited bodies (practical tasks in intercountry adoptions)</p> <p>Central Authority = Adoption Board (licenses to adopt, supervision of accredited bodies, authoritatis and accreditations etc...)</p> <p>Helsinki District Court (recognises foreign adoptions)</p> <p>Administrative Courts (PAPs appeal, if their permission is refused)</p> <p>District Courts (confirm domestic and some foreign adoptions)</p>
6. National accredited bodies ³	
<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 HCCH (see Art. 13).⁴</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.⁵</p>	<p>3</p> <p>The number is not limited</p>

³ "National accredited bodies" in this Country Profile means adoption bodies based within your State (receiving State) which have been accredited under the 1993 Adoption Convention by the competent authorities in your State. See further *Guide to Good Practice No 2 on Accreditation and Adoption Accredited Bodies* ("GGP No 2"), available on the [Adoption Section](#) of the HCCH website < www.hcch.net > at Chapters 3.1 *et seq.*

⁴ *Ibid.*, Chapter 3.2.1 (para. 111).

⁵ *Ibid.*, Chapter 3.4.

<p>c) Please briefly describe the role of national accredited bodies in your State.</p>	<p>A service provider shall assist a prospective adopter in measures relating to the intercountry adoption of a child under the age of 18 years and monitor that the adoption takes place in the best interests of the child, with respect for the fundamental rights of the child as recognized in international law and without anyone deriving improper financial or other gain therefrom.</p> <p>The specific duties of the service provider shall be to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) provide a child under the age of 18 years who is habitually resident in a foreign state and in need of adoptive parents and for whom suitable adoptive parents cannot be found in his or her state of habitual residence with a prospective adopter with habitual residence in Finland; 2) assist in measures relating to the granting of the adoption; 3) assist the adoptee and his or her custodians and, following the adoptee's death, his or her descendants and their custodians in gaining access to information about the child and his or her origin from the child's state of origin; and 4) provide the information recipient in the context of information access referred to in paragraph 3 with the necessary support and guidance. <p>The service provider may also provide a child under the age of 18 years who is habitually resident in Finland and in need of adoptive parents and for whom suitable adoptive parents cannot be found in Finland with a prospective adopter with habitual residence in a foreign state.</p> <p>The service provider shall attend, as an accredited body referred to in Chapter III of the Convention on Protection of Children and Co-Operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption (Treaty Series of the Statutes of Finland 29/1997), hereinafter Hague Convention, to the tasks required under the Convention entrusted upon the service provider under an act or government decree.</p> <p>Further provisions on the service providers' duties shall be given by government decree.</p>
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6.1 The accreditation procedure (Arts 10-11)	
a) Which authority / body is responsible for the accreditation of national adoption bodies in your State?	Central Authority (Adoption Board)
b) Please briefly describe the <i>procedure</i> for granting accreditation and the most important accreditation <i>criteria</i> .	<p>Procedure: Accredited body has to apply license from Adoption Board.</p> <p>Criteria: According to adoption act, section 87: The Adoption Board may, upon application, grant a license to provide intercountry adoption services to a welfare services counties, an association registered in Finland or an association registered in another European Economic Area Member State or other corresponding organization. A license to operate an adoption agency or provide intercountry adoption services may be granted to a non-profit organization that is considered capable of providing adoption counselling or intercountry adoption services in a professional, sustained and reliable manner. A further condition for granting the license is that commencing such activities is to be deemed appropriate for the organization of adoption counselling or intercountry adoption services.</p> <p>Provisions concerning the documentation to be enclosed with the application and notifications to be submitted regarding license decisions shall be given by government decree.</p>
c) For how long is accreditation granted in your State?	Max 5 years
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> .	Same criterias than granting accreditation
6.2 Monitoring of national accredited bodies⁶	
a) Which authority is competent to monitor / supervise national accredited bodies in your State? <i>See Art. 11(c).</i>	Central Authority (Finnish Adoption Board)
b) Please briefly describe how national accredited bodies are monitored / supervised in your State (<i>e.g.</i> , if	<p>- CA and accredited bodies have meetings regularly</p> <p>- CA asks accredited bodies to give reports and</p>

⁶ *Ibid.*, Chapter 7.4.

inspections are undertaken, how frequently).	information about their actions and financial situation
c) Please briefly describe the circumstances in which the accreditation of bodies can be revoked (<i>i.e.</i> , withdrawn).	According to adoption act, section 89 the Adoption Board may cancel a licence granted under section 87 if the adoption counselling or intercountry adoption service is not provided in compliance with the provisions in force or if shortcomings or faults are detected in the activity and these are not remedied or eliminated within the time limit set by the Authority or Board.
d) If national accredited bodies do not comply with the 1993 Adoption 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): canceling a licence <input type="checkbox"/> No

7. Authorisation of national accredited bodies to work in other Contracting States (Art. 12) ⁷	
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 (The Finnish Adoption Board)
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> . ⁸ If your State does not have authorisation criteria, please explain on what basis decisions concerning authorisation are made.	Procedure: Accredited bodies apply authorisation from Adoption Board. Adoption Board meet accredited body and ask further clarification, seek information from ISS, ask experiences from other CA:s (especially Nordic Countries), ask information via embassies.

⁷ In relation to authorisation of accredited bodies, *ibid.*, Chapter 4.2.

⁸ In relation to authorisation criteria, *ibid.*, Chapters 2.3.4.2 and 4.2.4.

<p>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 (e.g., requirements that the body must have a local representative in the State of origin, or must establish a local office).</p>	<p>Criteria: According to adoption act, section 90: The Adoption Board may, upon application, grant a service provider a licence to cooperate with a foreign service provider if:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) the foreign service provider has the competence to carry out tasks relating to intercountry adoption in the state in which it is situated; 2) sufficient proof has been presented of the foreign service provider carrying out the tasks referred to in paragraph 1 in a professional, sustained and reliable manner, in the best interests of the child and with respect for the fundamental rights of the child as recognised in international law and without anyone deriving improper financial or other gain from adoptions; and 3) the cooperation can be regarded as justified, taking special account of the need for intercountry adoptions in that state. A licence shall be granted for a fixed period not exceeding five years at a time. The Adoption Board may cancel a licence if the foreign service provider has lost its competence to carry out tasks relating to intercountry adoptions in the state in which it is situated or there is reason to suspect that it is not carrying them out in the manner referred to in subsection 1(2)
<p>e) For how long is authorisation granted?</p>	<p>max 5 years</p>
<p>f) Please briefly describe the criteria and procedure used to determine whether authorisation will be <i>renewed</i>.</p>	<p>The Adoption Board may cancel a licence if the foreign service provider has lost its competence to carry out tasks relating to intercountry adoptions in the state in which it is situated or there is reason to suspect that it is not carrying them out in the manner referred to in adoption act 90 subsection 1(2).</p>
<p>7.2 Monitoring the work of your authorised national accredited bodies in other Contracting States</p>	
<p>a) Please briefly describe how your State ensures that authorised national accredited bodies (including their representatives, co-workers and any other staff⁹ in the State of origin) are monitored / supervised by your State in</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - regular meetings with accredited bodies and CA - CA ask information from accredited bodies if needed

⁹ For an explanation of the terminology used concerning the staff of the national accredited body working in the State of origin, *ibid.*, Chapters 6.3 and 6.4.

relation to their work / activities <i>in the State of origin</i> .	
b) Please briefly describe the circumstances in which the authorisation of national accredited bodies can be revoked (<i>i.e.</i> , withdrawn).	Adoption Board may cancel a licence granted under section 87 if the adoption counselling or intercountry adoption service is not provided in compliance with the provisions in force or if shortcomings or faults are detected in the activity and these are not remedied or eliminated within the time limit set by the Authority or Board.

8. Approved (non-accredited) persons (Art. 22(2)) ¹⁰	
<p>Is the involvement of approved (non-accredited) persons permitted in intercountry adoption procedures in your State?</p> <p><i>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 Adoption Convention, available on the Adoption Section of the HCCH website.</i></p> <p><i>If your State has made a declaration according to Art. 22(2), the Permanent Bureau of the HCCH should be informed of the names and addresses of these bodies and persons (Art. 22(3)).¹¹</i></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>

PART IV: THE CHILDREN PROPOSED FOR INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION

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

10. The best interests of the child and subsidiarity (Art. 4(b))	
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><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes – please specify:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>

11. Children with special needs

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, Chapter 13.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, Chapter 13.2.2.5.

Does your State have its own definition of the term “special needs children” which is applied in intercountry adoption cases?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes – please provide the definition used in your State: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No – the definition used in the State(s) of origin is determinative.
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12. The nationality of children who are adopted intercountry¹²	
Do children who are adopted intercountry to your State acquire the nationality of your State?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, always. Please specify: (i) At what stage nationality is acquired by the child: ; 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): <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 type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify the limit applied and the basis on which it is determined: <input checked="" 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 adoption¹³ (Art. 5(a))	
14.1 Eligibility criteria	
a) Do PAPs wishing to undertake an intercountry adoption have to fulfil any	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, the following person(s) may apply in our State for an intercountry adoption: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Married, heterosexual couples:

¹² Regarding nationality, see further the *Guide to Good Practice No 1 on the implementation and operation of the 1993 Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention* (“GGP No 1”), available on the [Adoption Section](#) of the HCCH website < www.hcch.net >, at Chapter 8.4.5.

¹³ *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 Adoption Convention: see further Art. 2 of the Convention.

<p>criteria in your State concerning their relationship status(es)?</p> <p><i>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).</i></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Married, same-sex couples:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Heterosexual couples in a legally registered partnership:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Same-sex couples in a legally registered partnership:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Heterosexual couples that have not legally formalised their relationship:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Same-sex couples that have not legally formalised their relationship:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Single men:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Single women:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No, there are no relationship status criteria for PAPs.</p>
<p>b) Are there any age requirements in your State for PAPs wishing to undertake an intercountry adoption?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minimum age requirements: 25</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maximum age requirements: 50</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Difference in years required between the PAPs and the child: 45</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>c) Are there any <i>other</i> eligibility criteria which your State requires PAPs to fulfil?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Additional / differing criteria must be met for PAPs wishing to adopt a child with special needs (please specify):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Couples must supply evidence of infertility:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> For persons with children already (biological or adopted), there are additional criteria (please specify):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>14.2 Suitability assessment¹⁴</p>	
<p>a) Which body(ies) / expert(s) perform the assessment of whether the PAPs are suitable persons to undertake an intercountry adoption?</p>	<p>- Social workers in adoption counselling gives their opinion about the suitability</p> <p>- The Finnish Adoption Board (section for adoption permission matters)</p>
<p>b) Please briefly describe the procedure which is used to assess the PAPs and</p>	<p>First in adoption counselling and after that in adoption board when granting a permission for intercountry adoption</p>

¹⁴ This suitability assessment will usually form one part of the report on the PAPs (Art. 15): as to which, see GGP No 1 (*op. cit.* note 12), Chapter 7.4.3 and Question 17 below.

determine their suitability to undertake an intercountry adoption.	
14.3 Final approval	
Which body / person gives the final approval that the PAPs are eligible and suited to undertake an intercountry adoption?	Finnish Adoption Board (section for adoption permission matters)

15. Preparation and counselling of PAPs (Art. 5(b))	
<p>a) In your State, are courses provided to prepare PAPs for intercountry adoption?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Whether the courses are mandatory: no - At what stage of the adoption procedure they are offered: - Who provides the courses: different organisations - Whether they are provided to PAPs individually or collectively (<i>i.e.</i>, in a group): - Whether they are provided “in person” or electronically: - How many hours the courses last: - The content of the courses: - Whether there are specific courses for PAPs wishing to adopt a child with special needs: - Whether the courses are (or can be) targeted at preparing PAPs for the adoption of a child from specific States of origin: <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>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 and culture courses)? Please specify, in each case:</p> <p>(i) If it is mandatory for PAPs to use the service;</p> <p>(ii) Who provides the service; and</p> <p>(iii) At what stage in the adoption procedure the service is provided.</p>	<p>Adoption counselling is mandatory. Basically an AAB must always be used (some exceptions possible, only in cases where the adoptee is a close blood relative of the prospective adopter and there is no Finnish service provider operating in the adoptee’s country of origin)</p>

PART VI: THE INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION PROCEDURE

16. Applications

<p>a) To which authority / body should PAPs apply for an intercountry adoption?</p>	<p>Finnish Adoption Board (section for adoption permission matters)</p>
<p>b) Please indicate which documents your State requires to be included within the PAPs' file for transmission to the State of origin:¹⁵</p> <p><i>Please tick all which apply.</i></p>	<p><input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information concerning the health of the PAPs (please specify in which circumstances and what type of information is required):</p> <p><input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Proof of no criminal record</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other(s): please explain</p>
<p>c) Is it compulsory in your State for an accredited body to be involved in an intercountry adoption procedure?¹⁶</p>	<p><input 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):</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No. Please specify who assists PAPs if no accredited body is involved in the adoption procedure: adoption counselling, possible other authorities</p>

¹⁵ 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.

¹⁶ See GGP No 1 (*op. cit.* note 12), paras 4.2.6 and 8.6.6: "independent" and "private" adoptions are not consistent with the system of safeguards established under the 1993 Adoption Convention.

<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>i.e.</i>, 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 intercountry adoption):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> A contract signed by the accredited body and the PAPs:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A document issued by a competent authority of the receiving State certifying that the accredited body may undertake intercountry adoptions:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
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17. The report on the PAPs (Arts 5(a) and 15(1))	
<p>a) Which body(ies) / expert(s) prepare the report on the PAPs?</p> <p>Please include all those involved with the preparation of any of the documents which are included within such a report.</p>	<p>Social welfare office of the wellbeing services counties or adoption offices</p>
<p>b) Is a "standard form" used for the report on the PAPs in your State?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, please provide a link to the form or attach a copy: Guide to Adoption Counselling, published only in Finnish (http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-00-3357-6)</p> <p><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:</p>
<p>c) For how long is the report on the PAPs valid in your State?</p>	<p>- 2 years</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p>Social welfare office of the wellbeing services counties or adoption offices</p>

18. Transmission of the PAPs' file to the State of origin	
<p>a) Who sends the finalised application file of the PAPs to the State of origin?</p>	<p>Accredited bodies</p>

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?	CA <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable – an accredited body will always be involved (see response to Question 16(c) above).
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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?	Accredited body
19.2 Acceptance of the match	
a) Does your State require that the matching be accepted by a competent authority in your State?	<input checked="" 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): Accredited body 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): Accredited body <p><u>Go to Question 19.2 b)</u></p> <input 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: <u>Go to Question 19.2 c)</u>
b) Which criteria must be fulfilled for the relevant authority in your State to accept the match?	The age and health condition criteria has to be in line with PAP's home study and adoption permission.
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 with social workers and accredited bodies, psychological and medical evaluation when needed (especially with older and special need children). <input type="checkbox"/> No

20. Agreement under Article 17(c)	
a) Which competent authority / body agrees that the adoption may proceed in accordance with Article 17(c)?	Accredited bodies, but if accredited body is not involved, Central Authority
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 type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):

21. Travel of the PAPs to the State of origin¹⁷	
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 type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify in which circumstances: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

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.	<p>The child will be issued a Finnish passport from the Finnish Embassy in the country of origin. The child is entitled to a passport once the accredited body in Finland has received legalized court order and birth certificate and applied for the child's social security number from the adoption applicants home magistrate. If the adoption has not been finalized, the parents will apply for a residence permit for the child via the Finnish Embassy.</p>
b) Which documents are necessary for a child to be able to enter and reside permanently in your State (e.g., passport, visa)?	A Finnish passport or a passport from the country of origin and a residence permit. Legalized birth certificate and court order.
c) Which of the documents listed in response to Question 22(b) above must be issued by your State?	<p>All.</p> <p>Passport: Finnish Embassy</p> <p>Residence Permit: The Finnish Immigration Service</p>

¹⁷ See GGP No 1 (*op. cit.* note 12), Chapter 7.4.10.

Please indicate which public / competent authority is responsible for issuing each document.	
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 accredited body will notify the Central Authority by sending a document stating that the child has arrived and the status of the adoption (registered or will be registered later).

23. Final adoption decision and the Article 23 certificate	
<p>a) If the final adoption decision is made in your State, which competent authority:</p> <p>(i) Makes the final adoption decision; and</p> <p>(ii) Issues the certificate under Article 23?</p> <p><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.</i></p> <p><i>The answer to (ii) above should therefore be available on the Status Table for the 1993 Adoption Convention (under "Authorities"), available on the Adoption Section of the HCCH website.</i></p>	<p>(i) court</p> <p>(ii)</p>
<p>b) Does your State use the "Recommended model form – Certificate of conformity of intercountry adoption"?</p> <p><i>See GGP No 1 – Annex 7.</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>c) Please briefly describe the procedure for issuing the Article 23 certificate.</p> <p><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></p>	
<p>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?</p>	Accredited bodies

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”)	
<p>a) Please explain the circumstances in which an intercountry adoption will be classified as an “intra-family intercountry adoption” in your State.</p> <p>Please include an explanation of the degree of relationship which a child must have with PAPs to be considered a “relative” of those PAPs.</p>	<p>Relative child can be niece or nephew, or sibling of adoptive child</p>
<p>b) Does your State apply the procedures of the 1993 Adoption Convention to intra-family intercountry adoptions?</p> <p><i>N.B. If the child and PAPs are habitually resident in different Contracting States to the 1993 Adoption 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></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes – go to Question 25</p> <p><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</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No – go to Question 24 c)</p>
<p>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:</p> <p>(i) The counselling and preparations which PAPs must undergo in your State;</p> <p>(ii) The preparation of the child for the adoption;</p> <p>(iii) The report on the PAPs; and</p> <p>(iv) The report on the child.</p>	<p>(i)</p> <p>(ii)</p> <p>(iii)</p> <p>(iv)</p>

PART VIII: SIMPLE AND FULL ADOPTION¹⁸

25. Simple and full adoption	
<p>a) Is “full” adoption permitted in your State?</p> <p><i>See GGP No 1 at Chapter 8.8.8 and note 18 below.</i></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> In certain circumstances only – please specify:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain):</p>
<p>b) Is “simple” adoption permitted in your State?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>

¹⁸

According to the 1993 Adoption 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 (*op. cit.* note 12), Chapter 8.8.8.

<p><i>See GGP No 1 at Chapter 8.8.8 and note 18 below.</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> In certain circumstances only (<i>e.g.</i>, 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 Adoption Convention?</p> <p><i>See Art. 27(1)(a).</i></p>	<p><input 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:</p> <p><input checked="" 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 Adoption 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>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 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>Accredited bodies</p>
<p>b) For how long is the information concerning the child’s origins preserved?</p>	<p>100 years</p>
<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);</p> <p>(ii) the adoptive parent(s);</p> <p>(iii) the birth family; and / or</p>	<p>(i) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes – please explain any criteria:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>(ii) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes – please explain any criteria:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>

<p>(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>(iii) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes – please explain any criteria:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>(iv) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes – please explain any criteria:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>d) Where access to such information is provided, is any counselling or other guidance / support given in your State?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes – please specify: support is given by accredited bodies and adoption counselling</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>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)?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes – please specify:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>

27. Post-adoption reports	
<p>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>	<p>writing: social worker</p> <p>sending: accredited body</p>
<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?</p>	<p><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):</p> <p><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):</p>
<p>c) How does your State ensure that the requirements of the State of origin in relation to post-adoption reporting are fulfilled?</p>	<p>Accredited bodies inform the PAP's and the social workers who write the reports of the required follow up requirements and up date these regularly or when updates have been informed by the country of origin.</p>

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</p>	<p>Adoption serviceproviders are obligated by the adoption act to provide assistance for adoptees and their families birthland visit permits and</p>

<p>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>arrangements, when possible.</p> <p>Adoption counselling includes assesment of PAS support need of child and family at any time after the placement (municipality funds)</p> <p>- Adoption counsellor help phone line</p>
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PART X: THE FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION¹⁹

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

29. The costs ²⁰ of intercountry adoption	
a) Are the costs of intercountry adoption regulated by law in your State?	<input checked="" 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: https://finlex.fi/api/media/statute-foreign-language-translation/115674/mainPdf/main.pdf?timestamp=2012-01-20T00%3A00%3A00.000Z . Sections 35 and 36 <input 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: adoption board supervises by asking the accredited bodies to send information about their costs regularly <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: <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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Only by bank transfer: <input type="checkbox"/> In cash: <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain):

¹⁹ See the tools developed by the “Experts’ Group on the Financial Aspects of Intercountry Adoption”, available on the [Adoption Section](#) of the HCCH 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*.

²⁰ See the definition of “costs” provided in the harmonised Terminology, *ibid*.

<p>State paid in cash or only by bank transfer?</p> <p><i>See the "Note on the financial aspects of intercountry adoption" at para. 85.</i></p>	
<p>e) Which body / authority in your State receives the payments?</p>	
<p>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)?</p> <p>N.B. Please also ensure that your State has completed the "Tables on the costs associated with intercountry adoption" (see above).</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes – please indicate how this information may be accessed: on a websites</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>

30. Contributions, co-operation projects and donations²¹

<p>a) Does your State permit contributions²² 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.e., 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 type="checkbox"/> Yes - please explain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What type of co-operation projects are permitted by your State:

²¹ See the definitions of these terms provided in the harmonised Terminology. In addition, on contributions and donations, see Chapter 6 of the Note (*op. cit.* note 19).

²² See further the harmonised Terminology, *supra*, note 19, 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.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Who undertakes such projects (<i>i.e.</i>, the Central Authority and / or national accredited bodies): - Whether such projects are mandatory according to the law of your State: - Whether such projects are monitored by an authority / body in your State: - How it is ensured that co-operation projects do not influence or otherwise compromise the integrity of the intercountry adoption process: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<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: see further the "Note on the financial aspects of intercountry adoption" at Chapter 6 (in particular, Chapter 6.4).</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes – please explain: <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 permitted to be paid: - How it is ensured that donations do not influence or otherwise compromise the integrity of the intercountry adoption procedure: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

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?	
b) What measures have been taken in your State to prevent improper financial or other gain?	
c) Please explain the sanctions which may be applied if Articles 8 and / or 32 are breached.	

PART XI: ILLICIT PRACTICES²³

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. ²⁴	

33. The abduction, sale of and traffic in children	
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. Please also specify which bodies / persons the laws target (e.g., accredited bodies (national or foreign), PAPs, directors of children's institutions).	
b) Please explain how your State monitors respect for the above laws.	
c) If these laws are breached, what sanctions may be applied? (e.g., imprisonment, fine, withdrawal of accreditation.)	

34. Private and / or independent adoptions	
<p>Are private and / or independent adoptions permitted in your State?</p> <p>N.B. "Independent" and "private" adoptions are <u>not</u> consistent with the system of safeguards established under the 1993 Adoption Convention: see further GGP No 1 at Chapters 4.2.6 and 8.6.6.</p> <p>Please tick all which apply.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Private adoptions are permitted – please explain how this term is defined in your State:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Independent adoptions are permitted - please explain how this term is defined in your State:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>Neither</u> private nor independent adoptions are permitted.</p>

PART XII: INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY

35. The scope of the 1993 Adoption Convention (Art. 2)	
a) If foreign national PAPs, habitually resident in your State, wish to adopt a child habitually resident in another	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes – please explain whether this would be treated as an <i>intercountry</i> or <i>domestic</i>

²³ "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 [Adoption Section](http://www.hcch.net) of the HCCH website < www.hcch.net >).

²⁴ *Ibid.*

<p>Contracting State to the 1993 Adoption Convention, are they permitted to do so under the law of your State?</p> <p><i>Example: Indian PAPs are habitually resident in the USA and wish to adopt a child habitually resident in India.</i></p>	<p>adoption in your State²⁵ and please briefly explain the procedure which would be followed, as well as any specific criteria / conditions which would apply:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>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?</p> <p><i>Example: Indian PAPs are habitually resident in the USA and wish to adopt a child also habitually resident in the USA.</i></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes – please explain whether this would be treated as an <i>intercountry</i> or <i>domestic</i> adoption in your State²⁶ and please briefly explain the procedure which would be followed, as well as any specific criteria / conditions which would apply:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>c) If a State of origin treats an adoption by PAPs habitually resident in your State as a <i>domestic</i> adoption when, in fact, it should be processed as an intercountry adoption under the 1993 Adoption Convention, how does your State deal with this situation?</p> <p><i>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 Convention). They then seek to bring the child back to your State.</i></p>	<p>When PAPs are habitually resident in Finland they have to apply permission to adopt. And also use accredited body. If the child is a relative child it's possible to adopt without an accredited body, but they still need a permission. If the child is not relative child, it's not possible to have a permission without an accredited body. Even court can not recognise foreign adopt if PAPs should have applied a permission. It's not possible to bring the child to Finland without the licence to adopt. Answer to the example: Finland can only recognise the adoption if PAPs have a permission to adopt.</p>

PART XIII: SELECTION OF PARTNERS FOR INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION²⁷

36. Selection of partners	
a) With which States of origin does your State currently partner on intercountry adoption?	Thailand, Philippines, India, Bulgaria, South Africa, Colombia and Czech Republic
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	1) the foreign service provider has the competence to carry out tasks relating to intercountry adoption in the state in which it is situated; 2) sufficient proof has been presented of

²⁵ According to the 1993 Adoption 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 (*op. cit.* note 12), Chapter 8.4.

²⁶ According to the 1993 Adoption 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 (*op. cit.* note 12), Chapter 8.4.

²⁷ In relation to the choice of foreign States as partners in intercountry adoption arrangements, see further GGP No 2 (*op. cit.* note 3), Chapter 3.5.

<p><i>Contracting States to the 1993 Adoption Convention.</i></p> <p><i>To see which States are Contracting States to the 1993 Adoption Convention, please refer to the Status Table for the Convention (accessible via the Adoption Section of the HCCH website < www.hcch.net >).</i></p>	<p>the foreign service provider carrying out the tasks referred to in paragraph 1 in a professional, sustained and reliable manner, in the best interests of the child and with respect for the fundamental rights of the child as recognised in international law and without anyone deriving improper financial or other gain from adoptions; and</p> <p>3) the cooperation can be regarded as justified, taking special account of the need for intercountry adoptions in that state.</p> <p>A licence shall be granted for a fixed period not exceeding five years at a time. The Adoption Board may cancel a licence if the foreign service provider has lost its competence to carry out tasks relating to intercountry adoptions in the state in which it is situated or there is reason to suspect that it is not carrying them out in the manner referred to in subsection 1(2).</p> <p>We also partners with non-Contracting states</p>
<p>c) If your State also partners with <i>non-Contracting States</i>, please explain how it is ensured that the safeguards of the 1993 Adoption Convention are complied with in these cases.²⁸</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable: our State only partners with other <i>Contracting States</i> to the 1993 Adoption Convention.</p>
<p>d) Are any formalities required in order to commence intercountry adoptions with a particular State of origin (e.g., the conclusion of a formal agreement²⁹ with that State of origin)?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes – please explain the content of any agreements or other formalities:³⁰</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>

²⁸ See GGP No 1 (*op. cit.* note 12), 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”.

²⁹ See note 2 above concerning Art. 39(2) and the requirement to transmit a copy of any such agreements to the depositary for the 1993 Adoption Convention.

³⁰ *Ibid.*