

Questionnaire on the impact of COVID-19 on intercountry adoptions under the 1993 Adoption Convention

<i>Identification for follow-up purposes:</i>	
NAME of STATE or territorial unit:	Greece
Name of contact person:	Eleni Apousidou Maria Vouvou
Name of Authority / Office:	Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs General Directorate of Social Welfare Division for the Protection of Child and Family Department of Foster Care and Adoption
Telephone number:	+30 2105281182
E-mail address:	kady@yeka.gr

I. OVERARCHING QUESTIONS	
	<u>Both States of origin and receiving States</u>
1.	<p>In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, has your State modified intercountry adoption procedures under the 1993 Adoption Convention? If so, what has your State done to ensure that the safeguards and procedures of the Convention have been, and continue to be, respected?</p> <p>No, Greece has not made any changes to the intercountry adoption process due to the measures taken for the Covid-19 pandemic.</p>
II. OUTBREAK OF COVID-19 (cases in transition only)	
	<u>Both States of origin and receiving States</u>
2.	<p>What measures, if any, did your State take to deal with cases where the child had already been matched with prospective adoptive parents, but no adoption decision had been issued at the time of the COVID-19 outbreak in your State? How many children were in such a situation?</p> <p>We didn't have any such cases.</p>
3.	<p>What measures, if any, did your State take to deal with cases where the adoption decision had already been issued, but the child was still in the State of origin at the time of the COVID-19 outbreak in your State? How many children were in such a situation?</p> <p>No such cases existed.</p>
III. DURING COVID-19 (cases in transition and new cases)	
	<u>States of origin only</u>

4.	<p>Has your State adapted, and if so how, the following stages of the adoption procedure:</p> <p>a) Declaration of adoptability of the child: Please insert text here</p> <p>b) Matching: Please insert text here</p> <p>c) Socialisation period: Please insert text here</p> <p>d) Support and counselling to adoptable children: Please insert text here</p> <p>e) Adoption decision: Please insert text here</p> <p>f) Other stages: Please insert text here</p>
	<p><u>Receiving States only</u></p>
5.	<p>Has your State adapted, and if so how, the following stages of the adoption procedure:</p> <p>a) Eligibility and suitability of prospective adoptive parents: Yes, during the Covid-19 pandemic, the majority of the meetings with the Prospective Adoptive Parents are made with the use of technology, via videoconferences (with the use of Skype, zoom, e-presence etc). The Social workers limited the visits to the houses of PAPs down to one and that one is made with the use of all the necessary precaution and equipment (such as masks and uniforms).</p> <p>b) Support and counselling to prospective adoptive parents: In addition to the above, the courses for the preparation of the PAPs are made online and the counseling for the adjustment of the adopted child is conducted with the use of technology.</p> <p>c) Other stages: Please insert text here</p>
<p>IV. USE OF TECHNOLOGY</p>	
	<p><u>Both States of origin and receiving States</u></p>
6.	<p>Has the use of technologies (e.g, videoconferencing) evolved in the adoption procedures in place in your State since the outbreak of COVID-19 in your State? Please specify:</p> <p>a) any benefits and challenges: Yes, the social workers and psychologists involved in the preparation and the evaluation of the PAPs relay more on the use of technology for the conclusion of the home study report.</p>

	<p>During the Covid -19 pandemic all the meetings take place via videoconferences.</p> <p>On the other hand, this procedure is more typical and less personal since the personal contact is limited.</p>
	<p>b) if your response to question 72 (“Use of new technologies”) of the 2020 Questionnaire on the practical operation of the 1993 Adoption Convention (Prel. Doc. No 3) has changed:</p> <p>Please insert text here</p>
<p>V. POST COVID-19: LOOKING AHEAD</p>	
	<p><u>Both States of origin and receiving States</u></p>
7.	<p>Has your State developed any practices during this pandemic period that would be useful to mainstream into regular work practices? If so, please elaborate on what those practices are and how you plan to go about mainstreaming them into regular work practices:</p> <p>Please insert text here</p>
8.	<p>Please share any good practices and lessons learned by your State which may be applied in the event of another pandemic or similar state of emergency:</p> <p>the increased use of means of technology</p> <p>the increased use of telework</p>
<p>VI. ANY OTHER COMMENTS</p>	
	<p><u>Both States of origin and receiving States</u></p>
9.	<p>Please insert here any other comments you may have:</p> <p>Please insert text here</p>