

RECEIVING STATE

COUNTRY NAME: SWEDEN

PROFILE UPDATED ON: June 2025

PART I: CENTRAL AUTHORITY

1. Contact details ¹	
Name of office:	Family Law and Parental Support Authority
Acronyms used:	MFoF
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Telephone:	+46 (10) 190 11 00
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Contact person(s) and direct contact details (please indicate language(s) of communication):	Mr Per Bergling (English) Director General tel: +46(10) 190 11 00 E-mail: per.bergling@mfof.se Mr Tommy Marksén (English) Head of Department, Intercountry adoptions tel: +46(10) 190 11 00 Email: tommy.marksen@mfof.se Mrs Erika Granström (English)

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 >.

Specialist officer

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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>1st of September 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>Intercountry Adoption Intermediation Act (1997:192). Entered into force the 1st of July 1997.</p> <p>Act (1997:191) consequent on Sweden's accession to the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in respect of Intercountry Adoption. Entered into force the 1st of July 1997.</p> <p>All relevant legislation in English can be found on www.mfof.se.</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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bilateral agreements (please specify): N/A</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Non-binding memoranda of understanding (please specify):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):</p> <p><input 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>	<p>MFoF's primary task is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorize and supervise the non-governmental adoption intermediation organisations. • Consider whether the adoption procedure is acceptable or not in certain individual cases such as family-related adoptions. • Observe the international development and research. • Observe the development of costs of adoption. • Provide support in search for origins. • Negotiate with authorities and organisations in other countries. • Promote coordination of such support after adoption as referred to in Chapter 5. 1 § 9 of the Social Services Act (2001: 453). • Coordinate the parent education courses that are assigned by the local social welfare authority prior to adoption. • Issue Art 23 certificate for intercountry adoptions finalised in Sweden.
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>The local social welfare authorities prepare the homestudy assessments and reports of the prospective adoptive parents and are responsible for the formal decisions. They are also responsible for support to adoptees and adoptive families after adoptions.</p> <p>In cases where an adoption decree is to be made in Sweden it is a matter for a local court to make the decision.</p> <p>The role of the central authority, MFoF, see question 4.</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>There are at present two (2) accredited bodies. The number of organisations is not limited but there are high demands on new organisations which works as a limitation.</p>
<p>c) Please briefly describe the role of national accredited bodies in your State.</p>	<p>Their role is to provide "intercountry adoption intermediation" defined in Section 2 of the Intercountry Adoption Intermediation Act (IAIA) as "activity for the purpose of establishing contact between the person or persons wishing to adopt and authorities, organisations, insitutions or private persons in the country where the child is domiciled, and also otherwise providing the assistance needed in order for an adoption to be possible".</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>MFoF</p>
<p>b) Please briefly describe the <i>procedure</i> for granting accreditation and the most important accreditation <i>criteria</i>.</p>	<p>Accreditation is granted by the Central Authority (MFoF). The bodies seeking accreditation apply to MFoF presenting documentation to prove that they fulfil the requirements in Section 6 IAIA. Certain forms for the purpose are provided by MFoF.</p> <p>MFoF:s powers in relation to the accredited bodies are regulated in IAIA, especially Sections 9-12.</p> <p>The accreditation criteria are expressed in Section 6 IAIA: Authorisation to work with intercountry adoption intermediation in Sweden may only be granted to</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>associations whose main purpose is the intermediation of intercountry adoptions. Authorisation may only be granted if it is clear that the association will intermediate adoptions in an expert and judicious manner, on a non-profit basis and with the best interests of the child as its foremost guiding principle. Authorisation is also subject to the association having a board and auditors and also statutes providing for the association being open.</p> <p>There are also Conditions for accredited bodies issued in accordance with Section 7 IAIA.</p>
c) For how long is accreditation granted in your State?	Up to 5 years, in accordance with Section 7 IAIA.
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> .	The same criteria as the first time (see criteria under b).
6.2 Monitoring of national accredited bodies⁶	
<p>a) Which authority is competent to monitor / supervise national accredited bodies in your State?</p> <p><i>See Art. 11(c).</i></p>	MFoF
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>MFoF monitors the accredited organizations. There are planned annual inspections and also thematic inspections where MFoF can delve deeper into a specific issue. The organisations' annual report and other financial statements and reports are also to be submitted to the Central Authority for inspection.</p> <p>The Central Authority has a close contact with each organisation and any major changes during the accreditation period are to be reported to the Central Authority rapidly.</p> <p>PAP's can also file complaints to MFoF.</p>
c) Please briefly describe the circumstances in which the accreditation of bodies can be revoked (<i>i.e.</i> , withdrawn).	In accordance with Section 10 IAIA, authorisation to work with intercountry adoption intermediation in Sweden shall be revoked if the preconditions referred to in Section 6 IAIA no longer exist. Such authorisation shall also be revoked if the association does not provide MFoF with the information or documents requested in

⁶ *Ibid.*, Chapter 7.4.

	<p>accordance with Section 9 or comply with a decision of the Authority to remedy deficiencies (Section 9 a). The same also applies if the association has not intermediated any child during the last two years, unless there are special reasons.</p> <p>Authorization to work with intercountry adoption intermediation in another country shall be revoked, if the preconditions referred to in Section 6 or Section 6 a no longer exist.</p> <p>An authorisation shall also be revoked if the association has not satisfied the conditions imposed for the authorisation.</p>
d) If national accredited bodies do not comply with the 1993 Adoption Convention, is it possible for sanctions to be applied?	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify possible sanctions (e.g., fine, withdrawal of accreditation): MFoF may order an authorised organisation to remedy deficiencies. Failure to comply can lead to withdrawal of accreditation (see above).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>

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?	MFoF
b) Is authorisation granted as part of the accreditation procedure or is a separate authorisation procedure undertaken?	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Authorisation is granted as part of the accreditation procedure.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A separate procedure is undertaken for authorisation.</p>
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?	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Authorisation is granted generally: once authorised, national accredited bodies are able to work in <i>all</i> States of origin.</p> <p><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.</p>

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

<p>d) Please briefly describe the <i>procedure</i> for granting authorisation and the most important authorisation <i>criteria</i>.⁸</p> <p>If your State does not have authorisation criteria, please explain on what basis decisions concerning authorisation are made.</p> <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 (<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>	<p>MFoF assess the organisation's prospect of starting or continuing adoption work in another country. Authorisation in the second stage may be granted on condition that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The country has adoption legislation or other reliable regulation of adoption. • The country has a functional administration concerning adoption operation. • It is clear that the association will intermediate adoptions from the other country or the relevant part of the other country in an expert and judicious manner, on a non-profit basis and with the best interests of the child as its foremost guiding principle • The organisation reports the costs in the country and how they are distributed. • With regard to costs and the other circumstances it is considered appropriate for the association to start or continue adoption cooperation with the other country • If the association conducts operations other than intercountry adoption intermediation, it may not jeopardise confidence in its adoption operations. <p>The preconditions for authorisation are described in Section 6 a IAIA.</p>
<p>e) For how long is authorisation granted?</p>	<p>Up to 2 years, in accordance with Section 7 IAIA.</p>
<p>f) Please briefly describe the criteria and procedure used to determine whether authorisation will be <i>renewed</i>.</p>	<p>The same criteria as when applying for the first time (see criteria under d).</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 relation to their work / activities <i>in the State of origin</i>.</p>	<p>MFoF requires the organisations to turn in reports on their work in each of the countries for which they have authorisation. They also have to conduct travels to each country during the period of authorisation and report to MFoF. MFoF also conduct its own travels to different countries to gain further knowledge and</p>

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

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.

	understanding of that specific country's adoption process and legislation.
b) Please briefly describe the circumstances in which the authorisation of national accredited bodies can be revoked (<i>i.e.</i> , withdrawn).	<p>In accordance with Section 10 IAIA, authorisation to work with intercountry adoption intermediation in another country shall be revoked, if the preconditions referred to in Section 6 or 6 a IAIA no longer exist.</p> <p>An authorisation shall also be revoked if the association has not satisfied the conditions imposed for the authorization.</p>

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: Satisfaction that the principle of subsidiarity is respected on a general level in the country of origin.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, Chapter 13.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, Chapter 13.2.2.5.

11. Children with special needs	
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.

12. The nationality of children who are adopted intercountry ¹²	
Do children who are adopted intercountry to your State acquire the nationality of your State?	<input 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 checked="" 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): A child who is not yet 12 years of age and who has been adopted by a Swedish citizen automatically receives Swedish citizenship upon adoption if: the child has been adopted as the result of a decision made in Sweden or in another Nordic country the child has been adopted as the result of a decision made abroad and approved in Sweden by M FoF the adoption is valid under Swedish law. The adoption must have been decided or approved after 30 June 1992. A child who has reached the age of 12 before the adoption may become a Swedish citizen by application. <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	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify the limit applied and the basis on which it is determined:

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](http://www.hcch.net) of the HCCH website < www.hcch.net >, at Chapter 8.4.5.

intercountry adoption which are accepted at any one time?	<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 adoption ¹³ (Art. 5(a))	
14.1 Eligibility criteria	
<p>a) Do PAPs wishing to undertake an intercountry adoption have to fulfil any 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>	<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: <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: Registered partners who have not had their partnership transformed into a marriage is equated with married couples in terms of adoption. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Heterosexual couples that have not legally formalised their relationship: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Same-sex couples that have not legally formalised their relationship: <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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minimum age requirements: 18 years of age. However, to be suitable as an adoptive parent, the applicant must be assessed as sufficiently mature. <input type="checkbox"/> Maximum age requirements: <input type="checkbox"/> Difference in years required between the PAPs and the child: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): There is no upper age limit in Swedish law, but age is one of several factors in the overall assessment of the PAP's.

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.

	<input type="checkbox"/> No
c) Are there any <i>other</i> eligibility criteria which your State requires PAPs to fulfil?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Additional / differing criteria must be met for PAPs wishing to adopt a child with special needs (please specify): <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): Before receiving and approval to adopt, other criterias such as the applicants' health conditions, financial situation, living conditions, criminal record and any other social or personal circumstances of relevance are taken into consideration. <input type="checkbox"/> No
14.2 Suitability assessment¹⁴	
a) Which body(ies) / expert(s) perform the assessment of whether the PAPs are suitable persons to undertake an intercountry adoption?	A professional social worker at the local social welfare office performs the evaluation.
b) Please briefly describe the procedure which is used to assess the PAPs and determine their suitability to undertake an intercountry adoption.	<p>The home study and assessment provide the basis for the formal decision of the local social welfare committee. Consent to undertake an intercountry adoption may be granted if the applicant is suitable as an adoptive parent.</p> <p>If the child is known, the suitability of the applicant shall be assessed in relation to the individual child and it shall also be the case that the adoption is in other respects in the best interests of the child.</p> <p>The social welfare committee shall conduct an overall assessment of the suitability of the applicant. The assessment shall specifically take into consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the applicant's knowledge and insight concerning adoptive children and their needs and what the planned adoption entails

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.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the applicant's personal qualities and social network - the applicant's age and state of health, and - the stability of the relationship, if consent is being applied for by spouses or common-law spouses. <p>Before consent is granted, the applicant shall have participated in a mandatory parent education course indicated by the municipality. If the applicant has adopted children from abroad previously, consent may be granted even if he or she has not participated in parent education.</p> <p>An applicant whose application for consent is rejected by the social welfare committee can appeal to court.</p>
14.3 Final approval	
Which body / person gives the final approval that the PAPs are eligible and suited to undertake an intercountry adoption?	The Social Welfare Committee.
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, they are mandatory - At what stage of the adoption procedure they are offered: The courses for the PAPs are offered at an early stage. In order to be granted consent to adopt, the applicants are required to attend the parent education course. - Who provides the courses: The courses are assigned by the local social welfare authority. - 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: Normally in person. However, courses are also held digitally under certain circumstances. - How many hours the courses last: 21 hours. 7x3 hours or two weekends. - The content of the courses: The themes are: - Intercountry adoption

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adoption in Sweden. International adoption as a part of society. Conventions. - Ethnic discrimination in Sweden. - Having a family. - Wanting a family. Fertility problems and involuntary childlessness. Choosing adoption. Becoming a parent. Different sorts of families. Your network. - Becoming a person. - Nature and nurture. Attachment. Linguistic development. Betrayed and forsaken in early childhood. The adoption triangle. - Which children need a family. - The reasons why children are put up for adoption. The referral arrives. Health risks. Children with disabilities. Choosing a child? - Travelling to meet your child. - Waiting and preparing. What is happening in the child's state of origin? Taking charge of your child. Helping your child to fit the pieces together. Changing language. A child's name. - Becoming a family. - A whole world turned upside down. Abandoned but not alone. Parenting children who have to deal with losses in the past. Visible differences. Roots and origins. - A life as a family. - A lifetime approach. Return journeys. Being support for your adopted child. Where to get help. - 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 <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 (e.g., meeting with adoptive parents, language and culture courses)?</p>	<p>A good deal of the counselling and information is carried out within the framework of the mandatory parent education courses for prospective adopters. Nevertheless, certain issues need to be covered at an early stage in the adoption process. PAPs who contact</p>

<p>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>the family law unit of the municipal social services to ask questions or apply for consent to adopt can do so at various stages of their decision-making process. There is no other mandatory courses or mandatory counselling for the PAPs</p>
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PART VI: THE INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION PROCEDURE

16. Applications	
c) To which authority / body should PAPs apply for an intercountry adoption?	An accredited body or, in exceptional cases, MFOF.
<p>d) 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Copies of the PAPs' birth certificates</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Copies of the birth certificates of any children living with the PAPs</p> <p><input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other(s): please explain The application is sent by the organisation to the chosen country of origin. The PAP:s must of course meet the formal requirements of the</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.

	country in question. The organization assists the PAP's in assembling their dossier before sending it together with the application to the chosen country. The documents that shall be part of the dossier varies depending of the requirements of the country of origin.
e) Is it compulsory in your State for an accredited body to be involved in an intercountry adoption procedure? ¹⁶	<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): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No. Please specify who assists PAPs if no accredited body is involved in the adoption procedure: As a main rule intercountry adoptions must be intermediated by accredited bodies. However, under specific circumstances MFOF can admit that an adoption procedure takes place without such intermediation, e.g. in family adoptions or when there is otherwise a connection between the applicants and a certain country of origin. In these cases MFOF, shall, before the child leaves the country, consider whether the procedure is acceptable - this is in accordance with section 4 IAIA.
f) Are any <i>additional</i> documents required if PAPs apply through an accredited body? <i>Please tick all which apply.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <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 intercountry adoption): <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): As the Central Authority in a receiving State MFOF does not require particular documents apart from the ones mentioned above to be included within the PAP's file when transmitted to the State of origin.

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>However, MFoF and the accredited bodies are aware that additional documents can be required by the different States of origin.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>
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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.	The local social welfare authority.
b) Is a "standard form" used for the report on the PAPs in your State?	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, please provide a link to the form or attach a copy: https://www.mfof.se/internationala-adoptioner/blanketter.html</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>
c) For how long is the report on the PAPs valid in your State?	3 years. However, while the approval is valid for three years, the local social welfare committee shall assess whether the circumstances as stated in the report have changed, if a child has not been suggested for adoption within two years of the date consent was granted. This is not needed if it is unnecessary. Changes in the PAP's circumstances can be unemployment, certain diseases, changes in their family life etc. During any time of the length of the approval, PAP's also are obliged to inform the social welfare authorities of relevant changes in their situation.
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 Social welfare Services and the Social Welfare Committee.

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 body (or MFoF regarding adoptions in exceptional cases, see 16 c).

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?	<p>It is the PAP's responsibility to gather all information and compiling all documents that the country of origin demands. MFoF can be of help to a limited extent. If the country of origin is a part of the Hague Convention it is MFoF that is responsible for transmitting the PAP's application file.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable – an accredited body will always be involved (see response to Question 16(c) above).</p>
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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?	The accredited body or MFoF.
19.2 Acceptance of the match	
a) Does your State require that the matching be accepted by a competent authority in your State?	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, please provide the following details:</p> <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): The local social welfare 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><u>Go to Question 19.2 b)</u></p> <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:</p> <p><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?	The profile of the child must match the one approved for the PAPs in the "home study".
c) Does your State impose any requirements on PAPs concerning the length of time they are given to decide whether to accept a match?	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, in addition to any requirements of the State of origin, our State has a time-limit – please specify: If a child has been proposed for adoption, the social welfare committee shall consider promptly, and at the latest within two weeks after the PAP:s have given notice of the proposal to the social welfare committee, whether agreement</p>

	<p>shall be made to continue the adoption procedure. In the case of an adoption procedure to which the Act (1997:191) consequent on Sweden's accession to The Hague Convention is applicable, Section 3 of the said Act shall then apply. The time within which consideration as provided in this section shall take place may be extended if there are extraordinary reasons for doing so.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No, the requirements of the State of origin are determinative in this regard.</p>
d) Do PAPs receive any kind of assistance from your State when deciding whether to accept a match?	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes – please specify what type of assistance is provided (<i>e.g.</i>, counselling):</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>

20. Agreement under Article 17(c)	
a) Which competent authority / body agrees that the adoption may proceed in accordance with Article 17(c)?	The social welfare authority.
b) At what point in the adoption procedure is the Article 17(c) agreement given in your State?	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Our State waits for the State of origin to provide its agreement first OR</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Our State sends its agreement to the State of origin with a notice that the match has been accepted OR</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):</p>

21. Travel of the PAPs to the State of origin ¹⁷	
a) Does your State impose any travel requirements / restrictions on PAPs in addition to those imposed by the State of origin?	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify the additional requirements / restrictions:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>
b) Does your State permit an escort to be used to bring the child to the adoptive parents in your State in any circumstances?	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify in which circumstances: In practice escorts are never used.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>

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.	For a child to enter and reside permanently in Sweden the child must have a Swedish passport or residence permit. If the child becomes a Swedish citizen through the adoption, the adoptive parents must apply for a Swedish passport at the Swedish embassy. Other children who are adopted need a residence permit to travel in and

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

	<p>stay in Sweden. The adoptive parents / legal guardians must apply for a residence permit. The application must be submitted via the Swedish embassy in the country of origin or the designated embassy. If you are going to adopt through an adoption organisation, you can submit the application directly to the Swedish Migration Board.</p> <p>If the adoption has been completed when the child moves to Sweden, the child can be given a permanent residence permit. If the adoption is not finished, the child can be given a temporary residence permit initially, pending a decision on the completion of the adoption. A temporary residence permit cannot be granted if the child does not have a valid passport. However, if the child does not have a passport, this does not prevent an application being submitted for a residence permit for the child and a start being made on processing of the application.</p>
b) Which documents are necessary for a child to be able to enter and reside permanently in your State (e.g., passport, visa)?	Passport is required, visa can be required if it is needed for entry
c) Which of the documents listed in response to Question 22(b) above must be issued by your State? Please indicate which public / competent authority is responsible for issuing each document.	See 22 a.
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?	When the adoption is completed and the Swedish Migration Board has granted residence permit for the child, there is no notifying the CA.

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</i></p>	<p>(i) District Courts</p> <p>(ii) MFOF</p>
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<p><i>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>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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>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></p>	<p>Certificates are issued when a request is made. Copies are given to the PAPs, the accredited body and to the Central Authority of the State of Origin.</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>	<p>The accredited body or MFoF.</p>

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. 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>The expression "relative" is to be interpreted extensively.</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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes – <u>go to Question 25</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, in general, although there are some differences in the procedures for intra-family intercountry adoptions – please specify: <u>Go to Question 25</u> <input type="checkbox"/> No – <u>go to Question 24 c)</u></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>
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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><i>See GGP No 1 at Chapter 8.8.8 and note 18 below.</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</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 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: When an adoption that is recognised in Sweden pursuant to the convention has been given assent in the state of origin without the legal relationship between the child and their original family having been terminated, the adoption may be converted into an adoption with the consequences specified in Chapter 4, Sections 21 and 22 of the Children and Parents Code. Conversion may only take place if the consents referred to in Article 27(1)(b) of the convention and in Chapter 4, Section 7 of the Children and Parents Code have been given. A district court decides on</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>any such conversion upon application by the adoptive parent or adoptive parents.</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 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>A conversion would be a question for the district courts. The court would then make sure that there is sufficient documentation regarding the consents referred to in Article 4 c) and d).</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>The general rule is that the information should be preserved by the authority that is holding the information, for example social welfare authorities and courts. Also according to section 8 b IAIA accredited bodies are liable to document the intermediation operation. If the accredited body ceases its intermediation operation, the documentation concerning the intermediation operation shall be transferred to MFoF for storage.</p>
<p>b) For how long is the information concerning the child’s origins preserved?</p>	<p>The general rule is that public documents should be preserved by the authorities. The documentation kept by the accredited bodies shall show what decisions and actions have been implemented in matters and the actual circumstances and events of importance. The documentation shall be kept as long as it may be assumed to be of relevance for the person who has been intermediated for adoption through the accredited body or for persons closely related to him or her.</p> <p>Copies of documents referring to a particular adoption should be sent to the social welfare authority.</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>(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: <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>(ii) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes – please explain any criteria: With limitations in the Swedish Public and official act (2009:400). <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>(iii) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes – please explain any criteria: With limitations in the Swedish Public and official act (2009:400). <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>(iv) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes – please explain any criteria: With limitations in the Swedish Public and official act (2009:400). <input checked="" 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: The Central Authority, (see more information below) and social authorities and accredited bodies may have suggestions about how to find and obtain access to information about origin. The social welfare authorities must provide assistance and support when such information is provided.</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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes – please specify:</p> <p>MFoF is providing and promoting individual support to international adoptees in connection with search for origin. The support that MFoF provides to those searching for their origins is free of charge.</p> <p>The following options of support is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support in accessing and interpreting documents and documentation concerning the adoptees adoption. • Create a clearer picture of the adoptees life story and origins. • Information and support before and/or during any return trip to the country from which the adoptee was adopted. • Find biological parents and/or other relatives. • If the adoptee suspect or have information that the adoption was the subject of irregularities; help dealing with this.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Something else/miscellaneous. <p>MFoF has produced a guide that the municipalities can follow when helping an adoptee with their search for their origin.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
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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>The social worker who was in charge of the adoption assessment writes the first report. After that the report is written by the parents unless the country of origin demands further reports from the social worker.</p> <p>The adopters make sure that the report is translated and sent to the child's state of origin via their accredited bodies.</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><input checked="" 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): There is a form on MFoFs website in Swedish, English and Spanish.</p> <p><input 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>
c) How does your State ensure that the requirements of the State of origin in relation to post-adoption reporting are fulfilled?	<p>The accredited bodies shall ensure that reports concerning the child's development are sent to the relevant agencies to the extent prescribed by the authorities in the country of origin or otherwise agreed on.</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 following completion of an intercountry adoption (<i>e.g.</i>, 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>Counselling is available from various sources: from the Swedish municipality according to the Social Services Act 5:1, from family or marital guidance clinics, from the children's and young people's psychiatric units, from the social workers and psychologists employed by the children's clinics and schools. There are also private clinics. In some parts of the country, more specialized and specific post-adoption services is offered.</p>
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	<p>MFoF shall promote the coordination of PAS within the municipalities.</p> <p>MFoF have since 2020 had a ongoing task from the government to provide adoption-specific professional conversational support to adoptees and adoptive parents. The support is offered from 15 years and up. The support is a complement to the regular health care and must be offered both individually and in groups. The support must be provided party outside of regular office hours and it has to be organized to achieve the best quality and accessibility as possible. The authority must actively spread information to the target groups that the support is available.</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: Section 7 paragraph 2 IAIA states the following: To cover the costs of its operation, an authorised association may require those persons using the association for intercountry adoption intermediation to pay reasonable charges. However, the actual adoption fees are set by the accredited bodies themselves, but MFoF is monitoring the fees and costs. <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: MFoF is responsible for monitoring the accredited organisations economy, both in Sweden

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>and what costs they have in each separate country. Financial transparency is achieved by standard bookkeeping. MFoF analyse the annual reports supplied by the accredited organisations every year. The accredited organisations also send yearly reports of each country, where they specify the actual total costs associated with the adoptions that were made from the country the year before. In the reports the expenses is divided into administrative costs, legal costs, medical costs, general costs abroad and specific case expenses in Sweden and abroad.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>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?</p> <p><i>See the “Note on the financial aspects of intercountry adoption” at para. 86.</i></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Through the accredited body: All the adoption fees.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Directly by the PAPs: Some of the translation of documents and the legalisation of documents and costs for passport for the child.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain):</p>
<p>d) Are the costs of intercountry adoption which must be paid in your 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><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Only by bank transfer:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> In cash:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain):</p>
<p>e) Which body / authority in your State receives the payments?</p>	<p>The accredited organisations.</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 each of the accredited organisations websites they have listed the costs for an adoption, both the costs for services in Sweden and the costs incurred in each different country.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>

30. Contributions, co-operation projects and donations²¹

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).

<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes – please explain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What type of contribution is permitted by your State: Maintenance costs for the child if paid through the accredited organisation. - Who is permitted to pay it (<i>i.e.</i>, the Central Authority or a national accredited body): The national accredited bodies. - How it is ensured that contributions do not influence or otherwise compromise the integrity of the intercountry adoption process: Through MFoF's supervision and as stated in the Intercountry Adoption Intermediation Act (1997:192) as referred to above. <p><input 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: Projects that aims to prevent children from being abandoned or parents abandoning their children. - Who undertakes such projects (<i>i.e.</i>, the Central Authority and / or national accredited bodies): The national accredited bodies - Whether such projects are mandatory according to the law of your State: No - Whether such projects are monitored by an authority / body in your State: By MFoF and by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), for those who cooperate with ForumCiv in their projects, and Swedish fundraising control. - How it is ensured that co-operation projects do not influence or otherwise compromise the integrity of the intercountry adoption process: MFoF monitors both the intercountry adoption process, and the money

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.

	<p>involved, and the aid-projects that the organisations are involved in to make sure that the co-operation projects do not compromise the intercountry adoption process.</p> <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>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).</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes – please explain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To whom donations may be made (e.g., to orphanages, other institutions and / or birth families): - What donations are intended to be used for: - Who is permitted to pay donations (e.g., 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: <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>

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?	MFoF
b) What measures have been taken in your State to prevent improper financial or other gain?	MFoF is responsible for monitoring the accredited organisations economy, both in Sweden and what costs they have in each separate country. Financial transparency is achieved by standard bookkeeping. MFoF analyse the annual reports supplied by the accredited organisations every year. The accredited organisations also send yearly reports of each country, where they specify the actual total costs associated with the adoptions that were made from the country the year before. In the reports the expenses is divided into administrative costs, legal costs, medical costs, general costs abroad and specific case expenses in Sweden and abroad.
c) Please explain the sanctions which may be applied if Articles 8 and / or 32 are breached.	See 6.2

PART XI: ILLICIT PRACTICES²³

32. Response to illicit practices in general	
<p>Please explain how your Central Authority and / or other competent authorities respond to intercountry adoption cases involving alleged or actual illicit practices.²⁴</p>	<p>Pursuant to the Act (1997: 192) on International Adoption Mediation, MFoF exercises supervision over the adoption organisations' mediation activities. The supervision covers such matters as are important for MFoF's assessment of current mediation activities. MFoF may also order the association to remedy shortcomings in its mediation activities.</p> <p>Under the same law, MFoF also authorises the associations and thereby examines whether they should be permitted to work with international adoption agencies here in Sweden and abroad.</p> <p>MFoF also has the option to revoke a granted authorisation, and if illicit practices are discovered or suspected MFoF can revoke the authorisations for that particular country.</p> <p>MFoF is commissioned by the government to be the national contact point for issues concerning irregularities in international adoptions. The assignment states that MFoF must be able to refer adoptees to the relevant actor (other CA:s, the Police department etc.) and offer them support and help within the framework of the authority's responsibility. As a contact point, MFoF must be up to date on relevant investigations both in Sweden and internationally, including the criminal investigation in Chile and the investigation in South Korea. Furthermore, MFoF must inform itself about challenges and issues regarding adoptees where there are suspicions or information about irregularities. The authority shall actively spread information about the assignment's function to relevant target groups in Sweden and internationally to other CA:s and other actors that are deemed to be important. MFoF shall also be available for questions from individuals as well as state, municipal and private actors.</p>

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.*

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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>Intercountry Adoption Intermediation Act (1997:192) and the Hague Convention, which has been implemented as law in Sweden, Act (1997:191) consequent on Sweden's accession to The Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in respect of Intercountry Adoption. These relate to the accredited bodies under MFOF's supervision.</p> <p>Children and Parents Code (1949:381), chapter 4 on adoption, which explains the courts duties in adoptions cases.</p>
<p>b) Please explain how your State monitors respect for the above laws.</p>	<p>MFOF monitors the accredited bodies and their work with intermediation of intercountry adoption.</p> <p>The courts are responsible for monitoring that all the relevant documentation etc. is in place before making a decision.</p>
<p>c) If these laws are breached, what sanctions may be applied? (e.g., imprisonment, fine, withdrawal of accreditation.)</p>	<p>MFOF can withdraw the accreditation according to the Intercountry Adoption Intermediation Act (1997:192) Section 10.</p> <p>A person guilty of illegal actions could be sentenced to fine or imprisonment for up to 2 years. According to the Penal code (1962:700) Chapter 7 Section 2 and 5.</p>

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Independent adoptions are permitted - please explain how this term is defined in your State: As a main rule intercountry adoptions must be intermediated by accredited bodies. However, under specific circumstances MFOF can admit that an adoption procedure takes place without such intermediation, e.g. in family adoptions or when there is otherwise a connection between the applicants and a certain country of origin (section 4 IAIA). The PAP's have to fulfil the requirements in p. 14 and p. 15 above, before they can apply to MFOF to be allowed to perform an adoption exempt from the main rule. It is the PAP's responsibility to gather all</p>
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	<p>information and compiling all documents that the country of origin demands. MFoF can be of help to a limited extent. If the country of origin is a part of the Hague Convention it is MFoF that is responsible for transmitting the PAP's application file. See 16 e.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <u>Neither</u> private nor independent adoptions are permitted.</p>
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PART XII: INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY

35. The scope of the 1993 Adoption Convention (Art. 2)	
<p>a) If foreign national PAPs, habitually resident in your State, wish to adopt a child habitually resident in another 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><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes – please explain whether this would be treated as an <i>intercountry</i> or <i>domestic</i> adoption in your State²⁵ and please briefly explain the procedure which would be followed, as well as any specific criteria / conditions which would apply: As an intercountry adoption according to the Hague convention.</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: As all parties habitually reside in Sweden they would be able to do so and it would be treated as a national adoption by the district court.</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>A foreign decision on adoption that has been pronounced by a court or any other authority applies in Sweden once it has become legally binding, provided the decision has been pronounced or is otherwise applicable in the state where the person who has been adopted was resident when the adoption process was initiated or, in the state where the adoptive parent or one of the adoptive parents was resident when the decision was pronounced.</p> <p>If IAIA was applicable to the adoption, the adoption is required to have been implemented in accordance with that act in order for a decision to be applicable in Sweden (see Section</p>

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.

	4 IAIA). If there are exceptional grounds, MFoF may allow the decision to apply in Sweden in spite of the fact that the prerequisites in the first paragraph have not been fulfilled. If not, it is up to the court to decide if the adoption is applicable in Sweden (the adoption should be remade in accordance to the Hague convention).
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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?	Colombia, India, Serbia, South Africa, Taiwan, Thailand, 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 <i>Contracting States</i> to the 1993 Adoption Convention. <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>	See 7.1 d. This applies to the accredited bodies' cooperation with contracting States as well as with non-contracting States.
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	See answer under 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable: our State only partners with other <i>Contracting States</i> to the 1993 Adoption 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 ²⁹ with that State of origin)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes – please explain the content of any agreements or other formalities: ³⁰ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

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.

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.*