

Questionnaire relating to the *Convention of 18 March 1970 on the Taking of Evidence Abroad in Civil or Commercial Matters* (Evidence Convention)

Responding State:

Hungary

I. General Feedback

1. How does your State rate the general operation of the Evidence Convention?

(b) Good.
2. How does your State rate the useability of the HCCH publications developed to assist users of the Evidence Convention (the Practical Handbook on the Operation of the Evidence Convention ([Evidence Handbook](#)) and [Guide to Good Practice](#) – The Use of Video-Link)?

(b) Good.
3. What work could be carried out by the PB to facilitate the acceptance of accessions to the Evidence Convention (e.g., providing additional information or facilitating direct communication between your Central Authority and new Contracting Parties)?

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4. Does your State's Central Authority have a manual or electronic case management register or system that is used to track incoming requests under the Evidence Convention?

(f) Other.
"The general electronic register system of the Ministry of Justice is used for cases relating to the Service Convention. This system stores basic data of the cases for identification purposes, therefore more detailed information is kept in the paper based files."
5. If your State's Central Authority has oversight for outgoing requests, please indicate if there is a system used to track the progress of these.

(d) Other.
"See response to question No. 4. All incoming and outgoing correspondance is registered in the case register electronically but the substance can only be known from the file."

II. Scope of the Convention

6. In the previous five years*, has your State experienced any difficulties in interpreting the scope of the Evidence Convention?

*If your State has become a Party to the Convention during the previous five years, responses to this questionnaire should reflect the period of time, commencing from when the Convention entered into force in your State.

(d) No.
7. Does your State consider the Evidence Convention mandatory or non-mandatory?

(a) Mandatory.

8. Has your State adopted “blocking statutes” or laws which are known by any other description, which prevent evidence being taken in the territory of your State for use in foreign proceedings other than under the Evidence Convention (or other international instrument)?
- (a) Yes.
 (iv) Other comments.
“See response to question No. 4. All incoming and outgoing correspondance is registered in the case register electronically but the substance can only be known from the file.”
9. Has your State received or submitted requests for the taking of evidence in connection with arbitration proceedings?
- (b) No.
10. Have any decisions relating to the use of the Evidence Convention in arbitration proceedings been rendered by the judicial authorities of your State?
- (b) No.

III. Operation of the Convention

A. Chapter I – Preparing, transmitting and progressing Letters of Request

Requesting State refers to the State from which a Letter of Request is, or will be, issued.
 Requested State refers to the State to which a Letter of Request is, or will be, addressed.

11. As the **requesting State**, how are Letters of Request transmitted?
- (b) Via the Central Authority to the Central Authority of the requested State.
12. As the **requesting State**, do the authorities of your State use the recommended Model Form?
- (b) Yes, sometimes.
13. Does your State consider further work on the Model Form would be beneficial? For example, a review of the Model Form with a view to including video-link and the preparation of guidelines outlining how to complete the Model Form.
- (b) Revision is not required.
14. As the **requested State**, do the authorities of your State send an acknowledgement of receipt for a Letter of Request?
- (b) No.
15. During the past five years*, as the **requested State**, has your State received a Letter of Request that is non-compliant?

*If your State has become a Party to the Convention during the previous five years, responses to this questionnaire should reflect the period of time, commencing from when the Convention entered into force in your State.

- (b) No.

15.1. If the answer to Q15 above is “yes”, why was the request non-compliant?

N/A

16. As the **requested State**, does your State provide advance assistance to foreign judicial authorities to prepare a Letter of Request to be sent under the Evidence Convention?

(a) Yes.

“We have never been requested but we would provide assistance if such request is sent.”

17. As the **requested State**, does your State provide advance assistance to legal representatives to prepare a Letter of Request to be sent under the Evidence Convention?

(b) No.

18. Once your State has received a Letter of Request, do your State’s judicial authorities rephrase, restructure, and / or strike out objectionable questions or offensive wording in order to execute a Letter of Request (also known as “blue-pencilling”)?

(c) Unknown.

19. As the **requested State**, can the execution of a Letter of Request that has been received be challenged?

(b) No.

19.1. If the answer to Q19 above is “yes”, is the requesting authority or the interested party permitted to respond to the challenge?

N/A

20. As the **requesting State**, can the sending of a Letter of Request abroad be challenged?

(a) Yes.

“Only in the appeal against the judgment on the merits of the case.”

21. As the **requested State**, which authority is generally responsible for informing the requesting authority of the time and place of the execution of a Letter of Request (Art. 7)?

(a) Central Authority.

22. During the past five years*, as the **requested State**, has your State received a request specifying a particular method or procedure for taking of evidence (e.g., how witnesses are to be examined)? (Art. 9(2))

*If your State has become a Party to the Convention during the previous five years, responses to this questionnaire should reflect the period of time, commencing from when the Convention entered into force in your State.

(b) No.

23. As the **requested State**, does your State require the requesting State to reimburse costs?

(b) Yes, sometimes.

23.1. If the answer to Q23 above is “yes”, please indicate circumstances where reimbursement is sought.

(a) Fees paid to experts and interpreters (Art. 14(2))

24. As the **requested State**, who may make a request for a Letter of Request to be withdrawn?
- (a) Requesting authority.
25. As the requested State, does your State reject a Letter of Request seeking discovery if it is too broad?
- (a) Yes.
“See declaration by Hungary regarding Article 23. If the Letter of Request does not clearly identify the document that must be made available by its holder and this document is not directly connected to the objective of the procedure, the request would be rejected.”

B. Chapter I – Execution of a Letter or Request – Witness Examination

All questions directed towards the Contracting Party operating as the requested State.

26. As the **requested State**, how is a hearing conducted for Chapter I requests?
- (a) Before a Judge, Magistrate, Special Master, or other court official.
27. Does your State require the Letter of Request to include specific questions to be used during the taking of evidence?
- (a) Yes.
28. In your State, are hearings public or private?
- (a) Public, unless otherwise ordered by a judge.
29. In your State, is a witness provided with a copy of questions / matters contained in the Letter of Request in advance of a hearing?
- (c) No.
30. In your State, what are the requirements for documents that are to be presented to a witness?
- (d) No requirements.
31. In your State, are documents produced by the witness during the taking of evidence authenticated by the court or authority?
- (b) No.
32. In your State, can representatives of the parties who attend the taking of evidence ask additional questions and / or cross examine the witness?
- (a) Yes.
“Provided that the judge conducting the hearing gives permission.”
33. In your State, is an oath or affirmation administered to the witness before the taking of evidence?
- (b) No.

34. In your State, can the witness be subject to further examination?

(a) Yes.

34.1. If the answer to Q34 above is “yes”, is a second Letter of Request required?

(a) Yes.

35. Does your State have sanctions for the non-appearance of a witness?

(a) Yes.

“See Section 272 of the Code of civil procedure: Section 272 [Coercive measures against contributors] (1) If a contributor violates his obligation without requesting excuse in advance on a valid ground, also substantiating that ground, the court a) shall oblige the contributor to reimburse the costs caused, b) may impose a fine on the contributor, c) may order the contributor’s forced appearance, d) may reduce the contributor’s remuneration, e) may inform the superior, supervisor or employer of the contributor of his omission. (2) The court may apply the coercive measures specified in paragraph (1) jointly. (3) Coercive measures shall not be applied against a minor below the age of fourteen, but paragraph (1) a) and b) may be applied against his statutory representative. (4) The court shall oblige, in an order, the person specified in the order on forced appearance to pay the costs of the forced appearance referred to in paragraph (1) c). The person obliged to pay the costs of the forced appearance may file a separate appeal against the order.”

36. During the past five years*, as the **requested State**, is your State aware of a person requested to give evidence invoking privilege?

*If your State has become a Party to the Convention during the previous five years, responses to this questionnaire should reflect the period of time, commencing from when the Convention entered into force in your State.

(d) Unknown.

37. Does your State require interpreters in the taking of evidence to be certified?

(a) Yes.

38. In your State, how is witness testimony transcribed?

(e) Other.

“See Section 159 of the Code of civil procedure: Section 159 [Methods of making minutes; making a continuous recording of procedural acts] (1) The court shall make minutes of the court hearings, other interviews carried out outside the hearing and other events as specified by an Act. (2) The chair shall determine the procedural acts for which a keeper of the minutes is used. (3) If a keeper of the minutes is not used, the court, with a view to recording the content of the minutes and at the same time as performing a procedural act, shall make a sound recording summarising the content of the minutes and shall produce the minutes in writing by transcribing that sound recording subsequently, with the exception specified in paragraph (4). (4) If it is requested so by any party before the commencement of a procedural act during the main hearing phase of the proceedings, the court shall order the minutes to be made by producing a continuous audio and video recording (hereinafter “continuous recording”) of the hearing, if the necessary technical means are available. The court may also order ex officio a continuous recording to be made during the main hearing phase of the proceedings. (5) If a continuous recording is made, this recording shall contain the material of the procedural act. A continuous recording certified in a manner specified by law shall be deemed minutes. If a continuous recording is made and the court uses a keeper of the minutes, a written extract of the minutes shall be produced at the time when the procedural act is performed. If a keeper of the minutes is not used, the court shall subsequently produce a written extract of the minutes on the basis of the recording. (6) A continuous recording shall record all events that take place during a procedural act without interruption, with the exceptions specified in paragraph (7). (7) The making of a continuous recording shall be interrupted for the period when the court adopts its decision on the merits of the case, and may be interrupted for the period of making any other decision. If the court interrupts a procedural act for an important reason for a short period, the continuous recording may also be interrupted for the same period. (8) If a continuous recording is made, the parties shall be informed of the time and place they may watch or listen to the recording. The provisions pertaining to the inspection and making of copies of documents shall also apply to continuous recordings. Provisions of this Act prescribing that a circumstance or statement is to be recorded or indicated in the minutes shall be construed to also mean that its continuous recording is required.”

IV. Use of Information Technology

In 2019, the PB circulated a questionnaire on the use of information technology in relation to the operation of the Evidence Convention. That survey was concluded prior to the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. The questions below seek information from Contracting Parties on the use of technology and in light of the pandemic.

39. Does your State’s Central Authority accept Letters of Request to be transmitted electronically?

(a) Yes.

40. Does your State allow the taking of evidence by video-link under Chapter I?

(a) Yes.

41. Does your State allow the taking of evidence by video-link under Chapter II?

(a) Yes.

42. Does your State use the Model Form for video-link evidence?

(b) No.

43. What challenges has your State faced regarding the use of information technology under the Evidence Convention?
- (d) Implementation challenges (e.g., lack of resources, lack of infrastructure).
44. Has your State adopted any new information technology measures to facilitate the operation of the Evidence Convention, particularly in response to the COVID-19 pandemic?
- (b) No.
45. In your State's opinion, what topics could the PB explore further (e.g., for the purposes of training, seminars, or conferences) in relation to the use of information technology under the Evidence Convention?
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46. In your State's opinion, what further work could the PB do on the use of information technology under the Evidence Convention?
- (a) None.
47. In addition to the Evidence Convention, is your State party to any bilateral, regional, or multilateral agreements that provide rules for the taking of evidence abroad?
- (a) Yes.
"Regulation (EU) 2020/1783 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2020 on cooperation between the courts of the Member States in the taking of evidence in civil or commercial matters (taking of evidence) (recast) - Bilateral conventions on judicial co-operation: Albania, Algeria, Australia, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, China, Croatia, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, Fiji, Kenya, Kosovo, Lesotho, Mongolia, New Zealand, Northern Macedonia, Russian Federation, Syria, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, and Viet Nam."

For Parties that answered yes to Q47 above:

- 47.1. Do any of these agreements provide for the use of electronic means to assist in the taking of evidence (e.g., video-link)?
- (b) No.

For Parties that answered yes to Q47 above:

- 47.2. If yes, what electronic means or information technology does your State use in the taking of evidence?
- N/A

V. 2023 Meeting of the Special Commission & Monitoring

48. Does your State have any suggestions that could assist in the promotion, implementation or operation of the Evidence Convention?
- (b) No.

48.1. If the answer to Q48 above is “yes”, please indicate whether the information provided may be published.

N/A

49. What are the three key topics or practical issues related to the Evidence Convention that your State would like discussed at the 2023 meeting of the Special Commission?

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49.1. Please indicate whether the information provided in Q49 above may be published.

N/A

50. The PB is in the process of revising the Evidence Handbook and the Guide to Good Practice – The Use of Video Link, with a view to consolidating these publications. Are there any specific topics, suggestions for presentation or formatting, or any other proposals you recommend for inclusion?

(b) No.

50.1. If the answer to Q50 above is “yes”, please indicate whether the information provided may be published.

N/A

DATA & STATISTICS FOR CONTRACTING PARTIES

I. Statistics under Chapter I

A. Incoming Requests

1. How many incoming Letters of Request for the taking of evidence did your State receive under Chapter I in each of the following years?

2017	1
2018	0
2019	1
2020	2
2021	1
2022	1
Unknown – <i>please explain.</i>	
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2. Which three States made the most requests?

Requesting State	Number
USA	3
Israel, Mexico, Switzerland	1 - 1
-	-

3. What is the average time taken (in months) to execute a Letter of Request in your State?

“Between 2 to 6 months.”

4. If possible, please provide a breakdown of how long (in months) it took to execute incoming requests.

	< 1	1-3	3-6	6-12	> 12
2017	-	-	-	-	-
2018	-	-	-	-	-
2019	-	-	-	-	-
2020	-	-	-	-	-
2021	-	-	-	-	-
2022 (if data available)	-	-	-	-	-
Unknown – <i>please explain.</i>					
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5. How many incoming Letters of Request for the taking of evidence did your State receive via **electronic transmission** under Chapter I in each of the following years?

2017	0
2018	0
2019	0
2020	0
2021	0
2022	0
Unknown – <i>please explain.</i>	
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B. Outgoing Requests

6. How many outgoing Letters of Request for the taking of evidence did your State make under Chapter I in each of the following years?

2017	11
2018	6
2019	4
2020	8
2021	24
2022	15
Unknown – <i>please explain.</i>	
-	

7. Which States were the subject of the most requests?

Requesting State	Number
Switzerland	27
Norway	11
Israel	9

8. How many outgoing requests for the taking of evidence did your State make via electronic transmission under Chapter I in each of the following years?

2017	0
2018	0
2019	0
2020	0
2021	0
2022	0
Unknown – <i>please explain.</i>	
-	

C. Video-Link

9. How many incoming Letters of Request for the taking of evidence did your State execute under Chapter I in each of the following years?

2017	0
2018	0
2019	0
2020	0
2021	0
2022	0
Unknown – <i>please explain.</i>	
-	

10. How many incoming requests for the taking of evidence did your State execute under Chapter II in each of the following years?

2017	0
2018	0
2019	0
2020	0
2021	0
2022	0
Unknown – <i>please explain.</i>	
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CASE LAW, ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

I. Case Law

Please list all your State's judicial decisions that have considered the Evidence Convention since 2014, and provide a link to, or upload, the decision (in PDF format only).

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II. Additional Documents

Please provide links to and / or any additional information or documentation to support your response (in PDF format only). This may include:

- ⇒ resources for the general public or guidelines for Central or other Authorities' staff;
- ⇒ implementation legislations, recent legislative developments; or
- ⇒ books, articles, or other published work.

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PUBLICATION OF RESPONSES

Please confirm whether your responses to this questionnaire can be published on the HCCH website.

- (a) Yes.