



iSupport is funded by the Justice Programme of the European Union (2014-2020)



iSupport Governing Body 29 April 2021 online meeting Minutes

Present were representatives from Austria, Belgium, Brazil, the Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, the United States of America and the National Child Support Enforcement Association. The meeting was chaired by Paulo Gonçalves representing Portugal. Present for the PB were Philippe Lortie (PL), Jean-Marc Pellet (JMP) and Charlotte Darbas.

I. Presentation by Sweden

1. In the context of its application for EU funding to install iSupport, Sweden presented the productivity gains it hopes to realise with iSupport.

II. State of play of iSupport installations and connections

2. JMP presented the state of play. France and Portugal are using iSupport without e-CODEX. In addition, Germany, Norway and Portugal are testing e-CODEX connectivity. Full messages have been exchanged, but some issues remain to ensure 100% of messages are sent and received. Brazil is installing e-CODEX and Hungary is installing iSupport. Croatia has been in touch to indicate it will implement iSupport. Spain is applying for European funding to implement iSupport.

III. 2021 DG Justice call

3. PL reminds participants that replying to this call is not only about developing new functionalities for iSupport. It is also about continuing the operation of iSupport by the PB, as the latter is funded through voluntary contributions. Following contributions that have been pledged by Austria, Germany and Switzerland, the project is missing about € 35,000. The PB is grateful for all the voluntary contributions and in-kind contributions that have been received over the years. The most substantial contribution has come from the EU.
4. With regard to making activities such as iSupport part of the Regular Budget in the future, PL informs participants that a study has been commissioned by the PB and funded by the Netherlands to highlight the social and economical benefits of HCCH Conventions. The 2007 Child Support Convention is one of the Conventions captured by this study. PL invites participants to contribute to this study and to contact JMP if they want to do so. The results will be used in the context of an informal group of ambassadors initiated by the Secretary General. The informal group of ambassadors is discussing a Business Plan for the HCCH including the possibility to move activities such as iSupport to the Regular Budget of the HCCH with the understanding that such move could take place only upon a successful implementation of iSupport and e-CODEX by a number of States. PL underlines that we are at an important crossroads where voluntary contributions are essential.

5. In a tour de table, the following States expressed their support for the project: Germany, which will contribute financially, Brazil, Norway, Sweden, Portugal, which is considering a contribution, France, where the bailiffs will participate in the project, Finland and Austria, which will participate as a partner. The United States will be happy to share its findings once its system for international payments is in place. Belgium and the Czech Republic are considering their further steps in iSupport. The following States indicated that they will not be able to contribute financially: Brazil, Norway, Sweden, Finland and the United States.
6. It is reminded that the deadline to submit the proposal has been postponed to 18 May 2021. Ideally, commitments can be received until 12 May.