

<b>Title</b>	Statistics on selected HCCH Conventions: Report of 2026
<b>Document</b>	Prel. Doc. No 15 of February 2026 <i>Provisional version, pending the finalisation of the French and Spanish versions</i>
<b>Author</b>	PB
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<b>Mandate(s)</b>	C&D No 59 of CGAP 2024
<b>Objective</b>	To report on statistical data collected on selected HCCH Conventions
<b>Action to be Taken</b>	For Decision <input type="checkbox"/> For Approval <input type="checkbox"/> For Discussion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For Action / Completion <input type="checkbox"/> For Information <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Annexes</b>	Statistical data collected on HCCH Core Conventions
<b>Related Documents</b>	N/A

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# Statistics on selected HCCH Conventions: Report of 2026

## I. Introduction

1 At its 2024 meeting, the Council on General Affairs and Policy (CGAP) mandated the Permanent Bureau (PB) to collect basic statistical data annually for selected HCCH Conventions,<sup>1</sup> specifically the:

- 1961 Apostille Convention,
- 1965 Service Convention,
- 1970 Evidence Convention,
- 1980 Access to Justice Convention,
- 1980 Child Abduction Convention,
- 1996 Child Protection Convention, and
- 2000 Protection of Adults Convention.

This document reports on the basic statistical data collected for these Conventions from 1 January 2025 – 31 December 2025, and also provides an update on the data collected over 2024.<sup>2</sup> It does not report on the responses received in respect of the Access to Justice Convention, as a number of issues were encountered during the collection of statistics for this Convention.<sup>3</sup> Finally, the document will also provide a few reflections on the first two years of data collection.

## II. Findings and Assessment

2 The PB received a total of 502 entries for this year's data collection (across all Conventions), which is markedly higher than the 353 entries received in the previous year.<sup>4</sup> The 502 responses were submitted by 76 different Contracting Parties, of which 69 are Members of the HCCH.<sup>5</sup> Where the PB has received multiple responses from different authorities within the same Contracting Party, it has tallied the results for each Convention.<sup>6</sup> Where relevant, the PB has also included comments from Contracting Parties regarding the submitted data, including instances where the data were

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<sup>1</sup> Conclusion & Decision ([C&D No 59 of CGAP 2024](#)), available on the HCCH website under "Governance" => "Council on General Affairs and Policy" => "Archive (2000-2025)" => "Meeting of March 2024".

<sup>2</sup> See [Prel. Doc. No 16 of February 2025](#) available on the HCCH website under "Governance" => "Council on General Affairs and Policy" => "Archive (2000-2025)" => "Meeting of March 2025". The survey for 2024 remained exceptionally open until 1 April 2025 and any further responses received have been included in the updated tables in the Annex to this Prel. Doc.

<sup>3</sup> In particular, the responses received regarding the Access to Justice Convention included several responses from States that are *not* a Contracting Party to this Convention. Statistics for this Convention will continue to be collected, but will only be reported once a more robust response is received.

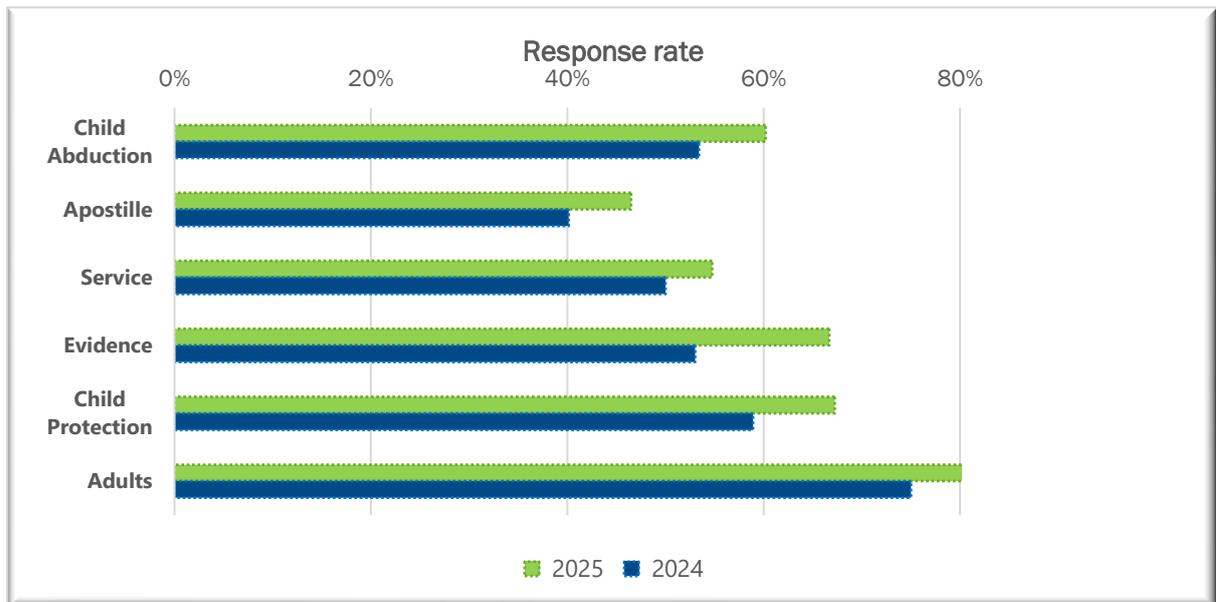
<sup>4</sup> This is the updated number of responses received over 2024. Following CGAP 2025 13 additional responses were received (until 1 April 2025).

<sup>5</sup> The 7 non-Member Contracting Parties submitting a response to this year's survey in relation to one or more of the HCCH Conventions are Cabo Verde, Colombia, Cuba, Guatemala, Jamaica, Kosovo, and Trinidad and Tobago.

<sup>6</sup> Where the total number has been based on a very large number of individual responses from one Contracting Party, this information has been included in the comments in the Annex (see particularly the Report on the Apostille Convention).

collected over a period other than from 1 January to 31 December 2025.<sup>7</sup> The comments in the Annex relate exclusively to the data collection for 2025.<sup>8</sup>

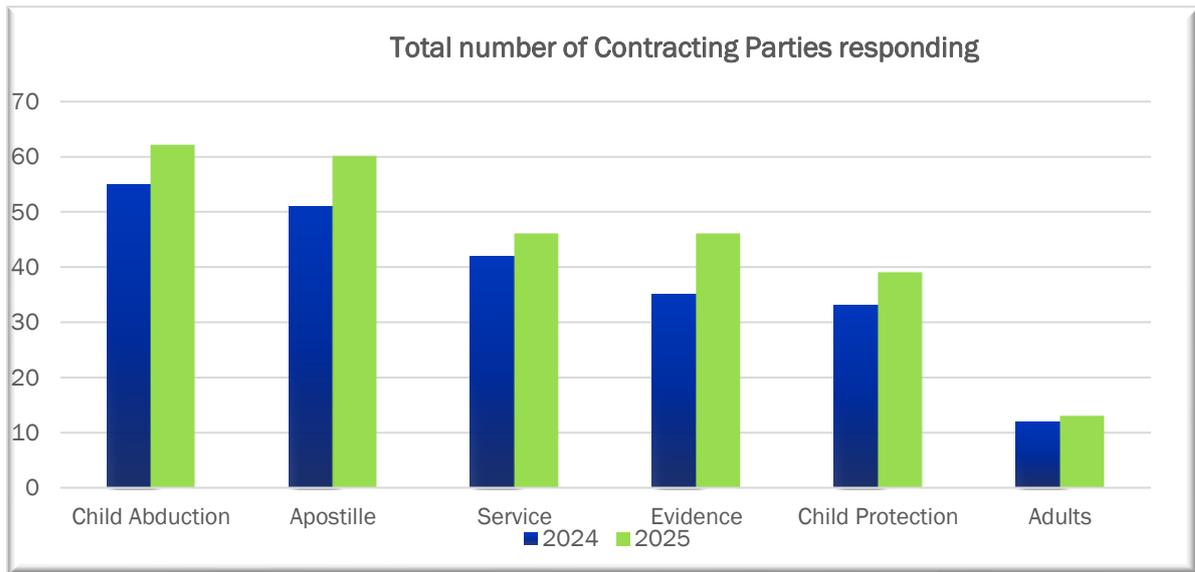
- 3 For all of the selected HCCH Conventions included in this document, even taking into account the additional responses received in respect of 2024, the response rate (*i.e.*, the number of responding Contracting Parties divided by the total number of Contracting Parties to the Convention) has increased. For the Child Abduction, Evidence, Child Protection, and Protection of Adults Conventions, the response rate is 60% or higher, while the response rate for the Service Convention is not far behind, at 55%. The response rate for the Apostille Convention remains lower (47%); however, it should be noted that this Convention has the highest number of Contracting Parties and that the response rate for 2025 is higher than the response rate for 2024 (40%). The graphic below provides a breakdown of the response rate for both the 2025 and 2024 data collection:



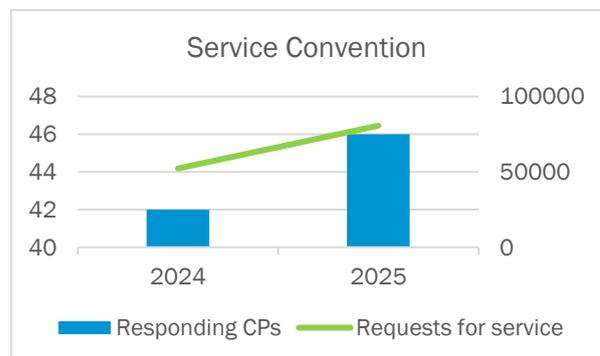
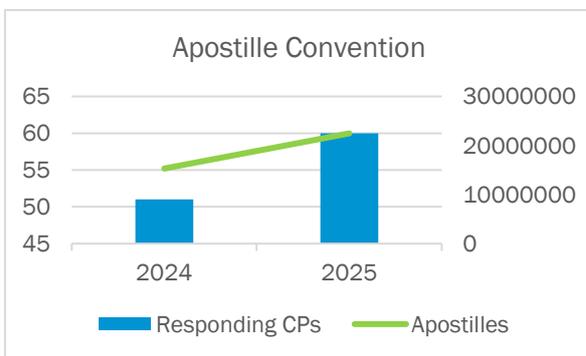
- 4 A breakdown of the total number of Contracting Parties responding to either or both the 2024 and 2025 data collection may be found below:

<sup>7</sup> The PB has used the same criteria for the inclusion of the collected data in the Annex as in last year’s collection. For an overview of the criteria used, see [Prel. Doc. No 16 of February 2025](#), No 4 (see path indicated in fn. 2).

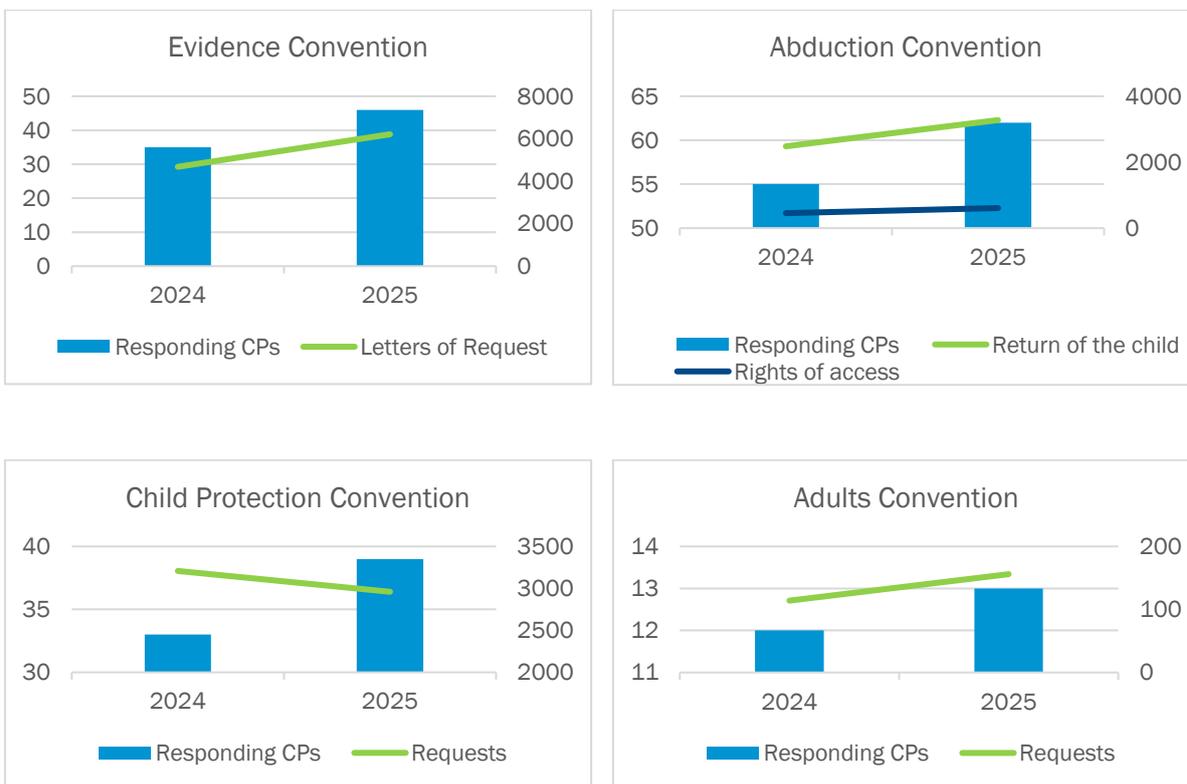
<sup>8</sup> The comments relating to the data collected from 1 January – 31 December 2024 are still available in [Prel. Doc. No 16 of February 2025](#) (see path indicated in fn. 2).



- 5 Given that this is only the second year in which basic statistics for selected HCCH Conventions have been collected in this manner, the responses received do not lend themselves to extensive analysis. That said, based on some of the responses and comments received, it is, as last year, possible to indicate that the numbers reported are lower than the actual numbers, as some Contracting Parties have again noted that their responses are incomplete or provisional.<sup>9</sup>
- 6 In light of the overall higher response rate, it is not surprising that the total reported figures have increased for most of the selected HCCH Conventions. In this regard, the increase in the reported number of Apostilles issued (from 15,307,762 to 22,814,399), and the number of requests for service received by Central Authorities under the 1965 Service Convention (from 52,241 to 80,596), stand out. However, with respect to the 1996 Child Protection Convention, despite the increase in the number of Contracting Parties reporting their data in relation to that Convention, the actual number of requests received by Central Authorities under that Convention has decreased compared to last year (from 3,208 to 2,960). That said, any such variations may be due to differences in the composition of Contracting Parties reporting data for a given Convention in each year.
- 7 A graphic including a trendline both in terms of the number of Contracting Parties responding and the actual numbers reported may be found below for each selected HCCH Convention:



<sup>9</sup> Where this is applicable to the numbers reported, this has been indicated in the column with comments in Annex I. It is in this regard also important to note that some of the numbers reported are estimates provided by the Contracting Party. Where this is the case, this has also been indicated in Annex 1. See also [Prel. Doc. No 16 of February 2025](#), No 6 (see path indicated in fn. 2).



### III. Reflections on the collection of data

- 8 At the outset, the PB would once again like to express its gratitude to all Members and Contracting Parties, as well as their respective Competent and Central Authorities, for their participation in the collection of basic statistical data. It has been encouraging to see the response rates for all selected HCCH Conventions increase significantly. The extension of the deadline for this year’s data collection by ten days appears to have been beneficial in this regard. Although this reduces the time available to the PB for analysis and follow up, maintaining the later deadline seems worthwhile in order to secure the most comprehensive set of responses and to enable the presentation of the Report(s) at CGAP.
- 9 The number of responses received from non-Member Contracting Parties remains an area where further improvements may be made. As noted last year, the PB continues to encounter greater difficulties in engaging with non-Member Contracting Parties. This year, an additional reminder regarding the survey was sent; however, the PB continues to explore ways to increase awareness of the statistics-collection, particularly among non-Member Contracting Parties.

### IV. Proposal for CGAP

- 10 In light of this update on the collection of statistical data at the HCCH, and subject to any further suggestions made by CGAP at its 2026 meeting, the PB proposes the following C&D:
- 11 CGAP noted the Report on Statistics on selected HCCH Conventions, including the higher response rate and the valuable data received, and invited the PB to make further efforts to improve both the response rate and the comprehensiveness of responses in future surveys.

The PB will report on Statistics on selected HCCH Conventions to CGAP 2027.

## **ANNEX**

**1961 Apostille Convention:** How many Apostilles were issued by your Competent Authority from 1 January – 31 December?

<b>Contracting Parties</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Andorra	7.835		
Argentina		1.013.418	
Armenia		35.971	
Australia	108.968	114.572	
Austria		6.525	
Azerbaijan		48.663	
Belgium		78.668	
Belize	6.149		
Brazil		2.519.341	
Bulgaria	106.213	118.064	
Canada	148.211	122.650	
Chile	2.145.540	2.129.000	
China (People's Republic of)		1.832.402	
Colombia	1.178.207	1.368.713	
Costa Rica		12.916	
Croatia	19.468	20.650	
Cyprus	267.729	258.322	
Czech Republic		48.741	
Denmark	54.679	55.000	
Dominican Republic	265.457	29.704	
Ecuador	459.458		
El Salvador	136.487	152.851	
Estonia		20.287	
Finland	34.809	35.558	
France		205.058	
Georgia	162.177	161.720	
Germany	438.075	440.523	The total is based on 68 responses received.
Greece	118.267	90.624	The total is based on 64 responses received - with some of the Authorities indicating that the numbers reported are not for the full year.
Guatemala	88.809	86.711	
Honduras		196.696	
Hungary	10.560		
Iceland		5.090	
India	1.193.870		
Ireland	46.003	48.883	
Israel	563.816	452.684	
Italy	134.571	95.267	The total is based on 58 responses received.
Japan	174.082		
Kosovo		36.906	
Latvia	21.931		

Lithuania	25.187	22.353	
Luxembourg	55.842	57.153	
Malta	38.563	39.387	
Mauritius	28.933	28.642	
Mexico	72.255	159.744	
Mongolia		42.685	
Montenegro	1.734		
Morocco		1.793.655	
Norway	57.873	59.731	
Pakistan	178.610		
Paraguay	126.084	138.480	
Peru	688.884	750.372	
Philippines	569.690	960.613	
Poland	65.073	100.418	The total is based on 33 responses received.
Portugal	73.482	75.454	
Republic of Korea		424.298	
Republic of Moldova	330.963	172.585	
Russian Federation		124.966	
San Marino	2.048		
Saudi Arabia	60.268	33.144	
Singapore	187.478	191.172	
Slovakia	25.850	25.872	
Slovenia		4.043	
Spain	1.130.896		
Sweden	0	0	At present, Sweden has decentralised the issuance of Apostilles and designated all notaries public as Competent Authorities according to the Convention. Therefore, Sweden finds it difficult to answer this question.
Switzerland	200.000	211.032	
Türkiye		1.228.776	
Ukraine	402.582	726.849	
United Kingdom	630.270	648.770	
United States of America	1.507.691	2.040.210	Data represents Apostilles issued by the U.S. Department of State and 37 out of 56 state and territorial competent authorities that provided data.
Uruguay	290.250	137.258	
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	665.885	774.559	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>15.307.762</b>	<b>22.814.399</b>	

**1965 Service Convention:** How many requests for service from other Contracting Parties were received by the Central Authority from 1 January – 31 December?

<b>Contracting Parties</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Andorra	171		
Argentina	246	317	
Armenia		73	
Australia	811	815	Data collected by the Attorney General's Department as Central Authority, encompassing requests received both by the Central Authority and by the additional authorities across the Australian States and Territories. This data is expected to be a minimum, as not all authorities have full records.
Austria	1902		
Belgium	201	216	
Belize	5		
Brazil	730	588	
Bulgaria	201	247	
Canada	1991	1109	
China (People's Republic of)		5804	
Costa Rica		112	
Croatia	32	27	
Cyprus	48	106	
Czech Republic		135	
Dominican Republic		45	
El Salvador		46	
Estonia	72	41	
Finland	49	58	
France	727	712	
Georgia		284	
Germany	12396	17321	Please note, that it was not possible to collect complete data in such a short time in Germany due to its federal structure. There is still some data missing. Actual numbers will therefore be higher.
Greece		0	
Hungary	126		
Iceland		292	
India		827	
Israel	769	663	
Italy	216		
Japan	1067	1040	

Latvia	38	47	
Lithuania	75	106	
Luxembourg	67	70	
Mexico	723	652	
Montenegro	50		
Morocco	276	236	
Norway	1029	1035	
Pakistan	82		
Philippines	996	924	
Poland	300	394	
Portugal	992	1040	
Republic of Korea	809	797	
Romania	99	846	
Russian Federation		1065	
Serbia	350	350	
Singapore	519	490	
Slovenia	28	33	
Spain	349	325	
Sweden	206		
Switzerland	3000	14000	This is an estimation; cantonal authorities representing 46% of the Swiss population reported 6346 requests for service; therefore, we estimate the total number to be around 14000.
Türkiye		2325	
Ukraine	951	1018	
United Kingdom	11203	15342	
United States of America	7721	7853	
Viet Nam	618	770	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>52.241</b>	<b>80.596</b>	

**1970 Evidence Convention:** How many Letters of Request from other Contracting Parties were received by the Central Authority from 1 January – 31 December?

<b>Contracting Parties</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Andorra	8		
Argentina	27	20	
Armenia		1	
Australia	69	90	Data collected by the Attorney General's Department as Central Authority, encompassing requests received both by the Central Authority and by the additional authorities across the Australian States and Territories. This data is expected to be a minimum, as not all authorities have full records.
Brazil	72	45	
Bulgaria	142	141	
China (People's Republic of)		147	
Costa Rica		6	
Croatia	5	3	
Cyprus	26	12	
Czech Republic		12	
El Salvador		0	
Estonia	4	4	
Finland	13	16	
France	312	370	
Georgia	6	12	
Germany	1464	1641	Please note, that it was not possible to collect complete data in such a short time in Germany due to its federal structure. There is still some data missing. Actual numbers will therefore be higher.
Greece		0	
Hungary	13		
Iceland		10	
India		22	
Israel	28	32	
Italy		100	
Latvia	6	4	
Lithuania	5	6	
Luxembourg	13	13	
Mexico	84	34	
Montenegro	21		
Morocco	6	5	
Netherlands		277	

Norway	99	100	
Philippines		5	
Poland	38	41	
Portugal	137	115	
Republic of Korea	56	35	
Republic of Moldova		1	
Romania	21	140	
Russian Federation		273	
Serbia	21	28	
Singapore	12	14	
Slovenia	5	3	
Spain	175	151	
Sweden	12	45	
Switzerland	500	750	Only half of the cantons were able to provide responses; out of these, one single canton reported 440 cases, while the 13 others combined reported 108 cases. One can assume that the total number in Switzerland will therefore be around 750 cases.
Türkiye		122	
Ukraine	76	62	
United Kingdom	682	804	
United States of America	512	498	
Viet Nam	8	0	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>4678</b>	<b>6210</b>	

**1980 Child Abduction Convention:**

1. How many incoming applications from other Contracting Parties for assistance in securing the return of the child were received by the Central Authority from 1 January – 31 December?

2. How many incoming applications from other Contracting Parties to make arrangements for organising or securing the effective exercise of rights of access were received by the Central Authority ?

<b>Contracting Parties</b>	<b>2024 (1)</b>	<b>2024 (2)</b>	<b>2025 (1)</b>	<b>2025 (2)</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Argentina	32	6	17	4	
Armenia			26	0	
Australia	38	10	30	7	
Austria	69	13	35	4	
Belgium	39	6	30	4	
Brazil	74	3	99	8	
Bulgaria	20	0	34	0	
Cabo Verde	0	0	0	0	
Canada	118	25	54	25	
Chile	37	3	43	23	
China (People's Republic of)			11	1	Data relates to Hong Kong SAR; Macao SAR reported 0 for both questions.
Colombia			330	36	
Costa Rica	21	1	21	1	
Croatia	9	0	10	1	
Cuba	2	0	0	0	
Czech Republic	13	4	11	1	
Denmark	6	4			
Dominican Republic			13	15	
Ecuador	34	8			
El Salvador	1	1	9	0	
Estonia	6	0	3	0	
Finland	8	3	16	0	
France	112	16	89	14	
Georgia	11	0	9	1	
Germany	164	54	187	62	
Greece			0	0	
Honduras			20	5	
Hungary	23	1			
Ireland	37	10	26	3	
Israel	13	3	10	5	
Italy	76	13			
Jamaica	10	5	21	1	
Japan	13	12	23	8	
Latvia	8	2	14	2	
Lithuania	21	2	16	0	
Luxembourg	3	2	4	2	
Mauritius			8	1	
Mexico	100	5	109	7	
Montenegro		1			
Morocco	44	0	27	1	
Netherlands	30	4	70	18	

New Zealand	18	2	13	1	
Nicaragua	14	1			
Norway	21	4	54	10	
Panama	2	2	7	1	
Paraguay	20	3	17	2	
Peru	45	7	44	3	
Philippines	4	1	15	2	
Poland	126	25	105	27	
Portugal	36	2	32	3	
Republic of Korea			9	0	
Republic of Moldova	24	4	19	16	
Romania	80	3	66	1	
Russian Federation			83	4	
Serbia	21	0	36	4	
Singapore	1	1			
Slovakia	22	2	40	8	
Slovenia			5	2	
South Africa			8	3	
Spain	130	8	174	4	
Sweden	19	8	25	4	
Switzerland	55	8	43	16	
Thailand			19	0	
Trinidad and Tobago			2	0	
Türkiye			92	17	
Ukraine	18	0	73	4	
United Kingdom	149	81	175	90	These are provisional numbers, which have not yet been verified.
United States of America	430	75	689	123	
Uruguay			6	3	
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	54	0			
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2481</b>	<b>454</b>	<b>3276</b>	<b>608</b>	

**1996 Child Protection Convention:** How many requests from other Contracting Parties were received by the Central Authority from 1 January – 31 December?

<b>Contracting Parties</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Armenia		4	
Australia	166	36	
Austria	36	27	
Belgium	39	30	
Bulgaria	44	39	
Cabo Verde	2	3	
Costa Rica		1	
Croatia		1	
Cuba		1	
Czech Republic	28		
Denmark	54		
Dominican Republic		6	
Ecuador	31		
El Salvador	0	0	
Estonia	5	5	
Finland	5	5	
France	573	440	
Georgia	23	32	
Germany	186	189	
Greece		0	
Honduras		11	
Hungary	45		
Ireland	86	84	
Italy	125		
Latvia	44	17	
Lithuania	93	48	
Luxembourg	5	10	
Morocco	43	57	
Netherlands		299	
Nicaragua	7		
Norway	71	148	
Paraguay	1	12	
Poland	217	189	
Portugal	106	102	
Republic of Moldova	0	5	
Romania	222	199	
Russian Federation		25	
Slovakia	35	72	
Slovenia		18	
Spain	330	95	
Sweden	45	68	
Switzerland	189		
Türkiye		62	
Ukraine		240	
United Kingdom	352	378	These are provisional numbers, which have not yet been verified.
Uruguay		2	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>3208</b>	<b>2960</b>	

**2000 Protection of Adults Convention:** How many requests from other Contracting Parties were received by the Central Authority from 1 January – 31 December? (For this question only requests under Chapter V are to be considered.)

<b>Contracting Parties</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Austria	3	6	
Belgium	8	47	
Czech Republic		6	
Estonia	1	1	
Finland	2	2	
France	41	25	
Germany	20	16	
Greece		2	
Ireland	0	1	
Latvia	0	0	
Malta	0	0	
Portugal	26	47	
Switzerland	8		
United Kingdom	5	3	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>156</b>	