

C. FACTS ABOUT PRE-ADOPTION PREPARATION AND POST-ADOPTION SERVICES (2012)

updated 2013-09-11

2012	Denmark	Finland	Iceland	Norway	Sweden
1. Is the pre-adoption course obligatory to receive consent to adoption in your country?	yes	No, the pre-adoption course is voluntary but pre-adoption counselling is obligatory. The counselling process is very thorough and lasts for an average of a year. However, we do strongly encourage all applicants to take part in a pre-adoption course.	Yes, the pre-adoption course is obligatory.	No, but the parliament will soon discuss a law proposal that could make these courses obligatory (suggested by the current government in June 2012).	Yes, but only for the first consent.
2. Who organizes the pre-adoption courses in your country?	Central Authority	NGO's All Our Children and Save the Children (PRIDE). There are also internet courses available (private and group courses), organized by Adoptioplus.	NGO's- Íslensk ætleiðing	The CA (Bufdir)	The local municipalities are responsible for assigning applicants a suitable preparatory parenting course for prospective adopters (Social Services Act Chap. 6 Section 12). Each municipality can decide whether to organize such a course by itself, in collaboration with the county council or other municipalities or refer prospective adopters to courses run by educational associations or private companies. Organizers of preparatory courses for prospective adopters must have no vested interest in any part of the adoption process.
3. In what way are the NGO(s) (partly) involved in the pre-adoption courses in your country?	The organizers of the courses are in close contact with our counsellors, who due to their workings experience with the adoptive families have a great inside	As organisers and course leaders	As organisers and course leaders	The NGO's are not involved.	The courses are provided by independent companies and associations. According to regulations given by the Central Authority (MIA) the adoption organizations

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	in how the adoptive parents are prepared for their adoption in the best manner.				should not be involved at all, but some municipalities still involve them as course leaders.
4. How many % of the prospective adoptive parents attend the courses?	100 % because the course is obligatory.	75-90 % (no statistics available) Attendance in courses has increased as most sending countries are requiring pre-adoption courses.	100 % because the course is obligatory.	No statistics. Probably a majority participate today, since more and more countries expect that families have attended courses.	100 % because the course is obligatory.
5. Where are the meetings of the pre-adoption courses located?	<100 km away	> 100 km away	<100 km away from Reykjavík.	Nationwide at suitable hotels.	<100 km away Depends on the municipality. Sweden has vast municipalities in the north with long distances between them.
6. What is the average waiting time for applicants before a pre-adoption course starts?	2 - 6 months	2 - 6 months	2-6 months	2-12 months (not enough capacity for courses in 2013):	2 - 6 months
7. What is the average duration of the pre-adoption courses?	24 hours Weekend courses: 2 weekends with 2 days each	24 hours, Weekend courses: 2 weekends with 2 days each	24 hours Weekend courses: 2 weekends with 4-6 weeks in between. First weekend 2 days, second weekend 1 day.	2 weekends with one month in between	12 - 24 hours Recommended 21 hours (7 meetings x 3 hours)
8. What education and experience is required from the course leaders?	Behavioural science exam and education experience	All Our Children: adoptive parent, educational background, course leader training. PRIDE: behavioural science exam, training experience, working experience of home studies and adoptive (or foster) parent.	Relevant professional background and training experience. Experience on adoptions is preferred.	Relevant professional background and experience with adoption.	Behavioral science exam, detailed knowledge of the various topics covered by the set course material, know the stages of the assessment and how an assessment is carried out, have previous experience of leading groups and is able to recognize and handle group processes and have relevant knowledge and training as instructors/ teachers/trainers.

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9. How are the pre-adoption courses normally arranged in your country?	Weekend courses	Evenings and/or weekends	Weekend courses	Weekend courses.	Evenings and/or weekends
10. For how long period do the pre-adoption courses go on?	< 2 weeks	> 8 weeks, weekend courses two weekends with one month break between)	A weekend, then about a month to six weeks later a whole day.	See answer to question no 7.	2 - 8 weeks (mostly 7 weeks, se question nr 7)
11a. What is the average cost per parent for the pre-adoption courses?	< 200 €	> €400 or < €200 PRIDE-courses: parents pay only for materials (65€), municipalities cover other costs as part of adoption counselling > €400 for weekend courses (All Our Children)	About 240 € (per parent – 480 € for couples).	Free of charge for the applicants.	€200 - €400 Depends on the municipality. It can be free of charge but often costs €200.
11b. What is included in the costs paid by the applicants for the pre-adoption courses?	Course material, meals, accommodation, teacher's fee, counselling	PRIDE: course material, counselling All Our Children: course material, teacher's fee, for weekend courses also accommodation and meals.	Course material, meals, teacher's fee, counselling, and accommodation.	The applicants only pay for their own travel expenses.	Course material and teacher's fee
12. What main topics are covered in the pre-adoption courses?	Adoption process, childlessness, motivations for adoption, adoptive family situation, birth family, separation and attachment, child's health situation, background of child, ethical perspectives and attitudes, racism and prejudices, grandparents and relatives, journey and first meeting (important) , meetings with adoptees and parents, information about post adoption service, adoption as a life long commitment, space for other topics and evaluation of the course	Adoption process and legislation, childlessness, motivations for adoption, adoptive family situation, birth family, separation and attachment, child's health situation, background of child, ethical perspectives and attitudes, racism and prejudices, grandparents and relatives, journey and first meeting, meetings with adoptees and parents, information about post adoption service, adoption as a life long commitment, space for other topics, creating network of applicants and evaluation of the course	Adoption process, childlessness, motivations for adoption, adoptive family situation, birth family, separation and attachment, child's health situation, background of child, ethical perspectives and attitudes, racism and prejudices, grandparents and relatives, journey and first meeting (important) , meetings with adoptees and parents, information about post adoption service, adoption as a life long commitment, space for other topics and evaluation of the course	Adoption process, childlessness, motivations for adoption, adoptive family situation, birth family, separation and attachment, child's health situation, background of child, ethical perspectives and attitudes, racism and prejudices, grandparents and relatives, journey and first meeting (important) , meetings with adoptees and parents, information about post adoption service, adoption as a life long commitment, space for other topics and evaluation of the course.	Adoption process and legislation, childlessness, motivations for adoption, adoptive family situation, birth family, separation and attachment, child's health situation, background of child, ethical perspectives and attitudes, racism and prejudices, grandparents and relatives, journey and first meeting, information about post adoption service, space for other topics, adoption as a lifelong commitment, evaluation of the course.

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13. Are single and the homosexual applicants attending the same courses as other applicants?	yes	yes	yes	yes	Yes, there have been some courses with single applicants only.
14. Is IVF treatment allowed at the same time as the pre-adoption course?	yes	Save Our Children: no All Our Children: yes	yes	yes	yes, allowed but not recommended
15. Do the pre-adoption courses have the same contents and focus all over your country?	yes	yes	yes	yes	Yes, the aim is that the courses shall have the same contents and focus all over Sweden but this is not always the case.
16a. What is the average waiting time for the parents to start a home study?	2- 6 months	2 - 6 months	2 – 4 months	2-15 months depending on the capacity in each municipality	2- 6 months
16b. What is the average duration to finish a home study?	2- 6 months	> 6 months often close to 1 year	3 months	We have not statistics, but estimate this to be 2-6 months	2- 6 months
17. Is IVF treatment allowed at the same time as the home study?	yes	no	yes	No rules against it, but not recommended.	yes, allowed but not recommended
18. Are applicants allowed to start the home study before the pre-adoption course is finished?	no	yes	Yes, allowed, but not recommended	Yes, allowed, but not recommended	yes, allowed but not recommended
19. What complementary courses are offered before or after the pre-adoption course?	During the waiting period a “while we are waiting” course is offered to the waiting families.	Two yearly seminars on special needs, one is organized by Save the Children and the other by City of Helsinki, All Our Children and Interpedia. City of Helsinki organizes an adoption seminar every second year with different themes †starting school, puberty, attachment, etc. Save the Children Finland and Interpedia has several lectures yearly around	Course about what complications can happen in the first period of the adoption. A travel preparation/information course. Course about starting kindergarten, and a course about starting school. Monthly lectures about various topics concerning adoptions (both pre- and post-adoption)	The local divisions of the NGO’s (accredited bodies) sometime offer courses. There is also a psychologist in Norway who has specialised in offering courses.	NGO’s and local authorities organise child care courses (depends on municipality). Some NGO’s organize courses and seminars on these and similar topics: special needs, school start and other topics.

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		<p>Finland.</p> <p>In the fall of 2013 the adoption service providers are organizing a joint seminar on the challenges of the mundane everyday life with a child and how to overcome them .</p> <p>The Adoptive Families organization and All Our Children also arrange courses and other activities for applicants and families. Full length preparatory courses may be compensated by attending individual lectures and training. (accepted by some sending countries). This adds to availability of preparational training for PAP's.</p>			
20a. What is the average cost per parent for the child care courses?	-		Free of charge	-	Sometimes free of charge if organized by the local authority.
20b What is the average cost per parent for the special needs courses?	-	€ 0-20 (City of Helsinki seminar is free of charge)	Free of charge	-	
20c. What is the average cost per parent for the school start courses?	-		Free of charge	-	
20d. What is the average cost per parent for the other complementary courses?	-	€ 10 - 70	Free of charge	-	
21. What other complementary support is offered before, during or after the adoption?	-	NGO's organize activities, seminars, courses and counselling about special needs, attachment and child's health, pre-school and school counselling.	Counselling about special needs. Pre-school counselling. There is a social worker and a psychologist ready to provide counselling. Mentor families are	-	Local authorities organize pre-adoption counselling, special needs counselling, attachment counselling, child health counselling, child psychologist

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		Telephone help line service is provided by the Finish Adoption Curator by the organization All Our Children.	offered. Open office, the families who have adopted are invited every second week for a gathering at the office. Various seminars, courses		counselling, pre-school counselling and school support counselling. NGO's (local branches) organize activities, seminars, courses and meetings about special needs, attachment, child's health, pre-school and school start counselling. In Stockholm there is a resource centre (SPIRA).
22a. What is the average cost per parent for pre-adoption counselling?	-	The municipalities are responsible for the adoption counselling and cover the costs so it is free of charge for the parents. Some municipalities do the counselling them-selves (like City of Helsinki) and others buy the service from Save the Children.	Our pre-adoption counselling is free of charge for applicants.	-	Free of charge because it is normally sponsored by local authority. The cost depends on where and how it is organised.
22b. What is the average cost per parent for the special needs counselling?	-		Free of charge	-	Free of charge because it is sponsored by local authority.
22c. What is the average cost per parent for the attachment counselling?	-	> €200	Free of charge	-	Free of charge because it is sponsored by local authority.
22d. What is the average cost per parent for the other complementary counselling?	-	€50 - 200	Free of charge	-	Free of charge because it is sponsored by local authority.
23a. Is there any organised support for root seeking and homeland journeys in your country?	yes	yes, provided by the three mediating accredited bodies	no - not yet	No support except the assistance that some of the NGO's offer.	No support except the assistance that some of the NGO's offer.
23b. Who organises the support for root seeking and homeland journeys?	NGO's	Mediating accredited bodies	-	-	NGO's and some travel agencies.

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23c. What is the average cost for support for root seeking and homeland journeys?	<p>AC Børnehjælp: €15 - €100 is charged from the adoptee/the family depending on the level of assistance required from AC International Child Support.</p> <p>DanAdopt: Free of charge. Costs are included in adoption fee.</p>	<p>According to the new Adoption Act of 2012 the supportive counselling for root seeking and homeland tour is to be free of charge for those needing it. The costs for the mediating accreditate</p>	-	<p>Varies between the associations.</p> <p>Adopsjonsforum: - NOK 1.000 from 1.July 2012 for starting search for origin. In some countries there are fees for lawyers, translators etc. that may come as additional costs.</p> <p>- Members pay NOK 2.000 for assistance with individual or group tours. Non-members are charged NOK 4.000.</p>	<p>Adoptionscentrum: > €300 The fee differs depending on the country of origin.</p> <p>Barnens Vänner: The root seeking work is carried out by an aid society working with Sri Lanka. They take a fee for their work. Free sending of copies of documentation.</p> <p>Children Above All (BFA): Background investigations and sending of documents and copies are free of charge.</p> <p>FFIA: To have financial means to cover some of the future costs for information and advice in root matters a fee of 500 SEK is included in the mediation fee.</p>
23d. What is included in the cost for support for root seeking and homeland journeys?	<p>AC Børnehjælp: Sending copies of all documentation available at organisation to adoptee, asking country of origin for more documentation, help contacting biological parents/family, individual and group counselling, planning a journey to country of origin and orphanage, planning a journey to country of origin including a meeting with birth family and other support</p> <p>DanAdopt: Free of charge: sending</p>	<p>Sending copies of all documentation available at organisation to adoptee, asking country of origin for more documentation, searching for information about and help contacting biological parents/family, individual and group counselling, planning a journey to country of origin and orphanage including a meeting with birth family and other support</p> <p>Finnish Adoption Curator: individual counselling</p>	-		<p>Adoptionscentrum: Free of charge: sending copies of all documentation available at organisation to adoptee.</p> <p>Included in the fee: Asking country of origin for more documentation, searching for information about and help contacting biological parents/family, individual counselling, planning a journey to country of origin and orphanage, planning a journey to country of origin including a meeting with birth family.</p>

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24a. Are the families as a routine contacted when coming home after adoption journey?	yes	yes	yes	Yes, in their municipality	yes
24b. When are the families contacted after coming home and who contacts them?	Local authority (social worker of the municipality) contacts the families as a routine after 2-6 weeks	Within 2 weeks (early as possible)	IAS: In the first week, after one month and again after three months.	As soon as possible (within 1-4 weeks)	Local authority (social worker of the municipality) contacts the families as a routine after 2-6 weeks Adoptionscentrum: local branch contacts the member families within 2 weeks Barnens Vänner: if the family has not contacted us within one month, we contact them Children Above All: the families are requested to contact the NGO. If we are not contacted within two weeks, we contact them.
25a. Does your country have (a) national or regional adoption resource- and	no	no(but informally by NGO's according to their long experience)	No – not yet.	No, but two of the Norwegian organisations (AF and IA) in May 2013 presented.	Yes, in Stockholm.

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expert centre(s)?				a study on the possibility of establishing such a centre. The study is currently reviewed by the authorities	
25b. Who is responsible for the adoption resource- and expert centre(s) in your country?	-	-	-	-	Municipality in Stockholm.
26. Who is responsible for spreading of information about Pre- and Post Adoption Service?	Central Authority	Local authority and NGO's	Central authority and IAS.	All relevant authorities.	Central authority, local authority and NGO's. The municipalities are responsible for the children living in the municipality. The central authority and the NGO's inform about adoption service.
27a. Does your country have regulations for adoption and background documentation?	yes	Yes, the documents must be kept for at least 100 years. The adoptee when 18 years old, his guardians and the adoptee's offspring have the right to obtain the information.	Yes	Yes, in the Adoption Act.	Yes, since 2005 in Inter-country Adoption Intermediation Act.
27b. Are there any secrecy regulations connected to the background documentation?	yes	The principle of open access is emphasized in our new Adoption Act of 2012. Information can be withheld, only if it is considered that the information would be harmful to the child's health or development or be against the benefit of the child.	Yes	Yes, in exceptional cases information can be withheld.	Yes, by The Public Access to Information and Secrecy Act
27c. Who is responsible for the background documentation and for how long time?	NGO's for as long as Data Protection Agency permits. Thereafter the NGO's are obligated to hand over the files to National Archive.	Both local authority and NGO's for 100 years	NGO - no time limit.	The relevant authority keeps the background documentation in adoption cases, no time limit.	Local authority and NGO's. No time limit. Documentation must be kept as long as of interest to the child.