



Valvira

National Supervisory Authority
for Welfare and Health

Finnish Adoption Board Annual Report 2017

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Foreword

The Adoption Board's first five-year-period with Valvira ended and the Government appointed a new Adoption Board from 1 July 2017 onwards.

The number of children arriving in Finland grew significantly from the previous year. Whereas only 58 children arrived in Finland in 2016, 70 children arrived in 2017. In the last two years, most children have arrived in Finland from South Africa. Out of the 70 children that arrived in Finland last year, 22 were from South Africa. The transition period for requirements in domestic adoptions has ended. The number of domestic permissions grew distinctly since the previous year. In domestic adoptions, 30 new permission decisions were given, whereas in 2016 there were only 22.

The Adoption Board made its annual cooperation and monitoring visit to South Africa in December. We met the South African central adoption authority and Finland's international adoption service providers' cooperation partners. We visited children's homes, a children's rehabilitation centre and a social work organisation. We found that South Africa works in many ways to help children in difficult circumstances and that the cooperation system defined in the Hague Adoption Convention works well and fulfils the requirements.

According to the Hague Adoption Convention, a national central adoption authority must actively develop adoption guidance and supervision as well as other post-adoption services. This year, the Adoption Board's (the Finnish central adoption authority) and Valvira's proposition prompted the national budget's appropriation to be appointed to international adoption service providers' statutory post-adoption services.

Last year, the Adoption Board's plenary session paid special attention to the welfare of adopted children and adoptive families. In August, the plenary session suggested to the Government that family leaves of adoptive and biological families be unified. The plenary session also renewed its prior initiative of updating the amount and structure of adoption grants. At the end of the year, the Adoption Board and the Ombudsman for Children issued their joint initiative that proposed a comprehensive evaluation of the Adoption Act implementation after it has been valid for five years. The initiative proposed that the special nature of adoption is considered even better in social services and that special services in the post-adoption support are made more readily available. A further proposition was that knowledge about adoption among different service professionals is secured by including adoption in basic and further professional education.

The Adoption Board collaborates with adoption counsellors and international adoption service providers, as well as organisations in the field. Lately, adoption counsellors have highlighted necessary professional developments and the meaning of counselling as an overall and continuing process. The general planning, steering and supervision of adoption counselling fall within the purview of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health. The Adoption Board is happy to be involved in developing the counselling as much as it is able.

Helsinki, 3 July 2018

Merja Vuori
Counsellor of Social Welfare
Chairman of the Finnish Adoption Board

1 Composition and duties of the Adoption Board

The Finnish Adoption Board operates under Valvira, the National Supervisory Authority for Welfare and Health, as a special expert, permission and supervisory authority in adoption matters. The Board grants permissions for domestic and intercountry adoptions, as well as operating licences to intercountry adoption service providers and monitors their operation.

Adoption is regulated according to the Adoption Act (22/2012) and the Government Decree on Adoption (202/2012). In all decisions and other measures concerning the adoption of a minor child, the best interests of the child shall be the paramount consideration. [Finnish Adoption Act, Act No 22/2012 can be found here in English.](#)

The Adoption Board is the central authority as referred to in The Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption (Treaty SopS 29/1997) and the competent national authority as referred to in the European Convention on the Adoption of Children (Treaty SopS 39/2012).

The Finnish Adoption Board consists of a plenary session, a section for international matters and a section for adoption permission matters. The Chairman or the Deputy Chairman of the Adoption Board chairs the plenary session and the sections. The Finnish Government appoints the Adoption Board for a maximum term of five years at a time. The current term of office is from 1 July 2017 until 30 June 2022. The Government appoints the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman, members and deputy members to the Board. The Chairman, Deputy Chairman and secretaries are officials of Valvira.

Merja Vuori, Counsellor of Social Welfare, serves as Chairman of the Adoption Board and Riitta Husso, Senior Officer, Legal Affairs, as Deputy Chairman. Johanna Huovinen, Senior Officer, Legal Affairs (from 1.9.2017 onwards; until 22.8.2017 Jonna Salmela, Senior Officer, Legal Affairs) and Minna Malviniemi, Senior Officer, serve as secretaries to the Board.

The Section for international matters has at least four members in addition to the Chairman or Deputy Chairman. One of the members must be a representative from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland. The section must also include members with expertise in legal matters relating to international adoptions, the practical intercountry adoption operation and child welfare.

Composition of the Section for international matters as at 31 December 2017 (principal member above, deputy member below in parentheses)

member representing the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland:
Hanna Rantala, Legal Officer
(Henna Harju, Legal Officer)

Expertise:

Legal matters relating to international adoptions

Laura Määttänen, Senior Adviser for Legislative Affairs, Ministry of Justice

(Outi Kemppainen, Senior Adviser for Legislative Affairs, Ministry of Justice)

Practical intercountry adoption operation

Tuula Kumpumäki, Executive Director, All Our Children

(Anja Wikstedt, Adoption Curator, All Our Children)

Child welfare

Johanna Laisaari, Lawyer, City of Vantaa

(Jaana Vilpas, Service Manager in child protection, City of Vantaa)

Other members:

Liisa Holopainen, Senior Secretary, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health

Eeva-Maria Nieminen, Senior Officer, Finnish Immigration Service

(Leena Turku, Senior Officer, Finnish Immigration Service)

The section for adoption permission matters has at least four members in addition to the Chairman or Deputy Chairman. The section must include members with expertise in child welfare, adoption counselling, a child's growth and development as well as a member with medical expertise.

Composition of the section for adoption permission matters as at 31 December 2017 (principal member above, deputy member below in parentheses)

Expertise in child welfare

Päivi Sihvo, Social Work Manager, City of Vantaa

(Mervi Vihersalo, Senior Social Worker in child protection, City of Vantaa)

Expertise in adoption counselling

Sanna Schultz-Karlsson, Social Worker, City of Helsinki

(Kaisa Tervonen-Arnkil, Development Manager, Save the Children)

Expertise in a child's growth and development

Jarmo Salo, Paediatrics Specialist, Oulu University Hospital

(Marjatta Kekkonen, Specialist Adviser, National Institute for Health and Welfare)

Medical expertise

Persephone Doupi, Specialist Researcher, National Institute for Health and Welfare

(Jukka Mäkelä, Specialist Adviser, National Institute for Health and Welfare)

Other members:

Marita Raassina, Senior Officer, National Supervisory Authority for Welfare and Health, Valvira
(Eine Heikkinen, Head of Unit, National Supervisory Authority for Welfare and Health, Valvira)

At a **plenary session**, all members of the aforementioned sections are present. In addition, a necessary number of members representing the authorities and organisations operating within the field of operation of the Adoption Board are appointed to attend the plenary session. If necessary, also other members may be appointed to attend the plenary session.

Composition of the plenary session as at 31 December 2017 (principal member, deputy member below in parentheses) included the aforementioned members and deputy members of the section for international matters and the section for adoption permission matters referred to above and:

Aulikki Haimi-Kaikkonen, Senior Social Worker, City of Helsinki
(Saara Leinonen, Adoption Coordinator, City of Helsinki)

Irene Pärssinen-Hentula, International Adoption Director, Save the Children Finland
(Tiina Tammi, Lawyer, Save the Children Finland)

Salla Hari, Director for Adoption Program, Interpedia ry
(Anja Ojuva, Executive Director, Interpedia ry)

Minna Vihavainen, Executive Director, Adopterade Finland rf
(Anna-Maija Laitinen, Adopterade Finland rf)

Anu Uhtio, Executive Director, The Adoptive Families in Finland
(Veera Adolfsen, Communications and Organisational Secretary, The Adoptive Families in Finland)

Päivi Jalkanen, Aikuiset adoptoidut ry
(Saara Laakkonen, Aikuiset adoptoidut ry)

Johanna Repo, Diverse Families network
(Jenni Kerppola-Pesu, Diverse Families network)

Juha Jämsä, Executive Director, Rainbow Families
(Anna Moring, Project Manager, Rainbow Families)

2 Operations of the Adoption Board in 2017

2.1 Administration of the Adoption Board

The Finnish Adoption Board operates under Valvira, the National Supervisory Authority for Welfare and Health. The Adoption Board's secretariat is placed in Valvira's Private sector licencing and social welfare supervision department.

The Adoption Board's forms were renewed in 2017.

Government budget financing was secured for ensuring international adoption service providers' statutory post-adoption services. Valvira has distributed the appropriation to the service providers in 2018.

2.2 Training and national cooperation

Every year, the Adoption Board arranges adoption training, which is primarily intended for adoption counselling providers and intercountry adoption service providers. In 2017, the training was held on 25 January in Helsinki at the House of the Estates. The themes were facing an abused child in an adoptive family, experiences of parents having adopted a special-needs child, racism, prospective adopters in pre-adoption services - emotions, power and interaction, and supporting adoptive families in the adoption group of City of Helsinki. The Adoption Board's present issues were also addressed. There were 64 attendees working with adoptions in the training.

During the year, the Chairman and secretaries of the Board attended various cooperation meetings of adoption professionals and other events as professionals and lecturers.

On 19 April 2017, the Adoption Board gave an expert judgement to the Legal Affairs Committee of the Parliament about the citizens' initiative on the maternity act and laws relating to it.

2.3 Plenary session

The plenary session of the Adoption Board is tasked with monitoring development in adoption matters and, where necessary, making initiatives in matters concerning adoption. During 2017, the Adoption Board's plenary session had three meetings.

To monitor developments in adoption matters, the plenary session continued conversation about organising post-adoption services and support. Regarding this, the Adoption Board and the Ombudsman for Children made in autumn 2017 a joint initiative that proposed post-evaluation of the Adoption Act and development of post-adoption support. In summer 2017, the Adoption Act had been valid for five years, so the initiative claimed that it was a good time to evaluate the various effects of the law.

In autumn 2017, the Adoption Board made an initiative to the preparers of the new law on family leave where the plenary session of the Adoption Board suggested that adoptive parents should be guaranteed the same rights to family leave as biological parents regardless of the adopted child's age upon arrival in the family. The Government decided in spring 2018 in its discussion on spending limits that an adoptive parent's parental leave is extended to 233 working days. Parental benefit is granted to everyone that adopts a child under 18 years old from outside their own family.

The Adoption Board worked actively in autumn 2017 to promote a statute change to raise adoption grants. An initiative on the matter was made in 2013 by the Adoption Board's plenary session. Background materials were updated in autumn 2017 in collaboration with adoption service providers, and the Adoption Board negotiated the issue with officials from the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health. In its discussion on spending limits in spring 2018, the government allocated a 0.3-million-euro appropriation increase to the adoption grant review.

The National Institute for Health and Welfare's (THL) school health survey had for the first time collected information about the adopted. THL presented the preliminary results to the Adoption Board's plenary session. After the presentation, the members of the plenary session could bring up possible development suggestions for the survey to THL.

2.4 Section for international matters and international cooperation

International cooperation of the Adoption Board is based on the international conventions mentioned before and the Adoption Act. These conventions require the central authority of each Contracting State to work in close cooperation with each other in adoption matters.

According to the Government Decree on Adoption, the section for international matters shall

- to the appropriate extent gather and maintain information about the legislation and practices concerning adoption and intercountry adoption service in foreign states and, on request, provide information about these to authorities and service providers;
- monitor compliance with the Hague Convention in Finland and, when necessary, take measures to ensure compliance with the Convention;
- cooperate with the central authorities or the bodies responsible for the duties of a central authority in foreign states that are contracting states in the Hague Convention in order to achieve the objects of the Convention and to exchange the information referred to in the Convention;
- cooperate with the national authorities designated by the state parties in the European Convention on the Adoption of Children, concluded in Strasbourg on 27 November 2008, to exchange the information referred to in the Convention;
- grant licences for the provision of intercountry adoption service and cancel licences that have been granted;
- grant a Finnish service provider licence to cooperate with a foreign service provider and cancel licences that have been granted;

- monitor the operation of the service providers and their cooperation with foreign service providers;
- provide the reports referred to in section 78 of the Adoption Act and give the statements referred to in section 79 of the Adoption Act;
- grant the approvals referred to in Article 17 (c) of the Hague Convention and issue the certificate referred to in section 8 of this Decree in cases where a service provider has not been used;
- perform the central authority functions under the Hague Convention, unless a certain function has been delegated to another body by Act or government decree.

The Section for international matters convened eight times during 2017. The section gave two statements to district courts in adoption confirmation matters.

The Section for international matters gave professional consultations for applications that were being considered by the section for adoption permission matters in respect of some applications concerning adoption without a service provider or adopting an under-aged blood relative through a service provider. The Section for international matters gave a statement about the validity of the legalisation of the applicants' documents and about the compliance of foreign procedures with the Hague Adoption Convention.

By the initiative of the Section for international matters, guidelines were given to adoption counselling and adoption service providers to inform applicants of requirements of a residence permit that are applied when neither of the applicants is a Finnish citizen. In these cases, even if the adoption has been completed according to the permit from the Adoption Board, the adopted child still needs a residence permit from the Finnish Immigration Service.

Implementation of the Hague Adoption Convention

The Adoption Board participates the Hague Conference on Private International Law Special Commission meeting, which is held every five years and is tasked with monitoring and improving implementation of the Hague Adoption Convention. The Conference was last held in 2015. Between conferences, the central authorities of the Contracting States, in Finland the Adoption Board, take part in monitoring and development of the implementation of the Hague Adoption Convention each year by answering various surveys of the Hague Permanent Bureau. In turn, the Permanent Bureau provides the Board with information in matters concerning individual Contracting States. In 2017 Finland gave its answer to the Permanent Bureau about the recognition of domestic adoptions. A statement was requested from the Permanent Bureau about the new "one to one" programme of the Chinese central authority.

Central authority cooperation

The Adoption Board's secretariat regularly replies to contacts and enquiries from the central adoption authorities in different countries and similarly sends the enquiries from the Board to adoption service providers and central adoption authorities in different countries and, in individual cases, also to other authorities, if necessary. The inquiries may involve, for example, complaints and adoptions taking place without a service provider but also more general questions relating to legislation and practices. In topics that are broad or central to decision-making, the

Section for international matters expresses its opinion on the answers or inquiries before they are sent. In 2017, one issue affecting many countries receiving children was China's new "one to one" programme. Views about the issue were requested from other Nordic countries and the Dutch central authority.

Nordic central adoption authorities' meeting in Stockholm

The annual meeting of the Nordic central adoption authorities was held in Stockholm in April 2017. The meeting was attended by Merja Vuori, Chairman of the Adoption Board, Jonna Salmela, Secretary of the Adoption Board, and from the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Johanna Huovinen, Ministerial Secretary, and specialist in practicalities of intercountry adoption, Tuula Kumpumäki from All Our Children.

One of the topics of the meeting was the new Dutch report "Reflection on Intercountry Adoption" that criticised the international adoption system. Other topics were adoption cooperation with countries with a high Corruption Perceptions Index (Transparency International), the economic transparency of the adoption process and the financial stability of service providers. Swedish central adoption authority Family Law and Parental Support Authority (MFoF) presented their new conditions for adoption service providers. Denmark introduced the situation after a service providers' fusion that was implemented based on a political decision.

Denmark and Iceland presented their survey conducted among prospective adopters. The survey studied prospective adopters' experiences of the adoption process and the expenses the process had caused. The discussions also addressed compensations for additional medical report expenses for adopted children, questions about prospective adopters' health, adoption of blood relatives and the situation in China, South Korea and Vietnam.

International Social Services (ISS)

The Adoption Board has applied country-specific information and reports by International Social Services ISS. The Adoption Board needs country-specific information and reports especially when it considers allowing a Finnish service provider to cooperate with a foreign partner. Valvira pays Finland's ISS membership fee annually, which makes ISS services available to the Adoption Board and other authorities.

Background information and a country report about the South African situation was requested from ISS for the Board's monitoring and cooperation visit.

On 4 October 2017, International Social Service held its 25th anniversary seminar "Alternative Care, Adoption & Surrogacy Symposium" in Geneva. The seminar handled a wide range of current adoption-related questions. The topics included the main principles of the Hague Adoption Convention, special-needs children and the development of cooperation between countries giving and receiving children. The seminar included speeches by many professionals, such as Laura Martinez-Mora from the Permanent Bureau, Nigel Cantwell, a consultant on child protection, and Benyam Dawit Mezmur from the UN. Johanna Huovinen, a lawyer and Secretary of the Adoption Board, attended the seminar.

International adoption service

In 2017 five licence matters in respect of intercountry adoption service providers were considered. Licences for cooperation with a foreign service provider were granted for five years. In 2017, Interpedia ry was granted three cooperation licences, and Save the Children was granted one licence; these licences involved the continuation of already established cooperation. In addition, Save the Children was granted licence to cooperate with a new partner, Thai Red Cross Children Home.

The Adoption Board invited adoption service providers to a service provider meeting three times during 2017. The meetings involved discussions about current practicalities of the service providers and questions about intercountry adoptions, and service providers also received instructions that they had requested. Of the reclamations that the Board had received about an adoption applicants' service provider, one post-service issue was processed and solved as a complaint. The Adoption Board advised one reclamation sender to make a claim for rectification about the service fee to the service provider.

Visit to South Africa

In 2017, the Adoption Board's annual cooperation and monitoring visit took place in South Africa, and the Board visited the country on 27–30 November 2017. Adoption cooperation with South Africa has been successful. During the last few years, South Africa has been Finland's biggest cooperation partner. The changes in the adoption practices of the City of Helsinki were mentioned as one reason for the importance of the meeting between the Finnish central authority and local operators. The excursion was also aimed to strengthen the successful cooperation.

The visit was attended by Merja Vuori, Chairman of the Adoption Board, Johanna Huovinen, Lawyer, and from the Adoption Board's Section of international matters, Hanna Rantala, Legal Officer at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and Eeva-Maria Nieminen, Senior Officer, Finnish Immigration Service.

The attendees met the South African central authority's (Department of Social Development) Director, Dr. Tebogo Mabe, and Manager, Ms. Kindey Rasebitse. They also met representatives from organisations cooperating with Finland in adoptions (Abba Specialist Adoption & Social Services and Jo'burg Child Welfare) and other adoption-related organisations, and they also visited three children's homes. The conversations covered for example the South African adoption legislation and system, and the visitors gained a good understanding of the functionality of the processes and their compliance with the Hague Adoption Convention.

International adoption cooperation

Nordic Adoption Council (NAC)

The Adoption Board's secretariat attended the Nordic Adoption Council's (NAC) Open Day conference in September 2017. The conference is held every two years, and this time it was organised in Helsinki by NAC's Finnish members. The theme of the conference was "Current Phenomena in Intercountry Adoptions" and the speakers included adoption professionals from Finland and abroad.

NAC's members are adoption organisations from the Nordic countries. Its aim is to develop the Nordic adoption system and adoption requirements through cooperation. NAC's member organisations consider it important that central adoption authorities join this cooperation.

The attending members of the Adoption Board's secretarial staff were Merja Vuori, Chairman of the Adoption Board, and Johanna Huovinen and Minna Malviniemi, Secretaries of the Adoption Board. Other members of the Adoption Board also attended the event.

2.5 Section for adoption permission matters

The section for adoption permission matters considers matters relating to granting of permissions for adoption and extending the validity of permissions. The section for adoption permission matters also considers applications on amending terms and conditions, notifications about material changes in the adoption applicant's circumstances and cancellation of a granted permission.

As a rule, permission from the Adoption Board must be applied for whenever a person resident in Finland wishes to adopt a child under the age of 18 years. The permission requirement applies to both domestic and intercountry adoptions. A permission must be applied for in domestic adoptions conforming to section 40 of the Adoption Act, in intercountry adoptions through a service provider conforming to section 41 of the Adoption Act and intercountry adoptions without a service provider conforming to section 42 of the Adoption Act. An adoption permission is not required for domestic adoptions if the applicant intends to adopt a child of his/her spouse (so called intra-family adoption) or a child who has been cared for and brought up by the applicant on an established basis.

The permission for adoption is granted for a fixed term of no more than two years. If necessary, an extension to the validity of a granted permission must be applied for before the permission expires. The Adoption Board must immediately be notified if there is a material change in the prospective adopter's circumstances during the validity period of the permission.

The Adoption Board's section for adoption permission matters met a total of 22 times in 2017. 11 of these meetings were held with the normal composition and the other 11 with a restricted composition of Chairman or Deputy Chairman of the Adoption Board and a member or deputy member of a section who represents expertise in child welfare or adoption counselling. A matter may be considered in a restricted composition provided that it, with regard to the circumstances of the case and previous decisions of the Board, is evident how the matter should be decided. The small composition can grant an adoption permit under sections 40 or 41 of the Adoption Act, extend the validity of an adoption permit, approve a change in the adoption service provider, decide on other minor changes to the terms and conditions of an adoption permit, and decide that a notification about a material change in the adoption applicant's circumstances does not require cancelling the permit or changing the terms.

In 2017, the section for adoption permission matters resolved 53 cases concerning new permissions in respect of intercountry adoption, of which one case resulted in

a negative decision. The validity of the permission was extended for 81 permissions, and in one case the validity period was not extended. There were 23 cases of material changes in the applicant's circumstances.

During 2017, the Adoption Board granted 30 new permissions for domestic adoption and extended the validity period of 14 permissions. There were six cases of material changes in the applicant's circumstances.

Compared to 2016, there were significantly fewer decisions on permissions for intercountry adoptions. In 2016, there were 98 decisions on new applications for permissions, whereas in 2017 the number of processed applications was 53. However, the number of permissions for domestic adoptions increased. In 2016, there were 22 new permissions for domestic adoption, and in 2017 the number was 30. The number of decisions on extending the validity period of a permission grew in both intercountry and domestic adoptions.

In exceptional circumstances, an adoption service provider cannot be used in intercountry adoptions. In these cases, permission for intercountry adoption may be granted principally if the child to be adopted is a close relative of the applicant and a Finnish service provider does not operate in the country of origin of the child (section 42 of the Adoption Act). In 2017, permission was granted for the intercountry adoptions of five children without a service provider.

The processing of an adoption permission application is the fastest stage of the adoption process. The processing of a permit took approximately 1–2 months in 2017. Most of the applications are processed in the following Board meeting. The process is usually delayed due to incomplete applications or the need of further clarifications.

Further information about the activities of the Adoption permission section can be found in the statistics on the [Adoption Board's website](#).

3 Intercountry adoptions

As a rule, an intercountry adoption service provider must always be used in intercountry adoptions. In 2017, there were three intercountry adoption service providers in Finland: Interpedia ry, Save the Children's intercountry adoption service and City of Helsinki Social Services and Health Care. International adoption service of the City of Helsinki does not accept new clients anymore, but it will complete pending applications and post-adoption services for former clients. At the end of 2017, the intercountry adoption service providers were licenced to cooperate with nine countries.

Service providers are responsible for assisting prospective adopters in measures relating to the intercountry adoption of a child under the age of 18 years and monitoring that the adoption takes place in the best interests of the child, with respect for the fundamental rights of the child as recognized in international law and without anyone deriving improper financial or other gain therefore. Service providers are also responsible for post-adoption services offered after the confirmation of the adoption.

3.1 Service providers' international partners

The Adoption Board grants licences for the provision of intercountry adoption service and grants Finnish service providers licences to cooperate with a foreign service provider. Licences are granted for a maximum of five years. The tables below show the valid contact licences by country held by service providers at 31 December 2017.

Save the Children		
Country	Central authority	Contact
Bulgaria	Ministry of Justice	ANIDO Association
The Philippines	Inter Country Adoption Board (ICAB)	Inter Country Adoption Board (ICAB)
Kyrgyzstan	Ministry of Labour and Social Development	Ministry of Labour and Social Development
China (PRC)	China Centre for Children's Welfare and Adoption (CCCWA)	China Centre for Children's Welfare and Adoption (CCCWA)
Thailand	Department of Children and Youth (DCY)	Department of Children and Youth (DCY) Thai Red Cross Children Home (TRRCH)
Interpedia ry		
Country	Central authority	Contact
Bulgaria	Ministry of Justice	Family National Association (FNA)
South Africa	Department of Social Development	Abba Specialist Adoption & Social Services (Abba)

India	Central Authority Resource Agency (CARA)	Central Authority Resource Agency (CARA)
China (PRC)	China Centre for Children's Welfare and Adoption (CCCWA)	China Centre for Children's Welfare and Adoption (CCCWA)
Colombia	Instituto Colombiano de Bienestar Familiar (ICBF)	Instituto Colombiano de Bienestar Familiar (ICBF) Centro para el Reintegro y Atención del Niño (Fundación CRAN) Fundación Casa de la Madre y el Niño La Fundación Ayuda a la Infancia Hogar Bambi Chiquitines
Taiwan	-	Christian Salvation Service (CSS)
Thailand	Department of Children and Youth (DCY)	Department of Children and Youth (DCY)
City of Helsinki		
Country	Central authority	Contact
Bulgaria	Ministry of Justice	Happy Child Association
South Africa	Department of Social Development	Jo'burg Child Welfare (JCW)
Thailand	Department of Children and Youth (DCY)	Thai Red Cross Children Home (TRRCH) Department of Children and Youth (DCY)

3.2 Development in number of children arriving in Finland

Since 1985, a total of 4,648 children have arrived in Finland via intercountry adoption by service providers. Recent years have seen a decline in adoption numbers. In 2014, there were 142 children arriving in Finland through intercountry adoption, in 2015 there were 93 children and in 2016 there were 58 children. In 2017, the falling trend changed and **70** children arrived in Finland.

There are no statistics on the number of domestic adoptions from outside the family because the Adoption Board does not receive information about such adoptions. The permission obligation only applies to domestic adoption applicants who began adoption counselling after 1 July 2012.

Further information about children who have arrived in Finland can be found in the statistics on the [Adoption Board's website](#).

**The number of children arriving in Finland through an intercountry adoption
via service providers in 1986–2017**

	1985 -2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Bulgaria														1		
Dominican Republic	6															
South Africa	22	23	24	27	22	25	36	41	32	45	32	37	37	35	14	22
Ethiopia	191	6	7	5	15	13	14	16	10	10	3	3	3	1		
The Philippines	7	12	12	19	21	19	11	10	12	8	21	10	14	6	9	7
Guatemala	13															
India	97	6	8	15	4	9	2	7	3	7	8	8	7	5	5	5
Republic of Karelia	3															
Kenya									9	6	10	4	6	4		
China	265	61	133	140	49	46	18	33	23	41	62	47	33	27	10	13
Colombia	385	37	22	20	18	14	17	11	11	7	8	2	16	5	9	8
Poland	24	1	2	2												
Romania	34															
Sri Lanka	43															
Taiwan	1															2
Thailand	334	64	36	42	37	27	24	31	22	8	14	15	15	9	11	13
Russia	550	26	41	35	50	20	34	36	38	31	17	15	10			
Vietnam	35															
Estonia	60	2	4	3	2	3	1	2					1			
TOTAL	2070	238	289	308	218	176	157	187	160	163	175	141	142	93	58	70



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