International trends in intercountry adoption: New challenges for intercountry adoption practice – ensuring the child’s best interest

Intercountry adoption in Italy

Munich, 27-04-2016
Adoption law and policies in Italy

Intercountry Adoption process in Italy

Cooperation between central authorities and adoption organizations

Nation-wide standards for good practice in ICA

Future trends in intercountry adoption

Future perspectives for Italian adoption practice
CIAI - ITALIAN CENTER FOR THE AID TO CHILDREN

Founded in 1968, first italian adoption organization

Contributed to the Law 184/83 and 476/98

Co-Founder of Euradopt

More than 3500 children adopted in Italy through CIAI from Asia, Africa, Latin America

In 2015 more than 80% adopted children were special needs

2015: 50 adoptions – 1450 Post-adoption interviews
ADOPTION LAW AND POLICIES IN ITALY

Law no. 184 of May 1983 modified by Law no. 149 of March 2001 on adoption and foster care

Domestic and Intercountry adoption
Who can adopt
Who can be adopted


The Central Authority (D.P.R. 108 of June 2007)
The Accredited Bodies (Guidelines 2005)
Intercountry Adoption is possible only through Accredited Adoption Organizations

Private adoption is NOT allowed

62 Accredited Bodies, 61 private, 1 public

Private organizations do not receive any public contribution for adoption and post-adoption services

Private organizations have to charge all the costs on the families
INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION PROCESS IN ITALY

Adoption:
• The couple applies to a Juvenile court who will issue a decree of suitability

• The couple approaches an adoption organization

• The adoption organization handles the entire process abroad

• The CA authorizes the adopted child’s entry to Italy

• The Juvenile Court orders to transcribe the adoption decision in the registries of civil status.
INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION PROCESS IN ITALY

Post-adoption:

• Public Social Services must guarantee post-adoption services for the first year after the arrival of the child in the family.

• Adoption Organizations are required to provide support to the adoptive families if requested by the adoptive parents (Law 476/98 ART. 31), in cooperation with the local public service.

• Adoption Organizations are also in charge to send to the countries of origin periodic reports about adopted children.
Italian Central Authority (CAI) must ascertain that adoption organizations possess and maintain the necessary legal requirements to carry out all activities concerning adoption procedures.

CAI monitors the work of the accredited organizations.

CAI organizes periodical meetings with representatives of the accredited organizations.

CAI organizes workshops and seminars.
GUIDELINES FOR ACCREDITED ORGANIZATIONS (2005)

Requirements for the accredited bodies in order to:
- obtain the accreditation,
- follow the adoption process,
- be accountable.

Post-adoption:
Adoption Organizations must follow the adoptive families in the post-adoption period, until they are required to send the post-adoption reports to the country of origin of the children.

Subsidiarity:
Adoption Organizations are required to implement cooperation projects to prevent abandonment in the countries where they adopt from.
The number of couples who submit an application in juvenile courts to be declared eligible for intercountry adoption is constantly decreasing.
Adoptions are constantly decreasing

FUTURE TRENDS IN INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION IN ITALY
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The rate of children with health problems and/or disabilities is increasing.

![Chart showing increasing rate of children with health problems and disabilities from 2009 to 2013.](chart.png)
FUTURE TRENDS IN INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION IN ITALY
FUTURE PERSPECTIVES FOR ITALIAN ADOPTION PRACTICE

Adoption Practitioners

- Promoting a professional and ethical approach to intercountry adoption
- Enhancing a strong cooperation among all the actors of the adoption process
- Investing in successful adoptions and children wellbeing
- Training professionals involved in pre and post-adoption services
- Sharing best practices
FUTURE PERSPECTIVES FOR ITALIAN ADOPTION PRACTICE

Adoptive Families

- Preparing always more accurately prospective adoptive parents
- Providing competent, sustainable, professional and long term support to adoptive families.
- Monitoring adoptions through researches on children wellbeing
THANK YOU!

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