

ADOPTION

Doc. pré. No 1
Prel. Doc. No 1

août / August 2009



**QUESTIONNAIRE SUR LES ORGANISMES AGRÉÉS DANS LE CADRE DE LA
CONVENTION DE LA HAYE DU 29 MAI 1993 SUR LA PROTECTION
DES ENFANTS ET LA COOPÉRATION EN MATIÈRE
D'ADOPTION INTERNATIONALE**

établi par le Bureau Permanent

* * *

**QUESTIONNAIRE ON ACCREDITED BODIES IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE
HAGUE CONVENTION OF 29 MAY 1993 ON PROTECTION
OF CHILDREN AND CO-OPERATION IN RESPECT
OF INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION**

drawn up by the Permanent Bureau

*Document préliminaire No 1 d'août 2009 à l'intention de la
Commission spéciale de juin 2010 sur le fonctionnement pratique de la
Convention de La Haye du 29 mai 1993 sur la protection des enfants et
la co-opération en matière d'adoption internationale*

*Preliminary Document No 1 of August 2009 for the attention of the
Special Commission of June 2010 on the practical operation of the
Hague Convention of 29 May 1993 on Protection of Children and
Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption*

**QUESTIONNAIRE SUR LES ORGANISMES AGRÉÉS DANS LE CADRE DE LA
CONVENTION DE LA HAYE DU 29 MAI 1993 SUR LA PROTECTION
DES ENFANTS ET LA COOPÉRATION EN MATIÈRE
D'ADOPTION INTERNATIONALE**

établi par le Bureau Permanent

* * *

**QUESTIONNAIRE ON ACCREDITED BODIES IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE
HAGUE CONVENTION OF 29 MAY 1993 ON PROTECTION
OF CHILDREN AND CO-OPERATION IN RESPECT
OF INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION**

drawn up by the Permanent Bureau

Introduction

The Permanent Bureau is undertaking preparations for the Third Special Commission Meeting to review the practical operation of the *Hague Convention of 29 May 1993 on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption* (1993 Hague Convention), which is to be held in The Hague in June 2010. It is intended that the Special Commission will provide the opportunity for State Parties to the Convention (as well as States which are considering or preparing for ratification or accession) to exchange information and experiences on the operation of the Convention, to compare practices, and to discuss any difficulties in respect of the implementation and practical operation of the Convention.

Following the recommendations of the 2005 Special Commission, and based on the Discussion Paper on Accreditation Issues,¹ the Permanent Bureau is gathering information for a new Guide to Good Practice on Accreditation. The following Questionnaire has been developed for this purpose. Your responses to this Questionnaire will be an invaluable source of information for us in developing the new Guide.

As you know, in many countries, accredited bodies perform the functions of Central Authorities in relation to particular adoptions under the 1993 Hague Convention. The process of accreditation of bodies is one of the Convention's safeguards to protect children during the adoption process. The Convention requires that accredited bodies be not for profit, staffed by qualified and experienced personnel and be subject to supervision by competent authorities (Art. 11). Basic standards are imposed by the Convention to guide the accreditation process. It is implicit in the Convention that States will develop their own accreditation criteria, based on Convention objects and standards and expanded as necessary to meet the requirements of the individual State. The new Guide will include a set of model accreditation criteria.

In addition, according to Article 12, bodies accredited in one State and wishing to operate in another State must be specifically authorised to do so by the competent authority of both States (the accrediting State and the State of operation). In order to clear up some misunderstandings, the new Guide will explain the differences between accreditation and authorisation.

This Questionnaire is addressed to Member States of the Hague Conference and Contracting States to the 1993 Hague Convention. Obviously, it is understood that some questions can only be readily answered by Contracting States. It is also understood that some questions are more relevant to States of origin than to receiving States and vice versa.

As regards all other States which are not yet Party to the Convention, as well as certain intergovernmental organisations and non-governmental international organisations which have also been invited to Special Commissions as Observers, we would welcome from them any comments in respect of any items in the Questionnaire which are considered relevant.

We intend, except where expressly asked not to do so, to place all replies to the Questionnaire on the Hague Conference website. We would therefore request that replies be sent to the Permanent Bureau, if possible by e-mail, to: **secretariat@hcch.net**.

*We would be very grateful for your co-operation in this exercise, and we hope that you will be able to send us your replies to this Questionnaire **by 30 September 2009**.*

¹ "A Discussion Paper on Accreditation Issues", drawn up by Jennifer Degeling, Principal Legal Officer, with the assistance of Carlotta Alloero, Intern.

NAME OF STATE OR ORGANISATION: ROMANIA**EXPLANATIONS AND QUESTIONS**

If a question does not apply to your State, please answer "Not applicable" or "N/A".

Some questions can be answered by marking a box.

Where your answer refers to specific provisions of your law / laws, please cite the law and provision number as it may be a helpful reference in the Guide to Good Practice.

Where your answers can be enhanced by providing a link to an electronic version of a document (*e.g.*, guidelines, criteria), please give that link.

USE OF TERMINOLOGY

There are three situations in which accreditation and authorization (as used in the Convention) may occur. A distinction is to be made between "accreditation" and "authorisation":

- (1) adoption bodies are accredited in the receiving State to work in States of origin (Arts 10, 11) (1993 Hague Convention terminology: **accreditation**);
- (2) those adoption accredited bodies of receiving States are granted authorisation in the State of origin with a view to arranging the adoption (Art. 12) (1993 Hague Convention terminology: **authorisation**);
- (3) bodies in the State of origin are accredited by it to work with foreign bodies of the receiving State with a view to adoption (Arts 10, 11) (1993 Hague Convention terminology: **accreditation**).

NB: FOR STATES OF ORIGIN, PLEASE MAKE IT CLEAR IN YOUR ANSWERS IF YOU ARE REFERRING TO YOUR OWN ACCREDITED BODIES OR TO FOREIGN ACCREDITED BODIES WORKING IN YOUR STATE.

A. General policy issues concerning accreditation

1. In your State what terminology do you use for the situations described in (1), (2) and (3) above? Is it the same or different? If different, please specify, define and indicate if you intend to use your own terminology to answer the following questions.

Romania uses the same terminology for the situations described in (1), (2) and (3) above.

Further more, under the Government Decision no. 1441/2004 on the authorisation of foreign private bodies with a view to carry out activities in the field of intercountry adoption and as regards the non-Hague states there is the obligation that the foreign bodies be accredited in the foreign state, authorised in Romania and cooperation agreements between the public authority in the foreign state with attributions in intercountry adoption and the Romanian Office for Adoptions be concluded.

2. Is your State a receiving State or a State of origin or both?
Both
3. Have you informed the Permanent Bureau all of the details of bodies accredited by your State, as required by Article 13? Is the information which is currently on the Hague Conference website up to date?

Romania has informed the Permanent Bureau and the information on the Hague Conference website is up to date. According to Law no. 273/2004 on the legal status of

adoption, enforced on 1st of January 2005, the participation of private institutions in the intercountry adoption procedure that takes place in Romania is forbidden. The prohibition also applies to their members or staff, with the exception of the case when they are in the position of adopter or adopting family. The Romanian authorities may cooperate in intercountry adoption cases with private institutions which are conducting their activity on the territory of the receiving state, only if these institutions are accredited by the respective state and are authorized in accordance with the Romanian legislation.

The authorizations issued by the former Romanian Committee for Adoptions, based on the Government Decision no. 245/1997 on the authorization criteria for private institutions which conduct activities focusing on the protection of children's rights through adoption, ceased to be valid on the date when the current law came into force.

If your State has decided not to use accredited bodies, please explain the reasons and indicate what has influenced the decision. Please answer any questions that are relevant to your State's situation.

Prior to the reform of the child protection and adoption systems Romania was criticised by the international community for the abuses that occurred in intercountry adoption. The activity of most of the private bodies involved in intercountry adoption in Romania was related to irregularities which affected the intercountry adoption procedure and led to practices which did not pursue the best interest of the child. Thus by the new legislation enforced in 2005 the Romanian accredited bodies are only involved in national adoption. Intercountry adoption is done through the Central authority in the field, the Romanian Office for Adoptions; the procedural stages prior to the referral of the intercountry adoption files to the Court of law are carried out through the central authority which can collaborate with the foreign accredited bodies that are authorised by Romania.

4. How do you define "accreditation" and "accredited body" in your State?

The law does not provide definitions of the terms. The terminology is used according to the Hague Convention of 29 May 1993 on protection of children and co-operation in respect of intercountry adoption.

5. Do the following categories of actors come within the definition of accredited body (are they included as accredited body staff, employees or personnel)?

- facilitators (if they exist in your State, please specify their role)
- national representatives of foreign accredited body
- translators
- lawyers (e.g., with a power of attorney from prospective adopters)
- guide, drivers, etc.

In Romania there are no accredited bodies with activity in intercountry adoption.

If these actors are not employees of the accredited body, what is their legal relationship, if any, to the accredited body?

Not applicable.

6. As at 30 September 2009, what is the current number of accredited bodies in your State, state or province? If possible, please indicate how many bodies have been refused accreditation, have lost their accreditation or discontinued their activities since 1 January 2006, and for what reason.
0 (zero)

7. Do you think the number of accredited bodies accredited by, or operating in your State is proportional to the number of intercountry adoptions taking place? If not, do you intend to take any appropriate measures?

Not applicable.

8. Do you impose any limits on the number of accredited bodies which are granted accreditation in your State? If yes, on what grounds are limits imposed?

In Romania there are no accredited bodies with activity in intercountry adoption.

9. Does the Central Authority or the accredited body make the choice of the foreign States with which the accredited body could work (if authorisation were to be given)?

Not applicable.

Receiving State questions

10. (i) Receiving States: does the grant of accreditation automatically include an authorisation to act in:
- a) any State of origin;
 - b) a specified State / States of origin?

The intercountry adoption procedure in Romania is carried out through the Central Authority in the field, The Romanian Office for Adoptions. The Court of law intervenes in each stage of adoption including the final stage of adoption approval.

- (ii) Do you limit the number of accredited bodies for every State of origin? ----

In Romania there are no accredited bodies with activity in intercountry adoption.

B. Organisation and structures

11. On which subjects does the accredited body have to provide evidence to, or inform, the Central Authority or other competent authority to obtain or maintain accreditation? Please tick relevant box:

- Composition of the accredited body's personnel and any changes
- Qualifications and experience of personnel
- Resolution of the board of governors attesting that the body is bound by ethical principles and rules of professional conduct
- Internal statute, regulations and guidelines of accredited body, including
 - documents which demonstrate the legal constitution of the accredited body
 - financial management and accounting practices
- Costs and expenses charged by accredited body
- Copy of the terms of collaboration between the accredited body and the body or person to whom the body entrusts responsibilities in performance of the adoption procedure
- Budget forecasts for 12-24-36 months
- Copy of the standard-form contract between the body and adoptive candidate
- Insurance for legal liability
- Other – please provide details

Not applicable.

Receiving State questions

- ❑ Certified true copy of an official version of the legislation of the State of origin with which the accredited body will co-operate
- ❑ Contracts with foreign collaborators or intermediaries, their qualifications and mode of payment (monthly salary / flat rate for every adoption)
- ❑ Agreements with orphanages in the countries of origin or internal regulations relating to the handling of cases, and confidentiality rules
- ❑ Copy of the statement of authorisation or approval to work in the State of origin if applicable
- ❑ Evidence of knowledge of the situation (cultural, social and legal) in the State of origin
- ❑ Evidence of knowledge of the adoption law and practice in the State of origin, and understanding of the role of counterparts in the State of origin

Not applicable.

12. Is it compulsory for staff of an accredited body to be professionally qualified? If yes, which professions? (*e.g.*, lawyers, psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers, etc).

Not applicable.

13. If volunteers are used, what is the ratio of volunteers to professional staff?

Not applicable.

14. Are your accredited bodies required to sign a contract or agreement with the prospective adoptive parents? In general, what are the obligations of accredited bodies to adoptive candidates?

Not applicable.

15. What are the role and responsibility of the Central Authority or competent authorities with respect to the training of accredited bodies?

Not applicable.

16. Are your accredited bodies required to have internal guidelines for carrying out tasks related to adoptions including guidelines on confidentiality of information?

Not applicable.

17. Are your accredited bodies required to keep the adoption records for a certain number of years? How many years?

Not applicable.

C. Accreditation procedure

18. Please provide details (including powers and resources) of the authority or authorities which grant accreditation. Briefly describe the procedure to obtain accreditation.

Not applicable.

19. Please give a brief outline of your accreditation criteria, guidelines or legislation. If possible, please provide an electronic copy of your accreditation criteria, guidelines

or legislation, and any translations into English, French or Spanish.

Not applicable.

20. Is there a central registry of all accredited bodies?

Not applicable.

21. For how long is the accreditation granted?

Not applicable.

22. What are the conditions for renewal of accreditation?

Not applicable.

D. Authorisation of foreign accredited bodies

23. In your State how do you define "authorisation" in the context of Article 12? Do you have criteria for authorisation?

The law does not provide a definition for authorisation. The term is use according to the Hague Convention on protection of children and co-operation in respect of intercountry adoption

Yes.

24. Who makes the decision to authorise accredited bodies in accordance with Article 12? Is your process of authorisation formal or informal? Please describe the process.

The Romanian Office for Adoptions makes the decision to authorise accredited bodies. The foreign accredited bodies have to fulfill the following conditions for authorization:

- a) be a legal entity in the foreign state;*
- b) have their head office on the territory of a Hague-state or of a state who concluded a cooperation agreement with Romania (for the foreign bodies from non-Hague states)*
- c) be accredited by the competent authorities in the foreign state for intercountry adoption activities*
- d) have non-lucrative purposes*
- e) be headed and administrated by professionally qualified and with moral integrity persons*
- f) be supervised by the competent authorities in the foreign state where they have their head office (regarding their structure, function and financial status)*

The foreign accredited bodies fill their authorization request to the Romanian Office for Adoptions.

The following documents join the authorization request:

- a) their status as it is registered in the foreign state*
- b) the document which attests the quality of legal entity and their attributions in the field of intercountry adoption issued by the foreign competent authorities*
- c) documents regarding their structure and stuff*
- d) a history of their activities and recomandations from their collaborater and form the supervising foreign authority;*
- f) description of the planned activities and of the working methodology*
- g) their commitment to send to the Romanian Office for Adoption only the adoption requests submitted by families with whom the body concluded an agreement regarding the post-adoption monitor of the child by qualified persons for at least two years since the entry of the child on the foreign state*
- h) their commitment to send yearly activity reports to the Romanian Office for Adoptions with a view to renew their authorization as well regular reports if requested*

i) their commitment to send to the Romanian Office for Adoption quarterly post-adoption reports

The Romanian Office for Adoptions can request further information if needed from the foreign competent authorities.

25. Is the Permanent Bureau informed of the authorisations?²

The Romanian Office for Adoptions has not received any authorisation request since January 2005.

Receiving State questions

26. As a receiving State, can you provide the current numbers of accredited bodies authorised for individual countries of origin?

In Romania there are no accredited bodies with activity in intercountry adoption.

27. On what basis does the accredited body seek authorisation to work in a State of origin?

Not applicable.

28. What factors or criteria are relevant for the Central Authority (or competent authority) to consider when giving or denying authorisation to work in a State of origin?

Not applicable.

State of origin questions

29. As a State of origin, have you authorised foreign accredited bodies to undertake intercountry adoptions in your State (see Art. 12)? How many accredited bodies are currently authorised and from which receiving countries? How many were authorised as at 31 December 2005?

There has been no request in this respect since the 1st of January 2005. The authorizations issued by the former Romanian Committee for Adoptions, based on the Government Decision no. 245/1997 on the authorization criteria for private institutions which conduct activities focusing on the protection of children's rights through adoption, ceased to be valid on the date when the law no. 272/2004 came into force.

30. As a State of origin, is the foreign accredited body required to be fully accredited by your State and by your procedures, rather than simply "authorised"?

No, just authorised.

31. As a State of origin, how do you decide how many foreign accredited bodies are needed in your State?

32. Countries of origin: If you authorise a foreign accredited body to "act" in your State, does this mean:

² "Where a body accredited in one Contracting State is, in accordance with Article 12, authorised to act in another Contracting State, such authorisation should be communicated to the Permanent Bureau by the competent authorities of both States without delay", Recommendation No 3 of the 2005 Special Commission (reaffirming Recommendation No 2 of the 2000 Special Commission).

- a) the foreign accredited body must establish an office with professional staff (nationals of the State of origin or of the receiving State)?
No
- b) the foreign accredited body can "act" in your State through an individual facilitator or intermediary?
No
- c) the foreign accredited body does not have an office or intermediary in the State of origin and it liaises directly with the Central Authority?

Yes

33. Countries of origin: have you experienced any difficulties with foreign accredited bodies working with or in your State?

We have not received any authorisation requests since 1st January 2005.

E. Supervision and review of accredited bodies

34. How do you supervise bodies accredited in your State (Art. 11 c))? Are regular reports required such as annual reports (including financial reports) from the accredited body to the supervising authority?

Not applicable.

35. What supervision occurs in the State of origin of authorised foreign accredited bodies?

The activity of the foreign accredited bodies is supervised by the competent authorities in the state which granted them accreditation. The foreign accredited bodies have the obligation to send yearly activity report to the Romanian Office for Adoptions.

36. How is the performance of the accredited body assessed or evaluated?

Not applicable.

37. Does the supervising authority have the power to make regular inspections of and reports on the accredited bodies? Have secrecy or privacy laws hindered inspections?

Not applicable.

38. Do you require accredited bodies to report on any problems with intercountry adoptions, such as problems with particular countries, procedural problems or problems with implementation of the 1993 Hague Convention (see Convention Art. 33)?

Not applicable.

39. Does your law have provisions to deal with breach of duties or breach of the conditions of accreditation by accredited bodies? *E.g.*, Suspension or revocation of accreditation or authorisation? Other penalties / measures? Please give details.

The Romanian Office for Adoptions can decide to suspend or withdraw the authorisation of foreign accredited bodies when the body stops fulfilling the conditions and the requirements of the Romanian legislation and does not respect the legal provisions in the field and its commitments.

40. If accreditation has been suspended or withdrawn and is later re-instated, what conditions, if any, apply after re-instatement?

Based on a decision of the Court of law following a complaint in this respect.

41. Is it possible to suspend or withdraw accreditation if the general situation in the State no longer offers the necessary guarantees for intercountry adoptions?

By the new legislation enforced in 2005 the Romanian private bodies are only involved in national adoption. Intercountry adoption is done through the Central authority in the field, the Romanian Office for Adoptions and by the Court of law. Currently, intercountry adoption in Romania may only be approved if the adopter or one of the spouses in the adopting family who have the domicile abroad is up to and including 3rd degree relative of the child for whom the petition for internal adoption initiation has been approved.

42. Are there restrictions upon activities of accredited bodies (e.g., advertising their services; advertising, including on the internet, of adoptable children; limits on amounts that can be charged for fees and other expenses)?

In Romania there are no accredited bodies for intercountry adoption.

43. Are you aware of any acts or behaviour by accredited bodies that contravened your accreditation criteria? Please also provide details of any sanctions or penalties applied?

Not applicable.

44. What are the means used by the authorities supervising accredited bodies in order to improve good practices or remedy breaches in relation to requirements for accreditation or as regards to behaviour?

Not applicable.

45. Is there collaboration among the accredited bodies working in the same State of origin, or in different countries? If so, what kind of collaboration?

Not applicable.

46. Is the information on each accredited body's website regularly checked by the supervising authority? By an authority in the State of origin with which it co-operates?

Not applicable.

F. Financial issues

47. How are your accredited bodies financed?

In Romania there are no accredited bodies for intercountry adoption.

48. How are fees and charges set? E.g., by accredited bodies themselves, by a public authority. Is there bilateral co-operation between your State and other countries to establish appropriate fees for the 2 countries concerned?

Not applicable.

49. Is detailed information about all the fees, charges and costs associated with an intercountry adoption available easily to adoptive candidates and other authorities?
50. How and when is that information provided to adoptive candidates?
51. How is financial transparency and accountability of accredited bodies achieved? *E.g.*, by standard bookkeeping? Receipts and proof of purchases? Reports submitted with financial statement?

Not applicable.

52. Do you allow donations to be paid to children's homes by the accredited bodies or prospective adoptive parents? Under what conditions?
Donations and sponsorships are forbidden by law, and so is the offer by the adopter or the adopting family, either in their own name or through intermediaries, either directly or indirectly, to provide any unlawful material profits to the Office, to the departments involved or to the physical persons working in the public institutions involved in the adoption process
53. The costs relating to adoption are extremely difficult to evaluate. Can you state the average amount or range (smallest to highest amount payable) for the following items.

Costs in the receiving State

- a) registration with an accredited body,
- b) administrative costs, establishment and sending of the adoptive candidate's documents, etc.
- c) costs for adoption training and preparation courses for prospective adoptive parents: free of charge, they are carried out by the public social services
- d) cost of procurement of statutory documents (birth or marriage certificates, psychosocial report, etc.)
- e) cost of human resources (salaried staff) of the body in the receiving State and in the State of origin
- f) cost of professional services in the receiving State (*e.g.*, lawyers, notaries, doctors)
- g) other – please specify.

Costs in the State of origin

- a) the body's administrative costs,
 - b) cost of procurement of statutory documents (birth or marriage certificates, psychosocial report, etc.),
 - c) co-ordination of the case through (in-country staff of) the accredited body,
 - d) cost of professional services (lawyers, interpreters, guides, drivers, etc) in the State of origin,
 - e) cost of filing of the documents with the appropriate authorities,
 - f) translation and assistance,
 - g) legal or administrative costs in the State of origin,
 - h) transport and hotel costs for the adoptive parents,
 - i) humanitarian contribution and donation to the orphanage, etc.,
 - j) other – please specify.
54. What is the relation between adoption fees (and contributions) and actual costs? Is it calculated for the whole budget of the accredited body, or per State, or does each adoption carry its own costs? How is the relation between fees and actual costs supervised?

55. What general comments can you give about costs of intercountry adoption (from the perspective of your own State and in other countries?)

State of origin questions

56. In the State of origin, who is responsible for the co-ordination of the costs: an accredited body's employee? A third-party? In case of a third-party, how is he selected? How is he financed? How is he evaluated? What mechanisms are in place to ensure that these costs are reasonable and transparent? What are the factors that make these costs vary from one adoptive file to another?

G. Operational issues

57. Which are the tasks carried out by accredited bodies in your State? Tick boxes if applicable. For countries of origin, please specify if your own national accredited bodies or foreign accredited bodies perform the tasks.

Receiving State questions

In Romania there are no accredited bodies for intercountry adoption.

- Determination of eligibility of prospective adoptive parents (legal criteria)
- Evaluation of suitability of prospective adoptive parents (psychosocial criteria)
- Decision granting approval for the prospective adoptive parents to adopt
- Information and preparation of adoptive parents for intercountry adoption
- Make the matching decision
- Counselling of PAPs about child proposed to them (the proposed match)
- Agreements under article 17 of the 1993 Hague Convention
- Arrange to file documents with Court or authority of State of origin
- Report to supervising authority on status of the adoption
- Assist PAPs with Travel preparations
- Follow, know, understand, and supervise the procedure for the adoption
- Other tasks: please provide details

State of origin questions

Only the foreign accredited bodies and authorised by Romania are permitted in intercountry adoption.

- Assessment of the adoptability of a child: the Court of law at the recommendation of the public social services
- Work with birth parents on family preservation to avoid adoption of the child: the public social services
- Decision on the adoptability of a child: the Court of law
- Counselling and information for birth parents / consequences of consent: the public social services
- Obtaining Consent: the Court of law
- Search for parents in cases of abandonment: the public social services
- Assume responsibility for the child prior to the adoption: the public social services
- Prepare the child for adoption: the public social services
- Agreements under Article 17 of the 1993 Hague Convention: Romanian Office for Adoptions
- File adoption documents with court or authority
- Search for socio-biological background information of child and birth family and reunion with birth family: the public social services
- Make the matching decision: Romanian Office for Adoptions
- Preparation of the adoptive child

- ❑ Assistance provided to the adoptive parents during their stay: the public social services in collaboration with the Romanian Office for Adoptions
- ❑ Other tasks: please provide details.
The foreign accredited bodies can collaborate with the Romanian Office for Adoptions on obtaining and sending the family documents and on achieving their attributions as they were accredited by the foreign state

H. Post adoption services and reports

58. What post adoption services do your accredited bodies offer (e.g., counselling and family support)? Is provision of post adoption services one of the conditions of accreditation?

Post-adoption services are provided by the public social services in the area where the domicile of the child. They also provide post-adoption counselling at the adoptive family's request.

The foreign accredited bodies or the Central authority in the receiving state are required to send quarterly post-adoption reports to the Romanian Office for Adoptions.

59. Are there any publicly funded post adoption services?

Yes

Receiving states questions

60. Do accredited bodies have to provide regular reports on the child? To whom are the reports sent e.g., Central Authorities of State of origin and of receiving State? Other?

In Romania there are no accredited bodies for intercountry adoption.

61. Do your accredited bodies prepare the post adoption report or do they ask the adoptive parents to prepare it and send it to the State of origin? If a public authority is responsible for post adoption reporting, please explain.

Post-adoptions reports are within the responsibility of the Romanian public social services also according to the requirements of the origin state.

62. How do you monitor the obligation to the State of origin to send post adoption reports?

In case the public social services do not fulfil their obligation, the Romanian Office for Adoptions – institution which coordinates and supervises the adoption activities - can advance sanction proposal.

J. Approved (non accredited) bodies and persons³

63. Does your State permit approved (non-accredited) bodies or persons (see Art. 22(2)) to arrange intercountry adoptions. If not, go to Question 68. If yes,
No.

³ The term "non-accredited person" was used in the Explanatory Report of Professor Parra-Aranguren to refer to the person in Art. 22(2). Some countries now employ the term "approved person" when referring to person in Art. 22(2). However, the 2005 Questionnaire responses revealed enormous confusion when the term "approved persons" was used. Consequently, the Guide to Good Practice has followed the usage of the Explanatory Report to try to improve the public's understanding of the functions of these particular persons. The term "approved (non-accredited) person" is a compromise to retain the precision of the Explanatory Report, but recognises the usage by some countries of the term "approved person".

64. Have you informed the Permanent Bureau of the details of approved (non-accredited) bodies or persons in your State, as required by Article 22(3)? Is the information which is currently on the Hague Conference website up to date?
65. What are the guidelines by which approval is granted?
66. What is the process by which approval is granted and renewed?
67. How is the supervision of approved (non-accredited) bodies or persons carried out in your State (Art. 22(2))?
68. Has your State made a declaration under Article 22(4) to prohibit the involvement of approved (non-accredited) bodies or persons in intercountry adoptions?
No.
69. Are you aware of any acts or behaviour by approved (non-accredited) bodies or persons that contravened their conditions of approval? Please also provide details of any sanctions or penalties applied.
Not applicable.

State of origin questions

70. As a State of origin, do you allow approved (non-accredited) persons or bodies from abroad to "act" in your State (as a similar procedure to authorisation of accredited bodies under Art. 12)?
No.

K. Development aid activities

71. Are accredited bodies required to or permitted to engage in humanitarian projects or development co-operation activities in countries of origin?
In Romania there are no accredited bodies for intercountry adoption.
72. What types of activities are undertaken?
Not applicable.
73. How do you ensure that the humanitarian aid does not influence or jeopardize the integrity of the intercountry adoption process (*e.g.*, by the expectation of a regular "supply" of children in exchange for regular humanitarian or development aid)?

L. Co-operation between countries

74. Have you experienced any difficulties in obtaining assistance or co-operation from other Central Authorities in regard to accredited bodies?
Not applicable.
75. Have you experienced any difficulties or concerns regarding the supervision of accredited bodies in other countries?
Not applicable.
76. Have you experienced any difficulties with other countries or Central Authorities because you do not use accredited bodies?
No.

77. Are there any particular aspects of your accreditation procedures *e.g.*, good practices that you would like to bring to the attention of other States?
78. Do you have any other comments about any of the topics covered by this Questionnaire?

The contracting states do not have a unitary methodology regarding the fulfilment of their obligation of post-adoption survey and preparation of post-adoption reports.

State of origin questions

79. Have you experienced any pressure from foreign accredited bodies?

Since 2005 we have not experienced pressure from foreign accredited bodies.