

Interpedia 2015



Interpedia



Photo: Tuukka Ervasti



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Time of renewal

Changes in the fields of intercountry adoption and development cooperation are prevalent both in Finland and in our cooperation countries. Year 2015 was no exception.

In Interpedia's adoption service, the year 2015 will be remembered as the year of big changes. Two partnerships ended and two new partnerships were formed. Despite these changes, the number of children that arrived in Finland was almost at the normal level and Interpedia's operation remained stable. At the moment we are the biggest adoption service provider in Finland and we can be content with our cooperation with all our partner countries.

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The need for post-adoption services continues to grow and the related inquiries have increased. In the course of last year, we and other adoption service providers together brought to the attention of the authorities our concern regarding the funding of post-adoption services. We think that the internationally adopted need professional post-adoption service and support when looking for information about their background.

The government cuts in development assistance brought some challenges to our development cooperation. The retrenchment is understandable but we would have hoped for a gradual and controlled deduction instead of sudden cuts. The consequences of the fast decisions now became

a burden for our cooperating partners and jeopardized the sustainability of the work.

Due to the cuts the future of development cooperation needed to be planned again in order to adjust the operation and ensure continuity. We will still continue our work with our local professional cooperating partners, to develop the education and protection of thousands of children. The support of sponsors, donors and members plays an even more important part in the future of development cooperation.

The role of global education has increased in our work and we continued school visits around Finland through "What did I learn today?" (Mitä opin tänään?) project. The purpose and quality of learning are important topics for students to think about and at the same time they can familiarize with the thoughts and everyday of Nepalese students. Getting to know a different culture decreases prejudice and adds children's and youth's understanding of the reality of developing countries.

For the past year I would like to thank especially all children: adoptees, sponsored children and students participating in the global education workshops. Thank you for making our work so meaningful and rewarding. A warm thanks also to all our members, clients, sponsors, cooperating partners in adoption and development work, funders, cooperation networks and Interpedia's committed Board and staff, for trust and cooperation.

Anja Ojuva
Executive Director



The Position of Interpedia's Adoption Services Remains Strong

There were some significant changes in the cooperative partnerships of Interpedia's adoption services in 2015. The cooperation with Ethiopia and Kenya ended and new cooperative relationships with Bulgaria and Taiwan were established. Thus Interpedia still has seven contact countries. During the year, the outlook of intercountry adoptions became more positive. At the end of the year it was possible to send applications to all contact countries, and the waiting times became shorter in some of them.

The number of children arriving in Finland through intercountry adoptions declined slightly compared with the previous year. In total, 58 children arrived in Finland through Interpedia (2014:71 and 2013: 64). Since 1985 a total of 2076 children have been adopted to Finland through Interpedia.

Interpedia's share as adoption service provider grew again. Our share was 62% of all children adopted internationally through adoption agencies (in 2014: 50%). Our position remains strong and in comparison with other Nordic adoption agencies we hold the fifth place.

INTERPEDIA'S STRENGTHS IN THE CHANGING FIELD OF ADOPTION WERE:

1. TAILORED ADOPTION WORK AND CLOSE CONTACTS WITH THE CLIENTS

The employees of Interpedia's adoption services keep in touch with the applicants as regularly as possible during the waiting time. At the moment, the adoption processes are extremely tailored, so knowing the clients well plays a vital role in keeping up the quality of adoption work. This is also supported by using the service plan for clients.

The adoption contacts appreciate applicants who are well prepared. In contact countries, there is primarily a need for applicants who are prepared to give a home to a child with special needs. This has also increased the need for adoption services to work in close cooperation with the consulting physicians.

2. STRONG COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIPS BOTH IN FINLAND AND ABROAD

From an international point of view, the three adoption service providers operating in Finland – Interpedia, Save the Children Finland and the Social Services Department of the City of Helsinki – work in exceptionally close cooperation. The service providers have regular meetings during the year and they also share work groups. They work in cooperation when arranging business trips and receiving visitors from contact countries. They also arrange adoption-related information events together.

The employees of Interpedia's adoption services visited several contact countries and met partners and authorities dealing with adoptions. Also visitors from partner organizations came to Finland. The meetings strengthened the cooperation and mutual trust. The dialogue increases understanding of each other's methods of operation and the reality surrounding both partners.

The professionalism of the organizations and working from the heart is fundamental. "If there is mutual trust, we dare to talk about sensitive issues even though we disagree. That is dialogue for the common cause – the children," adds Ms. Elmeranta.

– Ms Inkeri Kantola's post in Interpedia blog 9 July 2015

Close Nordic and European cooperation among adoption organizations gives our work depth, effectiveness and savings when we share knowledge, experiences and costs. Most visits by authorities from the contact countries are arranged in cooperation with other Nordic countries. This has also expanded our cooperation in many ways to a more concrete level.

During their business trips, the employees of adoption services also met the members of the staff of the Finnish Embassies in the contact countries. They also visited the Embassies of the contact countries here in Finland.

3. A COMMITTED STAFF

Adoption work is demanding intercountry child protection and social work, but there is no education preparing for it. An experienced and committed staff makes an essential part of a high quality adoption work.

4. ANTICIPATING AND PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

The field of international adoptions is ever-changing. The situations in the contact countries sometimes change rapidly because of, for example, political reasons. In order to develop and continue the operations, resources and flexibility are needed.

"Even though the decline in the number of international adoptions is a global phenomenon, we have been able to continue our good relationships and renew our operations where needed"

– Ms Anja Ojuva

THE DIRECTORS OF ABBA VISIT EUROPE

The Directors of our South African partner Abba Adoptions, Ms Katinka Pieterse and Ms Rene Ferreira, visited Finland in April 2015. Ms Pieterse and Ms Ferreira met Interpedia's employees and also their partners from the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Germany at the Interpedia office. "Abba is a good partner for us and our cooperation runs smoothly," said Ms Anja Ojuva, the Executive Director of Interpedia.



Ms. Rene Ferreira, second from the right and Ms. Katinka Pieterse, fifth from the right

ADOPTION COOPERATION WITH ETHIOPIA ENDED

Intercountry adoptions from Ethiopia to Finland ended in the spring of 2015. The Ethiopian adoptions have been changing for several years already and the number of adoptions has decreased significantly. However, Interpedia's relationship with this longstanding partner goes on as development cooperation, and the child sponsorship programme continues as before. We are also following the development of adoption situation in the country and participate in the discussion about Ethiopia in the EurAdopt network. Those who need the post-adoption services can also turn to us the same way as before.

A BUSINESS TRIP TO KENYA

Ms Salla Hari, the Chief of Adoption Services at Interpedia and Ms Eija Kiiskinen, Adoption Coordinator, visited Kenya on business in May 2015. They met the staff of adoption service provider Little Angels Network, other cooperation partners and some of the last Finnish adoptive families in the country. The Kenyan Government ceased intercountry adoptions at the end of the year 2014. At the moment nobody can tell what the future of intercountry adoptions in Kenya is.

THE REPRESENTATIVES OF CHINESE CCCWA ON BUSINESS IN FINLAND

The representatives of Interpedia's adoption contact and the Chinese central authority for adoption affairs China Centre for Children's Welfare and Adoption (CCCWA) visited Finland in June 2015. The representatives of CCCWA have been especially satisfied with the cooperation with Finland. They were also pleased to meet some Finnish adoptive families at Interpedia's office and see their happy children.



ON BUSINESS IN COLOMBIA

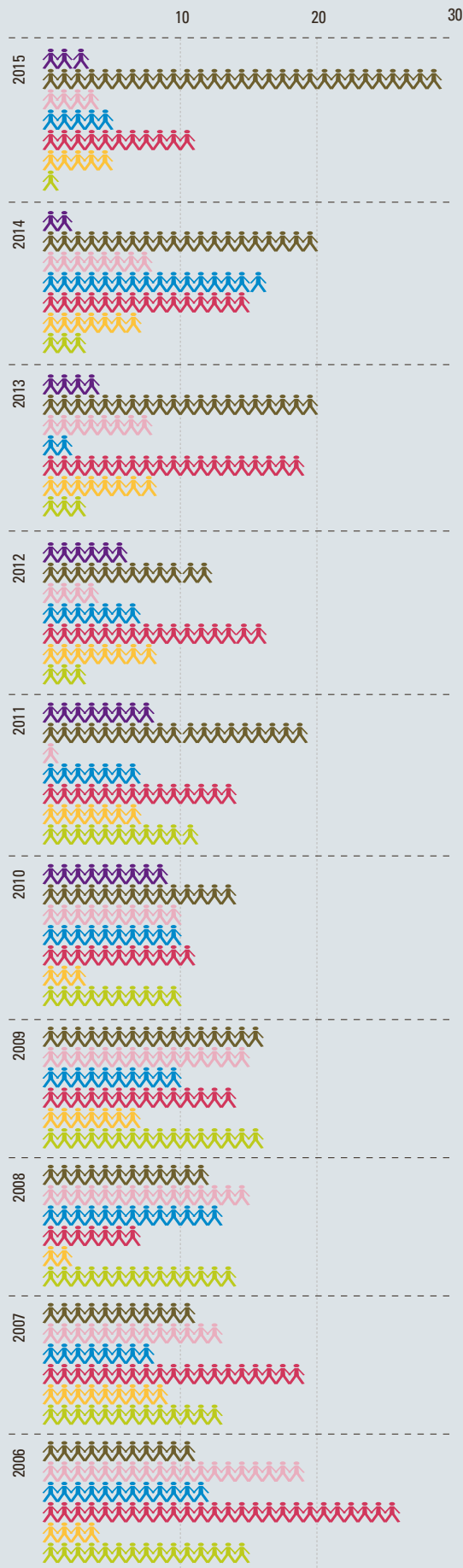
Ms Anja Ojuva, the Executive Director of Interpedia and Ms Marika Elmeranta, Adoption Coordinator, visited Colombia in November 2015. They had negotiations with our partnership organizations and visited children's homes. "The cooperation with private children's homes runs especially smoothly at the moment," said Ms Elmeranta

ON BUSINESS IN THAILAND

Ms Salla Hari, the Chief of Adoption Services and Ms Eija Kiiskinen, Adoption Coordinator, visited Thailand in November 2015. They met with our partnership organizations at the DCY Adoption Center and at the children's home. The adoption prospects in Thailand are positive and the waiting times have become shorter.



Adoptees Arrived in Finland through Interpedia 2006–2015



In 2015 children from closed contacts (Ethiopia and Kenya) were still arriving in Finland. So far, no children from new contacts (Bulgaria and Taiwan) have arrived.





Client satisfaction survey

Interpedia collected feedback from the clients of adoption service in spring 2016. The target group were families who had adopted a child or children through Interpedia during 2015, as well as all Interpedia's other active applicants.

There is still room for improvement especially in responding to emails. However the total result improved from the previous year and most of the respondents (84%) felt that Interpedia was good or very good as a service provider.

"Thank you for the compassionate and customer-oriented service"

"You are doing a very good job and we are many who are grateful! Of course it can sometimes be easily frustrating when it's so difficult to get hold of you... 😊"

Communication and information seminars

The information events on adoption and contact countries were a central part of adoption service activities. During the year 2015 Interpedia continued organising information seminars for adoptive applicants also outside the capital area: in Joensuu and Pietarsaari. A seminar on the pick-up trip for families with children was organised for the first time in spring 2015. During the year, Interpedia organised 30 information events in Finnish as well as 2 bilingual information events.

Together with other adoption organisations, Interpedia organised an adoption theme day including a medical lecture, a training event on post-adoption services and a training event for adopted children's grandparents and other close people.

"The speakers seemed to agree that the close family and friends can support the adoptive family from the start, but basic care is the role of the parents' themselves especially in the beginning so that the child gets first attached to the parents."

Anju describes her experiences as an adoptee. "By baking carelian pies together with my grandmother, I became a part of my family's story, a part of the chain of generations." Mutual experiences, support and care help the adoptee to become part of the family and the community. Grandparents and other close people play a very important role in this."

– Minna Ala-Orvola reports from an information seminar in Interpedia's blog 25 March 2015



Photo: Pieta Turkkka

Interpedia's post-adoption service

The number of clients in post-adoption services continues to grow due to the increasing need. Good quality post-adoption service requires time and human resources.

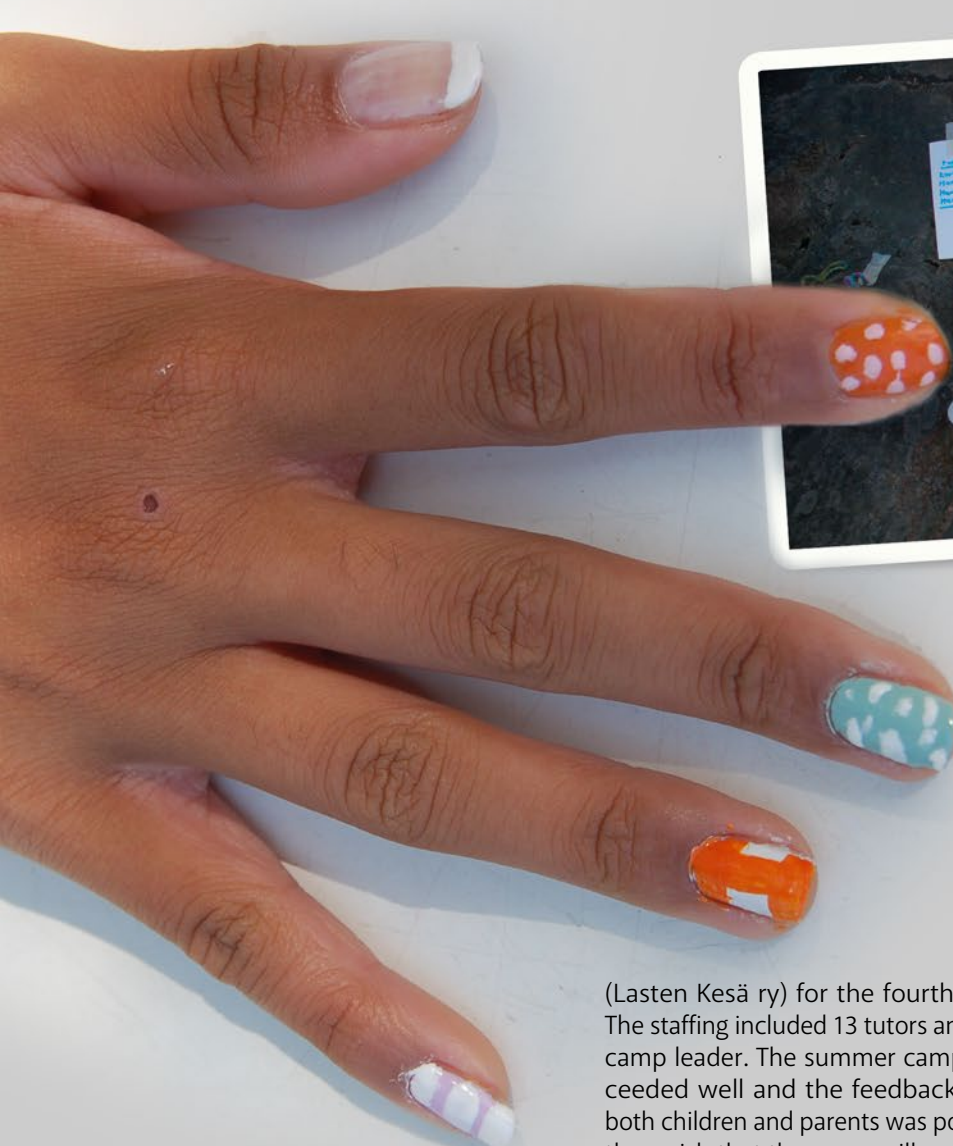
Clients contact Interpedia when they wish to know more about their background or when they need support in organising a root-seeking trip. At Interpedia's office the client can familiarize with the archived documents with adoption service's support. Sometimes the client will be supported in finding out more information about the birth country.

Post-adoption service also responds to queries coming from the birth country. In this case Interpedia contacts the adoptee and supports him or her in receiving the information. If there have been changes in the target country's practices that affect the families who have adopted from the country in question, these families will be informed.

In addition to the regular post-adoption client service and archiving, Interpedia continued developing post-adoption statistics. The adoption service providers brought to the attention of the Adoption Board the problematic fact that the new adoption law does not allow funding post-adoption services through customer fees.

Interpedia's summer camp

for internationally adopted children and youth



The summer camp market offered different services and products that the participants had designed themselves. The currency of payment was "akki" money.

Interpedia organised a week-long summer camp for internationally adopted children and youth in summer 2015. 81 children and youth participated in the summer camp (in 2014: 72 participants). The participants were 8–17 years old. Interpedia's summer camp reaches internationally adopted children and youth widely as half of the participants have been adopted through Interpedia and half of them through other service providers.

The summer camp was organised in Hauho holiday centre in cooperation with Children's Summer Association

(Lasten Kesä ry) for the fourth time. The staffing included 13 tutors and one camp leader. The summer camp succeeded well and the feedback from both children and parents was positive; they wish that the camp will continue to be organised in future years. Interpedia's goal is to continuously develop the summer camp activities in order to better respond to the needs of the adoptees. Social Worker Malla Jauhiainen and Organisation Officer Minna Ala-Orvola, who are responsible for post-adoption services, visited the camp.

"Visiting the summer camp was important for my own work. It was nice to talk to the adoptees and observe what they were doing. I was impressed by the eager and motivated tutors as well!"

– Malla Jauhiainen

Interpedia's summer camps are supported by Ministry of Education and Culture. The summer camps enable internationally adopted children and youth living in different parts of Finland to meet and get peer support, and the camps are a very important part of post-adoption services.

"I want to come to Interpedia's summer camp because I get new friends and I can get to know other people. It is also a chance to meet up with friends who live far."

– A participant from the 2015 summer camp

Finnish and international memberships

Interpedia is a member of the Plenary of the Adoption Board of Valvira, the National Supervisory Authority for Welfare and Health in Finland. The role of the Plenary is to monitor developments around adoption and make initiatives in relation to adoption issues when necessary.

The Executive Director represents Interpedia in the Advisory Board of Preventive Child Welfare in the Finnish Central Union for Child Welfare. Interpedia is also represented in the adoption counselling mentor group of All Our Children organisation.

The Executive Director continued as Finland's vice representative to the EurAdopt Council. Interpedia's representatives also participated in the Nordic Adoption Council seminar in September 2015.

Interpedia's representative to NAC Board

Nordic Adoption Council, the umbrella organisation of Nordic adoption organisations, held a seminar in Oslo during 25th – 26th September 2015. The theme of this year's meeting was "Adopting Children with Special Needs". The next open seminar will be organised by NAC in Finland in 2017.

The seminar was followed by NAC General Assembly where the new board was selected for the council. Interpedia's Senior Adoption Coordinator Marika Elmeranta was elected as the representative of Finland, and the Head of Adoption Services Irene Pärssinen-Hentula from Save the Children Finland was elected as the vice representative.



NORDIC
ADOPTION
COUNCIL



The new Board of NAC from the left: Secretary Ole Bergmann from Denmark, Kristinn Ingvarsson from Iceland, Stig Flesland from Norway, Charlotta Cop from Sweden, Sten Juul Petersen from Denmark, Mona Berglund from Sweden, Elina Helmanen from Finland (Adoptive Families Association), Chairman Mona Arfs from Sweden, Michael Paaske from Denmark, Marika Elmeranta and Irene Pärssinen-Hentula.



Time of adaptation in

Development cooperation

In 2015 Interpedia supported 21 programmes and projects enhancing children's status and children's rights in seven countries. In these countries, 15 partner organisations were implementing the activities.

DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION PROJECTS

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs supported six development cooperation projects, three of which started at the beginning of the year. The projects' focus was on Nepal and Ethiopia and they promoted children's rights, especially the right to education. Interpedia's projects were supported by the Ministry by 513 000 euros in 2015.

GOING TO SCHOOL MEANS FOUR HOURS OF TRAVEL EVERY DAY

South Lalitpur is in many ways a blind spot. The area does not attract development projects but there is a great need for assistance. The project of Interpedia and Loo Niva develops child friendly education. At the same time it aims to have an impact on school governance, to cut down corruption and raise schools' awareness of their rights to receive support from elsewhere for construction work or other projects.

Loo Niva's field staff are working together with families. Children's school attendance has increased in the area and parents have become more active. The children have also been involved in decision making. They often ask, "Why didn't the teacher come to school today?" If going to school means four hours of travelling every day, it is unfair if the teacher doesn't show up.

– Sara Alanen, Director for Development Cooperation, in Interpedia's blog 16th March 2015

In 2015 Interpedia submitted four project proposals to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Three were development cooperation projects and one was a project for communication and global education. Funding was granted only for the global education project for 2015-2016 as the 2015 round for project applications was cancelled due to the

PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED IN 2015:

COUNTRY	PARTNER ORGANISATION AND NAME OF PROJECT	DURATION
ETHIOPIA	MAEDOT: ENSURING A FUTURE FOR ORPHAN AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN THROUGH EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF THEIR MOTHERS	2015
ETHIOPIA	BERHAN LEHETSANAT: CREATING ACCESS TO EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES	2014–2016
NEPAL	CWISH: PROMOTING CHILD RIGHTS THROUGH EDUCATION	2014–2016
NEPAL	CWISH: ENHANCING CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEM IN NEPAL	2015–2017
NEPAL	LOO NIVA: CONCERN FOR EDUCATION	2015–2017
NEPAL	LOO NIVA: EDUCATION GOVERNANCE – PROMOTING GOOD GOVERNANCE IN THE RURAL DISTRICTS OF LALITPUR	2014–2016

government cuts in development cooperation funding. The rejected projects were planned for Nepal, Ethiopia and Bangladesh.

Due to the cuts, the future of development cooperation needed to be redesigned in order to adjust the activities and ensure sustainability. We will continue our work with our professional local partners for developing the education and protection of thousands of vulnerable children.

"Critics of development assistance often discuss that we should first help 'our own'. To us, the world is not only Finland. Good childhood is a child's right elsewhere as well. In Finland every child has an opportunity to be educated. In all countries this is not the case, so our work has its role."

– Anja Ojuva and Sara Alanen in Interpedia's blog 10th March 2015



Nepal earthquake in spring 2015

In 2015, two disastrous earthquakes took place in Nepal, and the state of emergency was declared in the country. Due to this the project budgets were revised to include more humanitarian assistance to the victims of the earthquake. The assistance included buying new school materials, supporting families materially and rebuilding the infrastructure of the destroyed schools. Additionally, teachers were offered psychosocial consultation training for them to have adequate tools to face children's traumas. Communications also focused on the situation in Nepal.

A group of celebrities came along to help Nepal. They made their appeal on a video, and in social media the campaign gained publicity through the hashtag #yhdessänepalinlapsille, "together for the children in Nepal".





Photos: Tuukka Ervasti

"The victims are being assisted and things are being repaired in Nepal. Aid workers are rushing to the country, people are looking for the lost ones, setting up field hospitals and clearing roads. The situation is still very chaotic. Soon there will be a shortage of water, and food is getting scarce in stores. The poor country has very little resources to get assistance to remote areas.

We are currently mapping the situation of our partners. The situation of the sponsored children will be clarified as soon as our partners are able to operate and have access to the villages. Emergency assistance is needed now, but we will continue our long-term work by supporting children and their families, rebuilding of infrastructure and continuity of education. Nepal will need assistance for a long time and we will be involved in the support."

– Interpedia's website 27 April 2015



"And then the earthquake reshaped everything. After the earthquake I watched how temporary schools were built in Nepal and how children's psychosocial rehabilitation was supported in practice, I responded to countless questions by journalists in different media and I went through shops to buy water purification tablets, dry food, soap and rehydration salts for donation. And most importantly, I saw the destruction that natural disasters can cause in a country where resources are tight to begin with. Tough lessons that you can only learn by being there."

Pauliina Savola, Interpedia's Etvo Volunteer in Nepal visited our blog

Interpedia's 16 sponsorship programmes

In 2015, Interpedia supported the implementation of 16 sponsorship programmes in seven countries with the help of sponsors. The programmes mainly supported children's educational opportunities. In addition, the programmes included providing training for children, parents and communities on different topics such as disability, hygiene and children's rights. Small entrepreneurship and different income generation activities were also supported. In some sponsorship programmes families were offered therapy and social services, free time activities and care services. Five sponsorship programmes supported the

work of children's homes, which benefits all children living in the homes.

The cooperation with San Pablo day care centre ended at the end of the year 2015. The local child protection authority ICBF took on the responsibility of the day care centre's activities and the need for assistance ended. In an area with various social problems, San Pablo had established a structure that has now been made a part of the public early education programme. A majority of San Pablo's sponsors continued to support Interpedia's other partner in Colombia, Jardín de la Niña Maria.

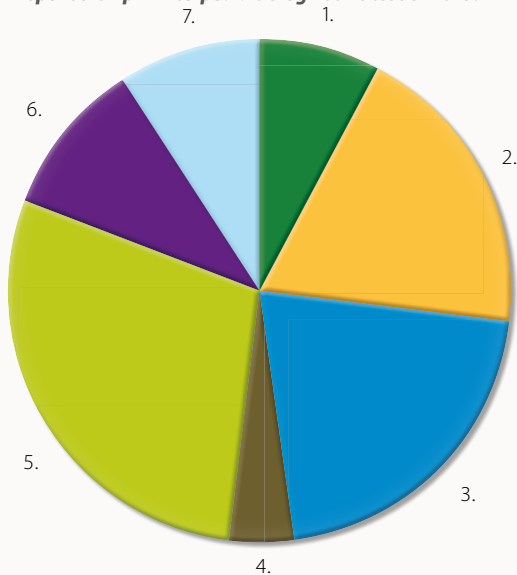
Interpedia's sponsors

At the end of the year 2015, there were 1,344 sponsors supporting Interpedia's sponsorship programmes (1.1.2014: 1,402). The sponsors were sent the programme newsletter and greetings from the children twice a year. Due to the Nepal earthquake, many of the sponsors received an additional letter informing about the situation in the country.

In the spring Interpedia's development cooperation team participated in the annual Educa exhibition as well as the World Village Festival. The cooperation with schools continued. The members of the team visited schools to present Interpedia's sponsorship work and give the latest news of the sponsorship programmes.

This must be one of the biggest benefits of sponsorship work: to realize that life here in Finland is very different from life somewhere else, but people are still basically the same."

– Lisa Mäkinen, teacher in Eestinkallio school, wrote about school sponsorship in Interpedia's blog 20th October 2015.



Sponsors and monthly sponsors by country



SPONSORS AND MONTHLY SPONSORS BY COUNTRY 2015

- Bangladesh
- India
- Nepal
- South Africa
- Ethiopia
- Colombia
- Thailand

Total 1344





SA CARES DIRECTOR VISITS FINLAND

Sylvi Bodemer, the Director of Interpedia's South African development cooperation partner SA Cares for Life, visited Finland at the end of June. Interpedia's Sponsorship Coordinator Elsa Korhonen sums up the news from the family support programme: "A year ago, SA Cares programme changed so that now families are usually supported through the programme for 12 months. For most families this is enough to be able to become more independent. The first year has showed that the concept works.

The biggest impact is the empowerment of women and consequently the positive changes in children's lives, living environment and safety. Ms Bodemer discussed how difficult it sometimes is to measure this kind of results and impact.



THANKS TO MAEDOT, PEOPLE WHO DON'T HAVE ANYTHING CAN BECOME SOMETHING BIG

"Gennet Mengistu (the Director of the Ethiopian Maedot organisation, who visited Interpedia in September 2015) told us about a boy whose mother came to them for help during a crisis:

"The boy was malnourished, he didn't have shoes, he didn't have anything. His father had died and his mother was often ill. No one believed that he would be able to access school. Yet we were able to help him. Now he is 21 years old and studies medicine in Mekele University. After graduating he wants to help the poorest of the poor."

*"The assistance can thus have multiple effects."
- Marja Utela in Interpedia's blog 9th September 2015*



PROJECTS AND
SPONSORSHIP
PROGRAMMES IN

2015



BANGLADESH

A HOME AND EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN IN DHAKA

Families for Children (FFC), Children's home in Dhaka

There are over 120 children in the children's home, some of the children are disabled. FFC covers the cost of their education and assists the children to find a suitable career.

EDUCATION FOR GIRLS IN THE SLUMS OF BANGLADESH

Promoting Human Rights and Education in Bangladesh (PHREB), Chittagong

PHREB works especially to improve girls' position in coastal Bangladesh where girls' status is exceptionally low.



ETHIOPIA

SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES ON THE PATH AWAY FROM EXTREME POVERTY

Bethlehem Family Development Programme (BFDP), Debre Zeit

The focus of BFDP's work is on supporting the families and on guiding them to survive independently. The sponsorship fee also enables the children to attend school.

SUPPORT FOR SCHOOL AND FAMILIES

German Church School (GSC), Addis Ababa school centre

The children at Addis Ababa school centre come from poor families who would otherwise not have the resources to send their children to school. The families are also supported in difficult situations.

CREATING ACCESS TO EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES 2014–2016

Berhan Lehetsanat (ent. Handicap National), Debre Zeit

The aim of the project is to improve the opportunity of children with disabilities to attend school. Berhan Lehetsanat also raises awareness on the true causes of disability, their prevention and HIV.

EDUCATION AND SCHOOL FEEDING FOR CHILDREN AND SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES

Maedot, Addis Abeba

In Maedot's alternative learning centre the children from poor families get a chance to catch up with their peers in skills and knowledge so that they can in future join ordinary state schools. A daily school meal supports learning.

SUPPORTING FOOD SECURITY AND EDUCATION OF VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES 2015

Maedot, Addis Abeba

The project supported children's education through providing families in poor areas with more opportunities for income generating activities.



SOUTH AFRICA

A SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR GROWTH FOR THE CHILDREN IN TOWNSHIPS

SA Cares for Life, Pretoria

In Mabopane's family support programme, the support of the sponsors is used to benefit the whole family. For most families, 12 months' intensive support is enough to become more independent.



INDIA

EDUCATION FOR THE CHILDREN IN THE SLUMS OF DELHI

Delhi Council for Child Welfare (DCCW)

DCCW supports education of children from poor families through school sponsorship, remedial education and guidance. DCCW's Bal Chetna-centre offers rehabilitation and special education for children with disabilities and guidance and support for their families.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR GROWTH FOR ABANDONED CHILDREN

Families for Children (FFC), Podanur's children's home, Coimbatore

There are approximately 480 children of different ages in the home, out of which over 100 have disabilities. The programme also supports children's education.

SUPPORT FOR A NURSING HOME FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Sabera Foundation, Kolkata

20 children are permanently in Sabera's nursing home for children with disabilities. The majority of them are severely disabled. The children get expert care, food, clothing and the opportunity for learning according to their own abilities.



COLOMBIA

A SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR GROWTH FOR GIRLS

Jardin de la Nina Maria (JNM), Children's home in Bogota

The aim is to provide vulnerable girls the opportunity for a safe environment for growth and an education. The girls come from poor and restless districts of Bogota.



Photo: Tuukka Ervasti



NEPAL

PROMOTING CHILD RIGHTS THROUGH EDUCATION 2014–2016

Children and Women in Social Services and Human Rights (CWISH)

The project aims to promote the rights of children through education and advocacy work. Support is especially given to the education sector. CWISH has a long history in supporting the rights of children who work mainly as household labourers.

ENHANCING CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEM 2015–2017

Children and Women in Social Services and Human Rights (CWISH)

The project aims at supporting and strengthening the capacity of the child protection system of Nepal and creating effective child protection mechanisms at local level.

GIVING THE CHILDREN OF POOR FAMILIES THE OPPORTUNITY FOR EDUCATION

Loo Niva Child Concern Group Nepal

The aim of the project is to support the education of children from poor families. Children’s opportunities to participate are also improved through supporting child club activities.

EDUCATION CONCERN – DEVELOPING EDUCATION AND SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT IN WESTERN NEPAL 2015–2017

Loo Niva Child Concern Group Nepal

The aim of the project is to improve the status of children in Dadeldhura area by supporting their schooling and improving the quality of basic education and school environment.

EDUCATION GOVERNANCE – PROMOTING GOOD GOVERNANCE IN THE RURAL DISTRICTS OF LALITPUR 2014–2016

Loo Niva Child Concern Group Nepal

The project’s main objective is to improve the quality of education and promote child-friendly school environment by improving governance in the schools of rural Lalitpur.



THAILAND

BREAKING THE CYCLE OF POVERTY WITH EDUCATION

Project L.I.F.E. Foundation

Project L.I.F.E. Foundation supports poor families in villages where no other aid organisations are working. Children’s education and their families are supported so that the child would not have to drop out of school in order to work.

A SAFE PLACE FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN IN THE MOUNTAIN REGION

Hallelujah Dormitory, Phitsanulok

The Hallelujah Dormitory supports the education of Hmong children living in the rough mountain region.





Photo: Tuukka Ervasti



What did I learn today?

Global education for schools

Interpedia's two-year communication and global education project "What did I learn today?" (Mitä opin tänään?) started. A photography workshop was organised in Shree Rudrayanee Secondary School in Kokhana village, Nepal in autumn 2015. The workshop was led by photographer Tuukka Ervasti. In addition, two workshops were organised in Kokkola, one in a Finnish-speaking school and the other in a Swedish-speaking school. The topic of the workshops in Nepal and Finland was the content and quality of learning.

"The workshop will be organised in the historical Newari village in Kokhana which was badly damaged in the earth quake in the spring. The timing changes the project a lot. The theme of the digital narratives is to emphasise the importance of learning, but I think that for these children the workshop means something else too. A break from the everyday,

an opportunity to express oneself through photographs, a reminder of how life goes on even when it feels that everything has been lost."

Director for Development Cooperation, Sara Alanen, in Interpedia's blog 16 September 2015.

The project produces global education material that will be presented on Interpedia's school visits in 2016. The material can also be used free of charge for global education in schools. The aim is to highlight the importance of quality education and continuous learning for Finnish- and Swedish-speaking primary school children. The project is funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland.

During the year Interpedia participated in two Maailma Koulussa -events ("World in the School") and facilitated global education exercises for teacher trainees.



Communication

In early 2015 Interpedia published its new website. The new site enables communication through Interpedia's blog and online newsletter of development cooperation as well as the new online shop.

SOCIAL MEDIA

The role of social media in Interpedia's communication increased. Interpedia conveyed messages actively through Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. YouTube was used during a fundraising campaign.

MEMBER, CUSTOMER AND SPONSORSHIP COMMUNICATIONS

Members and sponsors received the 2016 calendar towards the end of the year. The theme of the calendar was "child and the nature".

ANNUAL REPORT

Annual report 2014 was published in 2015 in Finnish, Swedish and English. The annual report was sent to Interpedia's members and cooperating partners.



facebook.com/interpedia



twitter.com/interpedia_ry



instagram.com/interpedia

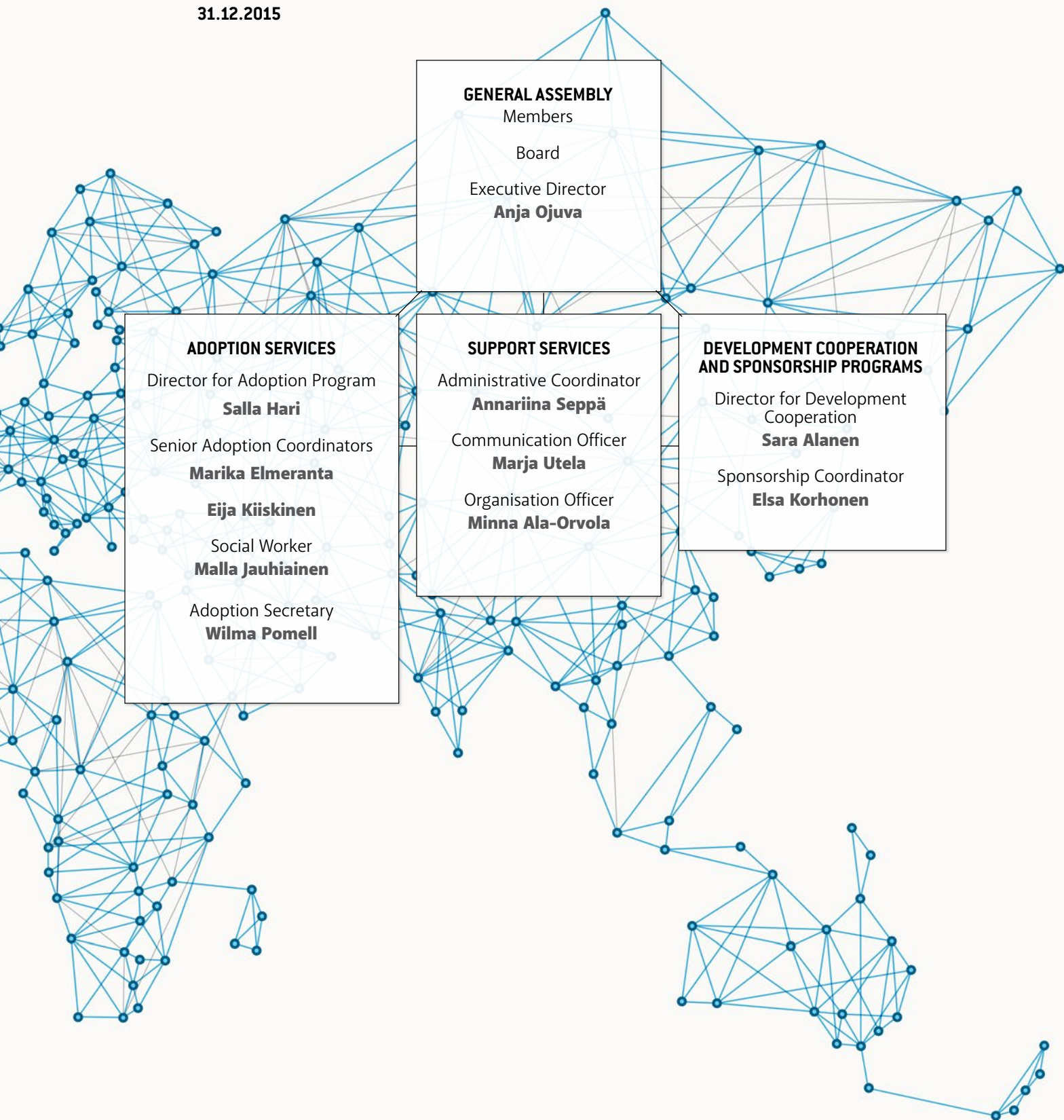


www.youtube.com → Interpedia

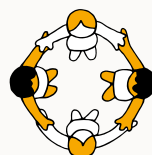


Interpedia's organisation chart

31.12.2015



Interpedia had 11 members of staff at the end of the year, three of which were part-time. A student of the Swedish School of Social Science completed an internship at Interpedia.



Interpedia

INTERPEDIA'S COUNTRY OFFICES AND REPRESENTATIVES

Lawyer Ana Maria Fernandez continued as the representative of Interpedia in Colombia and Gireeja Rajesh in India. The country office in Ethiopia was closed as adoption cooperation with Ethiopia ended.

INTERPEDIA BOARD 2015

CHAIRMAN:

Leila Andersin

M.Soc.Sc., LL.M., City Counsel, Raasepori Town

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD:

Ms Anu Kallio

M.Soc.Sc., Home Care Director, Ylöjärvi Town

Ms Eija Littunen

M.Soc.Sc., Social Worker, Loimaa Town

Mr Lasse Rantala

General Practitioner, Salo Health Centre

Mr Markku Riissanen

QBA, Vice President, OP-Pohjola Osk

Ms Viola Storbacka

M.Theol., Teacher in religion and psychology, and Student Counsellor; Student Counsellor, Kruunupyö municipality, Upper secondary school

Mr Ari Turunen

Lic.Soc.Sc, Head of Communications, Digile, N45-Program

DEPUTY MEMBERS:

Ms Ursula Helsky-Lehtola

M.B.A. in International Project Management, Project Communications Coordinator, Tampere University of Applied Sciences, Communications Services

Mr Jyri Kemppainen

Ph.D. (Computer Science), Automation engineer, Coordinator for development cooperation (Tanzania), Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission

MEMBERS IN 2015

The number of members decreased to some extent and at the end of the year Interpedia had 1036 members (2014: 1166). The number of Swedish-speaking members increased to 19% (2014: 18.1%).



Finance

In 2015, Interpedia's adoption service activities were financed through adoption service fees and compensation for costs paid by applicants and targeted funding for adoption service provision granted by the Finnish Slot Machine Association (RAY). RAY provided EUR 226,000 of targeted funding.

Interpedia's development cooperation activities are financed through sponsor donations by private parties, other donations, and project funding provided by the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs. In 2015, the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs supported the projects by EUR 513,000. The fundraising from sponsorship activities was EUR 343,100 and income from other sources totalled EUR 16,000.

The past operating year was a year for balancing the organisation's finances. The economic measures continue due to the financial situation as the organisation's main activities, inter-country adoption and development cooperation, will face several challenges in the future. The funding for adoption activities by RAY and the funding for development projects by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs are significant for the organisation's financial operation. The financial support by the Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture enables Interpedia's camp activities for youth and children.



Interpedia – Children of the world

Interpedia is a politically and religiously uncommitted Finnish non-governmental organisation established in 1974. Its activities are based on the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and of the Hague Convention. Interpedia promotes children's opportunity for a balanced development, education, a safe and tolerant environment for growth, and if necessary, a new family. Interpedia has more than one thousand members. Interpedia's key activities include:

- intercountry adoptions
- development cooperation and sponsorship programmes
- global education

In Finland there are currently over 4500 people adopted from abroad. Interpedia has extensive experience

in intercountry adoptions and good contacts abroad. Interpedia cooperates with Bulgaria, China, Colombia, India, South Africa, Taiwan and Thailand. In addition to statutory adoption service, Interpedia offers adoption seekers and adoptive families various support services in collaboration with other adoption agencies. Adoption applicants are offered information seminars and training days. Interpedia also offers post-adoption services for all parties involved in the adoption. The Interpedia summer camps for adoptive children and youth are an important part of these services.

Interpedia's development cooperation consists of projects funded by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland and carried out in collaboration with the partner organisations. In addition,

Interpedia's over 1300 sponsors support approximately 4000 children in Bangladesh, Colombia, Ethiopia, India, Nepal, South Africa and Thailand. Sponsorship programmes are a way of promoting children's rights in their own country. The sponsors support the whole community, often through education but also through advocacy work. Supporting the whole community will have a sustainable impact on the welfare of the children.

Interpedia aims to eliminate prejudices based on differences between people by bringing forth information about internationality as well as the opportunities and results development work brings. The global education material produced by the organisation can, for example, be used in trainings or in teaching.



Photo: Tuukka Ervasti

Finnish cooperation partners

THE FINNISH SLOT MACHINE ASSOCIATION

The Finnish Slot Machine Association RAY provides funding for charitable non-profit organisations and foundations. It supports activities which promote health and social welfare. RAY grants funding to support various organisations, experiments and development projects, purchases of inventories and building projects. Based on suggestions drafted by RAY's Board, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health evaluates and presents the suggestions to the Finnish Government who makes the final decision. The EUR 226,000 of funding received from RAY in 2015 was used to cover the expenses of adoption service provision.

MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

In 2015, Interpedia and its cooperation partners carried out six projects funded by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland. A total of EUR 513,000 of funding from the Ministry was spent on these projects. The projects were in Ethiopia and Nepal.

NATIONAL SUPERVISORY AUTHORITY FOR WELFARE AND HEALTH (VALVIRA)

The Finnish Adoption Board (operating under the control of Valvira) acts as the Central Authority, pursuant to the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Inter-country Adoption.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Interpedia has organised summer camps to adoptive children and youngsters. In 2015, Interpedia organised a summer camp for adoptive children and youth. The Ministry of Education and Culture gave Interpedia a grant for the organisation of the camps.

INTERPEDIA IS A MEMBER OF THE FOLLOWING ORGANISATIONS:

EURADOPT

(cooperation body between adoption organisations in Europe)

www.euradopt.org

Nordic Adoption Council (NAC)

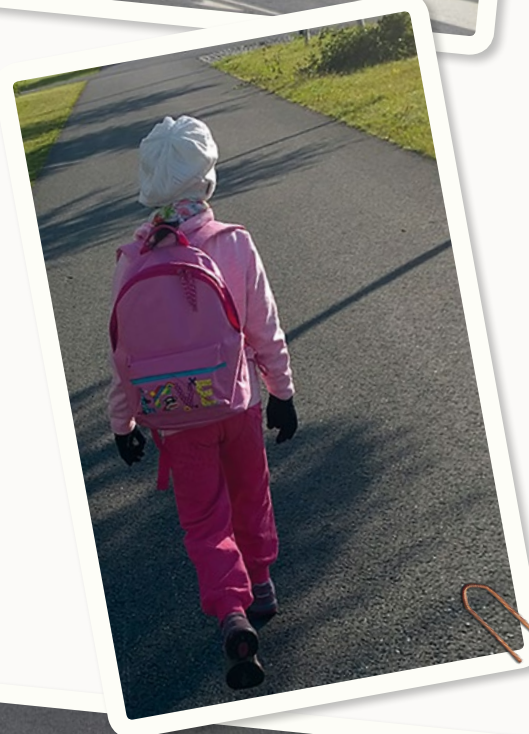
www.nordicadoption.org

The Service Centre for Development Cooperation (KEPA)

www.kepa.fi

The Central Union for Child Welfare in Finland (LSKL)

www.lskl.fi



Interpedia's foreign adoption partners approved by the Finnish adoption board

BULGARIA:

- Family National Association (FNA), Sofia

COLOMBIA:

- La Casa de la Madre y el Niño (LCMN), Bogotá
- La Fundación Ayuda a la Infancia Hogar Bambi Chiquitines, Cali
- Instituto Colombiano de Bienestar Familiar (ICBF), Bogotá

INDIA:

- Central Adoption Resource Agency (CARA), New Delhi

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA:

- China Center for Children's Welfare and Adoption (CCCWA), Beijing

SOUTH AFRICA

- Apostolic Faith Mission Executive Welfare Council / Abba Adoptions (Abba), Pretoria

TAIWAN:

- Christian Salvation Service (CSS), Taipei

THAILAND:

- Department of Children and Youth (DCY), Bangkok (formerly: Department of Social Development and Welfare DSDW)

Interpedia's foreign partners in development cooperation and sponsorship programmes:

BANGLADESH:

- Families for Children (FFC), Dhaka
- Promoting Human Rights and Education in Bangladesh (PHREB), Chittagong

COLOMBIA:

- La Fundacion Centro Educativo San Pablo, Popayan
- Jardín de la Niña María (JNM), Bogota

ETHIOPIA:

- Betlehem Family Development Programme (BFDP), Debre Zeit
- German Church School (GCS), Addis Ababa
- Berhan Lehetsanat (formerly Handicap National), Addis Ababa ja Debre Zeit
- Maedot, Addis Abeba

INDIA:

- Sabera Foundation, Kolkata
- Families For Children (FFC), Tamil Nadu
- Delhi Council for Child Welfare (DCCW), New Delhi

NEPAL:

- Children & Women in Social Service and Human Rights (CWISH), Kathmandu
- Loo Niva Child Concern Group, Kathmandu

SOUTH AFRICA:

- SA Cares for Life, Mabopane

THAILAND:

- Hallelujah Dormitory (HAL), Phitsanulok
- Project LIFE Foundation (LIF), Buriram, SaKaeo

INTERPEDIA'S CONTACT INFORMATION

Office

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Communications:

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e-mail: tiedotus@interpedia.fi

Development cooperation and sponsorship programmes:

+358 (0) 92727 0630
e-mail: kummi@interpedia.fi

www.interpedia.fi



SUPPORT OUR WORK:

AS A SPONSOR or **MONTHLY DONOR** you're supporting **children's access to education**. Your support promotes especially girls', disabled children's and child domestic workers' education. Developing **child protection** and supporting **families** is also our work.

As Interpedia's **MEMBER** you **contribute to our work**, you can **participate in decision-making** and you get **discounts** from our products and summer camps. Note! Adoptive applicants or sponsors are not automatically Interpedia's members.

Good childhood is every child's right.

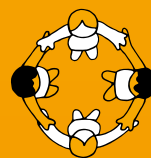
AS A CORPORATION SUPPORTER you're supporting the most vulnerable **children's access to education** and you're implementing **corporate social responsibility**.

With **ETHICAL GIFTS** you're supporting **children and families** in Interpedia's partner countries.

Leaving a **LEGACY** gift to support our work makes good childhood possible

You can also support our work through **ONE-TIME DONATION!**

ON YOUR SPECIAL DAY you can wish that your friends support children through Interpedia instead of material gifts.



Interpedia

CHILDREN OF THE WORLD

www.interpedia.fi