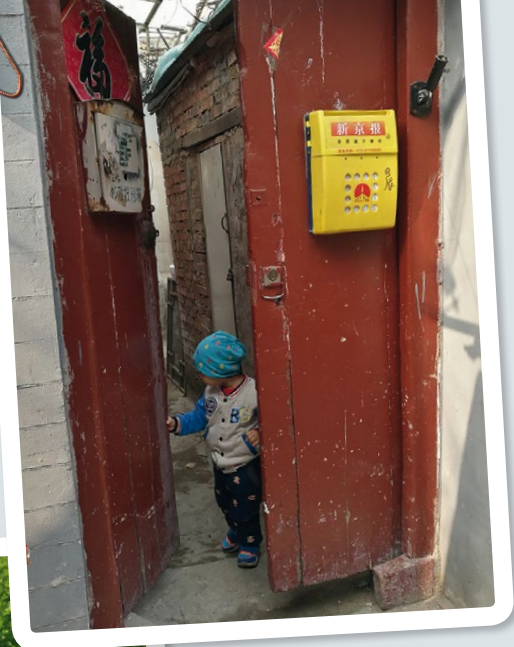


Interpedia 2016





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At the Doorstep of a New Era

In 2016 we were again facing a new phase here at Interpedia. The number of adoptive children arrived in Finland decreased notably compared to preceding years and the cuts in the development cooperation funding by the Finnish government affected the outcome of the project application round. Nevertheless, our organisation has many reasons to be contented, proud and grateful.

The position of our adoption service in the adoption sector of Finland strengthened. Good cooperation relationships with our adoption partners and our committed staff are still our strengths. During last years, we have also enlarged our adoption cooperation into new countries and partnerships. It takes time to launch operations but we build our work on a long-term basis, thinking also about our future customers. Well-functioning cooperation with several countries diminishes the vulnerability of adoption work and it is also an advantage for adoption applicants to have many different options.

In connection with the adoption process, we have to speak a lot about the physical special needs and the characteristics that stem from the children's adoptive background. We need to make sure that the future parents are as well prepared as possible. We are often pondering how to guarantee the communication of important facts and, at the same time, protect the future adoptive children from stigmatizing. It is good to remember in the middle of everything that children are always, above all, children and that they are also individuals who should have the right to choose themselves what kind of information about her/his special needs is conveyed to other people. After all, the everyday life of an adoptive family is often like that of any family with children and the special characteristics is only one part of the child's life.

In development cooperation sector, we applied for funding for seven different projects. Funding was granted for two disability projects only, despite the fact that the

results of our previous projects were excellent. We can be very proud of our professional partners and good projects. In any case, we can be grateful for being able to implement two remarkable projects and, through them, to affect the life and future of hundreds of children in Ethiopia and Nepal. We are now facing the time of adaptation, and the significance of funding from private sources will further increase.

With the support of regular monthly donors and sponsors our development cooperation continues small-scale but effective in seven different countries. During many of my business trips to our partners, schools and children's homes, I have also met volunteers or educated professionals who once were children in some of our sponsorship programs. I have also heard stories about previous sponsored children who have studied far and whose aim is to teach, heal or otherwise support children from destitute families and thus build a better society in her/his country. To sponsor one child does not mean only helping this one person further but the education of one child very often helps also her/his family, community and the society as a whole. The help given multiplies in many directions, so even a small support can have big effects.

A warm thank you for the past year to all Interpedia's members, customers, sponsors, adoption and development cooperation partners, donors, cooperation networks and also to the Board and staff of Interpedia for confidence and cooperation. A special thank you belongs to all the children whose lives our organisation's work affect. Children are the heart, hope and future of our work.

Anja Ojuva
Executive Director



Photo: Miia Laurila

International Adoption Work in 2016

In international adoption services, the number of children arrived in Finland declined compared to the previous year. This is the general trend in Finland. A total of 40 children arrived in Finland through Interpedia 2016 (2015: 58).

The share of our organisation was nevertheless 69% of all the children adopted internationally through adoption agencies in Finland (2015: 62%). Our strong position remained and when comparing the statistics of the intercountry adoption agencies in the Nordic countries, Interpedia held the sixth place (2015: 5th place).

"Simultaneously with the declining number of adoptions, we have nevertheless many reasons for joy. Situation in many of our adoption contacts is very good and in some of them, waiting times have even shortened. We have also received the first child proposal from Taiwan and concluded a new contract of cooperation with Fundación CRAN in Colombia. We have many reasons to start the new year with a positive mind."

Ms Anja Ojuva, Executive Director

Adoption work is extremely tailored and the adoption services are required

to work in close cooperation with partner organisations and consulting physicians. Personal meetings with the prospective adoptive parents are more and more emphasized in the work as well.

Adoption services organized several information gatherings about the situation of Interpedia's adoption partners as well as about the situation in different countries. Staff members continued to organize information gatherings also outside the Helsinki Metropolitan area: this time in Hämeenlinna, Turku and Vaasa.

	Bulgaria	SAfrica	Ethiopia	India	Kenya	China	Colombia	Taiwan	Thailand	Total
2016	New	13	–	5	–	4	9	New	9	40
2015		29	1	5	3	11	5		4	58
2014		20	3	7	2	15	16		8	71
2013		20	3	8	4	19	2		8	64
2012		12	3	8	6	16	7		4	56
2011		19	11	7	8	14	7		1	67
2010		14	10	3	9	11	10		10	67
2009		16	16	7		14	10		15	78
2008		12	14	2		7	13		15	63
2007		11	13	9		19	8		13	73

International Memberships

Interpedia has been an active member in the activities of the international adoption organisations Nordic Adoption Council (NAC) and EurAdopt from the very beginning. Interpedia's Senior Adoption Coordinator, Ms Marika Elmeranta was elected as representative of Finland in NAC and the Executive Director, Ms Anja Ojuva continued as vice representative of Finland to the EurAdopt council.

Both Nordic and European cooperation has become prerequisite for the exchange of information and experiences. Close cooperation has expanded also to a practical level in many ways.



NORDIC
ADOPTION
COUNCIL

Winds of Europe

Conference of EurAdopt, the umbrella organisation of European adoption organisations, was held in Utrecht, the Netherlands, on 1st June–2nd June 2016. The theme was "Relevance of adoptions – improving life for children who cannot live with their family".

In connection with the conference also met the Boards of both Nordic Adoption Council (NAC) and EurAdopt. Representatives of Interpedia took part in both meetings.

Adult adoptees were well represented at the EurAdopt conference this year. We heard even strong opinions on the relevance of adoption, for and against. What remained in our thoughts was the message from the majority of adoptees: please give every child the right to her/his own, permanent family. We also heard research findings on the significance for the child's development of living in a family compared to living in an institute.

Good discussion was held also on the importance of providing professional support to every adoptive family after the adoption process. This support should be easily available for everyone.

As an adoption service provider, we welcomed the speeches emphasizing the importance of professional adoption work. With it, many issues have evolved for the better over the last decades

Anja Ojuva in the blog of Interpedia, 7th June 2016

More information on EurAdopt: Euradopt.org



MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF ABBA

Senior Adoption Coordinator Ms Marika Elmeranta met the Director of our South African partner organisation Abba Adoptions Ms Katinka Pieterse and Family Worker Ms Lizl Bezuidenhout in connection with the EurAdopt conference organized in the Netherlands in the beginning of June 2016. Cooperation with Abba continues to be good and confidential. Abba values highly the Finnish prospective adoptive parents who are well prepared for adoption.

Business Trips, Meetings, Cooperation

The staff of Interpedia's adoption services visited several contact countries and met authorities who manage adoptions. Also the representatives of some of our cooperation partners visited Finland. Meetings strengthen mutual trust and promote cooperation.

A BUSINESS TRIP TO CHINA

The Director for Adoption Program Ms Salla Hari, and Adoption Coordinator, Social Worker Ms Malla Jauhiainen made a business trip to China in the end of April 2016. They met our cooperation partners, among others representatives of China Center of Children's Welfare and Adoption (CCCWA) and staff members of China Women Travel Service (CWTS) who organize adoption trips and trips for searching for origin.



A BUSINESS TRIP TO COLOMBIA – THE FIRST LATIN AMERICAN ADOPTION CONFERENCE AND NEGOTIATIONS OF COOPERATION

In the end of October 2016, Senior Adoption Coordinator Ms Marika Elmeranta participated in the first Latin American adoption conference in Bogotá, Colombia. Among the participants there were many international researchers and experts plus adoption actors across whole Latin America. Main topic was the discussion about the reasons why so many children in Latin America must grow up in institutes and why that is harmful for the children. Colombian experts shared their good experiences about the solutions implemented in their country. The issue of getting the adoption systems more compatible with the best interest of the child was particularly discussed.



The conference gave an opportunity to meet Colombian adoption actors on a large scale: from the central authority to adoption agencies, from judges to psychologists. Good discussions were conducted with Interpedia's cooperation partners during the event. Under her business trip Ms Elmeranta visited also ICBF to meet adoption workers and the post-adoption team of the central office; children's home La Casa de la Madre y el Niño; and the Finnish Consulate.

INTERPEDIA STARTED COOPERATION WITH A NEW COLOMBIAN PARTNER ORGANISATION CRAN

In 2016, Interpedia entered into agreement with a new cooperation partner, Fundación CRAN (Centro para el Reintegro y Atención del Niño) of Bogotá. CRAN is a non-profit social organisation, grounded year 1978 in Bogotá and registered in Colombia, with a permit by the central authority ICBF to place children through intercountry adoption.



From the left: Director for Adoptions and International Social Services of the South African Central Authority Mr Tebog Mabe, Ms Marika Elmeranta, Director of Abba Ms Katinka Pieterse, CA's Social Work Policy Manager Ms Kinsey Rasebitse, Administrative Manager of Abba Ms Rene Ferreira and Ms Salla Hari

A BUSINESS TRIP TO SOUTH AFRICA

The Director for Adoption Program Ms Salla Hari and Senior Adoption Coordinator Ms Marika Elmeranta visited South Africa on business in the end of September – beginning of October 2016. They visited Pretoria, Johannesburg and Port Elizabeth and met a wide range of authorities and professionals working with children during different phases of adoption. They discussed with the central authority, judges and various professionals also the adoption work of Interpedia and Abba and received good feedback. "We got very comprehensive picture of the activities on the adoption field in South Africa", tells Ms Hari. With our partner Abba the practices and guidelines of both parties were negotiated and we also discussed the applications of the families.



HELEN AWOKÉ VISITED FINLAND

The former Director of Interpedia Country Office in Ethiopia, Ms Helen Awoké visited Interpedia's office to discuss the post-adoption services.



The photo presents Ms Vargas at Interpedia's information gathering, telling about Colombian adoptions, children available for adoption and the LCMN criteria and wishes for the families.

VISITORS FROM COLOMBIA AND INDIA

In the end of November we hosted visitors from both Colombia and India. Our contact persons Ana María Fernandez from Colombia and Gireeja Seth Rajesh from India met each other, colleagues from Interpedia plus adoptive families and authorities. We find it very important that our contact persons acting abroad get regular education and work counselling.

Accompanying the two other guests was Ms Lorena Vargas, representative of one Colombian cooperation contact of ours, La Casa de la Madre y el Niño LCMN.





Cooperation in Finland

Interpedia is a member of the Plenary of the Adoption Board of Valvira, the National Superior Authority for Welfare and Health in Finland. Our organisation was represented by the Executive Director Ms Anja Ojuva as a member, the vice representative being Senior Adoption Coordinator Ms Eija Kiiskinen.

The Executive Director Ms Anja Ojuva is a member in the Advisory Board of Preventive Child Welfare in the Finnish Central Union for Child Welfare. Social Worker Ms Malla Jauhiainen represented Interpedia in the mentor group by All Our Children organisation for adoption counsellor work.

The threshold to seek help is sometimes high. With the Adoption Counsellor encouraging this, helping to understand the "normality" of oneself and guiding to the right services is social work at its best, a kind of expertise that demands in-depth knowledge.

Social Worker Ms Kirsi Räsänen visited Interpedia's blog 26th September 2016 and presented her Thesis concerning the Adoption Counsellor work

Cooperation between the Finnish adoption service providers and other actors on the adoption field is close. Interpedia facilitated an Adoption Day together with the other adoption actors, the programme including a medical lecture by a doctor. Also a training on post-adoption

services was organized together, as well as the traditional training session for the adopted children's grandparents and other close ones.

Through adoption, a child comes to a new kin and becomes a member of a set of adoptive parents and other close ones. Among many things, parents-to-be get themselves ready to this during the pre-adoption counselling period. Under all my years doing adoption work, I have had a strong feeling about the need of the family's close ones to get knowledge about adoption and to get acquainted with other grandparents, relatives and close ones. Conversation with this grandmother strengthened this feeling. How minutely she remembered this event organized during the pre-adoption counselling period and the discussions she had with other grandparents-to-be. How important is the part all these people are playing in the coping of the adoptive family also when life with children shows its more demanding sides.

Ms Anja Ojuva in Interpedia's blog 1st August 2016

Communication with the consulates of our contact countries as well as with the Finnish consulates operating in our contact countries was also active.



Post-Adoption Service at Interpedia

Clients contact post-adoption service when they wish to know more about their background or when they need support in organising a root-seeking trip. The process starts at Interpedia's office where the client can familiarize with the archived documents with adoption service's support. Sometimes the service can help in finding out more information from the adoptee's 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 birth country's practices that affect the families who have adopted from the country in question, these families will be informed.

During the reporting year Interpedia's post-adoption service continued developing post-adoption statistics and maintaining archives.

It remains a challenge to source adequate funding for post-adoption service as the number of clients who need the services continues to increase.

Often in their teens, at latest, the adopted youth will want to know more about their background, look for missing pieces to build their identities and find answers to many questions. According to research, approximately 70% of adoptees are interested in their background. Some are not at all interested to get to know their history whereas others try to find out about their backgrounds even without informing their

adoptive parents. This means that thinking about ones background is very different for each individual and therefore there cannot be a single model for post-adoption services.

Who can help us to provide answers and build a story?

In intercountry adoptions it is usual not to get all information about the adoptee's background at the time of adoption. In some cases, the information cannot be accessed even at a later stage. Nevertheless, even small pieces of information or things related to early childhood, places or events, can give the adoptee new knowledge in order to build their own story.

The services after adoption and the post-adoption service of the agency can require cooperation with the authorities of the country of origin. In legal adoptions, the authorities maintain a trace of information about the adopted child even after several years. Sometimes there is more information, sometimes less. The important part in this cooperation is the connection between the adoption service provider and the birth country. If the cooperation has ended, we will try to investigate through our counterparts in the Nordic and other European networks.

Anja Ojuva in Interpedia's blog 2 Dec 2016



Interpedia's Summer Camp for Internationally Adopted Children and Youth

Interpedia organised two summer camps for internationally adopted children and youth in Hauho holiday centre in cooperation with Children's Summer association. The first camp for children aged 8–12 years was organised on 2nd–5th July 2016 and the camp for youth aged 13–17 years was organised on 5th–10th July 2016. There were altogether 74 participants in the camps.

When discussing with the participants, it was clear that the most important reason to come to the camp was friends. According to one participant, the best thing about the camp was that friends understand even without words what it means to be adopted. In their closest circles, there might not be any other adopted children who could provide peer support. In the camps, many children and youth feel they can be themselves.

Meeting other adopted children may sometimes also lead to tough

” In the camp friends understand you even without words

reflections about one's own background. The camp tutors have been provided information about adoptions and about the needs of adopted children and youth as well as things that the adoptees might be thinking about in their lives. In addition, this year the camp was attended by a psychotherapist, providing support to the children and youth when needed.

The friends and memories the adoptees receive in the camp will remain, and at best, these friends become friends for life.

**Annariina Seppä in Interpedia's blog
11 July 2016**

The aim of Interpedia's summer camp was to support the identities of internationally adopted children, youth and young adults through peer support. Based on feedback, this goal was well achieved. The camps enable internationally adopted children and youth living in different parts of Finland to meet and get peer support, irrespective of the service provider, and hence they are a crucial part of post-adoption services.

The implementation of the summer camp was supported by Ministry of Education and Culture. The support has enabled the continuation of the camp activities and the provision of adoption training to the camp tutors.



What did I learn today?

Photos: Tuukka Ervasti

Communication and Global Education Project Highlighted the Importance of Quality Education and Learning

In 2016 Interpedia continued the implementation of the communication and global education project "What did I learn today?" funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland. In the beginning of the year, the learning material was completed. The material was presented during three school visits in Ostrobothnia and Eastern Finland later in spring. The main objective of the project was to emphasize the importance of quality education and continuous learning for Finnish- and Swedish-speaking primary school children.

Organisation Officer Mr Joonas Rentola and Organisation Assistant Ms Linn Ahlfors organized workshops in five different schools. The Finnish primary school pupils discussed Nepalese children's attendance to school, their access to education and its obstacles and the recovering from

the earthquake, and, at the same time, they went through their own learning and the importance of education. Rentola and Ahlfors met eager students and the teachers were also satisfied with the functional workshops.

Interpedia's piece of news 4th October 2016: "The project 'What did I learn today?' visited Ostrobothnia"

Interpedia's global education project "What did I learn today?" ends together with the year 2016. During 2016 we have visited 16 schools and a large number of pupils have participated in our workshops in schools in Kokkola, Pietarsaari and Savonlinna regions.

We would like to thank especially all the schools and the pupils that participated in our project "What did I learn today?"

Mr Joonas Rentola in Interpedia's blog 12th December 2016

Interpedia applied for funding from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland, for a new global education project "Different schools – Building a Global Community", but the application was rejected. The search for other sources of funding was continued.

In 2016 Interpedia also participated in Maailma Koulussa -events ("World in the school"), where we organised global education trainings for teacher students. In addition, Interpedia participated in the project "Koulu maailmaa muuttamaan" ("School for Global Change"), where we prepared, together with other NGOs, learning materials in the fields of human and child rights.

Read more about Interpedia's global education (in Finnish): interpedia.fi/gloaalikasvatus



Development Cooperation

In 2016, Interpedia supported 17 projects and programmes improving the status of children and promoting child rights in seven countries, with 14 cooperation NGOs.

Interpedia's development cooperation received EUR 454,000 of project funding from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) in 2016.

DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION PROJECTS FUNDED BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF FINLAND IN 2016:

COUNTRY	PARTNER NGO AND NAME OF PROJECT	DURATION
ETHIOPIA	BERHAN LEHETSANAT: SCHOOL FOR ALL – CREATING ACCESS TO EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES	2014–2016
NEPAL	CWISH: PROMOTING CHILD RIGHTS THROUGH EDUCATIONAL SETTINGS	2014–2016
NEPAL	CWISH: ENHANCING CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEM	2015–2017
NEPAL	LOO NIVA: CONCERN FOR EDUCATION II (QUALITY EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN IN WESTERN NEPAL)	2015–2017
NEPAL	LOO NIVA: EDUCATION GOVERNANCE – PROMOTING GOOD GOVERNANCE IN THE RURAL VILLAGES OF LALITPUR	2014–2016

In addition to the projects in Ethiopia and Nepal, Interpedia also implemented the global education project "What did I learn today" in Finland during the years 2015–2016.

The MFA announced the results of the project application round of spring 2016 just before Christmas. Funding of the Finnish development cooperation has been significantly reduced over the last couple of years. In 2015, the application round was cancelled completely and from now on, application rounds will be organized only every other year, so in the application round just finished, the competition over reduced funds was hard.

In 2016, Interpedia sent seven project applications to MFA. Interpedia was granted the total of EUR 635,000 for two separate projects. In Ethiopia, the project promoting education of disabled children with Berhan Lehetsanat will continue for another two years. In Nepal we will start a new joint project with an old partner Loo Niva Child

Concern Group and a new partner, Patan Community Based Rehabilitation which concentrates on the issues of disability. Funding for this new project in Nepal was granted straight until the end of 2020.

The project promoting child protection system in Nepal with Children and Women in Social Services and Human Rights (CWISH) and the project developing education in Far West Nepal with Loo Niva will continue still in 2017. We applied for continuation of both of these projects from 2018 on but it was denied despite good results in both. Moreover, our applications with our long-time Ethiopian partner Maedot and Bangladeshi PHREB (Promoting Human Rights and Education in Bangladesh) were rejected. Nor did Interpedia's communication and global education project receive funding.

Our project applications got good reviews and expert opinions were in favour of granting the financing but because of the cuts in development cooperation funds, support could not be granted.

"From the results [of the application round] we can clearly see that disability projects are further emphasized and funding was granted to two good disability projects of ours. In the years to come, significance of private support to Interpedia and the whole NGO sector will further increase and without the regular monthly donors, many children would be deprived of possibilities provided by education."

Director of Development Cooperation Ms Ilona Kalliola in the piece of news 16th January 2016, "Development cooperation cuts are shown in the project application solutions"

The director of Interpedia's development cooperation changed early in 2016 and in the end of the year, the new Programme for Development Cooperation for 2017–2020 was approved. The development cooperation priorities written in the programme are child's right to education, to protection and to adequate standard of living that allows the physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development.

During the year, two business trips were made to both Ethiopia and Nepal. All the cooperation partners in the respective countries were met during the trips and the Finnish Embassies were visited. There was considerable unrest in both Ethiopia and Bangladesh in 2016 which complicated activities in these countries.



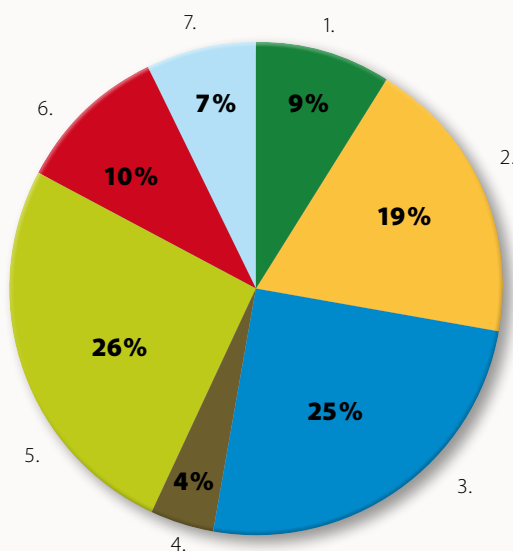
Sponsors

Support Education of Children and Income of Families

With the donations by Interpedia's monthly donors and sponsors, mainly children's opportunity to education was supported. In addition to this, some programmes included training for children, parents and the whole community on issues such as, for example, disability, hygiene and child rights. Moreover, small business and various income generating activities were supported.

Some programmes included therapy and social services provided for the families and organized various free-time activities and child care services. Some programmes supported activities of, for example, a children's home.

Cooperation with one partner, Hallelujah Dormitory in Thailand, ended in 2016. Reason to this was that their need for support had diminished.



NUMBER OF SPONSOR COMMITMENTS SUPPORTING INTERPEDIA'S PROGRAMMES WAS 1225 IN THE END OF 2016

- 1. Bangladesh **9%**
- 2. India **19%**
- 3. Nepal **25%**
- 4. South Africa **4%**
- 5. Ethiopia **26%**
- 6. Colombia **10%**
- 7. Thailand **7%**

Number of sponsor commitments supporting Interpedia's programmes was 1225 in the end of 2016.

PARTNER NGOS OF
INTERPEDIA'S
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

2016



ETHIOPIA

"This was my first trip to Ethiopia and even though I knew that the country is poor, especially the situation of many children made me stop. I had seen deprivation of children similar to this in Bangladesh while last visiting there. At the same time, I got confirmation to the fact that Interpedia's partner NGOs in Ethiopia are doing the right things, that is, affecting the lives of these most vulnerable children and their future opportunities."

Ms Ilona Kalliola in Interpedia's blog 8th April 2016

OUT OF ULTIMATE POVERTY THROUGH FAMILY SUPPORT

Bethlehem Family Development Programme (BFDP), Debre Zeit/ Bishoftu

The focus on BFDP's work is in supporting families and guiding them to survive independently. Family support also makes it possible for the children to go to school.

SUPPORT FOR SCHOOL AND DESTITUTE FAMILIES

German Church School and Social Center (GCS), Addis Ababa

The students in Addis Ababa School Center come from destitute families who would not otherwise be able to educate their children. The families of the students also get support in difficult life situations.

"In Northern Addis Ababa there is a special school which guarantees high-quality education also for children from destitute families and makes it possible for them to reach for further studies and good jobs. German Church School (GCS) has been Interpedia's sponsorship partner already from 1989 on and through the sponsorship programme, together with German sponsors, hundreds of children have been supported from primary school classes even up to a university degree.

Most of the GCS students end up in good jobs and they understand the value of high-quality education and good growing environment they have received. Former students are often visiting the school and helping wherever they can. During my visit, one former sponsored child through Interpedia was assisting in school administration tasks and conveyed his heartfelt thanks to all sponsors in Finland.

In addition to providing high-quality education to destitute children, GCS is a model example of integrating disabled



children into basic education. They have invested in accessibility at the school and nearly 50 of the students are somehow disabled.

Along with the basic education common to all, children get used to different classmates from early on. During breaks between the lessons it was easy to see that pushing wheelchairs and assisting sight-impaired students was a welcomed matter of honour to the children."

Ms Ilona Kalliola, in Interpedia's blog 26th October 2016

EDUCATION AND REHABILITATION FOR DISABLED CHILDREN

Berhan Lehetsanat (former Handicap National), Debre Zeit/ Bishoftu

Berhan Lehetsanat aims at improving education opportunities of disabled children on the project area. The organisation also implements educational work in the communities about, for example, the true reasons of disability and how to prevent them.

EDUCATION AND SCHOOL LUNCH FOR CHILDREN AND SUPPORT TO FAMILIES

Maedot, Addis Ababa

At the Alternative Education Centers of Maedot, destitute children are provided an opportunity to catch up with their age group so that they can begin to study in public schools. Everyday meal is a good support for learning.

"Our Ethiopian partner NGO Maedot facilitates lots of trainings in small business for the mothers of destitute families. Mother of three, Hana Kassahun is one of the participants. Hana is a housewife and mother and totally dependent on her husband's income which is too meagre to fulfill the basic needs of the family.

In order to add to the family income, Hana participated in a training about rearing and taking care of chicken. Hana tells about the training she received:

ore I did not know how to start a business. With the training organized by Maedot and the supplies provided by them, I can get started and set up a small chicken farm. In the future I am going to grow more chicken and sell eggs to hotels and in the market places.'

Hana says she is very grateful for the training and she will share the knowhow also further. 'I believe this can change my life', states Hana."

Child Sponsorship Coordinator at Interpedia, Ms Elsa Korhonen, in Interpedia's blog 8th March 2016



NEPAL

DEVELOPING THE CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEM AND EDUCATION

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

CWISH promotes the realization of child rights by education and advocacy work. CWISH has long worked also for the rights of child labourers. The NGO aims at supporting the capacity of child protection actors in Nepal and create a well-functioning child protection system on a local level.

"CWISH has focused especially on preventing and abolishing utilization of child labour in Nepalese households. Child domestic labour is a violation of human and child rights and an unfortunately common phenomenon here in Nepal.

Working against child domestic labour is extremely important because in many cases child workers are in various ways deprived and exploited. Children under 14 years might have to work very hard nearly all day long or without any compensation for their work. Some of the child workers live isolated from the outer world and face physical and mental violence. Emotional and material basic needs essential for the growth and development of the child can be totally absent and the child might not have an opportunity to go to school."

Anna Tiili, who worked as Interpedia's volunteer in Nepal, in Interpedia's blog 28th August 2016

"I visited two primary and secondary schools in Shikhar Ambote area during my monitoring trip in September. The nearest town, Dhulikhel, is only ten kilometers away as the crow flies. The journey started on a jeep which then got stuck in the mud. Occasionally we travelled by foot and several times pushed cars stuck in the mud on the road. After the road ended we



continued on a motorcycle even if the recent landslides had spread stone chips onto the paths. We crossed rivers through walking on suspension bridges or sloshing in the water holding our shoes when the motorcycle was driven over the same with a high speed.

Is it possible to get high-quality education at the end of a trip like this? In Nepal, it is inconceivable how many people live in places that are so hard to reach. Depending on the method of calculation, even 80% of the population live in the countryside. This number includes lots of children who should be able to get to school. Those schools we visited were the easiest to reach and the task of one project worker of CWISH is to visit regularly also the other 14 schools in the region.

Project results in the schools are good: at the moment, all children in the region attend school and the drop-out rate has clearly diminished.

Ilona Kalliola in Interpedia's blog 6th October 2016

For several years, CWISH and Interpedia have developed child protection in Nepal by drawing up guidelines for monitoring child rights, by increasing knowledge of child rights and by supporting the competence of NGO and state actors. As a result of this cooperation, National Child Protection Alliance (NCPA) has been established. Through NCPA, the NGOs observe the child rights."

Ms Ilona Kalliola in Interpedia's blog 20th November 2016

OPPORTUNITY FOR CHILD-FRIENDLY EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN OF DESTITUTE FAMILIES

Loo Niva Child Concern Group Nepal

Loo Niva supports the education of children from destitute families in Lalitpur District and in Dadeldhura in the Far West. Children's opportunities for participation are improved by supporting child clubs in schools. The status of children is improved by supporting their school-going and by developing the quality of basic education and school environment. One objective is also to improve the administration of schools in Nepal.

"Deepa Khadgi and Shisam Maharjan attend Yuwa Prativa Vidhya Mandir Secondary 6 in Khokana village in Nepal. Homes of them both were destroyed by the earthquake. At the moment, their families suffer of lack of space in temporary homes. Economy of the families is extremely tight.

Deepa was inside the house during the first earthquake. "I'm scared that the trauma stays inside me and the memory [of the catastrophe] never goes away", she says. Fear of a new earthquake is repeated in the stories told by the children of the sponsorship programme. The anniversary on the 25th April causes distress for many.

Both children emphasize the importance of the economic and school material support Loo Niva has been providing. Deepa wishes to be independent in the future but she has not decided her future profession yet. On her part, Shisam would like to be a social worker because she has received support herself and wishes to give it to others as well.

Deepa and Shisam wish to say to the Finnish sponsors that they are grateful and value the support very much: "Hopefully as many children as possible could receive support and get the opportunity to study".

Ms Silja Uusikangas, who worked as Interpedia's volunteer in Nepal, in Interpedia's blog 25th April 2016

"Loo Niva's work is extremely highly appreciated in Gimdee region. During the three-year project, teachers have been trained, information technology skills have been improved, school premises have been modified to be more child-friendly and parents' knowledge about the importance of school attendance has been increased. When visiting Gimdee district, you understand even better than before that guaranteeing education for all children is not that simple.

Many children walk one-two hours daily to get to school and another two hours to get back home. How do you secure that also the children living in the most distant corners can come to school, that the journey is not too long? How do you guarantee necessary knowledge for teachers and adequate support for teaching? How do you manage to build schools to the most remote villages and secure the safety of the same?

While reading through the project results with Loo Niva staff and external evaluators, it was clear that many things had been improved. Our visit strengthened the

idea of the importance of the project and its continuity. It provided me perspective on the scope of Loo Nivas work among the most destitute and marginalized people in Nepal."

Ms Jenni Ahde, who worked as Interpedia's volunteer in Nepal, told about her field trip in Interpedia's blog 17th January 2017

"Executive Director of Loo Niva Child Concern, Mr Narendra Dangol says that child domestic workers, children of destitute families and the children whose parents are indifferent to the education of their children are most at risk of dropping out of school.

Narendra describes the methods to give every child the opportunity to go to school: economic support together with supporting and training teachers and parents in addition to strengthening education-friendly attitudes.

He gives an example about a former child club president whose family was very poor but found the education of their child extremely important. With the support of a stipend and his family, this child attended school, graduated with top marks and finally got a full stipend for studying medicine. At the moment, he is a respected medical doctor.

Ms Silja Uusikangas, who worked as Interpedia's volunteer in Nepal, in Interpedia's blog 20th June 2016



BANGLADESH

HOME AND EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN IN DHAKA

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

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.

BETTER FUTURE FOR GIRLS IN THE SLUM AREA

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

PHREB works to improve the situation and education of especially girls in the Southern coastal areas of Bangladesh where their position is exceptionally low.

"Of Interpedia's development cooperation countries, Bangladesh is the most demanding in many ways. Together with Intepedia, in temporary Tulip Schools PHREB organizes teaching for girls of various ages from destitute families, who have not been able to start at ordinary schools. At Tulip schools, basic skills such as reading and counting are taught.

Sometimes there is a desire to limit the girls' learning. A girl without reading and counting skills is easier to be controlled and on the mercy of others also as a grown woman. In the project areas of PHREB in the slums of Chittagong and in nearby poor rural areas, there are

many who perceive girls' education as a direct threat. The work that in many other countries is accepted with gratitude meets a lot of resistance and suspicion in these areas."

Ms Ilona Kalliola in Interpedia's blog 22nd August 2016



Photo: Hanne Salonen



INDIA

EDUCATION FOR THE CHILDREN LIVING IN SLUMS OF DELHI AND REHABILITATION FOR DISABLED CHILDREN

Delhi Council for Child Welfare (DCCW)

DCCW supports the education of poor families through providing stipends, tutorial classes and information. Bal Chetna center provides rehabilitation services and special education for disabled children and support to their parents.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR GROWTH FOR ABANDONED CHILDREN

Families for Children (FFC), Podanur Children's Home, Coimbatore

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

SUPPORT FOR A DISABLED CHILDREN'S HOME

Sabera Foundation, Kolkata

Twenty children are permanently living in Sabera's Home for Disabled Children. The majority of them are severely disabled. The children get expert care and the opportunity for learning according to their own abilities.



SOUTH AFRICA

A SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR GROWTH FOR THE CHILDREN OF MABOPANE AND MMAKAUNYANE

SA Cares for Life, Pretoria

In the family support programme, the support is used for the benefit of the whole family. For most families, an intensive support of 12 months is sufficient to help them to independent living.



COLOMBIA

EDUCATION AND A SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR GROWTH FOR GIRLS

Jardín de la Niña María (JNM), a children's home in Bogotá

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.

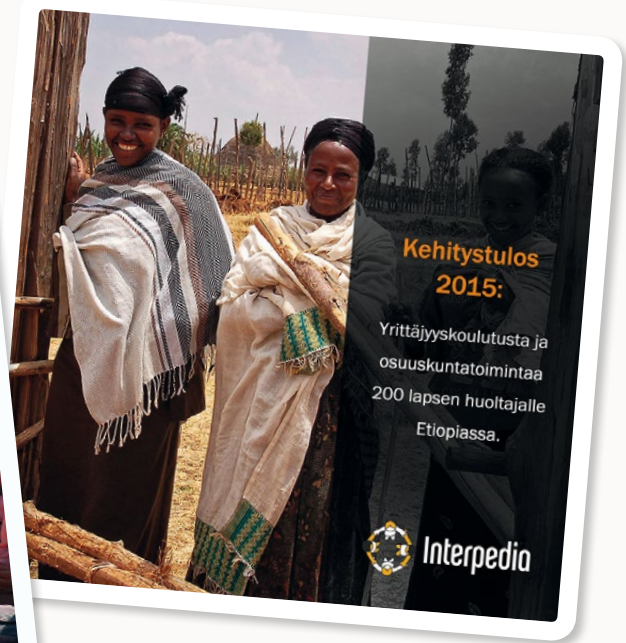


THAILAND

BREAKING THE CYCLE OF POVERTY WITH EDUCATION

Project L.I.F.E. Foundation

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



Campaigns to Support Children

In February 2016, Interpedia was raising funds for Nepal at Omatunto Club. Interpedia's development cooperation and the importance of children's education were presented to the club audience. Singers Kaisa Leskinen and Sakari Juntura and a band called Kiello Ilona performed during the evening.

During spring 2016 Interpedia carried out a social media campaign #kaiikkikouluun (school for all). The main message of the campaign was to promote education of girls, disabled and other vulnerable children. Finnish National Broadcasting Company's radio

programmes called Entisten nuorten sävellahja and Tongävän were also raising funds for the campaign during April 2016.

In spring 2016 Interpedia paid tribute to the victims of the disastrous earthquake of 2015 in Nepal and published a Youtube video about the post-earthquake conditions.

During summer 2016 Interpedia published examples of the results of the organisation's development cooperation through a social media campaign #kehitystulos (development result).

In autumn, on the International Literacy Day, Interpedia started a school campaign Lue ja lahjoita lukutaito (Read and Sponsor Literacy) aiming at promoting literacy in Western Nepal and encouraging Finnish children to read.

The sponsorship programmes and development cooperation were presented, in addition to the website and social media channels, in the annual Educa Fair and the World Village Festival as well as in school visits.

Volunteer Programme Continued

During 2016 Interpedia sent three volunteers through the Finnish Volunteer Programme ETVO run by KEPA to work for the partner organisations in Nepal. After the close-down of the ETVO Programme Interpedia started a volunteer programme independently and opened an application round for new volunteers at the end of the year.

Finance

In 2016, 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 regular sponsor donations by private persons, other donations, and project funding provided by the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs. In 2016, the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs supported the projects by EUR 454,500. The fundraising from sponsorship activities was EUR 306,114 and income from other sources totalled EUR 12,962.

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.

Communication

The newsletter to the adoption applicants was renewed during the year 2016. A brief e-mail newsletter is published more frequently than before. All the most important pieces of news were published both in Finnish and in Swedish.

A new publication "Mallan palsta", a compilation of columns written by Interpedia's social worker, was added into Interpedia's series of publications.

Members and sponsors received the 2017 calendar towards the end of the year. The theme of the calendar was "child and creativity".

Annual report 2015 was published in 2016 in Finnish, Swedish and English both on the web and in print.

The role of social media in Interpedia's communication increased. Especially the activity of the blog was increasing during 2016.



interpedia.fi/blog_post



facebook.com/interpedia



twitter.com/interpedia_ry



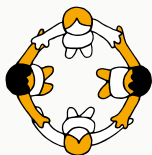
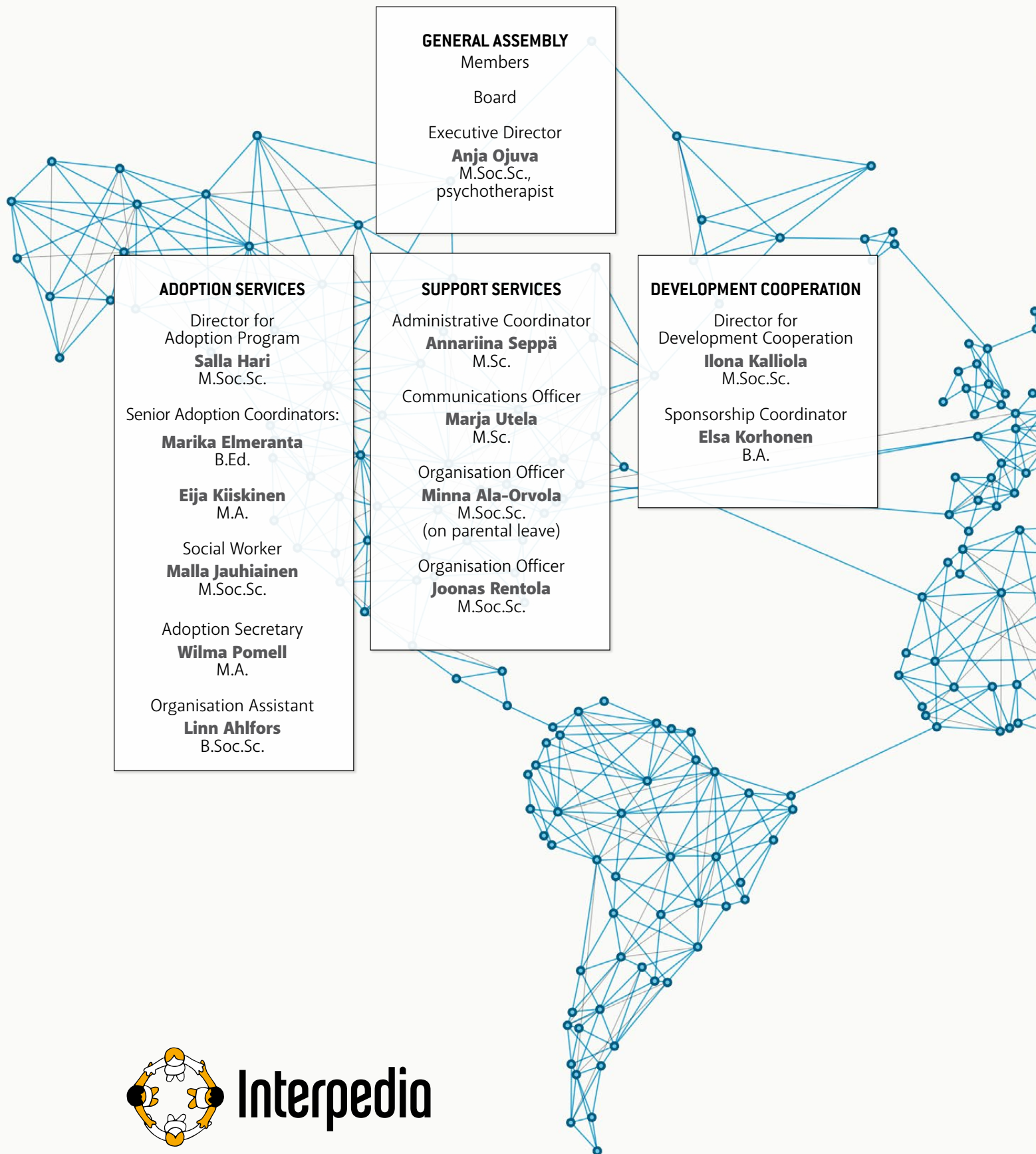
instagram.com/interpedia



www.youtube.com → Interpedia

Interpedia's Organisation Chart

31.12.2016



Interpedia

Members in 2016

The number of members decreased to some extent and at the end of the year Interpedia had 940 members (2015: 1036). The share of Swedish-speaking members was 20% (2015: 19%).

Interpedia's country officers and representatives

Lawyer Ana Maria Fernandez continued as the representative of Interpedia in Colombia and Gireeja Rajesh in India.

Interpedia's board

CHAIRMAN

Ms 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 Thomas Nukarinen

M.Ed., Early Education Manager,
Liperi Municipality

Mr Lasse Rantala

General Practitioner,
Salo Health Centre

Mr Markku Riissanen

QBA, Vice President,
OP-Pohjola Osk

Mr Ari Turunen

Lic.Soc.Sc,
Head of Communications, Digile,
N4S-Program

DEPUTY MEMBERS:

Ms Ursula Helsky-Lehtola

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

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. The EUR 226,000 of funding received from RAY in 2016 was used to cover the expenses of adoption service provision.

MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

In 2016, Interpedia and its cooperation partners carried out six projects funded by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland. A total of EUR 454,500 of funding from the Ministry was spent on these projects. Five of these projects were in Ethiopia and Nepal. The global education project was carried out in Finland.

NATIONAL SUPERVISORY AUTHORITY FOR WELFARE AND HEALTH (VALVIRA)

The Finnish Adoption Board (operating under the control of Valvira) acts as the Central Authority for Adoption Affairs.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Interpedia has organised summer camps for adopted children and youth. The Ministry of Education and Culture gave Interpedia a grant for organizing the camps in 2016.

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:

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

- Abba Specialist Adoption & Social Services (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 – Children of the World

Interpedia is a politically and religiously unbound 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 has approximately one thousand members.

From the beginning of 2016, the organisation follows the Interpedia Guidelines 2016–2020. The main focus of the guidelines is to promote children's rights for a balanced development, a

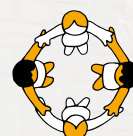
safe environment for growth through the activities in the fields of intercountry adoptions, development cooperation and global education.

Interpedia has extensive experience in intercountry adoptions and good contacts abroad. Interpedia cooperates with Bulgaria, China, Colombia, India, South Africa, Taiwan and Thailand.

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 Ethiopia and Nepal. In addition, Interpedia's over 1200 sponsors support approximately 4000 children in Bangladesh, Colombia, Ethiopia, India, Nepal, South Africa and Thailand.

Interpedia aims to promote tolerance by bringing forth information about the potential and results of development cooperation. Interpedia's global education material can be used in, for example, trainings or schools.



Interpedia

INTERPEDIA'S CONTACT INFORMATION

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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**.

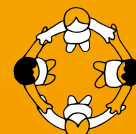
With **ETHICAL GIFTS** you're supporting **children and families** in Interpedia's partner countries.

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