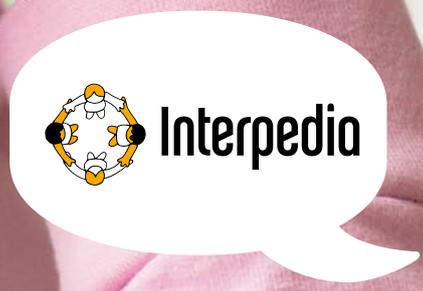


# Interpedia 2017





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# A child organisation working to promote a good childhood

Interpedia's year has been full of everyday work and happy news but also of preparations for future requirements. In the adoption service, the numbers of children arriving in Finland and of adoption applicants remained unchanged. In development cooperation, we continued preparing for a stricter financial situation due to cuts in the development cooperation funding, and our global education team continued to visit schools.

## THE FUTURE OF THE FAMILY

The birth rate in Finland has been falling in the past few years. At the same time, interest in international adoptions has decreased. Adoptions reflect the social situation, and international adoptions are also affected by global trends. In the past decade, the number of international adoptions has decreased as the social situation in many major sending countries has improved or a country has wholly withdrawn from adoption cooperation.

At the same time, interest in starting a family has decreased in Finland. Many reasons have been identified to explain why young adults hesitate to take the step: Starting a family is no longer something taken for granted; instead, young people have various paths of life to choose from. There is uncertainty about the future, marginalisation of young people, skills mismatch problems and negative views of the family life. Contemporary media overflows with information on the demands of parenting and new research data. Sometimes increase of knowledge is increase of sorrow, and parenting may easily become a performance under enormous pressure. International adoption has also been studied more extensively than before, and the increase in adoptions of children with special needs has increased the need for rehabilitative parenting. International adoptions are also affected by age limits which exclude applicants over 50 years of age. Yet slightly older people could have a stable situation life, self-confidence and the readiness to receive an older child.

How could we encourage young adults who are hesitating about whether to start a family? We also need the success stories where children bring plenty of love and joy to life, and naturally also the ordinary stories of family life with children and its diverse forms. Life which even amidst all the hubbub provides a safe framework, a solid foundation for life, and for the parents, the feeling of being needed.

## DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION WORK BY A FINNISH ORGANISATION

The reliability of actors collecting large amounts of donations is a topic which has once again been subject to wide public discussion. It is in fact useful to consider what ethical fundraising entails. What constitutes reasonable use of donated funds and what kind of activities are in line with good governance?

A view often emphasised in online discussions in particular is the preference for an actor which passes donations directly to the target, without middlemen and administrative costs. This kind of fundraising and assistance has its own place as small-scale activities. However, administration and planning costs have a purpose in sustained, systematic and professional reform efforts.

We can take pride in Interpedia's development cooperation activities and our knowledgeable partners. We are a fully Finnish organisation without an international umbrella organisation. In the autumn of 2017, Interpedia and the Ethiopian disability project with the Berhan Lehetsanat organisation were chosen for the review of operations commissioned by the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs and conducted by the audit firm KPMG. Feedback on the operations of the organisations and the results of the project was positive.

Thanks to funding from foundations, we have been able to continue our global education work; in particular, we visited schools in the Pohjanmaa area to give workshops on the rights of children, the importance of education, and the life of children in Nepal. This part of our organisation creates a bridge between the work we do with Finnish families and the work we do with children in the developing countries.

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 to all the children we have met during our work, both at the office and during business trips. You give meaning to our work!

*Anja Ojuva*  
Executive Director



# International adoption work in 2017

**Interpedia maintained its strong position as an intercountry adoption service provider. The number of children adopted through the organisation in Finland was 40, the same number as in the previous year, and Interpedia's share of all the children adopted internationally through adoption agencies in Finland was 57% (2016: 69%). The number of children adopted in Finland through Interpedia now totals 2,196.**

*"In recent years, around 60% of children adopted in Finland have arrived through Interpedia, yet we must work continuously on each partnership. Mutual trust is of key importance. In 2018, we may continue our cooperation relationship with an easy mind as we have functional and confidential relationships with all of our contact countries and adoption partners," says Ms Anja Ojuva, Interpedia's Executive Director.*

**Interpedia's news release 2 January 2018 "In 2017, there were 40 adopted children arriving in Finland through Interpedia"**

Today, there is a particular need in the contact countries for well-prepared adoption applicants able to give a home to a child with special needs. The adoption service is highly tailored, which has increased the need for close cooperation between the adoption service, national authorities and partners in the sending country, and the consulting physicians in Finland. Members of Interpedia's adoption service staff also meet appli-

cants face-to-face as regularly as possible during the waiting period.



To mark the 100th anniversary of Finnish independence, numerous volunteers knitted blue and white socks which we distributed to all adopted children arriving in Finland.

**At the end of the year, the number of customer relationships was 127 (2016: a total of 127). At the end of 2017, the number of applications in Interpedia's contact countries was 58 (2016: 50).**

ADOPTIVE CHILDREN ARRIVING IN FINLAND THROUGH INTERPEDIA IN 2008–2017										
	Bulgaria	S Africa	Ethiopia	India	Kenya	China	Colombia	Taiwan	Thailand	Total
2017	–	20	–	5	–	4	8	2	1	40
2016	–	13	–	5	–	4	9	–	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

# Info sessions, training, communications

**Info sessions on adoption and the contact countries were a key part of the adoption service activities. In 2017, info sessions were held in Ahvenanmaa, Pietarsaari, Tampere and Oulu as well as in Helsinki:**

Together with other actors in the adoption field, Interpedia organised an **Adoption Day**, the programme of which included a lecture by a doctor and both training and an info session on post-adoption services. Information about **post-adoption services** was also given in four different info sessions during country meetings for adoptive families.

The traditional **family afternoon** for adopted children's grandparents and other close ones was again popular, and those attending regarded it as highly necessary.

*"This session offers those around the adopted child's nuclear family an opportunity to participate in the waiting. An adoption changes the lives of many people, and knowledge increases understanding in this new situation. Considering the future adoptive child, a deeper understanding, knowledge and connection are important in every way."*

*Ms Malla Jauhiainen in Interpedia's blog on 13 April 2017*

In 2017, adoption applicants were sent 8 newsletters, a leaflet about adoption partners, and country-specific and event-related newsletters by e-mail. Adoption applicants also received 2 letters from the Executive Director (at Midsummer and at Christmas).

*No matter how much information you have gathered, puberty may still surprise even the best-prepared family. But it is important to remember the same maxim as before: There is always a reason for why the child behaves the way he or she does, and there is a reason this time, too. Even if life is chaotic all around, at this point it is important to maintain the same curiosity towards the child and to bear in mind the foundation of the family, the connection, which existed in previous years. Understanding is necessary on both sides. Parents would do well to keep in touch with the point of view of the child and adolescent. Feelings usually arise out of basic questions, such as: Am I good enough the way I am? What are the issues in the background of my adoption? Am I loved?*

*Malla Jauhiainen reflected on puberty in Interpedia's blog on 26 September 2017*

**30 info sessions in Finnish  
1 session in Swedish  
2 bilingual sessions (Swedish and English)  
The sessions were attended by around  
240 people in total.**

*"I turned 50 in September and becoming a father now just before Father's Day is amazing and wonderful. It was far from certain that we would be able to adopt before I reached the age limit. My own father was 47 years old when I was born so I believe that I am at the best age to be as good a father as mine was."*

*Kalle*

*We collected thoughts from adoptive fathers in our blog on Father's Day on 10 November 2017*

*"I hope that regardless of any special needs, an adopted child would first and foremost be regarded as a child. Focusing on the special needs of the adopted child may lead parenting to a wrong direction. If the perspective of rehabilitation is emphasised, the pressures of parenting may become unreasonably heavy. Above all, a child needs a parent."*

*Mr Thomas Nukarinen, a member of Interpedia's Board, discussed integrative parenting in Interpedia's blog on 23 March 2017*

*"The feelings of loss associated with involuntary childlessness are heavily present, and the uncertainty of the adoption process is a further reminder of this fact of life."*

*For this reason, working on issues preceding the adoption is invaluable: it makes room for the child to enter the family with his or her own losses."*

*Ms Anja Ojuva wrote on the need to work on the issue of involuntary childlessness as part of the adoption process in Interpedia's blog on 29 June 2017*



# Meetings and networks



**Business trips to the contact countries by the staff of our adoption service and the partners' visits to Finland play an important role in strengthening cooperation and trust. During the year, Interpedia's staff visited Taiwan, Thailand and Colombia. Our Executive Director also participated in the meeting of the EurAdopt Council in Luxemburg in March/April.**

Contacting the Finnish embassy in passport or visa-related issues is part of the journey of adoptive families. Adoption service staff members also meet embassy employees during the business trips.

**D**uring their business trips to the contact countries, the staff of Interpedia's adoption service meet members of staff at Finnish embassies. They also visit the embassies of the contact countries in Finland.

The three adoption service providers operating in Finland (Interpedia, Save the Children, and the City of Helsinki) co-operated closely in 2017. Social Worker Malla Jauhiainen represented Interpedia in the Steering Group for Adoption Curator Activities of the organisation All Our Children.

Operating under the control of the National Supervisory Authority for Welfare and Health (Valvira), the Finnish Adoption Board acts as the Central Authority for Adoption Affairs. Interpedia is a member of the Finnish Adoption Board's plenary session. Executive Director Anja Ojuna is also a member of the Consultative Committee for Preventive Child Welfare of the Central Union for Child Welfare in Finland (LSKL).



# Nordic and European cooperation



NORDIC  
ADOPTION  
COUNCIL

Nordic and European cooperation has become a prerequisite in adoption work for the exchange of information and experiences and at the local level. Interpedia has been an active member in the activities of the international 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 in the EurAdopt Council.

## NAC SEMINAR IN HELSINKI

In the autumn of 2017, the Finnish member organisations of NAC organised a conference and seminar under the title Current Phenomena in Inter-country Adoptions in Helsinki. A success, the event brought together actors in the adoption field from all Nordic countries.

*"Nordic adoption organisations have a long track record and high-level expertise, which has been condensed into our guideline 'Nordic Adoption Approach'. We have good resources, functioning structures and a long tradition of cooperation in international adoptions, which continues to be an excellent solution for children without a family," says Ms **Mona Arfs**, Chairman of NAC, from Sweden.*

*Results of the large Finnish adoption study FinAdo will also be published at the conference. According to the study, the majority of adopted children adjust successfully to their new conditions and do well.*

*In Finland, event organisers included the Finnish member organisations of NAC: Adoptiopehety ry, Interpedia, City of Helsinki, Save the Children and All Our Children.*

*Interpedia's news release 28 September 2017 "Nordic countries have good preconditions for receiving adopted children – the Nordic adoption conference in adoption in Helsinki on 29 September 2017"*

*The seminar which was open for everybody discussed the theme of current phenomena in inter-country adoptions, particularly social media and how it affects for example the search for your roots. The NAC conference received a lot of positive feedback on both the excellent organisation of the conference but also on the high-quality, topical programme.*

*"Nordic cooperation helps me in my daily work. There is a positive exchange of experiences and information about the situations in different contact countries, and we also have an opportunity to learn from other organisations. Annual meetings offer a great opportunity to meet colleagues and learn about the adoption situation in other Nordic countries," says Ms Marika Elmeranta, Interpedia's Senior Adoption Coordinator and the new Deputy Chairman of the NAC Board.*

*Interpedia's news release 20 October 2017 "The Nordic conference on adoption brought experts together"*

*"The rewarding and thought-provoking seminar day ended with a panel discussion by adult adoptees. Ms **Anja Wikstedt**, Adoption Curator, who had hosted the seminar, also served as the moderator of the discussion. The discussion summarised the themes discussed during the day, especially the opportunities and risks of social media in the search for your roots. The panellists shared the opinion that when discussing the search for roots, it should be considered that the search affects not only the adoptee, but also the adoptive family and the biological relatives. In other words, searches affect all parts of the adoption triangle. The panellists also highlighted the great importance of an open connection for discussion between the adopted person and the parents. If openness and trust are not present, adoptees may not share their experiences of searching for their roots and, in the worst case, the rejections or abuse experienced anew online."*

*Ms Minna Ala-Orvola in Interpedia's blog on 19 October 2017*

# Post-adoption service at Interpedia

The number of clients using the post-adoption service increased further. In 2017, Interpedia continued to develop client work and the structures of post-adoption service and to maintain archives. Obtaining sufficient resources for implementing a high-quality post-adoption service will be a major challenge in future as the number of clients increases.

Clients contact the post-adoption service when they wish to know more about their background or when they need support in organising a root-seeking trip. 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. Adoptive families will also be informed of any changes in the practices of the sending countries.

*The need to seek for your roots and the experience are always individual, which means that the need for support also varies. It is good that the post-adoption service is now discussed widely and that forms of support are being developed, both in the receiving countries and in the sending countries, considering all of the parties to the adoption triangle.*

**Ms Marja Utela in Interpedia's blog on 9 January 2018**



A member of Interpedia's post-adoption service team went on a business trip to Ethiopia in October-November 2017. In particular, she visited children's homes and got acquainted with their staff members.

## Interpedia's summer camps – meetings and peer support for adopted children and adolescents

**Summer camps are an important part of the post-adoption service for adopted children. In cooperation with the Children's Summer association, Interpedia held a summer camp for internationally adopted children and youth in the Hauho holiday centre from 30 June to 4 July 2017.**

63 children and young people participated in Interpedia's summer camp. The aim of the camp was to support the identities of adopted children and youth living in different parts of Finland through peer support. Based on the feedback, this goal was well achieved. Approximately half of the participants were adopted through Interpedia and the remaining half through other Finnish adoption service providers.

*"It was great to see friends I hadn't seen for a long time. Once again it was fun to get to know new people and also to meet old friends. These camps are important to me because I meet friends I do not normally get to see more than once a year."*

**Summer camp participant Loviisa Mäenpää in Interpedia's blog on 9 August 2017**



As the Ministry for Education and Culture did not grant funding for the camps in 2017, Interpedia is seeking new sources for funding for this important form of post-adoption service.

# #Adoptionilo campaign

Together with other actors in the field of adoption, we organised the first ever #Adoptionilo/#Adoptionsglädje campaign in connection with the Adoption Day in March 2017. The purpose of the #Adoptionilo campaign was to demonstrate that adoptive families and adoptees mostly lead a perfectly normal daily life. During the week, adoption organisations, adoptive families and adoptees shared stories of their everyday life in social media. The campaign was a success and a decision was made to continue the campaign in the following year as well.

*"I have not found life of an adoptive parent as particularly heavy, even if a lot has happened to us, too. It is the same as with other important things: If I feel that this is what I want to do, spending time and making an effort is not a burden".*

*Peer support has been very important for the Koivisto family: "These people really understand what it is about. Even though we go through everyday life just like any other family, only adoptive families can really understand what adoptive parenting means."*

*"Ours is a happy and busy life. There are so many things we could stop and fret about, but we face what comes with humour and live in the here and now."*

**From an interview with Tarja Koivisto, an adoptive mother, in Interpedia's blog during the #adoptionilo campaign on 13 March 2017**

*"Some 15 years ago the phone rang. I was at home with my twin brother and grandma when my mother called to say we had become an elder sister and brother. I started to cry because I was so happy to hear that we had received a little sister from China and would soon be able to go and fetch her. Finally!"*

**Ms Linn Ahlfors wrote about adoptive siblings in Interpedia's blog during the #adoptionilo campaign on 17 March 2017**



## INTERPEDIA'S FOREIGN ADOPTION PARTNERS APPROVED BY THE FINNISH ADOPTION BOARD

### BULGARIA:

- Family National Association (FNA), Sofia

### SOUTH AFRICA:

- Abba Specialist Adoption & Social Services (Abba), Pretoria

### INDIA:

- Central Adoption Resource Agency (CARA), New Delhi

### PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA:

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

### 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

### TAIWAN:

- Christian Salvation Service (CSS), Taipei

### THAILAND:

- Department of Children and Youth (DCY), Bangkok (ent. Department of Social Development and Welfare DSDW)

# Development cooperation

**In 2017, Interpedia supported 16 projects and programmes improving the status of children and promoting child rights in seven countries, with 14 cooperation NGOs. Interpedia received EUR 407,375 of project funding from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) in 2017.**

*“On 1 February 2017, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs invited non-governmental organisations to discuss themes which will require a joint effort by Finnish actors in future. The discussion kept coming back to the burning issue: although the quality of our development cooperation work is increasingly continuously, there have been drastic cuts in funding.*

*There was a general discussion on how to increase the visibility of and positive attitudes towards development cooperation. We must all share the results of our work to allow the Finnish people to feel genuine pride of the achievements of development cooperation.*

*We at Interpedia are also considering these same issues as we celebrate 40 years of development cooperation work in 2018 while at the same time preparing for radical cuts in our work and funding in the current year and the next.”*

*Ms Ilona Kalliola in Interpedia’s blog on 2 February 2017*

Two new projects were launched in Nepal and Ethiopia in 2017. One of them is a four-year development project in rural areas of Patan, conducted with a new partner organisation, Patan Community Based Rehabilitation Organisation (Patan CBR) and an existing partner, Loo Niva. The new partner organisation provides exper-



## DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION PROJECTS FUNDED BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF FINLAND IN 2017:

COUNTRY	PARTNER NGO AND NAME OF PROJECT	DURATION
ETHIOPIA	BERHAN LEHETSANAT: SCHOOL FOR ALL – CREATING ACCESS TO EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES	2017–2018
NEPAL	LOO NIVA & PATAN CBR: INCLUSIVE AND ACCOUNTABLE SCHOOLS – DEVELOPING THE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT IN NEPAL	2017–2020
NEPAL	CWISH: ENHANCING CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEM IN NEPAL	2015–2017
NEPAL	LOO NIVA: QUALITY EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN IN WESTERN NEPAL	2015–2017

tise in disability issues, an important element in the project. Established in 1999, Patan CBR is a non-profit, non-political organisation in the field of social welfare which provides rehabilitation for children with special needs.

In the autumn of 2017, Interpedia and the Ethiopian disability project with the Berhan Lehetsanat organisation were chosen for the review of operations commissioned by the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs and conducted by the audit firm KPMG. Feedback on the operations of the organisations and the results of the project was positive.

During the year, staff members made two business trips to both Nepal and Ethiopia, meeting all partners in the contact countries, and visited Finnish embassies. Among Interpedia’s contact countries, unrest in Ethiopia and Bangladesh in 2017 complicated activities in these countries. Southern Bangladesh saw an influx of Rohingya refugees arriving from across the Myanmar border, and Interpedia collected funds to help the refugees.

In 2017, Interpedia sent two voluntary workers to Nepal.



# Promoting a good childhood with support from donors

**With the donations by Interpedia's 1,142 sponsors and monthly donors, we implemented 11 programmes in 7 different countries in 2017.**

As a rule, the programmes supported children's opportunity to education. In addition, some programmes included training for children, parents and the whole community on issues such as, for example, disability and the rights of children. Small business and various income generating activities were also 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 Sabera in India ended in 2017.

*In times like this, when control of public finances is tightening and our own comfort is at risk, we often turn inwards and lose some of our solidarity towards others. Yet if we want things to take a turn for the better, the best investment we can make is to continue*

*our efforts to ensure that all children have an opportunity to secured growth and development. Because they are the future.*

*Interpedia and its partner organisations work to support the most vulnerable people. The children we support are destitute and live on the margins of society, often unable to affect their own situation even if they have the will. Yet these children are also the future and they are full of potential. Facilitating school education for girls in Bangladesh or providing crutches for schoolchildren in Ethiopia are simple things, but they are also investments into the future.*

**Ms Saana Hokkanen, who worked as development cooperation trainee at Interpedia in spring 2017, in Interpedia's blog on 19 June 2017**

# Interpedia's development cooperation and sponsorship activities in

# 2017



## ETHIOPIA

### OUT OF ULTIMATE POVERTY THROUGH FAMILY SUPPORT Bethlehem Family Development Programme (BFDP), Debre Zeit

The focus on BFD'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 & Social Center (GSC), 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.

### EDUCATION AND REHABILITATION FOR DISABLED CHILDREN

#### Berhan Lehetsanat, Debre Zeit

Berhan Lehetsanat aims at improving education opportunities of disabled children in 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.

*"During my monitoring trip in April 2017 I met many children with different disabilities and their parents who had collected at the local school to talk about how the work done by Berhan Lehetsanat had changed their lives. Previously, families with disabled children had faced open discrimination and even verbal abuse, because people believed the disability was due to the family's bad deeds or a curse."*

*Abush, 19, studies information technology at a vocational school. He had much to say at the event and he said it with profound self-confidence. He wishes to act as a role model to younger children with different disabilities and ensure that other children can also receive support. "There are people with different kinds of disabilities, but many can achieve the same things as other people," he said emphatically."*

*Ms Ilona Kalliola in Interpedia's blog on 21 April 2017*



### DAY CARE CENTRES AND EARLY EDUCATION FOR THE POOREST CHILDREN

#### Maedot, Addis Ababa

Maedot does impressive work among the children of destitute families in Addis Ababa and the surrounding countryside. Together with Maedot, we have established a total of three day care centers in the poverty-stricken area of Addis Ababa, Woliso and Dilela.

*'In the work done by Maedot, our children were drawn to the fact that Ethiopian children receive a proper meal at an early education center. The thought of having to suffer hunger all day struck a particular chord with them.'*

*– Mother of the family who made the donation*

*Ms Marja Utela shared the story of a Finnish family's donation to the Maedot day care center in Interpedia's blog on 28 April 2017*

*"This autumn, we managed to collect enough funds to establish a second day care center. At the beginning of October, our partner Maedot opened a new day care center in the town of Woliso, west of Addis Ababa."*

*Maedot's earlier teachers have received further training on early education, and the children attending the day care center have been chosen from families living in the poverty-stricken area surrounding the center whose names were put forth by the local social services.*

*The mothers of these 30 children with the greatest need for support are mostly poor single parents.*

*During my trip, I also visited the day care center in Addis Ababa which was opened a year ago. The children at the Ketema day care center started about a year ago. Once they start school, new children will be chosen.*

*During the day, the children receive a snack and a nutritious hot meal which is purchased from the cooperative set up by poor single parents. This also supports the livelihood of the women."*

*Ilona Kalliola in Interpedia's blog on 15 November 2017*



## NEPAL

### DEVELOPING THE CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEM AND SCHOOLS

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

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

### 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 Daddeldhura 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.

*"Improving the quality of schools is important, because although school attendance statistics in Nepal already look promising, children do not necessarily learn anything at school. As many pupils walk several hours to school regardless of the weather, it is desirable that in return, the instruction they receive would be of high quality. Loo Niva has helped to improve the quality of teaching and attendance figures at state-run schools in the area.*

*During my trip, I met Harish, a 13-year-old boy in the 8th grade who is also the chairman of the school's youth club in the Ajayameru district. When we visited*



*the school, Harish hosted a programme organised by the youth club which addressed the negative aspects of child marriages. 'At the youth club, I have learned to help others and solve problems,' Harish said."*

*Ilona Kalliola in Interpedia's blog on 8 March 2017*

*"Many young people have a genuine desire to participate in the affairs of their community and village, now and also in the future. Loo Niva has helped many young people to find their own path and received the support they need. It is important for the Nepalese children and young people to find their own paths so that they remain motivated at school."*

*Ms Reetta Turpeinen, who worked as a volunteer in Nepal, in Interpedia's blog on 4 August 2017*



**REHABILITATION AND EDUCATION FOR DISABLED CHILDREN**

**Patan Community Based Rehabilitation Organization (Patan CBR), Nepal**

Patan CBR engages in raising awareness of issues of disability to encourage parents to apply for rehabilitation for their children and to secure their education. Patan CBR also offers day care, tuition, development of manual skills and physiotherapy for children.

*"In a developing country such as Nepal where poverty and inequality are still widespread, the situation of disabled children is very difficult in places. In theory, legislation gives children equal opportunities to free basic education.*

*In theory. The reality is very different.*

*Lack of access to education is more common among disabled children, because support is not granted, because the school is not accessible or does not accept disabled children – or because parents do not know their child has a right to education or do not want to take the child to school.*

*I have only been in Nepal for a few weeks, but I already know that these stories of the conditions in which disabled children live are not just stories.*

*Fortunately, there are also wonderful stories, successes and fates which offer hope of a better tomorrow."*

**Ms Anna Kylmänen, who worked as a volunteer in Nepal, in Interpedia's blog on 23 November 2017**



**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 Bogotá.



**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 whom are disabled. FFC covers the cost of their education and assists the children to find a suitable career.

**EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN IN POOR AREAS**

**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 situation is exceptionally poor.

*During the autumn, around 600,000 Rohingya refugees have fled the violence in Myanmar to Bangladesh. Most of the refugees are children. Our partner organisation PHREB works in the Cox's Bazaar area in Southern Bangladesh which has experienced a high influx of refugees from across the border. Since the emergence of the refugee crisis, PHREB has also been working to secure the rights of the refugee children.*

*In addition to securing the basic needs, PHREB strives to prevent the abuse of children and human trafficking by overseeing the realization of children's rights and by creating safe meeting places where children can find adults they can trust and also receive psychosocial support.*

**We described the effects of the refugee crisis on the operations of PHREB on 24 October 2017**



**SOUTH AFRICA**

**A SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR GROWTH FOR THE CHILDREN OF MABOPANE**

**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.



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. The DCCW's 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, of whom over 100 have disabilities. The programme also supports children's education.



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.

*"The families told us about the problems preventing children from going to school and the long journey to school on a muggy bus. The grandfather could have taken the child to school with his moped, but it had broken down and he did not have the money to have it repaired. A girl slipped out of the neighbouring house to meet the visitors; she said she was eagerly waiting for access to the sponsorship programme."*

*The inequality of the Thai society was really obvious in the poor area. However, the country offers good opportunities to rise to the middle class through education. Sometimes you only need a little support.*

*'I would like to thank the Finnish people for their support and the opportunity to study,' Wannapa said at the end of our meeting."*

*Ms Anja Ojuva in Interpedia's blog on 23 May 2017*

# Development results and sponsor communication

In the summer of 2017 we highlighted the achievements of development cooperation through the #Kehitystulos campaign in the social media and with the help of a series of blog posts of young Nepalese adults who had received help from sponsors.

*"I still see so many children who battle with the same challenges I did.*

*These children need the same opportunity I received when I was young."*

**Lasta, 21 years, Khokana village, in Interpedia's blog on 12 July 2017**

*"My life would certainly be very different without the support of Loo Niva. I believe that without it, I would have married and had children at a very young age, like many women who have not had the opportunity to study."*

**Asleen, Khokana village, in Interpedia's blog on 10 October 2017**

Sponsors were sent two sponsor letters, and the sponsors of individual children greetings from the children. Sponsors also received two general newsletters on development cooperation. During the year, many development cooperation leaflets were also updated. Subscribers to Interpedia's electronic newsletter received five letters during the year.



# Events and global education

In 2017, we visited schools in the Pohjanmaa and participated in Kupa's Koulu maailmaa muuttamaan ("School to change the world") project, utilising previously prepared educational material on human rights and children's rights together with other organisations.

*"That not everyone has it as good as we do', 'All children should be able to grow'. These are just some of the fine things the children said."*

**Ms Linn Ahlfors wrote about Interpedia's visit to the school in Vaasa in our blog on 11 December 2017**

We also provided information on development cooperation and global education at the education sector's Educa exhibition at the beginning of the year and the World Village Festival in May.





## Communications

Interpedia's communications plan 2018–2020 was drawn up in 2017. In addition to the website, the key communication channels were our social media channels.

Members and sponsors received the 2018 calendar towards the end of the year. The theme of the calendar was "Child and animals".

Annual Report 2016 was published in the summer of 2017 in Finnish, Swedish and English on Interpedia's website and in print.



[facebook.com/interpedia](https://facebook.com/interpedia)



[twitter.com/interpedia\\_ry](https://twitter.com/interpedia_ry)



[instagram.com/interpedia](https://instagram.com/interpedia)



[www.youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) → **Interpedia**



[interpedia.fi/blog\\_post](https://interpedia.fi/blog_post)

## Finance

In 2017 Interpedia's adoption service activities were financed through adoption service fees and targeted funding for adoption service provision granted by the **Funding Centre for Social Welfare and Health Organisations (STEA)** (EUR 226,000). STEA manages funding granted for projects which promote health and wellbeing from the gaming revenue of Veikkaus Oy.

Interpedia's development cooperation activities are financed through sponsor **donations** by private persons, other donations, and project funding provided by the **Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs**.

In 2017, the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs supported Interpedia' projects by EUR 407,375. The fund-

raising from sponsorship activities was EUR 284,279 and income from other sources totalled EUR 13,297. The decrease in project funding necessitates adjustment of the development cooperation activities.

The funding for adoption activities by STEA and the funding for development projects by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs are significant for the organisation's financial operation.

Interpedia also received a grant from the **Brita Maria Renlund** and **Otto Malm foundations**, to be used for example for global education work at Swedish-language schools in Finland.

# Interpedia's Organisation

31.12.2017

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Members

Board

Executive Director

**Anja Ojuva**

M.Soc.Sc.,  
psychotherapist

## ADOPTION SERVICES

Director for  
Adoption Program

**Salla Hari**

M.Soc.Sc.

Senior Adoption Coordinators:

**Marika Elmeranta**

B.Ed.

**Eija Kiiskinen**

M.A.

Social Worker

**Malla Jauhiainen**

M.Soc.Sc.

Adoption Secretary

**Wilma Pomell**

M.A.

Organisation Assistant

**Linn Ahlfors**

B.Soc.Sc.

## SUPPORT SERVICES

Communications Officer

**Marja Utela**

M.Sc.

Organisation Officer

**Minna Ala-Orvola**

M.Soc.Sc.

(on parental leave)

## DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Director for  
Development Cooperation

**Ilona Kalliola**

M.Soc.Sc.

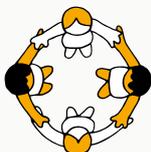
Sponsorship Coordinator

**Elsa Korhonen**

B.A.

## Members 2017

At the end of the year, Interpedia had 853 members (2016: 940). The share of Swedish-speaking members was 19% (2016: 20%).



# Interpedia

# 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 900 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 collabora-

tion with the partner organisations in Ethiopia and Nepal. In addition, Interpedia's over 1100 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's Board 2017

### CHAIRMAN:

**Leila Andersin**

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

### MEMBERS OF THE BOARD:

**Jonathan Andersin**

Master of Laws, Senior Legal Counsel, Fondia Plc

**Anu Kallio**

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

**Thomas Nukarinen**

M.Ed., Early Education Manager, Liperi Municipality

**Lasse Rantala**

General Practitioner, Salo Health Centre

**Markku Riissanen**

Business College graduate, eMBA, Vice President, OP

**Ari Turunen**

Lic.Soc.Sc., Head of Communications, Finnish edition of Le Monde Diplomatique

### DEPUTY MEMBERS:

**Ursula Helsky-Lehtola**

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

**Eija Littunen**

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

## Interpedia's country officers and representatives

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

# 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**.

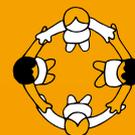
With **ETHICAL GIFTS** you're supporting **children and families** in Interpedia's partner countries.

## ON YOUR SPECIAL DAY

you can wish that your friends support children through Interpedia instead of material gifts.

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

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



**Interpedia**

CHILDREN OF THE WORLD

[www.interpedia.fi](http://www.interpedia.fi)