



interpedia



**Interpedia's
adoption service:
annual review 2021**



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interpedia

CHILDREN OF THE WORLD

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Our responsibility extends far into the future

When doing adoption work, we need to look into the past so that we can learn from it and further develop our work. At the same time, we must also take responsibility for the future.

There are many possible futures and we have to choose what kind of future we want to believe in. We are able to influence the path we decide to take.

The past of intercountry adoptions is currently being studied in many European countries. We can follow these studies and draw wisdom from them to build a better future. When we look several decades back in time, we also see the tremendous change and development in intercountry adoptions. As experience and research knowledge have increased, coaching for adoption applicants, counseling for a child's biological family, or searching for a birth family/relatives have been developed. In addition, laws and guidelines have been specified and the best interests and rights of the child in adoptions have been promoted. The matching process is even more profound today.

However, our responsibility also lies very strongly in the future. For that reason, we must do our job as best we can. We take advantage of all the information we receive every day and use it for the benefit of children, parents and entire families.

In particular, we want to walk the path to the future, where, in addition to caring for special physical needs, adoptive families receive early and timely support for

strengthening the therapeutic parenting and attachment relationship of a traumatized child. The path of our wishes also offers young and adult adoptees the opportunity to receive therapy in addition to all the support they already have. In our ideal future, support and therapy will be provided by trained health and education professionals who understand the specifics of adoption and adoptees.

At the present moment, we must think of the children who are given to the care of their adoptive parents today. We need to store information and documents about their adoption in our archives, and we need to be aware of any questions they or their descendants may ask us in decades to come.

We advise adoptive parents to store all possible information and collect memories of the early stages of the child's life during the pick-up trip. Even all the crumbs of information must be picked up, as they can be very meaningful to the adoptees as they reflect on their own background and identity. We must play our part in the journey where the adoptees build their own stories as completely as it is possible for them.

A child has the right to a family, a safe growth environment and his/her own identity. This is what we want to promote for our part at Interpedia.

Anja Ojuva
Executive Director



Uncompromising work for the best interest of the child

Overall, intercountry adoptions proceeded well during 2021, although the exceptional circumstances caused by the pandemic continued to cause delays in processes and special arrangements for the pick-up trips.

Covid-19 affected the adoption activities in our cooperation countries in different ways. Strict travel restrictions, lockdowns and even curfews slowed down child protection and government officials' work. Delays and lockdowns occurred at different times and stages. This began to show as longer waiting times during 2021.

Natural disasters or pandemics may create surprising obstacles and delays to adoption work, but in all circumstances we must remember to work uncompromisingly for the best interests of the child. This means e.g. that every part of the adoption process is done as carefully as it is in normal times. Adoption is a legal process, and going through all the required steps is in the best interest of each party to the adoption. An exceptional situation does not justify taking a shortcut.

In 2021, we started implementing Interpedia's strategy for 2021–2025. In the strategy, we outline our values and principles where the best interests of the child come first. It is also in the child's best interest to have a well-prepared and thriving family that meets his/her needs. This is supported by a good and smooth customer experience. At Interpedia, we want to develop our work and hone our own process to ensure this. We are deepening our cooperation with our partners, meeting adoption applicants more often during the process, building information sessions according to the customers' needs, reflecting on communication needs and editing guidelines. We are also listening to the adoptees and their experiences.

The work will never be completed in this ever-changing field, but we will remain vigilant and do our best also in the years to come.

Salla Hari
Director for Adoption Program

Interpedia's strategy 2021–2025

During 2021, we implemented Interpedia's adoption service strategy 2021–2025

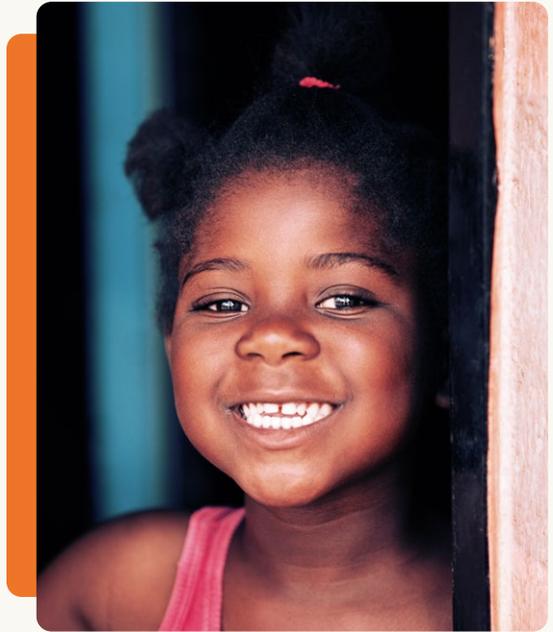
As an adoption service provider:

- we work for every adoptive child to have a well-prepared family that suits their individual needs.
- we work for every customer to have high-quality, expert service during different stages of the adoption process.

- we are a reliable and professional partner to both Finnish and international authorities, adoption organizations and adoption agents.
- we do high-quality post-adoption work and develop our services in accordance with the ever-growing demand.
- we work uncompromisingly for the best interest of the child in a changing operational environment.



Interpedia's adoption service 2021



The operation of Interpedia's adoption service returned to normal during 2021 after the strict restrictions of the first year of the pandemic.

During 2021:

- 41 children were adopted to Finland through Interpedia (2020: 19)
- Interpedia accounted for 61% of all children adopted internationally through Finland through Service Providers (2020: 70%).
- Adopted children were 1 to 7 years old on arrival.

- The largest age groups of adopted children were two-year-olds (17), with a total of seven three-year-olds and seven four-year-olds.

At the end of the year:

- a total of 151 customers (2020: 138 customers)
- There were 81 applications in the cooperation countries (2020: 67)
- A total of 2,296 adopted children have come to Finland through Interpedia in 1985–2021.

Adoptive children arriving in Finland through Interpedia in 2011–2021

	Bulgaria	South Africa	Ethiopia	India	Kenya	China	Colombia	Taiwan (China)	Thailand	Total
2021	–	24	–	2	–	–	3	–	12	41
2020	–	5	–	1	–	–	8	2	3	19
2019	–	23	–	3	–	1	9	2	14	52
2018	–	10	–	6	–	2	6	1	3	28
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



Adoption network

The processes of intercountry adoption today are very individual and require network cooperation. The goal is to find a well-prepared adoptive family that meets the needs of a child in need of a permanent placement.

The employees of Interpedia's adoption service meet the applicants regularly during the waiting period to get to know their situation as well as possible. Our adoption service also works closely with consulting doctors, adoption counseling social workers, partners in the cooperation countries and our contact persons.

Adoption applicants are currently required to be prepared to provide a home for a child with special needs. Sufficiently comprehensive health information about the child will help future parents prepare for the years to come.

During 2021, no business trips to partner countries or partner visits to Finland were made due to the covid-19 pandemic. However, cooperation and meetings continued via e-mail and remote connections.

” *The Covid-19 period has affected the adoption activities in our cooperation countries in different ways. Strict travel restrictions, lockdowns and even curfews have hampered the work of child protection and authorities. Delays and closures have occurred at different times and at different stages of the adoption process in different countries. These continue to affect the adoption work.*”

Interpedia's news 3.1.2022: In 2021, 41 adopted children arrived in Finland via Interpedia

” *During this unusual year, I have gratefully noted the flexibility and ability to adjustment of adoption applicants, our partners, and our staff. No one had prepared for such a year, but we have done well, all together in cooperation’, says Anja Ojuva, Interpedia's Executive Director.*”

Interpedia's news about the statistics for the first half of 2021, 1.7.2021: "During 2021, 22 adopted children have arrived in Finland through Interpedia"



Events, support and communication 2021

Remote information sessions increased the number of participants

Information sessions related to adoption and cooperation countries are a key part of the work of our adoption service. Due to the pandemic, all info sessions were organised via remote connection.

In 2021 we organized information sessions: 34 in Finnish, two in Swedish and two in English. There were a total of about 1,100 participants in these events.

Our new information session on compiling an adoption application proved to be popular and useful

” Why is compiling a good adoption application important?

» In the country of origin, the authorities preparing for the placement of an adopted child have a huge responsibility in finding the most suitable family for the child among the adoption applicants. It is therefore important that the application gives as much information as possible about the life and abilities of the adoption applicants and the circumstances to which the adopted child would be coming. In this preparation, e.g. letters and photos / videos attached to the application are helpful.

» In addition, all official and duly legalized documents required in the application are important to ensure the legality of the adoption.



Brita Maria Renlunds Minne supported our work with Swedish speaking families

With the support of Stiftelsen Brita Maria Renlunds Minne, we organized two information sessions in Swedish:

- Info session for the near and dear of adoptive families
- First time as a family



We warmly thank the Foundation for its valuable support for the bilingualism of our organization.



Infos and webinars together with our adoption networks

In cooperation with other adoption actors, we organized:

- Post-adoption service information session for adoptees and adopted families
- Citizenship webinar
- Seminar for adoptive children's grandparents and other close ones

We organized two webinars together with the Nordic Adoption Council:

- Post-adoption service
- Impact of adverse childhood experiences



“The brain is shaping up”

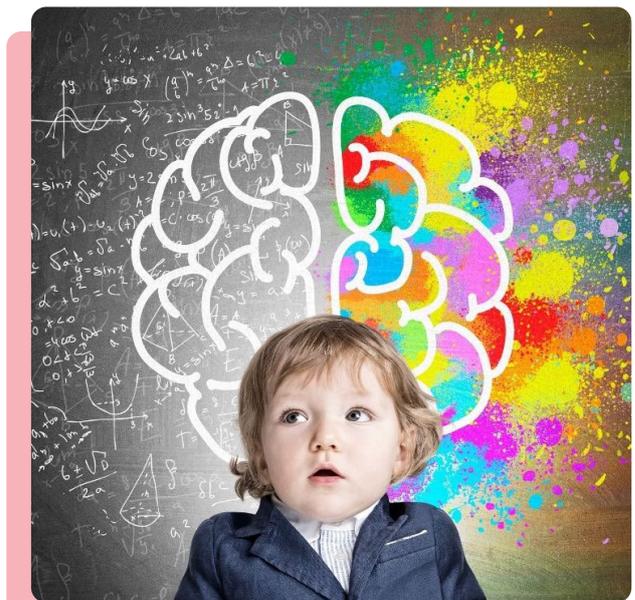
“Adoption is a very powerful child protection measure that allows the brain of a traumatized child to reshape. When a child enters a family that supports his or her emotional development, reorientation begins in the brain and more connections arise.

This is why adoption work is needed.

The spiral of security that arises when adoptive parents respond to a child's needs reshapes the brain. However, this requires countless repetition, patience, presence, and empathy.

It can be difficult for adoptive parents to face and deal with their child's difficult experiences and traumas. However, the child's grief and yearning must be given time before there is room for something new.”

Marika Elmeranta on Interpedia's blog on 13.1.2022: “Adoption is a new opportunity for a child's brain development”. The article was based on a presentation by Dr. Anneke JG Vinke from the Netherlands at the NAC webinar in November 2021.



Support calls and enhanced communication

During the year, we continued with regular post-adoption support and feedback calls or remote meetings with families after the adoptive child's arrival in Finland. There has been a clear need for support calls. Feedback also allows us to develop our operations.

Enhanced communication, which began during the pandemic, was continued throughout 2021 and the customer feedback we received was positive. All major releases were sent in both Finnish and Swedish. During the year, we also updated most of the instructions sent to the adoption applicants.

During 2021, the following were sent to applicants for adoption:

- 35 applicant newsletters
- two brochures of our adoption cooperation countries
- adoption coordinators' country-specific information letters and event invitations
- two letters from the Executive Director (Midsummer and Christmas)

We kept in touch with the media, among other things, by providing background information for articles on adoption.

Discussion on the ethics of intercountry adoptions

In early 2021, intercountry adoptions were widely debated in many European countries. Underlying this was concern about the ethics of intercountry adoptions. We participated in the discussion on our own website and in the media.

“We hope that the ongoing debate will take intercountry adoption practices forward again and open up new perspectives. In the public debate, the bureaucracy and long process associated with adoptions is often seen in a negative light, so hopefully we will now see a shift in the emphasis from parents and adoption applicants to the perspective of the adopted child as well.”

The best interest of the child is the basis of the activities of adoption organizations and since adoption is a legal process, going through every step of it is in the interest of all parties of the adoption.”

Interpedia's news 3.3.2021:
“Discussion on intercountry adoptions”

“A lot has happened in many countries, child protection and domestic adoptions have developed and women's status has improved so that even single parents often have the opportunity to take care of their children. This positive development is also welcome for the rights of the child. Nevertheless, there may still be a need for intercountry adoption in



the country, and it is often a suitable option only for a small proportion of children in child protection.”

Anja Ojuva's blog post 29.4.2021:
“The debate on intercountry adoptions continues”



In the Interpedia

post-adoption service:

1. we take care of the legal archiving of the documents so that the adoptees can access them with our guidance if they so wish
2. adoptees can request and process new information about their background (if necessary, we ask for more information from the adoptee's country of birth)
3. adoptees / adoptive families can get help with root-seeking trip arrangements
4. we respond to contacts from the children's countries of birth, after which we contact the adoptee and support him/her in receiving the information
5. we inform adoptive families if there are changes in the policies of the country of origin that affect adoptive families
6. we organize information sessions



Post-adoption service at Interpedia

According to current knowledge, the importance of the post-adoption service is especially important when the different parties of the adoption go through their background and the reasons that led to the adoption.

Due to the pandemic, the customers processed their background information mainly in remote meetings and no root trips were arranged during the year.

During the year, we participated in the gatherings for families with children adopted from South Africa and India. Furthermore, we provided two post-adoption service info sessions. Approximately 170 people participated in these events.

Together with other Finnish adoption service providers, Interpedia received funding from the appropriation granted by the government to Valvira (National Supervisory Authority for Welfare and Health) for this purpose. With the support, we have continued to develop post-adoption service structures and documentation to meet growing needs.

” It would have been different in India, I have no experience of it, so I can't say at all whether I would have preferred to stay. I might not be as happy



as I am now. I believe my biological parents made the right choice. They couldn't take care of me, and they wanted me to have a good home."

Tarla Tuliainen, an adoptee of Indian origin, told about her life at the gathering of families with children adopted from India and wrote on Interpedia's blog 18.8.2021: "The life of an adopted young person"



The 2021 meeting of families that adopted from India (Intiainen) was organised by young adoptees.

” Not all birth countries of adoptees allow dual citizenship, but many do. Some countries allow adult adoptees to relinquish their citizenship, and some give decision-making rights also to the adoptive parents. In some cases, an adult adoptee must indicate his/her wish to maintain his/her nationality to the birth country’s embassy. As a general rule, citizenship does not end in the countries that allow dual citizenship. If you renounce the citizenship of your country of birth, then it can be difficult to get it back again.

Retaining citizenship can become an important part of a child’s identity at a later age. In any case, it would be important to maintain a positive relationship with the child’s country of birth in the adoptive family.

Interpedia’s news 7.4.2021:
“Citizenship webinar discussed dual citizenship and its significance for adoptee’s identity”

” At the end of the webinar, an adult adoptee spoke about her own dual citizenship and identity process. She feels very strongly that she is both Finnish and Thai. She would like to represent Thailand on a sports team, so she would need a Thai passport to

prove her dual citizenship. However, it is not possible to obtain a passport without a birth certificate, which has been lost over the years.

The passport is the best proof of citizenship, so it would be good to keep the documents obtained from the adoptee’s country of birth in a safe place.”

Interpedia’s news 7.4.2021:
“Citizenship webinar discussed dual citizenship and its significance for adoptee’s identity”

” When looking at adoptions, it is also good to remember that Interpedia’s work has always included and still includes seeking information on the backgrounds of adoptees and the details related to them.

Finland has a long experience of domestic adoptions, so the need for post-adoption service is well recognized here and the state has granted support for it.”

Anja Ojuva’s blog post on April 29, 2021:
“The debate on intercountry adoptions continues”

Foreign cooperation organizations

for adoption service and development cooperation

Ethiopia

DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Bethlehem Family Development Programme (BFDP)

Out of ultimate poverty through family support

Addis Abeba School Centre, German Church School (GCS)

Support for school and destitute families

Berhan Lehetsanat (BL)

Education and rehabilitation for disabled children

Maedot

Day care centres and early education for the poorest children

Bulgaria

ADOPTION

Family National Association (FNA)

FNA is a private non-profit social sector organisation in Sofia

Colombia

ADOPTION

Instituto Colombiano de Bienestar Familiar (ICBF)

ICBF operates under the Colombian Ministry of Social Affairs and Health as the highest national child protection authority

Fundación Ayuda a la Infancia Hogar Bambi Chiquitines

Chiquitines is a private child protection organisation that has its own children's home in Cali

La Casa de la Madre y el Niño (La Casa)

La Casa is a non-profit organisation. It has three children's homes of its own and a shelter for pregnant women and their children in Bogotá

DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Jardin de la Nina Maria (JNM)

Education and a safe growth environment for girls

South Africa

ADOPTION

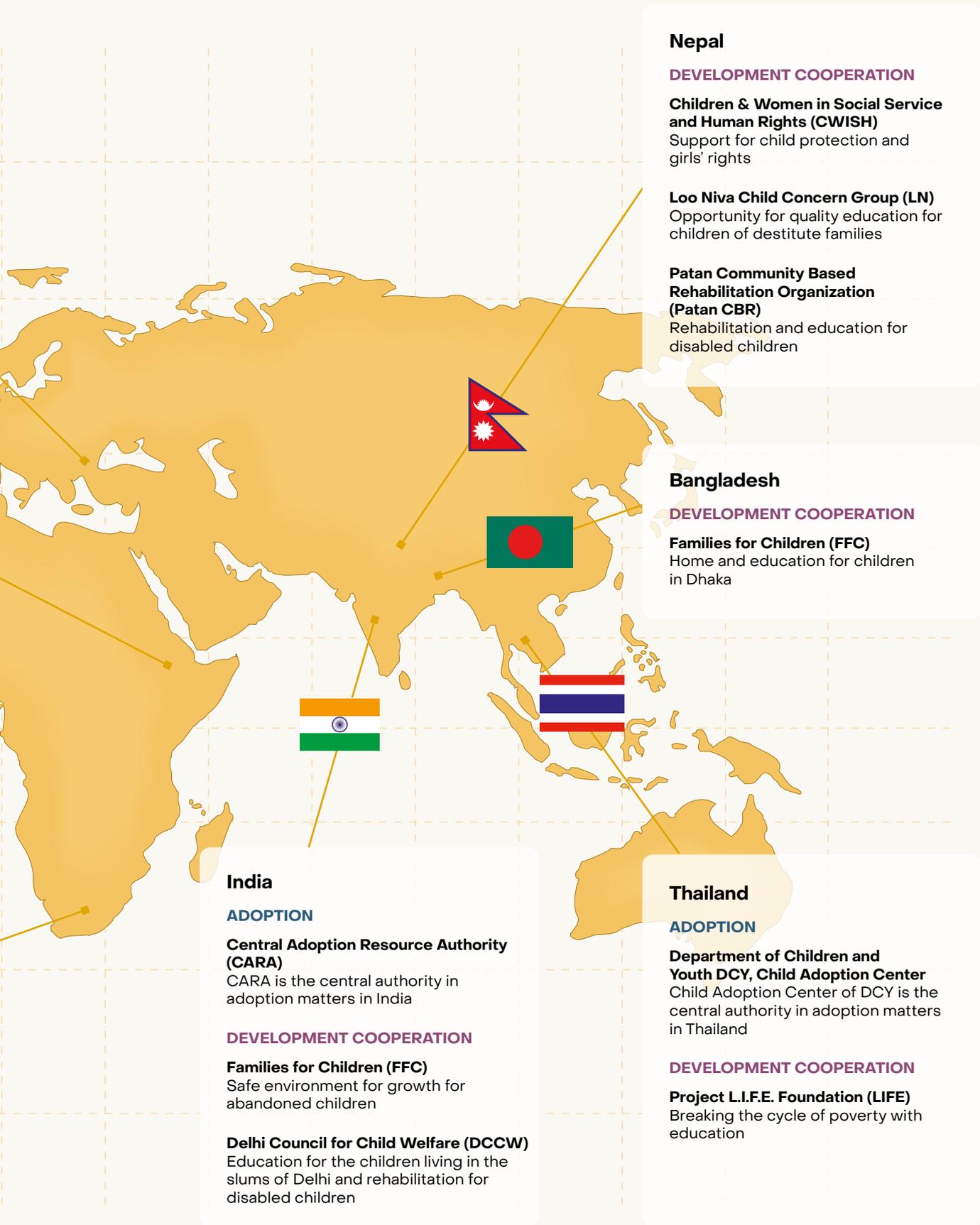
Abba Specialist Adoption & Social Services (Abba)

Abba is South Africa's largest adoption organisation with offices in Pretoria and Cape Town as well as smaller offices in other parts of the country

DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

SA Cares for Life

Support for the children of Plastic City slum



Nepal

DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Children & Women in Social Service and Human Rights (CWISH)
Support for child protection and girls' rights

Loo Niva Child Concern Group (LN)
Opportunity for quality education for children of destitute families

Patan Community Based Rehabilitation Organization (Patan CBR)
Rehabilitation and education for disabled children

Bangladesh

DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Families for Children (FFC)
Home and education for children in Dhaka

India

ADOPTION

Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA)
CARA is the central authority in adoption matters in India

DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Families for Children (FFC)
Safe environment for growth for abandoned children

Delhi Council for Child Welfare (DCCW)
Education for the children living in the slums of Delhi and rehabilitation for disabled children

Thailand

ADOPTION

Department of Children and Youth DCY, Child Adoption Center
Child Adoption Center of DCY is the central authority in adoption matters in Thailand

DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Project L.I.F.E. Foundation (LIFE)
Breaking the cycle of poverty with education



Our networks in Finland and around the world

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 Authority (CARA), New Delhi



Colombia:

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



Thailand:

- Department of Children and Youth (DCY), Bangkok

Our networks in Finland

- **Finnish Adoption Board's Plenary Session:**
Salla Hari was representing Interpedia as a member and Anja Ojuva as a deputy member
 - The purpose of the plenary session is to monitor developments in adoption matters and, when necessary, to take initiatives on adoption-related issues.
- **Network of Finnish Adoption Service Providers:**
 - The network of three adoption service providers (Interpedia, Save the Children, Finland and Helsinki City Social Service) meet regularly and organise joint working groups and information sessions.
- **Adoption Network:**
 - Finnish Adoption Board, adoption service providers, All Our Children, Adoptioperheet ry (Association for Adoptive Families), Simpukka ry (Association for the Childless), Sateenkaariperheet ry (Rainbow Families) and private adoption experts
 - Meets 3–4 times a year
 - An informal network that discusses current issues in adoption
- **Central Union for Child Welfare in Finland (LSKL), Consultative Committee for Preventive Child Welfare:**
Executive Director Anja Ojuva represented Interpedia as a member
- **Steering Group for Adoption Counsellor Activities of All Our Children:**
Social Worker Sanna Alanko represented Interpedia





The online lecture series increases adoption knowledge

In March 2021, we published a three-part lecture series on adoption produced in collaboration with other adoption actors. The online lecturer was Sanna Mäkipää, M.Sc. (Health Sci.). The lecture series is suitable for teachers, early childhood educators, adoptive parents, adoption applicants and adoption professionals.

The lecture series was co-produced by Interpedia, Save the Children Finland, Adoptioperheet, the City of Helsinki Adoption Working Group and All Our Children.

The lectures (in Finnish) can be viewed on our website in the Post-Adoption section and on Youtube channel of All Our Children.





Our European partners

Active Nordic and European cooperation has become a necessity for exchanging information and experiences, and close co-operation has expanded in many ways to the practical level.

Interpedia's memberships:

- **Nordic Adoption Council (NAC):**
Interpedia's Senior Adoption Coordinator Marika Elmeranta represented Finland in NAC Board
- **EurAdopt:**
Interpedia's Director for Adoption Program Salla Hari represented Finland in EurAdopt Council



NORDIC
ADOPTION
COUNCIL



Communication with the embassies of our cooperation countries was also active. In September, employees of the adoption service went on a business trip to Stockholm, where they visited the South African Embassy and got acquainted with the post-adoption service of the Swedish Adoptionscentrum in cooperation with the adoption team of the City of Helsinki.

” *The South African embassy closed its doors in Helsinki in the summer and moved to Stockholm. Today, our adoption coordinators visited the embassy in Stockholm for the first time together with Saara Leinonen from the adoption team of the City of Helsinki, and Maria Erlingsson of Adoptionscentrum. They met with Jonathan Ringeson, Embassy Officer, and discussed e.g. registration of adoptions, applications for birth certificates and passports, and travel documents.*

Interpedia on Facebook and Instagram 16.9.2021



” Our new adoption coordinator Tiina Hemming started working in the beginning of August. She participates in the work of the adoption team and is responsible for adoptions from India and Thailand.

Hemming has previously worked in various positions in child protection, both in the institutional world and in outpatient care. She has also served as a counselor in pre-primary and primary education.

‘It’s really motivating to be involved in family formation and bringing people together. I am also interested in the international side of child protection and how child protection works in different countries’, she adds.”

Interpedia’s news 19.2021:
“Tiina Hemming is our new adoption coordinator”

” Parents of adoptive children usually do not have experience with afro hair, for example, and foreign hair is often perceived as problematic.

Think about how you talk about hair

Taking care of your child’s hair can make for a pleasant moment together. It may be just the best time to talk and listen to your child ... With this, you can push your child away or get him/her close.

When you build a child’s identity from an early age, it brings confidence even to teenage years. An adopted person is given the means to defend his or her own rights.

Hair is not just a matter of appearance, the mental side is even more significant.”

Meron Laine, a hairdresser adopted from Ethiopia, wrote on Interpedia’s blog on 4.5.2021: “Hair and identity - the hair of an adopted person is more than just an appearance”



” The Adoptees’ Day is celebrated annually on 13.3. We wished ”Hyvää adoptoitujen päivää Glad adopterades dag!” (Happy Adoptees’ Day).

On Instagram 13.3.2021

” First Father’s Day as a father of three! Feeling privileged. After many years of waiting, it’s great to see the kids bustle together, even though there’s hardly a common language yet. But everyone has a desire to learn and understand and we feel strongly that we are a family. The band is finally complete!”

Father’s Day thoughts from an adoptive father on Interpedia’s Facebook on November 14, 2021

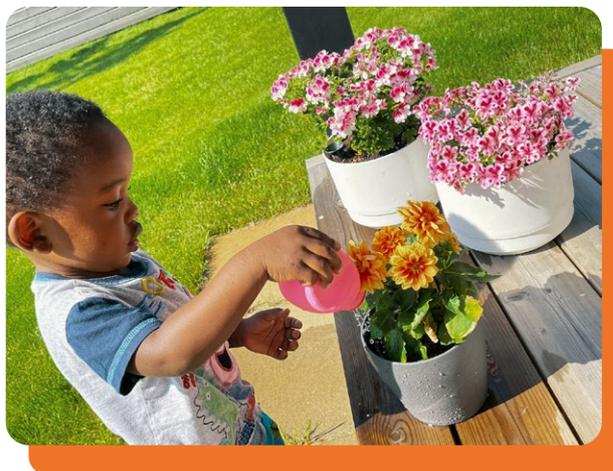


” This is how the lives of four people intertwined into a close family. There were so many stories in our childhood, and an important part of an adopted child’s parenting is to talk openly about the child’s roots and background. Mom was always gentle and patient with telling our very own stories and answering the same questions over and over again. She also knew how to deal with the experience of rejection with wisdom. Our mother’s stories always conveyed extreme gratitude and appreciation for our background.”

Sakran Nuojua and Thomas Nukarinen on Interpedia’s blog on 16.6.2021: A Long Journey to Being a Parent – A Piece of an Adopted Family Story

” Summer greetings from the little gardener spending his first summer in Finland.

On Interpedia’s Facebook 24.6.2021





” We wished Happy World Adoption Day.

On Facebook 9.11.2021



” Towards the end of 2021, the CARA Carings program for children with special needs in India became more active and in November-December we worked very intensively on the child proposals.

Photo from Interpedia's Instagram on 31.12.2021: "December at Interpedia's adoption service"

Interpedia's strategy for 2021-2025:

Vision

- "Children's rights to stable development and safe environment to grow up in are realized"

Values

- **Integrity** – Child rights always come first in all our actions
- **Reliability** – We act responsibly in all our actions
- **Equality** – We act open-mindedly and treat everyone equally

Finance

In 2021, 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 232,104). Post-adoption service received funding (EUR 39,000) from the appropriation granted by the government to Valvira (National Supervisory Authority for Welfare and Health) for this purpose.

Development cooperation activities are financed through private sponsors and monthly donors, other donations and project funding provided by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs for financial support for development cooperation projects by civil society organizations.

In 2021, the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs supported Interpedia's projects by EUR 460,150. The fundraising from sponsorship activities amounted to EUR 244,246, and other donations received totalled EUR 14,299.

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

Interpedia received funding from Brita Maria Renlunds Minne Foundation for organising two information seminars in Swedish.

Interpedia on social media

 facebook.com/Interpedia

 twitter.com/interpedia_ry

 instagram.com/interpedia

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

 interpedia.fi/blog_post

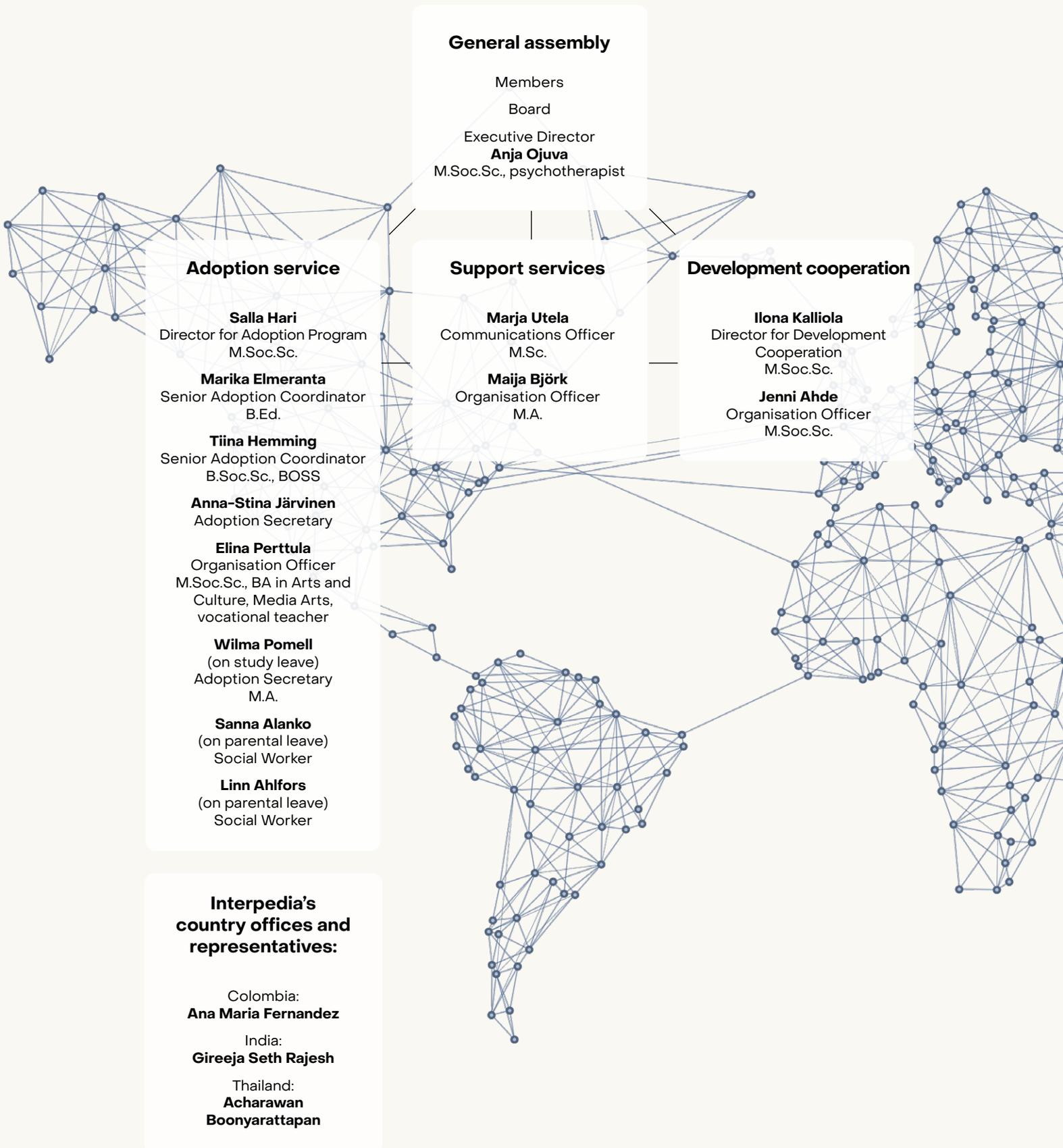


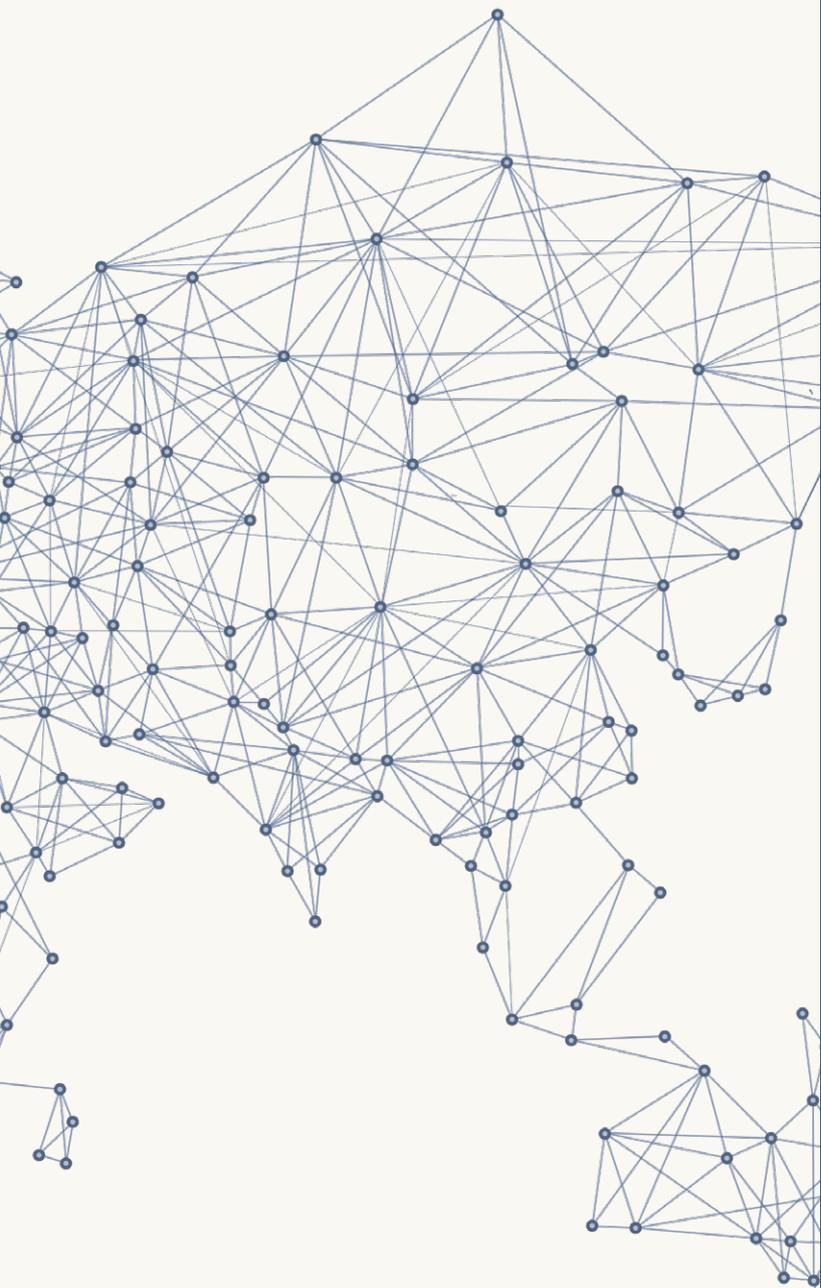
In autumn we published our wall calendar 2022 with the theme Grandparents and Grandchildren



Organisation

31.12.2021





Interpedia's Board 2021

Chairman:

Markku Riissanen

Business College graduate, eMBA, Vice President, OP

Deputy chairman:

Jonathan Andersin

Master of Laws, Counsel,
DLA Piper Finland Attorneys Ltd

Members of the board:

Anu Kallio

M.Soc.Sc., Teacher Qualification Degree,
Vocational Teacher, Director of Elderly and
Disability Services,
Lempäälä municipality

Thomas Nukarinen

Teacher: educational science and psychology Riveria /
Educational field team

Lasse Rantala

D.Med.Sc. (General Practice), physician,
Salo Health Centre

Anna Savolainen

Master of Laws, Senior Legal Counsel, Fondia Plc

Ari Turunen

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

Deputy members:

Eija Littunen

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

Linda Mäkynen-Lönnberg

M.Econ.Sc., Specialist, HR Technology, OP

Members 2021

At the end of the year 2021, Interpedia had
686 members (2020: 716).

The share of the Swedish-speaking members
was 21 % (2020: 23 %).

Children of the world

Interpedia is a politically and religiously unbound Finnish NGO founded in 1974. Its activities are based on the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Hague Convention. Interpedia has about 700 members.

The aim of Interpedia is to promote the child's rights to balanced development and a safe growth environment through intercountry adoption and development cooperation.

As an adoption service provider, we work uncompromisingly for the best interest of the child and make sure that each adoptive child will have a well-prepared family that suits their individual needs.

As a development co-operation organization, we promote children's rights to education, protection, and adequate standard of living in our co-operation countries on a long-term basis.

Interpedia has long experience in intercountry adoptions and extensive connections abroad. Interpedia is working on adoptions with Bulgaria, Colombia, India, South Africa and Thailand.

Interpedia implements development cooperation projects in Ethiopia and Nepal supported by the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs together with its partner organizations. In addition, the association's 900 monthly donors and sponsors support approximately 4,000 children annually in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, South Africa, India, Colombia, Nepal and Thailand.

Through its global education work, Interpedia encourages Finnish children and young people to become active global citizens and increases their understanding of the reality of children and young people in developing countries. The global educational material produced by the association can be used, for example, in schools.