



iCare Final Conference: Judicial Cooperation and Family Mediation in International Child Abductions

29 September 2022

Agenda

9:30 - 10:00	Registration & reception
10:00- 10:15	Opening by Sandrine Pepit , Vice President of Missing Children Europe
10:15 - 10:45	Presentation of the iCare project Assoc. Prof. Dr. Daniela Ilieva, Executive Director of Law and Internet Foundation
10:45-11:15	International Legal Framework and the Brussels II Regulation Professor Laura Carpaneto, University of Genoa
11:15-11:45	Coffee break
11:45 -12:30	iCare Methodology, Research Findings and Recommendations Daja Wenke, Defence for Children Italy Ester di Napoli, PhD, Research Fellow of International Law at the University of Ferrara
12:30 - 13:00	iCare E-platform and the Chatbots Dr. Athanasios Mavropoulos, Post-Doctoral Researcher at Centre for Research and Technology-Hellas (CERTH) Despoina Vakkou, CERTH Valadis Mastoras, Research Associate at CERTH
13:00-13:30	Cross-border Family Mediation in International Parental Child Abduction Cases: Advantages & Best Practices Ischtar Khalaf-Newsome, Co-CEO MiKK, Family Lawyer & Mediator Magdalena Janczuk, Co-CEO MiKK, Mediator
13:30 - 14:30	Lunch break
14:30-15:00	Focus on the child in International Child Abduction Cases Aagje leven, Secretary General of Missing Children Europe
15:00 - 15:30	Prevention of International Child Abduction Drs. Suzanne Labadie, Senior Jurist of The International Child Abduction Center in The Netherlands (Centrum IKO)
15:30- 16:00	Coffee Break
16:00-16:30	Presentation of the iCare videos and Audience Q&A
16:30-17:00	Conclusions & Closing



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Speakers

Sandrine Pepit

Sandrine has a background in family law and psychology. She has considerable expertise in the field of international child protection. After having worked for the Central Authority of Quebec, she joined the Permanent bureau of the Hague Conference on private international law. For more than six years, she has worked for a French public agency where she conducted analyses and research on child protection and alternative care. Since September 2018, she is the Director of ISS France and of 116000 Enfants Disparus, where she runs the hotline for missing children in France. In June 2021 she took up the role of Vice President of Missing Children Europe.

Daniella Ilieva

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Daniela Ilieva is a Member of the Management Board and the Executive Director of Law and Internet Foundation (LIF). As a management specialist, consultant and internationally recognized trainer, she joined the Foundation in 2015. Her profile includes extensive experience in business process management, business communications, intercultural communication and presentation skills.

Laura Carpaneto

Associate Professor of EU Law since 2018, Laura Carpaneto teaches EU law, The Law of International Organizations, EU law and global challenges and EU Transport Law at the University of Genoa. She has spent various periods of time abroad for research purposes (University of Leicester – UK, University of Valencia, Spain, Max Planck Institute for Comparative Law and Private International Law of Hamburg, Germany). Since 2000, she has regularly participated in research projects. Her research activities focus on EU law and, in particular, on EU private international law in family matters. She has published a study commissioned by the European Parliament on Cross-border placement of children and she is now involved as “expert” for Italy in the “parentage/surrogacy” project of the Hague Conference of Private International Law.

Daja Wenke

Daja Wenke is a staff member of Defence for Children International - Italy and an independent researcher and policy analyst in the child rights field. She has long-standing professional experience working with national governments, inter-governmental organisations, NGOs and UN Agencies in the area of applied research and policy development. Her main interest is the promotion of systemic approaches to the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights as an investment for states and societies to become more stable, sustainable and future-oriented.

Ester di Napoli

Ester di Napoli PhD is a Research Fellow of International Law at the University of Ferrara, lawyer at the Florence and Madrid Bar Associations and an expert in Private International Law in family matters. She is currently working as a consultant in the field of children's rights at the Italian independent Authority for Children and Adolescents.

Athanasios Mavropoulos

Dr. Athanasios Mavropoulos received his PhD degree in Computational Linguistics from Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Hellas and is working as a postdoctoral research fellow at Centre for Research and Technology, Hellas (CERTH) since 2016. His research interests revolve around Natural Language Processing, and Machine Learning (Named Entity Recognition, Relation Extraction, term conceptualisation, PDF text classification). He has successfully participated in several national and European projects, while his scientific work has been featured in international conferences and journals. Currently he is working on Knowledge Representation tasks in pervasive environments, Chatbots and virtual agent-focused Knowledge Extraction.

Valadis Mastoras

Valadis Mastoras is a research associate at the Multimedia Knowledge and Social Media Analytics Laboratory (MKLab) of Centre for Research and Technology Hellas (CERTH). He is a Bachelor graduate of University of Macedonia, in the domain of Applied Informatics, and he holds a Master's degree from University of Lorraine, on the subject of Natural Language Processing (NLP). His main research interests concern Deep Learning techniques on text, such as Text Generation, Sentiment Analysis and Natural Language Understanding.

Magdalena Jańczuk

Magdalena Janczuk is Co-CEO of MiKK e.V. International Mediation Centre for Family Conflict and Child Abduction. Trained as a mediator and cross-border mediator, she graduated in administration from the Faculty of Administration and Social Sciences at the Warsaw University of Technology (MA). During her studies she focused on EU funded projects and Polish-German cooperation. She has been working at MiKK since 2014, where she was firstly an advisor, executive assistant and assistant to the board of directors, and since 2019 as co-managing director she is responsible for the financial and organisational aspects of the association's work as well as for human resources.

Ishtar Khalaf-Newsome

Ishtar Khalaf-Newsome is Head of Advisory Services and Co-CEO at MiKK e.V. - International Mediation Centre for Family Conflict and Child Abduction in Berlin. In 2014 she practiced family law for nine years with Dawson Cornwell, a London based family law firm specialized in international family law disputes including child abduction cases. Before that, Ishtar worked as a case manager at the child abduction NGO Reunite International in London. She completed her Legal Studies in London at BPP

University Law School and holds a Master's Degree in Near & Middle Eastern Studies and Islamic Law from SOAS (School of Oriental and African Studies), University of London, as well a Master's Degree in German and English and a teaching qualification from the Freie Universität, Berlin. She qualified as a mediator with the Family Mediators Association in London as well as with Inmedio in Berlin. She also trained in Child Inclusive Mediation with the FMA. Ishtar is a MiKK Cross-border Family Mediation Trainer, has developed content, trainings and workshops within EU projects (VOICE, LEPCA, CODEMAL, I-Care) and for MiKK projects funded by the German Ministry of Justice.

Aagje leven

Aagje leven is a Secretary General at Missing Children Europe, where she is responsible for the strategic development and day-to-day management of the organization. She has a background in Health (Bachelor, Leuven 1998) and Political Philosophy (Master, Leuven, and Nijmegen, 2002). For over 10 years she has worked for several EU civil society organisations as a policy analyst and advocate for the rights and wellbeing of children and their families. She used to coordinate advocacy campaigns for the rights of children in vulnerable situations and manage a European membership network supporting families affected by mental health issues.

Suzanne Labadie

Drs. Suzanne Labadie is familiar with the high conflict situation of international child abduction in her personal life. From first-hand experience, she knows how important it is to have a specialist organisation to turn to in times of need. As the Senior Jurist of The International Child Abduction Center in The Netherlands (Centrum IKO), she is committed to using her knowledge and empirical understanding of the issues to help others as she does understand what they are going through. She has the following qualifications: Master in International Relations from a Historical Perspective (2000), Bachelor in Law (2013), and Mediator (2019).