

*Athens, Greece, 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **«Practices and perspectives in intercountry adoptions»**

The Hellenic Branch of the International Social Service (ISS) has recently started to conduct an important research in the field of the intercountry adoptions in Greece, attempting to explore a field that up to this day remains basically uncharted.

The research, which is part of the «Practices and perspectives in intercountry adoptions» project, is realized within the framework of the Active citizens fund program and it is implemented by the International Social Service-Hellenic Branch. The main goal of the research is to investigate thoroughly the practices and obstacles in the actualization of the intercountry adoptions that are conducted in Greece, covering the years 2011-2019.

The research will be conducted with the use of questionnaires that will be completed by a number of parents that have already adopted children transnationally and by professionals that are working in the competent public authorities in the field of intercountry adoptions in Greece.

The ultimate goal of this research is to fully document the problems, the deficiencies and the practices of the field and to result to the creation of a Good Practice Guide, addressed to professionals and to prospective adoptive parents.

It is noted that «intercountry adoption» is a type of adoption in which the country of residence of the child is different from the country of residence of the prospective adoptive parent and the relocation of the child is required after the completion of the adoption.

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## **The profile of the International Social Service**

The International Social Service (ISS) is an independent, non-profit, non-governmental organization that was founded in 1924, as a result of the big population transfers that took place around the world in that period of time, in order to assist families that were spread out in two (or more) countries.

Founded in 1924, the Hellenic Branch is one of the founding members of the International Social Service and one of the first ones that operated internationally. Its initial goal was to help the refugees from Asia Minor who fled to Greece in 1922, while today it is the only Greek NGO that provides transnational social services.

Since the 1950's, the Hellenic Branch has handled a great number of intercountry adoptions, since it is the only Greek NGO that has been recognized by the Greek Government to deal with cases of intercountry adoptions.

The intercountry adoptions alongside the intercountry child protection and the counseling of intercultural families are the three basic areas of expertise of the Hellenic Branch of the ISS.

**The project «Practices and perspectives in the intercountry adoptions» is conducted within the framework of the Active citizens fund and it is implemented by the International Social Service-Hellenic Branch.**

**The Active citizens fund in Greece is supported through a € 12m grant from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway as part of the EEA Grants 2014 - 2021.**

**The program aims to develop the sustainability and capacity of the civil society sector in Greece, and to strengthen its role in promoting and safeguarding democratic procedures, active citizenship and human rights. The Fund Operator for the Active citizens fund in Greece is Bodossaki Foundation in consortium with SolidarityNow.**

Implemented by:



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Liechtenstein **Active**  
Norway **citizens fund**

Fund operated by:

BODOSSAKI  
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This is our common ground

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