



European Union  
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Office for International Legal  
Protection of Children

With the support of the Permanent Bureau:



Office for International Legal Protection of Children as the Central Authority of the Czech Republic under the Hague Convention of 29 May 1993 on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption

**invites you to**

### **Informal Meeting of the European Central Authorities**

From 1 April 2016, the Office for International Legal Protection of Children implements a project called *Rights and Child Participation in the Agenda of the Office for the International Legal Protection of Children*. One of the key activity of the project is to increase the quality of children's rights protection in the international adoption agenda.

The main, but not the only topic of the meeting will be the search for the origin of adopted children which closely concerns both the states of origin and the receiving states. Another of the main topics will be the possibility of finding a family for children with severe disabilities.

The aim of the informal meeting is, in particular, the exchange of experience and good practice in the area of protection of children's rights in intercountry adoptions.

**Date of Event:** 9<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> October 2018

**Venue:** Regional Authority of South Moravia, Brno, Czech Republic, Žerotínovo nám. 449/3, 601 82, [map](#)

#### **Preliminary practical information:**

**Recommended attendance:** A maximum of 2 representatives from each state. In the case of federal states with more than one Central Authority, 3 representatives are admissible

**Conference fee:** Will not be charged

**Travel costs and accommodation:** At the costs of the participants

**Speaking language:** English

**Call for papers:** If you are interested in submitting a contribution, please request a preliminary notice.

**Contact person:** Lucia Skorušová  
tel. +420 542 215 417  
[lucia.skorusova@umpod.cz](mailto:lucia.skorusova@umpod.cz)

Please confirm your participation by **September 20, 2018** via registration form  
<https://goo.gl/forms/ZLqouelA1J6EFIt83>



## Program:

### **Tuesday, 9th October 2018 - Search for the origin of adopted children**

First day will deal with experience of speaker with topic regarding searching origins of adopted children. Experts both from countries of origin and receiving countries will participate in debate.

- 9:00-10:00 registration
- 10:00-10:15 Introduction  
Markéta NOVÁKOVÁ – moderator, deputy director of the Office for International Legal Protection of Children
- 10:15-10:45 Welcome note  
Zdeněk KAPITÁN – director of the Office for International Legal Protection of Children
- 10:45-11:15 Bernadette B. ABEJO, Maria Gabriela R. CONCEPCION – ICAB, Philippines  
*Process and Practical Guidelines in Search for Origin of Adopted Children*
- 11:15-11:30 Discussion
- 11:30-12:00 Petra PÁVKOVÁ – Dobrá rodina  
*The importance of biological roots for the adoptees - a view from practice*
- 12:00-12:15 Discussion
- 12:15-13:30 Lunch break
- 13:30-14:00 Zuzana SENCIOVÁ, Lucia SKORUŠOVÁ, - Office for International Legal Protection of Children  
*Search for origins – work practise and limits*
- 14:00-14:15 Discussion
- 14:15-14:45 Nigel CANTWELL  
*Developing rights-based policies to facilitate search for origins*
- 14:45-15:00 Discussion
- 15:00-15:30 Jeannette WÖLLENSTEIN, Juliette DUCHESNE - International Social Service, Switzerland  
*The multiple dimensions of implementing search for origins: between law and practices*
- 15:30-15:45 Discussion



- 15:15-15:45 Coffee Break
- 15:45-16:15 Josée-Anne GOUPIL - Secrétaire à l'adoption internationale et directrice générale  
Secrétariat à l'adoption internationale, Montreal, Canada  
*From confidentiality to the right to identity*
- 16:15-17:15 Discussion and Conclusion
- 19:00-21:30 Soirée – [ERA CAFE](#) - [Zemědělská 1686/30, 613 00 Brno](#)

**Wednesday, 10th October 2018 - Finding a family for children with severe disabilities**

- 9:00-9:15 Introduction  
Lucia SKORUŠOVÁ – moderator, lawyer of the Office for International  
Legal Protection of Children
- 9:15-9:45 Ann-Charlotte SÄRNBRATT, Lina VIKTERLÖF, Gunilla CEDERLÖF  
WILHELMSSON - Children Above All – Adoptions, Sweden  
*Finding a special family for a special child*
- 9:45-10:00 Discussion
- 10:00-10:30 Capucine PAGE, Legal Officer, Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference on  
Private International Law, The Netherlands  
*Update on the 1993 Hague Convention, children with severe disabilities and other  
topics*
- 10:30-10:45 Discussion
- 10:45-11:15 Coffee Break
- 11:15-11:45 Petra JONÁŠKOVÁ, Michaela ZDRÁHALOVÁ - Office for International Legal  
Protection of Children  
*Name of the contribution - To be completed*
- 11:45-12:00 Discussion
- 12:00-13:15 Lunch
- 13:15-16:00 ROUND TABLE MEETING – 2 rooms
- 1<sup>st</sup> Room – Search for the origin of adopted children
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Room - Finding a family for children with severe disabilities
- 16:00-16:30 Discussion, Conclusion



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## Accommodation tips:

Hotel International - <https://www.hotelinternational.cz/en/>

Hotel Continental - <https://www.continentalbrno.cz/page/en/homepage>

Hotel Barceló - <https://www.barcelo.com/en-gb/barcelo-hotels/hotels/czech-republic/brno/barcelo-brno-palace/>

Hotel Grandezza - [http://www.grandezzahotel.cz/index.php?Lang\\_set=1](http://www.grandezzahotel.cz/index.php?Lang_set=1)

Hotel Cyro - <https://cyro-hotel.cz/en/>

Hotel Slavia - <http://www.slaviabrno.cz/en/>