

## **FINLAND**

### **The applications**

#### **1. The number of applications**

According to the Central Authority for Finland, they received 2 incoming return and 2 incoming access applications in 1999, making a total of 4 incoming applications. Additionally, they made 5 outgoing return, and 4 outgoing access applications in that year. Altogether, therefore, the Central Authority for Finland handled 13 new applications in 1999.

#### **2. The Contracting States which made the applications**

The return applications came from Sweden and Israel and the access applications came from France and Norway.

### **The taking person / respondent**

#### **3. The gender of the taking person / respondent**

In the return applications one of the taking persons was male and the other was female. Both access applications involved female respondents.

#### **4. The nationality of the taking person / respondent**

One of the taking persons in the return applications had the nationality of the requested State, while both respondents in the access applications also had Finnish nationality.

#### **5. The gender and nationality of the taking person / respondent combined.**

The 3 female taking persons / respondents were Finnish nationals, while the male taking person had a different nationality.

### **The children**

#### **6. The total number of children**

There were 4 children involved in the 2 return applications and 2 children involved in the 2 access applications. Altogether, therefore, 6 children were involved in new incoming applications received by Finland in 1999.

#### **7. Single children or sibling groups**

The return applications involved one sibling group of 3 brothers and one single child. The 2 access applications each involved single children.

#### **8. The age of the children**

The return applications involved 2 children who were aged between 0 and 4 years old, 1 child who was aged between 5 and 9 years old, and 1 child who was aged between 10 and 16 years old.

The access applications involved 2 children aged between 0 and 4 years old. This differs from the global pattern where access applications involved older children, 29% of whom were aged between 10 and 16 years old, nevertheless, the numbers involved in the applications to Finland are too small to enable meaningful conclusions to be drawn.

Combining return and access applications, 4 of the 6 children were under 5 years old.

### **9. The gender of the children**

The return applications involved 1 female and 3 male children, and the access applications involved 2 male children.

### **The outcomes and speed**

#### **10. Overall outcomes and the time between application and outcome**

One of the return applications resulted in a voluntary return within 10 days of the application. The other application was withdrawn.

One of the access applications was still pending six months after initiation. In the other application, access was judicially granted, but the application again took over six months to be resolved.