



Newsletter 2016, No. 33

## Newsletter of the Global Network: "Child Support Worldwide" Dear network members and child support experts all over the world,

### USA completes Ratification of the Hague 2007 Child Support Convention

On August 30, US president Barack Obama signed the Instrument of Ratification for the Hague 2007 Convention on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance. The US subsequently deposited their Instrument of Ratification on 7 September: the Convention will thus enter into force on 1 January 2017 for the USA.



Between 2003 and 2007, the United States actively participated in negotiations and was the first country to sign the Convention in 2007. After it was approved by the Senate and the Congress, amendments were added to the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (UIFSA) to implement the Convention at the state level. All states and territories have enacted UIFSA and, as a result, paved the way for ratification.



The Convention is the first global child support treaty ratified by the United States. Prior to that, cases have been primarily handled under bilateral agreements that the US has with 14 countries and 12 Canadian provinces. Cooperation with US authorities, which has worked effectively in the past, now takes place on a reliable basis for other countries as well.



### Additional countries have been published in the CSW Web Guide



With great pleasure we announce today that Macedonia, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro and Serbia are now available in the Child Support Worldwide [Web Guide](#). You can now find information regarding child support and family law in the CSW Web Guide for all Balkan countries.



### Isabell Jäger-Maillet from the German Institute for Youth Human Services and Family Law talks about her experience with the CSW Web Guide

Isabell Jäger-Maillet (DIJuF, Heidelberg, Germany): "I like to use the Web Guide when I get an inquiry for a certain country over the phone which I am not experienced with, due to the fact that I don't work on any cases in this particular country. The Web Guide gives me a quick and comprehensive overview regarding existing treaties and legal



bases. Thereby, I can give a first assessment to people who ask for advice on the phone. With the links concerning national law, I can get a deeper insight and write a competent response even regarding foreign law.”

## Great food, great music and great professional development coincide in New Orleans

The **Annual NCSEA Leadership Symposium** in early August in New Orleans brought together almost 700 child support workers and professionals for three days of workshops, plenaries and lively discussion about how child support can help families in all parts of the United States and around the world. With 26 guests attending from outside the United States, the international contingent included people from Switzerland, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Brazil, Norway and Germany. Before the start of the Symposium, the international group was hosted by the local Louisiana State child support agency and were treated to some very interesting presentations on how the agency responded to Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath, as well as learning about the challenges of running a large urban program in the southern United States.



Workshops during the Symposium dealt with the implementation of the Hague 2007 Convention. Other topics of discussion included presentations on customer service initiatives, managing privacy and protection of personal information in an international context, and addressing modification of orders in international cases. General sessions on addressing impacts of domestic violence, poverty in the deeply poor segments of the United States and challenges of program and system design provided lots of opportunity for great discussions between attendees.

With all of the attractions of New Orleans just a few blocks away from the conference hotel, discussions about child support and helping families continued long into the night as new colleagues and friends explored the restaurants and music venues of New Orleans.

Next year the NCSEA Leadership Symposium takes place in Scottsdale, Arizona (USA) from August 6 – 9, 2017. Watch this newsletter for more information about the Symposium as it becomes available or visit NCSEA at [www.ncsea.org](http://www.ncsea.org).



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