



## Newsletter of the Global Network: Child Support Worldwide

First of all, we wish all our colleagues, friends, networkers and experts out there a wonderful New Year full of health, happiness and beautiful moments!

We also hope the new year will start and develop just the way the last finished, - namely full of new impulse, motivation and drive!

The month of December 2013 was a very exciting and highly productive time for the international child support community:

At the conference held in Santiago de Chile from 4 until 6 December 2013, experts from ministries, central authorities, child protection institutions, judges of the International Hague Network of Judges and academics from 15 Latin American countries met, discussed the benefits of the ratification of the Hague Conventions of 1996 and 2007 as well as possible obstacles in incorporating these Conventions into national legislations and simultaneously drafted two practical documents to facilitate the study of the Conventions and possible solutions to prospective obstacles. The highly effective and result-oriented work of these three days owes its success especially to the excellent preparation. Ahead of the conference, the Hague Conference team (made of First Secretaries **Philippe Lortie** and **Louise Ellen Teitz**, and the representatives of the regional office of the Hague Conference for Latin America, **Ignacio Goicoechea** -Representative for Latin America- and **Florencia Castro**), prepared questionnaires related to the two conventions, which were answered conscientiously and in detail by the academics, representatives of the central authorities and judges from the Hague Network of Judges . Based on these specific country reports, the Hague Conference team had made drafts on specific issues of the Hague Convention of 1996 and a study on the practical and legal impact of the Hague Convention of 2007 for the Latin American countries. These drafts



served as a basis for the intensive exchange of the participants of the Santiago meeting and at the end were modified by mutual agreement on the basis of the elaborated proposals, findings and suggestions in accordance with the results found. The final consolidation is still pending. As a result of the Santiago meeting, however, it can already be stated that the ratification of both Conventions was unanimously considered to be extremely beneficial and desirable to the region and that the path to be taken - if it has not already been taken - will lead to the ratification of these Conventions.

Another very positive result of the conference is that we may welcome many motivated new experts from the Latin American States to our global network. We are looking forward to the mutually beneficial exchange of experiences.

### **Welcome to the Network!**

At the same time, 80 participants met in Moscow on 03 December 2013 for the final conference of the project aiming at the implementation of the Hague Conventions of 1980 and 1996 which has been funded by the EU and carried out by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) in collaboration with the "State Legal Directorate of the President of the Russian Federation" since the beginning of 2011. In this context, a potential ratification of the Hague Convention 2007 by the **Russian Federation** was discussed. The head of the project team, lawyer **Dr. Kerstin Niethammer-Jürgens**, has drawn up a report on the course and the outcome of the conference which you can view on the network site in English and German language: [www.heidelberg-conference2013.de/newsletter-en.html](http://www.heidelberg-conference2013.de/newsletter-en.html)

We wish the tireless advocate and pioneer of the 2007 Hague Convention, First Secretary of the Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference, **Philippe Lortie**, a healthy, energetic and joyful 2014. In the latter part of 2013, he participated in the Santiago meeting in person and in Moscow by videoconference, sharing his expertise and allowing the participants at the respective conferences to gain both an overview and detailed insight into the system and the benefits of the 2007 Hague Convention .

And we can definitely expect further progress to be made in 2014, too: for example, the European Union has not yet ratified the 2007 Hague Convention, something to look forward to in 2014.