



Child Support Worldwide
NETWORK



Newsletter 2014, No. 20

Dear colleagues, friends and “networkers” all over the world, we have some great news to report from July and August:

“Recovery of Maintenance in the EU and Worldwide”

The book “The Recovery of Maintenance in the EU and Worldwide”, emerging from an EU-funded conference project of the same name, has been published and is now available for order. The book is edited by Paul Beaumont, Burkhard Hess, Lara Walker and Stefanie Spancken and contains a compilation of the best papers submitted at the Heidelberg international conference of March 2013, in revised and updated versions. For details on the book’s content and ordering information, please click [here](#).

2014 NCSEA Annual Conference

An intensive exchange between international participants took place at this year’s NCSEA Annual Conference held in Portland, Oregon, from August 10 to 13. In the lead up to the conference, international guests were informed of the excellent work of the “Maintenance Enforcement Programs” of British Columbia (Canada) on August 6 and 7 in Vancouver, and were also introduced to the child support programs of the U.S. states of Washington and Oregon on August 8. At the well-attended International Round Table held the weekend before the NCSEA Conference, topics discussed included: recent developments and country-specific concerns in the cross-border recovery of maintenance; news from the Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference on Private International Law; ideas and concrete plans regarding the training of caseworkers, authorities and judges within the framework of the 2007 Hague Convention; general reflections on the future location of the International Round Table (Policy Forum); ideas regarding NCSEA membership and the financing of the network; finally also forms of participation and future projects of the Child Support Worldwide Network.

As usual, special attention was given to exciting, internationally relevant topics at the conference itself. The workshop “International Exploration Closer to Home: Working Cases with Mexico” drew a clear, legally substantiated and at the same time practice-oriented picture of cross-border child support enforcement between the U.S. and Mexico. “A World Tour - Around the World in 80 minutes”, provided insights into the child support systems of Australia, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, Brazil, Canada, Germany and Scotland. The workshop “International Child Support Cases - The Next Frontier” illustrated features and forthcoming changes in relation to the implementation of the 2007 Hague Convention into national law and practice. Speakers included



Elisabeth Sættem from the Norwegian Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs who, as an "old hand" in terms of the 2007 Hague Convention, shared Norwegian experiences in relation to the Convention. Her colleagues, also sharing national experiences, included Yvette Reddick from the U.S. Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) and Gesine Wüncke from the German Federal Office of Justice (BfJ). Maja Groff, Senior Legal Officer of the Hague Conference on Private International Law, rounded off the presentation with a memorable speech about origins, history and objectives of the iSupport project, the planned international electronic case management, secure communication and money transfer system under the 2007 Hague Convention. Its particular objective is to accentuate the achievements of the Convention and to allow maintenance creditors an independent and effective management of their own cases in order to ensure the right to adequate maintenance (Art. 27 sec. 4 UN CRC) on a global scale. The required networking under Art. 12 sec. 7 of the 2007 Hague Convention in an effective and cost-independent manner is also to be ensured through simple and fast data access.

All of these presentations are available [here](#).

International Conference upon the Enactment of the Child Support Enforcement Act in the Republic of Korea, Seoul, July 10, 2014

As reported in our last newsletter, a hearing organized by the Korean Women's Development Institute took place in the parliament of South Korea on July 10 in preparation for the implementation of the new Korean Child Support Enforcement Act, which will enter into force on March 25, 2015. The Act contains a legal definition of the obligation to pay child support (Art. 2), comprising all expenses which incur in connection with raising children. These obligations are enforceable under Article 836-2 of the Korean Civil Code and the Family Proceedings Act. The Act also provides for the development of guidelines to be considered by the courts in child support cases (Art. 5) and for the establishment of the "Managing Institute on Child Support Payments", which is to be located at the "Korean Institute for Healthy Families" (Art. 7). This Institute is to support both, the custodial and the noncustodial parent. It has to provide assistance in finding consensual solutions (Art. 10), as well as in the judicial determination and enforcement of child support claims (Art. 11). Where the children's welfare is or is likely to be threatened due to nonpayment, the obligee can also make use of the Institute's "Temporary Urgent Aid System for Child Support Payments" (Art. 14). In order to verify the non-custodial parent's financial capacity, the Institute may also request the submission of necessary documents to verify ability to pay (Art. 16, 17). If the maintenance debtor is unwilling to meet a financial obligation, the Minister of Gender Equality and Family may instruct the director of the National Tax Service and the local administration to seize the refundable amount of national and local taxes belonging to the obligor (Art. 20).

Received with warmth and in a highly motivated, focused and discursive work atmosphere, three invited foreign experts reported about the legal bases and practical experiences in their countries. Dr. Kay Cook, senior research fellow at the University of Melbourne, reported on the experiences with the Australian child support agencies, and Dr. Christine Skinner, chair holder and reader in social policy at the Department of Social Policy and Social Work, University of York, presented on developments in the British maintenance system. Dr. Thomas Meysen introduced the system of advance maintenance payments in Germany and drew a legal comparison between

the various individual EU countries.

The presentations are available [here](#).



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