



DIJuF

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NEWSLETTER OF THE GLOBAL NETWORK: "CHILD SUPPORT WORLDWIDE"

Dear network members and child support experts all over the world,

We are pleased to inform you about the following news in the field of international maintenance recovery.

Open Online Conference on International Recovery by Public Bodies on May 15th, 2024

We would like to kindly remind you that the Child Support Forum is organizing an online conference on "International Maintenance Recovery by Public Bodies" on May 15th, 2024, 3-6:20pm CEST.

The conference program can be downloaded [here](#).

All interested stakeholders are welcome to register [here](#).

Participation is free of charge.

Please note that the beginning of the conference has been postponed to 3pm for organizational reasons.

We are looking forward to seeing you!

Online Survey on the handling of maintenance transfer costs

During the last meeting of the Child Support Forum, it emerged that the issue of dealing with the costs of cross-border transfers of maintenance is handled differently from State to State. In many cases, these costs are actually borne by the maintenance creditors, even if the law applicable to the maintenance obligation provides otherwise. In international law, the issue is not harmonized. We would therefore like to hear about how this issue is dealt with in accordance with your national law and would be very grateful if you could answer a short anonymous survey. The results will be published in the next Newsletter.

Thank you in advance for your feedback!

Click [here](#) to participate in the survey.

HCCH 2007 Child Support Convention applicable in Cabo Verde from January 12th, 2025

On January 9th, 2024, the Republic of Cabo Verde deposited its instrument of accession to the 2007 Convention on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance (2007 Child Support Convention). It will enter into force for Cabo Verde on January 12th, 2025, in accordance with Article 60(2)(b) of the Convention.



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Albania signs the 2007 HCCH Maintenance Obligations Protocol

On February 13th, 2024, the Republic of Albania signed the Protocol of November 23rd, 2007 on the Law Applicable to Maintenance Obligations (2007 Maintenance Obligations Protocol). Instruments of ratification haven't been deposited yet.

Progress in the application of iSupport

iSupport is the electronic case management and secure communication system for the cross-border recovery of maintenance obligations under the EU Maintenance Regulation and the 2007 Child Support Convention. In order to use iSupport, institutions must install e-CODEX components, which allows for the secure transfer of information about the applicants and debtors to and from Central Authorities.

In 2021, Försäkringskassan, the Swedish Central Authority received EU funding to connect to iSupport and e-CODEX. The expectations were to work with a system that can reduce the cost of sending paper mail, reduce the workload related to filling in the forms and help Försäkringskassan gather the statistics in a less manual way.

On November 29th, 2023, Försäkringskassan organized a workshop on its first experiences with applying iSupport. Sweden reported that the main challenge related to the currently low uptake of iSupport, a difficulty inherent to any IT project. It also emphasized the benefits of a single case management system shared between different countries. In this regard, it is hoped that more States begin to follow in the footsteps of Sweden and Germany and start implementing and operating iSupport, to the benefit of all actors in the recovery of maintenance.

Försäkringskassan pointed out the importance of considering the following points before connecting to iSupport:

- Security audit logging: As a safety for the clients, but also for the caseworkers, there is a logging system keeping a record of all that a caseworker is doing.
- Roles and access: The caseworkers should all have manager role A, as they need access to all the screens that manager A has access to. The IT support should have a different role since they are not supposed to see or be in the client's cases.
- Cases with non-disclosure: It is important that clients that have non-disclosure information are specially labelled, so that a minimum number of caseworkers have access to their information.
- Archiving and deleting information.
- Signing of applications.
- iSupport takes some getting used to. Several and early training sessions should be provided.

The total costs of the project for the Swedish Central Authority, including full time equivalent (FTE) resources, amounted to a total expense of about EUR 300,000.

More details concerning the technical aspects of the project are available [here](#).

Finally, on January 9th, 2024, several official messages under the EU Maintenance Regulation were exchanged between Germany and Sweden using iSupport's e-CODEX system. More information is available [here](#).

Fifth Meeting of the International Transfer of Maintenance Funds Experts' Group

From January 29th to 31st, 2024, the International Transfer of Maintenance Funds Experts' Group of the HCCH met for the fifth time. In accordance with the mandate given by the Council on General Affairs and Policy (CGAP), the working group continued discussing good practices in relation to the cross-border transfer of maintenance payments. In particular, the meeting provided an opportunity for States to present their experiences with the various internal

systems and tools available for the safe and efficient electronic transfer of maintenance funds. The Group noted that considerable steps have been taken towards the gradual elimination of the use of cheques, in particular thanks to the Central Authority Payment (CAP) service operated by the United States of America and piloted with the assistance of Germany. It was also noted that significant progress has been made in relation to iSupport and its possibilities in facilitating the international transfer of maintenance funds. The working group has presented a report on the progress of its work to CGAP in March 2024. An *aide-mémoire*, providing a short overview of the main points of discussion, can be found [here](#).

CSW-Newsletter – get involved!

Thank you for your feedback on the latest contributions!

You are kindly invited to continue sharing information with us regarding:

- Your national child support law and public supporting instruments,
- Private international law developments related to child support,
- The practice of cross-border recovery of child support in your State,
- Any events or publications related to the cross-border recovery of child support.



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