

What do children need in case of international child abduction by a parent?

MAIN RESULTS OF THE INCLUDE COUNTRY REPORT, HUNGARY



HINTALOVON

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GAIN A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF
CHILDREN'S POSITION AND NEEDS

FOCUS ON ISSUES THAT ARE CENTRAL TO
THEIR WELL-BEING IN CASE OF ICA.



IN CASES OF ICA, CHILDREN

EXPERIENCE SG
UNEXPECTED
/ARE INFORMED
ABOUT
SIGNIFICANT
DECISIONS

HAVE NO SAY IN
SOMETHING

GET SEPARATED
FROM THE
PARENT

NEED TO
ACCOMMODATE

FEEL BETRAYED,
TRUST IS
DAMAGED

DO NOT
UNDERSTAND
WHAT IS
HAPPENING,
REMAIN ALONE
WITH QUESTIONS

HESITATE ABOUT
SPEAKING UP

FACE
VULNERABLE
SITUATIONS
WHERE
CHILDREN'S
FUTURE DEPENDS
ON OTHERS



HOW DID WE WORK WITH CHILDREN?

DRAMA SESSION

10-13 year olds

10 persons

consultation level

addressed ICA indirectly

3 sessions

PEER RESEARCHERS (CHILD RIGHTS AMBASSADORS)

14-17 year olds

3 persons

collaboration level

addressed ICA directly

10 sessions



DATA

DRAMA

PERFORMANCE

still image

group impro

individual impro

forum theatre

REFLECTION

mental map

hot seat

mantle of the expert

rainbow of desires

AMBASSADORS' VIEWS

INTERPRETATION

observations

link to the
underlying themes

OWN VIEWS

additional thoughts

specific suggestions





What have we learnt?



**SOMETHING
UNEXPECTED HAPPENS
/BEING INFORMED
ABOUT SIGNIFICANT
DECISIONS**



Children wants to learn about the:

background of decisions
their role in the decision
minor details too



How? Consider:

Circumstances
Timing
Admitting a mistake



HAVING NO SAY IN SOMETHING



Causes frustration, powerlessness



Belief in ability to alter or influence decisions



Show examples where children can exert control over their life



GETTING SEPARATED FROM THE PARENT

- ◆◆ Causes insecurity, worry
- ◆◆ Changes the family structure and dynamics
- ◆◆ Physical distance is not necessarily emotional distance
- ◆◆ Frequency and quality of communication matters
- ◆◆ Parent's stability and behaviour is key



NEED TO ACCOMMODATE

- ◆◆ Moving as a burden, something that should be compensated
- ◆◆ Need some level of continuity
- ◆◆ Family ties and peer relationships



FEELING BETRAYED, TRUST IS DAMAGED

- ◆◆ Bad feelings and damage of trust are inevitable but they can be healed
- ◆◆ Good intentions of parents' are trusted
- ◆◆ Honesty is key
- ◆◆ Parents should make the first steps and approach children
- ◆◆ General distrust towards official bodies and judges



NOT UNDERSTANDING WHAT IS HAPPENING, REMAINING ALONE WITH QUESTIONS

- ◆◆ Feeling insecure is linked to the lack of information and unexpected, unknown or high stake situations
- ◆◆ Need for predictability
- ◆◆ Need for clear and understandable information about everyday and formal situations
- ◆◆ Adult's genuine attention can help them cope with uncertainty.



HESITANCE ABOUT SPEAKING UP

- ◆◆ Children worry about the consequences of speaking up
- ◆◆ More problematic in relation to authorities than to parents
- ◆◆ Impeded by the general distrust towards official bodies
- ◆◆ Earlier bad experiences influence children's attitude
- ◆◆ Words are not enough to feel safe
- ◆◆ Consider involving a third, independent professional



VULNERABLE SITUATIONS



Children as a supporting actor in this story



Parents are key in feeling less vulnerable



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEGAL PROFESSIONALS

- **Be careful not to deepen the conflict between parents and children**
- **Provide information about the process, our rights and the consequences**
- **Be reliable and predictable**
- **Respect children's feelings**
- **Listen to us carefully**
- **Do not expect us to like everything or trust everybody at once**
- **Be patient, give us time**





Where do these results lead us?

SPACE

right to express their views

VOICE

**right to take their views
into consideration**

AUDIENCE

INFLUENCE

**CHILD PARTICIPATION
SHOULD BE SUPPORTED
AT ALL LEVELS**



FURTHER CONCLUSIONS

- Emphasis should be made on the underlying themes of ICA
- Sharing information and discussing the situation with children should be fundamental
- Children's behaviour with authority figures is shaped by earlier experiences – but they can be overcome
- Professionals are seen differently
- Primary prevention should be also supported
- Children want parents to control the situation and take responsibility
- Details matter



THANK YOU!



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