



## **PARENTS – CHILD - BRIDGE**

Eltern-Kind-Brücke e.V.  
Staatl. anerk.  
Adoptionsvermittlungsstelle  
State-approved Adoption Service



### **Standards of international adoption placement within PCB**

#### **A guide to applicants**

#### **1. Principles**

Intercountry adoption is an individual act of help which may be considered only if the child is given up by his birth family and cannot be placed in a foster or adoptive family in his home country or cannot be cared for in the child's country of origin

Safeguarding of the principle of subsidiarity

Development of humanitarian aid projects to help children remaining in the country which are not linked to or dependent on adoption

Advocacy role for the affected children and building of bridges between these children and future adoptive parents

Parenthood based not on biological but on emotional relationships

#### **2. Organisational structure**

Authorisation in accordance with the Hague Convention, State Youth Welfare Office, compliance with all requirements, e.g. professional staff requirements

Employees with personal and/or many years of experience in the field of adoption

Restriction to only few cultural groups - pooling and concentration of means and resources

Selection of partner organisations, co-operation only with government or government-approved organisations

Regular information trips to the countries – cultivation of contacts and checking of overseas partner's compliance with legal requirements

Verification of child's status in accordance with the legal requirements of the sending country

Close and trust-based co-operation with the local authorities, e.g. Youth Welfare Offices, responsible for verifying the general suitability of the applicants – the home study is generally carried out by the Youth Welfare Office (Jugendamt)

Checking the applicants' specific suitability as parents of a child from overseas: several meetings with a social worker, seminars and workshops and a final country-specific meeting

Preparation of psychological reports if required

Long-term follow-up and parenting advice for the adoptive families



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### 3. Process structure

Information events and seminars with experiences of those affected  
Preparation of a written plan on the ethical and social/pedagogical approach and the steps of the procedure  
Development of a network of parent contacts  
Meetings with the social worker: preparation of child profile and assessment of specific suitability  
Applying an appropriate age limit for applicants and an appropriate age gap between parents and child  
Detailed information on the cultural and economic situation of birth mothers and the children available for adoption (institutional care, clarification of legal status, ethical source)  
Detailed information on countries with reference to current economic and political situation  
Workshops and seminars on subjects designed to prepare the applicants in greater depth: trauma, search for roots, family situation with birth children, behavioural issues, etc.  
Referral: in accordance with the requirements of the Hague Convention (matching by professionals in the sending country) with detailed medical report, photos, past history, child's current condition  
Procedure for accepting or rejecting a referral, meeting the child, adaptive period – timely counselling of parents  
Support and guidance in the foreign country provided by experienced representatives who know the language  
Support in completing the legal process in the sending country, information on the legal implications of the decision in Germany  
Preparation of progress reports in the post-adoption process  
Parenting advice and crisis intervention  
Workshops for adoptees and adoptive parents, educational counselling, meetings with parents and children  
Co-operation with the sending authorities if the adopted child later wishes to search for his/her roots

### 4. Cost structure

Cost transparency  
Information on the overall costs of the process at an early stage  
Detailed listing of costs taking into account country-specific requirements  
Full documentation of and receipts for all payments made  
Payments made in instalments depending on the stage of the process  
Listing of services included in the cost, both here and overseas  
Adoption procedure is not dependent on or influenced by the applicants' support of the centre's humanitarian projects  
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