



NORDIC
ADOPTION
COUNCIL

Welcome to
Nordic Meeting 2015



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The Nordic Adoption Council (NAC)

- was formally established in 1995
- is an association of adoption organisations in the five Nordic Countries

Purpose of the NAC:

- collaboration and sharing of experience to achieve
 - good conditions for inter-country adoption in the Nordic countries
 - good conditions in which the adopted children can grow up
- promoting the principles of the Convention of the Rights of the Children



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Activities to realise the purpose of the NAC:

- promoting Nordic Adoption Approach, our ethical rules, at all times
- co-operation with Central Authorities, embassies, governments
- arranging Nordic Meeting with Open Days every second year
- arranging Chairpersons conference every second year
- representing NAC at international conferences and seminars
- stimulating research in the field of adoption
- promoting PPAS (pre and post adoption services)
- webbbpage



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www.nordicadoption.org

Nordic Meeting 2015 Gardermoen

Thursday 24th September

18.00 Meeting of the outgoing board

Friday 25th September

- Adoption in the five Nordic countries
- Adopting special needs children / older children 7 siblings
- What is good practice?
- Meeting the future

Saturday 26th September

- Danish model - PPAS
- Adopting special needs children / older children / siblings

13.30 General Meeting (NAC members only)

17.00 Meeting of the Incoming board

NAC

- > Nyheter på svenska
- > Tiðindi á føroyskum
- > Nyheder på dansk
- > Nyheter på norsk
- > News from other sources
- > Frettit á íslensku
- > Uutiset suomeksi

NORDIC ADOPTION APPROACH

MEMBERS

- > Calendar
- > Nordic Meeting 2015 Gardermoen
- > 4th Meeting of the Special Commission on the Hague
- > Chairpersons' Conference 2014
- > Board Meeting in Torshavn 12th September 2013
- > General Meeting 2013 in Torshavn

HISTORY

STATUTES

STATISTICS

ETHICAL RULES

BOARD 13 - 15



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Country report from Denmark



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Current News

October 2014: New political agreement:

- The State will play a more active role in adoptions through clear requirements and framework
- Background and reason: Financial problems and issues with the casework, in-depth analysis on adoption in Denmark
- Mandatory PAS advice just before and just after the homebringing of the child / children
- PAS advice until the adopted child turns 18
- Pilot PAS counseling for adult adoptees
- Training and courses for professionals
- Ensuring accessible knowledge for the adopted person about the upbringing
- SFI - THE DANISH NATIONAL CENTRE FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH should initiate knowledge collection and relevant studies in the area of adoption



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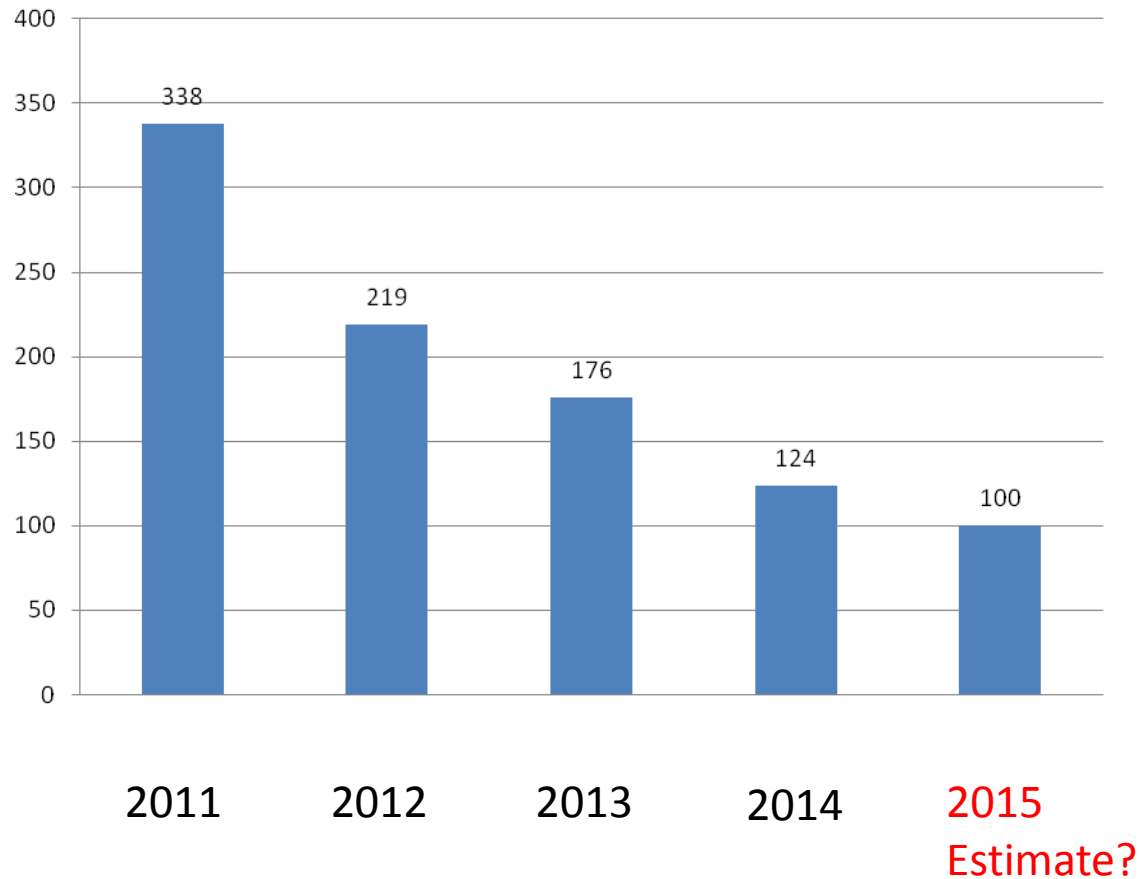
Current News

- VISO (Knowledge and Specialist Consultancy Organisation in the social field and in special education) initiates a formal cooperation with “Ankestyrelsen” concerning professional knowledge on adoption
- State subsidy for operation of the adoption intermediating agency
- Enhanced quality assurance, where Ankestyrelsen must approve all matches
- Demands for closer cooperation between countries and DK. For example, the foreign employees participates in courses in Denmark, and there are requirements for solid reporting and unannounced visits from Ankestyrelsen, improving surveillance and oversight
- Ankestyrelsen must approve all project work in countries of origin, work must be related to adoption
- DanAdopt and AC International Child is merged into DIA, Danish International Adoption



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Adoptions 2011-2015



2005: 586 adoptions



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Concerns

- Very few adoptions and applications, target 150 next year
- The desired split of adoption work and project work creates problems in countries of origin
- The "pressure" on countries of origin – what consequences does it have to the cooperation and what about the children left alone in institutions, if cooperation is cancelled.....
- Who can say, if our way is the right way?



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PPAS

Finally:

A new and permanent PPAS solution in DK – more tomorrow





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Ongoing discussions

- The expectations to the new adoption system in DK:
 - Implementation of the new PPAS
 - The successful merge of DanAdopt and AC Child support
 - Handling the merge of waiting lists
 - Issues with lists for South Africa etc.
 - Does people have to give up?
 - Research, what, when, how (why)
- Degrees of open adoptions – to be further discussed
- The need for a formal Knowledge&Competencecentre



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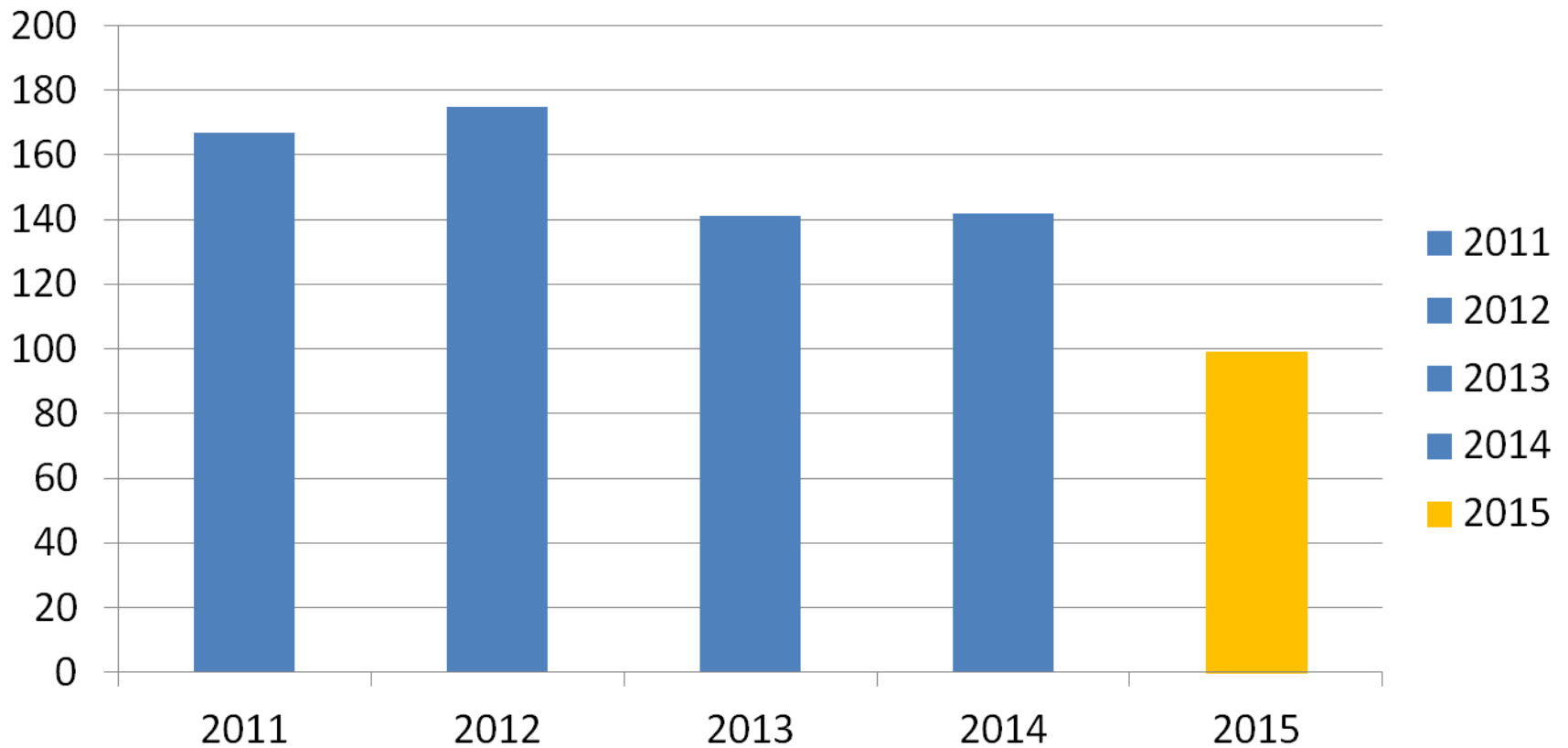
Country report from Finland

Current News

- The number of new applicants has declined
 - The age limit of 50 years has restricted new applicants as the waiting times are so long
- The number of children placed has declined dramatically this year
- Co-operation with Ethiopia, Russia, Colombia (City of Helsinki), Kenya has ended in 2015
- New contacts: Taiwan, Kyrgistan and Bulgaria
- The adoption law passed in 2012 has increased administrative work for the adoption service providers'
- Around 4300 adoptees in Finland (adopted through service providers)
- Longer follow-up processes – up to 18 years
 - Around 600 children

Adoptions 2011-2015

FINLAND



The Central Authority's Concerns

- Prospective adoptive parents
 - Are they prepared for a special needs child?
 - Applicant's own health – difficult diagnoses increasingly more common - for example obesity, psychological problems
- Relative adoptions
 - Difficulties in verifying if the child is really in need of adoption or is it a question of offering the child a better education and life
- Private adoptions
 - After the new adoption law the possibility of a private adoption was made more difficult
 - Unfortunately some people still go ahead with these resulting in very problematic situations where the family is unable to bring the child to Finland – what is the child's best interest in these cases?

Post Adoption

- Many families are coping well, but the families who need more help than is available are on the rise
 - Children's special needs put preassure on these services and they are more important than ever
- The adoption service providers have good procedures to work with adoptees who are interested in their backgrounds
 - Queries increacing
 - Problematic because of the current financial structure

Ongoing Discussions

- Adoption grant for PAP's
 - The grant has remained the same for over six years – costs are very different now
 - The adoption service providers together with the Adoptive Families organization have actively kept the discussion ongoing
- Financing of adoption service providers
 - To secure the safeguards of a Hague guideline adoption
 - To secure the sustainability and future development of the service
- Social media and adoption
- Families need more support in multiculturalism and racism in communities – there is need for more discussion around these subjects

The Positives

- Progress in developing adoption counselling has been made in the past years as most municipalities buy the service from Save the Children - also City of Helsinki does the counselling for two big municipalities
- The adoption service providers have been in service for 30-40 years, so the experience is long standing
- The Adoptive Families organization, All our Children organization and private firms such as Capasitas Familia and Adoptioplus bring more services to the field for adoptive applicants and families
- Adoption Curator hotline for applicants, families, adoptees and professionals
- The adoption network is very close-knit – co-operation is easy and active



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Country report from Iceland



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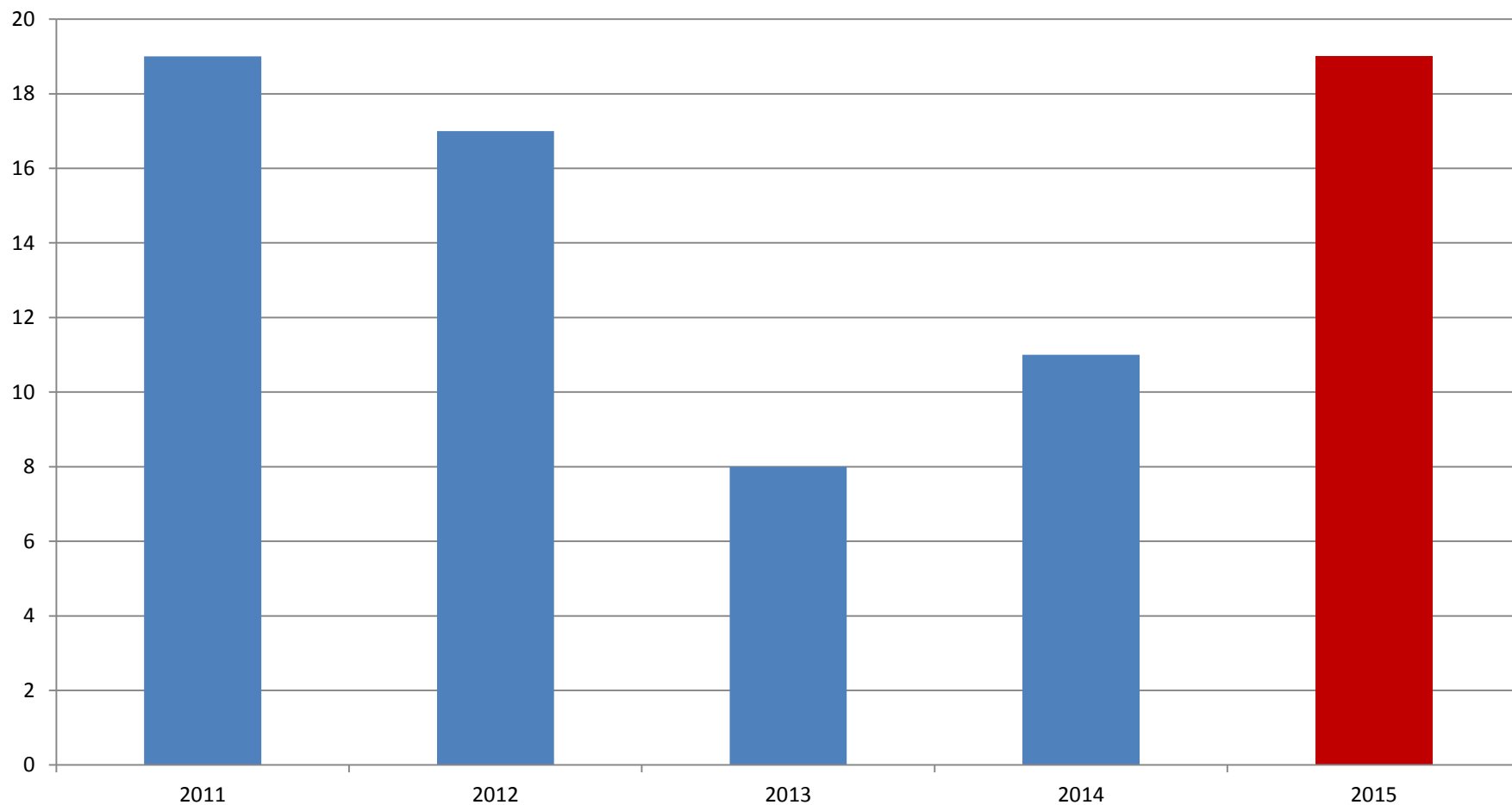
Current News

- Few new applications
- Number of adoptions are increasing
- Co-operation between Iceland and Bulgaria established
- More preparation and training
- More follow up and counselling
- Financially secure



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Number of adoptions





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Pre Adoption

- Counselling / training
- Monthly lectures
- Receiving a child
- The first steps



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Post Adoption

- Counselling / training
- Follow up by counsellor
- Family mornings
- Post placement reports
- Góðir Íslendingar – groups for 10-12 years old adoptees
- Lack of experience and resources in root seeking services



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Future

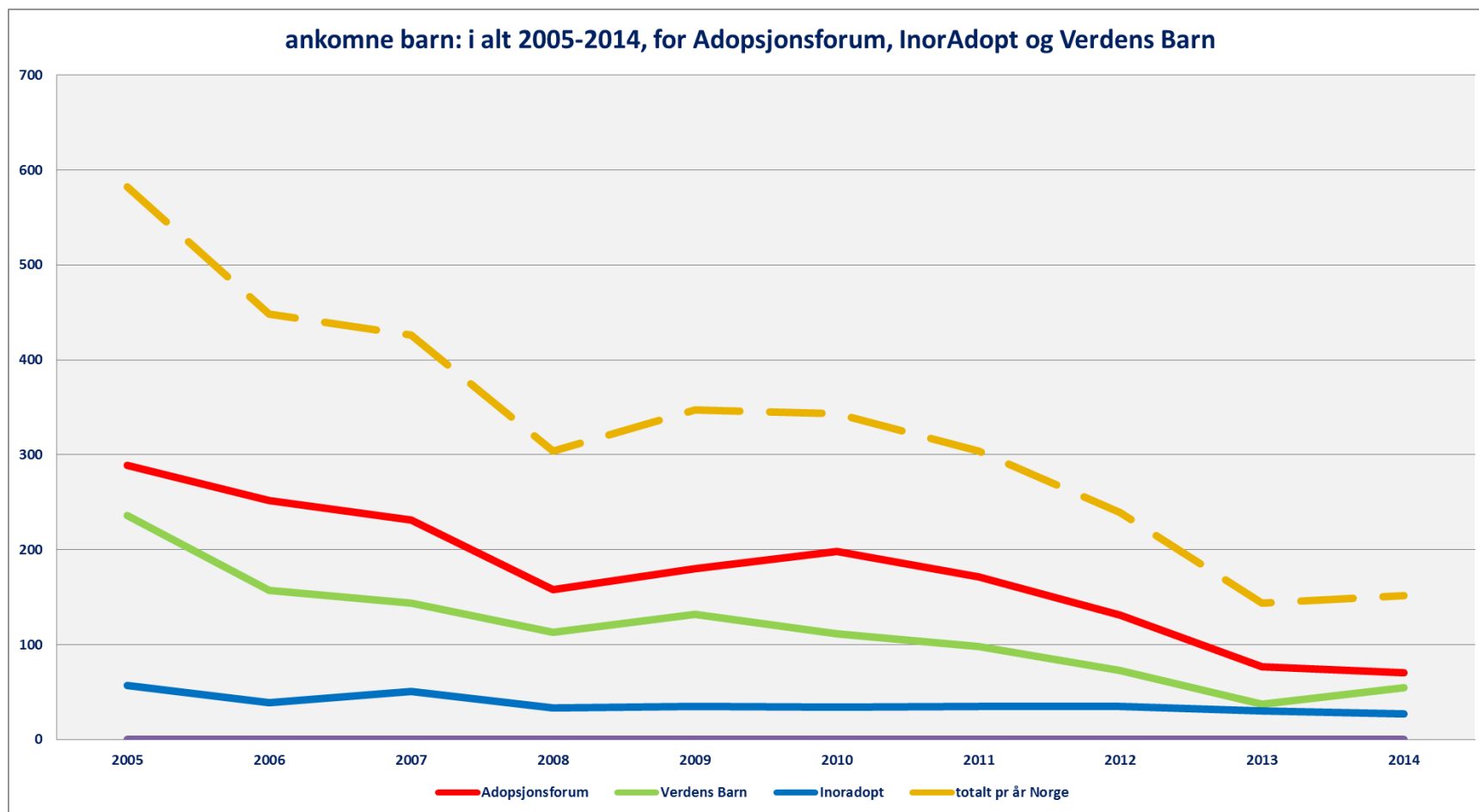
- Adoption grant
- Root seeking services
- Laws and regulations



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Country report from Norway

The last 10 years



Current News

- The number of children placed has declined, but there was a slight (temporary) increase from 2013 (144 adoptions) to 2014 (152).
- Adopsjonsforum 70 (77), Children of the World 55 (37) and InorAdopt 27 (30).
- Major countries of origin were in 2014 (2013)
Colombia 24 (20), South Korea 21 (6), Chile 16 (15), South Africa 16 (13), China 16 (31), Thailand 13 (5), Hungary 11 (16) and Kenya 11 (11).
- Taiwan and Vietnam new countries of co-operation.
- Co-operation ended in Brazil in 2013.

Other changes

- Many old applicants (China in particular) give up because of waiting time / renewal of permits.
- The number of new applicants has declined
- Some changes in the adoption law passed in 2014:
- Non-married couples may apply for adoption from October 2014
- Adoption training course became compulsory.
- Responsibility for social reports moved from municipalities to regional offices February 2015
- Completely new adoption law proposed in October 2014, but proposal still under discussion.

Concerns

- Average age of children increase.
- High proportion of children of special needs.
- More time used for each family for proper preparations.
- Adoption costs go up (but very positive increase of government support to adoptive families from 1st January 2015).
- Time used for processing of adoptions of children with special needs – Norway seen as “slow” and other countries are preferred.
- Financial constraints for adoption associations with fewer adoptions.

Post Adoption

- Many families are coping well, but some families need more help after adoptions.
- Associations close down Post Adoption Service for financial reasons.
- Competence is mixed, and special competence on adoption not common in public health and educational services
- Political campaigning for a national competence centre on adoptions.



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Country report from Sweden



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- Fewer PAPs
 - Age limit 43 years
 - Cohabit
 - Mismatch between adoptable children and PAPs
 - Surrogacy
- Challenge: Change expectations of PAPs



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- More children with special needs
- Older children
- Time consuming process, increased need for specific competence.



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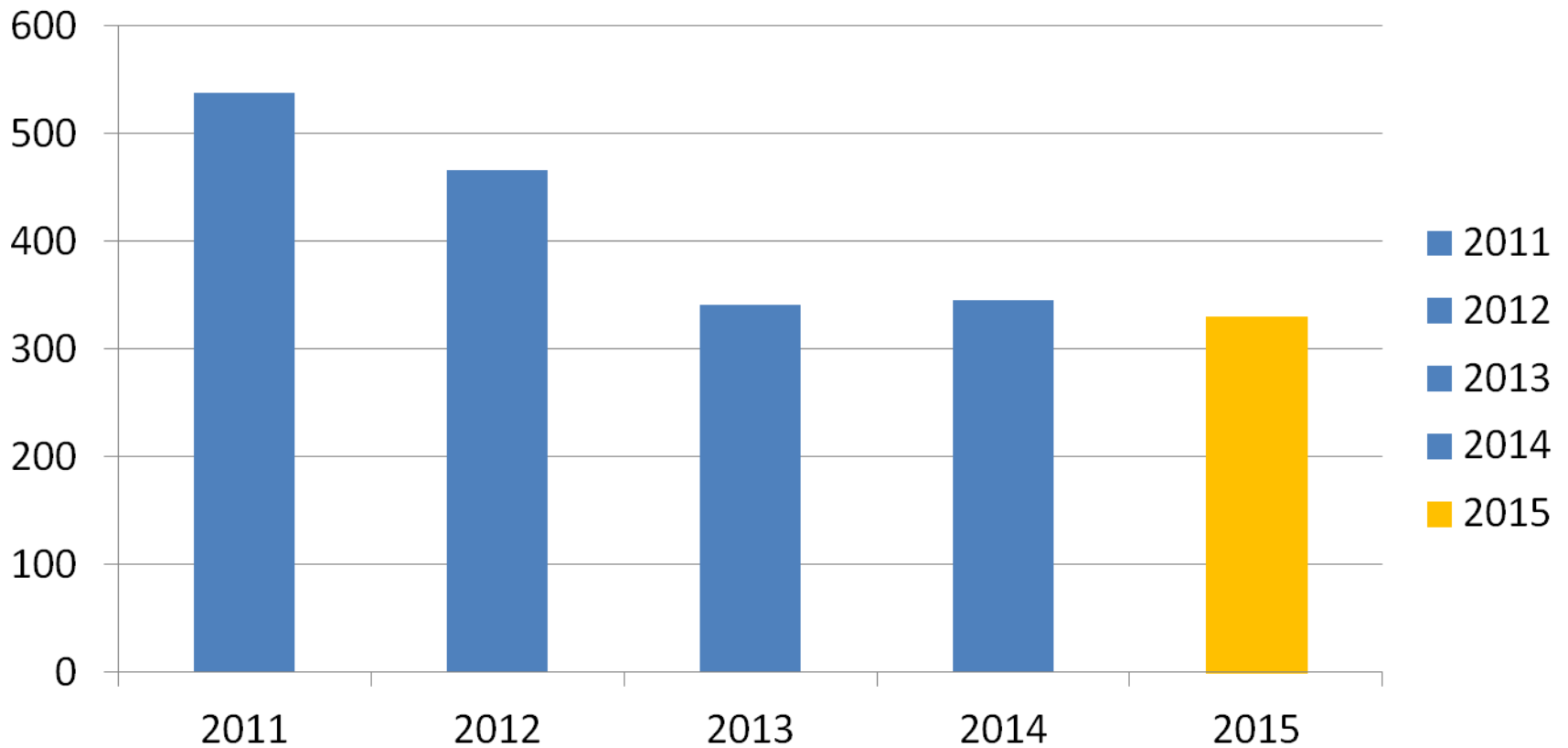
Organisations/Authority

- La Casa
- Adoptionscentrum: Maria Doré
- Financials
- Kristina Svartz
- New tasks – knowledge center for
 - Social welfare board's family law questions (custody, determination of paternity)
 - Family counselling
 - Parental support



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SWEDEN



Downward trend levelling out/slowing down?



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Post Adoption

- Increased demand for root questions
- MIA is developing information on their web page
- Great need