



Danish Model - PPAS



Pre- & Post Adoption Services

Agenda

- Background – the long lasting political work
- The new Adoption Law 2000 – Preparatory courses mandatory
- Pilot project 2007-2010 (2012-2013) – Post Adoption Service
- Agreement 2014: Permanent PAS in DK !
- Other good examples from NAC members

Preparatory courses

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- Until 2000:
 - A&S offered 2 courses: "Course 1" and "Course 2"
 - 3-4 venues in Denmark
 - Privately arranged by A&S (subsidies from DanAdopt, Terres des Hommes and AC)
 - Large sessions, many people gathered
 - Lectures with good and less good experiences of adoptions – concrete examples from adoptees
 - Meeting "real" adoptive parents
 - Positive feedback
 - Small groups formed on geographical basis – many still exists

Preparatory courses

- New Adoption Law 2000
 - Approval proces in 3 phases:
 - Phase 1. Objective conditions (health, age, economy, criminal records, housing, etc.)
 - Phase 2. Mandatory courses
 - Phase 3. Individual assesment before approval
 - Contents of the mandatory courses in phase 2
 - 2 weekends + one evening in between
 - Proces oriented, infertility, parenthood
 - The child, the biological parents, attachment
 - 40 courses every year (geograpfically spread)
 - Positive evaluations, minor changes during the years

Preparatory courses

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- 2015, current set-up:
 - Application must be submitted after phase 1
 - Price 2.500DKK/person (330€)
 - Purpose of course: ***Qualifying the decision to adopt***
 - Proces oriented, group sessions, films, case stories, tasks and challenges for pairs, debates etc.
 - 2 weekends
 - Content, discussions around:
 - Adoption motive, parenthood, the adoptive child, infertility, the wish for a biological child, the applicants background/story, attachment, the life as a family, the biological parents/family and the childs upbringing circumstances

Background PAS

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- CONVENTION ON PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND CO-OPERATION IN RESPECT OF INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION (Concluded 29 May 1993) = The Hague Convention
- Art 9:
 - Central Authorities shall take, directly or through public authorities or other bodies duly accredited in their State, all appropriate measures, in particular to -
 - a) collect, preserve and exchange information about the situation of the child and the prospective adoptive parents, so far as is necessary to complete the adoption;
 - b) facilitate, follow and expedite proceedings with a view to obtaining the adoption;
 - **c) promote the development of adoption counselling and post-adoption services in their States;**
 - d) provide each other with general evaluation reports about experience with intercountry adoption;
 - e) reply, in so far as is permitted by the law of their State, to justified requests from other Central Authorities or public authorities for information about a particular adoption situation.

Background PAS

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- We have promoted this article for more than 20 years, again and again and again.....
 - In many, many meetings with government, responsible ministre for adoption, members of parliament (all parties), Central Authorities' officials, journalists, members etc.
- CA/Government response: The services in art. 9 c, can be (=is) provided by other parties than the State
- Mediating organisations supported A&S
 - Same interpretation: It is an obligation for the State
 - Important when promoting the Nordic Approach in countries of origin, that we take care of the childs needs after the adoption

Background PAS

- The consequences of not applying to art 9, c:
 - No coordinated efforts to support the adoptive families
 - Mainly voluntary support from counsellors /advisors /psychologists from A&S, general and specific areas, telephone-/skype line (Adoptionslinien)
 - Combined with support from the mediating organisations
 - Many, many frustrations amongst adoptive parents and adoptees seeking help in local community and finding:
 - In best case: Nothing – no help
 - Or worse: Wrong and misleading guidance based on misunderstandings of the nature of being adopted, quick and wrongs diagnosis, comparison to 2. generation immigrants etc.

From our Magazine and web

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HVEM KAN JEG SPØRGE?

Der er flere veje til hjælp - alle adoptanter, adopterede, fagpersoner og andre med spørgsmål er velkomne til at ringe. Det er gratis og anonymt, og medlemskab af foreningen er ikke nødvendigt. Adoption & Samfund har rådgivere, der vejleder forud for adoptionen, efter hjemtagelsen af barn og op igennem opvæksten, hvis du støder på problemer i forbindelse med institution, skole, familie, eller hvis du har brug for en psykolog eller et godt tageligt råd.

SAGSRÅDGIVERE

Sagsrådgiverne svarer på generelle spørgsmål om adoption og rådgiver i alle faser af adoptionsprocessen fra de første overvejelser om adoption, til adoptionsbevillingen er givet.

Kan man skifte sagsbehandler?

Hvornår er det tidlig pubertet?

FAGLIGE RÅDGIVERE OG TEMARÅDGIVERE

Her kan du få hjælp, hvis du støder på problemer i forbindelse med institution, skole, familie, eller hvis du har brug for en psykolog eller et godt lægeligt råd. Andre temaer kan være adoption af større børn, teenagere i hjemmet eller ene-adoption.

Hvordan er det at rejse tilbage?

ADOPTIONSLINJEN

På Adoptionslinjen stiller voksne adopterede sig til rådighed for dine spørgsmål.

EKSTERNE RÅDGIVERE

Har du brug for længerevarende behandling, en bistander til et møde eller andet, som ligger ud over den anonyme gratisrådgivning, kan du på denne liste finde en oversigt over fagpersoner med særlig adoptionsviden. Du skal regne med at betale for denne hjælp.

<http://goo.gl/Ngicjj>

POST ADOPTION SERVICES

PAS er et offentligt tilbud til dig, der har hjemtaget inden for de sidste fem år. Der er en mindre øger. Tilbuddet varetages af Ankestyrelsen.

<http://goo.gl/8rXoe1>

Adoptionslinjen

Adoptionslinjen

Et rådgivningstilbud til dig, der er adopteret, eller dig, der gerne vil tale med en adopteret. Vi tilbyder en generel snak om det at være adopteret i Danmark samt særlige udfordringer og problemer ved at være adopteret. Ligeledes kan du få råd og vejledning om søgning af biologisk ophav; motivation, kontakt, søgningsproces samt tiden efter et evt. møde.

TEMA/PROFESSION	NAVN	KONTAKT
Ventelistekuller Rådgivning om at håndtere den situation, som kan overvælde én, når man er i et adoptionsforløb, og man oplever, at forløbet ikke går som forventet, eller når det opleves som vanskeligt at klare ventetiden.	Annette og Jan Mark	51323976
Tab af barn i forslag <i>Der henvises til psykologerne nedenfor</i>		
Adoption af præmature børn Rådgivning om det at få et præmaturnt barn i forslag eller at have et præmaturnt barn.	Trine Boardman	31552079
Skoleproblemer Rådgivning i forbindelse med vanskeligheder knyttet til den adopteredes skolegang.	Janet Majlund (lærer og konsulent)	40586666
Teenagere i hjemmet Råd og vejledning ved teenagemor og pædagog til adoptivfamilier i forbindelse med spørgsmål og problemer, som omhandler børn i pre-pubertet og teenagealderen. Rådgivningen henvender sig til såvel forældre som unge.	Inger Sørensen (pædagog)	45938006

“Temporary” solution

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- After many years of heavy pressure:
 - Pilot project 2007 – 2010
 - Government funded year-on-year (not in State budget)
 - Limited to 3 years after receiving the child
 - Up to 5 consultations with psychologist
 - Free of charge
 - 15 consultants employed with adoption specific knowledge
 - 3.200 children between 2004 and 2010; 35% participation
 - Reason for seeking PAS advice in 30% of the cases: Problems decoding the child's signals
 - Evaluation report by Ramböll, mid- and final report
 - Was it a success?

Conclusions

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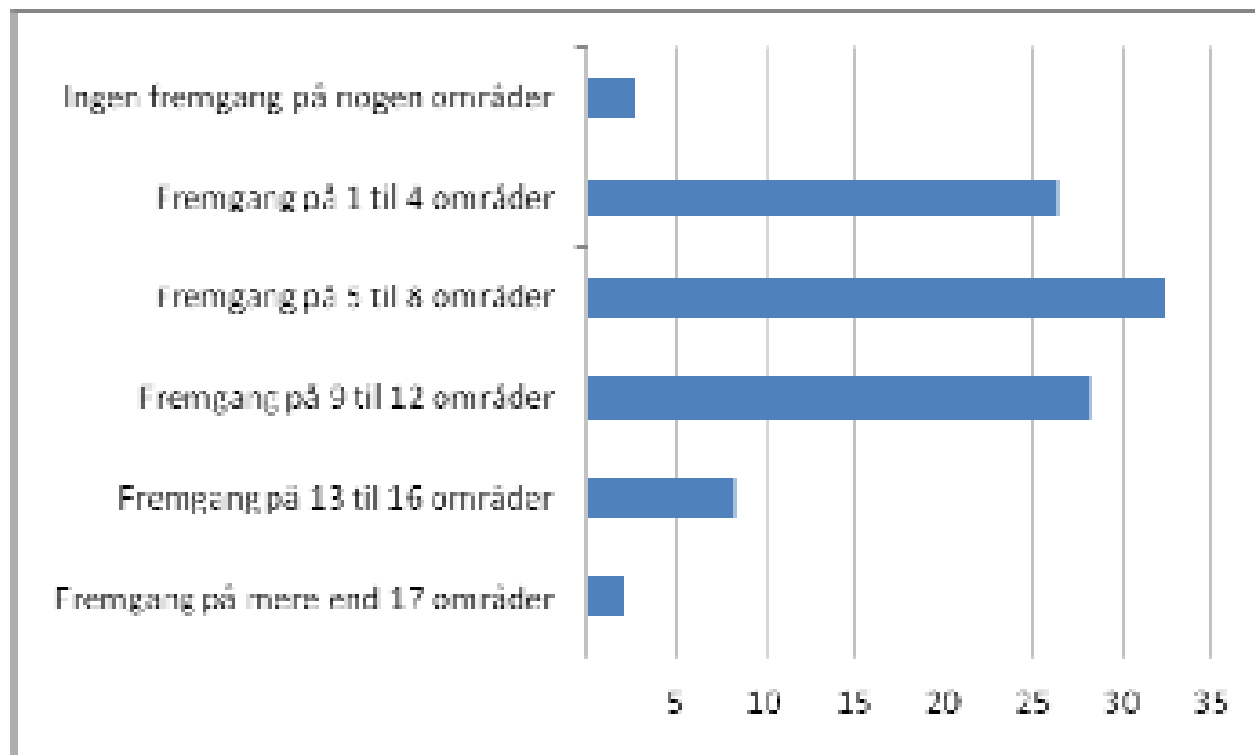


- *The evaluation shows that there are positive results and effects of the PAS advice.*
- *Data shows that 97% of parents after the PAS advice has experienced improvement in at least one area. Most parents have improved and developed between 1 and 12 areas out of 27 possible*
- *Recommendation: PAS advice should be continued as it has positive results*
- *(Ramböll, final evaluation report 2011)*

Evaluation



Tabel 5-1: Oversigt over andel af forældre, der har positiv fremgang ift. de forskellige effektmål



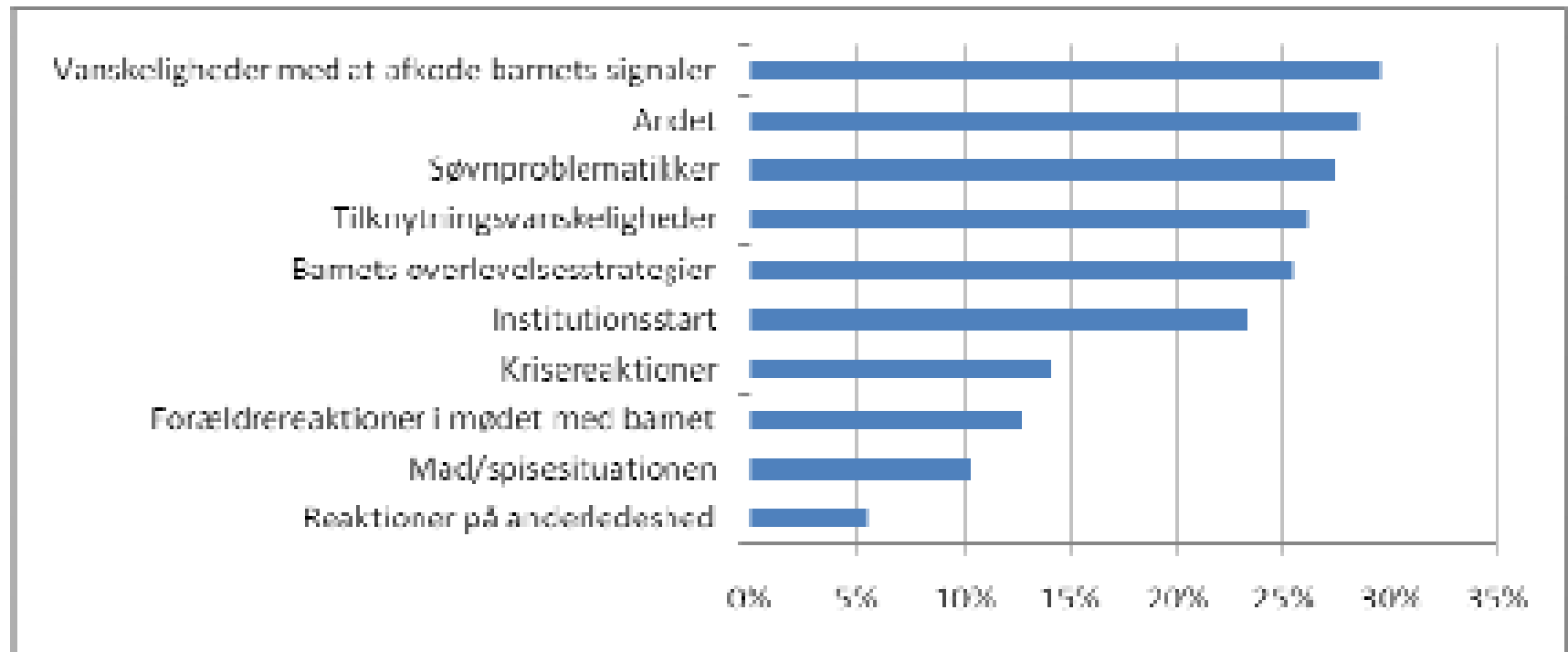
Kilde: Rambøll før- og eftermåling blandt forældre, der har deltaget i et PAS-forløb (N=291)

Evaluation

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Figur 4-1: Årsager til henvendelse til PAS-rådgivning



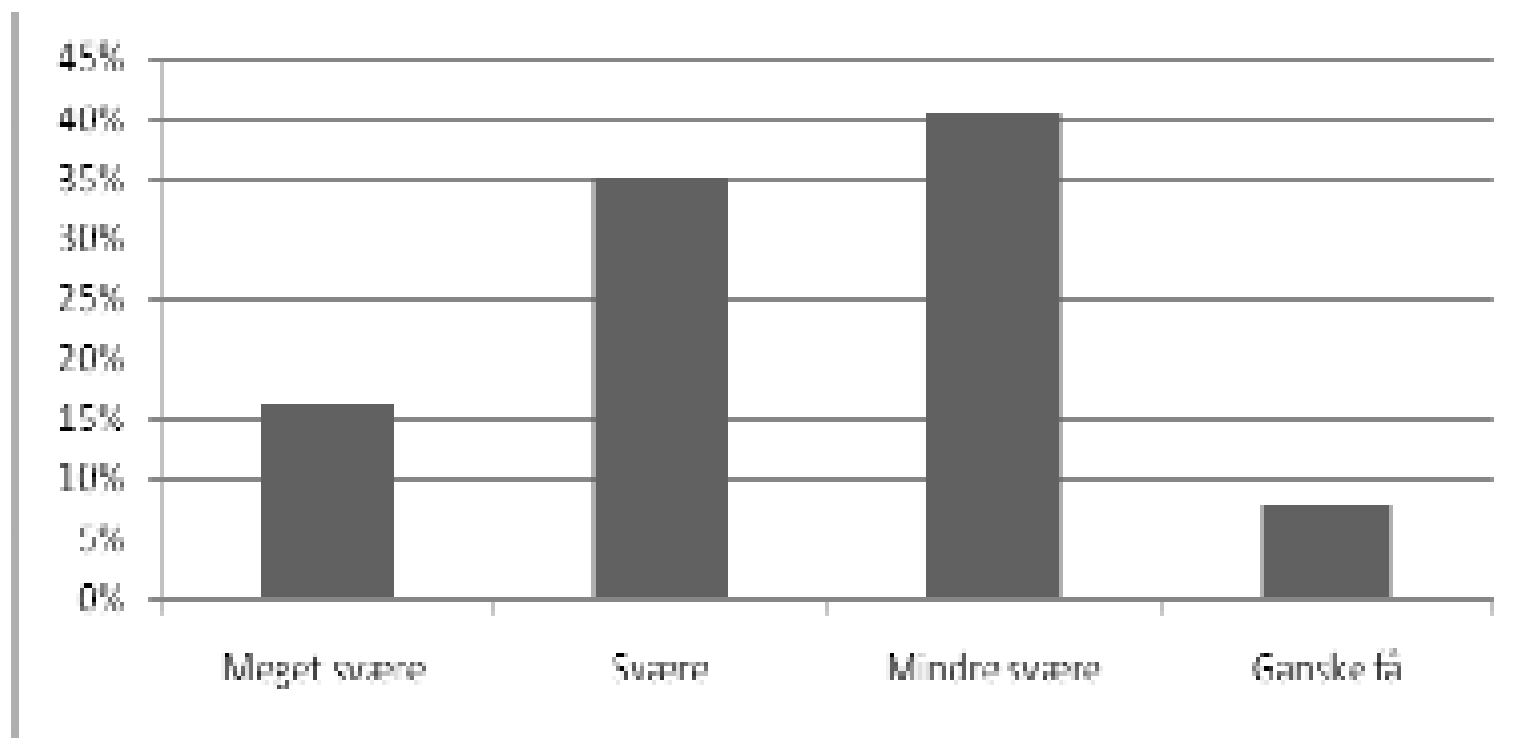
Udført af: Berntsen & Co. i samarbejde med PAS-rådgivningen, Center for Adoption og Samfund, Aarhus Kommune. Udført i samarbejde med PAS-rådgivningen, Center for Adoption og Samfund, Aarhus Kommune.

Evaluation

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Figur 4-2: PAS-konsulenternes første vurdering af adoptivforældrenes vanskeligheder i mødet med barnet.



Kilde: Rambøll-survey med PAS-konsulenter (N=501)

Extension of PAS

- 2012 – 2013: Temporarily extension of project, first for 2012, then extended one more year in 2013
- Still Government funds, not in State budget
- Same restrictions and limitations used

New PRE & POST

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- New government interpretation:
 - Art 9, c: Via the Hague Convention, Denmark is obligated to promote the Post Adoption Service (PAS)

(Webpage for Ankestyrelsen: <https://ast.dk/born-familie/adoption/radgivning-til-adoptivfamilier>)



Permanent PRE & POST Adoption & Samfund



- Implementation 2015-2016
- 6mDKK/year (800k€) in State budget
- Advice to adoptive families after adoption
- Special advice when receiving the child
- Education for professionals in institutions and state/region/community – free of charge
- Child groups
- Later: Groups for single adoptants
- Special initiative: Advise right before and after receiving the child
- Very limited user price: 100DKK/hour (13,50€)

Permanent PRE & POST

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- In the first 5 years after receiving the child:
 - Max. 2 counselling sessions, equivalent to 2 x 10 hours of advice with a PAS consultant
 - Age and country of origin irrelevant
 - Both national and international adoptions
 - Possibility of special dispensation through written application (to the 5 year rule = up to 18 years)
 - Applicants must take initiative to contact the preferred consultant (14 days rule)

Special advise

- Target group: Parents close to receiving and right after receiving the child
- Up to 3 hours counselling
- Individual focus on preparation of being a family, including the "hand-over" of the child

Education

- Free government offer:
 - Target group:
 - Staff in kindergartens, nurseries, schools, SFO's, school clubs etc.)
 - Staff in local government (social workers, psychologists, nurses, speaking/hearing/supporting pedagogues)
 - 4 hours of education
 - Focus on the adopted child and the life in institution/school
 - 2x2 hours for schools

Child Groups

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- Discussion groups for adopted children
 - Purpose:
 - Strengthening identity and self-esteem of the child/youth through:
 - Sharing thoughts and feelings with peers, being adopted
 - You're not alone!
 - Support in feeling and expressing needs
 - Using tools and methods to deal with the special circumstances
 - No therapy – but discussion groups
 - Target group: Adopted children in different ages
 - 2 hours for each meeting every 14 days, 8 meetings in total, one meeting including the families

Other good examples

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Norway: Adoptive families receive the same service as any other family, depending on the need they have.

Sweden: The social welfare Committee shall make provision, in its care of children and young persons, for the special needs of support and help which may exist following the conclusion of judicial or other proceedings concerning custody, residence, contact or adoption. The social welfare committee shall conduct outreach activities and other preventive work to prevent children and young persons from coming to harm.

Iceland: In the Icelandic legislation it is stated that it is the responsibility of the accredited adoption organization to organize Post Adoption Services as it is stated in Article 9 in the Hague convention.

Finland: Adoption counselling shall provide advice, assistance and support after the granting of an adoption. Adoptive parents shall be offered opportunity to have the adoptee's and adoptive family's need for special assistance and support assessed to the extent necessary.

Back-up material



Vejen til nutiden – A & S og den lange kamp for et bedre adoptionssystem

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- Amy-sagen 2012.
- 10. marts 2012 – Landsmøde med deltagelse af: MF Özlem Cekic, MF Mette H. Dencker og MF, Maja Panduro.
- 12. marts 2012 – Besøg hos Social-og integrationsminister Karen Hækkerup.
- 19. september 2012 - Adoptionskonference i Landstinget på Christiansborg.
- November, december 2012 - Adoptionens Pris.
- 6. februar 2013 – Besøg hos Social-og integrationsminister Karen Hækkerup.
- 9. marts 2013 – Landsmøde med deltagelse af: Social-og integrationsminister Karen Hækkerup, MF Pernille Skipper, MF Mette H. Dencker og MF Sanne Rubinke.
- Forår 2013 - stop for adoptioner fra Etiopien gennem DanAdopt.
- Oktober 2013 - Opstart Helhedsanalyse af adoptionsområdet.
- November 2013 - Ankestyrelsen påpeger regelmæssigheder i økonomien hos AC.



Vejen til nutiden – A & S og den lange kamp for et bedre adoptionssystem ... fortsat

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- 29. januar 2014 - Pengemagasinet "Den Dyre Adoption".
- 25. marts 2014 - Høring på Nationalmuseet om etablering af et Videns- og Formidlingscenter for Adoption.
- 18. juni 2014 - Foretræde for Folketingets Socialudvalg.
- 20. august 2014 - Interview med ISS i Ankestyrelsen vedr. Helhedsanalysens 2. del.
- 15. september 2014 – Fremlæggelse af spørgeskemaundersøgelse fra helhedsanalysen.
- 2. oktober 2014 – alle partier undtagen Enhedslisten vedtager en historisk aftale om et nyt adoptionssystem i Danmark.
- 30. oktober 2014 - Det offentliggøres, at DanAdopt og AC Børnehjælp fusionerer primo 2015 med Robert Jonassen som direktør.

