



Project funded by the  
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## **EUROMED JUSTICE III PROJECT**

### **Component II**

#### **Resolution of cross-border family conflicts**

#### **WG 2.5**

#### **PREPARATION OF A HANDBOOK**

**Handbook on best practices concerning the resolution of cross-border family conflicts: custody and visiting rights.**

#### **Finalisation of the handbook**

Prague (CZ), 23-25 April 2013

#### **AGENDA**

#### **Tuesday 23 April 2013**

09.00 - 09.15 **Registration of participants**

09.15 - 09.30 Welcome speech

*Vit SCHORM*, Government Agent of the Czech Republic at the European Court of Human Rights.

*Andrés SALCEDO VELASCO*, Team Leader of the EuroMed Justice III Project.

09.30 - 09.45 **Presentation of the participants (if needed)**

09.45 - 10.00 **Summary of the work carried out during the fourth meeting.**

*Andrés SALCEDO VELASCO*

10.00 - 10.15 **Working group on Resolution of cross-border family conflicts. Work programme, timing and methodology.**

*José María FERNÁNDEZ VILLALOBOS*, Course Manager of the EuroMed Justice III Project.

10.15 - 10.45 **Scope and general contents of the debate during this meeting of the Working Group.**

*Juliane HIRSCH, Main Short-Term Expert*

10.45 - 11.15 Coffee break

11. 15 - 13.15 **Continuation of the discussion started during the fourth meeting on best practices in the field of resolution of cross-border family conflicts: custody and visiting rights: “Hearing the voice of the child in international family conflicts”; “Domestic violence accusations in international family conflicts – protective measures.” Discussion and agreement on the working document concerning the fourth meeting held in The Hague prepared by the main short-term expert. (I)**

*Juliane HIRSCH*

*Project Team*

13.15 - 14.30 Lunch

14.30 - 16.00 **Cross-border family conflicts: Custody and visiting rights. The Czech Republic experience. Hearing the voice of the child in the course of court proceedings in cross-border family disputes.**

*Lubomír PTÁČEK, Judge, Czech liaison judge in family law matters (Hague Network of Judges)*

*Project Team*

Debate

16.00 - 16.30 Coffee break

16.30 - 17.30 **Continuation of the discussion started during the fourth meeting on best practices in the field of resolution of cross-border family conflicts: custody and visiting rights: “Hearing the voice of the child in international family conflicts”; “Domestic violence accusations in international family conflicts – protective measures.” Discussion and agreement on the working document concerning the fourth meeting held in The Hague prepared by the main short-term expert. (II)**

*Juliane HIRSCH*

*Project Team*

Debate

**End of the first day**

**Wednesday 24 April 2013**

08.30 - 09.30 **Current situation regarding resolution of cross-border family conflicts in the ENPI South partner countries. International recovery of child support and other family maintenance – challenges.**

*ENPI South partner countries*

*Juliane HIRSCH*

*Project Team*

Debate

09.30 - 11.00 **Cross-border recovery of maintenance – solutions offered by the European Maintenance Regulation and the 2007 Hague Convention the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance and the 2007 Hague Protocol on the Law Applicable to Maintenance Obligations.**

*Philippe LORTIE*, First Secretary of the Hague Conference, The Hague Conference on Private International Law.

*Project Team*

Debate

11.00 - 11.30 Coffee break

11.30 - 13.00 **Discussion on best practices in the field of resolution of cross-border family conflicts. International recovery of child support and other family maintenance.**

*Juliane HIRSCH*

*Project Team*

13.00 - 14.30 Lunch

14.30 - 16.15 **Discussion on best practices in the field of resolution of cross-border family conflicts. Custody and visiting rights. Finalisation of the handbook.**

*Juliane HIRSCH*

*Project Team*

**End of the second day**

**Thursday 25 April 2013**

08.30 - 10.00 **Discussion on best practices in the field of resolution of cross-border family conflicts. Custody and visiting rights. Finalisation of the handbook. (continued)**

*Juliane HIRSCH*

*Project Team*

10.00 - 10.30 Coffee break

10.30 - 12.00 **Discussion on best practices in the field of resolution of cross-border family conflicts. Custody and visiting rights. Finalisation of the handbook. (continued)**

*Juliane HIRSCH*

*Project Team*

12.00 - 13.00 **Discussion on best practices in the field of resolution of cross-border family conflicts. Custody and visiting rights. Finalisation of the handbook. (continued)**

*Juliane HIRSCH*

*Project Team*

13.00 - 14.00 Lunch

14.00 - 15.30 **Discussion on best practices in the field of resolution of cross-border family conflicts. Custody and visiting rights. Finalisation of the handbook. (end)**

*Juliane HIRSCH*

*Project Team*

15.30 - 16.00 **Proposal by the participants and discussion on the topics to be dealt with during the training sessions and study visit during the second phase of the project.**

*Project Team*

16.00 - 16.30 **Conclusions and closure of the meeting**

*Project Team, Andrés SALCEDO VELASCO*

**End of the meeting**

## **GENERAL INTRODUCTION**

This meeting takes place under the second main component of the project: Resolution of Cross-Border Family Conflicts. The objectives of this activity will be to have a preliminary review of actual or potential obstacles to the adoption of the Hague Conventions related to this component and, as main objective, to prepare a handbook which identifies best practices concerning the resolution of cross-border family conflicts. The Handbook shall take into account the experience of the Hague Conference and of the Malta Process and in particular “the General Principles and the Guide to Good Practice on Transfrontier Contact concerning Children” prepared by the Hague Conference on Private International Law. This is the fifth of 5 meetings devoted to this issue.

### **Methodology for the preparation and delivery of the handbook**

The Working Group will function as real think-tank in the field covered and will be an opportunity to exchange information and debate on various topics. The results of the work of the WG will be of paramount importance to obtain specific information on the legal systems and have in-depth discussions on the topics concerned. In addition, the handbook will also be able to be used as a practical guide. The handbook will be prepared in time to be presented during the Intermediate Regional Conference in the course of the second year of the project.

During this fifth meeting, we will continue the work started on the occasion of the first four meetings and will have a new opportunity to share the international experts’ opinion and the participants’ first approach on the main topics to be discussed from their own perspective and respective competences. Through an in-depth and detailed discussion, we will have a profound exchange on the main topic addressed during this last meeting in order to finalise the handbook.

### **Profiles of the Beneficiaries countries’ experts**

Three participants maximum for each Mediterranean partner country: senior, high-level officials from the Ministry of Justice or other relevant public authority; members of the judiciary and other legal professionals; academics and representatives from civil society with a solid experience of the topics covered by this WG (Cross-border family conflicts, custody and visiting rights, international private family law, role of international commissions, the Malta process, child abduction, transfrontier contact concerning children, distribution of competences between religious and civil jurisdictions, alternative dispute resolution methods, etc ). Due attention will be paid to ensuring that persons taking part in activities related to exchanges of experience and good practices hold strategic positions in the national institutions and that, in this capacity, they will be likely to share with their colleagues and staff lessons learned from such activities.

It would be highly desirable that the participants attending this last meeting are those who contributed to drawing up the handbook, either by attending one or several working group meetings.

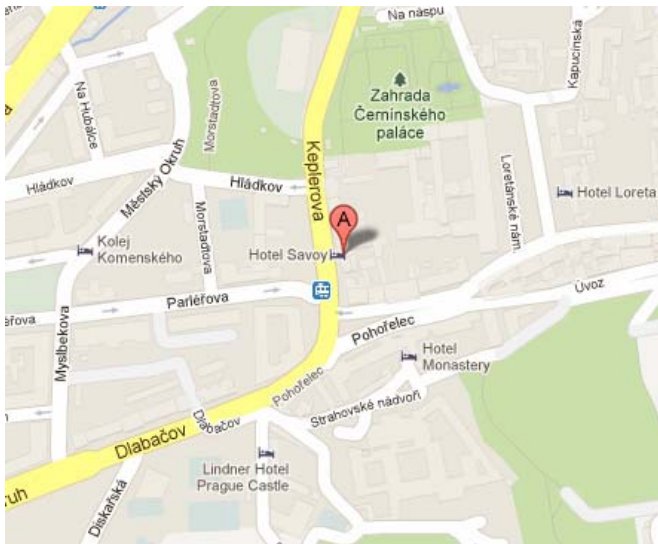
### **Documentation**

A list of suggested reading documents related to the topics addressed will be provided by the Project Team ahead of the meeting.

### **Working languages**

English, French and Arabic, with simultaneous interpretation throughout the meeting.

## Venue and accommodation



The meeting and the accommodation of the participants will take place at the:

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