

TRANSLATION PROCESS OF WRITTEN JUDGEMENTS – SHORT DESCRIPTION

In our research, we have used original written judgments from 8 countries - Austria, England, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Norway and Spain - as basis for the analysis. Judgments not originally written in English have been translated by professional translators, i.e. for countries Austria, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Norway and Spain. The translation process was carried out in parallel with data collection, and took place during the period between February 2018 and October 2019.

Full sample or selected documents

For languages where there were several native speakers on the research team to read and code, analyse and reliability-test, only a selection of judgments has been translated. This was to minimise costs, as each translated case is costly (est. 300-700 € per document, depending on length and language). In the team, there were several native speakers of German and Norwegian, whereas only one native speaker for Estonian, Finnish and Spanish. The purpose of translating a sample of those cases where several native speakers were available was to provide all team members with an impression of the various judgment styles and content from each country.

For Norway, only judgments published in *Lovdata* have been translated, as non-published judgments can only be examined by named and pre-approved researchers. *Lovdata* is a publicly available database of primary legal sources, including a selection of anonymised decisions by the County Social Welfare Boards, accessible subject to subscription.

Table 1: Overview of cases translated per country as per 22.10.2019

Country/language	Type of case	Number of documents translated
Austria (German)	Adoption	None translated
Austria (German)	Newborn	Selection of cases (8)
Estonia	Adoption	Full sample
Estonia	Newborn	Full sample
Finland	Adoption	Full sample
Finland	Newborn	Selection of cases (13)
Germany (German)	Adoption	None translated
Germany (German)	Newborn	Selection of cases (8)
Norway	Adoption	Selection of cases (3)
Norway	Newborn	Selection of cases (9)
Spain	Adoption	Full sample
Spain	Newborn	Full sample

Each translation was conducted by a professional translator. As the cases are sensitive, only the translator was allowed to examine the cases for the assigned purposes. Each involved translator has provided written agreement to keep the material confidential, and has provided written confirmation that all case material was deleted after completion of the translation.

All translators were instructed to stay as close to the original text as possible. After receiving each translated text, a native speaker from the research team also familiar with the terminology required, conducted a quality assurance check by comparing the translated text with the original judgment.