

## Recovery of Maintenance in the EU and Worldwide

Facilitating Dialogue and Cross-Border Cooperation through Research and a Conference for Governments, Practice and Academia in the Framework of the EU Regulation and the Hague Convention on Maintenance

### Background

Council Regulation (EC) No 4/2009 of 18 December 2008 on maintenance obligations (“Regulation”) entered into force on 18 June 2011. On 23 November 2007 the Hague Convention on the International Recovery of Child Support and other forms of Family Maintenance (“Convention”) was concluded. The Convention has already been signed by the U.S. and the EU for its Member States. These two new instruments make changes to the international recovery of maintenance and their success will largely depend on close cooperation among stakeholders.

### Project

The project, funded by the EU Commission, aims to improve the implementation and application of the new instruments and to strengthen cross-border cooperation in Europe and worldwide by establishing a platform for multi-professional cross-border contacts and collaboration.

A key element of the project is an **International Conference to be held in Heidelberg from March 5th to 8th, 2013**, for up to several hundred attendees. The Heidelberg conference will provide an opportunity for the participants to share their experiences, increase their mutual knowledge about child support, family maintenance law, proceedings and enforcement in their respective countries or organizations, and to discuss unresolved issues and develop models for good practice.

In the course of the project **qualitative and quantitative research** will also be carried out by the Universities of Aberdeen and Heidelberg. A questionnaire has been designed for all Member States to find out how the Regulation has operated in its first year in force and how it has been implemented. The research will identify problems in practice and in jurisprudence as well as the need for further education and training.

### Partners

The project is operated by partners from practice and from academia.

**Organiser** is the German Institute for Youth Human Services and Family Law (DIJuF).

**Partners** are the Universities of Aberdeen (Prof Paul R. Beaumont) and Heidelberg (Prof Dr Burkhard Hess).

**Associate Partners** are The German Federal Ministry of Justice (Dr Matthias Heger), the National Child Support Enforcement Association (NCSEA - Hannah Roots, Colleen Eubanks, Christopher Beresford), The Hague Conference on Private International Law (Maja Groff, Philippe Lortie) and the University of Lyon (Prof Dr Frédérique Ferrand).

### Conference Letter

The conference letter ‘Child Support and Family Maintenance’ provides regular updates on the project and other interesting news concerning the cross-border recovery of maintenance.

If you have any questions regarding the project, please contact **Dr. Elisabeth Unger** by e-mail at [unger@dijuf.de](mailto:unger@dijuf.de) or by phone at +49(0)6221-9818 41.