

ASA

ASSOCIAZIONE SOLIDARIETÀ ADOZIONI
E T S



STATISTICAL REPORT 2024

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Adoption: a journey called family by Maria Virgillito

The beginning of the new year brings with it the evaluation of the one just ended, and once again we are pleased to share our Report, which analyzes the activities, projects and data concerning international adoptions, which the Body carried out during 2024.

2024 was the year in which we celebrated twenty-five years of our Association: in fact, there were many traveling parties that we organized in many of our locations, an opportunity to meet with families we have come to know over the years.

Our organisation's families are those who have decided to embark on the adoption journey, what I like to call the journey, showing that they are aware of the challenges it entails. Adopting a child involves facing challenges related to cultural, linguistic and social difference, and yet the love that binds parents and children overcomes these difficulties, creating a family.

Family is not only a biological concept, but it is, above all, an idea of love, acceptance and support: it is the place where we care for one another, where we grow together, where we find refuge in difficulties and celebrate joy. Family is each individual's first and most important point of reference, providing security, emotional support, education and unconditional love.

When we talk about international adoption, we are talking about just that: the opportunity to build families with a foundation of love and acceptance, even across geographic and cultural boundaries. Adoption becomes the gateway to a new life, a life of opportunity, sincere affection, love and support.

When a family decides to take the path of international adoption, they are not only giving a home to a child, they are also giving a family to themselves. This is because adoption is not only a life-changing act for the child, but also a path of growth for the parents. It is a journey of mutual discovery, adjustment, challenges and, above all, a love that is built day by day: adoption is a lifelong journey.

During 2024, we accompanied forty-six families on this journey: 71 boys and girls were able to rejoice in the embrace of mom and dad. Over the past 25 years, ASA has been a beacon of protection and support for children in need. A theme that, as we know, knows no geographical, social or cultural boundaries. And that is why, now more than ever, it is essential that our actions be directed toward international cooperation that can ensure that every boy and girl, everywhere in the world, has an opportunity for growth, education and dignity.

Around the world, millions of children live in emergency situations, without access to quality education, without access to medical care, and without even the opportunity to enjoy a healthy and peaceful childhood.

And this is precisely why international cooperation becomes crucial. During 2024, a great source of pride for us was the implementation of the international cooperation project in the Philippines, "Gold to Them" (L'Oro Per Loro), funded by the CIA. Through the project in the Philippine municipalities of San Jose, Magsaysay, Rizal and Sablayan, we are carrying out activities to

improve the quality of education, health care and to start micro enterprises to promote the economic sustainability of these communities.

In October, I had the pleasure of meeting in Manila with Philippine authorities to strengthen our collaboration in child protection. In particular, I had the pleasure of meeting with the "Council Welfare of Children" to outline new areas of cooperation for the protection of children's rights, especially in the context of vulnerable communities in Mindoro.

The mission also included a meeting with the NACC, the "National Authority for Children Care," during which aspects of adoption procedures were discussed in depth, with a focus on integration between the work done by "Gold to Them" and processes related to international adoption. The meeting laid the foundation for a shared commitment to safeguarding and protecting children, with the goal of developing synergies that can increase the effectiveness of procedures and expand the support network.

International cooperation to support children in need is not only a matter of solidarity, but also a shared responsibility that affects us all. This is a commitment that goes beyond cultural and political differences, because children's rights are universal, and only by working together, never forgetting that every child deserves to live with dignity, can we hope to build a fairer, more equitable and safer world for all.

The beginning of the new year also brings with it resolutions for the new one.

In 2025, our organisation, thanks to the staff who, in each and every skill, make every achievement possible, will continue to walk, on this journey, alongside families trying to ensure as many children as possible get the love they deserve. I also hope that international cooperation activities will continue ensuring a better future for boys and girls everywhere because every child has the right to a life of love, respect and opportunity.

Ms. Maria Virgillito

President of ASA ETS

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Maria Virgillito". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name and title.

Twenty-five years of life, of meetings, of affection by Fulvio Giardina

Twenty-five years and nearly 1,300 adopted children are not mere statistics. Only with the enthusiasm, abnegation, tenacity, and a bit of wise recklessness of Marina Virgillito, to whom my unconditional thanks and plaudit go, could this goal be achieved. In fact, my person, my family, also represent a grain of ASA's long life.

This is not just statistical data, significant in itself, but certainly not exhaustive of ASA's value path. We share a holistic vision of life, inclusive, based on solidarity, respect for the person, welcoming, equal opportunities, and the real rights and protections of every child.

I believe that the added value of ASA, which goes far beyond the mere application of the law as authorized body for international adoptions, is precisely a non-ideological vision of the adoption path that couples of prospective parents undertake, thanks also to a full and absolute professional autonomy of the operators involved (psychologists, social workers, etc.) with respect to the administrative, managerial and political management of the Body.

In other words, we have great respect for the adults who intend to adopt, and above all there is great attention to the real needs of the children who will be adopted.

We have no certainties, let alone absolute truths: we are simply facilitators, together with all the workers of central foreign authorities, of the encounter between two adults and one or more minors in neglect.

We know that the adoption journey is not easy, requiring strong motivation, humility and listening skills, and resilience.

And we know that very often it is necessary to guide prospective parents to remove or limit those constraints that they placed during the preliminary stage, so that the future child to be adopted can increasingly correspond to their wishes.

We do so because we are convinced that any specific constraints placed, beyond the generic ones established by law, about age, sex, welfare is not only a concrete obstacle to meeting and adjustment, but also a kind of emotional barrier to welcoming and acceptance.

In recent years it happens more and more often that the Juvenile Court grants the request for that constraint placed by prospective parents, especially that of age, deluding them of the real possibility of adopting a child of the age, or conditions, stated in the decree.

It will then be difficult for the Authorized Body to bring the adoption project back into the realm of common sense and the concrete possibility of adoption, always assuming that the real needs of the child will be given priority in every case.

Certainly, prospective adoptive parents today are much more informed than in the past. New technologies, the use of social media, the so-called "artificial intelligence", have facilitated access to all kinds of information, whether correct or not, but - at the same time - have changed our way of thinking, of dealing with problems and overcoming them, of weaving relationships and affections.

We communicate via WhatsApp and resolve our doubts through Google!!!

The risk is precisely that we may become accustomed to expecting immediate satisfaction with respect to our desires, build exaggerated and unrealizable expectations with respect to human relationships, and lose the enthusiasm associated with great emotional experiences.

Adoption today probably represents one of the few opportunities for sincere humanity that human beings, both the adults who adopt and the child who is adopted, experience.

The social structure of our country has changed over the years.

In 2023 in Italy unmarried couples, stepfamilies, non-widowed singles, and non-widowed single parents will account for 39.7% of total households: more than 18.5 million people, nearly one-third of the population. In fact, children and young people up to age 24 are increasingly living with unmarried parents or single mothers. Singles account for 22.1% of the total. (ISTAT 2023).

By now, the time is ripe for a reconsideration of adoption legislation, giving - for example - equal dignity to both singles and couples, entrusting Authorized Bodies with a more modern and more professional function even in the preliminary phase (e.g., in orientation and training), and providing that the couple's social and psychological assessments determining the suitability for adoption be carried out by the Local Body or third-party professionals, as they are not health services, and they should not fall within the competence of the National Health Service.

Parental fitness is not a clinical diagnosis, neither medical nor psychological!

What to say to children who will be adopted, when to say it, why to say it, how to prepare them for the meeting with their prospective parents!!!

Very often we, adults, communicate with children to meet our own needs rather than to provide them with real information.

All children, at least up to age six, represent in their way of expression the harmony and balance of the whole universe. When a child, from the age of three to four, learns to harmonize the parts of his/her body into one graceful movement, as if dancing, he/she grasps from external reality only the positive, pleasing elements, even transforming moments of great uncertainty, if not of violence suffered, into an almost natural condition of his/her life.

The child in a state of neglect is deprived of the social, affective, emotional experience that his/her peers born and raised within their families have.

How does the child -in the immediacy of adoption- process his/her abandonment as a unique and unrepeatable moment in his/her life?

How can he/she have knowledge that those two adults he has just met, and with whom he/she is going to leave, will not abandon him/her in turn?

We know that the wound of abandonment leaves an emotional scar, which will heal, but it will leave a lifelong footprint, because what has been eroded is the relationship of trust that binds every child with the whole world.

"The most important feature of parenting is to provide a secure base from which a child can start to face the outside world and to which he or she can return knowing for certain that he or she will be welcome, nurtured physically and emotionally." (John Bowlby, 1988)

There, the child in neglect has lacked precisely the secure base, which certainly cannot be delegated, at least for the time being.

In our vocabulary we still use the adjective "real" to describe family ties. The "real mother", as if the adoptive mother is the fake one!

As is well known, precisely in order to recreate the family atmosphere, since 2000 in our country, and in EU countries, orphanages, the so-called "brefotrofio", have been permanently closed, providing for the activation of foster homes throughout the country, facilities designed to take in a few minors so that the main affective relationships between adults and children can be serenely experienced.

In that context, which is certainly less invasive than institutionalization, the child has named "mom" that person who cares for him/her, as the mom who previously gave birth to him/her and raised him/her, and as the mom with whom he will leave that home forever.

There the word "mom", a symbolic elaboration of the first vocalizations of lip sounds, is no longer a sign - at least at this stage of the adopted child's life - of uniqueness and a privileged relationship, but of caregiving.

What to say, then? Since the bond of trust, broken by abandonment, needs to be rebuilt, in the first meetings between the two prospective parents and the child, fewer words and more glances, less talk and more warmth, fewer promises and more joy and play.

There will be time and a way to get to know each other, to fully accept each other, to share the common path of our lives, to discover the uniqueness of family relationships, always assuming that diversity is an asset that unites us and never divides us.

Happy 2025 to all the children of the world!

Mr. Fulvio Giardina

Supervisor of ASA ETS psychology service

Former President of the Council of the National Association of Psychologists

Fulvio Giardina

Where the future blooms by Rosanna Favero

Every child carries within him or her a world of possibilities, a promise of life just waiting to be cultivated with care and love. It is our job to care for those seeds, nurturing them with education, confidence and hope so that they can grow strong and capable of bearing fruit for themselves and the community around them.

The "Gold to Them" project, thanks to the contribution of ASA and other supporting Bodies, was born from this very desire: to spread possibilities where there previously were only difficulties and obstacles. But a seed alone cannot grow. It needs fertile soil, water, light, and above all, caring hands to protect it from the elements. In this sense, our work has never been just a targeted intervention, but a long-term commitment to creating the conditions necessary for children to flourish, regardless of the circumstances in which they were born.

Every backpack delivered, every notebook donated, every lesson taught were more than concrete gestures: they were acts of trust in the potential of those children. The traveling school was not only a way to bring education to remote villages, but a symbol of an education able to change and get closer to those who need it most. Likewise, each treatment offered by the clinic was not just a response to an immediate need, but a message of care and dignity that resonated in the lives of the families involved.

What makes this so special is that the seed of the project was never planted from the outside, but grew from the heart of the community itself. We walked side by side with teachers, health workers and local families, finding the best solutions together. And it is this collaboration that makes the change so profound and lasting. When a child begins to believe in his own worth, when a family regains confidence in the future, the whole village changes.

Working for the future of children is not only a duty, but also a choice that renews our hope in the world. Every step taken, every smile won reminds us that despite the difficulties, it is always worth investing in the life and dream of every child.

As we look ahead to next year, our goal is not only to continue the project activities, but to nurture this blossoming even more. We want to reach out to new villages, train new local people and strengthen the sustainability of families so that hope will never again be a privilege of a few, but a universal right.

With gratitude for everyone who has contributed to this journey, and with a heart full of confidence in what we can still build, we'll continue to spread our work, certain that every small gesture can sprout a future of dignity, love and possibilities.

Sister Rosanna Favero

Mission Manager in the Philippines

Missionary Servants of the Blessed Sacrament

1. About us

ASA - Associazione Solidarietà Adozioni (Adoption Solidarity Association) ETS was founded on May 6 1999, as a result of voluntary social work targeting children in distress from Ukraine and Romania.

It pursues goals of social solidarity, with special reference to the protection of childhood and adolescence.

ASA was authorised by the Commission for Intercountry Adoption (CAI), on May 8, 2001, to operate as an agency for intercountry adoptions, in accordance with Law no. 476/98 (law ratifying the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation on Adoption of May 29, 1993).

The Association relies on of psychologists, social workers, legal advisors, foreign contact people and other professionals present across all offices in Italy and abroad.

ASA operates throughout the country and the Republic of San Marino. It is present in Catania (registered office), Palermo, Rome, Forlì, Taranto, Milan, Reggio Calabria, Bolzano, and Lucca.



There are 33 countries where ASA is authorized by the CIA as an Intercountry Adoption Entity, distributed as follows:

- **Europe** (Bulgaria, Moldova, Poland, Portugal, Czech Republic, Romania, Slovakia, Ukraine, Hungary);
- **Latin America** (Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Haiti, Honduras, Peru);
- **Asia** (Philippines, India, Vietnam);
- **Africa** (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Guinea Bissau, Malawi, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo, Senegal, Tanzania, Togo).



2. Activities

2.1 International adoptions

ASA deals with the training of couples who are embarking on adoption through thematic meetings and workshops, important moments of analysis of the topics linked to adoptive parenting and the construction of family ties.

The Association organizes meetings, in-person and on-line, for groups and couples, in which the issues of international adoption are addressed, such as: the reality of the child's country of origin, managing the wait, preparing for departure, meeting the child, the right to the child's identity, managing the stay abroad, the birth of the family and the return to Italy, and the social and educational integration of the child.

ASA coordinates all procedures related to the adoption process by dialoguing with the CIA and relevant Authorities, both Italian and foreign ones. Accurate post-adoption reports are prepared by communicating, as requested by each country, the family, school and social integration of adopted children.

A counseling service is also provided during the *post*-adoption phase, and meetings and gatherings between families and children are organized.

ASA conducts information activities for those wishing to approach the adoption project through information desks, distribution of outreach materials, website and social media pages.

The Association fulfills the regional protocols for collaboration between local services, authorized Bodies and the Juvenile Court, in the field of national and international adoption; maintains ongoing relations with CAI and participates in institutional coordination tables.

2.2 International Cooperation

International cooperation is more than an act of solidarity: it is an investment in the future, a shared commitment to transform difficulties and vulnerabilities into opportunities for growth.

International cooperation is one of the fundamental pillars of ASA's commitment. In an increasingly interconnected world, our mission cannot be limited to national borders: we need to look beyond, building bridges of solidarity and development in those contexts where vulnerability and deprivation compromise the fundamental rights of children and their communities.

Within an organization such as ASA, international cooperation is not just an extension of its activity, but an essential component of its work. It means recognizing that the needs of children and families do not end with adoption or long-distance support: there are contexts in which it is necessary to act at the source, helping to improve living conditions with projects that promote autonomy and resilience.

And it is precisely here that the principle of subsidiarity plays a crucial role. Subsidiarity guides us in acting only where local communities cannot do that on their own, supporting them

in strengthening their skills and competencies. It is not to "replace" them, but to accompany them, offering resources, knowledge and opportunities to build a sustainable future.

From this perspective, international cooperation becomes a form of responsible collaboration, in which every intervention is geared toward the active involvement of beneficiaries and the enhancement of local resources. This approach is reflected in the many projects in which ASA is a partner in different parts of the world.

In **Bolivia** ASA has been in "BEYOND THE NEST: Multidisciplinary Intervention for Vulnerable Children in Bolivia" since November 2023. The project aims at safeguarding orphans, abandoned minors or minors coming from families and contexts of extreme vulnerability, with actions aimed at reception, health protection and education.

The Italian Authorized Bodies participating in the project are: Amici dei Bambini (lead partner), Amici Trentini ODV, ASA ETS, Il Conventino, Fondazione Patrizia Nidoli ETS, Istituto La Casa ETS, S.O.S. Bambino International Adoption APS and S.P.A.I. - Multipurpose International Adoption Service.

The Bolivian Partners are: Fundacion Virgen de la Nieves and La Ciudad de los niños.

The project is co-funded with funds from the Commission for Intercountry Adoption.

In **Colombia**, since November 2023, ASA has participated in the project "Their Tomorrow: interventions for the education and psycho-social well-being of the most vulnerable children in Colombia," co-funded by the Commission for Intercountry Adoption. The project aims to protect the psycho-social well-being of the most vulnerable children in the country, promotes educational programmes and training nationwide.

The Italian Authorized Entities participating in the project are: CIFA (lead partner), Arcobaleno Onlus, ASA ETS, Ariete ETS, Famiglia Insieme Onlus, I Fiori Semplici Onlus, Lo Scoiattolo Onlus, NADIA Onlus, Senza Frontiere Onlus, Sos Bambino IA APS and S.P.A.I. - Multipurpose International Adoption Service.

The Colombian Partners are: Fundación Casa de la Madre y el Niño, Fundación FANA Colombia, Fundación Pisingos and Fundación CRAN.

Also involved in the CISP Development of Peoples-International Committee for the Development of Peoples initiative are the Department of Child Neuro-Psychiatry of the University of Turin and the ENGIM Foundation.

Gold to them: in the Philippines, ASA builds a bridge to the future

ASA has strengthened its role in this area through the project "Gold to them: educational, health and technological interventions for the social and psychophysical development of fragile children and families" being implemented in Mindoro Island, Philippines. The Italian Authorized Entities participating in the project are: ASA ETS (lead partner), Aries ETS N.A.A.A. Network Aiuto Assistenza Accoglienza - ETS, Fondazione Patrizia Nidoli ETS.

The Philippine partner is the Missionary Servants of the Blessed Sacrament, which has been constructively present in the Philippines for about 30 years. The organization has been working with ASA for years through the Distance Support Program.

This project, co-funded by the Commission for Intercountry Adoption (CAI) with a total budget of EUR 680,000, is a concrete testament to what can be achieved by combining vision, expertise and collaboration.

A multi-pronged intervention

"Gold to them" is developed on three basic pillars: education, health and economic development. The project involves four municipalities (San Jose, Magsaysay, Rizal and Sablayan) and aims not only to improve the living conditions of the local community, but also to create the foundation for long-term and sustainable development.

Education: the engine of change



One of the most significant results of "Gold to Them" concerns the educational field: our activities have reached more than 1,000 children, exceeding the initial goal set at 1,000 minors. This achievement is a source of great pride and demonstrates the project's concrete impact on the local community.

To address the high dropout rates, especially in rural areas, we created a mobile school that reached the most remote villages, offering children a quality education and a new chance to grow. The results speak for themselves:

- 1.000 school kits have been distributed, ensuring that children have what they need to attend school
- 281 children have resumed regular classes and are participating in targeted educational activities
- 4 traveling teachers, trained in innovative methodologies such as D-STARR, have ensured that education could reach even the most isolated villages.

The mobile school is not only a means of providing education, but a symbol of hope for families who had lost faith in the future. Exceeding the target set is a testament to the value of shared commitment.

Health: a right for all

Thanks to the enhanced clinic at Mother Catherine School, access to health care has become a reality for many local communities. Among the achievements:

- 281 free health checks carried out in the first months of the project;
- distribution of essential medicines and launch of a vaccination campaign that will cover more than 1,000 people;
- dental procedures for 372 patients, with peak activity recorded in June 2024.

The contribution of the two local doctors was crucial. In addition to serving at the clinic, they traveled to surrounding villages, bringing essential medical care to even the most remote areas.



Economic development: spreading the seeds of the future



To ensure a lasting impact, we have started microenterprises involving families living from subsistence agriculture, farming and fishing. Activities launched include:

- distribution of livestock, seeds and equipment;
- technical support to maximize production and access local markets.
- - training for more than 100 farmers and breeders, focusing on sustainable practices, resource management techniques and innovative methods to increase productivity.

These interventions are already generating concrete results, improving food security and creating new income opportunities for the families involved.

Looking to the future

The project is still ongoing, with an expected conclusion in May 2025, but the results so far show that we are on the right track for expanding activities to maximize economic and social-health impact in the communities involved.

"Gold to Them" is much more than a project: it is a legacy of hope and opportunity, rooted in the determination of the people who are part of it. Looking ahead, we continue to work to leave a positive and lasting mark with the same commitment that has guided us so far.



2.3 National projects

ASA is also paying attention to the national context; in fact, it is carrying out projects in different areas of intervention.

ASA has been participating in the "Fuoriclasse!" project aimed at implementing activities to combat educational poverty and financed by Next Generation EU funds. The goal of the project is to strengthen social-educational services by combating school dropout and improving educational provision. Beneficiaries were minors and NEETs experiencing hardship and at risk of delinquency.

The activities also include the involvement of students from the National Comprehensive Institute (I.C.S.) "Livio Tempesta," located in the San Cristoforo neighborhood of Catania.

Students and NEETs participated in: motivational workshops, orientation workshops, STEM workshops, school camps, study support activities.

Families were supported through: listening desks for parents, workshops on the parenting role and meeting spaces aimed at activating processes of social integration and development.

The professionals involved were psychologists, educators, teachers, youth workers, social workers and trainers.

The project partners are: ACLI Catania (lead partner), ASA ETS, the National Comprehensive Institute "Livio Tempesta" of Catania, the City of Catania, L.S. Finance s.r.l., Educational Center of Martuffo G&C SAS Social Enterprise, TEAM Ti Educa A Migliorare.

ASA's Youth Association

Asa Giovani, a youth group of the ASA Association started the project "Raccontiamoci" conceived by Alina Di Giacomo Marotta, Anastasia Paternò, Ornella Adamo and Tatiana Giardina.

The "Raccontiamoci" project was born from the need to create a space where everyone is free to tell their own story and have the opportunity to dialogue with, and feel, each other's stories. A space to hold all the stories of young people with adoptive backgrounds and their way of feeling in the world, also comparing themselves with those who do not have the same background.

The group, made up of teens for teens, is aimed at young adults between the ages of 18 and 30 and travels from one ASA national location to another.

2.4 Information and training activities

ASA promotes intensive information and training activities.

The Association participates in the "Post-Adoption Regional Project", funded by Lazio Region, for the strengthening of *post*-adoption services. Gil Adozioni ASL Roma 2, Authorized Bodies for Intercountry Adoption, among which ASA as a member of the scientific committee, and Lazio Region are members of it.

ASA, under an agreement with the Emilia Romagna Region, carries out annual training and information activities, participating with the teams of territorial psycho-social services in preliminary preparation courses for couples willing to start the national and international adoption process.

ASA is included in the list of Authorized Bodies, which in the three-year period 2024-2026 will collaborate with the regional adoption teams of the Piedmont Region, to conduct in-person informational meetings aimed at aspiring adoptive couples, called "ABC of Adoption."

Webinars are held, aimed at both expectant couples and families in which adoption, and more generally family life, issues are discussed.

The speakers are professionals from the ASA staff.

In January 2024, the "School and Adoption" training meeting was held at the Taranto "A chiare lettere" association, during which the couples in attendance were told about the MIUR (Italian Ministry of Education, Universities and Research) guidelines for fostering the right to study of adopted pupils.

In May 2024 ASA, which is part of the Umbertata network, the network that brings together associations in the area of Catania and province, participated in the event "Umbertata - Facciamo la Pace? (Umbertata - Shall We Make Peace?)" discussing with other third sector realities through thematic tables and proposing workshops for the youngest.



Also in May 2024, ASA joined the First World Children's Day (GMB) sponsored by the Dicastery for Culture and Education, which brought together children from all over the world in Rome in the presence of Pope Francis.



In June 2024, in Syracuse, at the Syracuse International Institute for Criminal Justice and Human Rights, a conference entitled "International Adoptions: How to Prepare Children for Meeting Future Parents?" was organized by ASA, with the free sponsorship of the City of Syracuse, the Association of Psychologists of the Sicilian Region and the Association of Social Workers of the Sicilian Region.

The event was attended by Vice Chairman of the Commission for International Adoption (CAI), Mr. Vincenzo Starita and Central Authority contact persons from Hungary, the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic.

The objective of the conference was to recount the meeting, abroad, of the child with the couple of future parents, a moment as delicate as important that, with the support of professional figures, is essential to begin, with the appropriate timing, to weave a bond that will later become that of a family.



2.5 Support Programs

2.5.1 Distance Support Program

With the Distance Support, also this year, ASA supported in the Philippines, in collaboration with the Missionary Servants of the Blessed Sacrament, the children living in very poor villages of the Mindoro Islands, with frequent cases of violence, abuse and kidnapping due to political and financial reasons.

Through the Distance Support, the growth of these children is accompanied through a program of schooling, health care and training. School expenses, purchase of medicines and food vouchers are provided. Missionaries are always in contact with the villages where the children live, and establish cooperative relationships with families and teachers.



2.5.2 Proximity Support Program

ASA has been carrying out a Proximity Support Program on the Italian territory for years, through the implementation of fundraising campaigns for the benefit of children, youths and families in distressed conditions.

Of key importance is collaboration with other associations, educational institutions and parishes in the area.

In December 2024 ASA launched the Christmas fundraiser, "Adopt a Story", supporting a local family experiencing economic hardship.

2.6 Institutional Relations

ASA is member of:

- LIAN - Life in Adoption Network, a partnership made up of 5 authorized Bodies for international adoption, aimed at starting a common path, sharing methodologies and competencies, to provide support to Italian couples who intend to adopt a child in another country;
- the Board of Directors of ForumSaD, the Permanent Forum for Distance Support, which deals with the promotion of SaD as tool of cooperation and solidarity among peoples
- the Adoption Coordination Technical Table, thanks to an agreement with the Emilia Romagna Region, which implemented a memorandum of understanding with Authorized Entities, territorial social services and juvenile judicial bodies. It is in charge, with the teams of territorial psycho-social services, of preliminary preparation courses for couples willing to;
- the Council of Family Associations, at the Municipality of Forlì, which has advisory and representative functions, and participates in the development of municipal family policies, in close contact with the Administration;
- the national network "Family-Friendly Municipalities", a network of municipalities and associations, which aims to spread a family promotional culture and innovative family policies inspired by "New public family management." It is sponsored by the Autonomous Province of Trento, the Municipality of Alghero and the National Association Famiglie numerose;
- collaboration agreement with the Department of Educational Sciences of the University of Catania for the development of activities on intercultural education and gender equality.

2.7 Collaboration agreements

Over the years, ASA has entered into collaboration agreements, which are still in place, with various national and international entities.

ASA has signed a collaboration agreement with the Communauté Baptiste Du Fleuve Congo/Region Ecclésiastique Du Bas - Fleuve (CBFC/BF), Mbanza - Ngungu, Central Congo Province, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, to be able to carry out actions aimed at the development of disadvantaged populations in the Congolese organization's areas of intervention.

A collaboration agreement was signed with the Portuguese Plataforma Paje-Apojo a Joven (Ex) alcholidos - Associação for inter-institutional cooperation and the promotion of networking, aimed at the synergy of actions for the promotion of children's rights.

In the agreement with the Agevolando Association, we share the mission of safeguarding minors, careleavers and fragile households at risk of marginalization.

3. Presentation and analysis of couples and children's data related to 2024 adoption procedures

3.1 Introduction

The presentation and analysis of the data of couples and children from the 2024 adoption procedures are aimed at highlighting the constructive and purposeful work of ASA and making a fundamental meta-reflection.

Relevant aspects are covered, and for each one some points of particular importance are more deeply examined.

Information meetings: number of information meetings, information meetings per location.

Couples who conferred the assignment: number of conferrals of assignment, conferrals by location, years of birth, educational qualification, profession, country choice.

Family-children matching: number of matches, matches per country.

Mandate revocations: number of mandate revocations, reasons for mandate revocation.

Adopted minors: number of children, children by location, age, gender, number of children adopted per couple, country of origin.

Couples who adopted: number of couples who adopted, couples who adopted by location, years of birth of couples, countries of origin of children by couple.

3.2 Information meetings

3.2.1 Number of information meetings

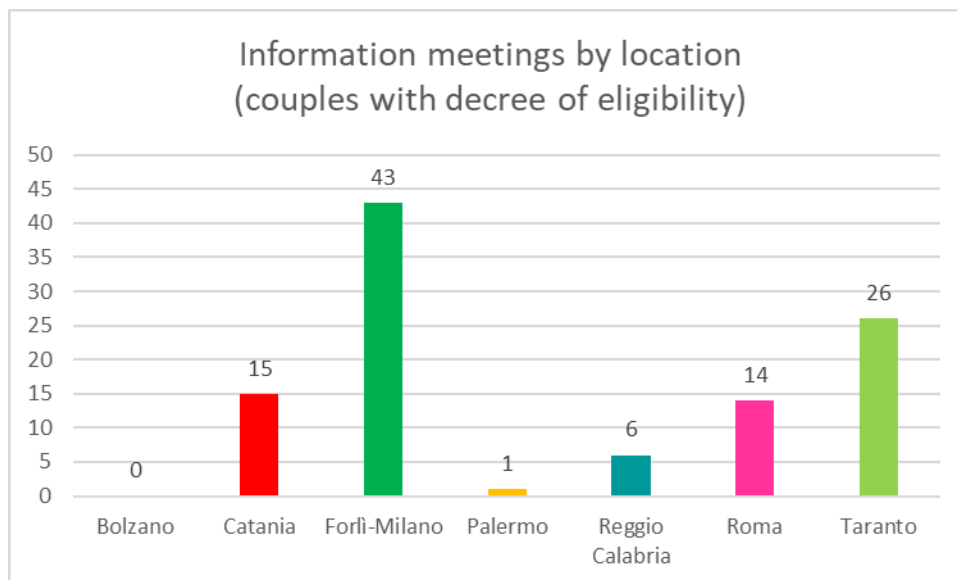
The number of information meetings takes into account only the first meeting with the couple, and not subsequent ones.

The meetings, in-person and on-line, were both for couples and groups.

There were 105 couples with a decree of eligibility who participated in the first couple information meeting.

Three group meetings were also held for couples without a decree, with an average of 12 couples attending the first meeting, 7 couples the second one and 10 the third one.

3.2.2 Information meetings by location



Graph 1

The breakdown by office of the 105 couples who adopted one or more children is as follows:

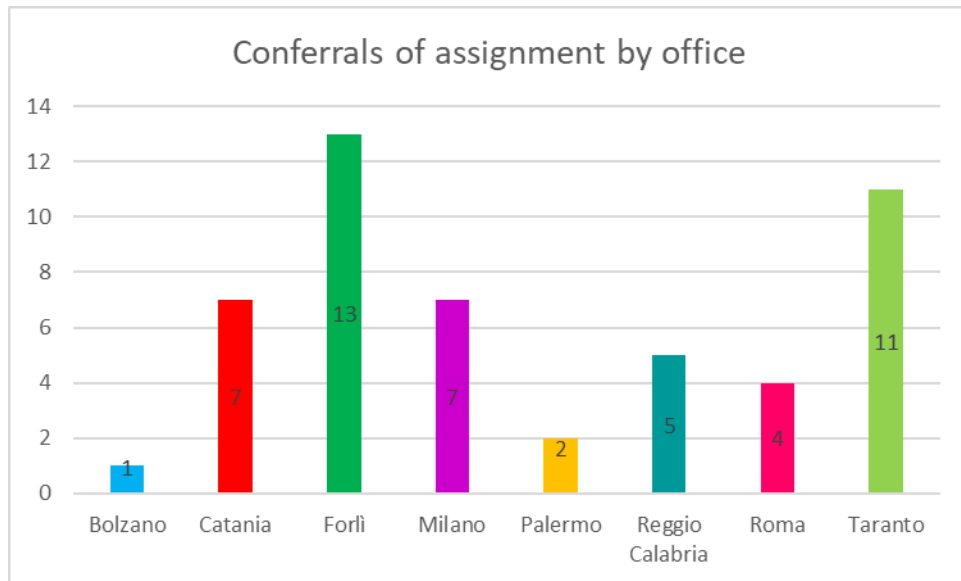
- 43 in Forlì-Milano
- 26 in Taranto
- 15 in Catania
- 14 in Roma
- 6 in Reggio Calabria
- 1 in Palermo
- 0 in Bolzano.

3.3 Couples who have conferred the assignment

3.3.1 Number of assignments

In 2024 50 couples have conferred the assignment on ASA.

3.3.2 Assignments by office

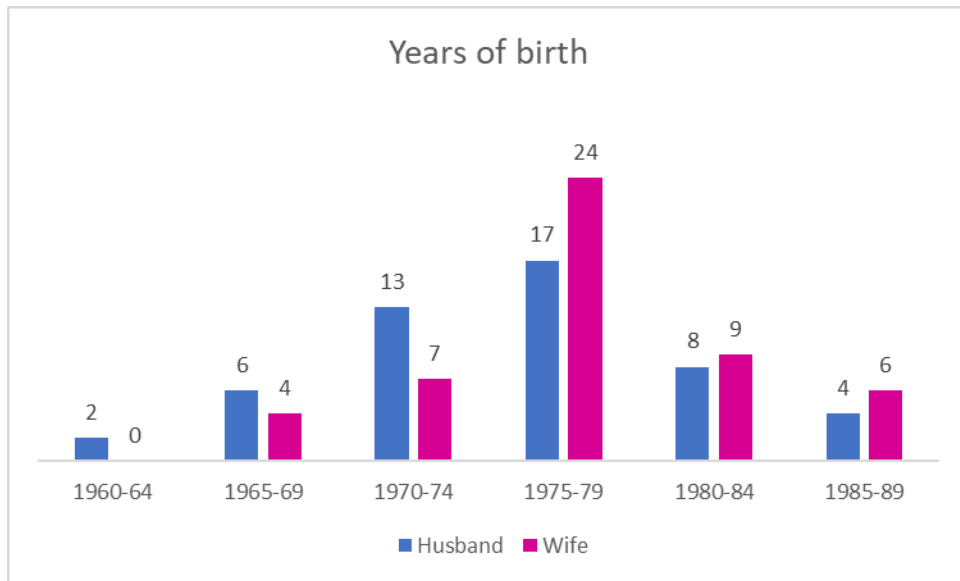


Graph 2

The distribution by office of conferrals of assignment is:

- 13 in Forlì
- 11 in Taranto
- 7 in Catania and Milano
- 5 in Reggio Calabria
- 4 in Roma
- 2 in Palermo
- 1 in Bolzano.

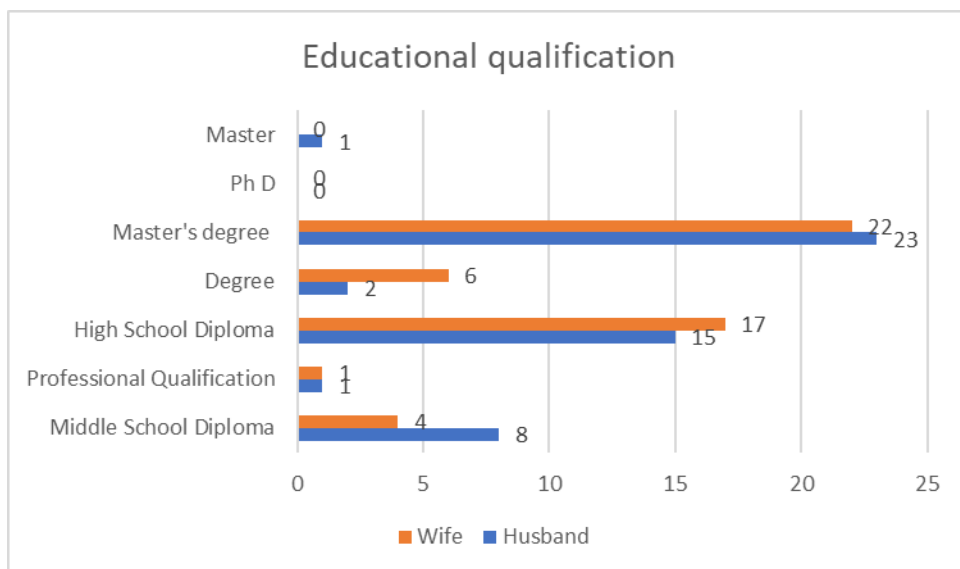
3.3.3 Years of birth



Graph 3

Amongst couples, for both husbands and wives, the most represented birth year ranges are 1975-79. The average age of wives is 46.4 and the average age of husbands is 48.3.

3.3.4 Qualification



Graph 4

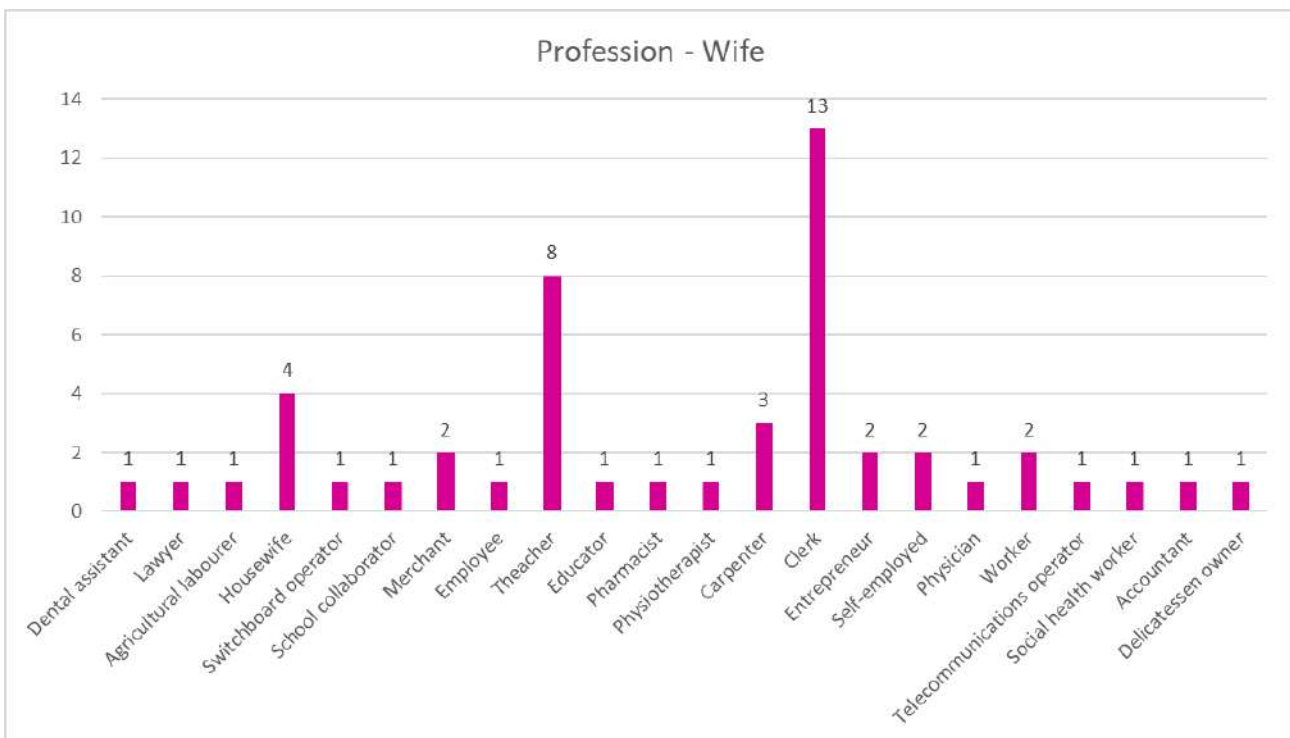
Data are drawn from the information provided by spouses.

Analysing the data relating to wives, it is possible to highlight that prevalent qualification is a master's degree (22), followed at a short distance by high school diploma (17).

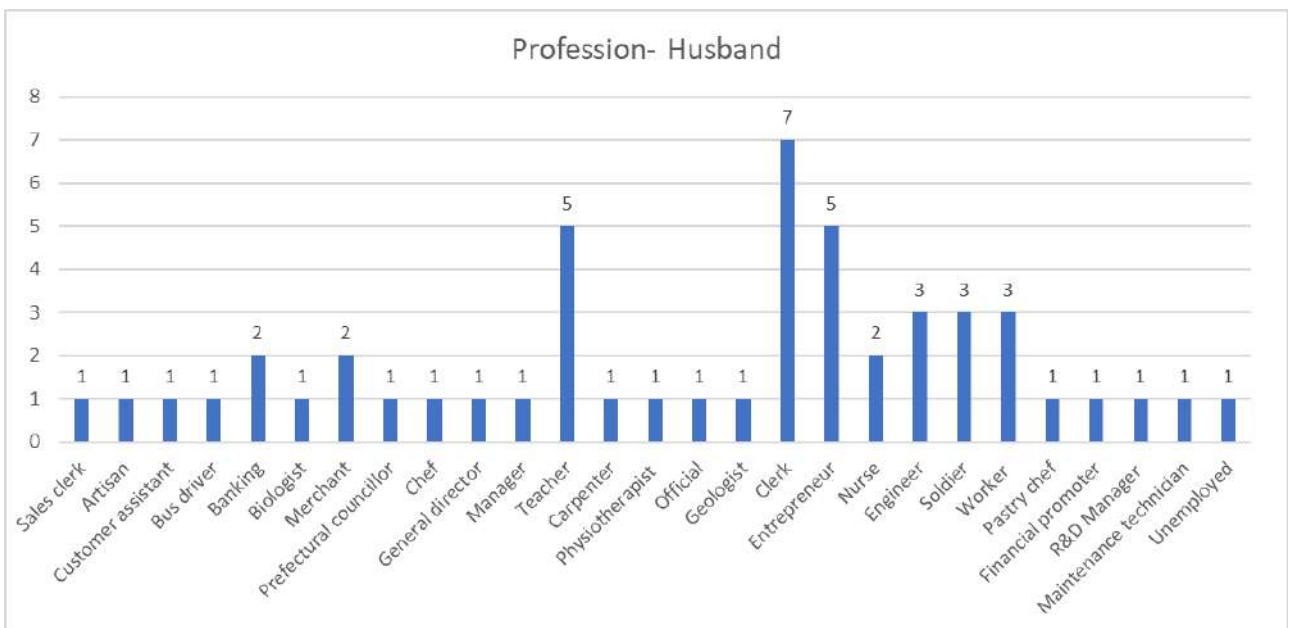
For husbands too, the most common educational qualification is a master's degree (23), followed by high school diploma (15).

For both, at a considerable distance, other qualifications follow.

3.3.5 Profession



Graph 5

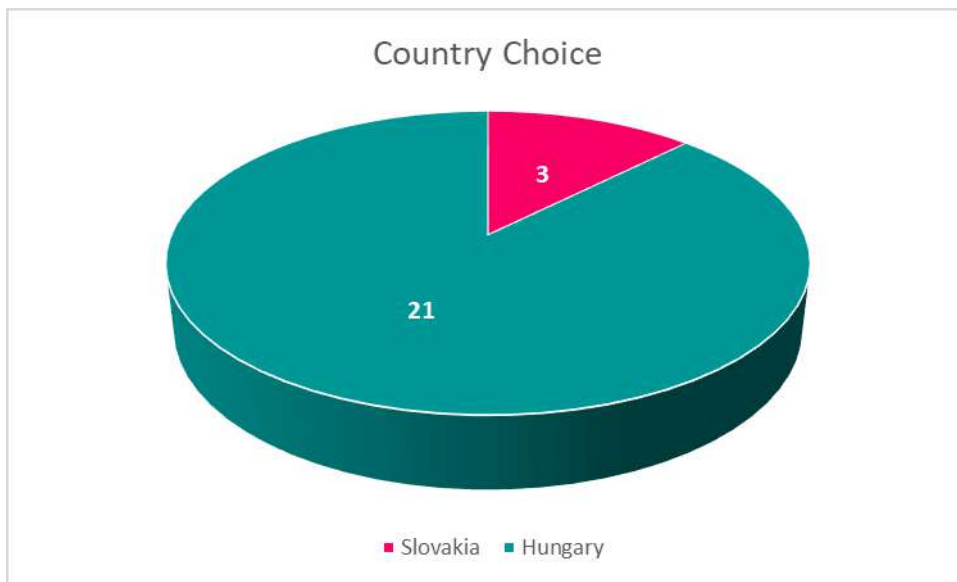


Graph 6

Data are drawn from the information provided by spouses.

The most represented job is that of clerk for both husbands (7) and wives (13). Teachers for wives (8), and for husbands teachers (5) and entrepreneur (5) follow.

3.3.6 Country Choice



Graph 7

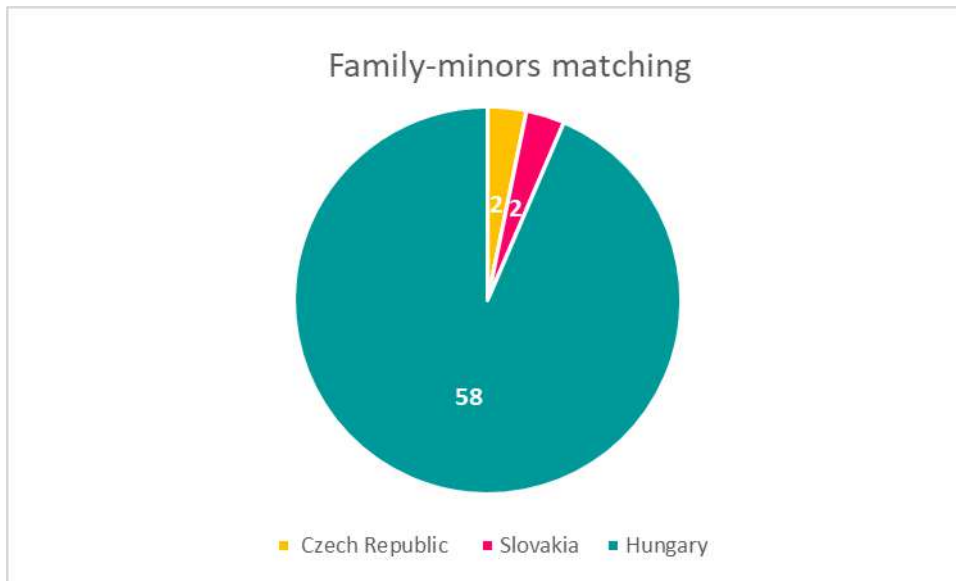
As of December 31, 2024, 48 couples have selected Hungary as country of choice, while one couple has chosen the Czech Republic and one Slovakia.

3.4 Family-children matching:

3.4.1 Number of matches

A total of 62 family-children matches were recorded in 2024, involving 94 children.

3.4.2 Matches by Country



Graph 8

Out of the 62 matches, 58 concern Hungary, 2 the Czech Republic and 2 Slovak. Four couples waived the matching proposal.

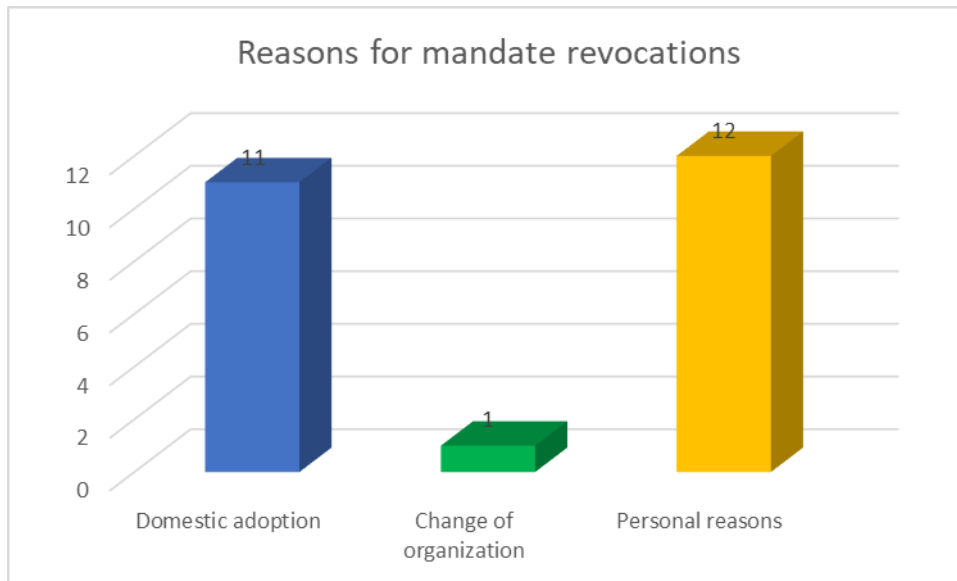
Of the 58 couples who left to meet the minors, 8 did not complete the procedure.

3.5 Mandate revocations

3.5.1 Number of revocations of the mandate

There were 24 revocations of the mandate.

3.5.2 Reasons for revocations of the mandate



Graph 9

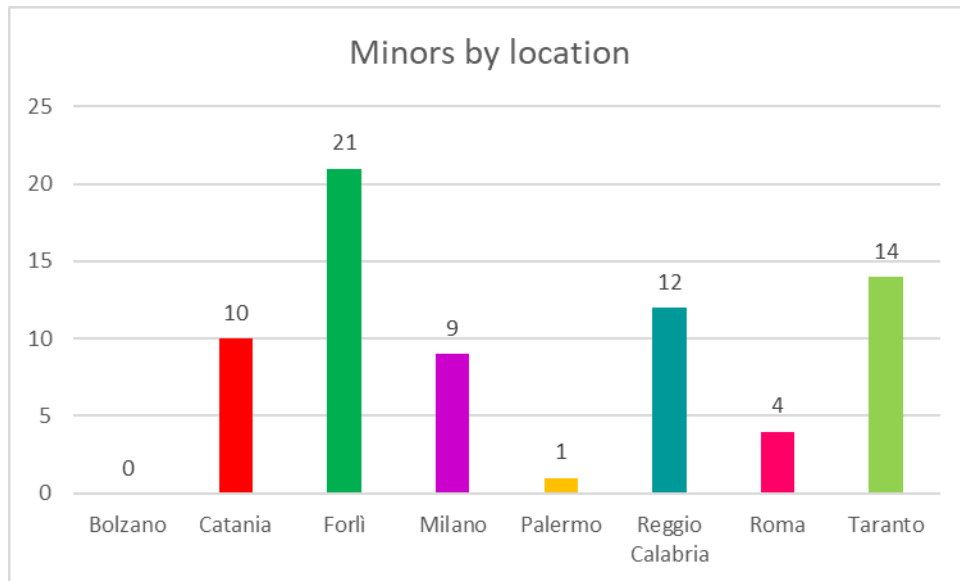
12 couples have revoked the mandate for personal reasons, 11 for domestic adoption and one couple for change of Body.

3.6 Adopted minors

3.6.1 Number of minors

Authorizations to enter Italy were issued for 71 minors.

3.6.2 Children by office

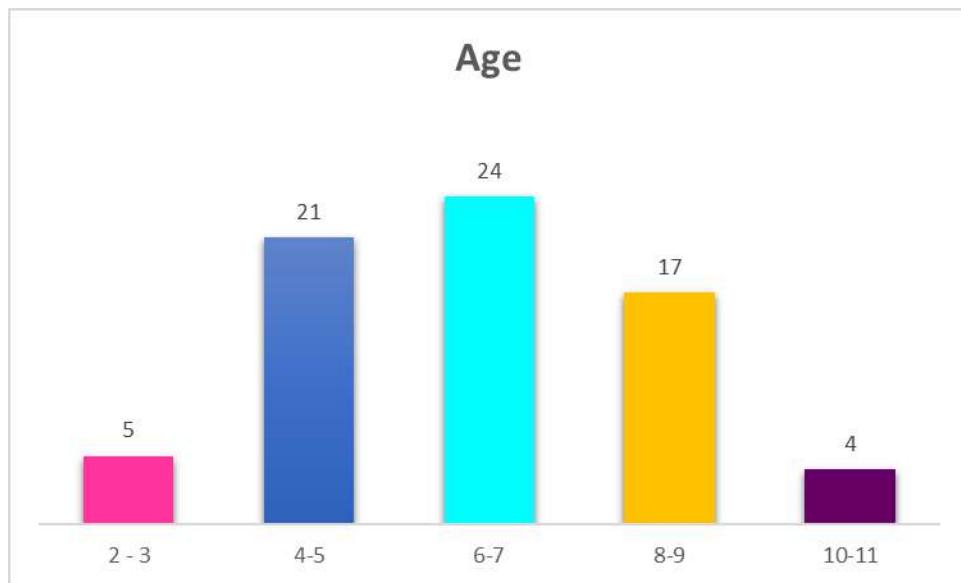


Graph 10

The breakdown by location of the 71 children is as follows:

- 21 in Forlì
- 14 in Taranto
- 12 in Reggio Calabria
- 10 in Catania
- 9 in Milano
- 4 in Roma
- 1 in Palermo
- 0 in Bolzano.

3.6.3 Age

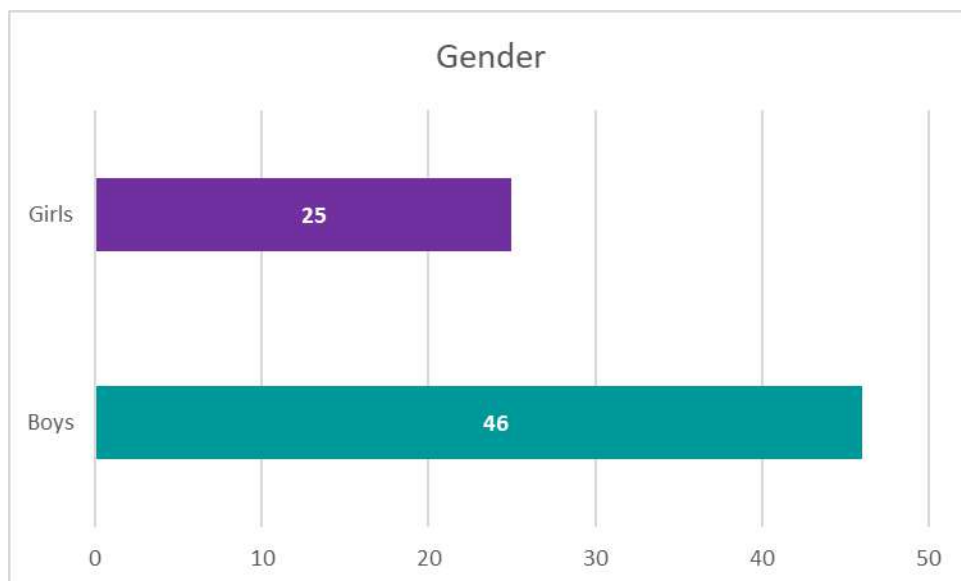


Graph 11

The age of minors is calculated based on the date of authorization for entry into Italy.

The most represented age group is 6-7 years with 24 children, followed by 4-5 years with 21 children. In the 8-9 range there are 17 children, in the 2-3 range there are 5 children, and in the 10-11 range there are 4 children. The average age of the minors is 6.4 years old.

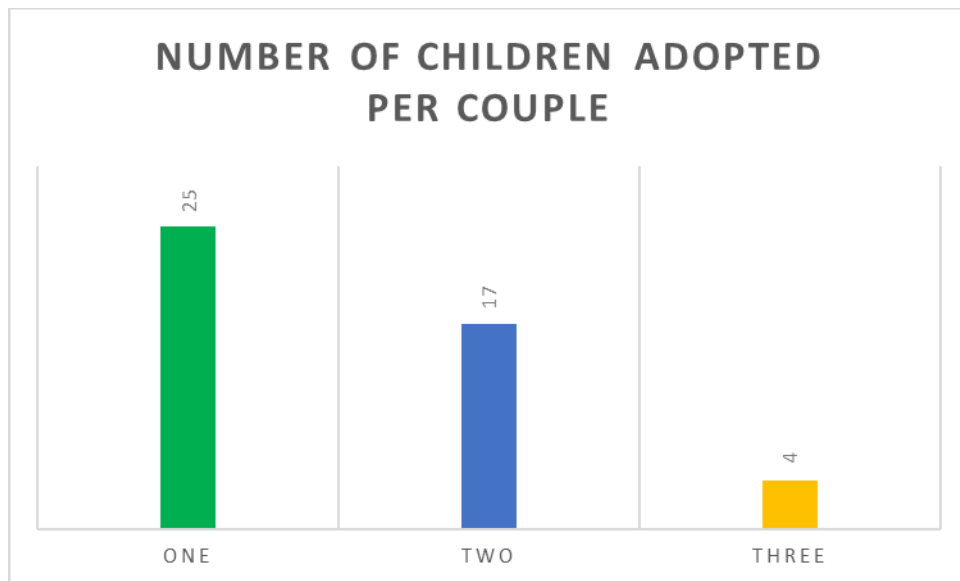
3.6.4 Gender



Graph 12

In 2024, 25 girls and 46 boys were adopted.

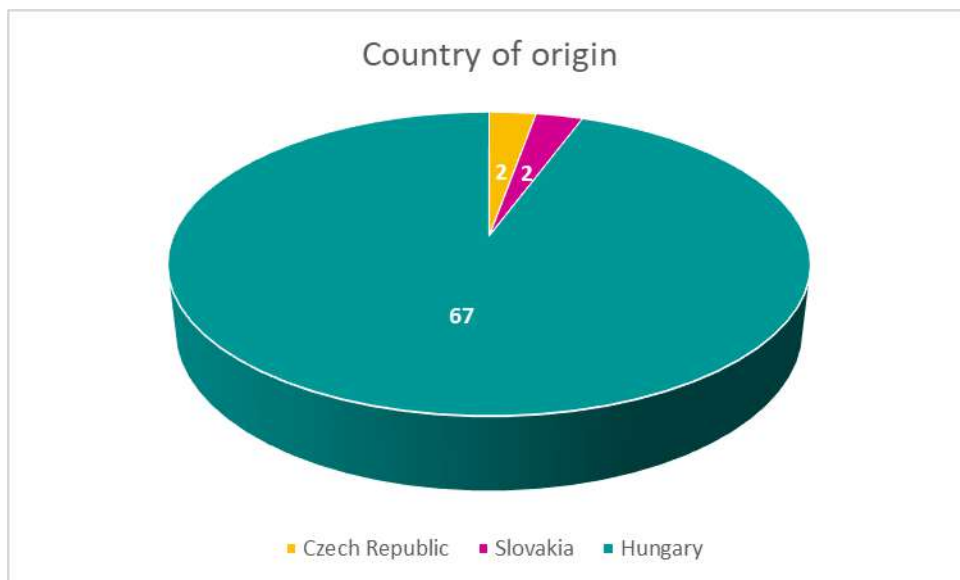
3.6.5 Number of children adopted per couple



Graph 13

25 couples adopted only one child. There were 17 couples who adopted two minors simultaneously, while only 4 couples adopted three minors together.

3.6.6 Country of origin



Graph 14

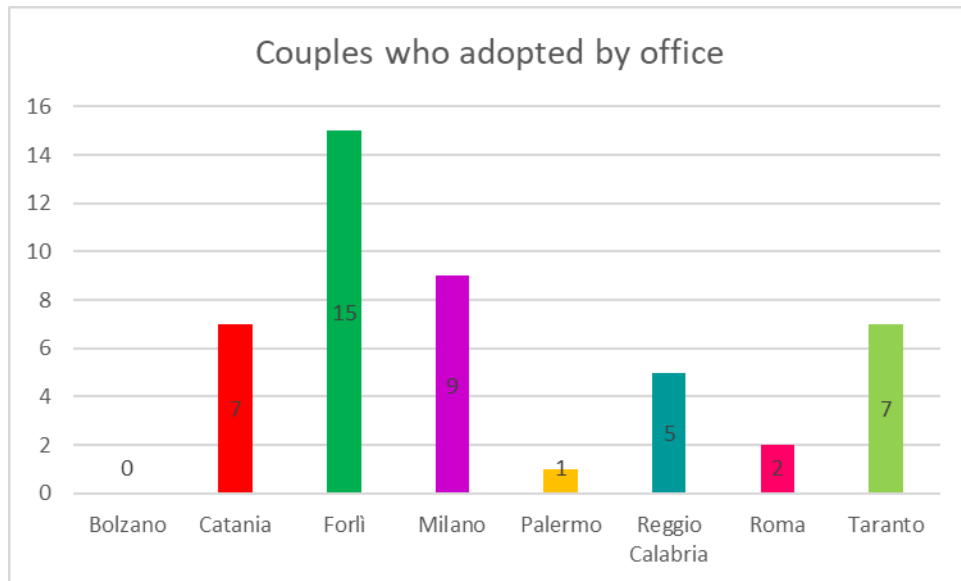
The most represented country of origin is Hungary with 67 minors. With great detachment, 2 minors come from the Czech Republic and 2 from Slovakia.

3.7 Couples who adopted

3.7.1 Number of couples who adopted

In 2024 couples who adopted are 46.

3.7.2 Couples who have adopted by office

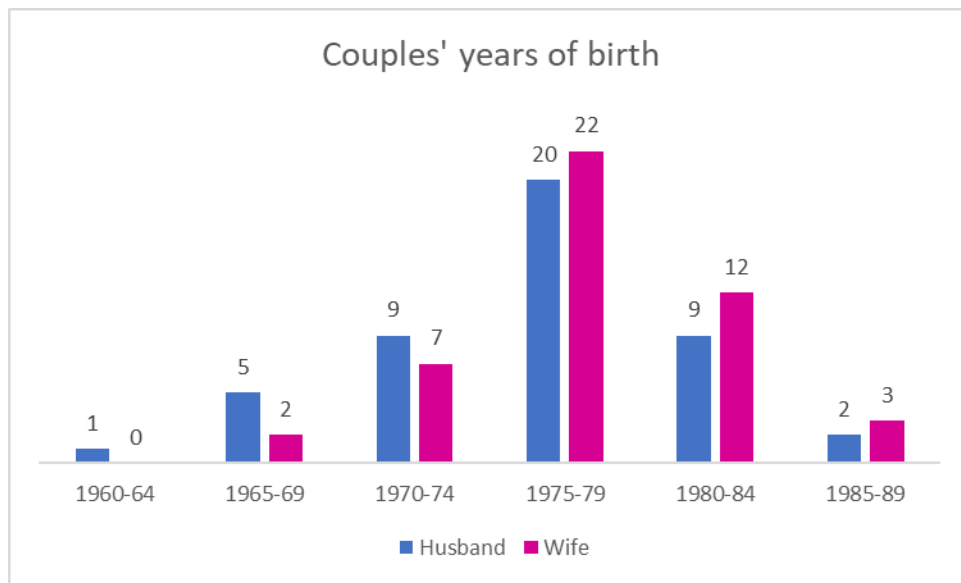


Graph 15

The breakdown by office of the 46 couples who adopted is as follows:

- 15 in Forlì
- 9 in Milano
- 7 in Catania and Taranto
- 5 in Reggio Calabria
- 7 in Roma
- 1 in Palermo
- 0 in Bolzano.

3.7.3 Couples' years of birth

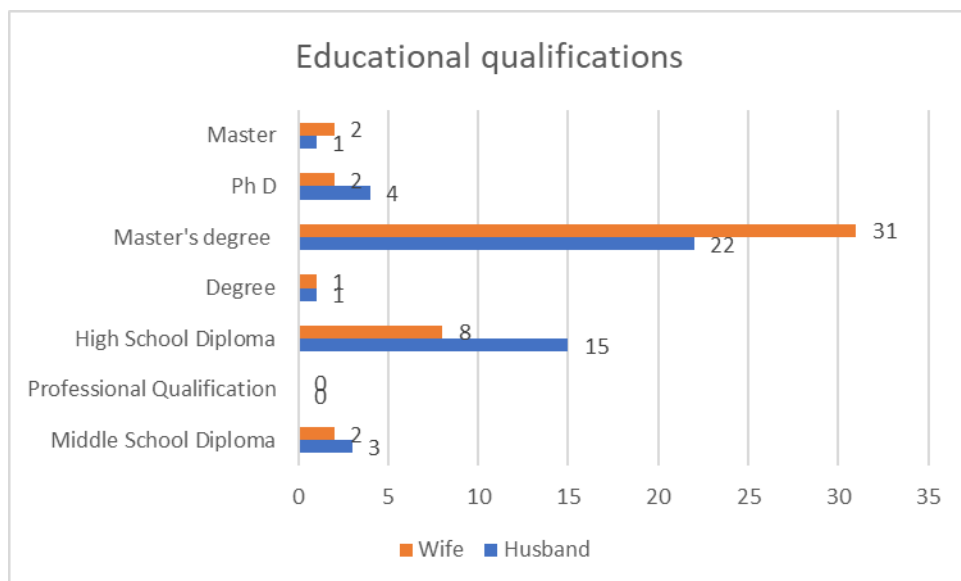


Graph 16

For wives, the most represented birth year group is 1975-1979 (22), followed by 1980-84 (12) and 1970-74 (7). Whereas, for husbands the most relevant range of years of birth is 1975-79 (20) followed equally by 1970-74 (9) and 1980-84 (9).

The average age of husbands is 47.8 years and that of wives 46.1 years.

3.7.4 Qualification



Graph 17

Data are drawn from the information provided by spouses.

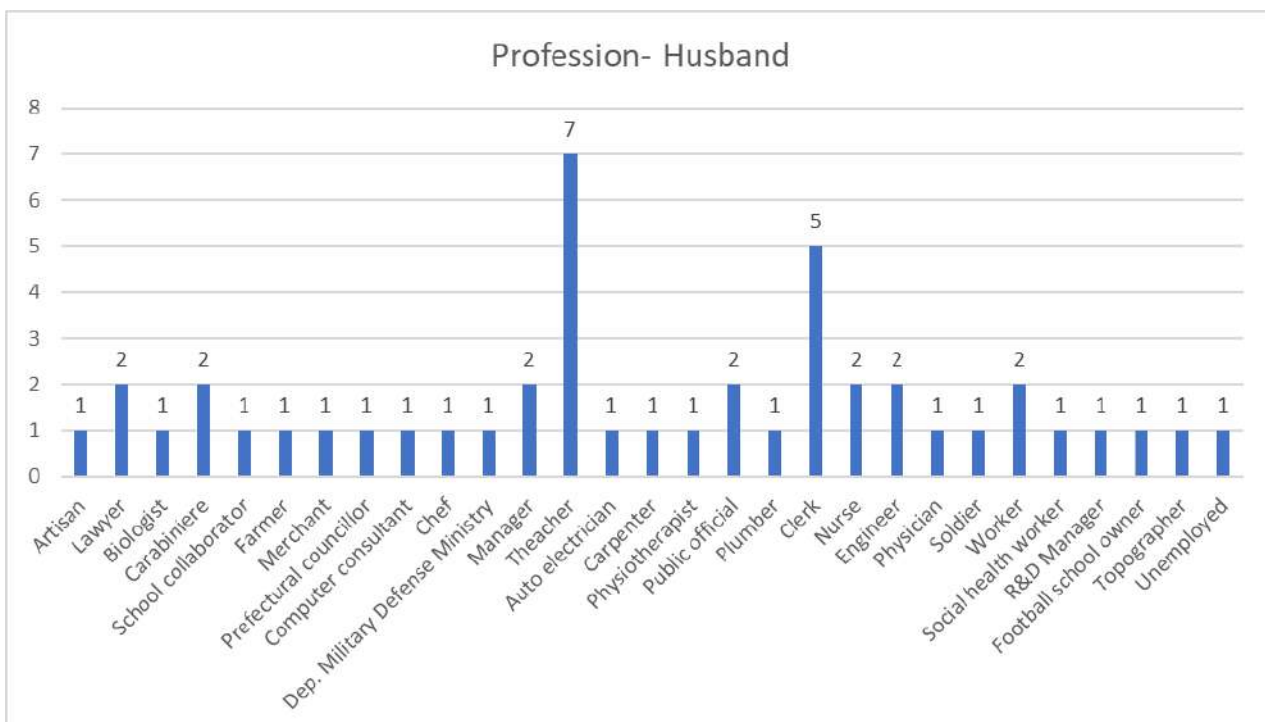
Analyzing the data, it emerges that the prevailing educational qualification for both husbands and wives is master's degree (31), followed by high school diploma (8).

For both, at considerable distance, other qualifications follow.

3.7.5 Profession



Graph 18



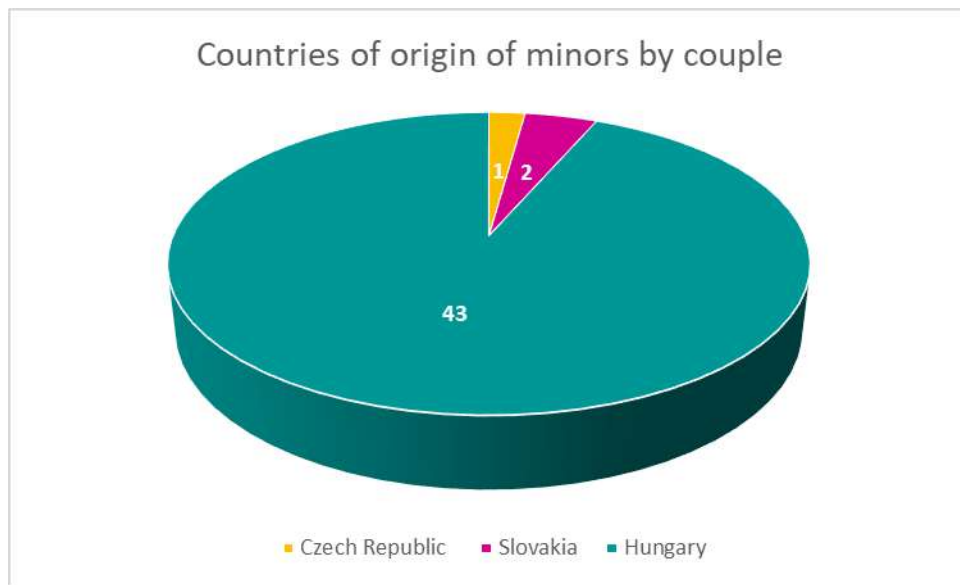
Graph 19

Data are drawn from the information provided by spouses.

For wives, the most represented jobs are clerk (11) and teacher (10), others are considerably distant.

The main jobs of husbands are teacher (7) and clerk (5), detached by the others.

3.7.6 Countries of origin of minors by couple



Graph 20

43 couples have adopted in Hungary, 2 in Slovakia and 1 in the Czech Republic.

4. Conclusions

ASA, acting in a constructive and forward-looking way has achieved its aims of social solidarity with various activities.

Implementation of all steps related to international adoption.

Implementation of international cooperation projects with the Philippines, Bolivia and Colombia. Carrying out Distance Support in the Philippines and Proximity Support in Italy.

The Association firmly believes in information and education; in fact, it has organized and participated in specific initiatives.

Thanks to institutional relations and the collaboration with other Authorized Bodies and Associations, it has established over the years a productive operational network, which carries out a significant service to implement the fundamental objectives of social solidarity, and for the full realization of the rights of children and adolescents, affirming the founding principles of the human dimension. It has always operated according to cultural and scientific standards, following the principles of the Constitution, specific legislation, and international agreements.

ASA has consistently supported couples and families in Italy and abroad.

Couples and families were guaranteed constant support also through the use of *on-line* platforms. All meetings have been scheduled and the staff has ensured its maximum availability. In-depth webinars were offered on the topics of adoption and parenting.

During all phases of the adoption process, the Association's professionals provided constant advice.

Abroad, the Association has been continuously engaged in dialogue with Italian Embassies and local institutions of the countries in which it operates, adjusting the pre-departure procedure, the stay in the country of interest and the post-adoption processes to the regulations in force.

In 2024 there were 50 appointments and 71 adoptions by 46 couples.

For both couples who have conferred the assignment and those who have adopted, the most represented range of birth years is 1975-79.

For most of the couples who have conferred the assignment and who adopted, the level of educational qualification is high and medium-high, master's degree and high school diploma.

For couples who conferred the assignment, the most represented job is clerk, for those who adopted, the most represented jobs are clerk and teacher for wives, and teacher and clerk for husbands.

Out of the 50 couples who have conferred the assignment: 48 have chosen Hungary, 1 the Czech Republic and 1 Slovak.

Of the 71 adopted children, 25 are females and 46 are males.

The most represented age group is 6-7 years old, followed by the 4-5 year group.

Adopted children come from: 67 from Hungary, 2 from the Czech Republic and 2 from Slovakia.

25 couples adopted only one child. There were 17 couples who adopted two minors simultaneously, while only 4 couples adopted three minors together.

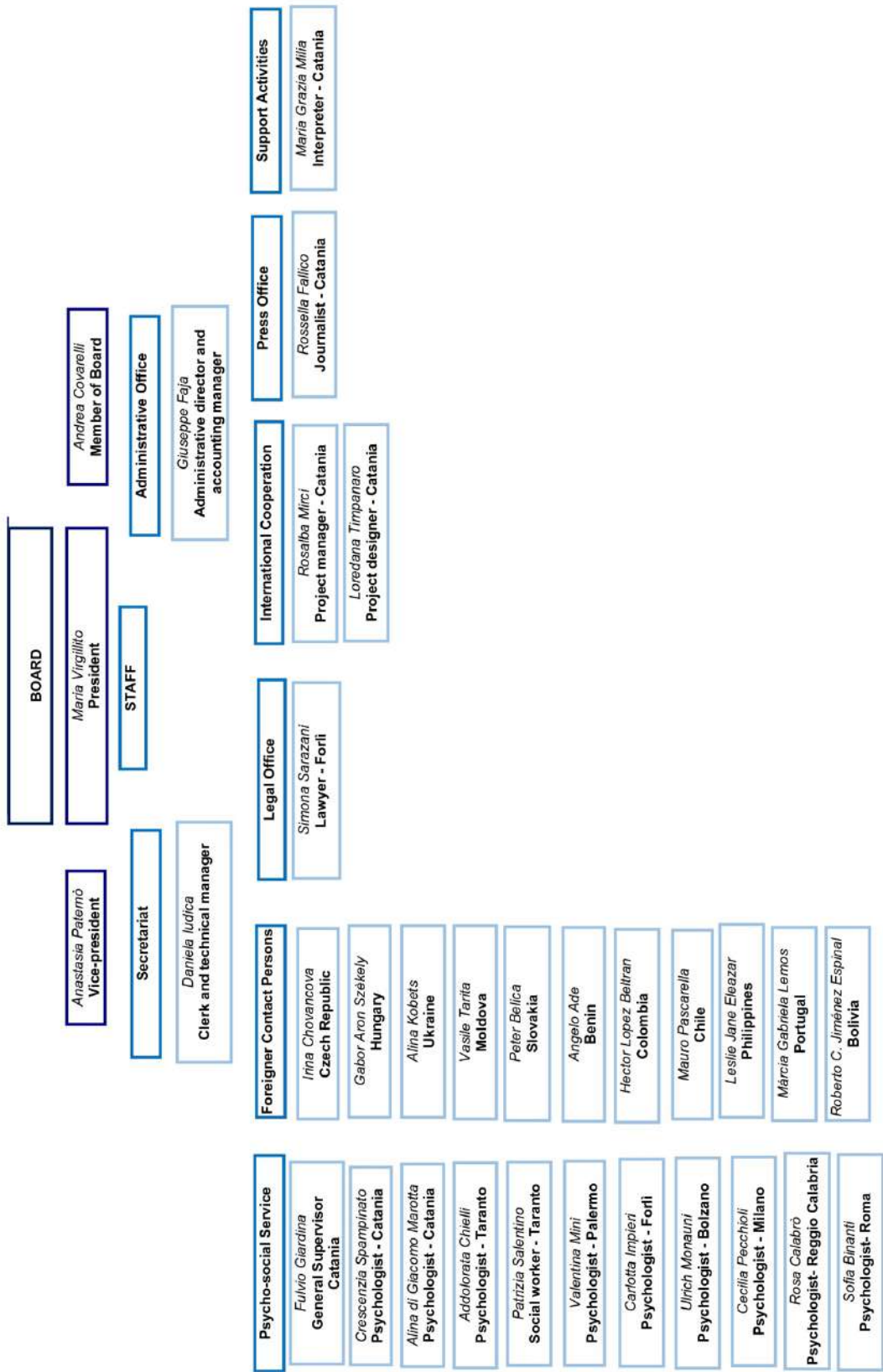
43 couples have adopted in Hungary, 2 in Slovakia and 1 in the Czech Republic.

From the overall analysis, it can be noted that ASA staff, with their professionalism, its ability to build relationships nationally and internationally, and its friendliness has been able to win the trust of the couples who have decided to entrust themselves to the Association and, above all, has succeeded in giving the children a family able to love, educate and support them, thus realizing its ultimate mission, placing the supreme interest of the child at the center.

In addition, ASA, with cooperation, collaboration, support programs and specific projects has improved the lives of people in the realities in which it has operated.

In these 25 years, all activities carried out by the Association have been imbued with ASA's values of solidarity, valuing the person, love, respect and giving.

ASA ETS Organizational Chart



ASA

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