Characteristics of crossborder child protection cases:

- Levels of complexity:
  - Interpersonal and geographic complexity for appropriate *i.e.* child-friendly) crossborder parenting
  - Multiple legal and social systems + administrative issues + high number of implied actors and entities
  - Intercultural, value-, and language issues
  - Migration law issues

- High complexity need for **effective crossborder Case Management (C-CM)** with focus on the child and his/her best interest
Effective C-CM requires *child-friendly* and *interdisciplinary procedures*:

- Need for a *systemic* approach: psycho-social dimension of the family situation and the child’s needs placed in the center; the *legal framework* as a *support tool* for determining the best solution
- Need for *speedy* procedures: A child’s time ≠ time of adults, and of lengthy international procedures
- Need for a *mediation-based approach* and empowerment of the family members (increased intercultural challenges to accept unilateral legal decisions)
ISS added value (in line with ISS statutes and mission)

✓ Promotion of THC 1996 as a tool (not an objective in itself)
✓ Advocacy/ awareness raising/ training for the effective implementation of THC 1996 in social and legal practice
✓ Sharing of ISS’ 90-year expertise in practical crossborder child protection casework with CA’s and local authorities
✓ “Call-center” of information and expertise on THC 1996-matters for local social and child protection authorities
✓ Continued practical crossborder casework in non-(or partially functioning) contracting states
✓ Direct handling of THC 1996-cases: different models:
  ⊳ next slide
2 basic models of ISS-cooperation in THC 1996-cases

1) **“Joint cooperation model”**
   - Joint case handling CA -- ISS:
     - CA-network: legal-administrative
     - ISS-network: Case Management, social report, mediation  
       (cf. case CH-Spain)

2) **“Delegation (outsourcing) model”**
   “through other bodies” - art. 31 + 32 (cf. THC 1996 explanatory report and implementation check-list)
   - CAs (regional or national) request from ISS service under THC 1996: information abroad, social reports, mediation
   - Outsourcing options: 2A): case-by-case; 2B): general mandate
ISS is **working hand-in-hand** with The Hague-PB and national and regional CAs to bring solutions to crossborder child protection challenges (policy, advocacy, casework)

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