As globalization progresses and migration increases, the number of mixed and dual citizenships is growing. This brings new challenges and diversity to our society, and also brings new opportunities and solutions. The need for appropriate resolution of family conflicts is imperative, and the role of mediation is becoming more prominent in this regard.

Mediation in international family disputes, however, requires additional skills and considerations. The multiplicity of factors that will play a part in such a mediation can easily be underestimated. First of all, there is the mediation itself, which is carried out by co-mediation teams. The co-mediation team should ideally consist of one male and one female mediator, one from each country in which the dispute is relevant. This ensures a broad spectrum of expertise and cultural sensitivity.

Another potential advantage of mediation in child abduction cases, particularly where parties are of different cultures, is that the mediation process can help to bridge the cultural gap. It is often the case that when two parties from different cultures are engaged in a dispute, they may have different perceptions of the issue. Mediation allows for an understanding of these different perspectives, and can facilitate a solution that is acceptable to both parties.

Finally, a few words about best practice and the model that is suggested and is applied by the organisations involved. I have now discovered that mediation is not only possible in these cases, but very much desirable, as it offers specific advantages to parents which traditional legal mechanisms cannot offer. Some of these advantages are related to the family atmosphere during the process, the legal process being much faster, and the fact that mediation allows for an understanding of the needs of the child, which is sometimes overlooked in traditional legal mechanisms.

In conclusion, I would like to extend my gratitude to all those involved in the project, and in particular to the participants of the training programme. It has been a privilege to work with such a dedicated group of professionals, and I look forward to seeing the results of their efforts in the future.