

How couples experience the passage from medically assisted procreation to adoption

Marion Tièche,
Psychologist, psychotherapist

Espace A

A for Adoption

A for Accueil familial (Foster care)

• ESPACE A



Espace A

Adoption – Foster Care (Accueil familial) – Alternative filiations

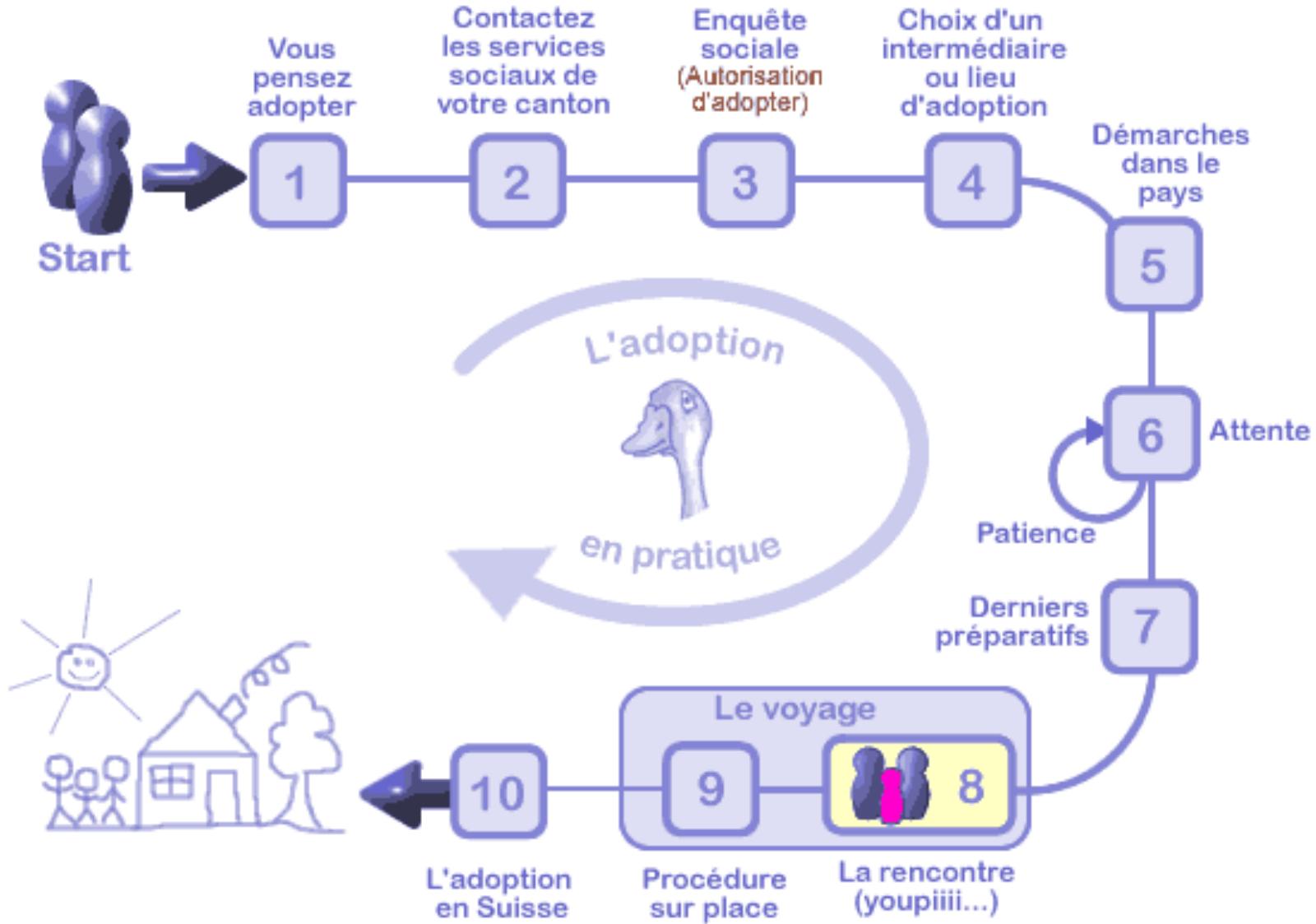
- Activities for future parents and parents of adopted/foster children
- Activities for adopted/foster children, adolescents and adults
- Activities for professionals

Introduction



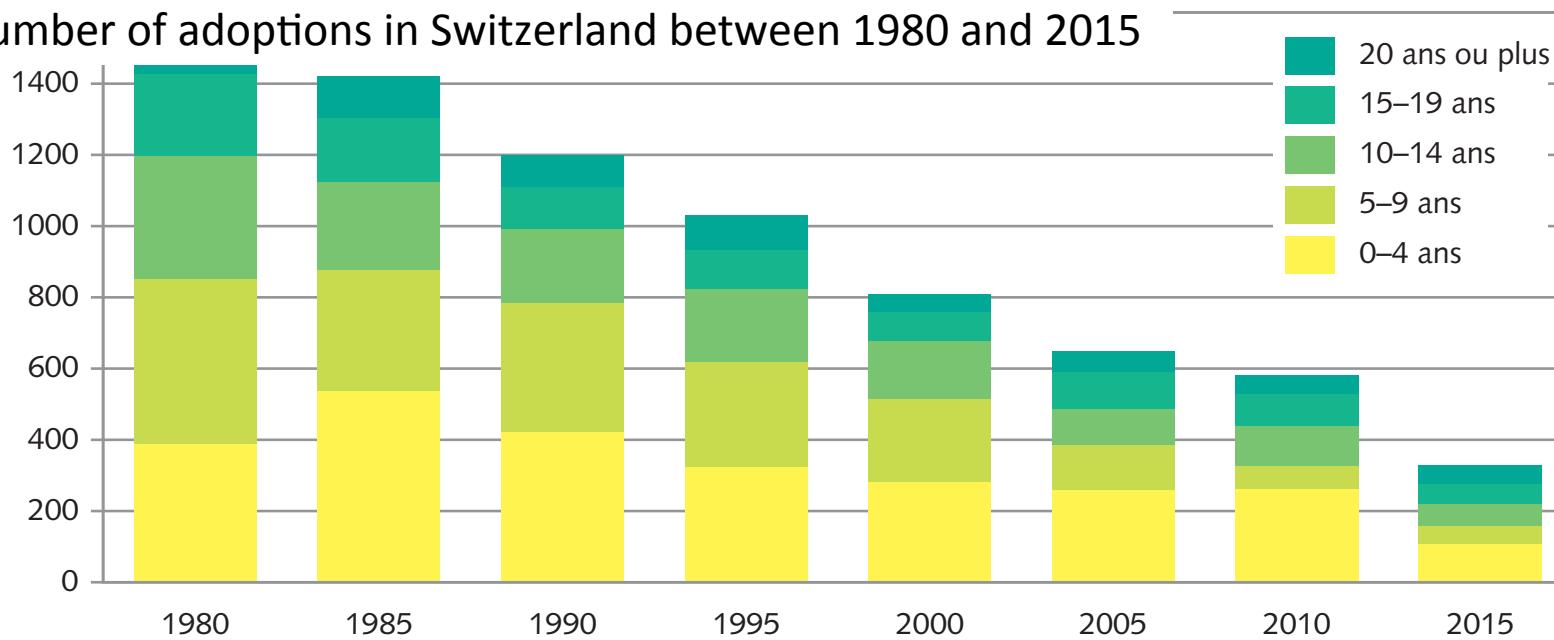
- Intercountry adoption is a measure of protection for a child who is deprived of a family
- Hague Convention – Convention de LaHaye (1993)
- It shall be made in the best interest of the child and with respect for his fundamental rights and to prevent the traffic in children.

Adoption Procedure



Adoption decrease

Number of adoptions in Switzerland between 1980 and 2015



Consequences of the decrease

- Waiting time increases
- Uncertainty: some countries close,
some candidates have to give up
- Children profiles are becoming different: older, siblings or
with medical problems
- Other ways to become a family

From medically assisted procreation to adoption

How to move on from a desire
of a biological child



... to a desire of an
adopted child?

Experience of adoption process and long waiting

Metaphore of a pregnancy:
« adoptive pregnancy »

Construction of an imaginary child

If couples keep waiting very long:
anger, despair

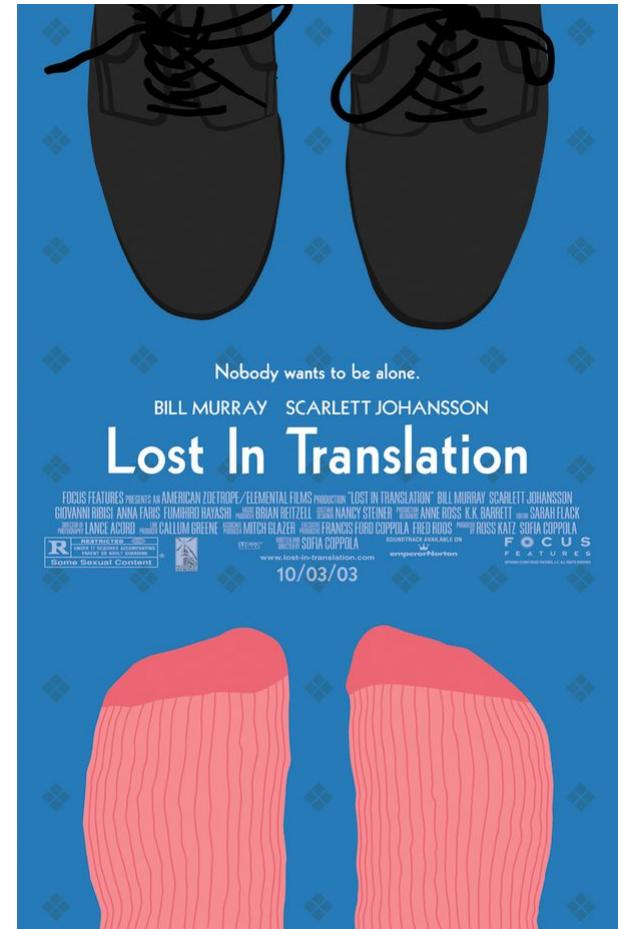
How to help those couples?

Identify couples who are still grieving a biological child and suffering because of their infertility

In the beginning of the adoption process, speak about the couple's medical history

How do they share with family and friends what they are going through?

Help the couple build a coherent story



ESPACE A

The struggles are an integrated part of the child's origins

Infertility is a chapter of the child history

How to make it coherent and understandable for the child?

How does infertility and a long adoption process impact adoptive parenthood?

Few studies on this topic

Cairo, Darwiche & al. (2012) :
Impact of the experience of infertility on family alliance.



Adoption is a meeting between two orphans

Metaphore of the grafted tree

Conclusion

- Couples need time and support to prepare to this particular type of filiation
- Open up, de-compartmentalise professionals of infertility, adoption, pediatry etc



Help couples build a story and support them in this sensitive transition to parenthood

References

- Bitton, E. (2016). *Le temps de l'attente*. Cahiers d'Espace A n°3.
- Cairo, Darwiche & al (2012). *Family interactions in IVF families: change over the transition to parenthood*. *Journal of Reproductive and Infant Psychology*, 30:1, 5-20.
- Darwiche, J. (2013). Conférence donnée dans le cadre d'une journée de formation à l'adoption pour les pédiatres.
- Gavard, M.-C. (2009). *Adoption, blessures d'amour*. Odile Jacob
- Halifax, J. & Labasque M. (2013). Etude relative au devenir des enfants adoptés en France et à l'international. Rapport final.
- Marinopoulos S. (2011). Formations données à Espace adoption « désir d'enfant et de l'être parent: la question du renoncement »
- Du Peuty, C. (2011). Adoption internationale: l'enfant virtuel de la grossesse adoptive, *Spirale*, n°60
- Sellenet, C. (2009). *Souffrances dans l'adoption*. De Boeck
- Pour les images: adoption-bacapana.blogspot.ch