

## Biography Mr Agris Skudra



Mr Agris Skudra is the Head of Children Affairs Cooperation Division of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Latvia. He has been working in the area of international child protection for more than 8 years as the Head of the Central Authority of Latvia (CA) under 1961, 1980, 1996 Hague Conventions and Brussels IIbis Regulation.

He has not only implemented all administrative procedures on how the CA works today, but also took a respective part while working on national law of implementation of the Hague Conventions as well as for Brussels IIbis Regulation. Besides the work at the CA he has participated actively informing professionals both at national and international level, on different aspects of international family law and child protection. During the past 4 years he has been giving presentations and lectures on this topic for Latvian judges, lawyers, consular officers and social workers as well as for specialists in

other countries, for example in Balkans when he was invited as a speaker at the regional conference on the 1980 Hague Convention, held in Belgrade, Serbia.

Along with colleagues from other EU Member States he has conducted the analyses of administrative functions of the Central Authorities. It was done within the scope of so called Working Group 11, which is tasked with, *inter alia*, analysing information on national proceedings on the application for the return of the child.

He also is a Member of the Hague Conference on Private International Law's Working Group to develop a Guide to Good Practice of the interpretation and application of the Article 13 (1) b of the 1980 Child Abduction Convention.