1. Record Nr. UNINA9910392752903321 The Rights of the Child in a Changing World [[electronic resource]]: 25 Titolo Years after The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child / / edited by Olga Cveji Jani Cham:,: Springer International Publishing:,: Imprint: Springer,, Pubbl/distr/stampa **ISBN** 3-319-23189-8 Edizione [1st ed. 2016.] Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (422 p.) Collana lus Comparatum - Global Studies in Comparative Law, , 2214-6881;; 346.0135 Disciplina Soggetti Private international law Conflict of laws **Families** Families—Social aspects Civil law Human rights Private International Law, International & Foreign Law, Comparative Law Family Civil Law **Human Rights** Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Note generali Includes index. About Authors -- The Rights of the Child in a Changing World; Olga Nota di contenuto Cveji Jani -- The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child: Tracing Australia's Implementation of the Provisions relating to Family Relations; Dr. Rita Shackel -- Les droits de l'enfant: rapport du Canada; Michelle Giroux and Carmen Lavallée -- The Rights of the Child -Croatian National Report; Nenad Hlaa and Sandra Winkler -- The Rights of the Child – Danish National report: Christina G. Jeppesen de Boer and Annette Kronborg -- Les droits de l'enfant en droit français; Adeline Gouttenoire -- The Rights of the Child in Germany -

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Sommario/riassunto

This book deals with the implementation of the rights of the child as enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 21 countries from Europe, Asia, Australia, and the USA. It gives an overview of the legal status of children regarding their most salient rights, such as the implementation of the best interest principle, the right of the child to know his/her origin, the right to be heard, to give medical consent, the right of the child in the field of employment, religious education of children, prohibition of physical punishment, protection of the child through deprivation of parental rights and in the case of inter-country adoption. In the last 25 years since the Convention on the Rights of the Child was adopted, many States Parties to the Convention have made great efforts to pass legislation regulating the rights of the child, in their commitment to the improvement of the legal status of the child. However, is that enough for any child to live better, safer, and healthier? What are the practical effects of this international as well as many national instruments in the everyday life of children? Have there been any outcomes in terms of improvement of their status around the world, and improvement of the conditions under which they live, since the Convention entered into force? In tackling these questions, this work presents a comparative overview of the implementation of the Convention, and evaluates the results achieved.