



Intercountry Adoption in Ireland: Russia Summary Sheet

January 2025

Overview

- Between 1992 and 2014, 1,630 children were adopted into Ireland from Russia.
- More people have been adopted into Ireland from Russia than from anywhere else in the world.
- The number of intercountry adoptions from Russia peaked in 2004, and fell sharply after 2012.



Context

- Russia had a long history of large numbers of orphaned, abandoned, runaway or relinquished children.
- The collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 was followed by a period of intense economic and social difficulty in Russia. This led to even more children in institutions.
- Intercountry adoption became a clear pathway out of childcare institutions for these children.
- Over time, things started to improve in Russia. There was more fostering and domestic adoption, and the large institutions were replaced with smaller facilities. No children have been adopted into Ireland from Russia since 2014.

What do we know about the people adopted from Russia into Ireland?



At the time of their adoption into Ireland:

- Their average age was one year old
- 44% of the children were registered as female, and 56% as male

Right now, this group range from 12 to 44 years old, with an average current age of 21.

Compiled by the AAI Research Team

If you are an intercountry adopted person, and would like to take part in research with the AAI, please let us know, we'd be really happy to hear from you!

You can email us on aai_research@aai.gov.ie