

ANNUAL REPORT 2012



La Strada International

European nco Network against Trafficking in Human Beings

Belarus, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Macedonia, Moldova,
the Netherlands, Poland and Ukraine

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Acronyms

AECT	Alliance Expert Coordination Team
AI	Amnesty International
ASI	Anti-Slavery International
CEPOL	European Police College
CoE	Council of Europe
EASO	European Asylum Support Office
EIGE	European Institute for Gender Equality
EU	European Union
GAATW	Global Alliance against Traffic in Women
HRDN	Human Rights and Democracy Network
ICMPD	International Centre for Migration Policy Development
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
LS	La Strada
LSI	La Strada International/The International La Strada Association
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
ODIHR	Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
OSCE	Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe
PICUM	Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants
UN	United Nations
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UN.GIFT	United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking

Foreword

According to the latest ILO estimates, published in 2012, 20.9 million people are victims of forced labour globally, trapped in jobs which they were coerced or deceived into and which they cannot leave. The majority of forced labourers are exploited in economic activities, such as agriculture, construction, domestic work or manufacturing. About a quarter are victims of sexual exploitation.

Most of the trafficked persons, LSI assisted in 2012, remain to be trafficked persons exploited in the sex industry. In 2012 LSI extended its support to trafficked persons: 2013 persons were provided with direct assistance, compared to 1674 in 2011.

LSI member countries still are faced with political, social and economic instability, bureaucracy and corruption, which negatively affect the societies of the La Strada countries in general, as changes towards democracy and openness are implemented only gradually. Political instability, in particular due to frequent changes in government, has a negative impact on the adoption and implementation of anti-trafficking measures. In particular, LS Macedonia, Bulgaria and Ukraine reported political instability. The La Strada countries reported concerns but also positive news about the country's national approach to human trafficking, such as the adoption of a number of anti trafficking legal acts and measures in 2012. Several LSI members however raised concern about the fact that new strategies and policies lack sufficient resources to ensure good implementation.

The International Secretariat of LSI is responsible for the coordination of the network at the international level in close cooperation with the member organisations. The employees of the International Secretariat undertake activities directed at international networking, advocacy and public relations, and are responsible for developing and maintaining relations with national and

international government structures and other relevant stakeholders including international organisations, NGOs and civil society networks. The secretariat further works on data collection, registration and information provision and capacity building for the member organisations. The LSI Secretariat prepares Assembly and board meetings and is further responsible for coordination of the implementation of common strategy and action plans. Additionally several international projects are coordinated by the International Secretariat.

In 2012 La Strada International began the implementation of its new Strategic Plan 2012-2015. In line with this strategic plan, LSI worked to strengthen the NGO impact monitoring of anti-trafficking measures by promoting the use of assessment tools and by increasing the knowledge and capacity in assessment and advocacy methodology, in order to ensure that the rights of trafficked persons are protected in practise. At a daily level, a huge gap can be noticed between legislation on paper and actual implementation.

To address this and other issue, the LSI network worked closely with an extended group of NGOs on several lobby issues addressing the European Commission, Council of Europe, OSCE and the UN; providing specific recommendations to improve the protection and observance of the rights of trafficked persons migrants and other groups vulnerable to human trafficking. LSI commented to several new European measures and legislation, as well as the new EU Strategy towards the eradication of trafficking in Human Beings (2012-2016).

LSI further ensured active involvement of European NGOs in the monitoring work of GRETA in all reviewed countries A positive development is that anti-trafficking NGOs have become more aware of the need of common advocacy and it is clear that measures for prevention, protection and compensation for trafficked persons have become more strongly embedded in new national and international legislation, for example the European directive on trafficking in human beings, which Member States have to transpose by April 2013.

More attention was also given on strengthening networking and partnership with external stakeholders. More harmonisation of NGO action and closer partnership is needed. To address human trafficking effectively, La Strada International acknowledges that activities and interventions cannot be done in isolation - partnerships and networks are essential in exchanging information to ensure that the activities of involved organisations complement each other in order to reach efficiency and good results. For this purpose, LSI maintains contacts with a large network of actors in the anti-trafficking and related fields. Towards this aim, LSI invited partner NGOs to affiliate with LSI's NGO platform and 10 European partner NGOs expressed their interest to be affiliated with LSI, as NGO platform members. It is expected that membership of the NGO platform will be further formalised in 2013.

Cooperation with other NGO networks remained a priority as well and throughout the year LSI closely cooperated with NGO networks, including the Human Rights and Democracy Network (HRDN), the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM) and the Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW) as well as with individual national NGOs for lobby and advocacy and project cooperation.

In 2012, LSI contributed to improving the coordination and exchange among relevant NGOs in Europe via its steering group membership of ENPATES- the European NGO Platform Against Trafficking, Exploitation and Slavery.

LSI also continued to coordinate the COMP.ACT project, (European Action for Compensation for Trafficked Persons) implemented together with 14 NGO partners in Europe, with the aim to improve access to justice and guarantee compensation for trafficked people. In December 2012, LSI successfully completed the COMP.ACT project which aimed to improve access to justice and

guarantee compensation for trafficked people, see <http://www.compactproject.org/>. The project resulted in positive changes in 14 countries, including improvement of legislation, establishment of compensation funds, closer cooperation among relevant stakeholders and successful test cases and compensation claims. The project also ensured more awareness for the need of compensation for trafficked persons and created visibility for the work of LSI and affiliated partners.

Further in line with LSI's strategic plan, LSI worked on strengthening of its evidence-based planning and policy development and increasing the effect of its operation and management. Still there is limited adequate data on the current human trafficking situation in Europe and all stakeholders acknowledge that better data, information and research is needed. In 2012, LSI continued to contribute to adequate information provision on the issue of human trafficking. LSI collected and disseminated information on human trafficking and registered information on those trafficked persons who were assisted by La Strada. Further, in 2012, LSI launched its revised registration system, which improved its data collection and client registration.

New planned projects in 2013, will support LSI in further improving its data collection and protection strategy and ensuring that the data of trafficked persons is protected and guaranteed by all stakeholders.

Collected information and research was not only used externally to ensure better information provision to external stakeholders. It is also used for internal monitoring of La Strada's own work to guide the improvement of services.

LSI members received 10 603 hotline calls, compared to 8 376 in 2011. Around 4000 prevention and information events were organised, attended by over 130 000 professionals and people from risk groups and over 150 000 prevention materials were printed and disseminated.

To ensure the effectiveness of LSI's work and to strengthen LSI's evidence-based planning and policy development, LSI started in 2012, to work on the establishment of a new internal monitoring and evaluation system, which is to be finalised in 2013.

Another focus was put on increasing the effect of the operation and management of LSI. Actions were further taken to improve planning and monitoring processes and the communication and accountability amongst members.

More generally, LSI organised two General Assembly meetings in 2012. At those meetings, common anti-trafficking strategies and policies were discussed, as well as issues related to internal management and the capacity of the network. In 2012, as part of the new Strategic Plan, an internal review of LSI bodies took place and recommendations were made how to make LSI organisational structure more effective. The General Assembly further adopted a marketing plan, a TOR for a monitoring and evaluation tool and a new Code of Conduct for the network.

On 12 June 2012 the General Assembly of the International La Strada Association (LSI) decided to terminate the LSI membership of La Strada Bosnia and Herzegovina as of that date. This decision was based on an evaluation of two years, which included two separate evaluation visits to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

LSI also worked on increasing the visibility of LSI and the LSI NGO platform. LSI believes that the role of civil society is not fully recognised and supported in Europe, in particular in some European countries. The work of NGOs is to be made more visible among a broader group and their best practises should be promoted, to ensure respect and a clear mandate for NGOs in the anti trafficking field. More visibility will not only help to raise more awareness for the issue of human trafficking, it will also help to increase cooperation with and support from other stakeholders,

including donors. In order to increase its visibility and further professionalise its PR and marketing efforts, a marketing and communication plan was developed at the end of 2011, which was used in 2012 as a guideline towards this aim.

The LSI website was evaluated and revised, new promotion materials were developed and in the framework of the COMP.ACT project a video spot was made. Further actions were taken to improve the use of new media- including Facebook and Twitter accounts for the International Secretariat.

Lastly, LSI worked on strengthening of the financial sustainability of anti trafficking NGOs - There is limited financial support for anti trafficking work, including for helpline and shelter services. In 2012, it became evident that there is more competition for funding and less funding available for the issue of human trafficking. For several years, it has been quite difficult for the LSI Secretariat and its members to attract new donors and to ensure sufficient funding for their work. LSI should further invest in diversifying funds, attracting non-state and business funding and work to increase unrestricted and endowments funds. As only with a stable network and financially secure member organisations, LSI can effectively address the issue of human trafficking. A project plan (and application) for a project named NGOs & CO, that will help LSI to establish partnership with the private sector is expected to start in 2013.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Suzanne Hoff". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Suzanne Hoff, International Coordinator, La Strada International

La Strada International – Leading European NGO Network against Trafficking in human beings

The International La Strada Association (known as La Strada International/LSI) is a leading, value-driven European NGO Network that aims to ensure a world without trafficking in human beings by promoting the respect for human rights. LSI develops the capacity of the member organisations and other stakeholders to provide better services to trafficked persons and at-risk groups and empowers them to have access to and exercise their rights.

The La Strada International network comprises eight independent, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in Europe that work from a grass-roots level, providing direct support to trafficked persons. The 8 member organisations are based in Belarus, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Macedonia, Moldova, the Netherlands, Poland and Ukraine. The LSI member organisations are represented by one person in the General Assembly, which functions as the governing body of the organisation and meets twice a year. The General Assembly elects the members of the LSI Board from among the assembly members. The board is responsible for monitoring the work of the International Secretariat and for setting up discussions around broader strategic and thematic issues.

The International Secretariat of LSI is responsible for the coordination of the network at the international level in close cooperation with the member organisations. The employees of the International Secretariat undertake activities directed at international networking, advocacy and public relations, and are responsible for developing and maintaining relations with national and international government structures and other relevant stakeholders including international organisations, NGOs and civil society networks. The secretariat further works on data collection,

registration and information provision and capacity building for the member organisations. The LSI Secretariat prepares Assembly and board meetings and is further responsible for coordination of the implementation of common strategy and action plans. Additionally several international projects are coordinated by the International Secretariat.

Since its establishment in 1995, LSI's work is based on the overall Human Rights principle defining human trafficking as a severe violation of human right and promoting a trafficked persons' centred approach to addressing this issue. According to this approach, violation of human rights is both a cause and a consequence of trafficking in human beings and therefore the prevention of trafficking and the protection of victims should be based on the protection of the rights of all human beings - with a focus on those vulnerable to human trafficking. Prominent vulnerable groups include (irregular) migrant workers, domestic workers and sex workers.

The human rights based approach opposes anti-trafficking measures which adversely affect or infringe upon the human rights of trafficked persons or other affected groups. This approach requires that human rights are at the core of any anti-trafficking strategy. It integrates the norms, standards and principles of the international human rights system into legislation, policies, programs and processes. This approach is reflected in the mission statement of the association and in LSI's Code of Conduct.

The organisation in 2012

In 2012, two General Assembly meetings took place. The first General Assembly meeting of 2012 (AM 15) was held in June, in Vienna, Austria and was combined with the COMP.ACT coalition meeting. The second meeting (AM 16) was held in November in Rome, Italy and combined with the ENPATES final conference.

In 2012 the Board met once in March 2012 in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Additionally, there were 8 online Board meetings through Skype throughout the year. At these meetings, the board and LSI International Coordinator prepared discussions and decision taking for assembly meetings and discussed daily (financial) management issues of the network.

In 2012 much attention was given to the monitoring and implementation of LSI's new strategic plan (2012 - 2015) and action plan for 2013; the pilot of the implementation of LSI standards and the follow up of recommendations of a special working group on LSI's structure next to the revision of LSI's facts & figures registration. Another important topic was the financial situation of the LSI secretariat and the LSI members. A strategy, financial plan and common funding applications to obtain more financial sustainability were frequently discussed by the board, as well as with the General Assembly. Several new common projects, including a follow up programme for COMP.ACT, were also discussed with the Assembly, next to requests for common projects and cooperation with other stakeholders. The General Assembly further adopted the marketing plan developed in 2011, a TOR for a monitoring and evaluation tool and a new Code of Conduct for the network.

On 12 June 2012 the General Assembly of the International La Strada Association (LSI) decided to terminate the LSI membership of La Strada Bosnia and Herzegovina, as of that date. This decision was based on an evaluation of two years, which included two separate evaluation visits to Bosnia and Herzegovina, the last one in January 2012. In 2010, the organisation was offered a period of two years to improve its organisational structure and cooperation with the network. As the

Assembly felt that too little progress was made in this respect, the Assembly decided to stop the membership. Further changes to the organisation relate to some staff changes.

The director of La Strada Moldova left the member organisation, after she was appointed as the director of the National Centre for Combating trafficking in Moldova.

At the end of 2012, the LSI network offered affiliate membership to its LSI NGO platform and 10 European partner NGOs expressed their interest to be affiliated with LSI, as NGO platform members. It is expected that membership of the NGO platform will be further formalised in 2013.

Context LSI member countries

LSI member countries still are faced with political, social and economic instability, bureaucracy and corruption, which negatively affect the societies of the La Strada countries in general, as changes towards democracy and openness are implemented only gradually. Political instability, in particular due to frequent changes in government, has a negative impact on the adoption and implementation of anti-trafficking measures. In particular, LS Macedonia, Bulgaria and Ukraine reported political instability. In some countries (legislative) measures are taken which impede the work of NGOs, in particular Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus reported an increase of state control over NGOs in 2012.

La Strada countries generally also face high levels of unemployment. With the globalisation of production and consumption and the facilitation of travel opportunities over the last few decades, migration flows have increased and labour has become internationally mobile. Pull factors - such as

demand for flexible labour in certain economic sectors and the need to cut down production costs to remain competitive or to increase profits - facilitate the demand for cheap labour which is often met by (irregular) migrant workers. These factors can also encourage exploitation of migrant workers, as migrants often enjoy less legal protection regarding labour conditions and enjoy few basic social rights.

High unemployment figures - especially among women - and the lack of adequate social welfare systems force people to move or migrate internally or abroad to start their lives (temporarily) elsewhere. Several LSI offices reported the negative effects of the economic crisis, on the country's situation and its citizens. La Strada Bulgaria noticed an increase of labour migration for seasonal work in particular for vulnerable sectors like agriculture and domestic work. Strada Macedonia reported that 'due to the low economic development of the country, young people do no longer see any opportunity to obtain employment via regular channels and use other means. At the same time employers take advantage of the difficult situation by awarding lower salaries, while requesting additional work and working hours.

People also leave because of corruption or discrimination. More serious human rights violations resulting from political, economic and social instability also might force people to flee.

As a result many LSI member organisations take up work on related issues, like women's rights, human rights, gender based violence and discrimination.

The national approach to human trafficking

La Strada Ukraine frequently raised concerns in 2012 about the fact that there is no longer a national body responsible for the issue of human trafficking, since by the Presidents decree of 2010, the Ministry on Family, Youth and Sports Affairs, that was responsible for the issue, ceased to exist. Now partly the Ministry of Social Policy is made responsible for anti-trafficking policies and has also been given the task to conduct the national coordination, but the issue of human trafficking has become much less a priority issue for the country.

The La Strada countries reported concerns but also positive news about the country's national approach to human trafficking, such as the adoption of a number of anti-trafficking legal acts and measures in 2012. In Ukraine the State Social programme on counteraction human trafficking was adopted, next to an NRM for the country and procedures for granting a status and for obtaining financial assistance for trafficked persons. Also the other LS countries reported the adoption of new anti-trafficking strategies and action plans. In Belarus a new 'comprehensive law on combating human trafficking' came in force at end of July 2012, which among others defines now temporary residence permits and stay for trafficked persons. LS Macedonia reported that with the adoption of their multi-annual action plan (2013 - 2016), more focus is put on severe criminal prosecution, increased coordination, and on the need for better identification, protection and assistance to trafficked persons. La Strada Bulgaria raised concern about the fact that the NRM, established in 2010, is still not approved by the Council of Ministers.

The EU countries, Poland, Bulgaria, Netherlands and the Czech Republic reported proposed changes to legislation for their countries' commitment to the new EU 2011 directive on human trafficking (Directive 2011/36/EU of the European Parliament and the Council on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims, replacing Council Framework decision 2002/629/JHA), among others to comply with the non-punishment clause for trafficked persons. EU members have to implement this EU directive by April 2013.

La Strada members were further positive about their cooperation with the state bodies responsible for development of national strategies and action plans and felt they could satisfactorily contribute to their development. Several LSI members however raised concern about the fact that new strategies and policies lack sufficient resources to ensure good implementation.

Human trafficking in Europe

Human trafficking¹ is a serious human rights violation and combating this crime remains a priority in Europe today. Despite the difficulty to accurately determine the scale of the issue, it is evident that

¹ Article 3, paragraph (a) of the [Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons](#) defines Trafficking in Persons as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs

thousands of people are being trafficked within, to and from Europe every year. Almost all LSI members have reported an increase in clients and/or identified victims of human trafficking. Human trafficking reflects the poor social and legal position of individuals in many countries. It promotes deceit, abuse, violence, debt-bondage, blackmail and deprivation of human rights. Human trafficking is not only a cause of human rights violations, but often also a consequence. Moreover, lack of protection for persons who have been trafficked might even lead to further human rights infringements and re-trafficking. Human trafficking is not a static phenomenon; changes and new trends in trafficking practices are discernible over time. In 2012 further shifts can be observed in patterns and scale regarding the situation of human trafficking.

ILO Global estimate of forced labour 2012

According to the latest estimates of the International Labour Organisation, published in 2012, around three out of every 1000 persons worldwide are in forced labour at any given point in time. Using a new and improved statistical methodology, the ILO estimates that 20.9 million people are victims of forced labour globally; trapped in jobs which they were coerced or deceived into and which they cannot leave. The majority of forced labourers, (68%) are exploited in economic activities, such as agriculture, construction, domestic work or manufacturing. About a quarter are victims of sexual exploitation. The remaining 10% are in state-imposed forms of forced labour, for example in prisons, or in work imposed by the state military or by rebel armed forces. There is a relatively high prevalence of forced labour in Central and South Eastern Europe and former Soviet States which can be explained by the fact that the population is much lower than for example the population of Asia, while reports of trafficking for labour and sexual exploitation and of state-imposed forced labour in the region are numerous.

Current trends in trafficking in human beings

In 2012 LSI registered and provided assistance to 2013 trafficked persons, mostly women. However a trend in the last few years is an increase in the number of identified and referred trafficked men, as reported by the LSI member organisations. Several factors contribute to this new development. In line with the Palermo Protocol, most national laws have been amended in recent years to include trafficking for labour exploitation of which men are victims. Further, there is an increasing recognition throughout the world that it is not only women and children who fall victim to traffickers. Trafficking of adult men seems to be primarily for the purpose of labour and thus links closely with another trend already noticeable in the last years; the LSI members have identified an increase of trafficked persons exploited in industries other than the sex industry. Such industries known to be vulnerable for human trafficking, forced labour and exploitation are domestic work, sweatshops, catering and restaurants, construction, agricultural work, entertainment industry and the commercial marriage market.

Human trafficking also affects other mainstream economic sectors, including food processing, healthcare and contract cleaning, mainly in private but also in public sector employment, such as the provision of healthcare services. A problem, however, is that these are often dealt with by the authorities as 'merely' constituting *labour law* violations, rather than *human rights* violations under anti-trafficking or human rights legislation. It is generally acknowledged that sectors with weak labour protection are more vulnerable to human trafficking. Most human trafficking for forced labour affects people working at the margins of the formal economy, with irregular employment or migration status.

In 2012, the first conviction of human trafficking for labour exploitation in the Czech Republic was a fact. Until recently, trafficking in human beings in the Czech Republic was only recognised in cases of sexual exploitation. Despite the 2004 Amendment to the Penal Code which was extended to include the crime of trafficking in human beings for purposes such as forced labour and other forms of exploitation, it took more than eight years for the first conviction for this crime.

Next to the increase in identified and referred persons trafficked for labour exploitation, other trends and shifts can be detected from the information received and collected by LSI and its member organisations.

People seem to be trafficked from a younger age and an increase has been reported in internal trafficking, both in Western and Eastern Europe. At the same time, human trafficking routes originate further away. Although the majority of trafficked people from countries where La Strada is represented are still trafficked to Western Europe, the Middle East and Asia, for instance, are new and upcoming destination areas for Europeans. These new “exotic” destination countries include: India, Pakistan, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Lebanon, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Israel, United Arab Emirates, Sudan, Turkey, Hungary, Jordan, Uganda, Afghanistan, Cyprus, and China.

US TIP report 2012

The 2012 US Department of State Trafficking in Persons Report gives an interesting overview of the world efforts to combat trafficking in human beings and provides much information on new insights in the anti-trafficking discourse. The 2012 report focuses on how to make victim protection most effective for helping trafficked persons get their lives back on track. Specific guidelines and examples of what victim protection looks like when it succeeds, as well as when it fails are provided. The report also highlights some myths and misconceptions on trafficking in human beings. Prevailing concerns about illegal immigration continue to guide governments' initial responses to potential trafficking victims. Trafficking indicators are missed and victims are wrongly classified as illegal migrants and criminals. The TIP report also underlines the importance of temporary residence permits, both for the recovery of trafficked persons and for the prosecution of the traffickers and debunks the fear of massive fraud.

LSI endeavours to monitor and evaluate current practises in human trafficking by collecting facts and figures, analysing data and undertaking research. In 2012, LSI joined two academic consortiums to conduct further research on human trafficking; these researches, currently in process to obtain funding from the European Commission, focus on the issue of demand for human trafficking and on the profile of trafficker and the criminal framework in which they operate.

LSI Advocacy & Public Affairs

The lobby and advocacy work of LSI is structured according to LSI's Advocacy Plan and Strategic Plan, but also involves ad hoc work such as reacting to new European developments, actions and campaigns or supporting the LSI members with reacting to relevant national developments. In 2012, LSI intensively lobbied the European Union, Council of Europe and to a lesser extent also addressed the OSCE and UN, providing specific recommendations to improve the protection and observance of the rights of trafficked persons, migrants and other groups vulnerable to human trafficking.

The following issues received special attention from LSI in 2012:

- **EU Strategy on trafficking in human beings** - On 19 June 2012, the European Commission adopted the "EU Strategy towards the eradication of trafficking in Human Beings (2012-2016)". In 2012, La Strada International sent in a first commentary, in particular related to actions aimed to improve identification methods, financial investigation and asset recovery in relation to compensation for trafficked persons and data protection. In line with the strategy's recognition for the important role of civil society and the need for cooperation, LSI also provided consultation and advice on the needs of NGOs for such a platform.
- **The Victims' Package** - Back in 2011, the European Commission launched a proposal for "the Victims' Package" - a collection of proposals for better protection of the rights of victims in the EU, including a Directive on minimum standards for victims of crime, to replace the 2001 Framework Decision on the standing of victims. LSI closely monitored the process of this Victims' Package in order to advocate for specific improvements at the European Parliament and Council. LSI issued recommendations for amendments to include

the protection of the rights of victims with an insecure migration status targeting the European Parliament. Together with PICUM, LSI published a statement with the same message. The advocacy work was successful: on 28 March MEPs of the LIBE and FEMM committee inserted an amendment saying that all victims of crime should be protected under this directive, regardless of their legal status. The amended proposal for the Directive was negotiated in the dialogue between Commission, Parliament and Council in April 2012. The Victims' Directive was adopted in 2012.

- The European Commission launched a **proposal for a Directive on asset recovery** - This proposal for a Directive on the freezing and confiscation of proceeds of crime in the European Union aims to make it easier for Member States' authorities to confiscate and recover the profits that criminals make from cross-border serious and organised crime. It seeks to attack the financial incentive that drives crime, protect the licit economy against criminal infiltration and corruption and to return criminal profits to public authorities providing services for citizens. It responds to the current economic context, where a financial crisis and a slowdown in economic growth have created new opportunities for criminals. La Strada International welcomes this Directive as the experiences of COMP.ACT have shown that in criminal cases against traffickers, the confiscation of assets is still very difficult, often because the financial investigations seem to start too late and the perpetrator has managed to relocate goods and money. The Directive mentions that the value of the property destined to be reused for amongst others social purposes, which is an important step forward as in several EU countries confiscated assets cannot be used for the financing of social services. Unfortunately, it does not include the possibility to use the value of the confiscated assets for direct compensation to the individual victims of crime.

Together with the partners of the COMP.ACT coalition LSI drew attention to this omission and advocated for the inclusion of the issue of compensation for victims of crime into this Directive.

A special focus for 2012 of LSI's Lobby and Advocacy Programme was to strengthen the role of NGOs in impact monitoring of existing anti-trafficking and related policies and measures for trafficked persons. Still often the rights of trafficked persons and risk groups are violated, while adequate proposed and adopted measures are often not well implemented.

In line with this focus, LSI continued to facilitate active NGO involvement in the monitoring of the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, and the work of its monitoring body GRETA. LSI has actively approached NGOs in the countries that were to be visited by GRETA to ensure NGO involvement during the country visits. In 2012, the 2nd GRETA general report was published, next to several country reports, including a report on Moldova.

In its 2nd report, GRETA stresses general satisfaction with the way in which the evaluation procedure has been carried out in the first 10 countries, which demonstrated willingness to make progress in combating trafficking in human beings, and to ensure that their obligations under the Convention are fulfilled. At the same time, GRETA's reports highlight the need for further steps to ensure that the human rights-based and victim-centred approach underpinning the Convention is fully reflected and applied in the national policy to combat trafficking in human beings.

GRETA supports the notion that the human rights-based approach to action against trafficking in human beings requires States to set up a comprehensive framework for: 1. the prevention of trafficking, 2. the protection of trafficked persons as victims of serious human rights violations, and 3. the effective investigation and prosecution of traffickers. Such protection includes steps to ensure that all victims of trafficking are properly identified by authorities. It also involves measures to empower trafficked persons by enhancing their rights to adequate protection, assistance and redress; including recovery and rehabilitation in a participatory and non-discriminatory framework-irrespective of their residency status. GRETA stresses that a person's identification as a victim of human trafficking should not depend on the presence of elements necessary to initiate a criminal case or co-operation between the trafficked person and law enforcement authorities.

Further, measures to prevent human trafficking should be taken in the field of socio-economic, labour and migration policies. Another aspect of the victim-centred approach is the need for effective legal remedies for victims of trafficking (including children).

LSI also monitored the GRETA elections in 2012. Five of the current GRETA members were re-elected for a second term of four years, and eight new members were elected for the first time. LSI is proud to announce that among the newly elected members is Kateryna Levchenko, the director of La Strada Ukraine.

LSI followed the developments at the United Nations on the issue of human trafficking, in particular the work of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially in women and children, Joy Ngozi Ezeilo, who published her report in 2012. In this report, the Special Rapporteur provides an overview of her activities during the period under review, from 1 March 2011 to 29 February 2012. Drawing on State responses to her questionnaire, she provides an overview of trends in State practice, highlighting emerging good practices and common challenges. The report comprises a thematic analysis of a human rights-based approach to the administration of criminal justice in cases of trafficking in persons.

These lobby and advocacy activities have resulted among others in the recognition of LSI as expert and negotiating partner in both identifying areas of concern for the rights of trafficked persons, as well as providing recommendations for alignment with international human rights standards.

National advocacy

All LSI members undertake lobby and advocacy activities to influence their national policy makers, media, and the general public. To achieve these aims, LSI members distributed information to specific target groups, established media contacts, issued press releases, and gave interviews. In addition, seminars and workshops were organised, and recommendations and opinion articles were provided on particular issues. These issues include proposals for new legislation or amendments to existing legislation, or particular events in the respective La Strada country.

While LSI secretariat focuses on monitoring of international policies and supports the members with collecting monitoring tools (for next year a desk research is planned to collect all different tools)

and promoting these, the LSI members work on national monitoring of governmental policies and strategies.

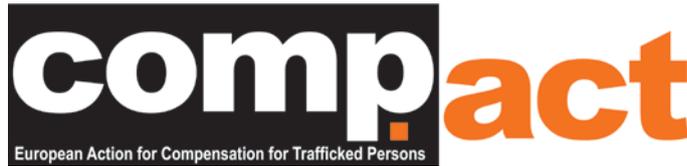
La Strada Ukraine, together with the Ministry of Social Policy and participation of experts from international organisations, developed performance indicators for the Ukrainian national law on human trafficking. The law, which was adopted in September 2011 after a lengthy process, is now in force for more than a year. In order to improve the implementation of the law and the national policy on combating trafficking in human beings in general, it was decided to develop a system of indicators for monitoring its implementation. A draft document containing the indicators has been submitted to the National Coordinator on Combating Human Trafficking for support and approval.

La Strada Ukraine hopes that the Ukrainian government will ensure that the indicators will be made part of the unified state system for monitoring the implementation of the law on human trafficking.

LSI Projects

La Strada International is also active on the European level by partnering in the implementation of several European projects. In 2012, there were three projects/initiatives that LSI was particularly involved in.

COMP.ACT - European Action for Compensation for Trafficked Persons



In 2012 LSI continued the implementation and coordination of the three-year international project COMP.ACT - European Action for Compensation for Trafficked Persons.² The aim of this project is to ensure that compensation

becomes one of the key elements of programmes of assistance and services to trafficked persons in Europe. Project partners from 14 European countries, including seven La Strada International member organisations, have formed a European coalition on compensation together with representatives of trade unions, migrant rights organisations and academics.

Several tools on guiding professionals in claiming compensation for trafficked persons have been developed in the framework of the project, next to research in all the participating countries. In addition, LSI guided a (thesis) research on “Compensation for trafficked persons from state funds: are compensation funds appropriate for trafficked persons? A critical examination of four state compensation funds in Europe”.

The final report of the first three years of the COMP.ACT project is a Toolkit on Compensation - a collection of the results and products that the COMP.ACT partners have developed. The first part is

² <http://compactproject.org/>

a narrative overview introducing the COMP.ACT coalition and provides information on compensation for trafficked persons and recommendations on removing obstacles to obtaining compensation. 3 Part Two of the Toolkit contains pull-out tools that COMP.ACT has developed for practitioners who work with or for trafficked persons, including:

1. A Research Template for NGOs to conduct a country-level study on compensation. The guide outlines: 1. Data collection regarding the access of trafficked persons to compensation, 2. Analysis of barriers in the access at the national level and 3. Formulating recommendations to strengthen victims' ability to assert their right to compensation.

2. A Poster on compensation possibilities, designed for professionals and practitioners who in their work come across and work with trafficked persons, for example, police, shelter staff, trade union officers, (legal) counselling centres and lawyers. The poster highlights what issues need to be discussed when consulting a client, possible legal avenues and available channels to seek compensation.

3. A Guidance on representing trafficked persons in compensation claims, which provides lawyers, counselling centres and other service providers with information on the rights and needs of trafficked persons, including the ways of claiming compensation for both material and non-material damages, a detailed overview of the international legislation and include a simple 5 Step Model for claiming compensation for trafficked persons.

The Toolkit is available on the COMP.ACT website.

The COMP.ACT products have been successfully presented at several international events. On 11 October COMP.ACT was invited to organise a Special Focus Event prior to the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons Conference in Vienna hosted by the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings. A final presentation of the COMP.ACT project was held in the European Parliament.

ENPATES



The European NGOs Platform against Trafficking, Exploitation and Slavery (ENPATES) project aimed to establish a Pan-European platform for anti-trafficking NGOs to develop an effective coordination strategy for NGOs and to set up a system for the functional exchange and development of analysis, knowledge, good practices, and advocacy initiatives in the field of prevention, assistance, protection and social inclusion of trafficked persons. The project, which was initiated by nine anti-trafficking NGO's from nine EU Member States, including La Strada International, has gradually involved more anti-trafficking NGOs of EU Member States but also from candidate countries and other European countries.

In November, a final conference, as well as the last Steering Committee meeting and an Assembly meeting, were organised in Rome, Italy.

Over the last two years, within the framework of the project, ENPATES conducted an assessment of NGOs needs and collected and analysed data for NGOs, including information and knowledge on the phenomenon of trafficking in human beings, policies and practices (see Resource centre available on the website www.enpates.org). A website and an NGO online discussion forum were created too. ENPATES also published different position papers including an analysis, recommendations and

guidelines for NGOs' anti-trafficking work. At the moment, 27 anti-trafficking NGO's have officially joined the Platform, representing 25 different EU countries.

At the above mentioned meetings, the efforts and results of ENPATES were evaluated and a discussion was held on the future and sustainability of ENPATES. The first members meeting and final conference already provided space to further discuss content issues, such as NGO experiences regarding the implementation of the EU Directive on human trafficking (2011/36/EU); transnational cooperation among NGOs; prevention of re-trafficking and on inter-institutional protocols/agreement aiming at the protection of victims. At the meeting, results of different concrete NGO projects were also shared.

Danish Programme

The Danish Programme is an international programme on human trafficking supported by the Danish government in which LSI, together with the LSI member organisations in Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and local NGOs, works to address human trafficking in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine. The programme supports national counter-trafficking plans and works with government agencies to support their role as leaders of counter-trafficking efforts. The aim of this programme is to increase the sustainability of information services through the unification of the standards of operation of existing hotlines and the unification of public awareness efforts. Trainings were organised for managers and core staff of La Strada and IOM hotlines. The program will finish in 2013.

Networking, cooperation and representation

La Strada International acknowledges that activities and interventions cannot be done in isolation; partnerships and networks are essential in exchanging information to ensure that the activities of involved organisations complement each other in order to reach efficiency and good results. For this purpose, LSI maintains contacts with a large network of actors in the anti-trafficking and related fields. Further, LSI follows policy developments on the European level and regularly issues comments and statements with relevant international actors. For its lobby and advocacy work, LSI closely cooperated with the following networks:

- LSI is a member of the **Human Rights and Democracy Network (HRDN)**, based in Brussels. The LSI Secretariat closely cooperated with the subgroup on human trafficking of this network of human rights NGOs. Together with the subgroup members, LSI followed policy developments on the European level and issued comments and statements. In 2012 LSI attended the HRDN annual meeting and two sub group meetings.
- LSI is a member of the Brussels-based **Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM)**. In 2012 LSI attended the annual (General Assembly) meeting of PICUM and several workshops and closely cooperated on several lobby and advocacy issues.
- LSI is also member of the **Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW)** and cooperated frequently in 2012, mainly on lobby & advocacy, in particular on UN issues.

- LSI is a member of the Alliance Expert Coordination Team (AECT) of the Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Being of the **Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)**. LSI attended 3 meetings in 2012 and closely cooperated with the Special Representative in the framework of the COMP.ACT programme.

LSI regularly received invitations to attend and/or present at conferences and trainings; however, due to time limitations, LSI is represented at only a select number of events each year. The LSI network was represented at more than 80 international events during 2012.

New stakeholder – the Private sector

In 2012, LSI members started to work more with a new stakeholder - the private sector. LSI developed a project proposal for a new project NGOs & CO, engaging the business sector in the fight against human trafficking. A project LSI hopes to start in 2013. Several LSI members started small cooperation with the business sector, among which IT companies, Telecom companies, the tourism sector and beauty industry.

In 2012 Open Gate/La Strada Macedonia established cooperation with a Macedonian supermarket chain TEDIKO and with a meat factory MIS Globus. In May, the two companies started providing products (food items, hygiene supplies and others) for the trafficked women and children accommodated in the shelter. This is a result of the Open Gate/La Strada Macedonia activities aimed at service sustainability through mobilisation of local resources such as the business sector. In the future, Open Gate/La Strada Macedonia plans to extend this cooperation to the areas of awareness-raising, campaigning and lobbying.

LSI and (media) representation

One of the strategic goals of LSI in 2012 is to increase the visibility of LSI and the LS NGO platform - The role of civil society is not fully recognised and supported in Europe, in particular in some European countries. The work of NGOs should be made more visible among a broader group and their best practises should be promoted, to ensure respect and a clear mandate for NGOs in the anti-trafficking field.

The LSI Secretariat cooperated with the media on specific topics on multiple occasions. LSI noticed that again in 2012, the focus of the media was often put on victim's (human interest) stories and on trafficking for the sex industry. Also prostitution remains an important topic for the media.

In general, the media requested contacts abroad and general information and statistics on human trafficking, national situation in the LS countries and new legislation, specific court cases or information on LS's work. In Ukraine and Poland also much attention from the media in 2012 was obtained in relation with the European Football Championship in these countries and the question whether such an event would lead to an increase of human trafficking.

In total LSI secretariat and the LSI members realised over 1070 media contacts, including press meetings, interviews and participation in media events. Most attention was received from the national press in comparison with foreign press, in particular from the national written press, next to national television and radio. Social media, are an important source of information sharing as well.

LSI welcomes increased attention to the issue of trafficking in the public arena. Nevertheless, unbalanced media coverage on trafficking can also create false perceptions and damage the interests of trafficked persons as opposed to supporting them. Therefore, LSI discourages sensationalised stories of human trafficking for the sex industry; where a one-dimensional image of the complex nature of human trafficking is presented and which stories ignore the less sensational but more wide-spread extreme exploitation and abuses in other industries and the root causes of human trafficking. Instead, LSI promotes the use of sound empirical research and facts derived from grassroots level experiences. In addition, LSI provides contacts and referrals between journalists and service providers.

In 2012, LSI regularly updated the News section on its website. LSI receives its updates via the LSI members, mailing lists, newsletters and other information sources.

LSI also continued to update its **documentation** centre which hosted around 1900 documents on human trafficking and related areas such as migration, labour and violence by the end of December 2012.

Four newsletters were published in 2012, in March, beginning of July, September and December 2012. The LSI newsletter contains information and opinions about new developments in the anti-trafficking and related fields from the La Strada member countries and Europe in general, new publications and resources and upcoming events.

For its newsletters LSI makes use of input of the members and information received and monitors the newsletters of other organisations, including PICUM, GAATW, Terre des Hommes, OHCHR, MRI, ITUC, FNV, ICMPD, IOM, European Women’s Lobby, OSCE and AWID.

In 2012 LSI started a new initiative - the internal newsletter. The quarterly LSI internal newsletter provides the La Strada members with up to date information of the activities, publications and projects of their colleagues in the network. It is developed to enhance internal communication, cooperation and understanding. Through it LSI also collects information about the external newsletter. LSI prepared and sent out four internal newsletters in 2012.



Research

LSI members contributed to numerous researches in 2012. Two examples can be given:

- Open Gate (La Strada Macedonia) published a new research "*From secure accommodation to social inclusion of victims of trafficking in human beings*". This research focused on three main issues: the social and economic situation of trafficked persons involved in the Social Assistance Programme; the process of supporting trafficked persons; and the institutions involved in the support of trafficked persons and the level of the established cooperation. The research makes several recommendations related to improvement of the assistance to trafficked persons on the national level. Some of them include: The planning and provision of technical, human and financial resources need to be established at a state institutional level in order to provide adequate social support to victims of human trafficking in accordance with their individual needs. Preventive activities should be undertaken if the family is likely to be a risk factor for the person to become a victim of human trafficking. More efforts should be made to detect (labour) exploitation through sophisticated means for the identification of victims of human trafficking and the prosecution of traffickers. The publication was officially promoted on the EU Anti-Trafficking Day and presented to a wide audience of governmental and nongovernmental officials in Macedonia.
- La Strada Moldova published a research on trafficking in persons for forced labour exploitation in Moldova and the existing practices and obstacles in the criminal prosecution and legal proceedings related to this crime. The research focuses on: An analysis of the concepts of trafficking in persons and forced labour as used in international law and academic articles on the topic; An overview and analysis of existing obstacles in the prosecution of the crime of trafficking for forced labour and establishment of a relation and

impact of the concepts of “trafficking in persons” and “forced labour” between international and national law; Data collection, processing and analysis of the law enforcement practice in criminal matters related to the crime of trafficking in persons for labour exploitation, focusing on the issues of practical application of the relevant articles of the Criminal Code and their connection with the legal construction of crimes. The report contains recommendations for state authorities and non-government organisations working on the issue to overcome the existing obstacles in the criminal prosecution and legal proceedings related to the crime of trafficking in persons for forced labour.

Marketing and communication

LSI has identified the need to promote the cohesion and the shared vision of the network, acknowledging the essential role of marketing in strengthening LSI’s visibility, partnerships and (financial) sustainability. For this reason, LSI employed a marketing manager for a period of 3 months in 2011. The marketing manager developed a marketing and communication strategy plan, reflecting on the needs and possibilities to better market/promote the organisation. The plan, which was adopted in 2012, covers recommendations on increasing visibility, such as the development or revision of the communication tools used by LSI and its members, including the website, leaflet and use of social media. The plan proposes actions to explore partnerships with the corporate/private sector. Furthermore, LSI launched a Facebook page and opened a Twitter account.

In November, Freedom to Walk convened 17 volunteers from around the world to walk for 370 kilometres (300 miles) over 15 days from Bangkok to Myanmar, to raise funds and awareness for five organisations working to stop human trafficking on five continents. La Strada International is Freedom to Walk's European beneficiary. The campaign raised USD 126 028.

Data collection through LSI Intranet

More accurate facts and figures on the different aspects of trafficking are needed to better understand the phenomenon and could be of benefit in developing better counter-trafficking policies and services for trafficked persons and to enhance the focus of prevention campaigns. Therefore, the LSI Secretariat continued to develop and coordinate the registration of data by LSI members (information on clients and the national situation in relation to human trafficking). It was noted that the current system did not adequately allow for the inclusion of all the members' activities. In addition, the LSI Secretariat was not able to draw adequate conclusions for the purposes of reporting, lobby and advocacy. This resulted in applying changes in the data collection system. This process has proven that setting up an efficient data collection system requires detailed fine-tuning. Also, LSI is very aware of including the issue of data protection in all its data collection activities, ensuring that the collection, use and disclosure of data only occur for a legitimate and pre-defined purpose.

Data protection for trafficked persons

In November 2012, LSI started a project on data protection for trafficked persons with KOK, the German nationwide activist coordination group combating trafficking in women and violence against women in the process of migration. The project aims to promote the rights of trafficked persons to privacy and autonomy and to protect the use of their personal data. LSI and KOK seek to empower exploited and abused persons to take action against irregular storing and sharing of their personal data. The project will raise awareness among NGO counselling centres in selected European countries to stress confidentiality between the counsellor and trafficked persons and to assist service providers in providing safe information according to European data collection procedures. Additionally, it will create alliances for data protection among the relevant stakeholders, including NGO counselling centres, National Rapporteur Mechanisms (or equivalent structures), IGOs and national data protection authorities. The project will contain a research, develop joint standards and include consultations, trainings and a final manual.

LSI Services and assistance provided

In 2012 LSI extended its support to trafficked persons: 2013 persons were provided with direct assistance, compared to 1674 in 2011.

Assistance and support to trafficked persons is among the core activities of the LSI member organisations. The type of support provided depends on the individual situation, the specific needs of the person concerned and on the available services and resources. The needs, views and concerns of the client form the basis of the assistance provided and underlie all other work.

Support services vary from crisis (emergency) intervention (e.g. referral to shelters, legal, medical and psycho-social care) to the implementation of long-term assistance programmes, such as vocational training and employment support. Social assistance strongly links to La Strada's awareness raising activities.

Helplines

All LSI members run national helplines (also called hotlines), some of which are free of charge and open 24 hours a day. Helplines are not only a strong tool to prevent human trafficking, for some of the LSI members they are



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also the components of the state system of identification and referral of trafficked persons. The helplines are utilised by people who have been trafficked and are in need of advice or assistance and family members, friends, as well as people seeking options to migrate abroad. The helpline Consultants provide information on destination countries and useful telephone numbers, assist in restoring personal documents, make contacts with the family and conduct crisis intervention.

LSI members received 10 603 hotline calls, compared to 8 376 in 2011

Hotline on domestic violence in Belarus launched

On 13 August, Gender Perspectives/La Strada Belarus launched their national toll-free hotline for survivors of domestic violence. The hotline works for 12 hours every day and provides psychological, legal and social counselling to victims. Its number is 8-801-100-8-801 and can currently only be accessed from Belarus. LS Belarus also runs a second helpline on domestic violence.

From January 2013, La Strada Ukraine will start operating the National Toll-Free Child Hotline, although there is no donor support yet for this hotline. The hotline will have a national scope: the number 0 800 500 225 can be accessed in the whole country and is free of charge. The hotline aims to provide an opportunity to all Ukrainian children to be heard and supported. Earlier, in 2011 the other National Toll Free Hot Line on Violence Prevention and Child Rights Protection of La Strada Ukraine became the associate member of Child Helplines International (CHI, the world-wide network of child helplines). In 2013 the separate National Child Hotline will gain full membership at CHI.

Moldova also runs a trust line for victims of domestic violence

Most LSI members report an increase regarding enquiries on employment opportunities abroad and related bureaucratic issues (e.g. necessary papers, verification of job opportunities), safety concerns and requests for contact addresses and phone numbers.

Also questions are received about (international) marriages, domestic violence, and children right protection. Also there are requests for investigation on mistreatment and abuse by employers, questions related to sex work and on study and work abroad.

The LSI members in Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova represent the offices with the most trafficking-related calls to their helplines.

Shelters

A number of the LSI members have reported challenges with sufficient and suitable shelters for trafficked persons. Due to lack of financial support of the LSI members, the assistance most difficult to provide to clients is financial support and basic necessities such as clothes, food and hygiene items. LSI members also report facing difficulties with providing long-term accommodation and difficulties related to persons' immigration and residence status.

LS Ukraine lobbies for a shelter in Kiev, unfortunately there are no national resources for the establishment of a shelter in Kiev, but with the development of an NRM in Ukraine, this problem will possibly be solved. They did publish a report on shelter monitoring.

Prevention & Awareness Raising

One of the core aims of LSI is the prevention of human trafficking and the empowerment of at-risk groups and trafficked persons. The prevention and awareness raising activities target professionals who work with trafficked persons or who might be in contact with them, namely social workers, health workers, psychologists, cultural mediators, interpreters, lawyers and police officers. This is done through several prevention and education activities, including but not limited to:

- Lectures / seminars / workshops on the subject of human trafficking, either for the target group or for professionals;
- Development and dissemination of prevention materials;
- Information provision through hotlines, websites and emails.

In this ever-changing digital world, LSI has realised that also the prevention and communication efforts must be adapted to fit new contexts and needs.

In general, 150 000 prevention materials were printed and disseminated. In Ukraine next to risk groups, also children staying in transit centres for children became a major target group. LS Poland asked for more attention for the fact that regularly trafficked persons are unlawfully put in the Guarded Centres for foreigners, without being identified. Bulgaria mentioned minors in residential care facilities as special risk group.

The following examples for awareness materials can be given:

- LS Ukraine published 1750 copies of leaflets and brochures next to 1000 stickers and 6732 posters.

- LS Poland disseminated among others 1500 posters and 4500 prevention leaflets about the risks of human trafficking
- LS Belarus distributed 6 000 cards for hotline promotion and 12 400 leaflets for hotline promotion, next to 1 000 posters on compensation and 3 000 booklets on safe migration
- LS Macedonia published 20 000 prevention leaflets on human trafficking for labour exploitation
- LS Bulgaria published 500 leaflets with rules for safer use of internet, also disseminated online games, also on the issue of safety on internet

Around 4000 prevention and information events were organised, attended by over 130 000 professionals and people from risk groups, including:

- LS Ukraine organised 1015 workshop for 29.144 participants (professional groups) and 2366 workshops for 82.341 participants (risk groups)
- LS Belarus organised 38 workshops for 203 participants (professionals, mainly social workers and pedagogues); 351 training/workshops organised for 4340 risk groups
- LS Macedonia organised 39 workshops for 1200 participants (risk groups) and 14 workshops for 390 participants (professionals)
- LS Bulgaria organised 3 workshops for 48 participants (risk groups), next to workshops for professionals.
- LS Moldova - 10 workshop for risk groups for 580 participants



- In November 2012, CoMensha launched a new campaign, challenging students and young people to create their own videos to raise awareness about human trafficking and exploitation in The Netherlands. CoMensha is calling on young people between the ages of 15 and 25 to submit their own (animated) two-minute video clips, bringing attention to the invisible suffering of victims of human trafficking. By taking part in the contest, young people can show their involvement in the fight against human trafficking.



- In 2012 La Strada Moldova launched a new campaign "Travel with care. Care for children". The campaign aims to unify the efforts of agencies working in the tourism, transport and hospitality industry to sensitise travellers, tourist agencies, hotels and transporters on aspects related to the protection of children from abuse and exploitation. A special website was created for this purpose which provides more details on the issue. In this way, the campaign seeks to amplify the role of employers from the tourist, hotel and passengers' transportation agencies in securing a safe environment for children. Chisinau International Airport, Air Moldova and several tourist agencies and hotels joined the campaign and organised training sessions for their staff to discuss different aspects of child sexual abuse and what they can do to prevent it.



- La Strada Czech Republic launched a new awareness-raising campaign in 2012 to promote its services to people who have been trafficked into the Czech Republic for labour exploitation. The campaign comes as a response to the increased number of identified male victims in the Czech Republic, coming from different, mostly East European, countries and being exploited in various industries. The educational material, using only images, was chosen because comics transcend culture and language and appeal to a wider reader-base. With this campaign, La Strada Czech Republic hopes to attract the attention of graphic designers, illustrators, film makers, etc. in Prague with the aim of future cooperation on socially important initiatives.

Moreover on 21 September 2012 the documentary "The Tree Workers Case", directed by Daniela Agostini, had its premiere at the American Centre in Prague. The so-called "Tree Workers Case" revealed in the Czech Republic, is referred to as the biggest case of labour exploitation exposed in Europe in the last twenty years. It involved at least 2000 workers, mainly from Vietnam, but also from Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Slovakia and Ukraine, who had been forced since 2009 to work under extremely harsh conditions in the state forest of the Czech Republic. In response, a group of lawyers and members of NGOs in Prague (including La Strada Czech Republic) joined forces to investigate this case and claim compensation for the forest workers.

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