La Strada International is pleased to announce the launch of a new searchable database holding a wide variety of background documents, legislation and opinion pieces on trafficking in human beings and related human rights issues.

Search engine

The online searchable database is modelled on modern library systems and currently provides access to over 300 downloadable PDF files, to be regularly updated. Via the LSI website, you are able to access an easy-to-use interface to search the LSI library system through a search engine. Search functions include the most common search options such as keyword, author/title but also within the summaries of a document. Further options include searching on an exact phrase, by date or for specific document types.

Unique research tool

LSI decided to provide summaries of each record shown to the user with each successful search hit. Summaries enable a quick grasp of the content of the document as well as its background and relevancy to the issue of trafficking.

Another useful feature of the LSI documentation centre is its related documents section. Providing related records ensures comprehensive information and a balanced overview: law proposals, for example, are linked to reactions they receive from NGOs. The database thereby provides a unique research tool as it contextualises publications and law proposals by presenting differing views and outlining their reception by civil society.
Up-to-date and selected information

There is a wealth of documentation on the issue of trafficking and related human rights questions. Rather than including information indiscriminately, LSI will make a careful selection of the most relevant documents for researchers, human rights campaigners, policy-makers and anti-trafficking organisations.

The database holds 300 documents so far and another 300 documents will be uploaded in the coming months. Our aim is to keep the documentation centre up-to-date on a monthly basis with press releases, NGO statements, campaigns, current research and new legislation. By the end of 2007, we are hoping to have a comprehensive and complete overview of all relevant documentation. We value any comments or additions you might have and gladly receive notifications of new publications. Mail info@lastradainternational.org for new publication announcements or any other comments.

La Strada research and publications

A new and exciting feature of the LSI database is its collection of all La Strada publications and research conducted by La Strada and others in La Strada countries. This feature is still under development as all non-English publications are being collected and summarised. It is the first time that the results, methods and insights gained through the La Strada project over the past ten years will be available in a comprehensive and digitally accessible format. Its accessibility online will provide anti-trafficking organisations and policy-makers with a balanced and comprehensive overview of the situation of trafficking in Central and Eastern Europe. We expect the development of the La Strada methods and research database will take until the end of 2008.

LSI library in Amsterdam

Next to the online searchable database, LSI is currently setting up a documentation centre on trafficking, with a focus on La Strada publications, in its international office in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Some documents entered in the database are not available online because they either do not exist in digital format or because they are being sold commercially. If this is the case, the record will specify ‘LSI library’ in the field ‘Availability’. If you are conducting research and cannot find certain documents and publications elsewhere, LSI can arrange for researchers to view and/or lend the publication for a short period of time.

Free of charge

La Strada International is a non-profit network and has decided to make the documentation centre freely accessible so as to promote and facilitate research on the issue of trafficking and its root causes. We hope that easily accessible and balanced information will enable policy-makers to develop an objective and balanced approach to anti-trafficking in support of human rights and specifically the rights of trafficked persons.

In 2007, LSI received funding from Foundation DOEN, ICCO, CORDAID, and indirectly through project partnerships with other organisations, namely from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the European Commission. We greatly appreciate financial support from private donors for our work and particularly the online database. For more information on how you can contribute to La Strada’s work see, please consult our website.