

ANNUAL REPORT 2011



La Strada International

European nco Network against Trafficking in Human Beings

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

ANNUAL REPORT 2011



La Strada International

European NGO Network against Trafficking in Human Beings

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



The work of La Strada International in 2011 would not have been possible without the support of the following donors: Daphne III programme of the European Commission JUST/2010/DAP/OG Operating Grants, ICCO and the Sigrid Rausing Trust.

Various other donors supported the work of La Strada International in 2011 with specific project grants: The European Commission (ISEC grant both for COMPACT and ENPATES), King Baudouin Foundation (KBF), UNODC, Danish government (DANATIP) and the Global Fund for Women (GFFW).

The activities of the La Strada International members are supported by numerous national and international donors.

The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of the authors; none of the donors are responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained herein.

© La Strada International (LSI), Amsterdam, July 2012
www.lastradainternational.org

Text: Suzanne Hoff and Wiesje Zikkenheiner, La Strada International

Editing: Mia McKenzie

Lay out: Sander Pinkse Boekproductie

All rights reserved – The contents of this publication may be freely used and copied for educational and other non-commercial purposes, provided that any such reproduction is accompanied by an acknowledgement of LSI as the source.

Contents

Foreword 6

Summary 12

La Strada International:

Leading European NGO Network against trafficking in human beings 17

The organisation in 2011 19

LSI capacity building 20

Context description of LSI member countries 22

Human trafficking in Europe 24

Current trends in trafficking in human beings 25

LSI Advocacy & Public Affairs 29

Action on European developments 29

National advocacy 34

LSI Projects 36

COMP.ACT – European Action for Compensation for Trafficked Persons 36

ENPATES 38

Danish Programme 39

NGO Platform 39

Networking, cooperation and representation 40

LSI and (media) representation 43

Media contacts 43

Marketing and communication 45

Data collection through LSI Intranet 45

LSI Services and assistance provided 47

Helplines 49

Shelters 50

Prevention & Awareness Raising 51

LSI finances 53

Acronyms 54

Staff/Organisation 55

Contact details 57

Foreword

In 2011, La Strada International committed itself to the implementation of the final stage of its 2009–2011 Strategic Plan. Concurrently, efforts were also directed toward the development of a new Strategic Plan for the following years – 2012–2015.

LSI worked on awareness-raising and influencing the opinion on trafficking in human beings from a human rights perspective. The ultimate aim of these efforts was to push EU anti-trafficking efforts toward a comprehensive and rights-based policy approach. In line with the strategic goals set in the 2009–11 Strategic Plan, LSI's focus was on root causes- in particular restrictive migration policies and their effect on the rights of migrants, as migrant workers still remain a major risk group for human trafficking.

During the year, 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. LSI promoted closer cooperation between anti-trafficking and migrant rights organisations, and strengthened its cooperation with the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM), and others.

Although it is difficult to assess the effect of LSI's advocacy and the end goal is far from realised, it can be said that root causes for human trafficking and the issue of human rights protection are being taken into account by policy makers to a greater extent. For the first time high level policy makers have spoken out about the negative effects of restrictive migration

policies and have linked them as possible root causes to human trafficking. Another positive development is that prevention and protection for trafficked persons has become more strongly embedded in new national and international legislation and regulations within EU states; among which was the newly adopted European directive on prevention and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims.

However, still a huge gap remains between legislation on paper and actual implementation. It is time to ensure that protective policies and measures available are taken more seriously into account and are adequately implemented to ensure that the rights of trafficked persons and at-risk groups are protected in practice. LSI therefore decided to make this the main goal for its Strategic Plan for the years 2012-2015. To ensure the adequate implementation and impact monitoring of protective measures, LSI will work the coming years on strengthening the role of NGOs in impact monitoring of existing national and international anti-trafficking and related policies. Additionally LSI will further harmonise its national and international advocacy.

In 2011, LSI continued to contribute to adequate information provision on the issue of human trafficking. LSI collected and disseminated information, facts and figures on human trafficking and registered information on those trafficked persons who were assisted by La Strada. LSI reviewed and revised its registration and set up a new online registration system. Further actions were taken to improve LSI's website and the use of new media- including launching Facebook and Twitter accounts for the International Secretariat. For the following years, LSI aims to increase its visibility and to further professionalise its PR and marketing efforts, to gain more support for its work and to give LSI better tools to work toward the prevention of

human trafficking. A marketing and communication plan was developed at the end of 2011 towards this aim.

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. To ensure the effectiveness of LSI's work and to strengthen LSI's evidence-based planning and policy development, LSI is currently working the establishment of a new internal monitoring and evaluation system.

Over the last years, LSI actively worked on building the capacity of the network. The LSI Secretariat generated income for national capacity building programmes for the member organisations and organised common capacity building events. In 2011, draft standards on lobby, prevention, social assistance and management, were piloted, which are to be adopted in 2012. These common standards should guarantee a minimum common quality of services provided by all La Strada member organisations.

LSI organised two Assembly meetings in 2011. 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. The LSI structure – the Board, General Assembly and the LSI Secretariat were reviewed to ensure more clarity about tasks and responsibilities and to promote better and quicker decision making. To increase the effect of the operation and management of LSI and to further enhance LSI capacity in addressing the issue of human trafficking, LSI should further invest in the development of its bodies and their mandate. For 2012, as part of the new Strategic Plan, a further revision of the bodies and structure of LSI is foreseen, including a plan to extend and make more use of LSI's external Advisory Council.

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. Cooperation with other NGOs and NGO networks remains a priority 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 2011, 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; and through the La Strada International NGO platform. A consultative meeting in April in the framework of this project was linked with LSI's NGO platform and around 20 European NGOs were invited to discuss issues of common concern. In the framework of this project, LSI worked on the development of a common NGO website and online discussion forum, next to collecting practical information, case studies and best practices for NGOs and defining common lobby and advocacy strategies.

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. The first notable results include: an increased awareness for the need and support for compensa-

tion, stronger commitment and cooperation amongst the main stakeholders and increased knowledge on the issue of compensation, via trainings and research. Moreover the first trials on compensation claims were monitored and several compensation claims were granted to trafficked persons.

For the coming years, LSI aims to strengthen LSI's networking and (project) partnership with other NGOs. A follow up programme for COMP.ACT is planned for the coming years, as well as a new NGO project focusing on improving national helplines for human trafficking. For both projects, funding has been applied for. LSI aims to further build and maintain alliances and partnerships with other networks and to gradually expand its own network. To continue this work and to implement all other future plans, additional capacity and resources are needed. However funding is difficult to obtain due to the global economic recession. It is 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. To better address the issue of financial sustainability LSI has been organising capacity building for its members. In 2011, LSI staff was trained in theory and practical skills to increase the financial position of the individual organisations; common fundraising strategies were developed, donor criteria and policy discussed and action plans were established. As mentioned, marketing and sponsoring efforts were initiated to ensure new funding resources. The difficult current financial situation is a great concern for the near future. There clearly is a need to improve the financial management of the network and to ensure minimum financial sustainability to secure LSI's core 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.

Nadia Kozhouharova, Irena Konečná and Irina Alkhovka, Board members of LSI.

Summary

Trafficking in human beings 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 thousands of people are being trafficked within, to and from Europe every year.

Human trafficking reflects the poor social and legal position of people 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.

The International La Strada Association (known as La Strada International/LSI) is a leading European NGO Network that addresses trafficking in human beings, and operates independently and from a grass-roots level. The network comprises eight independent national member organisations that work to ensure a world without trafficking in human beings by promoting the respect for human rights. The members are based in Belarus, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Macedonia, Moldova, the Netherlands, Poland and Ukraine and implement prevention, information and advocacy activities to support trafficked persons and at-risk groups. In addition, La Strada member organisations provide social services to their clients. The network 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 International Secretariat of the network supports all members by coordinating the implementation of common strategies, engaging in advocacy activities and networking at the international level. LSI monitors and harmonises La Strada activities, is responsible for data collection, registration and information provision, develops and fundraises for internal and external capacity building, and the bi-annual General Assembly and Board meetings.

In addition to the LSI network itself, LSI cooperates and works closely with other relevant European organisations and institutions on shared projects.

**2011 was the year
that:**

- La Strada International concluded its Strategic Plan 2009-2011, which focused on the following strategies:
 - Increasing awareness and influencing opinion on human trafficking and its root causes from a human rights perspective;
 - Strengthening the network to ensure the sustainability of LSI's work;
 - Strengthening the LSI members' capacity to provide assistance to trafficked persons;
 - Providing better assistance to trafficked persons (LSI member organisations).
- La Strada International finalised a new Strategic Plan for the years 2012-2015.
- LSI extended its support to trafficked persons: 1674 persons were provided with direct assistance in 2011, in comparison with 1249 in 2010; while LSI provided 8376 times assistance via hotline calls.

- LSI strengthened its prevention work: 2890 events were organised, attended by 125,651 persons and over 116,140 prevention materials were printed and disseminated.
- LSI focused on increasing its financial sustainability through capacity building and strategy discussions. One of the identified priorities in this regard was the investigation of partnerships with the private sector on countering human trafficking. This is reflected in the new Strategic Plan 2012-2015.
- LSI undertook several activities to harmonise the members' approaches to prevention, victim assistance and advocacy, among others by the creation and piloting of common quality standards and the development of a monitoring tool for these standards.
- LSI took action to improve planning and monitoring processes and the communication and accountability amongst members.
- LSI further improved the network's capacity for common data collection and analysis and contributed to awareness raising on the issue of human trafficking by providing adequate information on the issue via different resources, including new media.
- LSI contributed to improving access to justice and compensation for trafficked persons by coordinating the pan-European COMP.ACT project with 14 NGO partners in Europe and continuous European advocacy on the issue.
- LSI contributed to improving the coordination and exchange among relevant NGOs in Europe via its steering group membership of ENPATES and the establishment of the La Strada International NGO platform.

In 2011 La Strada International established that:

- Several European countries, including the La Strada International member countries, still face political, social and economic instability, bureaucracy and corruption, which negatively affect the adoption and implementation of anti-trafficking measures, as well as impede the work of NGOs.
- Without an official governmental institutional mechanism responsible for developing and implementing anti-trafficking measures, laws and policies, cooperation with national governmental authorities becomes very challenging.
- Human trafficking is not a static phenomenon; changes and new trends in trafficking practices are discernible over time. In 2011 further shifts can be observed in patterns and scale regarding the situation of human trafficking. There has been an increase in:
 - Number of identified victims of human trafficking and clients of LSI services;
 - Number of identified trafficked men;
 - Number of identified victims of exploitation other than sexual exploitation; however, there are strong indications that it is only the tip of the iceberg. Identification of victims in these sectors has proven to be difficult since labour exploitation is often regarded as ‘merely’ violation of labour laws.
- Number of internally trafficked persons
- People seem to be trafficked from a younger age
- 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, remain new and upcoming destination areas for Europeans. Trafficking routes, as well as the expected increase of human trafficking of European nationals within the European Union borders, since the extension of the EU in 2004 and 2007 needs to be further researched.

- In reaction to these developments, LSI has adjusted its awareness and prevention campaigns, e.g. new collaboration with trade unions on trafficking for labour exploitation, partnerships with private companies working in the migration field, lobbying for additional shelter space for trafficked persons etc.
- Related to the increase in the number of identified men, there is a shortage in shelter capacities specifically for this group; this shortage concerns both the availability of funding for having the shelters operational, as well as the availability of shelter spaces.
- Awareness raising and advocacy activities on the international (European) level has more impact if issued through the collective voice of civil society. It is essential that NGOs work together and join forces, also with other relevant partners, to create a strong and consolidated voice.

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 European NGO Network** that addresses trafficking in human beings, and operates **independently** and from a **grass-roots level**. The La Strada International network comprises of eight human rights non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in Europe that support trafficked persons and work on the issue of trafficking in human beings (hereafter referred to as human trafficking).

The 8 member organisations are based in Belarus, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Macedonia, Moldova, the Netherlands, Poland and Ukraine. The membership of La Strada in Bosnia and Herzegovina remained frozen during 2011.*

LSI is a value-driven network consisting of independent national member organisations that work to ensure a world without trafficking in human beings by promoting the respect for human rights.

* At the 11th Assembly Meeting (April 2010), the General Assembly of LSI decided to freeze the membership of La Strada Bosnia and Herzegovina for a period of two years, as from 1 May 2010. The organisation was offered a period of two years to improve its organisational structure and cooperation with the network. In 2012 an evaluation meeting will take place to assess the situation. At the 15th Assembly Meeting (June 2012), the General Assembly will take a decision on the future membership of La Strada Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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.

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 rights, and has promoted 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.



*La Strada Bulgaria, text reads:
'To travel. To be safe. To know how.'*

Therefore, LSI members unanimously agree:

- To consider human trafficking a severe violation of human rights;
- To respect the rights of all persons to make decisions about all aspects of their lives;
- To consider it crucial to offer all possible adequate, effective and efficient support to trafficked persons.

The organisation in 2011

There was no change in the membership of the LSI network in 2011. 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 first General Assembly meeting of 2011 (AM 13) took place in Ohrid, Macedonia in May and the second meeting (AM 14) was held in Warsaw, Poland in November.

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. In 2011, the Board met in March in Barcelona, Spain in connection with the Global Alliance against Traffic in Women (GAATW) European regional meeting. A second Board meeting took place in Prague, Czech Republic in August. Additionally, there were seven Board meetings through Skype throughout the year.

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 staff of the International Secretariat undertakes activities directed at international networking, advocacy and public relations, and is responsible for developing and maintaining relations with national and international government structures and bodies; in particular the European Union (EU), the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Council of

Europe (CoE) and the United Nations (UN). The LSI Secretariat also maintains contact with other relevant stakeholders at the international level, including international organisations, NGOs and civil society networks. Several international projects are coordinated by the International Secretariat.

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.

In 2011, LSI's **Advisory Council** consisted of five members. The Advisory Council provides information and expertise to La Strada International on international developments and strategies and assists LSI in establishing international contacts and conducting lobby work.

LSI capacity building

In 2011, a major focus of the organisation was on **strengthening the network to ensure further sustainability**, as defined in LSI's strategic plan 2009-2011. The LSI network undertook several activities to harmonise the members' approaches to prevention, victim assistance and advocacy, among others by the creation and piloting of common standards and a monitoring tool for these standards. Actions were further taken to improve planning and monitoring processes and the communication and accountability amongst members. A common monitoring evaluation report was drafted and a start was made with the revision of LSI's internal Code of Conduct. In addition, team building sessions were organised. LSI built on the network's capacity for a common data collection and analysis. Online data registration forms were evaluated and revised by a working group. Further, the network worked on strategy planning, which resulted in a new Strategic Plan for 2012-2015, as well as a detailed action plan for 2012.

In 2011, the LSI Secretariat supported the members with a capacity building grant and capacity building programmes. These included study visits by La Strada Macedonia to the Netherlands and by La Strada Moldova to Poland, as well as a trilateral meeting in Poland for the LSI members from Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova. During these meetings the participants were able to share their experience and practice in prevention activities such as running of help-lines, working with volunteers and preparing specialists etc.

Increasing the **financial sustainability** of the LSI network has been a priority of the last few years. Following similar events in 2009 and 2010, LSI organised a financial seminar for its members in 2011. This seminar focused first and foremost on increasing financial sustainability by addressing capacity building, drafting a financial strategy, SWOT analyses, stakeholder mapping and a discussion on ethical fundraising. In addition, possible partnerships with the private sector were explored. For this purpose, guest speakers included representatives from UN.GIFT and End Human Trafficking Now and a specialised trainer. The LSI Strategic Plan 2012-2015 incorporates further activities to increase its financial sustainability; including having in place a respective financial strategy, diversifying funds and establishing partnerships and sponsorships with the private sector.

Next to organising internal capacity building, LSI attends capacity building activities organised by other partners. In 2011, LSI attended the GAATW Regional Members Meeting. At this meeting, European GAATW members gained practical knowledge on the potential of UN mechanisms (i.e. Conventions, Human Rights Treaty Bodies, and Special Rapporteurs) and Regional Courts to access justice for trafficked persons. Furthermore, the participants shared information and plans and discussed how they can cooperate on issues such as access to justice and labour exploitation.

LSI Secretariat staff attended a training on the use of social media and one on advocacy, focusing on the EU institutions and the changes since the Lisbon treaty.

**Context
description of
LSI member
countries**

Several LSI member countries still face **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 some countries (legislative) measures are taken which impede the work of NGOs.

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

In **Ukraine**, the State programme against human trafficking expired in 2010. Throughout 2011, there was no relevant State programme, as the Cabinet of Ministers only approved the new concept program in February 2012. Furthermore, there was no competent central authority for combating human trafficking as a result of an administrative reform that abolished the institutional mechanism for combating human trafficking. This made it very difficult for La Strada to engage with the Ukrainian government on anti-trafficking activities.

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. 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.

Human trafficking in Europe

Human trafficking* 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 thousands of people are being trafficked within, to and from Europe every year. Almost all LS1 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 2011 further **shifts can be observed in patterns and scale** regarding the situation of human trafficking.

* 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.

Current trends in trafficking in human beings

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

In response to these developments, **La Strada Macedonia/ Open Gate** conducted an initiative facilitating pro-active identification of human trafficking for labour exploitation. The aim was to establish collaboration between LS Macedonia and the Trade Unions in curbing human trafficking and raising awareness of the Union’s members about human trafficking. Results included a joint action plan and 20 000 copies of prevention materials on labour exploitation, which were distributed among workers in various sectors.

In 2011, **La Strada Czech Republic** celebrated the 15th anniversary of their SOS & info Hotline through a campaign. In these 15 years, the services provided to callers have expanded, in reaction to the ever-changing needs of trafficked and exploited persons.

While the hotline started for Czech women being trafficked to Western countries for the purpose of sexual exploitation, the current clientele is made up primarily of non-Czech nationals being exploited in the Czech Republic.



La Strada Netherlands/CoMensha saw an increase of 23% of (possible) trafficked persons in the Netherlands in 2011; a total number of 1222 (possible) trafficked people were reported. More victims were in need of a shelter (280 in 2011 versus 226 in 2010). CoMensha was forced to introduce a waiting list for trafficked people in need of accommodation.

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.

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,

The surveys of **La Strada Moldova** show that the number of male victims in recent years increased by the year. Moldovan women are subjected to forced prostitution in Turkey, Russia, Cyprus, UAE, etc. Men, women and children are subjected to human trafficking for forced labour in Russia, Ukraine, etc. in construction, agriculture and service sectors. The trafficked persons come mostly from rural regions, are very poor, unemployed, have no profession and according to different national surveys, about 80% of them have been subjected to domestic violence prior to human trafficking.

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.

LSI endeavours to monitor and evaluate current practises in human trafficking by collecting facts and figures, analysing data and undertaking research. In 2011, the LSI Secretariat conducted a research on internal migration within the EU since the enlargements in 2004 and 2007.

Case from La Strada Bulgaria/Animus Association

A. is 41 years old, of Turkish ethnicity and lived in a town in southern Bulgaria. Her boyfriend made her borrow large amounts of money which she was unable to pay back. He suggested that they go and work abroad together to be able to pay the money back. They went to Greece first, after that to Germany, where he forced her into prostitution. During her stay in Germany, A. was threatened that if she should attempt to flee, her daughter would be abducted and forced into prostitution as well. Also, she was constantly told that her loan has increased. However, when she was beaten by her partner, A. succeeded to call the police. A.'s partner was held in custody, while protection was offered to her.

A. was referred to Animus by a German partner organisation. During her stay at the partner organisation, the team of the Crisis Unit had telephone contact with the client and provided her with an initial consultation on the kinds of support she could receive from Animus after her return to Bulgaria. A member of the Crisis Unit picked A. up from the airport and accompanied her. A. was accommodated at the Crisis Unit for five days. After a risk assessment, A.'s daughter was also accommodated at the Crisis Unit, mostly for preventative purposes.

Animus contacted Directorate Crime Police, department 'Gender' of the Ministry of Interior for legal consultation and exploring possibilities for long-term accommodation. The client is in sporadic contact with a police officer who is leading the investigation against A.'s offender. A. knows that she can turn to Animus whenever she is in need.

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.

The focus for 2011 of LSI's Lobby and Advocacy Programme was to increase awareness and to influence the opinion on human trafficking and its root causes from a human rights perspective, which requested more focus on monitoring of migration developments and cooperation with migrant rights organisations.

Action on European developments

In 2011, several relevant European developments prompted LSI to action.

Firstly, the Commission presented a proposal for a **European Union Directive on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purpose of seasonal employment**, the so-called 'seasonal migrant workers' directive'. Together with Brussels-based NGOs dealing with migration, LSI issued two statements on the proposal for this directive; LSI advocated for the inclusion of third-country nationals without a working permit who are already residing in EU member states. The statement also called for a clear distinction between seasonal work and temporary work in order to prevent 'social dumping' between national and third-country workers in the EU. Additionally, the NGOs formulated the need for the establishment of necessary conditions for effective access to equal treatment, decent working, housing conditions and comprehensive social protection measures for seasonal workers. These concerns and recommendations have been largely taken into

account in the draft report of the European Parliament Rapporteurs. During its last session before summer 2011, the European Parliament voted on the proposal and the amendments.

Also, the European Commission started working on a **Strategy to fight trafficking in human beings and on different measures to protect and assist victims**. Together with the subgroup on trafficking of the Human Rights and Democracy Network (HRDN), LSI contributed to the planned Strategy Paper on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, advocating a focus on the implementation of the new Directive on human trafficking.* In September 2011 the European Anti-Trafficking Coordinator organised a consultation on the planned Strategy during which LSI and other NGOs were invited to make a presentation; this presentation included suggestions for alternative mechanisms for better and earlier identification of trafficked persons and discussed the issues of demand and gender perspectives. The Strategy is expected to be presented in spring 2012.

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 also

* The new *Directive 2011/36/EU* on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims

published a statement with the same message. The Victims' directive will be discussed by the European Parliament in 2012.

The LSI Secretariat participated in the **18/10 European Anti-Trafficking Day** celebrations in Warsaw, Poland organised by the EU Agencies (the European Police College (CEPOL), the European Asylum Support Office (EASO), the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE), FRONTEX, EUROJUST, EUROPOL and the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA). LSI provided a presentation on identification at the workshop sessions on protection. The EU agencies signed a commitment to work together against human trafficking. For this day, LSI issued a special statement calling for better identification of trafficked persons to ensure effective protection and support.

The LSI Secretariat consulted with several members of the **EU Group of Experts on Trafficking in Human Beings** and discussed the mandate of the new Expert Group and the changes in the status of this group. In autumn 2011 the European Commission called for new members for the Expert Groups. LSI's Advisor Public Affairs applied for the Expert Group, but was not selected.

In 2011, LSI also facilitated 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 (Denmark, Albania, Croatia, Bulgaria, Georgia, Moldova and Romania) to ensure NGO involvement during the country visits. In March 2011, together with Amnesty International and Anti-Slavery international, La Strada International

sent a letter to NGOs in the member states of the first evaluation round (Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, France, Latvia, Malta, Montenegro, Norway, Poland, Portugal and the United Kingdom), urging them to get involved in the monitoring process by either completing (parts of) GRETA's questionnaire for the evaluation of states' implementation or by drafting a shadow report. The constant lobby of these three international NGOs has been taken up by GRETA; at its tenth meeting in June 2011, GRETA decided to actively involve NGOs prior to the country visits by sending them the questionnaire and requesting information. This will enable GRETA to focus the country visits on, amongst others, issues that were raised by NGOs. In December 2011, LSI attended a meeting with GRETA to further discuss the cooperation with NGOs and explore ways to intensify this.

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. In 2011, the Special Rapporteur presented her report on The Right to an Effective Remedy for Trafficked Persons at the 17th session of the Human Rights

Council in Geneva. In preparation of the report the Special Rapporteur organised consultations both at a conference and online, in which La Strada International participated. On 31 May 2011 La Strada International and Anti-Slavery International, with support of OSCE/ODIHR and the permanent missions of Germany and the Philippines to the UN, organised a

La Strada Moldova participated in two meetings with GRETA experts in 2011, analysing the situation on the trafficking phenomenon in Moldova and anti-trafficking responses in the country and providing recommendations for improving the current situation. The GRETA Report on Moldova will be published in 2012.

side event 'Compensation for Trafficked Persons: Making effective remedy a reality for the victims', in Geneva. Next to the German and Philippines ambassador, the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights, the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, the President of the Council of Europe's Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) and the OSCE/ODIHR Senior Advisor on Anti-Trafficking Issues were present at this side event.



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.

Some specific examples are listed on the next page.

In the **Czech Republic**, an amendment to the Criminal Code contained the duty to report immediately any suspected case of human trafficking. This duty would negatively affect the work of the volunteers and outreach workers in social services, as people in need might refuse support and assistance if that would mean that their case would immediately be brought to the police. Jointly with other NGOs and governmental representatives, La Strada Czech Republic successfully lobbied for the removal of this section from the respective national provision.

For the UEFA EURO 2012 Championship, both **La Strada Ukraine** and **La Strada Poland** have been actively involved in national coalitions to raise awareness on prevention of violence and sexual exploitation, human trafficking and racial discrimination, for instance through the Ukrainian National Euro 2012 outreach project 'Let's Do It Together'. For the first time, the Government of Ukraine, various public services, UN agencies, and international and national non-governmental organisations have united for a joint social initiative. The project envisages a public information outreach campaign 'Red Card', targeting the general public, next to several other activities targeting children and volunteers. The campaign will run in all regions of Ukraine from May 2011 until the final match of the European Football Championship 2012.

LS Netherlands/CoMensha initiated a very successful social media campaign with special website, Facebook and Twitter activities, called *Don't close your eyes*, including a small film. www.sluitjeogen-niet.nl

LSI Projects

La Strada International is also active on the European level by partnering in the implementation of several European projects. In 2011, there were four projects/initiatives that LSI was particularly involved in.

COMP.ACT — European Action for Compensation for Trafficked Persons

In 2011 LSI continued the implementation and coordination of the 3-year international project COMP.ACT — European Action for Compensation for Trafficked Persons.* 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 7 La Strada International member organisations, have formed a European coalition on compensation together with representatives of trade unions, migrant rights organisations and academics. The project achieved several significant results in 2011. Awareness was successfully raised on the issue of compensation for trafficking persons on the European level, which is reflected in the international organisations that partnered with the coalition: Council of Europe, OSCE, ODIHR, UN.GIFT and the European Union, as well as close cooperation with UN Special Rapporteur on trafficking in human beings especially women and children; LSI contributed to the side event at the Human Rights Council, which event focused on ‘Compensation for Trafficked Persons: Making effective remedy a reality for the victims’.



* <http://compactproject.org>

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms Navi Pillay called for greater access to compensation for trafficked persons. Speaking at the HRC on 31 March 2011 at a panel-discussion on the issue, Ms Pillay said: 'One of the greatest challenges to human rights protection is access to justice and compensation. The challenge is to make the existing norms a reality for victims of human trafficking.'

In June 2011, a second Coalition Meeting focused on the actual legal process of claiming compensation and assisting a client throughout a compensation claim; a working relation was materialised with two international law firms, Freshfields and Hogan Lovells. On the national level, coalitions and working groups were formed, where compensation for trafficked persons has been a topic of the

discussions; project partners have analysed the national possibilities and obstacles in claiming and receiving compensation by trafficked persons. One comprehensive analysis was made of these different research reports, resulting in an in-depth and detailed overview of identified obstacles and provided conclusions and recommendations; project partners initiated several test cases where they supported clients in a compensation claim.

Several tools on guiding professionals in claiming compensation for trafficked persons have been developed in the framework of the project; these include a poster, facts sheets and guiding documents on compensation for trafficked persons (including international legislation on compensation, identified obstacles and barriers and recommendations to overcome these, format for conducting national analysis, guidance for professionals and model to claim compensation and guidance for advocacy on compensation). 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.*

ENPATES

LSI is one of the Steering Committee members of the ENPATES project. ENPATES is a European NGOs Platform Against Trafficking, Exploitation and Slavery. This European Platform was established in 2010 with the aim to improve coordination among relevant NGOs in Europe and to set up a system for the functional exchange and development of analysis, knowledge, good practices, advocacy initiatives and operational coordination in the field of prevention, assistance, protection and social inclusion of trafficked persons. In the framework of the project, the LSI Secretariat collected an overview of all anti-trafficking NGOs in Europe and created a database of the participating NGOs. LSI co-organised the first ENPATES Consultative Meeting which took place in Rome, Italy and was attended by 35 representatives of European NGOs. The Consultative Meeting was combined with LSI's 5th NGO platform. In preparation of the ENPATES consultative meeting, LSI undertook a needs analysis for determining the needs of the participants for enhanced cooperation and collaboration in such a European platform; feedback was collected, analysed and combined in one final report. At the Consultative Meeting the participants contributed to the development of a Charter of the Platform and discussed the Platform's activities in detail in several working groups. 2011 marked the establishment of the official constitution of the ENPATES Platform. As part of their responsibilities as a Steering Committee member, LSI developed the website* for the ENPATES project and established and coordinated the online professional social network – NING. This online network allows for sharing of information and a forum which is only accessible for the members.



* <http://enpates.org>

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. Within the framework of this programme, LSI attended the Regional Partner Forum (RPF) in Copenhagen, Denmark.

NGO Platform

The first LSI NGO Platform was initiated in 2005 to enable LSI member organisations to meet annually with relevant anti-trafficking counterparts in Europe; with the aim of strengthening and maintaining closer cooperation on advocacy, awareness, prevention, referral and direct support to trafficked persons. The NGO Platform focuses on capacity building and sharing expertise. In April 2011 LSI organised the 5th NGO Platform 'Reflecting Back and Defining Future Strategies', which was dedicated to LSI's 15th Anniversary in 2010 and linked with the ENPATES Consultative Meeting. Based on questionnaires completed by the participants, six workshop topics were defined and prepared. These topics were: safe migration, demand, role of NGOs as watch dogs, identification, compensation and monitoring tools. The participants debated, exchanged best practices and established contacts for future cooperation and information exchange. The platform was positively evaluated by the participants. The next LSI NGO Platform is planned for 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-human trafficking and related fields. Further, LSI follows policy developments on the European level and regularly issues comments and statements with relevant international actors.

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. LSI attended the HRDN annual meeting and 3 sub group meetings.
- The **Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM)** and continued the close cooperation in 2011. LSI attended PICUM's international experts' seminar on the issue of healthcare for undocumented migrants. At the seminar, experience and viewpoints were exchanged by medical experts working with undocumented migrants in Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. In addition,

LSI attended the annual (General Assembly) meeting of PICUM, a workshop dedicated to PICUM's 10th anniversary, as well as their meeting on fair working conditions for undocumented migrants.

- The **Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW)** and cooperated frequently in 2011, in particular related to lobby towards UN issues. LSI Secretariat staff and Board members attended the European regional meeting of GAATW in Barcelona which included a workshop on access to international justice possibilities for trafficked persons.
- 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)**. In 2011 LSI closely followed and contributed to the activities of OSCE. LSI attended an OSCE meeting/training for lawyers and judges in Azerbaijan and introduced the LSI network and its activities. In June, LSI provided the keynote address at the 11th High-level OSCE Alliance against Trafficking in Persons conference *Preventing Trafficking in Human Beings for labour exploitation: Decent work and social justice* in Vienna. In addition, LSI attended and presented at the OSCE Expert Seminar on Leveraging Anti-Money Laundering Regimes to Combat Human Trafficking, as well as the last AECT meeting of 2011.

A central activity of La Strada International is to share knowledge and expertise and provide trainings to partners and other stakeholders. On the request of OSCE in Uzbekistan, LSI provided a training to NGOs in Uzbekistan regarding the role of NGOs in combating human trafficking and support services for (presumed) trafficked persons. LSI also took part in the

Advisory Committee of a research by the WODC (Research institute of the Dutch Ministry of Justice) on shelter support for trafficked persons.

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 50 international events during 2011.

LSI and (media) representation

One of the strategic goals of LSI in 2011 was to increase awareness and to influence public opinion towards trafficking in human beings and its root causes from a human rights perspective. This has been done through a variety of actions and disseminations which are described in more detail below.

Media contacts The LSI Secretariat cooperated with the media on specific topics on multiple occasions.

The media that contacted LSI for interviews and/or opinions in 2011 were, among others,

Readers Digest, AL Jazeera UK, BBC UK, TV2 NEWS (Norway), RTE1 (Ireland), Economy Watch and Metro International. LSI also actively approaches the media on occasions of international conferences, meetings and major events. In 2011 as an example, the media was contacted and a press statement was released during the COMPACT side event at the Human Rights Council, which specifically focused on compensation for trafficked persons.

LSI noticed that again in 2011, the focus of the media was often put on victim's

- Ukraine gave 274 interviews and participated in more than 20 press conference and briefings organised by them or by partner organisations;
- LS Czech Republic undertook 62 press activities;
- LS Macedonia/Open Gate utilised several methods to communicate with the media: public service announcements, press conferences, forums, statements, interviews, newsletters, special events. About 40 different publications were run in the electronic and print media;
- LS Belarus/Gender Perspectives undertook 107 press activities.

stories and on trafficking for the sex industry. In general, the media requested contacts abroad and general information and statistics on human trafficking.

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 2011, 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 1750 documents on human trafficking and related areas such as migration, labour and violence by the end of December 2011.

Four **newsletters** were published in 2011 (in March, July, September and December). 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.

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 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.

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



La Strada Belarus/Gender Perspectives started a new campaign called 'Safe migration', aimed at raising awareness about regulated migration. An innovative element was the partnership with private companies working in the migration sphere, which allowed for their knowledge and expertise and shared companies' point of view on how migrants can protect their rights. Before launching the campaign, the website www.lastrada.by was changed in order to provide user-friendly services/information for migrants, including specific advices and interesting facts about popular destination countries. As a result the number of website visitors increased 2.3 times compared to 2010 (from 36.137 to 81.324 hits) and number of e-mail consultations almost doubled.

in applying changes in the data collection system. All data and reports were checked and discussed with the LSI members and used for inclusion in the 2010 annual report.

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.

LSI Services and assistance provided

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.



Have you:

- been forced to work against your will by someone?
- had your documents taken away?
- failed to receive payment for your work?
- had your movements monitored?
- been badly treated?
- been misled?
- been threatened?

Or what about someone you know?

COME TO US – WE CAN HELP

We offer counseling and other forms of assistance to trafficked and exploited persons.

- **emergency assistance** (short-term accommodation, medical care, psychological support, basic clothing, food and toiletries)
- **shelter services** (safe house, financial aid, educational courses, free-time activity, help getting back into the labour market, escort from A to B)
- **social counseling** (social, legal and psychological advice, help dealing with the authorities, contacts to other aid organisations)
- **legal counseling**
- **skilled interpreters**

La Strada Czech Republic, o.p.s.

fighting to prevent human trafficking - defending the rights of trafficked individuals - helping those who have been exploited, including through prostitution

La Strada Česká republika

Info/SOS: +420 222 717 171
E-mail: pomoc@strada.cz
Web: www.strada.cz

OUR SERVICES ARE FOR FREE.
NOTHING YOU TELL US WILL BE PASSED ON WITHOUT YOUR CONSENT.



In 2011, **La Strada Bulgaria/Animus Association** noticed a clear increase in the number of socially complex cases. A large number of the clients who sought the help of the Crisis Unit lacked a social support network. Furthermore, the successful solution of complicated cases required more time, resources and the inclusion of relevant services and institutions.

La Strada Macedonia/Open Gate was asked by the Macedonian Ministry of Labour and Social Policy to run the State Shelter for Trafficked Persons and the psycho-social programme for trafficked persons. This collaboration was made official by signing a Memorandum of Understanding and confirms that LS Macedonia is a highly valued partner of the government.

Numbers LSI member organisations

Clients assisted	1674
Hotline calls/e-mails on trafficking received	8376
Number of training events organised	2890
Number of participants attending events	125,651
Prevention materials printed	116,140

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 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.

Most LSI members report an increase regarding enquiries on employment opportunities abroad and related bureaucratic issues (e.g. necessary



Собираешься за границу – **ЗВони!**

113 Звонок бесплатный

ГОРЯЧАЯ ЛИНИЯ ПО ВОПРОСАМ БЕЗОПАСНОГО ВЫЕЗДА ЗА ГРАНИЦУ

USAID

papers, verification of job opportunities), safety concerns and requests for contact addresses and phone numbers.

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

Regarding advocacy on shelters, **La Strada Netherlands/CoMensha** achieved two essential successes:

- As for the lack of suitable shelters for trafficked people and the waiting list CoMensha had to use, the Ministry of Security and Justice agreed to provide 20 extra beds for trafficked people in 2012; new policies on shelters will be developed and more housing has been made available and easier accessible to trafficked people as of January 1, 2012. CoMensha called for attention toward the lack of shelters from the Task Force Human trafficking, the government and the parliament.
- Due to the attention raised for this housing problem, it was agreed that CoMensha would be the Treasurer of a fund starting from 1 January 2012. This fund will be used to find shelter/housing for big groups of trafficked people who are found exploited during actions of investigation services. This fund will be used to pay for hotels and the associated costs.

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.

**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.

La Strada Ukraine organised a conference on exchanging experience and perspectives on the use of new technologies in the prevention of human trafficking in Ukraine, which was attended by representatives of state structures, national and international NGOs. The participants discussed the possibilities of using different internet resources and social media for conducting preventive work, e.g. on safe migration.

La Strada Bulgaria/Animus Association undertook initiatives on participation and awareness raising for the safer use of new technologies; with the aim of protecting children against media violence. Awareness was raised among young people on possible dangers of falling prey to traffickers via new information technologies.

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 e-mails.

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.

LSI finances

Donors In 2011, LSI was financially supported by several donors and private persons and received the following financial contributions:

ICCO	99.122
Sigrid Rausing Trust	69.479
EC DAPHNE (Operating grant)	163.227
UNODC (UN.GIFT Small grants facility)	8.421
Danish Programme	2.985
King Baudouin Foundation (COMP.ACT project)	30.000
EC ISEC Action Grant (COMP.ACT project)	81.667
EC ISEC Action Grant (ENPATES project – lead by On the Road)	40.504
Global Fund For Women	9.071
Donations	7.602
Interest	3.763
Various income	514
Co-funding LSI members	17.667
Total	534.022

The budget of LSI reflects expenditure of the LSI Secretariat only, but includes network activities such as meetings, projects and campaigns and the overall capacity building programme.

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

Staff/Organisation

Staff LSI International Secretariat

Suzanne Hoff – International Coordinator

Marieke van Doorninck – Advisor Public Affairs

Wiesje Zikkenheiner – Project Manager

Marie Hoier – Communication officer/information manager (January-February 2011)

Barbara Meijer – Marketing and Communication manager (October-December 2011)

Borislav Gerasimov – Liaison Officer & office manager (externally employed)

Anita Kurzydłak – Volunteer, Documentation Centre Assistant

Mia McKenzie – Volunteer, English language editor

Jude Skipwith – Volunteer (January-March 2011)

Mihai Butincu – Intern (June-October 2011)

LSI Board members

Chair – Nadia Kozhouharova (Bulgaria)

Treasurer – Irena Konečná (Czech Republic)

Secretary – Jasmina D. Rajkovska (Macedonia), replaced in May 2011 by Irina Alkhovka (Belarus)

LSI Advisory Council

Bärbel Uhl
Jyothi Kanics
Trijntje Kootstra
Annie Hillar
Ann Jordan

General Assembly representatives

Belarus – Irina Alkhovka (AM 13)/Elena Nestsiaruk (AM 14)
Bulgaria – Emilia Paunova
Czech Republic – Lucie Otáhalová
Moldova – Ana Revenco
Macedonia – Jasmina Rajkovska
The Netherlands – Bas de Visser
Poland – Stana Buchowska (AM 13)/Irena Dawid-Olczyk (AM 14)
Ukraine – Lyudmyla Kovalchuk

Contact details

La Strada International Secretariat

La Strada International

De Wittenstraat 25, 1052 AK Amsterdam

The Netherlands

Telephone: +31 20 688 1414

Fax: +31 20 688 1013

E-mail: info@lastradainternational.org

Website: www.lastradainternational.org

La Strada International member organisations

La Strada Belarus

International Public Association 'Gender Perspectives'
P.O. Box 74
Minsk 220088
Belarus
Telephone/fax: +375 17 211 02 51
E-mail: lastrada@infonet.by
Website: www.lastrada.by

La Strada Bulgaria

Animus Association Foundation
85 Ekzarh Yossif St.
1000 Sofia
Bulgaria
Telephone/fax: +359 2 983 5205 /
+359 2 983 5305 / +359 2 983 5405
E-mail: animus@animusassociation.org
Website: www.animusassociation.org

La Strada Czech Republic

P.O. Box 305
111 21 Praha 1
Czech Republic
Telephone/fax: +420 2 22 72 18 10
E-mail: lastrada@strada.cz
Website: www.strada.cz

La Strada Moldova

International Women's Rights Protection
and Promotion Center
P.O. Box 259
Chisinau
Moldova
Telephone: +373 22 23 49 06
Fax: +373 22 23 49 07
E-mail: office@lastrada.md
Website: www.lastrada.md

La Strada Macedonia

Open Gate
P.O. Box 110
1000 Skopje
Macedonia
Telephone: +389 2 2700 107
Fax: +389 2 2700 367
E-mail: lastrada@lastrada.org.mk
Website: www.lastrada.org.mk

La Strada the Netherlands

Coordination centre Human Trafficking
(CoMensha)
Regentesselaan 31
3818 NB Amersfoort
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31 33 461 50 29
Fax: +31 33 461 80 64
E-mail: info@comesha.nl
Website: www.comensha.nl

La Strada Poland

La Strada Foundation against Trafficking in
Persons and Slavery
P.O. Box 5
00-956 Warsaw 10
Poland
Telephone/fax: +48 22 622 19 85
E-mail: strada@strada.org.pl
Website: www.strada.org.pl

La Strada Ukraine

International Women's Rights Center
P.O. Box 26
Kyiv 113
Ukraine 03113
Telephone: +38 044 205 36 95
Fax: +38 044 205 37 36
E-mail: info@la-strada.org.ua
Website: www.la-strada.org.ua