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With this quarterly newsletter, La Strada International wants to inform and update about developments in the field of trafficking in human beings and the activities of La Strada International and the La Strada member organisations. Reactions and contributions are welcome. Please [mail us](mailto:us) by 1 June 2011 if you have news, information about your organisation, a new report or documentary or an outspoken opinion on (inter)national developments.

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La Strada News !

La Strada Netherlands receives 500 000 Euro from Dutch Postcode Lottery

CoMensha/La Strada Netherlands has been awarded a grant of 500 000 Euro by the Dutch Postcode Lottery to further develop its client information and registration system. At this moment all organisations involved in the care and assistance to trafficked persons in the Netherlands use different client information systems and register their information separately. There is no common database available, which provides relevant information about all identified trafficked persons in the Netherlands. Much information needed is being lost. With the support of the Postcode Lottery, CoMensha wants now to develop a client tracking system for all relevant bodies that allows for common data, while taking into account all data protection measures, in order to improve the care and assistance to trafficked persons.



Opening of a state shelter for trafficked persons in Macedonia

On 28 January, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy held a press conference to announce the opening of a state shelter for the accommodation and protection of trafficked persons in Macedonia. Open Gate/La Strada Macedonia has been invited to work in the state shelter and will implement a psycho-social programme for assistance to trafficked persons. The cooperation is established on the basis of a signed Memorandum for Understanding between Open Gate and the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy.

Open Gate Macedonia starts project with trade union

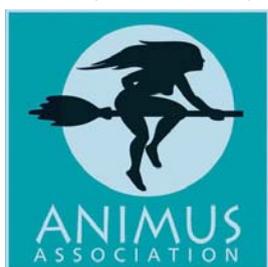
Open Gate/La Strada Macedonia and the Macedonian trade union UNASM have launched a pilot project to identify and discuss ways of cooperation on 28 January 2011. The project activities intend to ensure active participation of selected trade unions and Open Gate in shaping concrete common action in the field of prevention and protection of trafficking, tailored to the needs of the beneficiaries. The project aims to improve (access to) future services for workers and to increase awareness on human trafficking among target beneficiaries. Moreover, the project will initiate the establishing and strengthening of referral mechanisms between the two organisations. The assessment of capacity and needs of the trade union members, as well as field research on the presence of forced labour is already in progress. The findings, conclusions, and the main recommendations will be presented in the Assessment Report that will serve as the basis for the creation of a common action plan between Open Gate and UNASM. CNV, the National Federation of Christian Trade Unions in the Netherlands, provided funding for the project.



GRETA visits Bulgaria

From 21 to 24 February, the Council of Europe's monitoring body GRETA, visited Bulgaria for the review on the government's implementation of the Convention on Action against trafficking in Human Beings. On the first day, a joint meeting between Bulgarian NGOs active in the field of action against trafficking in human beings was organised.

The meeting was attended by one member from GRETA, Mr. Vladimir Gilca from Moldova and Mrs. Petya Nestorova, Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Anti-trafficking Convention. Each NGO gave a brief introduction of their work and main activities. Animus Association/La Strada Bulgaria presented its achievements with the elaboration of a National Mechanism for Referral and Support of Trafficked Persons (NRM) in Bulgaria and emphasised in particular the good cooperation needed between the Bulgarian National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (NCCTHB) and other NGOs in Bulgaria to succeed. Currently the Bulgarian NRM is in the process of being officially adopted by the Council of Ministers. The necessity to amend some Bulgarian laws was discussed, such as the revision of the Health Insurance Act, in order to enable trafficked persons to have access to free healthcare and the amendment of the current Bulgarian Law for Foreigners, to allow third-country nationals who have been victims of human trafficking in Bulgaria, to make use of a reflection period. NGOs further noted that the NRM is based generally on the experience and knowledge on human trafficking for sexual exploitation and needs further development in regards to other forms of human trafficking such as labour exploitation. NGOs further raised concern that data collected by NGOs had not been included in the data collected and reported to GRETA.



In addition to the meeting, Mrs. Hanne Sophie Greve a member of GRETA and Mrs. Petya Nestorova visited the Animus/La Strada Crisis Unit. It was emphasised that the Crisis Unit is so far the only centre in Sofia for victims of domestic violence and human trafficking. A common conclusion was drawn that for a capital city with a population of almost two million people, this is not sufficient. The issues of victims' accommodation and the duration of stay and referral of victims were discussed, next to the lack of state funding and the need for further funding of NGOs.

La Strada's in Poland and Czech Republic successfully fight the duty to report

In the column of LSI's newsletter 16 (March 2010), Irena Konečná, the national coordinator of La Strada Czech Republic, shared her doubts and worries about the newly introduced 'duty to report' in the Czech anti-trafficking legislation. In September, the Polish government introduced a new law and definition of trafficking in human beings into the Polish Penal Code, which also included the duty to

report. This duty to report means: a person who has reliable information about a human trafficking crime will be criminally liable if he/she does not report the crime to law enforcement authorities or refuses to preclude the crime.

It might seem logical to report of crime when you know about it, but in many cases this can be negative or even dangerous for the victim. Both La Strada Czech Republic and La Strada Poland have indicated that the duty to report would cause a major problem for the support and assistance of trafficked persons. The majority of the clients of services do not want to inform the police, and service providers do not want to act against the will of clients. It is also in contradiction with the reflection period provision – as it hampers trafficked persons to consider or use a reflection period. The duty to report will prevent actual gaining of trust that is necessary in order to establish contact with the majority of potentially trafficked persons. Whereas the duty to report is believed to help improve the identification of trafficked persons, in reality it will most probably do the exact opposite.

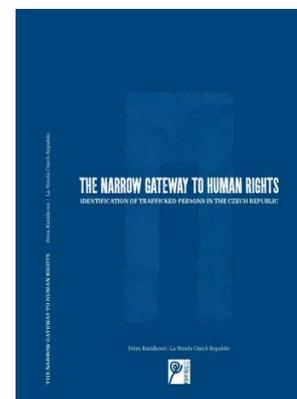
In Poland, La Strada together with Nobody's Children Foundation, Itaka and other NGOs created an *ad hoc* lobbying coalition and lobbied strongly for the removal of Article 240 from the Penal Code and managed to get the government to acknowledge that the duty to report was problematic for service providers. The governmental experts examined ways to solve the problem and came up with three proposals to make exceptions for service providers for trafficked persons. La Strada Poland stuck to their opinion that the whole article needed to be removed and was rewarded in early March: A new legislative initiative will be created in order to remove Article 240 from the Polish Penal Code.

Also, the advocacy work of La Strada Czech Republic has gained support and seems to be successful. The Czech Government was not persuaded to completely remove the article on the duty to report but the workers of organisations providing services to victims of crimes are exempt from the duty to report on the human trafficking crime and the crime of restriction of liberty.

La Strada International congratulates La Strada Poland and La Strada Czech Republic with their advocacy success and hopes this is an example for NGOs in other countries that are still fighting the duty to report. Please contact [La Strada Poland](#) or [La Strada Czech Republic](#) if you need more information on this advocacy work.

La Strada Czech Republic examines “The narrow gateway to human rights”

Identification of persons trafficked into sectors other than the sex industry is the issue of a new publication of La Strada Czech Republic, called “The Narrow Gateway to Human Rights”, which was written as a result of a research project aimed at testing the Human Rights impact assessment tool (RighT guide). The study confirms that the Czech Republic follows the international standards of criminalisation of human trafficking on paper, but not in reality. The study analyses obstacles which have to be passed during the process of identification. Not only the analysis of documents and other available sources were used, but also consultations with a working group of experts and consultations with trafficked persons. As a result, several recommendations are proposed to overcome the obstacles in the identification of trafficked persons. The publication is available for download from [La Strada's website](#).



European NGO Observatory



In 2009 and 2010, La Strada International participated in the European project E- notes, initiated and coordinated by the Italian NGO, On the Road. The project aimed ‘to establish a European-wide permanent monitoring mechanism (Observatory) and a comparable reporting mechanism implemented by the NGO community and networks on policies, strategies and interventions against human trafficking, exploitation and slavery’ in Europe in order to enhance and support public institutions’ policy in the field of protection and assistance of trafficked persons. In all 27 EU member states, national NGOs analysed their country’s anti-trafficking policies using the specially developed Research Protocol which provided comparable methodology and a set of indicators.

The final [E-notes report](#) provides a comparison of the responses to human trafficking in the European Union during 2008 and 2009. It reveals that governments within the EU have different interpretations about which actions should be given priority to stop human trafficking and to protect trafficked persons. The report further indicates that the protection provided to many trafficked persons is inadequate. The report contains recommendations for the EU and its member states. The [E-notes website](#) contains all the country reports, profiles and specific sections.

Results from the first year of COMP.ACT

In 2010 the pan-European project on compensation for trafficked persons, COMP.ACT started. This 3-year project, initiated by La Strada International and Anti-Slavery International, aims to make compensation one of the key elements of programmes of assistance and services to trafficked people in Europe. In the first year of the project, various positive results were already seen. First of all, recognition was received for the need for compensation and the importance of the project. Both the Council of Europe and the OSCE (ODIHR) have granted their institutional support to the project. Also UNODC expressed their interest in cooperation and UN.GIFT supported La Strada Macedonia and La Strada Ukraine with funding for national activities. COMP.ACT has also joined forces with two international law firms, Freshfields and Hogan Lovells. These law firms have expressed their interest and commitment in partnering in the project and contributing their experience to the project.



All partner organisations have successfully introduced the issue of compensation in national working groups on human trafficking and involved some working group members in the COMP.ACT activities.

One of the main activities of the project at the national level is an analysis of the legal possibilities for claiming compensation and the identification of obstacles that prevent people from being compensated. The COMP.ACT partners in Belarus, Ireland and Germany all recently conducted researches on compensation measures. For the research that is currently being done in Austria, Macedonia, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Poland and the Czech Republic, the partners are using a common research methodology specifically developed for the project. Results are expected to be published in the second half of 2011.

Furthermore, several partners have been involved in supporting clients in compensation cases. One conclusion that can already be drawn from both research and practice is that if there is no (legal and financial) support for a trafficked person when claiming compensation, there is very little chance for success. In 2011, the partners will start with test cases, including training for lawyers how to claim compensation for clients and for service providers how to assist a client through this process. On the international level a European advocacy campaign on access to justice will be developed to raise awareness. For an overview of the activities and achievements of the project in 2010, please visit www.compactproject.org.

What's going on ?

Campaign to reach out to trafficked persons in Berlin



In the last few months, new posters that look like advertisements for soap or mobile phones were displayed on billboards and walls in Berlin. Those who took a closer look noticed that these posters were alerting trafficked persons who are exploited for forced labour. Instead of statements about the products, the texts in Chinese, Vietnamese and other languages say: - "Problems with your boss? - No or very little pay? - Always under control? - Passport taken away? - Problems with your husband? - Beatings, unwanted sex or other forms of violence? Call us: free and anonymous counselling - also for immigrants without papers."

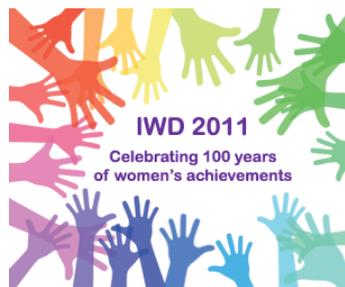
Ban Ying, a Berlin-based organisation that supports trafficked and exploited persons, launched this poster campaign in 2010 to reach out to people who have been trafficked for forced labour. Many of

them do not identify themselves as trafficked or are reluctant to go to the police. The idea for the campaign was developed over years in close cooperation with their clients and an advertising agency. For example, many domestic workers working for diplomats reported that they were not allowed to leave the house they were living and working in. Therefore, information can only be made accessible to them in places they work. This is how the idea came up to use motor scooters with posters in different languages to drive into neighbourhoods where many diplomats live. The drivers were asked to stop for longer periods in front of supermarkets, playgrounds etc. – in the hope that they and the posters respectively would be noticed. The posters themselves are not easily recognisable as anti-trafficking posters and therefore look harmless for employers. At the same time, they should attract the employees' attention. For this reason they are designed to resemble advertisements from their countries of origin. For more information about the campaign please contact [Ban Ying](#).



One century of International Women's Day

On 8 March the 100th International Women's Day was celebrated. The United Nations [theme](#) for this year's women's day was *"Equal access to education, training and science and technology: Pathway to decent work for women"*. Gender equality and empowerment of women are central to economic and human development in a country. The realisation of the right to education is essential for women to be able to enjoy the full range of human rights. Education is a key driver of social change and economic growth; it paves the way out of poverty and disempowerment, and opens up access to participation in society and in political decision-making. Needless to say that education is also key in preventing human trafficking.



The European Parliament (EP) focussed this year on 'women and work'. The EP stresses that differences in payment between men and women need to be eliminated; that more women should be participating in the labour market in general and especially more women should be appointed in decision-making positions. On the occasion of International Women's Day, the European Parliament adopted three resolutions on: gender equality, female poverty and health inequality.

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay specifically saluted the women of the Middle East and North Africa, along with women all over the world "who are taking great risks to stand up and fight for dignity, justice and human rights for themselves and for their compatriots. She stressed that the work is far from over: "In these moments of historic transition in Egypt and Tunisia, it is important to ensure that women's rights are not set aside as something to be dealt with after the 'crucial' reforms are won. Women's rights should be at the top of the list of new priorities."

Several NGO's dedicated this year's 8 March celebration to the upcoming ILO Convention on decent work for domestic workers. PICUM launched [their report](#) "Violence and Exploitation of Undocumented Migrant Women: Building Strategies to End Impunity". The report brings together the voices of more than 100 migrant women, NGOs, trade unions, and governmental officials from across Europe to highlight how undocumented migrant women working in Europe's households are often denied the most basic protections from exploitation and abuse.

ODIHR co-organises forum for Polish trade union lawyers on human trafficking

A two-day workshop in Warsaw, Poland examined the role of trade unions in combating forced labour and human trafficking. Co-hosted by [ODIHR](#), the Polish trade union Solidarity, Poland's Interior Ministry and the International Trade Union Confederation, the workshop explored how trade unions can contribute to preventing forced labour and human trafficking and assist exploited workers to access justice and remedies, including compensation. The forum also provided an opportunity for representatives from trade unions and migrants-rights and anti-trafficking organisations from Ireland and Poland, including La Strada Poland, to share good practices, discuss challenges, and make recommendations for action.

Hungarian Presidency



Currently Hungary has the presidency of the Council of the European Union for the first half of 2011. Although human trafficking is not one of the main topics of the presidency, a conference will be organised in April on human trafficking for forced labour. A comparison is to be made between regulatory and institutional systems of the Member States. The aim of the

conference is to prepare for a Council Conclusion on the issue of human trafficking to be adopted in June. In the area of immigration and asylum, Hungary aims to improve the management of migration flows and lobbies for the accession of Romania and Bulgaria to the Schengen area (once the technical requirements are met).

[Roma issues](#) are also high on the agenda of the Hungarian Presidency. Presenting its priorities on 25 January, the Minister listed the inclusion and active involvement of the Roma community, the fight against poverty, especially child poverty, and unemployment, better education and housing and better access to EU funds. The presidency also aims to make progress on proposals on protection of crime victims.

UN Trust Fund for Trafficked Persons

On 8 March, the [United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Human Trafficking](#) (the Trust Fund) launched a Small Grants Facility aimed at



helping victims of human trafficking. Coinciding with International Women's Day, the event was co-hosted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Human Trafficking. The Small Grants Facility is intended to serve as a major avenue for channelling funds to the front-line organisations fighting human trafficking and is a core component of the Trust Fund. The Trust Fund was created as part of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons adopted by the General Assembly in New York in August 2010. Contributions to the Fund may be accepted from governments, intergovernmental or non-governmental organisations, private-sector organisations and the public at large. The 2011 Small Grants Facility will accept project proposals from eligible non-profit, non-governmental organisations (NGOs). The Thematic Priorities for 2011 are:

- ◆ Cross-border and inter-regional activities providing direct humanitarian, legal and/or financial assistance to victims.
- ◆ Effective remedies for victims of human trafficking, including, but not limited to, legal support, access to justice and compensation.

La Strada International welcomes all new funding opportunities for direct support to trafficked persons. A problem with the new fund that might arise is that the same money that already was donated by governments, intergovernmental organisations or private sector organisations directly to NGOs supporting trafficked persons, will now be donated to the fund. In this case the fund will be an extra administrative layer between the funders and the NGOs instead of a new opportunity. Therefore La Strada International hopes that the new fund will put effort into attracting new funders for anti-trafficking initiatives.

Memorial for victims of slavery



In February, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon [lauded](#) the launch of a website for the permanent memorial honouring the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade, calling it "an important step forward in making the memorial a reality at the United Nations Headquarters complex." "The memorial is a reminder that millions of Africans were violently removed from their homelands, ruthlessly abused and robbed of their dignity. The memorial also reminds us that slavery continues to

manifest itself in such exploitative practices as serfdom, debt bondage and forced and bonded labour; trafficking in women and children, domestic slavery and forced prostitution, including of children;

sexual slavery, forced marriage and the sale of wives; child labour and child servitude”, Mr. Ban Ki-moon said. “This reality obliges the international community to bring perpetrators to justice and to continue pursuing with vigour its efforts to uphold human rights and human dignity,” he added.

Council of the Baltic States increases the fight against trafficking



The [Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings](#) (TF-THB) is an expert group of government representatives from ministries in all the 11 Member States of the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS). The group shares knowledge and best practices in order to increase prevention and enhance the protection of victims of human trafficking in the region. The TF-THB strives to address identified flaws in current policies and operative work in the region through joint collaborative projects. This year the Task Force will focus on a study on Data Collection Mechanisms in the Baltic Sea Region and the development of a Model Memorandum of Understanding between law enforcement and service providers. The focus of the Task

Force until now has been on trafficking for sexual exploitation, but for 2011 there will be more attention for the issue of labour exploitation. The [Information Campaign to Reach out to Potential Victims](#) unfortunately still only reaches out to women exploited in the sex industry.

What's new ?



Guide for trade unions to combat trafficking

The International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) is releasing [Never Work Alone](#) – a guide for trade unions and other civil society organisations to jointly combat modern-day slavery and trafficking of workers. The report is the result of a two-year project by ITUC and Anti-Slavery International in which trade unions and NGOs have looked

into each other's actions and approaches to combat slavery and labour trafficking. It examines different approaches and shows four major common grounds for action, each of them documented with a series of best practices. The report explains the real potential for unions and NGOs to improve their combined outreach, to intervene together in individual or collective cases and to organise joint campaigns, training and other activities.

Evaluation Spanish anti-trafficking policies

Proyecto Esperanza launched an evaluation report on the lack of implementation of the new anti-trafficking legal framework in Spain, comparing it with good practices in Italy, Norway and the United States. For more information, please visit [Proyecto Esperanza's website](#).

E- tool for business leaders

The United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT) and the End Human Trafficking Now! Campaign (EHTN!) have developed [an eLearning course](#) which is a modular training programme for business leaders, managers and employees of business companies. In addition to the eLearning course, a [training handbook](#) was developed to serve as a manual for educational purposes. The course aims to help enterprises understand what human trafficking is, identify where it might be a risk to their business and point to actions they can take to address this risk. The tool consists of three modules: general information on trafficking, prevention and management of risk, and practical examples of how to take action. Each module takes approximately 20 minutes to complete and includes a short quiz which must be completed prior to finishing the module. The modules draw exclusively on practical and concrete case studies from peers and colleagues in the business community in industries as diverse as sporting goods, cosmetics, commercial air travel, garments and textiles, tourism and hospitality.

Alliance News

The latest issue of the Alliance News of the Global Alliance against Traffic in Women (GAATW) is dedicated to the *Feminist Participatory Action Research (FPAR)*. The International Secretariat and many members of GAATW have intensively worked with the FPAR methodology [A Woman's Life is Richer Than Her Trafficking Experience](#). The Alliance News reflects on the principles and practices of the FPAR and the experiences of the members that were involved in the projects.



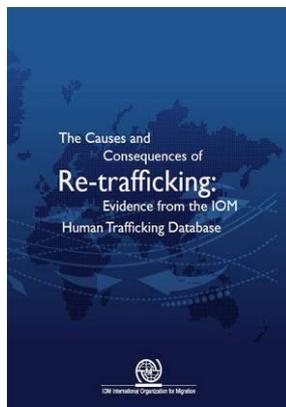
UN report reviews trends in international migration

In a [new report](#) on international migration and development, the Secretary General of the UN reviews trends in international migration in light of the effects of the financial and economic crisis and discusses the consequences for migrants in countries of destination. The report also evaluates ongoing efforts to leverage the positive aspects of international migration on countries of origin and to avert or reduce its negative consequences. The report focuses on actions by the United Nations system to ensure respect for the human rights of migrants and promotes a rights-based approach to the management of international migration.

Council of Europe report on irregular migrants

Irregular migrants face insecurity on a daily basis. This prompted the Council of Europe's European Committee on Migration [to assess the policy and practice in the member states](#). The aim was to identify and evaluate national experiences regarding regularisation proceedings and to draw up proposals for dealing with irregular migration and improving co-operation between countries of origin and host countries. Volumes I and II cover Armenia, Germany, Greece, Italy and the Russian Federation. Volume III and IV include reports prepared within the second series and cover France, Poland, Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom.

The Causes and Consequences of Re-trafficking



Although it is widely known that trafficked persons have a high chance of being trafficked again, so far little research has been conducted on the issue of re-trafficking. [This research](#) paper aims to address the gap through an exploratory analysis of known re-trafficking cases in the Human Trafficking Database of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM).

By exploring the 79 known re-trafficking cases in the IOM Human Trafficking Database over a 10-year period (from 1999 to 2009), this research has found that the groups who appear to be most vulnerable to re-trafficking are the same as the ones vulnerable to trafficking, namely women, children and young adults. Especially those who have been trafficked under the age of 18 are often vulnerable to re-trafficking in adult life. Trafficked persons are frequently re-trafficked within two years or less of having exited a trafficking situation. Where re-trafficking occurs, it is not

uncommon for it to be to a different destination or for a different purpose of exploitation on each occasion.

Corporate responsibility

The ILO Special Action Programme to combat Forced Labour (SAP-FL) published the [second issue of their newsletter](#). This issue contains several articles on corporate responsibility. The Georgian Employers' Association (GEA) has developed, with the support of the ILO, a Code of Conduct for Georgian employers that explicitly prohibits coercion and forced labour. The newsletter also reports on the Luxor International Forum held in December 2010 that aimed at engaging the private sector, including the media and entertainment industries, in the fight against human trafficking. It gathered more than 500 representatives of private companies - among them Manpower, Chopard and Microsoft. At the conference the UN.GIFT E-learning Tool against Human Trafficking was presented (see above), a web-based modular training programme for business leaders, managers and employees.

Unprotected Work, Hidden Exploitation



In February, the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Maria Grazia Giammarinaro published a paper on domestic work. The paper, entitled [Unprotected Work, Hidden Exploitation: Trafficking for the Purpose of Domestic Servitude](#), is based on field work, case study analyses and desk research. It aims to shed light on one of the most invisible forms of modern-day slavery. The publication covers good practices in addressing domestic servitude in the OSCE area, as well as relevant international standards. Special attention is paid to the issue of diplomatic privileges and domestic work. The paper provides a policy tool for decision makers and practitioners dealing with prevention

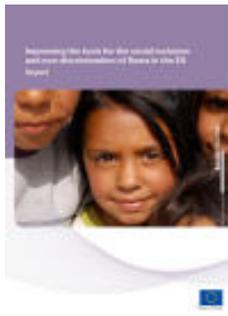
and prosecution of trafficking in human beings, as well as protection of trafficked persons' rights and providing assistance and support to them.

Giammarinaro launched her new publication joined by two representatives from civil society organisations, Dr. Nivedita Prasad from BAN-YING (Germany) and Evelyn Probst from LEFO (Austria).

The issue of child trafficking in Poland - views and experiences of professionals

Nobody's Children Foundation in Poland published a report on the issue of child trafficking in Poland. The [report](#) is a summary of views and experiences described by representatives of various occupations who - in their professional capacity - are likely to encounter child victims of trafficking or children from groups at risk (e.g. separated minors). Questionnaires were distributed to the employees of intervention centres and child-care institutions, as well as border guards. Additionally, interviews were conducted with representatives of police, border guards, intervention centres and child-care institutions, appointed by their respective supervisory bodies (such as police headquarters) on written request. The group of surveyed and interviewed individuals is not a representative sample. Therefore, the present work (deliberately referred to as a situational analysis) constitutes an attempt to explore and describe the problem of child trafficking from the point of view of Polish professionals, yet it does not allow for generalisations reflecting on the entire population.

Improving the tools for the social inclusion and non-discrimination of Roma in the EU



Last year the European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC) and the Roma Education Fund (REF) published a [comparative study](#) on measures addressing the situation of Roma and other ethnic groups known as or associated with Roma living in 18 EU Member States with sizeable Romani populations, among which the La Strada countries Czech Republic and Bulgaria. This report should be read as a contribution to assist policy-makers to improve the development, implementation and evaluation of policies, programmes and projects for the social inclusion of Roma. It examines the range of policies, programmes and projects and the types and levels of budgetary support in use among Member States in order to identify successful elements of Roma inclusion policy, financial

programmes and projects, and the possibilities for transfer to other countries/regions. It formulates some lessons learned for more effective use of these instruments in the future.

CEDAW: General Recommendation No. 28 on Core Obligations of State Parties

The CEDAW Committee makes recommendations on any issue affecting women to which it believes the States parties should devote more attention. "Through this [general recommendation](#), the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women aims to clarify the scope and meaning of article 2 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which provides ways for States parties to implement domestically the substantive provisions of the Convention. The Committee encourages States parties to translate this general recommendation into national and local languages and to disseminate it widely to all branches of Government, civil society, including the media, academia and human rights and women's organisations and institutions."

International migration: the search for decent work



Solidar is conducting a three-year project “Decent Work for All! Making Migration work for Development” which aims to raise awareness among European citizens and policy-makers about the links between development, migration and decent work, as well as the need to guarantee equal basic rights for all workers in the EU, irrespective of their origin or legal status.

The report [International migration: the search for decent work](#), is the first product of the project and gives an overview of current global, regional and European policies and initiatives that

address international labour migration and analyses the challenges from a decent work and rights-based perspective. The report outlines the policy framework around international labour migration in a development context and then examines the migration trends in three world regions.

A supplementary publication to this report, [Through the Eyes of Migrants: the Search for Decent Work](#), includes migrants’ perspectives on their reasons for looking for work abroad.

Compensation after deportation from Israel

Within the framework of the project *Fighting against Trafficking in Women*, the Israeli NGO Isha L’Isha published a [report on compensations](#) paid to trafficked persons on a criminal basis.

According to Isha L’Isha the problem in Israel is that trafficked persons can claim compensation through the criminal proceedings, but almost always they are deported long before the verdict. “As these women have already returned to their countries of origin, with no resources to rehabilitate and start a new life, transfer of compensation to them is an essential act. Therefore, the intervention of non-governmental organisations and government bodies is required, for trafficked persons also to receive the money that they deserve”. The aforementioned project by Isha L’Isha has been running for the past nine years, and one of its activities is locating and transferring compensations to trafficked persons. In the report the modus operandi is described and examples are given.

New on the Web

Council of Europe page on migrants' and refugees' rights



The Council of Europe created a [thematic page](#) about the human rights of migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers. The page is included in Human Rights Commissioner Thomas

Hammarberg’s [website](#) and regroups all documents and news on the issue published by the Council of Europe and the Commissioner.

Solidar Videos on precarious work in Europe

Solidar has two new videos highlighting different aspects of precarious work in Europe. In the [first video](#) four migrant workers tell their stories about precarious work and its impact on their lives. [The second video](#) puts forward the recommendations of, among others, project partners, the European Commission and the ILO on how to improve the working conditions around Europe, in sectors with higher incidences of precarious work.

Online exhibition on sex workers rights movement

Mama Cash’s online exhibition [Out from Under](#) showcases issues, voices, stories, and perspectives from the global sex workers’ human rights movement. Sex workers are severely stigmatised as workers and human beings. Since the early 1970s, determined and courageous sex workers have been collectively organising in spite of the sometimes extreme consequences they face for speaking out. Mama Cash supports the right of every woman and trans sex worker to be treated with dignity and be recognised as fully human by societies and under the law.



Makeover for AWID website

To mark International Women's Day, AWID (The Association for Women's Rights in Development) has redesigned [its website](#). The new design and structure makes it easier to find the latest news and analyses on women's rights around the world. There is a new section with ways to get involved along with more accessible information on AWID's strategic initiatives and the latest publications.

New PICUM website



In the spirit of festivities with PICUM celebrating its 10th anniversary this year, PICUM has restyled its [website](#). The website is available in seven languages (English, French, Dutch, German, Spanish, Portuguese and Italian) to ensure the possibility to reach out to a large audience and overcome linguistic obstacles. The aim of this new design is to provide up-to-date information, to offer an extensive access to resources and publications as well as an opportunity to promote dialogue through the use of social media networks.

Furthermore, after seven years of publishing monthly newsletters, the PICUM news will now be coming from new resources:

- The PICUM Bulletin: a new bi-monthly newsletter, available in English.
- The PICUM Quarterly Newsletter: available four times a year and translated in six languages (French, German, Spanish, Dutch, Portuguese and Italian). You can [sign up](#) for the bulletin or newsletter.

The Child Recovery and Reintegration Network

This is a dedicated [online resource for the recovery and reintegration of children](#) affected by sexual exploitation and trafficking globally. Developed and maintained through an Oak Foundation fellowship, the site is supported by an Advisory Group of experts and hosted by the UHI Centre for Rural Childhood in Scotland. The online resource provides summaries of the key stages in the recovery and reintegration phase and directs readers to relevant texts. The Child Recovery and Reintegration Network has also dedicated spaces for both researchers and practitioners to access tools and resources, post comments and share their experiences.

What's happening where ?

- ◆ 22-23 March 2011 – GAATW European Members Congress, Barcelona, Spain
- ◆ 25 March 2011 – Alliance Expert Co-ordination Team (AECT), Vienna, Austria.
- ◆ 5-7 April 2011 – ENPATES Consultative Meeting and LSI NGO platform, Rome, Italy
- ◆ 8 April 2011 – University of Tilburg, Seminar Combating THB for labour exploitation, Tilburg, the Netherlands
- ◆ 15-17 June 2011 – COMP.ACT Second Coalition Meeting, Berlin, Germany
- ◆ 20-21 June 2011 – OSCE Alliance High-level Conference 2011 on partnership to address trafficking as a massive form of modern slavery, and especially trafficking for labour exploitation, Vienna, Austria
- ◆ 24 June 2011 – International conference on "Migration, Sanctions and Business", Amsterdam, the Netherlands. The main topic of the conference is the Directive 2009/52/EC providing for minimum standards on sanctions and measures against employers of illegally staying third-country nationals that needs to be transposed into national law by 20 July 2011.

What's on your mind ?



European labour migration policy: a race to the bottom?

Kadri Soova is Advocacy Officer at the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM)

In the coming years, the working age population in Europe is faced with an important decline. The demographic urgency mixed with labour shortages in certain sectors call for ambitious policy interventions. European Union labour migration policies attempt to address this concern through recent legislative initiatives focused on highly skilled workers and circular migration of third country nationals.

Address working conditions first

It is unfortunate that EU action in this field is dominated by migration control measures and tends to overlook the effect that these policies will have on the labour market as a whole. It is a fact that in many member states local workers are not interested in certain jobs. One example of such locally unattractive labour is agricultural work that in many parts of Europe is filled almost exclusively by migrant workers, many of whom are undocumented and experiencing harsh working and living conditions, low wages and exploitation.

The effectiveness of policies that only address the labour shortage and not the working conditions in these jobs, must be questioned. When we look at agricultural work that will soon be addressed through the EU Commission's proposed directive on the entry and stay of third-country nationals for the purposes of seasonal work ("seasonal workers directive"), we should first ask ourselves, why are there labour shortages in this sector? Is it because of long hours, dangerous working conditions, precarious living arrangements and low pay? Is it because the heavy-intensity greenhouse dependent industrialised agricultural model drives the demand for a constant influx of cheap and flexible workers?

It is crucial to improve labour conditions in the sectors experiencing workforce shortages before bringing in workers from third countries. If not, we have to wonder if the new EU policy tools will only promote a race to the bottom of working conditions.

Guarantee equal treatment of workers

The EU Commission has taken a 'sectoral approach' in its policies concerning migrant workers. This means that instead of creating one comprehensive policy instrument regulating the access of all third-country workers to the European labour market, the EU has chosen to regulate the rights of low-wage and high-wage workers through different policy tools. This has led to a situation where high-wage workers would be guaranteed a wider set of rights and better social security benefits compared to low-wage workers. This undermines the principle of equal treatment of all workers and isolates low-wage migrant workers from other workers or other migrants. It is likely that instead of reducing the precarious status of seasonal migrants the directive would further isolate them from exercising their rights as a worker.

The "seasonal workers directive" has many other problematic points. In addition to the very weak legal position of seasonal migrants, the directive does not foresee any possibility for those undocumented workers who are currently working in the seasonal sector to enrol in the circular migration programme and regularise their status. The directive does not therefore address the precarious situation of migrant workers and will most probably not be successful in reducing exploitation in this sector.

The structural need for low-wage workers is likely to expand and Europe should be looking for more permanent solutions for this permanent and growing need for foreign workers.



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