

ANNUAL REPORT 2013



La Strada International

European nco Network against Trafficking in Human Beings

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

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Abbreviations

AECT	Alliance Expert Coordination Team
CoE	Council of Europe
GRETA	Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings
GAATW	Global Alliance against Traffic in Women
HRDN	Human Rights and Democracy Network
ICMPD	International Centre for Migration Policy Development
ILO	International Labour Organisations
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
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Summary

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.

In total 1823 trafficked persons were registered and supported by the LSI member countries in 2013. A total of 21 816 calls to national hotlines were reported in 2013 in all La Strada member countries, excluding the Netherlands¹, compared to 10 603 hotline calls in 2012 and 8 376 in 2011.

In 2013, reporting La Strada member countries continued to note that women and children constituted the majority of human trafficking cases for the purposes of sexual exploitation, while men were most often involved in cases of forced labour or labour exploitation. 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. Men were also reported in situations of sexual exploitation and women were reported in situations of labour exploitation. Domestic work, construction and agriculture were highlighted along with forced begging as primary areas of labour exploitation in La Strada member countries. Many victims of human trafficking were reported to be uneducated or not significantly educated, many victims were from rural areas.

¹ In the Netherlands calls are not counted, but individual cases are reported/registered.

The La Strada members cited a total of 41 destination countries where women, men and children were trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation or forced labour during 2013. Several Central and Eastern European countries, in which La Strada operates are faced with political, social and economic instability, bureaucracy and corruption, which negatively affect the societies of these countries in general, as changes towards democracy and openness are implemented only gradually. LSI members also frequently reported inadequate implementation of legislation on human trafficking.

All the EU countries transposed the [Directive 2011/36/EU](#) on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings. The 36/2011/EU Directive on trafficking in human beings was adopted by the Council in April 2011 and was supposed to be transposed by the Member States by 6 April 2013. The main gaps identified in implementation of such legislation were bureaucratic challenges, lack of state funding, inadequate training of law enforcement and service providers and disproportionate responsibility on accessing resources and providing services to victims falling on national and international nongovernmental organisations.

In 2013 much attention was given to the monitoring and implementation of LSI's overall strategic plan (2012 - 2015) and separate action plan for 2013. Priority issues were the monitoring of LSI standards, the development of LSI monitoring assessment tool, data collection and data protection and the official extension of the LSI NGO platform. LSI aims to monitor and evaluate current practices in human trafficking by collecting facts and figures, analysing data and undertaking research. 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.

Another important topic was the financial situation of the LSI secretariat and the LSI members. Strategies and measures to obtain more financial sustainability, including fundraising, were frequently discussed by the board, as well as with the General Assembly.

In 2013, next to the LSI members organisations, 12 partner NGOs joined the LSI NGO platform - United against human trafficking. On 20-21 November 2013, the 6th NGO platform was organised in Tallinn, Estonia. At this platform, challenges in the anti-trafficking debate were discussed, including: NGO monitoring, data protection, non-punishment provision, standards for service providers and the issue of demand. After the meeting, LSI's NGO Platform launched a campaign to encourage governments to fully implement anti-trafficking legislation on the ground. Within the framework of this campaign, the partners of the LSI NGO Platform urge governments to implement the important international treaties to ensure that human rights of trafficked persons are respected and protected.

In May 2013 LSI started the EU funded project *NGOs & Co - NGO-Business Engagement* in addressing human trafficking. This project aims to critically address the issue of (employers' and consumers') demand and supply for products and services, in order to reduce (vulnerability for) exploitation and human trafficking. In April 2013, the Global Human Trafficking Hotline Network (GHTHN) was launched. The GHTHN is a new alliance of anti-trafficking hotlines that will build a broader safety net and develop a more coordinated global response for trafficked persons. The alliance will also create a data-driven approach that identifies human trafficking trends and informs eradication, prevention, and victim protection strategies.

La Strada International – Leading European NGO Network against Trafficking in Human Beings

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

The La Strada International network comprises eight independent, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in Europe that work from a grass-roots level, providing direct support to trafficked persons.

The 8 member organisations are based in Belarus, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Macedonia, Moldova, the Netherlands, Poland and Ukraine. The LSI member organisations are represented by one individual in the General Assembly, which functions as the governing body of the organisation and meets twice a year. The General Assembly elects the members of the LSI Board from among the assembly members. The board is responsible for monitoring the work of the International Secretariat and for setting up discussions around broader strategic and thematic issues.

The International Secretariat of LSI is responsible for representation of the network at the international level. The employees of the International Secretariat undertake activities directed at international networking, advocacy and public relations, and are responsible for developing and

maintaining relations with national and international government structures and other relevant stakeholders including international organisations, NGOs and civil society networks. The secretariat further works on data collection, registration and information provision and capacity building for the member organisations. The LSI Secretariat prepares Assembly and board meetings and is further responsible for coordination of the implementation of common strategy and action plans. Additionally several international projects are coordinated by the International Secretariat. In 2013 these include the project *NGOs & CO - NGO-Business Engagement* in addressing human trafficking and *datACT*, data protection in anti-trafficking action. See further LSI projects.

Human Rights based approach

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 promoting an approach that prioritizes the needs expressed by trafficked persons 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 trafficked persons 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 regular and 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 maintains human rights 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 and the Code of Conduct of the organisation.

The organisation in 2013

In 2013, one General Assembly meeting (AM 17) took place in November, in Tallinn Estonia and was combined with the LSI NGO platform meeting. In 2013 the Board met twice, in March 2013 in Amsterdam, The Netherlands and in July 2013, in Prague, Czech Republic.

Additionally, there were six online Board meetings through Skype throughout the year. At these meetings, the board and LSI International Coordinator prepared discussions and decision taking for assembly meetings and discussed daily (financial) management issues of the network.

In 2013 much attention was given to the monitoring and implementation of LSI's overall strategic plan (2012 - 2015) and separate action plan for 2013. Priority issues were the monitoring of LSI standards, the development of LSI monitoring assessment tool, data collection and data protection and the official extension of the LSI NGO platform. Another important topic was the financial situation of the LSI secretariat and the LSI members. Strategies and measures to obtain more financial sustainability, including fundraising, were frequently discussed by the board, as well as with the General Assembly. Several new common projects, including a follow-up application for a second COMP.ACT programme, were also discussed with the Assembly, next to requests for common projects and cooperation with other stakeholders.

In 2013, next to the LSI members organisations, 12 partner NGOs joined the LSI NGO platform - United against trafficking in human beings.

LSI NGO Platform - United against Human Trafficking in Europe

The La Strada International NGO Platform was initiated in 2005 to enable European anti-trafficking organisations to meet annually with the aim of strengthening and maintaining closer cooperation on

advocacy, awareness and prevention, referral and direct support to trafficked persons. Moreover, with the NGO Platform LSI promotes the anti-trafficking debate among civil society, and encourages the exchange of best practices and lessons learnt. Previous NGO Platforms were organised in Warsaw, Poland (2005), Kiev, Ukraine (2006), Skopje, Macedonia (2007), Berlin, Germany (2009) and Rome, Italy (2011). On 20-21 November 2013, the 6th NGO platform was organised in Tallinn, Estonia, and was hosted by the Estonian anti-trafficking NGO [Living for Tomorrow](#). The platform was entitled “Monitoring Access to Rights and Taking Action”. Representatives of more than 20 NGOs and three networks from 20 European (EU and non-EU) countries gathered to discuss current challenges and opportunities in the field of combatting human trafficking.

Challenges in the anti-trafficking debate were discussed, including: NGO monitoring, data protection, non-punishment provision, standards for service providers and the issue of demand. The meeting ended with a plenary session devoted to Joint Actions, where the partners discussed several opportunities on national and international levels for collective advocacy and engage in joint campaigning actions.

The partnership of the NGO Platform members was formalised at the meeting and became an official network, entitled “LSI NGO Platform - United against Human Trafficking in Europe”.



LSI NGO Platform campaign: “One Story, two outcomes. Respect trafficked people’s rights”

Under international law, victims of human trafficking have important rights. These rights help them to recover from their experience of being trafficked and give them a chance to rebuild their lives. Unfortunately, all over Europe, trafficked persons’ rights are often not taken into account, leaving them vulnerable to re-trafficking.

For this reason *the La Strada International NGO Platform - United against Human Trafficking in Europe* - launched a campaign to encourage governments to fully implement anti-trafficking legislation on the ground.

The campaign [“One Story, Two Outcomes”](#) tells the story of Anna, a woman who finds herself lured abroad and ruthlessly exploited by her employers. Anna’s story illustrates the consequences when individual rights are not respected, and what happens when they are. The partners of the LSI NGO Platform urge governments to implement the important international treaties to ensure that human rights of trafficked persons are respected and protected.

Human Trafficking in Europe

Human trafficking² 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 individuals in many countries, including La Strada member 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.

² 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.

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 market³.

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, for instance, are new and upcoming destination areas for Europeans. These newer non-European destination countries

³ Human trafficking also affects other mainstream economic sectors, including food processing, healthcare and contract cleaning, mainly in private but also in public sector employment, such as the provision of healthcare services. A problem, however, is that these are often dealt with by the authorities as 'merely' constituting *labour law* violations, rather than *human rights* violations under anti-trafficking or human rights legislation. It is generally acknowledged that sectors with weak labour protection are more vulnerable to human trafficking.

include: Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, China, Cyprus, Georgia, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Israel, Jordan, Malaysia, Lebanon, Pakistan, Turkey, Sudan, Uganda and United Arab Emirates.

ILO Global Estimates on forced labour

According to the estimates of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), published in 2012, around three out of every 1000 persons worldwide are in situations of forced labour at any given point in time. The ILO estimates that 20.9 million people are victims of forced labour globally; trapped in jobs which they were coerced or deceived into and which they cannot or are unable to leave. The majority of forced labourers, (68%) are exploited in economic activities, such as agriculture, construction, domestic work or manufacturing. About a quarter are victims of sexual exploitation. The remaining ten percent are in state-imposed forms of forced labour, for example in prisons, or in work imposed by the state military or by rebel armed forces.

EU statistics on trafficking in human beings

In April 2013, the European Commission published its first statistics report on trafficking in human beings in the EU, compiled by Eurostat and DG Home Affairs. This report includes statistics on the total number of identified and presumed victims disaggregated by gender, age and form of exploitation. It also contains statistics on victims' citizenship and type of assistance and protection received. In the report, the total number of identified and presumed victims was 6309 in 2008; 7795 in 2009 and 9528 in 2010, with an increase of 18% over the three consecutive years. The profile of victims by gender and age in the three years was 68% women, 17% men, 12% girls and three percent boys. The majority of the identified and presumed victims were trafficked for sexual exploitation (62%). Trafficking for forced labour (25%) came second and trafficking in other forms such as trafficking for the removal of organs, for criminal activities or for selling of children follow with smaller percentages (14%). Most victims detected in EU Member States were citizens of Romania and

Bulgaria. Most victims having citizenship outside of the EU Member States were from Nigeria and China.

La Strada figures 2013

In total 1823 trafficked persons were registered by the LSI member countries, which have been referred to other stakeholders, including other NGOs or have received direct assistance and support. During 2013, reporting La Strada member countries continued to note that women and children constituted the majority of human trafficking cases for the purposes of sexual exploitation, while men were most often involved in cases of forced labour or labour exploitation. 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.

Males were also reported in situations of sexual exploitation and females were reported in situations of labour exploitation. Ukraine, for example, reported five male minor victims of sexual exploitation in 2013 while Bulgaria and the Czech Republic reported female victims of labour exploitation and/or forced begging.

Border towns, resort towns, bars and nightclubs were cited as areas particularly prone to trafficking of individuals for the purposes of sexual exploitation in Bulgaria, Ukraine and Macedonia, while domestic work, construction and agriculture industries were highlighted along with forced begging

as primary areas of labour exploitation in La Strada member countries including Belarus, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Netherlands and Ukraine⁴.

Many victims of human trafficking in La Strada member countries, including Poland, Moldova, Macedonia and Ukraine, were reported to be uneducated or not significantly educated, with the exception of Belarus which reports university or technical school education among victims of human trafficking in 2013. Additionally, many victims were from rural areas⁵.

In Moldova, Macedonia and Ukraine, a significant number of victims of human trafficking reported were aged less than 18 years, while in Bulgaria, Belarus, Moldova and the Netherlands victims were reported to be older (mainly between 18 and 35). Additionally, Poland and Ukraine cited children at orphanages as particularly vulnerable to commercial sexual exploitation, while Macedonia cited a significant trend in child begging. La Strada Bulgaria reported labour exploitation of children on tobacco farms⁶. In the Netherlands, approximately 18 percent of victims of human trafficking registered by CoMensha were minors.

Poland, Ukraine and Macedonia also noted that Roma ethnic communities in their countries were particularly vulnerable to human trafficking due to economic marginalization and social

⁴ Though Bulgaria, Ukraine and Belarus are mainly countries of origin, this information relates about the trafficking that does occur within their countries

⁵ LSI did not record specific places/regions of origin, other than countries

⁶ According to the Council of Europe's Human Rights Comment, Bulgarian children work in agriculture, construction, small factories on the street. Child labour is also reported to be common in the tobacco industry in Bulgaria.
<http://humanrightscotland.org/2013/08/20/child-labour-in-europe>

stigmatization. Roma children in particular were also noted to be forced into begging on the streets.

Several La Strada members, including Moldova, Bulgaria and Macedonia indicated that family, friends and acquaintances constituted a large proportion of recruiters or perpetrators in situations of commercial sexual exploitation, while employment recruitment agencies often enticed individuals into situations of labour exploitation of trafficking through fraudulent employment offers. Thus overall, factors including economic and social marginalization, lack of education and isolation continue to make certain populations particularly vulnerable to human trafficking within La Strada member countries.

Countries of origin reported by LSI members

La Strada member countries reported 26 countries of origin for victims of human trafficking in 2013.

The most commonly mentioned country of origin, cited by three La Strada member countries, was Bulgaria. Bulgarian victims of human trafficking for both the purpose of sexual exploitation and forced labour were cited in the Netherlands, Macedonia and the Czech Republic. The top three countries of origin for La Strada member countries include Bulgaria, Pakistan and Romania⁷. Bulgaria, Moldova and Belarus were not cited as destination countries and seem - as also reported in the past by LS - mainly countries of origin for victims of humans trafficking.

⁷ Because in the Netherlands any minor identified working in prostitution is reported as a trafficked person, the Netherlands is a major country of origin and reported the highest number of internal cases of human trafficking of all LS countries.

The majority of countries of origin for La Strada member countries were located in Eastern Europe (12). A significant proportion of countries of origin were also located throughout Africa (seven), including Northern, and Sub-Saharan Africa. Additional countries of origin were reported within Central Europe, Central Asia, South Asia and Asia Pacific regions, representing significant geographical dispersal and human trafficking movement around the globe. One country in Western Europe, the Netherlands, was cited by CoMensha as a country of origin, for domestic trafficking.

The primary purpose of trafficking to reporting La Strada member countries was both trafficking for sexual exploitation and for labour exploitation.

Countries of destination reported by LSI members

The La Strada members cited a total of 41 destination countries where women, men and children were trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation or forced labour during 2013, including five LS member countries: Czech Republic, Macedonia, Moldova, the Netherlands and Ukraine.

Six out of eight countries cited Germany as a primary destination country for sex and/or labour trafficking, a higher incidence than the remaining destination countries reported. Five out of eight countries cited the Czech Republic and Italy as a destination country for sex and/or labour trafficking. Other primary countries of destination include Belgium, Cyprus, France, Greece, Israel, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, and the United Kingdom. Destination countries in 2013 were largely in Western Europe (16), followed by Eastern European countries (12), Middle Eastern countries (eight), and one Central Asian, East Asian, North African, Central American and Pacific Island country, respectively.

Some countries, such as Ukraine, reported a prevalence of trafficking for both the purposes of sexual and labour exploitation, while others such as Belarus and the Czech Republic primarily registered cases of trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation in destination countries. Additionally, Bulgaria noted forced begging in destination countries in particular as characterizing cases of forced labour or exploitation. It is also significant to note that while Ukraine and Bulgaria reported 20 main countries of destination, countries such as Macedonia and the Czech Republic only reported six and three main countries of destination respectively.

Social, political and economic situation in the LSI member countries

Several Central and Eastern European countries, in which La Strada operates are faced with political, social and economic instability, bureaucracy and corruption, which negatively affect the societies of these countries in general, as changes towards democracy and openness are implemented only gradually.

La Strada countries generally also face high levels of unemployment. With the globalisation of production and consumption and the facilitation of travel opportunities over the last few decades, migration flows have increased and labour has become internationally mobile. Pull factors - such as demand for flexible labour in certain economic sectors and the need to cut down production costs to remain competitive or to increase profits - facilitate the demand for cheap labour which is often met by (irregular) migrant workers. These factors can also encourage exploitation of migrant workers, as migrants often enjoy less legal protection regarding labour conditions and enjoy few basic social rights.

High unemployment figures - especially among women - and the lack of adequate social welfare systems force people to move or migrate internally or abroad to start their lives (temporarily) elsewhere. People also leave because of corruption or discrimination. More serious human rights violations resulting from political, economic and social instability also might force people to flee. As a result some LSI member organisations have taken up work on related issues, like women's rights, human rights, gender based violence and discrimination.

Ongoing economic crises and stagnated economic development in six La Strada member countries continued to affect the human trafficking landscape within these countries throughout 2013. These countries reported⁸ that poor economic conditions caused citizens to migrate abroad for work. In Poland, this migration of Polish citizens abroad resulted in a significant gap in the workforce and to an increase in hiring workers from Asia to work in Poland. La Strada member countries report a high incidence of fraudulent employment offers and labour exploitation within their countries and in destination countries for labour.

Political instability, in particular due to frequent changes in government, has a negative impact on the adoption and implementation of anti-trafficking measures. In 2013, in particular, LS Macedonia, Bulgaria and Ukraine reported political instability. Ukraine reported an influx of migration as a result of the ongoing political situation along the Russian border, in Crimea and Eastern Ukraine. La Strada Ukraine noted that a large number of Ukrainians fled their homes in 2013 as a result of the political situation and have become vulnerable to human trafficking. The political situation in Ukraine has

⁸ The Netherlands and the Czech Republic are not included, despite reporting that they also experiencing economic instability.

also led to important shifts in prioritization of human trafficking on government agendas, with La Strada Ukraine noting a significant de-prioritization of human trafficking in 2013.

In Bulgaria, however, the 2013 elections of a new government led to appointment of new governmental representatives, including at the National Commission for Combatting Human Trafficking, which exists since 2005.

Changes in legislation

In November 26, 2013, Belarus became the first country outside of the Council of Europe to ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings CETS No 197⁹. Belarus and other countries are positive about the ratification and the expected impact. To date, all LS member countries have ratified this convention except the Czech Republic, which is also the only LS country that not yet ratified the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

Further, all the EU countries transposed the [Directive 2011/36/EU](#) on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings¹⁰. The 36/2011/EU Directive on trafficking in human beings was

⁹ Belarus is the only country in Europe that is not a member of the Council of Europe. The main obstacle for Belarus' accession to the Council is the country's use of the death penalty. Despite the fact that the country is not a member state, it can ratify CoE conventions.

¹⁰ DIRECTIVE 2011/36/EU OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 5 April 2011 on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2002/629/JHA in 2013.

adopted by the Council in April 2011 and was supposed to be transposed by the Member States by 6 April 2013. Many countries did so, but only after the deadline. Poland, Bulgaria, Netherlands and the Czech Republic have now ensured all necessary changes to legislation for their countries' commitment.

In the LSI member countries, national laws have been amended in recent years in line with the above mentioned international legislation. However, while La Strada member countries adopted important legislation guaranteeing improved access to services for victims of human trafficking in 2013, implementation of such legislation remained challenging. Seven out of eight La Strada member countries, including Belarus, Bulgaria, Moldova, Macedonia, the Netherlands, Poland and Ukraine report inadequate implementation of legislation on human trafficking. The main gaps identified in implementation of such legislation were bureaucratic challenges, lack of state funding, inadequate training of law enforcement and service providers and disproportionate responsibility on accessing resources and providing services to victims falling on national and international nongovernmental organizations.

While the Netherlands reported that foreign victims of human trafficking were particularly excluded from legislation relating to prostitution in 2013, LS Macedonia outlined challenges in accessing health services free of charge, despite legislation guaranteeing such services. Other countries, such as Belarus, noted difficulties for NGOs in obtaining state funding for victim services. This might be similar - but was not indicated - for Moldova, Ukraine and Macedonia, while victims of human trafficking in Ukraine and Bulgaria were reported to encounter difficulties accessing assistance and in obtaining victim compensation. Some LS member countries, particularly Poland and Ukraine called for improved training of law enforcement and service providers to help fill gaps that were presented by legislative challenges in 2013. In some countries (legislative) measures are taken

which impede the work of NGOs; in particular Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus reported an increase of state control over NGOs in 2012 and 2013.

Thus overall, several La Strada member countries report continued challenges related to ongoing economic crises, citing exploitative conditions for citizens who migrated abroad for work and for foreign nationals who migrated to La Strada countries to fill workforce gaps. Other ongoing challenges regarding political changes and instability have led to increasingly vulnerable populations but also impact decision taking and commitment of state bodies, implementation of legislation and actions and affects cooperation with other stakeholders.

The national approach to human trafficking

In general, La Strada member countries reported concerns but also positive news about their country's national approach to human trafficking, including the adoption and implementation of Action Plans and measures in 2013. All LSI member countries have some type of National Referral Mechanism (NRM) in place.

Four LSI member countries have a Rapporteur or a body responsible for reporting on trafficking in human beings. There are no national Rapporteurs in Ukraine, Bulgaria, Poland and the Czech Republic. LS Macedonia, Ukraine, Netherlands and Moldova reported that their countries have a National Coordinator on the issue of human trafficking in place. There is no National Coordinator in Bulgaria, Poland, Belarus and the Czech Republic.

La Strada members were in general positive about their cooperation with the state bodies responsible for development of national strategies and Action Plans and felt they could satisfactorily

contribute to their development. Several LSI members however raised concern about the fact that new strategies and policies lack sufficient resources to ensure good implementation.

US TIP report 2013

The 2013 US Department of State Trafficking in Persons Report provides an overview of the world efforts to combat trafficking in human beings in their annual [Trafficking in Persons Report \(TIP\)](#)¹¹. The State Department places each country onto a tier. Each year, governments must meet the minimum standards of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol to gain the top tier status while those who rank on the bottom tier may suffer consequences such as the withholding of non-humanitarian and non-trade related foreign assistance. In 2013, several LS countries were ranked differently than Tier 1. Bulgaria, Moldova, were ranked Tier 2; Belarus and Ukraine ranked 2 Watch List. This ranking system should act as a push factor for States to ensure more commitment, but also to provide more funding to anti-trafficking programmes.

Monitoring

LSI aims to monitor and evaluate current practises in human trafficking by collecting facts and figures, analysing data and undertaking research. In 2013, LSI joined two academic consortiums to conduct further research on human trafficking; these researches focus on the issue of demand for

¹¹ The Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report is described as ‘the U.S. Government’s principal diplomatic tool to engage foreign governments on human trafficking’. ‘..The U.S. Government uses the TIP Report to engage foreign governments in dialogues to advance anti-trafficking reforms and to combat trafficking and to target resources on prevention, protection and prosecution programs’¹¹.

human trafficking and on the profile of trafficker and the criminal framework in which they operate. See further research below.

GRETA MONITORING

From the country reports GRETA published in 2013, some general conclusions can be drawn. Almost all State Parties have incorporated the legislative requirements in their domestic laws. And many have also duly set up the suggested institutional arrangements for policy planning, investigation, prosecution and victim services. Nevertheless, the number of victims reached by these arrangements remains generally rather low. In most countries no more than a few dozen victims are actually reached and supported on a yearly basis. Existing services are often underfunded. This is even more of a problem for the shelter homes and other services for male victims. Almost no victims, female or male, ever receive any kind of financial compensation for their losses or for their pain and suffering. Finally, in most countries, only a handful of perpetrators per year are convicted.

Networking, cooperation and representation

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

- **Human Rights and Democracy Network (HRDN)**- 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.
- **Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM)**-Brussels: LSI attended PICUM's annual meeting and several workshops in 2013.
- **Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW)**: LSI cooperated frequently in 2013, mainly on lobbying and advocacy, in particular on UN-related issues. GAATW representatives were invited at LSI's NGO platform in Estonia.
- **Alliance Expert Coordination Team (AECT)** (Office of the Special Representative and Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Being of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe -OSCE): LSI attended two meetings of the AECT and one conference in 2013 and closely cooperated with the Special Representative and her office.

In 2013 a civil society platform was established by the Commission. Three LSI members have been accepted for this platform: LS Czech Republic, LS Poland and LS Ukraine. However, despite LSI's focus and prioritization of human trafficking, the network as a whole was rejected from the platform. LSI raised concern about this to the European Commission.

LSI Advocacy & Public Affairs

The lobby and advocacy work of LSI is planned according to LSI's strategic plan and annual Action Plan and its separate lobby 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.

Obtaining or improving access to State resources for victims of human trafficking was prioritized in lobbying activities in La Strada member countries in 2013, particularly in Belarus, Bulgaria, Macedonia and Poland. Additional lobbying activities were conducted regarding more effective implementation of legislation, accessibility of assistance to both citizens and foreign national victims of human trafficking and adoption and/or implementation of an NRM. Among the main challenges the LSI members mentioned were the following: victim identification, assistance and compensation, identifying factors of vulnerability and vulnerable groups, coordination between service providers and law enforcement, streamlining the NRM and timely implementation of legislation.

In 2013, LSI intensively lobbied the EU, Council of Europe, and to a lesser extent also addressed the OSCE and the UN, providing specific recommendations to improve the protection and observance of the rights of trafficked persons, migrants and other groups vulnerable to human trafficking.

European Union

LSI closely followed the actions around and implementation of the EU strategy on trafficking in human beings, as well as the implementation of the new Directive 2011/36 see above. As member of [the Human Rights and Democracy Network](#), LSI joined [a statement](#) on the protection of human rights in the European Union in April 2014. The statement concludes with 6 practical

recommendations for the European Institutions to strengthen their response to human rights abuses within the EU borders. Furthermore, in April, LSI joined as member of PICUM, a statement on the seasonal workers directive, which outlines that the Directive does not sufficiently address exploitation risks, in particular, concern was raised about the vague definition of seasonal work, the conditions of admission and duration of stay, equal treatment and wages.

OSCE

With the OSCE, an important development was the adoption of the [Addendum of the 2003 OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings](#). The addendum provides the participating States with an updated toolkit and helps to address the current and emerging trends and patterns. The addendum includes a number of encouraging developments for the protection of the rights of trafficked persons. It recommends States to consider implementing “zero-tolerance” policies or other similar standards in government procurement of goods and services. The most notable articles are on the protection of the rights of trafficked persons. The addendum clearly states that trafficked persons should be identified as such as soon as there are reasonable grounds that they have been trafficked and that trafficked persons should be provided with assistance even before the investigation is initiated. The latter assertion is important as it detaches the support and assistance to trafficked persons from the criminal case, and is a major step towards unconditional support. Moreover, States are recommended to take appropriate measures so that NGOs, trade unions and social welfare services, through an NRM, may initiate referrals for the assistance of victims of all forms of trafficking regardless of their nationality. States must also ensure that the process for decisions regarding all referrals is fair, transparent and respects the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the individuals affected.

Council of Europe

LSI continued to facilitate active NGO involvement in the monitoring of the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, and the work of its monitoring body, GRETA. LSI has actively approached NGOs in the countries that were to be visited by GRETA to ensure NGO involvement during the country visits. Furthermore LSI developed a format for NGOs to be used to report to GRETA and contributed to several national round tables to discuss the GRETA recommendations. GRETA has released both extensive country reports as well as 3 general reports. These reports can be consulted on the [public GRETA website](#).

United Nations

LSI followed the developments at the UN on the issue of human trafficking, in particular the work of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially in women and children, as well as the Rapporteurs on migration, slavery and violence against women, and the work of the ILO.

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 issues relating to particular events in the respective LS member country.

While LSI secretariat focuses on monitoring of international policies and supports the members with collecting and promoting monitoring tools (i.e. desk research is planned to collect different

monitoring tools in 2014), the LSI members concurrently work on national monitoring of governmental policies and strategies.

Specific Projects in 2013

La Strada International is active on the European level by partnering in the implementation of several European projects. In 2013, there were several projects that LSI was particularly involved in.

The DANATIP Programme

The Danish Programme against Human Trafficking in Eastern Europe (DANATIP), funded by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has supported counter-trafficking efforts in Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova from 2006 - 2013. The programme supported national counter-trafficking plans and worked with government agencies to support their role as leaders of counter-trafficking efforts. LSI secretariat, together with the LSI member organisations in Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus, the (IOM), the (OSCE) and local NGOs, worked to address human trafficking in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine.

The programme aimed 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. The focus within its final phase (2012-2013) was on strengthening the NRMs in the three countries to ensure that these mechanisms become sustainable. To reflect on all results achieved in the last eight years and highlight lessons learnt, a final regional conference was held on 5 and 6 November 2013 in Kyiv, Ukraine.

datACT - Data protection for trafficked persons

In November 2012, LSI started a project on data protection for trafficked persons with KOK, the German nationwide activist coordination group combating trafficking in women and violence against women in the process of migration. The project aims to promote the rights of trafficked persons to privacy and autonomy and to protect the use of their personal data. LSI and KOK seek to empower exploited and abused persons to take action against irregular storing and sharing of their personal data. The project will raise awareness among NGO counselling centres in selected European countries to stress confidentiality between the counsellor and trafficked persons and to assist service providers in providing safe information according to European data collection procedures. Additionally, it will create alliances for data protection among the relevant stakeholders, including NGO counselling centres, National Rapporteur Mechanisms (or equivalent structures), IGOs and national data protection authorities. The project comprises a research, development of joint standards and consultations and trainings for service providers and the publication of a final manual. From 25 to 27 September 2013, datACT hosted a conference in Berlin with experts from the fields of politics, science and civil society to discuss data protection and privacy rights issues for marginalised groups. In addition, the conference focused on data protection as a new challenge in anti-trafficking policies in the digital age.

NGOs & Co - NGO-Business engagement in addressing human trafficking

In May 2013 LSI started the EU funded project *NGOs & Co - NGO-Business Engagement* in addressing human trafficking. This project aims to critically address the issue of (employers' and consumers') demand and supply for products and services, in order to reduce (vulnerability for) exploitation and human trafficking.

Businesses have a major responsibility and role to play in combatting human trafficking and must address both their supply (vendors, supply chain) and demand (workforce). LSI believes that the business sector should look towards anti-trafficking NGOs for expertise in addressing human trafficking. So far partnerships on addressing human trafficking between NGOs and businesses in Europe have not been mapped or analysed structurally and there is a need for identifying and promoting best practices and strengthening awareness and capacity with both NGOs and the business sector for ensuring effective partnerships.

In cooperation with a broad group of NGOS throughout Europe, LSI hopes to strengthen the cooperation between grassroots organisations and the business sector in effectively preventing and addressing human trafficking. The project aims to increase the knowledge and capacity of grassroots anti-trafficking NGOs for establishing effective means of cooperation with the business sector on THB prevention and/or demand reduction; foster engagement with the business sector in preventing and addressing human trafficking by awareness-raising and building partnerships and to improve consumer awareness on human trafficking and its links to everyday products and services.

Global Human Trafficking Hotline Network launch

In April 2013, the Global Human Trafficking Hotline Network (GHTHN) was launched. The GHTHN is a new alliance of anti-trafficking hotlines that will build a broader safety net and develop a more coordinated global response for trafficked persons. The alliance will also create a data-driven approach that identifies human trafficking trends and informs eradication, prevention, and victim protection strategies.

Being one of the recipients of the Global Impact Award from Google, La Strada International joined Polaris Project and Liberty Asia in the new hotline network. Global Impact Awards support entrepreneurial non-profits using technology to change the world.

This project is making it possible for LSI and its member organisations to connect with diverse anti-trafficking organisations in other regions of the world, and to share data we collect and improve the knowledge and information on human trafficking collected by civil society. Moreover, the close cooperation of helplines globally will enable LSI to reach out to more vulnerable groups and can help to increase identification, referral and assistance of trafficked persons.

Compact Project



act

From 2009 until 2012, LSI coordinated the project COMP.ACT, (the European Action for Compensation for Trafficked Persons), to bring about systematic and practical changes to ensure that trafficked persons receive

compensation for their suffering and unpaid labour. The findings and results are included in the final COMP.ACT report, which was published in March 2013. LSI Partners in 13 countries conducted research on the existing possibilities for compensation, and the identification of obstacles in systems and procedures that prevent those trafficked from accessing compensation. The partners formed national coalitions in support of compensation, and presented recommendations to ensure access to justice for trafficked persons. Several partners engaged with lawyers to support their clients in compensation claims and worked with law firms to inform the legal community on the right to compensation. COMP.ACT partners have supported over 50 trafficked persons in claiming compensation, with the highest amount granted equal to € 54,000. Internationally, the COMP.ACT

awareness raising campaign contributed to the inclusion of the issue of compensation in the anti-trafficking agenda of intergovernmental organisations.

The COMP.ACT project has catalysed the process of building a multi-faceted and holistic strategy to achieve improvements that would lead to more trafficked persons receiving compensation. By forming or strengthening national and international coalitions, undertaking research, trainings, developing tools for practitioners (such as a poster on seeking compensation and guidance on representing trafficked persons in compensation claims) and sharing good practices, COMP.ACT has contributed to raising awareness about the importance of the issue of compensation for trafficked persons and exposing the structural and practical obstacles to access justice. In order to make compensation a reality for all trafficked persons, COMP.ACT has formulated a range of recommendations for further action; addressing stakeholders at the different levels from codifying the right to compensation, to the actual receipt of compensation by trafficking persons in practice.

Marketing and communication

LSI has identified the need to promote the cohesion and the shared vision of the network. One of the strategic goals of LSI in 2013 is to increase the visibility of LSI and the LS NGO platform.

The role of civil society is not fully recognised and supported in Europe, in particular in some European countries. The work of NGOs should be made more visible among a broader group and their best practices should be promoted, to ensure respect and a clear mandate for NGOs in the anti-trafficking field. For this reason, LSI employed a new freelance marketing manager in 2013. See also LSI NGO platform campaign.

LSI and (media) representation

The LSI Secretariat cooperated with the media on specific topics on multiple occasions. In general, the media requested contacts abroad and general information and statistics on human trafficking, the national situation in the LS countries and new legislation, and specific court cases or information on LS' work. More attention was received from the national press in comparison to foreign press outlets, in particular from the national written press, followed by national television and radio. Social media were also an important source of information sharing.

LSI observed that again in 2013, the focus of the media was often placed on sensationalised victim stories and on trafficking in the sex industry. 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. Rather, 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 2013 LSI regularly updated the news section on its website. LSI receives its updates via the LSI members, mailing lists, newsletters and other information sources.

The German organisation KOK -- has issued a statement on the portrayal of human trafficking in German media in 2013. KOK has noticed that the media often presents the issue of human trafficking as relating solely to issues of prostitution and immigration, and reports statistics which are not based on factual or reliable data. The statement added that the media often uses

stereotypical, sexualised images to portray victims, instead of focusing on the social and economic conditions that enable human trafficking and exploitation. KOK stresses the important role that media has in forming public opinion and recommends that journalists conduct sound research on the topic and acknowledge that there are no precise figures.

LSI also continued to update its **documentation centre**.

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.

LSI Newsletter

Four newsletters were published in 2013 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.

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



LSI Services and assistance provided

In 2013 LSI extended its support to trafficked persons: 1823 persons were provided with direct assistance, compared to 2013 in 2012.

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

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

Helplines

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



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system of identification and referral of trafficked persons. The helplines are utilised by individuals 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.

A total of 21 816 calls to national toll-free hotlines were reported during 2013 in all La Strada member countries, excluding the Netherlands¹², compared to 10 603 hotline calls in 2012 and 8 376 in 2011.

- Poland and Ukraine reported the majority of the calls (approximately 7,000 each), while Bulgaria reported the fewest (20). This is significant when looking at Bulgaria as a major country of origin.
- Hotline calls were mainly regarding prevention and counselling, along with other non-trafficking related requests.
- At least 104 victims of human trafficking were identified by hotlines in Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Macedonia, Moldova and Ukraine.
- In total 80 trafficked persons were registered by hotlines in Bulgaria, Belarus, Czech Republic, Macedonia, Moldova and Ukraine.

¹² In the NL calls are not counted, but individual cases are reported/registered

Most LSI members report an increase regarding inquiries about study and employment opportunities abroad and related bureaucratic issues (e.g. necessary papers, verification of job opportunities), safety concerns and requests for contact addresses and phone numbers. Additionally, questions are received about (international) marriages, domestic violence, and children's rights protection, along with requests for investigation on mistreatment and abuse by employers and questions related to sex work.

In 2013 La Strada Moldova published a study report “Hotline - a Decade of Activity”, to celebrate the tenth anniversary of their hotline. The publication represents a retrospective, analytical report on various aspects of migration and human trafficking. It covers the period from 1 September 2001 to 31 December 2011 and reflects the content of calls to the Hotline. The publication reviews the profiles and main categories of the received hotline calls, the trends in the provision of Hotline services (2001-2011), the dynamics of migration and human trafficking from the perspective of a La Strada Moldova and the role and impact of information campaigns in promoting the Hotline services. The report also contains conclusions and recommendations for the Moldovan Government and other national anti-trafficking actors. The report is available in Romanian.

Shelters

A number of the LSI members have reported challenges with sufficient and suitable shelters for trafficked persons. Due to lack of financial support of the LSI members, the assistance most difficult to provide to clients is financial support and basic necessities such as clothes, food and hygiene

items. LSI members also report facing difficulties with providing long-term accommodation and difficulties related to persons' immigration and residence status.

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 members of law enforcement.

This is done through several prevention and education activities, including but not limited to:

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

In this ever-changing digital world, LSI has realised that also the prevention and communication efforts must be adapted to fit new contexts and needs. The following are awareness campaigns designed to address new patterns and trends in human trafficking industries.

- La Strada Belarus launches new internet-campaign “Ask before you travel”
- La Strada Belarus new awareness campaign “Make your decision with open eyes”

- On 29 May Open Gate/La Strada Macedonia organised the final conference of the two-year project “Prevention of extreme violation of workers’ rights”.

Staff/Organisation

Staff LSI International Secretariat

Suzanne Hoff, International Coordinator

Marieke van Doorninck, Advisor Public Affairs

Wiesje Zikkenheiner, Project Manager (June & July 2013)

Sofia Skrypnyk (As from September 2013)

Borislav Gerasimov, Office manager

Mia McKenzie, Volunteer - English language editor

Staff changes at LSI Secretariat

In July, after more than three years of working at the International Secretariat, Wiesje Zikkenheiner, who managed the COMP.ACT, ENPATES and other projects, left the organisation to pursue a career in other fields. In September a new project manager was employed, Sofia Skrypnyk. Sofia manages the project “NGOs & Co - NGO-business engagement in addressing human trafficking”, and will be responsible both for the project implementation and the financial management. In addition, she will support the International Secretariat in the development and implementation of new projects and network strategies.

LSI Board members

Chair - Nadia Kozhouharova (Bulgaria) until November 2013 and then Irina Alkhovka (Belarus)

Treasurer - Irena Konecná (Czech Republic)

Secretary - Irina Alkhovka (Belarus), until November 2013 and then Ekaterina Levchenko (Ukraine)

General Assembly representatives

Belarus - Elena Nestsiaruk

Bulgaria - Nadia Kozhouharova, as from November 2013

Czech Republic - Lucie Otáhalová

Moldova - Daniela Misail-Nichitin

Macedonia - Jasmina Rajkovska

The Netherlands - Bas de Visser

Poland - Irena Dawid-Olczyk & Joanna Garnier

Ukraine - Lyudmyla Kovalchuk & Natalia Bonchkor

International events attended by LSI and LS members

- 6-21 April - Solidarity march for undocumented migrants, Belgium
- 9 April - Launch of the Global Human Trafficking Hotline Network, Washington, USA
- 22 April - CMW Day of general discussion “The role of migration statistics for treaty reporting and migration policies”, Geneva, Switzerland
- 22-23 April - Discovering Trafficking for the Purpose of Forced Labour and Labour Exploitation, Prague, Czech Republic
- 24-26 April FRA Sixth Fundamental Rights Platform, Vienna, Austria
- 31 May - Launch of EU Civil Society Platform against Trafficking in Human Beings, Brussels, Belgium
- 7 June -Fourth annual Symposium of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, Vienna, Austria
- 25-26 June 13th OSCE Alliance against Trafficking in Persons conference, Vienna, Austria
- 8-10 July - Meeting of the Global Human Trafficking Hotline Network, Prague, Czech Republic
- 25-27 September - Data protection conference, Berlin, Germany
- 9 November 19 Days of activism for prevention of violence against children and youth
- 25 November - 10 December 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence Campaign
- 10 October - Combating human trafficking: business and human rights, London, UK
- 10 October - Seminar “Is compensation for trafficked persons achievable?”, The Netherlands
- 10 October - Conference on human trafficking, Lisbon, Portugal
- 16 October - PICUM working group on fair working conditions, Brussels, Belgium

- 18 October - 7th EU Anti-Trafficking Day, Conference “Exploring the Links between the Internet and Trafficking in Human Beings: Cyberspace for Prevention, not Recruitment”, Vilnius, Lithuania
- 21-23 October - Civil Society Exchange & Networking Seminar on Trafficking in Human Beings, Nicosia, Cyprus
- 5-6 November - Final conference of the Danish programme against trafficking in Persons, Kiev, Ukraine
- 18-22 November - La Strada International General Assembly meeting and NGO Platform, Tallinn, Estonia
- 27-28 November - Putting Victims First: Conference on protecting and Promoting the Rights of Victims of Trafficking, Warsaw, Poland

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