

ANNUAL REPORT

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2025

La Strada International

Annual Report 2025

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2025 key figures



11

Reports and
publications



19

Open letters &
(joint) statements



9

International
projects



73

International
events



9

La Strada
events



3

La Strada
webinars

New International Projects

RESILIA

Eu-funded project, to improve access to trauma-informed care and psychosocial support for migrant, displaced, and trafficked persons who have experienced exploitation.

HOST

EU-funded initiative, to addresses labour exploitation and trafficking risks in the hospitality sector, where migrant workers and other vulnerable groups are often employed in precarious and low-paid conditions.

MOBILE

Eu-funded project, to improve the protection of third-country national workers in the EU.

Trafficked En Route

EU-funded initiative, to improve the identification, protection, and access to rights of third-country nationals vulnerable to trafficking and exploitation along migration and labour mobility routes.

We also joined:

EU Expert Group on Forced
Labour

EU Civil Society Platform against
Trafficking in Human Beings

EU Anti-Trafficking HUB

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Letter from the board

We are pleased to present La Strada International's Annual Report for 2025.

2025 marked our anniversary year, with 30 years of La Strada International, but also 25 years of the UN Palermo Protocol, and 20 years of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. The 2000 Palermo Protocol shaped the international response to human trafficking by establishing a global definition, legal standards, and an approach focused on prevention, victim protection, and prosecution and international cooperation. The 2005 Convention explicitly framed anti-trafficking measures as a human rights obligation.

Marking our 30th anniversary, the year offered an opportunity to reflect on our collective efforts to prevent human trafficking, support trafficked persons, and promote a human rights-based approach across Europe. At the same time, it underscored the persistent gaps in identification, protection, and the effective implementation of existing legal and policy frameworks.

Through our member organisations, several thousand people received assistance in 2025, including emergency support, psychosocial and legal assistance, safe accommodation, and longer-term reintegration services. Our members play a vital role in formal and informal national and cross-border referral mechanisms, with cooperation through the Platform helping to ensure access to rights and protection in practice.

In 2025, LSI further strengthened its engagement in European and international policy processes. A key milestone was our acceptance into several EU fora, including the EU Civil Society Platform against Trafficking in Human Beings, the EU Forced Labour Expert Group and the EUAA Vulnerability Expert Network, alongside our partnership in the EU Anti-Trafficking Hub. These appointments reflect the recognition of La Strada International's expertise by key European institutions. Throughout the year, we monitored European and international policy and legislative developments, particularly the transposition of the EU Anti-Trafficking Directive, the revision of the EU Victims' Rights Directive, the EU Forced Labour Ban Regulation, and other relevant international, regional law and national legal developments.

Throughout the year, LSI advanced a consistent rights-based agenda, advocating for stronger labour protections, victim-centred responses, migrant and displaced persons' rights, and robust safeguards against exploitation in global supply chains. It also worked to defend and expand civic space, calling for sustainable funding for civil society organisations and highlighting the growing risks that shrinking civic space poses to anti-trafficking work. These efforts, through statements, press releases, and participation in more than 70 international events ensured that the voices and rights of people affected by human trafficking, including migrant workers and third-country nationals in precarious situations, remained visible within European and international policy debates.

A particular highlight was the celebration of our 30th anniversary with a General Assembly and public conference in Warsaw, co-organised with the Polish Government and the Council of Europe Anti-Trafficking Division. Despite limited core funding and constrained resources, LSI continued to play an active role in shaping European and international anti-trafficking policy while supporting its members across Europe.

Knowledge-building remained a central pillar of LSI's work. In 2025, the organisation developed evidence on under-recognised and emerging forms of trafficking, including exploitation linked to forced marriage, surrogacy, and illegal adoption, as well as non-punishment practices. It also contributed to broader research agendas on victim identification, national referral mechanisms, compensation, and asset recovery. This work strengthened the evidence base for policy reform and improved understanding of complex and evolving forms of exploitation. In addition, LSI coordinated and contributed to multiple international projects addressing exploitative practices and access to rights.

During the year, we also developed our 2026–2030 organisational strategy, setting our priorities while strengthening organisational development and financial sustainability to ensure the Platform's long-term resilience and independence. Looking ahead, we will continue to prioritise the identification of trafficked persons, improve access to justice, strengthen accountability for exploitation, and promote the meaningful participation of affected persons. We will continue to invest in outreach, social support, awareness-raising, advocacy, and partnerships. Protecting civic space and promoting evidence-based policymaking across Europe will remain central to our work.

We extend our sincere thanks to our members, partners, funders, supporters, and colleagues for their continued commitment and collaboration. The achievements presented in this report reflect their dedication and our shared commitment to advancing the rights and protection of trafficked persons across Europe.

1 July 2026

Mona Chamass

Sarah de Hovre

Doro Winkler

Suzanne Hoff

La Strada International

Vision, Mission, Working principles & Core work

La Strada International is a European NGO Platform working to combat human trafficking from a human rights-based perspective. It supports trafficked persons by preventing human trafficking, providing access to appropriate assistance and support, and promoting access to justice and effective remedies. In 2025, it marked 30 years since the establishment of the first La Strada project. Today, the Platform brings together 32 member organisations across 24 European countries. With three decades of experience, La Strada International works to prevent human trafficking and to protect and uphold the rights of trafficked persons.

We believe in a world in which all people are free to migrate and work in the sector of their choice, free from abuse, exploitation and human trafficking, and able to rely on the respect of their rights both at home and abroad, as well as throughout their migration journey. Human trafficking can only be effectively addressed when root causes are tackled and human rights are recognised, respected, and fully realised.

La Strada International operates at a broad European level. While human trafficking is a global issue, the Platform focuses on developments in Europe, including both EU and non-EU countries, and on addressing all forms of trafficking in human beings. This is achieved through facilitating access to assistance and support for victims, conducting data collection and research, and promoting information exchange, capacity building, and cross-sector cooperation.

Member organisations provide psychosocial, medical, legal, and vocational counselling, safe accommodation, long-term reintegration support, and access to employment and other services for trafficked persons and those at risk. In addition, members strengthen awareness, knowledge, and capacities of relevant stakeholders, implement awareness-raising campaigns, and engage in national policy advocacy to drive systemic change.

The International Secretariat facilitates cooperation, capacity building, and knowledge exchange within the Platform, and supports the development of common standards and the integration of international developments into national practice. It also collects and analyses information to support evidence-based advocacy and works with international organisations and wider social movements to strengthen cooperation and impact. A key focus of this work is ensuring accountability for the effective implementation of international and European anti-trafficking policies and legislation.

La Strada International aims to be a transparent, open, and reliable knowledge actor, fulfilling a critical watchdog role. In this capacity, it engages independently with a wide range of stakeholders to strengthen collective action and enhance impact and accountability. The Platform recognises that counter-trafficking policies may have unintended negative consequences for the rights of trafficked and affected persons. It therefore advocates for systematic impact assessments of all anti-trafficking policies, legislation, and interventions, based on robust evidence and adequate data.

Our Impact in 2025 - Key Figures

Assistance and Support

- Approx. **5,400 presumed victims** assisted by members in 2024

Knowledge building and information sharing

- **11 publications** including 9 research papers developed (4 published in 2025) including 2 comparative legal studies covering 38 countries; and 1 book chapter

Projects & cooperation

- **9 international consortium projects** coordinated or supported of which 8 active project consortia ongoing in 2025

Events & engagement

- Contribution to **73 international events** and participation in regional conferences, and delegation exchanges with CoE, OSCE, ICMPD, and national authorities
- **9 events** organised by LSI including two study visits for the Council of Europe, a NGO Platform meeting with a high-level public event; next to co-organising the 2025 European Freedom From Slavery Forum.
- **3 webinars**
- **2 new associate members** welcomed (Helen Bamber Foundation, SHOP)
- Monthly member meetings held throughout the year

Communications & advocacy campaigns

- Multiple social media campaigns implemented across platforms
- **Annual awareness campaigns**, including: EU Anti-Trafficking Day activities; 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence; International Migrants Day campaign and Conscious Christmas Calendar
- **19 statements** issued including 5 standalone thematic statements published during key international days
- Participation in several joint civil society campaigns

Human trafficking in Europe in 2025

Trafficking in human beings is both a crime and a serious human rights violation. Across the world, men, women, and children are coerced, deceived, and abused through the exploitation of power or vulnerability into situations of severe exploitation. This may include sexual exploitation, forced labour, the forced removal of organs, slavery, or practices similar to slavery. Such exploitation occurs particularly in precarious sectors characterised by weak labour protections, including but not limited to the sex industry, construction, agriculture, hospitality, and domestic work. Increasingly, people are also trafficked for forced begging or compelled to engage in criminal activities such as pickpocketing, drug dealing, and cybercrime.

Trafficked persons experience multiple and intersecting human rights violations, ranging from restrictions on movement and confiscation of wages to severe physical, sexual, and psychological abuse. Human trafficking does not necessarily involve crossing international borders; it may also occur within a country, often referred to as domestic or internal trafficking. Although human trafficking is widely recognised as a grave human rights violation, support for trafficked persons remains inadequate. Only a small proportion of trafficked persons are formally identified, and an even smaller number receive adequate assistance and protection, including access to justice.

Human trafficking is rooted in global inequality, discrimination, oppressive social structures, exclusion, poverty, political instability, and armed conflict. These factors compel many people to seek work, safety, and stability away from their homes. At the same time, demand for cheap labour and low-cost products, combined with globalisation and the deregulation of labour markets, has increased workers' vulnerability to exploitation and abuse. Restrictive migration policies, complex and burdensome administrative systems, growing anti-migrant sentiment, and xenophobic rhetoric by public and political figures in many countries further contribute to the marginalisation and exploitation of migrants. While many trafficked persons are migrants, people can also be trafficked in their own country.

The latest *Global Estimates of Modern Slavery: Forced Labour and Forced Marriage* suggest that 50 million people worldwide are living in situations of forced labour or forced marriage. For Europe and Central Asia alone, an estimated 4.1 million people are in situations of forced labour.¹

In 2024, members of La Strada International (LSI) assisted at least **5,451 persons**². This represents a slight increase compared with previous years: in 2023, LSI members assisted 5,103 persons, while in 2022 approximately 4,000 persons received support.

Data and reports published between 2024 and 2026 by Eurostat, the EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator, Europol, Eurojust, the Council of Europe's GRETA monitoring body, the OSCE, and NGOs all point to

¹ International Labour Organization (ILO), Walk Free, and International Organization for Migration (IOM) (2022), *Global Estimates of Modern Slavery: Forced Labour and Forced Marriage*. Geneva: ILO.

² These figures are based on statistical data from 28 of LSI's 33 member organisations across 22 European countries.

the same conclusion: human trafficking in Europe is increasingly detected, becoming more complex and digitally enabled, and is increasingly linked to labour exploitation, migration, and organised crime.³

The main characteristics emerging from recent data and reports include:

- Sexual exploitation remains the most commonly identified form of human trafficking in Europe, particularly affecting women and girls. Human trafficking has a strong gender dimension, with women and girls facing heightened risks of exploitation and particular barriers to protection, justice, and recovery. However, the identification of severe forms of labour exploitation in various sectors has increased significantly and, in some countries, now equals or exceeds the number of sexual exploitation cases.
- Severe forms of labour exploitation are concentrated in sectors characterised by low regulation, and precarious working conditions, especially agriculture, construction, hospitality, domestic work, logistics, care work, and the platform economy. Migrant workers, temporary workers, undocumented migrants, and third-country nationals (TCNs) are particularly vulnerable.
- Human trafficking is increasingly transnational and closely linked to migration routes. Many victims are recruited through false employment offers, debt bondage, or irregular migration pathways. Restrictive migration policies are pushing migrants into greater dependence on mediators including smugglers, unethical recruiting agencies, employers, increasing their vulnerability to exploitation. Eurostat data indicates that the number of non-EU victims has tripled over the past decade⁴. The war in Ukraine, other wars and wider global instability have further increased vulnerability across Europe.
- Offenders are making increasing use of digital technologies, including of social media, encrypted messaging applications, AI-assisted recruitment, online advertising, cryptocurrency, and digital financial systems to recruit, control, transport, and exploit victims. Forced scamming operations — where people are trafficked and coerced into running online fraud schemes — were first identified on a large scale mainly in parts of Southeast Asia, but the phenomenon is increasingly spread and affecting Europe as well.
- Children remain particularly vulnerable, especially online. Reports describe increasing recruitment of minors through social media and growing concern regarding criminal exploitation, sexual exploitation, and trafficking linked to online grooming.

³ Eurostat – Trafficking in human beings statistics (Statistics Explained) - https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Trafficking_in_human_thb_statistics; European Commission – Trafficking in human beings (policy page); https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/internal-security/trafficking-human-beings_en; Europol – Trafficking in human beings (crime area overview) <https://www.europol.europa.eu/crime-areas/trafficking-in-human-beings>; <https://www.eurojust.europa.eu/annual-report-2024/trafficking-human-beings>; OSCE Countering Trafficking in Human Beings Programme – Survey/report (2026 findings page) <https://cthb.osce.org/cthb/662914>; GRETA (Council of Europe) – General Reports on GRETA activities <https://www.coe.int/en/web/anti-human-trafficking/general-reports>

⁴ www.home-affairs.ec.europa.eu

European context, challenges and developments

La Strada International operates in a complex and increasingly challenging global and European context. Ongoing wars and conflicts, in particular the continued war of the Russian Federation against Ukraine in Europe, alongside other global crises, are driving large-scale displacement and deepening insecurity for refugees. Uncertainty over the future of EU temporary protection beyond March 2027, together with wider geopolitical instability, further heightens precarity and increases the risk of exploitation for people on the move.

Across Europe, migration and asylum policies are becoming increasingly restrictive, reflected in the policy direction of current EU institutions and national governments, including the EU Asylum and Migration Pact adopted in 2024 and entering into force in June 2026.

In 2025, responses to trafficking continued to prioritise migration management, crime control linked to anti-smuggling policies and the criminalisation of irregularity, and the repression of sex work, rather than addressing structural drivers of exploitation or strengthening long-term protection for victims.

Restrictive migration policies, externalisation of border control, and continued cooperation with third countries such as Tunisia, Libya, Turkey, and Albania further compound these risks. This dominant anti-migration and anti-smuggling focus also undermines effective victim identification and protection, meaning that many severely exploited persons supported by La Strada International members are not formally recognised as victims and are excluded from access to rights and assistance.

Human trafficking in 2025 is further characterised by a growing digital and transnational dimension. Across Europe, there is increasing evidence that trafficked persons are being deceived through false job offers and then coerced into criminal activities, including online fraud, investment scams, phishing, money laundering, drug trafficking, and theft. These practices have expanded rapidly in both scale and geographical reach, including into Europe from hubs in Southeast Asia and other regions. Digital technologies are central to these operations, with criminal networks increasingly using encrypted communications, cryptocurrency payments, AI-enabled fraud tools, and sophisticated online recruitment methods. These scam operations are highly transnational and closely linked to organised crime groups that combine trafficking, cybercrime, and financial crime into integrated criminal business models.

Another growing concern is the systemic labour exploitation of migrants across Europe. Businesses continue to exploit legal loopholes to avoid accountability for labour abuses, including through complex subcontracting chains that obscure responsibility, the use of letterbox companies to distance lead firms from working conditions on the ground, and fragmented supply chains that make it difficult to trace labour practices across multiple tiers of production. In some sectors, such as construction, agriculture, hospitality, and domestic work, responsibility for working conditions is further diluted through layers of intermediaries, temporary agencies, and informal recruitment practices, which can facilitate exploitation and hinder effective enforcement of labour standards.

Legal and policy frameworks continue to develop, with key developments including the transposition of the amended EU Anti-Trafficking Directive, the Directive on Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence, the revised EU Victims' Rights Directive, and new EU due diligence and forced labour legislation. Yet progress is accompanied by worrying setbacks, as many progressive EU proposals to strengthen legislation have been significantly weakened during the negotiation process, or even after adoption, as we saw with the Omnibus proposal that weakened the CSDDD and other EU law.

Accountability remains limited, reflected in persistently low levels of investigations and prosecutions across Europe and significant gaps remain in enforcement, victim identification, and protection. Access to protection, support, and justice including access to legal aid and compensation, remains limited and often conditional on cooperation with law enforcement, while residence permits on humanitarian or personal grounds are rarely granted.

Next to the risk of not being identified as victims and not receive the protection and support, individuals are still too often detained, prosecuted, or punished for offences they were compelled to commit as a result of their trafficking situation. Safe reporting mechanisms remain inadequate, and people in irregular situations risk detention or deportation when reporting abuse.

Overall, the number of identified trafficked persons remains low in comparison to estimated prevalence, with many groups and forms of exploitation still under-recognised. Despite stronger legislation and policy frameworks, major implementation gaps remain. While there is significant legal progress across participating States, weak enforcement, limited victim identification, underfunded support systems, and low conviction rates continue to undermine anti-trafficking efforts, also as investigations remain highly complex and resource-intensive.

Civil society organisations face increasing pressure, while overstretched support systems struggle to meet rising demand. Civic space continues to shrink in parts of Europe, with organisations facing restrictions on funding, participation, and advocacy, and in some contexts being labelled as “foreign agents” or “undesirable organisations”. NGOs warn that the anti-trafficking field has expanded significantly over the past decade, but without sufficient coordination, monitoring, or evaluation of impact, raising concerns about the effectiveness of interventions and the gap between policy and practice. They also highlight a heavy and unsustainable reliance on under-resourced civil society organisations, which continue to face funding insecurity, staffing shortages, and growing demand for their services.

Strengthening the role, independence, and sustainable funding of civil society organisations is therefore essential to ensure effective protection, support, and evidence-based advocacy for trafficked and exploited persons in the future.

Ways forward

Looking ahead, we remain firmly committed to ensuring that the rights of trafficked persons remain at the centre of European and international policymaking. Safeguarding and strengthening these rights is not only essential, but urgent in light of ongoing developments in migration, labour markets, and criminal justice systems across Europe.

Despite a difficult operating environment, we have continued - together with other European NGO networks - to support Member States in developing more victim-centred approaches. This includes contributing to national anti-trafficking strategies, improving operational practices such as needs assessments and referral mechanisms, and strengthening cooperation between stakeholders involved in identification, assistance, and protection.

The direct support provided by LSI members to trafficked persons and those at risk remains at the core of our work. It is through this grassroots engagement that the Platform gains critical insight into developments on the ground and the lived realities of affected persons. The recognition, respect, and realisation of the rights of trafficked persons and other marginalised groups remain central to our mandate. We will continue to advance these rights through outreach, direct assistance, awareness-raising, information provision, research, monitoring, advocacy, and strategic partnerships. At the same time, we aim to further strengthen the capacity, sustainability, and reach of our Platform, ensuring that our services remain accessible and responsive.

A key priority for the coming years is to ensure that the voices and experiences of trafficked persons are more meaningfully embedded across all aspects of our work. This includes strengthening participatory approaches, involving affected persons in shaping policy positions, and improving the way their perspectives inform service provision, advocacy, and organisational development.

Strategic priorities 2026–2030

In 2025 La Strada International developed a new strategic plan, with the LSI board and General Assembly comprising all our members. This strategy plan was adopted in September 2025.

Over the next five years, La Strada International will use its combined strengths in advocacy, data collection, research, monitoring, direct assistance, prevention, partnerships, and strategic litigation to advance the following priorities:

Protecting the rights of trafficked persons, marginalised non-EU and EU workers, by:

- Enhancing outreach and improving access to information for groups at risk of exploitation.
- Strengthening needs assessments, early identification of presumed trafficked persons - including within mixed migration flows - and ensuring timely and appropriate referral to protection and support services.
- Promoting full access to justice, including safe reporting mechanisms, effective compensation, the application of the non-punishment principle, and access to residence rights.
- Demanding greater accountability for labour exploitation and abuse by companies, recruiters, and intermediaries across supply chains.

- Further embedding the participation of trafficked persons in our work through structured feedback, self-assessment, and meaningful involvement in programme and policy development.

Strengthening visibility, independence, and sustainability of our Platform by:

- Actively addressing the shrinking space for civil society in Europe and reinforcing our watchdog and advocacy role.
- Increasing the visibility of our work, objectives, and efforts to prevent human trafficking and related exploitation.
- Strengthening our Platform, membership, partnerships, and service delivery, while securing a more sustainable financial base.
- Building a stronger evidence base for effective policy and legislation, while addressing misinformation, gaps in implementation, and institutional shortcomings.
- Contributing to the development and strengthening of national and European coordination mechanisms, including National Referral Mechanisms (NRMs) and specialised focal points.

We look forward to continuing our work to combat human trafficking in the years ahead and remain committed to regularly reviewing and evaluating our progress, effectiveness, and impact. This strategy confirms our shared ambition to strengthen rights-based, victim-centred responses and to ensure that no one affected by trafficking is left without protection, support, and access to justice.

Providing assistance to (presumed) trafficked persons

In 2025, La Strada International members across Europe continued to provide essential, rights-based support to trafficked and exploited persons through holistic assistance, while also contributing to prevention, outreach, and systemic reform. Members collectively assisted several thousand people, reflecting sustained and, in many contexts, increasing demand for frontline services. Sexual and labour exploitation remained the most commonly identified forms, but increasingly LSI members also assist victims of forced criminality and other forms of exploitation.

Support services remained comprehensive and rights-based, including psychosocial, medical, legal and vocational assistance, alongside shelter provision, reintegration support, and specialised services for migrants and third-country nationals. Members also worked extensively with children and young people, particularly in relation to prevention, protection, and online safety. Demand for assistance remained high across contexts, reflecting both the scale and increasing complexity of exploitation, including labour and sexual exploitation as well as emerging forms linked to digital environments.

Hotlines and referral mechanisms remained a central entry point to protection, with many services operating 24/7. They provided immediate crisis response, safety planning, rights-based information, and referrals to specialised support, while also playing a key role in identifying presumed victims and facilitating access to shelters and legal protection. However, members continued to report uneven access to formal victim recognition and protection, particularly for migrants in irregular or precarious situations.

Alongside direct assistance, members maintained strong outreach and community-based engagement. Fundacion de Solidaridad Amaranta implemented the #CuidarEsTrabajar campaign focusing on migrant women in care work, while ASTRA's "Let's all be counted" campaign promoted awareness of the 116000 hotline for missing children and supported children and families through psycho-social and legal assistance. LSI and Open Gate in North Macedonia together launched the "I Do Not Consent to Forced Marriage" campaign.

Members also expanded digital and confidential support options for at-risk groups. La Strada Moldova launched a national online platform linked to its women's helpline, offering confidential chat and counselling for women and girls affected by violence and trafficking. FLEX in the UK continued developing safe reporting approaches for migrants with insecure status experiencing exploitation, aiming to reduce barriers to accessing support without fear of repercussions.

Overall, LSI members' direct assistance, helpline provision, and outreach consistently focused on women, migrant workers, and children and young people as key groups at risk. They addressed exploitation across sectors including care work, domestic work, agriculture, fisheries, hospitality, and construction, alongside emerging risks linked to digitalisation. Across all services, members reported continued challenges in identification and access to protection, reinforcing the central role of accessible helplines, outreach, and survivor-centred support across Europe.

Building evidence: data collection and research

La Strada International and its members register and analyse data on human trafficking in Europe in accordance with international privacy and data protection standards. All LSI members collect anonymised data on assisted persons, including country of origin, gender, age, type of exploitation and sector of exploitation, which is shared with national and international bodies for statistical and analytical purposes. The LSI Secretariat and members also conduct [research](#) at national and European level to strengthen the evidence base for advocacy and policy work. In this context, a [case collection](#) study on assisted Ukrainian refugees was conducted between November 2024 and February 2025 and published on 24 February 2025.

In 2025, LSI continued to develop its research work on trafficking, labour exploitation, migration governance and victim protection. An academic paper based on the 2023 research on the criminalisation of the knowing use of services by trafficked persons was published in 2025. Other research papers that LSI published in 2025, included a baseline report on trafficking for the exploitation of [forced marriage](#), as well as a base line report on the exploitation of [surrogacy](#), both including a European country legal review and case assessments, next to a complementary analytical paper on how the [exploitation of surrogacy](#) entered the EU Anti-Trafficking Directive.

Several additional research outputs were developed in 2025 and will be published in 2026. These include a baseline analysis on the exploitation of illegal adoption and a publication on [compensation](#) and asset recovery. A paper on identification was further developed, next to research into NRMs in the context of the THB Directive transposition process. La Strada International further contributed to a research paper under the European Commission's THB Hub framework related to trafficking for labour exploitation, which was launched on 16 December. LSI is further engaged in research papers to be published by the HUB on data collection and statistics, an ad hoc paper on the transposition of the EU Anti-Trafficking Directive, including NRMs, focal points and minimum standards and a separate paper on NRMs, which are all scheduled for publication in 2026.

Research outputs by LSI members

Across 2025, LSI members produced a substantial body of research and analytical publications addressing trafficking, forced labour, migration systems, labour exploitation and victim protection. FLEX published several research outputs, including the report [You get burnt out, you get exhausted": An initial exploration of workers' experiences in dark kitchens](#), ["Uneven fields: women workers' experiences of the Seasonal Worker Scheme"](#), a [Blueprint for safer and fairer migration for low-paid work](#) and research on [visa systems and worker-driven migration models](#).

ASTRA published ["\(Mis\)Use of Human Trafficking Victims' Experiences in Advocacy Processes"](#), the SPOT-ON! report ["Trends in the Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking \(2022–2024\) in Serbia, Albania and North Macedonia"](#), and [The Cyber Dimension of Human Trafficking](#) alongside policy recommendations on labour exploitation in Serbia.

Open Gate published an [analysis on forced marriage](#), examining coercion, poverty and institutional neglect, as well as case studies on victims' rights in criminal proceedings and a [Joint Conclusion from the Regional Conference on the Prevention of Forced Marriage](#) (2025).

Anti-Slavery International, in collaboration with ECCHR, published "[Understanding the EU Forced Labour Regulation: Assessment and Recommendations](#)", as well as research on [forced labour risks in the platform economy](#). It also produced factsheets on [state-imposed forced labour](#) and analyses of updates to the [UK National Referral Mechanism](#). KOK published a [report on tax debt among victims of forced prostitution](#) and issued recommendations for German coalition negotiations on trafficking and victim protection.

FIZ published outputs linked to its 40th anniversary programme, reflecting on four decades of anti-trafficking work, and co-developed an online course with the Swiss Refugee Council on trafficking in the asylum system. PAG-ASA published a special [30th anniversary report](#) documenting organisational impact and survivor testimonies.

CCEM released the multilingual "[Outils de prévention](#)" tool, providing guidance on labour rights and trafficking prevention. ACCEM developed training and academic materials through its [Training School](#), including programmes linked to a [Master's degree in Migration and Asylum Policy and Management](#). CoMensha published updated materials under its "[No Room for Sex Trafficking](#)" training and certification programme, focused on identifying sexual exploitation in hospitality and tourism sectors.

Together, these outputs reflect a strong and diverse research contribution from LSI members in 2025, addressing structural drivers of trafficking, labour exploitation and migration-related vulnerability across Europe.

Policy and advocacy contributions

Awareness-raising and advocacy are central to La Strada International's work to promote victim protection, accountability, and respect for fundamental rights. The Platform advocates for the rights of trafficked persons and other vulnerable groups, including migrants, and workers in precarious or informal sectors such as care work and sex work. LSI promotes labour rights, migrants' rights, and gender equality as essential measures to prevent exploitation and abuse.

A key objective of LSI's advocacy is to ensure the effective implementation of international and European legal standards, while strengthening accountability mechanisms. The Platform advocates for legislation that recognises and protects the rights of all trafficked persons and actively monitors its implementation. LSI also advocates for policies that address the root causes of trafficking, including poverty, social exclusion, inequality, discrimination, and lack of safe and legal migration pathways. Advocacy activities include engagement with European and intergovernmental institutions, including the European Union, the Council of Europe, the OSCE, and United Nations bodies, as well as media outreach, social media campaigns, petitions, joint statements, and coordinated NGO advocacy initiatives.

In 2025, La Strada International continued to promote a human rights-based approach to anti-trafficking policies and stronger protection for trafficked and exploited persons. Advocacy efforts focused particularly on victim protection, labour rights, safe migration, corporate accountability, and the recognition of all forms of trafficking and exploitation. LSI also continued to emphasise the importance of unconditional access to support services, safe reporting mechanisms, access to justice and compensation, effective application of the non-punishment principle, and the protection of civic space for civil society organisations.

La Strada International continued to monitor the detection and identification of presumed trafficked persons across Europe, where many individuals in situations of severe exploitation are still not formally recognised and therefore remain without access to adequate protection and support. Building on its Members' Working Group on identification established in 2022, LSI collected and analysed information on good and poor practices, which informed an advocacy policy paper scheduled for publication in 2026, while members also continued training professionals and conducting outreach to improve identification and support for at-risk group.

Global advocacy

At global level, LSI continued to follow key international policy processes, including the UNTOC review mechanism, and the work of UN Special Rapporteurs, CEDAW, IOM, ILO – and the development and application of relevant ILO conventions as well as the Alliance 8.7 initiative. In 2025, a new Global Action Plan on Human Trafficking was adopted, and several LSI members were in New York.

Throughout 2025, LSI also engaged with OSCE processes, including participation in the OSCE Alliance Conference and its Expert Group meetings, OSCE webinars and a visit by the Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings to La Strada International in the Netherlands. A representative of the OSR office also attended the LSI NGO Platform meeting in 2025.

Engagement with the Council of Europe remained strong. LSI maintained regular contact with the GRETA Secretariat, and participated in the meeting of the specialised Lawyers and NGO network in November, as well as followed the work of the Conference of International NGOs (CINGO), of which LSI is also member. The Executive Secretary of the Council of Europe Convention against Trafficking in Human Beings also attended the LSI NGO Platform meeting in 2025.

LSI's global advocacy was guided by its 2021–2025 strategic priorities, which include: countering shrinking space for civil society, ensuring unconditional access to support, recognition of all forms of trafficking, safe reporting mechanisms, access to residence and justice including compensation, fair labour and migration policies, and the principle of non-punishment.

European Union advocacy

A major area of advocacy in 2025 related to the EU, concerned the implementation and transposition of new and revised European legislation. A key milestone was the ongoing transposition of the revised EU Anti-Trafficking Directive (2024). Through its members, LSI closely monitored legislative and policy developments, particularly concerning the expanded definition of human trafficking, the formalisation of National Referral Mechanisms (NRMs), and the appointment of national focal points.

To support this work, LSI established at the end of 2025, a dedicated working group bringing together members focusing specifically on NRMs and focal points. LSI also increasingly highlighted the need to ensure recognition and protection for persons affected by emerging and often overlooked forms of exploitation, including forced marriage, illegal adoption, forced criminality, and surrogacy-related exploitation.

LSI further closely followed the revision of the EU Victims' Rights Directive, which aims to strengthen minimum standards for victim support across the European Union. Advocacy focused in particular on improving access to legal aid, strengthening data protection safeguards, ensuring safe reporting mechanisms and firewalls, and enhancing access to compensation for victims. Together with PICUM, LSI consulted with and provided input to Members of the European Parliament, issued joint statements, and participated in meetings of the EU Victims' Rights Platform and events organised by Victim Support Europe. LSI also monitored the implementation of the Directive on Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, and the Gender Equality Road map, and continued advocacy related to gender-based violence and harmful practices affecting women and girls.

Following its launch in June 2025, LSI began working closely with the EU Anti-Trafficking Hub, a new platform established by the EU Anti-Trafficking Office, bringing together expertise to strengthen efforts in combating and preventing trafficking in human beings. LSI has contributed to the Hub's research activities and provided key expertise to its outputs, supporting the implementation of the EU Anti-Trafficking Directive through research work on trafficking for labour exploitation, ad hoc questions in relation to the National Referral Mechanisms and related focal points, and statistical data collection.

The Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD), the related Omnibus proposal, and the EU Forced Labour Regulation remained central advocacy priorities throughout the year. LSI highlighted the importance of stronger corporate accountability measures and effective enforcement mechanisms to address forced labour and trafficking within supply chains. In September 2025, LSI applied to join the EU Informal Expert Group on Forced Labour and officially became a member in December, attending its first meeting with the European Commission later that month. LSI also continued its

engagement within an NGO consortium jointly monitoring developments related to the Forced Labour Regulation and broader corporate accountability frameworks.

Throughout 2025, LSI increasingly focused on the links between human trafficking, labour exploitation, migration governance, and precarious working conditions. Advocacy highlighted the risks created by restrictive migration systems, tied visa arrangements, exploitative recruitment practices, and weak labour protections, particularly affecting migrant and third-country national workers. Labour exploitation remained a key priority, including within sectors such as hospitality, tourism, cleaning, agriculture, care work, and platform-based labour.

On Human Rights Day, LSI published a statement highlighting exploitation in the hospitality sector and calling for fair working conditions, decent wages, social protection, and stronger safeguards for migrant workers.

Implementation of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum also remained highly relevant throughout the year, particularly in relation to victim identification, safeguards for vulnerable migrants, and the prevention of exploitation within migration systems. LSI continued to advocate for stronger protection for people on the move and highlighted the heightened risks of trafficking and exploitation faced by migrants and refugees along migration routes and within Europe.

Through PICUM, LSI also followed the Return Directive, Facilitation Directive, Smuggling Action Plan and Talent Pool initiative, primarily through coordination with partner organisations. Advocacy was also conducted related to Ukraine and the Temporary Protection Directive, including LSI's participation in UN Task Forces, PICUM working groups, joint statements and case-based evidence collection.

In addition to legislative advocacy, LSI undertook thematic campaigns, public statements, coalition-building, and engagement with European and international policy forums. Across all advocacy efforts, LSI worked to ensure that the experiences and rights of trafficked and exploited persons remained central to European and international anti-trafficking debates.

Shrinking civic space and human rights context

A cross-cutting priority in 2025 was the continued deterioration of civic space and human rights protections in parts of Europe and globally. LSI engaged in monitoring and joint advocacy on shrinking civic space in countries including Serbia, Hungary, Italy and Ukraine, as well as broader concerns related to funding cuts, particularly from US sources, and their impact on civil society organisations. LSI also organised exchanges with members and partners, including PICUM, to respond collectively to these challenges.

Member-led advocacy

Across 2025, LSI members continued sustained advocacy at national level, focusing on labour mobility, fair migration systems, and stronger protection frameworks. MRCI (Ireland) advocated for improved labour mobility for employment permit holders and reforms to family reunification rules, while FLEX (UK) called for systemic reform of migration governance, highlighting how restrictive visa systems and seasonal work schemes increase vulnerability to exploitation.

Members also engaged in advocacy on corporate accountability and forced labour. Anti-Slavery International contributed to EU and UK policy debates on the Forced Labour Regulation and called for stronger corporate accountability frameworks, including a UK Business, Human Rights and Environment Act. KOK contributed policy recommendations to German coalition negotiations, addressing victim protection gaps and financial harms, including unjust tax liabilities linked to exploitation.

A significant area of advocacy focused on victim identification and access to rights, including improved National Referral Mechanisms, coordination systems, and safeguards for trafficked persons. Members such as FIZ and Open Gate also advocated for stronger recognition of victims in asylum and criminal justice systems.

Members further strengthened advocacy on labour rights in key sectors such as agriculture, domestic work, fisheries, hospitality and platform work. FAIRWORK, FLEX and CCEM highlighted exploitative working conditions and called for stronger enforcement of labour standards, improved inspections, and protection for migrant and seasonal workers. CCEM's Fair Picking campaign brought together civil society actors to call for fair conditions in Europe's food supply chains.

Finally, members increasingly integrated survivor-centred, child protection and digital safety perspectives into their advocacy. ASTRA, La Strada Ukraine and Fundación de Solidaridad Amaranta led campaigns on online exploitation, child protection systems and ethical communication on trafficking, ensuring that lived experience continues to inform policy and practice.

Addressing Shrinking space

Changes in the legal and political environment, challenges in funding and access to resources, and obstacles to participation in policymaking continued to hinder the work of LSI members in 2025. As a follow-up to the 2023 research project on *Shrinking Civic Space in the Anti-Trafficking Field*, the LSI secretariat continued to monitor developments affecting civic space and increasingly raised the issue in its international advocacy work. LSI also contributed to joint NGO statements and collaborated with other civil society organisations and platforms to advocate for stronger protection of civic freedoms, sustainable funding, and meaningful participation of NGOs in policymaking processes.

Reports from civil society platforms, including LSI members, highlighted that organisations increasingly faced politicisation of their work, public disinformation campaigns, and heightened scrutiny of their funding sources and partnerships. In several countries, anti-trafficking and human rights organisations also reported growing hostility towards organisations working on migration, gender equality, labour rights, and social justice issues.

Overall, 2025 confirmed a continuing - and in some contexts deepening - trend of shrinking civic space across Europe and beyond. While there were important positive legal and policy developments at EU level, civil society actors continued to stress that independent advocacy, rights-based service provision, and meaningful participation in democratic processes remain under pressure.

In 2025 LSI co-signed statements expressing concern about Hungary's proposed "[Transparency of Public Life](#)" bill and Italy's Security Decree, both seen as threatening civic freedoms. LSI publications also referenced deteriorating civic space ratings in various European countries, as well as concerns about political pressure and shrinking democratic space in the Western Balkans.

A key area of attention in 2025 was the ongoing policy debate around the European Commission's proposal for a Directive aimed at protecting public spaces for civil society participation and safeguarding civic engagement, often referred to as the EU civic space initiative. Alongside other NGOs, LSI broadly welcomed efforts to strengthen protections for civic actors, while also calling for clearer safeguards regarding access to funding, non-discrimination, protection against strategic lawsuits against public participation (SLAPPs), and the inclusion of grassroots and migrant-led organisations. LSI also submitted input to the European Commission's consultation on the new EU Civil Society Strategy, emphasising the need for stronger protection of civil society organisations, sustainable long-term funding, and recognition of NGOs as equal partners in anti-trafficking policymaking and implementation.

Through its advocacy, research dissemination, public statements, and participation in NGO coalitions and platform meetings, LSI continued to highlight the direct impact that shrinking civic space has on the protection of trafficked persons and on the ability of civil society organisations to operate independently and effectively.

Promoting the non-punishment principle

Despite international and European legally binding standards on non-punishment, as well as the adoption of specific legislation in several countries, trafficked persons in Europe are still too often wrongly detained, prosecuted, and punished for offences they were compelled to commit as a direct consequence of being trafficked. This constitutes a serious human rights violation and a denial of justice, further deepening distrust in the criminal justice system among victims and affected communities.

Across Europe, LSI continues to observe significant variation in interpretation, limited awareness among legal professionals, and persistent shortcomings in the implementation of the non-punishment provision. While there are examples where the principle has been successfully applied, these remain the exception rather than the norm. LSI members consistently report failures to apply the non-punishment provision across all forms of trafficking, with particular concerns in cases of trafficking for forced criminality, where victims are too often automatically treated as perpetrators.

International projects in 2025

In 2025, La Strada International was involved in nine international projects, including three ongoing initiatives carried over from the previous year (Postcare II, Info Rights, and COMCRIM) and four newly launched projects (Mobile, HOST, Trafficked En Route, and Resilia). In addition, LSI commenced its work on the EU Anti-Trafficking Hub.

Postcare II

At the beginning of 2025, LSI contributed to the finalisation of the EU-funded *Postcare II* project, which focused on research into the posting of third-country nationals in European care services. The project aimed to inform and raise awareness among posted care workers about their rights, and to support employers in applying the EU Posted Workers Directive in ways that prevent exploitation and abuse. As part of the project, an online information portal and additional tools were developed to improve access to rights-based information for posted workers across Europe.

INFO Rights – Posting of Workers in Agriculture and Manufacturing

The second year of the EU-funded *INFO Rights* project focused on strengthening the capacities of key stakeholders, including workers, employers, and social partners, to ensure compliance with EU law and the promotion of decent working conditions in intra-EU posting.

The project concentrates on the agriculture and manufacturing sectors, with particular attention to posting arrangements via temporary work agencies. During 2024–2025, the consortium developed a chatbot and a series of vlogs to provide accessible, high-quality information on employment conditions for posted workers. The project also addressed the misuse of EU posting schemes to recruit and employ third-country national workers under exploitative conditions. LSI supported the development of these tools, including the chatbot, which is available via the project platform.

COMCRIM

This interdisciplinary public–private research project focuses on examining crimes that undermine democracy and the rule of law in and through the Netherlands, including human trafficking. The project brings together over 28 academic, financial, and institutional partners, including La Strada International, as well as members FairWork and CoMensha. Next to a consortium partner, LSI is also member of the Project Advisory Committee (PAC).

The project research focuses on identifying criminal patterns through unconventional data sources such as banking records, with the aim of mapping networks and financial flows linked to serious crime. The project runs from September 2024 over five years. In 2025, LSI participated meetings of the consortium and the Project Advisory Committee, as well as meetings with PhD researchers, providing input and consultation to ongoing research work.

Open Gate Forced Marriage project (2024–2025)

The project “Improving the Prevention and Care for Victims of Forced Marriages”, with support from the French Embassy in North Macedonia (France’s Fonds Équipe France / FEF-R) was coordinated by Open Gate, La Strada North Macedonia and implemented with La Strada International. The project addressed forced marriage as a form of gender-based violence and human trafficking, aiming to strengthen prevention, improve identification and support mechanisms, and enhance evidence-based policy responses in North Macedonia and the wider Western Balkans region.

Key activities included joint research on forced marriage in the context of human trafficking, the development of policy recommendations, and awareness-raising efforts, including the “I Do Not Consent to Forced Marriage” campaign. A central component was the Regional Conference on the Prevention of Forced Marriage held in Skopje (10–12 September 2025), which brought together governments, civil society, international organisations, and victim advocates to discuss legal gaps, protection frameworks, and cross-border cooperation. The project contributed to improved regional dialogue, strengthened understanding of forced marriage as a form of exploitation, and supported the development of more coordinated, survivor-centred responses.

Mobile

The [MOBILE project – Facilitating Intra-EU Labour Mobility of Third-Country Nationals](#) (TCNs) is a 2025–2027 European consortium initiative aimed at improving the protection of TCN workers within the EU. It addresses structural risks of labour exploitation linked to fragmented regulation, limited labour mobility, and unequal access to rights, which can leave workers in precarious employment and more vulnerable to abuse.

Implemented by a consortium of European social partners, research bodies, and civil society organisations, including La Strada International, the project promotes fair labour mobility through research, policy dialogue, and capacity-building activities across several EU countries. Its overall goal is to strengthen workers’ rights, improve cooperation between stakeholders, and reduce risks of exploitation in intra-EU labour mobility.

Trafficking En Route

The [Trafficked En Route](#) project (July 2025–June 2027) is a European initiative focused on improving the identification, protection, and access to rights of third-country nationals who are vulnerable to trafficking and exploitation along migration and labour mobility routes within and into the EU. It addresses gaps in support for people who are exploited during transit or shortly after arrival, when risks of forced labour, coercion, and abuse are particularly high and often remain undetected within existing systems. Coordinated by LSI’s member FairWork and implemented together with a consortium of European partners including La Strada International, the project combines research, capacity-building, and cross-border cooperation to strengthen early identification mechanisms, improve referral pathways, and enhance coordination between frontline actors.

It also seeks to inform policy development at national and EU level, with the aim of ensuring more effective, rights-based responses for trafficked persons “en route” and reducing the risk of re-exploitation. In 2025, LSI contributed to the project kick-off in September 2025, in Amsterdam,

conducted a stakeholder mapping, and supported the development of Terms of Reference for the Advisory Board.

HOST

The HOST project (June 2025–June 2027) is a European initiative focused on addressing labour exploitation and trafficking risks in the hospitality sector, where migrant workers and other vulnerable groups are often employed in precarious and low-paid conditions. The project aims to strengthen prevention, early identification, and protection mechanisms by improving awareness of exploitation risks and supporting the development of fair and safe working environments in hotels, restaurants, and related services. Coordinated by the Greek NGO KMOP, and implemented with a consortium of European partners including La Strada International, HOST combines research, training, and multi-stakeholder cooperation to improve responses to exploitation in the sector.

It works with employers, trade unions, civil society organisations, and frontline professionals to promote ethical recruitment, strengthen labour rights enforcement, and enhance victim-centred support systems across participating countries. In 2025, LSI participated in the kick-off meeting and platform workshop, conducted a set of interviews with European stakeholders, and engaged with municipal and private sector stakeholders in Amsterdam.

Resilia

The [RESILIA project](#) (October 2025–September 2027) is a European initiative focused on improving access to trauma-informed care and psychosocial support for migrant, displaced, and trafficked persons who have experienced exploitation and violence. It recognises that recovery and long-term integration are often hindered by gaps in mental health services, limited specialised support, and barriers to accessing appropriate care. Coordinated by Piaget in Portugal and implemented with a consortium of European partners including La Strada International, RESILIA works to strengthen multidisciplinary responses by developing tools, training, and good practice exchange for professionals supporting affected individuals. The project promotes trauma-informed and survivor-centred approaches, aiming to improve the quality, accessibility, and coordination of mental health and psychosocial support services across participating countries.

Following the formal start and kick-off meeting in Lisbon in November 2025, LSI began the developments for a stakeholder mapping of survivor-led platforms and networks, participated in monthly coordination meetings, and initiated advocacy engagement with relevant international stakeholders.

PhD Studentship with University of Dundee and Edinburgh Napier University

La Strada International, in collaboration with the University of Dundee and Edinburgh Napier University, has engaged in research partnerships examining the structures, sources, and impact of funding for anti-trafficking work. Building on earlier joint academic work on funding of anti-trafficking initiatives, a fully-funded PhD [studentship](#), supported by the [Scottish Graduate School of Social Science](#) (SGSSS) / ESRC Doctoral Training Partnership, has been offered in the framework of a project, titled *“Following the Money: Anti-Trafficking Funding, Networks, and Commodity Chains”*. This project

will explore how funding arrangements shape anti-trafficking efforts, including the impact of recent and significant changes to international development aid regimes. A key aim is to strengthen the evidence base on how funding shapes anti-trafficking responses, including its effects on NGOs, service provision, and advocacy independence. This work supports broader efforts to improve transparency, sustainability, and effectiveness in anti-trafficking funding policies in Europe and beyond. In 2025, the position was advertised, a PhD candidate was selected, with preparatory meetings held in late 2025 and the research has now started. LSI is part of the supervisory team and regularly provides consultation and advice.

Visibility and (social) media work

Awareness of human trafficking has increased significantly in recent years, with growing attention from national and international governmental bodies, as well as the media. However, media and policy narratives often remain focusing predominantly on exploitation in the sex industry. Against this backdrop, LSI works to promote a more accurate and comprehensive understanding of human trafficking, its root causes, and its diverse forms of exploitation.

Social media and awareness-raising activities

In addition to regular statements issued on key dates (8 March, 30 July, 18 October, and 10 December), LSI carried out a range of targeted awareness-raising initiatives throughout 2025. These included the cooperation in the *No Penalty* campaign, which was launched on 25 June, bringing together high-profile female football players, leading travel and hospitality companies (including Booking.com and KLM), and NGOs to raise awareness and encourage action against human trafficking. Quarterly meetings have since been established with participating private sector partners to strengthen engagement and follow-up.

LSI also revised and re-shared its 30th Anniversary video and conducted interviews with members to highlight key developments in anti-trafficking work (materials pending publication).

To mark EU Anti-Trafficking Day (18 October), LSI organised a week-long awareness campaign focusing on newly recognised forms of exploitation included in the revised EU Anti-Trafficking Directive, namely trafficking for the exploitation of surrogacy, forced marriage, and illegal adoption. The campaign combined a coordinated social media effort with two expert webinars examining the complexities of these forms of exploitation and their links to human trafficking. The week concluded with a public statement calling on EU institutions and Member States to strengthen responses to all forms of trafficking and ensure access to protection, justice, and support for affected persons.

LSI also participated in – and joined the launch of – the global *16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence* (25 November–10 December), contributing daily social media content highlighting links between gender-based violence, exploitation, and human trafficking, in alignment with the broader UN campaign.

In addition, LSI produced the fourth edition of its *Conscious Christmas Advent Calendar*, which drew attention to the labour conditions and supply chains behind consumer products and services during the holiday season.

Throughout the year, LSI also joined several external campaigns and advocacy initiatives led by partner organisations, including Victim Support Europe, Missing Children Europe and PICUM, reinforcing collective efforts to address human trafficking and related forms of exploitation. LSI launched 12 newsletters in 2025 which are disseminated to over 2000 stakeholders across Europe.

Social media reach results

- 12 Newsletters
- Website: 71 posts, averaging 5–6 posts per month (in comparison: 69 in 2024 and 64 in 2023)
- Facebook: 74 posts (January–June), including increased activity during the 16 Days campaign (Facebook: Impressions: (in 2024 this was: 4644 / Projection: 18576; Engagement: 111 / Projection: 444)
- Instagram: 74 posts, with 24 205 Visualisations, 965 Interactions, and 231 followers. In 2024 this was (then only operational for 90 days); impressions: 2793 / Projection: 11172; engagement: 174 / Projection: 696
- LinkedIn: 167 (in 2024 this was 344; Impressions (People who have seen our Posts): 42.926 and engagement (Likes, Shares, Comments): 1013)
- LinkedIn: 167 posts, with 51,421 Impressions (~+20% increase compared with 2024), 1,569 engagement (reactions, comments, reposts): (1,495 reactions + 30 comments + 44 reposts) [+556 engagements (~+55% increase) compared to 2024], 2,254 page views [compared to only 344 in 2024]. Followers: 3,495 followers (+655 compared to 2024). Newsletter on LinkedIn: New channel launched in April 2025. 915 subscribers, 2,774 impressions
- Campaigns (16 Days of Activism – VAW), 2025: Instagram: 139 visualisations, 217 impressions, +14 followers. LinkedIn: 4,820 impressions

Statements

In 2025, La Strada International further strengthened its collective advocacy voice by publishing and co-signing a total of 19 statements (6 own and 13 joint) compared to 10 in 2024.

The statements focused on strengthening human rights, labour rights, and rule-of-law standards in European and international policy. A central theme was corporate accountability, including opposition to the EU Omnibus proposal and calls to strengthen and properly implement due diligence and forced labour regulations, including concerns about state-imposed forced labour. We also addressed gender equality and violence against women, including work on consent, gender stereotypes, and the recognition of forced marriage as a form of human trafficking. Demands further related to migration and protection policies, particularly support for people displaced from Ukraine under the Temporary Protection Directive and concerns about restrictive return and deportation measures.

In addition, LSI worked in civil society coalitions to defend civic space, NGO independence, and sustainable funding, while also contributing to anti-corruption and rule-of-law debates at EU and UN level. These statements addressed key moments in the international human rights and anti-trafficking calendar, including Women’s Rights Day (8 March), the Global Day against Trafficking in Human Beings (30 July), EU Anti-Trafficking Day (18 October), and Human Rights Day (10 December), as well as major EU and UN policy processes.

- **14 January** – [joint statement](#) Omnibus proposal - 168 NGOs call upon the European Commission to actively safeguard EU corporate accountability laws, reaffirm the official timeline for their transposition and implementation, and ensure full transparency regarding the Omnibus process.
- **January** - joint [Input to the addendum to the report of the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls](#) on the concept of consent in relation to violence against women and girls.
- **9 February** – La Strada International co-signed a [Position Paper on Gender Stereotypes](#), submitted by the Dutch CEDAW network as input for the CEDAW’s General Discussion on Gender Stereotypes.
- **12 February** - La Strada International joined more than 60 organisations in signing a joint [statement](#) calling on EU leaders to step up and protect Global Development Aid in response to alarming policy shifts by the Trump administration.
- **19 February** - LSI has co-signed a [joint statement](#) calling for sustainable and independent support for civil society.
- **4 March** – [joint statement](#) on Three years since the activation of the Temporary Protection Directive: from emergency to longer-term solutions – calling upon EU Member States not to roll back support to people displaced from Ukraine, and to fully implement the provisions enshrined in the TPD.
- **6 March** - La Strada International has co-signed a [statement](#) sharing our solidarity with the people of Serbia. Together with over 130 civil society organisations (CSOs), we have expressed our concern with the recent developments in Serbia, particularly the escalating repression and attacks on civil society and critical voices in the country, including [police raids](#) on five prominent non-governmental organisations in Serbia.
- **8 March** - On the occasion of International Women’s Day, La Strada International launched a [statement](#), calling for more attention for forced marriage as a crime and as a form of human trafficking.
- **10 March** - we co-signed with 361 CSO's a [joint statement](#) opposing the European Commission’s Omnibus proposal, which seeks to scale back key sustainability laws and reduce obligations for businesses.
- **12 May** - LSI endorsed an [open letter](#) to the Human Rights Council (HRC) urging Member States to mandate a comprehensive study that translates existing theoretical frameworks into practical recommendations, providing States and institutions with tools, policies, and guidance to better integrate human rights into anti-corruption efforts.
- **22 May** - LSI co-signed a [letter on fighting corruption](#), initiated by Transparency International and TI EU, who have been actively advocating at the EU Council and Parliament, and throughout the trilogue process for a strong EU Anti-corruption Directive and to uphold and strengthen the robust provisions adopted by the European Parliament in the proposed directive.
- **28 May** - Further, with over 300 national and international CSOs, La Strada International co-signed an [open letter](#) to the EU Commission to express concerns about the “Transparency of Public Life” bill, which enables the Hungarian government to target, defund and dissolve any organisation it designates as a threat to Hungarian sovereignty. Finally, LSI signed, together

with over 80 CSOs, a joint letter to Commissioner McGrath raising urgent concerns about the Security Decree and wider shrinking civic space and rule of law in Italy.

- **30 July** – [LSI statement](#) on Global Day against Trafficking in Human Beings.
- **15 September** – LSI provided its [input for the EU Civil Society Strategy](#).
- **15 September** – LSI signed a [joint statement](#) on inhumane deportation rules related to the return directive.
- **18 October** – LSI [Statement](#) on all forms of THB for EU Anti-Trafficking Day.
- **27 October** – LSI and Open Gate published [joint conclusions](#) on forced marriage event.
- **November** – [publication on due diligence in relation to State Imposed Forced Labour](#) by Anti-Slavery International, launched at a side event at the 14th UN Business and Human Rights Forum 2025, addressing forced labour and human rights due diligence.
- **10 December** – LSI [Statement for Human Rights Day](#).

Publications & statements (and submissions)

In 2025, La Strada International published 11 research and policy outputs on emerging and under-recognised forms of trafficking, including forced marriage, surrogacy-related exploitation, and trafficking risks among displaced Ukrainians. It also produced an overview of member data on victim assistance.

Additional work focused on strengthening legal and policy frameworks, including analysis of the non-punishment principle, a policy brief on the EU Forced Labour Product Ban Regulation, and contributions to academic debate on the criminalisation of the use of services of trafficked persons. Together, these publications aim to strengthen evidence-based advocacy and improve victim protection and accountability in Europe.

- **24 February** - [LSI Report: Trafficking Risks Among Displaced Ukrainians - La Strada International](#)
- **April** - Policy brief with ASI - [Recommendations for the Designation of National Competent Authorities under the EU Forced Labour Product Ban Regulation](#)
- **13 May 2025**, the book [Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation Around the World](#) including LSI's Chapter 13 - A critical look at the criminalization of the "Use of Services" of trafficked persons.
- **June** – LSI published the Romanian version of the [Explanatory brief on non-Punishment](#) – it is now available in 10 languages, see [LSI Focus Areas](#).
- **1 July** – LSI published its 2024 [Annual report](#) and [Financial report](#)
- **18 October** – LSI published an overview of LSI members [data on victim assistance](#) by Irina Ionita.
- **27 October** – Publication of the two papers on the exploitation of surrogacy; [baseline report](#) and [short paper on surrogacy becoming part of the THB Directive definition](#).
- **25 November** – publication of the (exploitation of) [Forced Marriage report](#).

Events and International Representation

In 2025, La Strada International organised and co-organised nine international events, including three webinars, and two study visits on key anti-trafficking themes, including funding, forced marriage, surrogacy, and victim compensation. These included exchanges with Council of Europe delegations from North Macedonia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as thematic webinars on emerging forms of exploitation.

The organisation also co-hosted major gatherings such as the Freedom from Slavery event, a public conference in Warsaw with the Council of Europe and the Polish government, and its annual NGO Platform meeting, strengthening cooperation and policy dialogue across Europe.

- **30 April** - [Webinar on where is the funding](#) – US funding cuts
- **5 – 7 May** - [Freedom from Slavery event](#) – co-hosted (5-7 May)
- **12-15 May** - La Strada International co-organised with the Council of Europe a [study visit for the North Macedonian State Commission](#) on Compensation for Victims of Violent Crimes to the Netherlands.
- **10 - 12 September** - [Forced Marriage event](#) with Open Gate
- **18 September** - [Public event](#) with CoE, Government of Poland and LS Poland
- **17 – 19 September** - NGO Platform
- **6 - 7 October** - [Study visit on compensation and legal aid](#) for CoE delegation from Bosnia Herzegovina.
- **16 October** - **webinar** exploitation of surrogacy
- **17 October** - **webinar** exploitation of forced marriage

International Representation

Throughout 2025, La Strada International participated in a very broad range of international events combining high-level policy forums, UN and EU consultations, and civil society and NGO-led exchanges. High-level engagement included meetings and conferences with the European Commission, European Parliament, Council of Europe, OSCE, UNODC, and EU Presidencies, focusing on legislation, victim protection, forced labour, migration governance, and the implementation of EU and international anti-trafficking frameworks.

At the same time, LSI actively contributed to NGO and practitioner-led spaces, including survivor-focused forums, academic collaborations, project events, and thematic workshops on issues such as forced marriage, surrogacy, labour exploitation, funding, and non-punishment.

This included both co-organisation of major conferences and participation in numerous webinars, consultations, and project meetings, ensuring continuous dialogue between grassroots organisations, experts, and policymakers across Europe and globally. Overall, the year reflects a strong balance between high-level advocacy and sustained engagement in operational, research, and civil society exchange platforms. In total **LSI contributed to 73 International events** (in comparison we attended **56** events in 2024).

January

- **8 January** – (online) launch global report on THB, UNODC
- **21 January** (online) EP event New EU regulation prohibiting products made with forced labour
- **23 January** – (online) EU consultation meeting on EU Road Map on Gender Equality
- **24 January** – (online) Final conference: "Care4Care: from precarious to safe working conditions" – a project focusing on domestic workers in Austria, Slovakia and Romania, organised by our member LEFO IBF, Vienna Austria.
- **24 January** (online) - members PAYOKE and MIST and others Online Conference - More than their stories: communicating about human trafficking with dignity to challenge stereotypes and empower survivors.
- **29 January** (online) - FRA's consultation on forced labour and workers' rights under CSDDD and FLR

February

- **13 February** – (online) Event on Cotton and Cotton Products Made With State-Imposed Forced Labor: When Disengagement Is The Only Responsible Course Of Action
- **19 February** – (online) launch of UNODC Research Study: Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants in the Context of the Displacement caused by the War in Ukraine.
- **20 February** – (live) Victim Support Europe final conference of the BeneVict project, Brussels, Belgium (Renaissance Brussels Hotel).
- **20 February** – (live) meeting with Polish EU presidency, on revision Victim Rights Directive, Brussels, Belgium

March

- **8 March** (live) award launch Irina Alkhovka, Berlin, Germany
- **13 March** – (online) webinar by the CoE THB specialised lawyers and NGO network
- **20 March** – (live) meeting by ELA on Posted Work
- **21 March** – (online) event by Adpare and MIST
- **24 March** – (online) UNODC Civil Society Coordination meeting
- **26-27 March** – (online) UNODC Regional Conference: "Addressing Trafficking in Persons for Sexual and Labour Exploitation in South-Eastern Europe: Challenges, Promising Practices, and the Role of Modern Technology"
- **31 March – 1 April** – (live) 25th OSCE Alliance Conference on Child Trafficking including side event by Missing Children Europe and ASTRA

April

- **8 April** – (online) Launch of the Report by the Global Commission on Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking UN Headquarters, New York.
- **9 - 10 April** – (live) Conference by Polish EU Presidency "Together Against Human Trafficking for Forced Labour and Labour Exploitation: Current Responses and a Way Forward", Warsaw Poland. (LSI represented by LS Poland)

- **11 April** – visit Turkish delegation to the Netherlands (Eefje represents LSI, with Natalia and Nerea)
- **17 April** – (online) La Strada International lunch webinar in cooperation with Napier University on where is the funding for AT Work, elaborating on the impact of the US funding freezes and other funding cuts, earlier ATR research and the PHD post that LSI has launched with Napier and Dundee University for further research on where is the funding for AT work.
- **23-24 April**, (online) UNODC regional conference, Nadia speaks and SH
- **24 April** – (online) ITUC Global Webinar: For Democracy that Delivers for Platform Workers.

May

- **5-7 May** – (live) [Freedom from Slavery Forum](#) Brussels, Belgium
- **8 May** (live) final conference of the project DIRECT -Action Against Exploitation, Brussels Belgium
- **13 May** – (live) Meeting with EU ATC office – for THB HUB, Brussels, Belgium
- **13-15 May** – (live) study visit for CoE – North Macedonia, Netherlands – Nerea and SH
- **15 May** – (live) Event by Dutch Rapporteur celebration of 25th anniversary
- **15 – 16 May** (live) - PICUM General Assembly 2025 on 15-16 May;
- **21 May** – (online) event on Cotton Campaign – Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.
- **22 May** - (online) Webinar: Litigation to the CJEU, Immigration Detention and Alternatives to Detention of Children
- **23 May** (live) – (live) Benelux event on the THB Directive revision, Brussels, Belgium
- **26 May** – (live) Conflict-Related Sexual Violence & Trafficking, Bruxelles – launch of the report “Understanding the nexus between conflict-related sexual violence and trafficking in persons for sexual exploitation”, commissioned by SRSB Pramila Patten’s Team Rule of Law Experts
- **26-27 March** - (online) UNODC Regional Conference: “Addressing Trafficking in Persons for Sexual and Labour Exploitation in South-Eastern Europe: Challenges, Promising Practices, and the Role of Modern Technology”

June

- **3 June** - (online) ICMPD vent on exit strategies for the EU’s temporary protection regime beyond March 2026.
- **6 June** – (live) NACR – launch of THB Hub, Brussels Belgium
- **10 - 11 June** – (live) Council of Europe conference on “Empowering Change: Technology and AI in the Fight against Human Trafficking”, The Xara Lodge in Rabat, Malta.
- **17 June** – (online) closed consultation on surrogacy (17/6) by UNSR on VAW
- **18-19 June** – (online) UNODC Regional Conference Hidden Victims, Visible Crimes: Addressing Forced Criminality in Human Trafficking Cases in South Eastern Europe” - Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. [Presentation non-punishment report](#).
- **20 June** – (Live) Workshop on Human Rights and Displacement organised by Napier University in Edinburgh, UK
- **24 June** – (online) kick off Mobile project
- **25 June** - (online) launch of No Penalty Campaign, with UEFA and others
- **25 June** – (online) meeting on indicators of sexual exploitation online, Turing institute
- **30 June** – (live) guest lecture US students

July & August

- **2 July** – (online) - UNDP FAST Initiative & OSCE Panel on IFF and MS/HT
- **8 July** – (live) - CoE round table in the Hague, to discuss GRETA's 3rd round report and the related Committee of the Parties (COP), The Hague Netherlands
- **15 July** - (live) Kick off HOST project - Tackling Human Trafficking in the Hospitality Sector was launched in Athens, Greece.
- **30 July** – UNODC event on Global Day against THB

September

- **10-12 September** - (live) Forced Marriage event, Skopje North Macedonia
- **17-19 September** - (live) NGO Platform, Warsaw Poland
- **23 September** - (online), NACR workshop for THB Hub on Data collection
- **25-26 September** - (live) Kick off trafficked En Route, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- **30 September** – (online) EU CSP meeting.

October

- **7 - 8 October** – (live) study visit for CoE, Netherlands
- **14 October** – (online) COMCRIM PAC meeting
- **15 October** – (online) meeting with EU Commissioner Bruner with PICUM – FairWork also present.
- **16 October** - (online) Austrian THB conference, Vienna, Austria
- **17 October** – (online) meeting with EIGE
- **28 October** – (live) Event on Temporary Protection Directive, Brussels, Belgium
- **31 October** – (live) visit OVSE OSR to office of LSI

November

- **3 - 4 November** –(live) meeting of [CoE specialised network of lawyers and NGOs](#), Strasbourg, France.
- **5 – 6 November** - (live) Kick of Resilia Project, Lisbon, Portugal
- **6 November** - (online) meeting with EU ATC office
- **12 - 13 November** - (online) UNODC regional conference in Skopje focused on strengthening National Referral Mechanisms. LSI, La Strada Moldova and Open Gate spoke at the event.
- **17 – 20 November** – (live) LSI participated two GAATW meetings in Bangkok on the global criminal justice framework, namely “Alternative justice approaches to gender-based violence and human trafficking”, and “How can justice be achieved without using criminal law and institutions?”; and GAATW’s strategy directions, including issues related to forced labour and human trafficking
- **24 November** – (live) Symposium by CoMensha, the Dutch National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings and Sexual Violence against Children, the Ministry of Justice and Security and the Association of Netherlands Municipalities (VNG) focusing on networking among all relevant Dutch anti-trafficking parties, such as healthcare workers, police, municipal agencies, and inspection services, and seeking a deeper understanding of approaches to tackling human trafficking. (LSI contributed to a workshop on NRMs).

- **28 November** – (live) VSE Event, Brussels, Belgium
- **28 November** - (online), Event on litigation before the ECtHR - Immigration detention and alternatives to detention of children

December

- **1 December** - (online) workshop with NACR on NRMs, Brussel Belgium
- **2 December** – (live) event hosted by MEP López Aguilar and supported by UNODC on "Shaping the Future: Tackling Human Trafficking in a Changing Europe", at the European Parliament, in Brussels.
- **5 December** - (live) Event by KMOP, from 14:00 to 18:00 (CET) at Residence Palace, Brussels, Belgium
- **8 December** – (live) First meeting of the informal EU Expert Group on Forced Labour.
- **16 December** – (live) EU Civil Society Platform and NACR, Brussels Belgium

Representation of the Platform by LSI members

LSI members attended many more international events, LSI was at least represented by LSI members at these high-level events:

- **CSW**, New York, US (Open Gate)
- **24 - 25 June**, UNDOC global forum for survivors, Vienna, Austria. (Open Gate, LEFO and FIZ)
- **Early October**, Constructive Dialogues (LEFO, KOK)
- **27 - 28 November** - 10th European Migration Forum, in Brussels, by the European Commission and the European Economic and Social Committee. (ACCEM, Amaranta, Ban Ying)
- **Week of 20 November** - HopeNow & Payoke, were present at the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the appraisal of the UN Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons in New York.

Cooperation and partnerships

La Strada International has built an extensive network of contacts and allies over the last 30 years. These include law enforcement actors, legal professionals, service providers and NGOs, media, and governmental actors.

In 2025, LSI became member of the [EU Civil Society Platform on trafficking in human beings](#), as well as member of the [EU Anti-Trafficking Hub](#), and member of the [informal expert group on forced labour](#). LSI is also member of the Platform of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA).

Since 2004, LSI was already member of the OSCE Alliance Expert Coordination Team (AECT), and has observer status to the Council of Europe since 2005, while since 2008 it is a member of the Conference of International NGOs (CINGO). La Strada International is also member of the specialized THB lawyers and NGOs network (around 45 lawyers and legal representatives of NGOs) established by the Council of Europe and also has an ECOSOC status at UN level.

LSI is also member of various NGO networks, including the Human Rights and Democracy Network (HRDN), the Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW), the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM) and the European Sex Workers' Rights Alliance (ESWA).

LSI's advocacy work is done in close cooperation with these NGO networks and other NGOs, including Victim Support Europe (VSE) and Missing Children Europe. With VSE's NGO network, LSI monitored the revision of the Victim Rights Directive. La Strada International is part of a coalition of 14 other organisations, calling for decriminalisation of sex work and meaningful inclusion of sex workers and sex worker rights defenders in decision-making.⁵

⁵ The organisations who make up the Coalition are leading European civil society networks and human rights organisations. Next to La Strada International and the European Sex Workers' Rights Alliance (ESWA), the coalition includes Aids Action Europe (AAE), Amnesty International, Correlation European Harm Reduction Network (Correlation EHRN), European Aids Treatment Group (EATG), European Digital Rights (EDRi), European Network Against Racism (ENAR), Equinox – Racial Justice Initiative, Fair Trials, Human Rights Watch, International Planned Parenthood Federation European Network (IPPF EN), International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association Europe (ILGA-Europe), Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM), and Transgender Europe (TGEU). See more information on [ESWA's website](#).

LSI Membership and exchange among members

In 2025, La Strada International comprised 32 member organisations in 24 European countries. This year the platform saw some changes with VATRA and Payoke becoming full members, while Pro Tukipiste terminated its membership.

La Strada aims to further grow into a platform with membership in all European countries. To ensure the Platform maintains its role and capabilities in the field, it is not only important to build our cooperation with the 'outside world' – especially with many newcomers in the field - and extend our membership, but also to continuously invest in the organisation, in the expertise of our staff, and in our member organisations.

11 Monthly meetings were organised for LSI members by LSI secretariat. These meetings served as a space for exchange between members, including national updates and discussions of relevant issues, as well as updates related to international policy developments. Members also stay connected through regular exchanges via LSI's members mailing list. In addition, many more bilateral meetings online or live were held with LSI members. In particular, the membership provides them with more access to (strategic) information and updates, joint advocacy, and a bigger voice at the European level.

We further worked on developing joints policies and strategies and to invest in the capacity and quality of the platform and its members. We further initiated common projects and (advocacy) actions with members.

Annual NGO Platform (General Assembly) meeting

From 17–19 September 2025, La Strada International held its [annual NGO Platform meeting](#) in Warsaw, Poland. Alongside plenary sessions on strategic priorities, European advocacy, and legal and policy developments, the meeting included six thematic workshops and a public event with key Polish anti-trafficking stakeholders, including representatives of the Polish government.

During the meeting, LSI members reviewed organisational developments, adopted key governance decisions, and set strategic directions for the coming years. Members unanimously approved the 2026–2030 Strategy and Action Plan, the 2024 financial report, and the 2025–2026 budget, and elected a new Board member, Dorothea Winkler.

They also agreed to continue discussions on membership criteria, working group structures, and the future format of the Platform. Substantive exchanges focused on strengthening cooperation and advocacy across key areas, including National Referral Mechanisms, labour exploitation, trauma-informed care, access to justice and compensation, shrinking civic space, and emerging risks linked to ICT and AI-driven trafficking. Across sessions, members highlighted persistent gaps in victim identification, protection, and access to rights, and agreed on joint actions such as establishing new working groups (including on NRMs), enhancing cross-border cooperation, strengthening engagement with institutional actors, and reinforcing rights-based and trauma-informed approaches.

On 18 September 2025, La Strada International, together with La Strada Poland, the Polish Ministry of Interior and Administration, and the Council of Europe Anti-Trafficking Division, co-organised a public conference entitled “30 Years Anti-Trafficking Work in Europe & Supporting Victim Rights – How to effectively address human trafficking and ensure that trafficked persons receive protection and support?” The event gathered policymakers, practitioners, civil society organisations, and experts from across Europe to reflect on three decades of anti-trafficking efforts and their impact.

Discussions highlighted both progress achieved through legislative and policy developments and continuing gaps in implementation, protection, and access to rights for trafficked persons. Participants also examined broader contextual challenges, including migration policies, anti-gender narratives, and shrinking civic space, and their implications for anti-trafficking work. The event concluded with reflections on future priorities to strengthen victim-centred approaches and improve the overall effectiveness of responses to human trafficking in Europe.

To celebrate the 30th anniversary, La Strada Poland further hosted a celebration evening, with speakers and performances.

LSI board and board meetings

In 2025, the LSI secretariat and Board continued to strengthen exchange, coordination, and knowledge-sharing among members through regular email updates, policy exchanges, monthly online meetings, webinars, and joint advocacy actions in response to emerging European and international legal and policy developments. This ongoing collaboration ensured a coordinated and timely response to key initiatives, including new EU policy proposals and broader developments in the anti-trafficking field.

The Board met five times over the course of the year (24 February in Brussels, 22 April online, 18 June online, 17 September in Warsaw, and 15 December in Brussels), combining both in-person and virtual meetings. Discussions focused on strategic priorities, international advocacy and representation, including the new EU Anti-Trafficking Strategy, the development of the LSI Platform, membership matters, financial sustainability, and strengthening the inclusion of trafficked persons in LSI's work.

Member engagement remained strong through 11 monthly members' meetings held throughout the year (January–June, August–December), alongside continued growth of the network. The Board also continued discussions on membership criteria and participation requirements, including expectations around attendance at bi-annual Platform meetings and engagement in monthly exchanges. Decisions were taken on financial matters, including the adoption of LSI's 2024 financial accounts, while membership applications and compliance were further reviewed, including the pending application of the re-established organisation from Belarus.

During the year, a new Board member was elected, and two new member organisations (Helen Bamber Foundation and SHOP) joined the network, further strengthening its expertise and reach. The membership of Pro Tukipiste was terminated. Accem and MIST became full members in 2025. The Platform current comprises 32 members in 24 countries including 3 associate members.

Anniversaries

The year 2025 marked a series of significant anniversaries for La Strada International and its member organisations, on 15 September 2025, La Strada International celebrated that it was 30 years ago, that the first La Strada project was launched by NGOs in the Netherlands, Czech Republic and Poland.

Within the network, several members also celebrated important milestones. On the Road, Open Gate, and La Strada Poland each also celebrated 30 years of work supporting people affected by trafficking and exploitation.

FairWork marked its 25th anniversary in June, reflecting 25 years of work preventing labour exploitation and supporting migrant workers in the Netherlands.

FIZ and LEFO both marked 40 years of dedicated service, underlining four decades of leadership in victim support, advocacy and rights-based approaches. Together, these anniversaries illustrate the long-standing and collective commitment within the LSI network to combating trafficking in human beings and strengthening protection and rights for affected persons across Europe

LSI staff

La Strada International's Secretariat coordinates the Platform's core governance and operational activities, including the annual General Assembly and Board meetings, as well as ongoing exchanges, capacity-building initiatives, and cooperation among members and key stakeholders.

It supports the implementation of joint European strategies and actions, while also leading advocacy and representation at international level, promoting a human rights-based approach to anti-trafficking, with a focus on labour rights, safe migration policies, and effective protection and assistance for trafficked persons.

The Secretariat further contributes to knowledge-building through research and data collection, including an online documentation centre and engages in projects and campaigns in partnership with members and external stakeholders. These activities are complemented by a monthly newsletter providing updates and analysis from across the network and the wider anti-trafficking field.

In 2025, the Secretariat team consisted of:

- International Coordinator; Suzanne Hoff
- Financial Manager: Nuala Keyser
- Project manager/Researcher Irina Ionita
- Policy and Communications Officer: Bruna Franco
- Communication Consultant: Shana Perumal
- Office Manager Ria Meinema.

They were further supported by interns and researchers:

- Natalia Noujaim, who worked on National Referral Mechanisms and illegal adoption;
- Nerea Bellomo Corpa, who conducted master's thesis research on assets recovery and compensation;
- Zsófia Bagó, who conducted research focused on forced marriage
- Djordje Popovic, who worked on the research on the exploitation of surrogacy.

Their work contributed to the Secretariat's thematic research and knowledge development.

Design, marketing, and technical support for communications, websites, and campaign development were provided by external freelancers and agencies, ensuring flexible and specialised expertise across key operational areas.

At both international and national level, LSI aims to strengthen the meaningful involvement of trafficked persons in its work, to better inform services, policy, and advocacy. The Platform continues to work towards further integrating the voices of trafficked persons into its activities through self-reflection, improved practices, and opportunities for participation in day-to-day work.

Following workshop sessions in 2019 and 2021 on enhancing engagement with trafficked persons within the Platform and its member organisations, the LSI Board has been developing a policy framework on their involvement in LSI's work. In parallel, several members have advanced participatory approaches by involving trafficked persons in service design, organisational activities, and research processes.

Financial management and fundraising

In 2025 LSI has invested more in fundraising strategies. The following donors supported La Strada International over the year: the European Commission (Postcare II, Info Rights, Mobile, HOST, Trafficked En Route, Resilia); and Comcrim (funding from the Dutch Research Council (NWO) through the research programme Research along Routes by Consortia (NWA-ORC). Further LSI received funding indirectly from the French government (through Open Gate), membership fees and donations.

In 2025 7 applications were approved. 11 applications were rejected.

[See also LSI's financial report 2025.](#)