



International Center for Women Rights
Protection and Promotion „La Strada”

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SUMMARY

ACTIVITY REPORT 2013

January – December 2013

National Toll Free Hotline on Safe Migration

0 800 77777 - nationally

(+373 22) 23 33 09 - from abroad

08.00-20.00/week-round, confidential

National Trust Line 0 8008 8008

24/24, confidential

CV - LA STRADA, Moldova

Full Name	International Center for Women's Rights Protection and Promotion "La Strada".
Founded	February 2001.
Mission	International Center "La Strada" strives to assure protection of human rights and legal interests of women from the Republic of Moldova, at all levels - individual, legislative and executive - through awareness rising and training activities as well as through support and direct assistance.
Thematic areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevention of Trafficking in women. • Prevention of domestic violence. • Prevention of child sexual commercial exploitation.
Target groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk groups - women and children vulnerable to violence and exploitation. • Persons who have suffered from trafficking especially women; children vulnerable/ who have suffered from various forms of sexual abuse or exploitation; women who have suffered from gender-based/ domestic violence. • Professional groups, state officials, international community.
Vision	The International Center "La Strada" strives to build a society based on the principle of respect for human rights, sensible to the issue of trafficking in persons and which makes available favorable conditions for their (re) integration of trafficked persons.
Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respect for the human rights - we consider trafficking in persons and violence/abuse against women and children as a grave violation of human rights. • Holistic approach - from the grass root level - of the issue of trafficking in persons and national and international cooperation. • Respect for the beneficiary's decision; individual approach and treatment with dignity. • Team work, exigency and responsibility.
Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Resource Center for (potential) migrants</i> Prevention of trafficking in human beings and Domestic Violence. • <i>Drop-In-Centre for (presumed) victims of trafficking</i> Identification and assistance of trafficked persons, children victims of commercial sexual exploitation. • <i>Analytical and Lobby Centre</i> Technical support to policy makers, researches and studies, monitoring and assessment; • <i>Public Relations</i>
Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 full-time, 2 part-time, 25 volunteers.
Memberships with non-state groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>La Strada International Association.</i> • <i>National Alliance of Social NGOs.</i> • <i>ECPAT Moldova.</i> • <i>Global Alliance against Trafficking in Women.</i>
Membership with state groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Committee to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings in RM. • National Council for the Protection of Children's Rights. • National Steering Committee for the Elimination of Child Labor. • Inter-ministry Coordinating Council on prevention and combating domestic violence.
Geographical coverage	Republic of Moldova
Donors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark. • US Department of State. • OAK Foundation. • European Commission etc.
Major State Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Labor, Social Protection and Family. • Ministry of Internal Affairs/General Police Inspectorate/Center to Combat Trafficking in Persons/Cyber Crime Combating Center; • General Prosecutor's Office. • Ministry of Education etc.

ACTIVITY AREA III	COUNTER-ACTING COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN
Strategic objective 1	To support the Government of RM in streamlining national child rights protection policies
Activity stream 1.1.	To support development of national legal mechanism facilitating protection of HR of children victims-witnesses
Activity 1.1.1.	<p>To provide Expert support in supplementing national laws pertaining to vulnerable witnesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2013, during January-May, the series of work meetings took place with participation of "La Strada" specialists as members of a working group targeting realization of action 6.3.2. point 2 within the <i>Action Plan for implementation of the Justice system reform Strategy for 2011-2016</i>, as related to creation within the justice system of the specially equipped rooms for interviewing children victims of crimes. "La Strada"s recommendations regarding technical requirements for the Child Interviewing Room (CIR) and lessons learned in its operation have been incorporated into the regulatory tool/SOP that have been validated/presented by General Prosecutor and discussed within the working group moderated by Ministry of Justice. At the same time the expert group analyzed the ECHR practices with regards to the child victims' hearings, experience of few countries (Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Austria, UK and France) on child hearings in special/child friendly conditions, technical conditions for child interviewing rooms. A small working group with representatives from NORLAM, "La Strada", General Prosecutor office and Ministry of Interior has been created. The group experts has elaborated a new version of Article 110(1) and presented to the MJ/Parliament for the approval. In February "La Strada" and General Prosecutor's Office signed an agreement letter to use "La Strada"s CIR according to the provision of Article 110(1) of Criminal Procedure Code.
Activity 1.1.2.	<p>To provide Expert support to relevant bodies in developing SOPs on interviewing vulnerable witness in particular children</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2013, under auspices and guidance of the PS of NC, "La Strada" continued dissemination of best practices on child interviewing practices. The concept of CIR was developed at the request of General Prosecutor's Office; At the request of GPO, "La Strada" elaborated the SOP including instructions on the use of CIR. Moreover, the prosecutors were welcomed to use La Strada's CIR facility. In order to identify the proper place for opening the CIR in the regions, "La Strada" expert also assisted prosecutors and judiciary so assuring these corresponds to the international standards and recommendations in the field.
Activity stream 1.2.	To support lining-up national law to international and European treaties and directives
Activity 1.2.1.	<p>To provide Expert support in ratification of the European Convention and directives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In September 2013, "La Strada"s representative participated at the hearing of the State report on the implementation of the <i>Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography</i>, providing feedback on the current situation in the field and possibilities to improve the situation on child protection.
Activity 1.2.2.	<p>To provide Expert support in developing/amending National Children Rights Protection Strategy/ relevant Programmes referring to protection of children against SCE and abuse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On August of 6th "La Strada"s expert took part in a consultative workshop organized by <i>Department of Cyber Crimes</i>. The aim of this workshop was to identify the investigative procedures of grooming children online, assuring exclusion of the child from documentation process. Among participants at the workshop were representatives of CCTIP, General Direction of the Penal Investigation, Police Academy and General Prosecutors Office and judges. Participants discussed existing procedures that would permit protection of the child and the moment when the child could be excluded from the investigative procedures in order to avoid his/her traumatization.
Activity Stream 1.3.	To support integration of emerging on CR into national policies on CR protection
Activity 1.3.1.	<p>To conduct research on child risk-taking behavior on-line/child safety on-line</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In summer 2013, during safety online seminars held by "La Strada" peer educators, a study on children's safety online in the Republic of Moldova, have been conducted. A total number of 932 questionnaires have been collected; the final report of the study will be available at the beginning of 2014.
Activity 1.3.2.	<p>To conduct case-based analysis of the organics of CSCE and vulnerability of children</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "La Strada" conducted an analysis of best practices in solving cases, in trial stage, of CSE and sexual abuse of children. The Report <i>"Improving legal protection mechanisms to ensure the rights of trafficked persons especially children"</i> includes findings and recommendations that would assure the respect of international provisions regarding the Rights of the Children Victims/Witnesses. The preliminary results of the analysis have been presented and validated among 45 judges and prosecutors, in the frame of 2 seminars organized by International Center "La Strada" organized in partnership with National Institute of Justice on June 24-25th and September 16-17th.
Strategic objective 2.	To contribute to reducing vulnerability of children to CSCE and abuse
Activity stream 2.1.	To ensure availability and accessibility of information about online safety for children

Activity 2.1.1.	<p>Creation and maintenance of the dedicated informational portal to promote safety online</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On January 24, "La Strada" officially launched the webpage/informational portal www.siguronline.md <p>Informing about online safety for children</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 35 facts of cooperation of "La Strada" representatives with different 20 media sources (newspapers, TV, radio) have been registered on the topic CSCE/child abuse including online; 7 articles were written by "La Strada" staff for mass media on CSCE aspects
Activity 2.1.2.	<p>To conduct outreach activities in rural areas</p> <p>Organize Peer-to-Peer Educators Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In order to strengthen the Peer-to-peers program in the field, on December 7-8th a training „ <i>Prevention of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Promoting a Safer Internet for Children</i> ", was organized for 20 "La Strada" volunteers who will carry out educational seminars and outreach activities; 267 seminars on safety on-line issue have been delivered for 6217 young people. The seminars time-table was elaborated based on agreements with Educational Departments on district level.
Activity Stream 2.	To mobilize private business and society for the prevention of CSCE
Activity 2.1.1.	<p>Organizing info and awareness events for travel/tourism and IT business/associations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On February 15th, within a Round table „<i>A more secure Internet for children</i>“, hosted at the Ministry of Information Technology and Communications and co-organized by „La Strada, the draft of the <i>Code of Conduct of Internet services providers</i> has been submitted for public consultations. As a result, a working group was created that would finalize the draft of the Code of Conduct of Internet services providers. This event concluded the range of actions undertaken within the frames of the Internet Security Decade, unfolded at Chisinau in the period February 5-15.
Strategic objective 3.	To contribute to human institutional capacities to effectively respond to the cases of CSCE and abuse
Activity stream 3.1.	To enhance skills and abilities of professionals to secure rights of children during criminal and court proceedings
Activity 3.1.1.	<p>To organize and conduct training for law enforcement and judiciary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 268 prosecutors, investigative officers, judges and psychologists took part in 11 trainings (co)organized by "La Strada"s in partnership by NIJ, CCTP/ROLISP/NORLAM projects in June, March, April, May, June, October and November, where "La Strada" trainers served as trainers on aspects related to interviewing children victims/witnesses of sexual abuse/exploitation; 1000 leaflets on CIR application and lessons learned has been printed by "La Strada" specialists and distributed at above mentioned trainings.
Activity 3.1.2.	<p>Provide case-based consultations to LE on the treatment of child victim-witness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 244 consultations on legal aspects were offered to prosecutors and criminal investigators and 46 psychological interventions on cases were performed by "La Strada"s attorney and psycho-pedagogue.
Activity 3.1.3.	<p>To provide guidance on application of procedures for interviewing vulnerable witnesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "La Strada" experts were requested 14 times to offer its CIR by judiciaries; out of 14 interviews, 7 were performed by La Strada's psycho-pedagogue or psychologist. One of the request for CIR's facility came from a judge (Criuleni), 8 from prosecutors (Causeni, Strasenii, Calarasi, Taraclia, Cimislia, Anenii Noi), and 5 requests for using CIR came from investigators in pre-trial hearings (Chisinau, Bender, Hancesti); "La Strada" assisted the working group in managing CIR in the Prosecutors offices, offering informational support and field consultations to Prosecutors Offices from Orhei, Ocnita, Soroca& Calarasi cities.
Activity stream 3.2.	To strengthen knowledge of practitioners about CSCE and abuse
Activity 3.2.1.	<p>To conduct seminars and debriefings for local specialists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In October the experts from "La Strada" have been involved as co-trainers in 3 seminars organized by PS NC involving approx. 160 representatives of Territorial Commissions to Combat THB also responsible for operation of multidisciplinary teams within NSR, being informed on special measures on protection of CR by hearing children in friendly circumstances, aspects to consider while working with victims, methodologies applied in solving CSCE cases, shearing experience about multidisciplinary approach and shearing good practices of cooperation with the law enforcement.
Activity Stream 3.3.	To support institutionalization of professional education on interviewing vulnerable witnesses
Activity 3.3.2.	<p>To offer support in integration of the training course into the formal curricula</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "La Strada"s specialists has developed the <i>Curricula for master degree in Forensic Psychology</i> that is targeting continuous education of psychologists in interviewing victims of CSE that have been submitted to ME for the approval. This master program will assure provision of legal system with specialists for criminal profiling, probation services, penitentiary programs and most important victimology specialists who will perform investigative interviewing with victims.
Strategic objective 4.	To ensure accessibility and availability of specialized services to children victims of CSCE and abuse
Activity streamline 4.1.	To provide children and their families with specialized support throughout criminal proceedings

Activity 4.1.1.	<p>Providing mediation of legal interviews</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 28 legal interviews have been performed using mediation service of "La Strada", in the frame of police investigations and court hearings. All cases were consulted by "La Strada"'s attorney who had in this regard over 100 debriefings with police, prosecutors and judges.
Activity 4.1.2.	<p>Providing legal representation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "La Strada"'s attorney provided legal counseling in 24 cases of CSCE and offered 244 legal counseling for the law enforcement representative.
Activity 4.1.3.	<p>Providing psychological counseling and support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 46 consultations with/for prosecutors, judges, social workers, psychologists were offered by "La Strada" psychologist and psycho-pedagogue; 24 children (10 boys and 14 girls) were assisted by psychologists during 36 investigative or trial interviewing; 11 interventions of "La Strada" psychologist and psycho-pedagogue done in interviewing of the children with the purpose of identification of the child sexual abuse crimes as per request by police investigators; 46 victims of child sexual exploitation and abuse got individual psychological counseling sessions offered by "La Strada" psychologist, among them 11 children got support in family reintegration.
Activity streamline 4.2.	To provide (presumed) victims of CSCE and their careers with easy-to-access info and protection tool
Activity 4.2.1.	<p>Providing Hotline counseling on the issues of CSCE and abuse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assistance was provided in 17 cases including 4 child victim of trafficking, 2 children victims of personal data stolen, 9 children victims of various forms of sexual abuse and 2 children missing (presumed) victims of CSCE/sexual abuse; 35 calls have been counseled regarding searching and/or recovery of children considered as trafficked/sexually abused/exploited; <p>Providing access to info counseling online</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 23862 uniques visitors accessed www.siguronline.md run by "La Strada" Center since January 2013 and targeting children teachers and parents; 140 counseling online have been offered to children as related to safety online issues through website www.siguronline.md 233 "likes" icons as related to website www.siguronline.md content have been registered on www.facebook.com and 124 on www.odnoklassniki.com
Activity 4.2.2.	<p>Providing counseling via Trust line on the issues of CSCE and abuse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 56 cases have been registered that regard children suffering from various forms of violence and abuse being provided with counseling, referral/social mediation and case monitoring
Activity 4.2.3.	<p>Functioning of the mobile team to respond to field requests on case identification and assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The mobile team processed several cases that came from CCTP& police officers. The mobile team was traveling in the regions in order to identify/assist a case & to mediate an interview with a child.
Activity 4.2.4.	<p>Organizing referral to social service providers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In all cases assisted by "La Strada", these have been referred to the NRS for further comprehensive assistance and support