



LA
STRADA
Moldova

Progress Report

2018

***as part of "La Strada"**
[2016-2020 Strategic Plan](#)

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INTRODUCTION

Who we are

The International Centre “La Strada” is a value-driven organization striving to build a society where human rights are respected, sensible to the issues affecting women and children and which contributes to emerging available favourable conditions for the protection of affected ones.

Our Mission

We exist and operate for securing respect of the rights and legal interests of **women and children** in the Republic of Moldova at all levels – individual, legislative and executive. We do so, by applying a comprehensive change model to our work through information and education, providing direct support and assistance, strengthening communities and development of policies.

Our values

- Respect for the human rights – we consider violence against women and children a grave violation of human rights;
- Respect for the beneficiaries’ decision about all aspects of their lives and treatment with dignity Transparency and responsibility
- Teamwork, exigency and flexibility.

Our beneficiaries

Our beneficiaries are **women** vulnerable to violence or affected by gender-based violence and **children** at risk to and affected by sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.

How does we frame our work

Our actions are embedded into 5 pillars reflecting a systemic approach, starting from the grass root level, to the issue of violence against women and children and, national and international cooperation: Prevention and early intervention,

- Protection, safety and justice
- Capacity building
- Public policies and
- Data and research

Issues Affecting Women Programme



I. Trafficking in Persons especially women

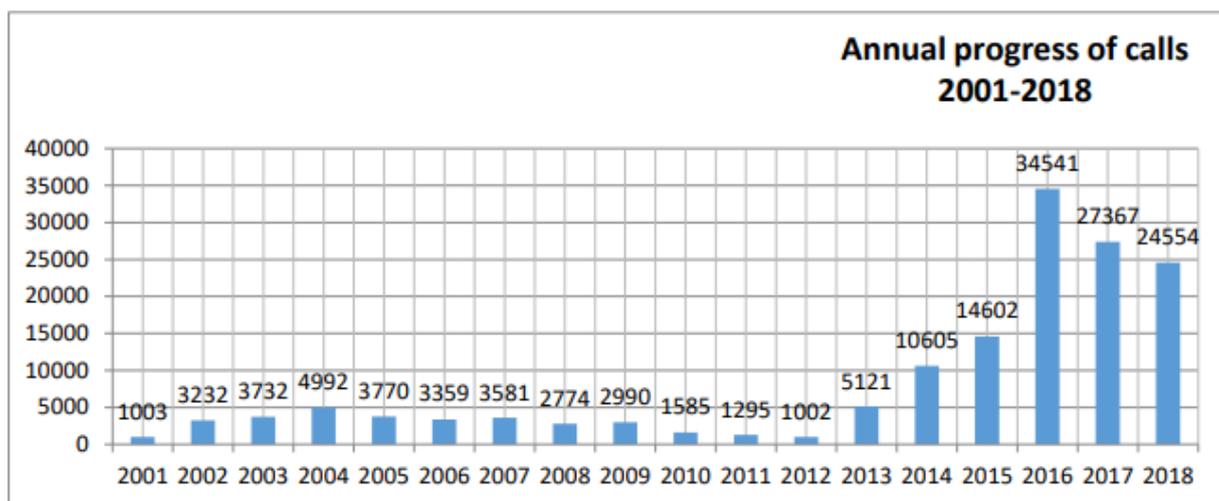
// Contribute to reducing vulnerability of at-risk group to continuous threats of human trafficking //

The thematic info portal www.migratiesigura.md registered 18062 visitors (number doubled from previous year) in which 12210 (number doubled from compared to previous year) are unique visitors; the HL consultants provided 57 (number doubled from previous year) online individual counselling upon request.

The National Anti-trafficking Hot-Line provided counselling in 23421 calls regarding safe migration. Calls from men prevail and represent over 60% of all calls. This is explained primarily by the fact that the current foreign employment opportunities promoted as part of the governmental bilateral agreement is targeting men.

La Strada continued to partner with the Moldovan and Israeli Government within the bilateral agreement on employment of Moldovan citizens in Israel, facilitating employment of over 5000 men in construction sector.

Dynamics of calls in the last 17 years



// Secure accessibility to protection and support services for all trafficked persons //

During the reporting period, 181 calls have been counselled in support of **54** persons in need identified via Hot-Line including **12** victims of trafficking, **13** missing persons allegedly trafficked and **29** stranded migrants /victims of associated crimes (smuggling, domestic violence, sexual

abuse abroad, violation of labour rights/forced labour etc.). Most pro-active are still women calling to seek support in the interest of victims who are their relatives and friends.

In case of 12 persons identified as presumed trafficked persons, 7 are female and 5 male trafficked for sexual and labour exploitation in countries such as Greece, Russia, Italy, Spain, Moldova. Based on the immediate needs assessed, these have been facilitated access to specialised services for rescue from the place of exploitation and repatriation, shelter and social support programs, and legal protection primarily for those willing to cooperate with LEA.

// Support the Government in streamlining national anti-trafficking policies//

During 2016-2017 La Strada provided expert support to the PS on drafting 1st **national AT Strategy 2018-2023 and NAP 2018-2020** which was officially approved by the Government decision #461 dtd. 22.05.2018. For the first time The Government used the principles of results-based management for planning of AT policy and established three kinds of expected results – outputs, outcomes and impact. This, in turn, offers great opportunities for improvement of monitoring and evaluation of AT policy. In June, “La Strada” had a strategic work meeting with the new Chief of the AT PS and agreed to provide expert support in elaboration of **monitoring mechanism for AT policy in 2019**.

Upon request of the MJ, La Strada prepared expert opinion on the draft of the Government Decision regarding the creation of National Council on Human Rights (HR) and **Permanent Secretariat on HR under the Government**. The public opinion of La Strada raised concerns about the way the THB issue will be addressed by the Government if the PS is to be reorganized by absorption of the to-be-created the Permanent Secretariat on HR.

Upon request of the Centre for Combating Trafficking in Persons (**CCTP**)/national AT police unit, La Strada offered expert opinion on the draft Concept of mobile group for prompt identification of cases of THB and related crimes.

Finding and recommendations of the in-depth 2017 **Study “NRS function in the Republic of Moldova. Lessons learned and perspectives”** were presented and consulted with the wider AT auditorium during a thematic workshop in February 2018.

The elaboration of the **new NRS concept** by the MHSPF is carried out under expert leadership of La Strada and with support of IOM - a specialised WG for elaboration of the new NRS concept under the aegis of the Ministry was created immediately after the workshop. The scope and terms of the exercise was coordinate with the State Secretary on Social protection and a preliminary work plan was set. La Strada expert has developed the concept of the next NRS consulted with the WG in two rounds defining the structure, content and key aspects of the new NRS concept.



In October, on the occasion of the EU AT Day, La Strada published a **Position Brief** to increase attention to the transformation by the Government of the PS (merging the three secretariats currently functioning in the framework of the State Chancellery staff - AT PS, Secretariat of the National Council for Child Rights Protection and Secretariat of the National Commission for Collective Consultations

and Negotiations/national body of social partnership system). La Strada expressed concerns about high risks that such reform will immediately result in collapse of AT policy management, international/regional cooperation and cooperation with civil society in Moldova in AT area.

Opinions were shared on the **GRETA's Questionnaire** for the evaluation of implementation of the CoE Convention on Action against THB (3-rd evaluation round).

In 2018, La Strada in partnership with research Institute Sociopolis launched the study on the vulnerabilities of other country nationals to THB/smuggling to/via Republic of Moldova. By December 2018, interviews with key stakeholders have been conducted, desk research and secondary analysis of relevant informational sources carried out, relevant legal framework assessed. The next phase should include media monitoring followed by draft Report compilation. Public consultations are scheduled for 2019.

II. Domestic Violence and Violence Against Women

// Raise public awareness about violence against women (VAW) and reduce vulnerability of women to sexual violence (SV) and domestic violence (DV)//

In April 2018, we launched an awareness campaign to **promote zero tolerance of sexual violence against women**. The campaign "There is no excuse for rape" kicked off via the press release on **Denim Day**. Different tools meant to reach out to the civil society and policy makers:

(a) 1-minute video statements by 5 women Ambassadors – an initiative lead by Daniela Misail-Nichitin:

Her Excellency deputy Chief of USA Mission to Chisinau, [Julie Stufft](#)

Her Excellency [Lucy Joyce](#), Ambassador of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and North Ireland to Chisinau

Her Excellency [Signe Burgstaller](#), Sweden Ambassador to Chisinau

Her Excellency [Dr. Julia Monar](#), Ambassador of Germany to Chisinau

Her Excellency [Valeria Biagiotti](#), Ambassador of Italy to Chisinau

[Daniela Misail-Nichitin](#), Director of Issues Affecting Women Programme, La Strada.



- (b) [A black-white photo album](#) with La Strada team wearing jeans (the symbol of solidarity with victims of sexual abuse) and holding statements particularly supporting rape victims and encouraging them to report any sexual abuse cases by calling Women Trust-line.
- (c) A dedicated [TV talk show](#) with one of the famous journalists Natalia Morari - Julie Stufft, deputy Chief of USA Mission to Chisinau, Ana Revenco, executive director, La Strada, Daniela Misail-Nichitin, director of Issues affecting women programme, La Strada. "Rape culture" – the title of the TV show.
- (d) Distribution of brochures for women and girls about Trust-Line services and Teal ribbons (symbol of the Denim Day Campaign) in over 3000 copies.

The campaign was followed by several state institutions (The Parliament of the Republic of Moldova, Police of Moldova, Ministry of Health, Social Protection and Family), civil society organizations (Promo Lex, Women's La Centre,) organisations, mass-media and influencers. During April 25, their representatives dressed jeans as symbol of solidarity with women and girls affected by sexual violence instead of the official dress code. Police officers, journalists, lawyers, influencers published on their private social media accounts photos with them wearing jeans and solidarity statements supporting rape victims and fighting stereotypes that would justify the aggressor's behaviour. The popularity of the campaign gathering hundreds of citizens on social networks under the #DenimDayMoldova hashtag has been spotlighted the same day by mass-media. Denim Day Moldova 2018 campaign was broadly one of the most popular advocacy campaign in 2018. During 3 days it counted more than 50 media titles at national TV, radio, online and printed media outlets. In 12 high schools of Moldova which participate in the Harmonious Couple Relations Program, teachers along with their students organised awareness activities.

/FOTO. VIDEO/ Denim Day: Moldova a îmbrăcat blugii pentru a se solidariza cu victimele violenței sexuale



On “**16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence**” campaign, La Strada decided to exclusively partner with media which, over the years, have shown their interest and professional approach in producing valuable analytical materials, paid due attention and have proved accuracy in interpreting the figures and statistical data provided by La Strada services. 3 media outlets (Radio Europa Liberă, Newsmaker.md and TVR Moldova) translating in both Russian and Romanian, nationally and regionally were selected to partner with on the issue of **sexual violence against women and girls**. The result of this collaboration was 2 long reads in Russian produced by Newsmaker.md («Вы что, просто лежали? Вы что, не могли сопротивляться?», «А тебя точно изнасиловали?». Почему молчат жертвы сексуального насилия в Молдове,), a story report prepared by TVR Moldova, and a live-time interview at Radio Europa Liberă Daniela Misail-Nichitin: „Din păcate, astăzi avem încă multe femei care suferă de violență în propria familie”. The message formulated by la Strada was picked up, multiplied and reflected in least 11 headlines at 9 media channels.

As for domestic violence issue, no special campaign was organised yet, La Strada provided inputs and encouraged media to reflect the issue. Thus, 36 media coverage (news, interviews, articles, TV shows, references, press releases) were produced by 14 national and local media outlets with direct contribution from La Strada primarily referring to the issue raised within 2017 campaign "Your child suffers as much as you do".

The trained **Peer-to-Peer Educators** delivered 36 school seminars for 696 boys and girls in more than 20 settlements from Moldova as part of a special Agreement with the Ministry of Education (renewed and valid through 2020). The module of the seminars promotes and details on concept and forms of domestic violence, how to recognize the first signals of power and control in a relationship, myth and realities about love and violence and how to breaks the cycle of violence, key messages. Almost 1000 copies of materials - notebooks "Love doesn't hurt", brochures - "Harmonious relationship in a couple", brochures "Colours – spot the signs".

Additionally, the optional **course "Harmonious relationships in a family"** (HRF) implemented by 24 trained teachers in 21 settlements from Moldova during the school year 2017-2018 has benefited more than 1100 young people (16-19 years old). While for the academic year 2018-2019, 19 teachers from 8 settlements decided to continue with the course already third year in a row which will benefit over 500 new students. The number is less given late printing of the notebooks (for late availability of financial resources).

The Trust Line operates as a National Toll Free Hot-Line, 24 hours per day (8.00 – 20.00 in office) and 7 days a week. It is operated by 4 experienced consultants and allows simultaneous counseling of two calls. The service is anonymous and confidential.

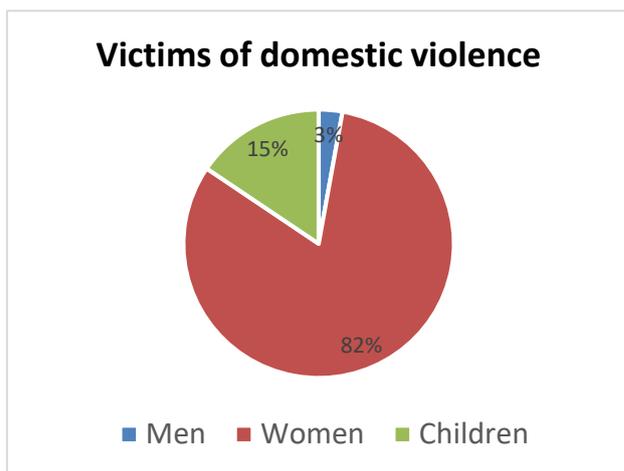
During 2018, **3096 calls** have been registered and counselled. Out of 3096 calls, **1495** refer to the issue of domestic violence and reflect 819 new cases of domestic violence and 109 old/ongoing cases of DV. 70% are received from victims of domestic violence, 23% from communities members, 2% calls from aggressors, and 5% from representatives of professional groups. Another **69 calls** (out of 3096) refer to sexual violence reflecting **27 cases**.

Throughout this period, 953 victims were counselled, out of this number 778 are women, 27 are men and 148 are minors. About 52% of victims have been reported being subject to violence from their husbands, 16% are victims of intimate partner (concubinage), 8% are divorced. The majority of calls from victims of domestic violence reflect cases of combined forms of violence: 90% of calls reflect cases of physic and psychological violence. In 5% of cases victims are reported only psychological/emotional violence and in 2% of cases - a combination of physical, psychological and sexual violence.

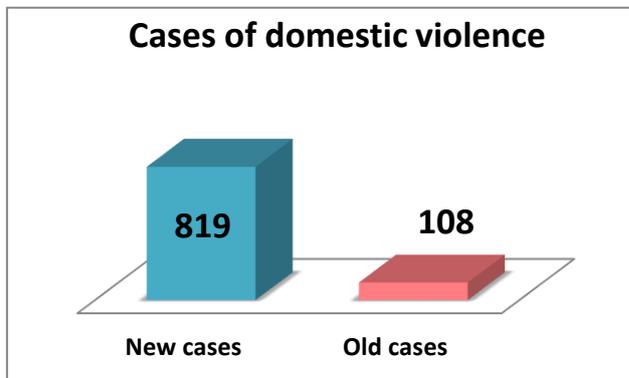
In 39% of calls the beneficiaries requested legal counselling, 31% requested information and orientation what to do in DV cases, 25% requested psychological support and 5% requested safe accommodation.

//Ensure availability of and accessibility to specialized services as well as legal protection for women and girls affected by DV and SV in contact with justice system//

Over 3000 copies of Leaflets with info about rights and services for women and girls who have suffered from sexual violence including Trust Line 0 8008 8008 as a National Sexual Assault Hotline were distributed. The leaflets, in Romanian language, were distributed primarily through legal front line specialists in contact with victims of sexual assault, who have been also trained by La Strada (criminal investigators, forensic medical experts).



During reporting period, the lawyer of the women safeguarding team assisted **114 women** including legal counselling for **54** women and legal representation for **60** women. The psychologist of the team provided specialised services to 10 women victims of DV (and 2 children of theirs) and 3 women victims of sexual violence. The specialised services included face to face psychological counselling during criminal/court proceedings and preparation of Psychological Evaluation Reports in the interest of the (criminal) case.



In 107 cases of DV and 4 cases of SV reported at the Trust-Line, immediate intervention was required. The Trust-Line crisis protocols provide for direct contact with the community police and social protection authorities to enforce emergency intervention (24/7). During reporting period the **women safeguarding team** has intervene in **one cases of domestic violence** (January 2018) and in **one cases of sexual violence**

(August 2018). In all other cases, Trust-Line counsellors referred and monitored the cases to the community police and social protection authorities to enforce emergency intervention.

As of October 2017, two specialists of the IC "La Strada" provide daily support to women suffering from gender based violence within the Police Office no.3, Buiucani sector Police Inspectorate of Chisinau municipality. This initiative is a unique form of cooperation, without precedent in the country. The general idea is to develop community-based approach to assisting victims. The delegated La Strada specialists provided services on a daily basis in the premises of the police station. The activities/services ranged from in-house emotional support and legal counselling upon request for crimes to emergency interventions jointly with police following 112 call. During 14 months, 111 beneficiaries including women and children enjoyed various protecting services. The biggest part of the workload represented cases of domestic violence – 85 beneficiaries followed by Sexual violence/rape attempt – 5 case.

// Contribute to the development of capacities of professionals to effectively address cases of SV and DV//

After the implementation of the optional course in 2016 and 2017, the Ministry of Education extended official support and recommended the course implementation for the school year 2018-2019. All course materials were available on the websites of the Ministry of Education and La Strada: The Curriculum, Methodological Guide, Teachers manual and Student notebook.

Hence, the course continued in the school year 2017-2018 with 24 teachers involved from 19 settlements running the course for 45 classes. La Strada distributed student's notebooks for these teachers in over 1000 copies.

After its validation in 2017, the course **"Investigation and Combating sexual assault crimes" targeting judges and prosecutors**, the National Institute of Justice institutionalized the course in 2018 and is now part of the Module on Human Rights and Crimes against the Person (continuous training) with two rounds conducted per year: The first semester 2018 and for the second semester 2018. The seminars are attended by a mix of legal specialists and the agenda brings mixed group of trainers.

In order to increase responsibility of law enforcement and justice system stakeholders, and create demand for the course on investigation of the sexual assault cases by the NIJ, La Strada produced a video report from seminars organized and interviews from trainers and leaders of the course. The material was published on LS YouTube channel, on LS Facebook Page. Agora informative platform has published news on this topic. Altogether the video report recorded until the end of 2018 more than 1300 views on the LS communication platforms and on the media partners one. Hence, 53 justice and law enforcement representatives - judges, prosecutors and criminal investigators enrolled and benefited of 18 hours of training each, assessing the events as very good and excellent.



In order to promote victims rights-based approach to investigating sexual crimes among all category of legal professionals, a series of 16 hours length seminars were organised and delivered for 93 **intelligence officers and criminal investigators** from all Police Inspectorates of the country. As a first experience, accessibility to the course also included voluntary application. It is expected that these police officers will act as specialized criminal investigator and a resource person in their Police Inspectorate. After the training the criminal investigators have referred to La Strada 7 cases of sexual assault and in these cases have been organized a common response per cases.

Further, awareness seminars (4-8 hours each) were also conducted for additional 280 police officers from all police departments including management level.

La Strada representative ensured transfer of institutional memory to the new Board members within all important meetings and negotiations; consultation was provided to international expert engage in developing unique set of standard for services provided for survivors of DV; inputs were made to the national alternative report prepared for CEDAW, referring to sexual assault component expected to be presented latter in 2018; main conclusions and recommendation of the [analytical report](#) on legal mechanism on accreditation of service providers for subjects to DV were shared with members during a special thematic meeting.

La Strada represents the Coalition in the working group for review the existing accreditation mechanism created by the MHSPF on February 2018; contributions were made to the unique data collection form drafted by "Sociopolis" aimed at streamlining data collection process from all members; necessary inputs were made to aid the National Coalition "Life without violence" become a member of WAVE thus become a focal point for data collection.

// Contribute to enhancing government response to DV and SV //

In April 2018, the Parliament approved the **National Strategy on the Prevention and Combating Domestic violence and VAW 2018-2023** and the NAP for 2018-2020, which included direct inputs of La Strada particularly referring to the Pillar Protection and Assistance, and additional targeted efforts related tackling sexual violence. Apart from participating in all regular meetings of the National Coordination Council on DV, La Strada specialist also participated in two extraordinary meetings of the National Coordination Council. One meeting responded to a proposal of a LD MP and provided for the exclusion of the provision regarding any injuries in cases of DV from the Contravention Code (art. 178,1) and have it exclusively in Criminal Code (as it was before the approval of the Law 196). This position is strongly supported by La Strada as well. Unfortunately, the GPI and few CSO lawyers (!) did not supported this draft law, arguing that is too yearly to make some conclusions and demand new changes. The Coordination Council also did not supported the initiative. The second meeting was to discuss the opportunity of Ferenda Law on prevention and combating DV (May 2018).

The findings and recommendations of the [Research Report](#) on the **accreditation mechanism of services dedicated to victims of DV** were shared at the meeting of the Coordination Council on prevention and combating gender based violence and domestic violence, hosted by the MHLSP. The Report served as basis for conceptualizing changes to the accreditation mechanism

of social services for victims of domestic violence. A WG was created to operationalise the recommendations and develop on the necessary amendments into the current national law streamlining the correspondence between the accreditation and state financing of services for providers. La Strada is a member of the working group. The WG had one meeting resulting in defining expected outcomes for the next two years.

In 2018, La Strada finalised two analytical exercises:

(a) The **Study Report on judicial practices on cases of SV** was made public and recommendations discussed with the justice system stakeholders. The Report was well received by the legal professional community and relevant CSOs;

(b) The **Compatibility Report - National criminal norms and relevant international standards in the area of sexual offenses (including Istanbul)** was consulted with the National WG and enabled formulation of targeted recommendations. The results will be presented for legal community within an international workshop planned for February 2019.

The findings and recommendations of these analytical efforts set the basis of a draft Law to amend the national legal framework related to sexual crimes developed by the national WG. The draft law will be debated within a thematic international workshop to take place in February under the aegis of the Ministry of Justice.

Expert contributions were made to the alternative Report to CEDAW. Due to delay in the state Report (due to central government reform) which was only sent in December 2018, the alternative CSO Report will be forwarded to CEDAW Committee in spring 2019.

//Inform decision making processes at all levels by offering qualitative information and data//

The Annual Trust-line Report reflecting data and information including on the evolutions in the phenomena, perceptions, attitudes and behaviours/responses of all stakeholders (victims, aggressors, community and professionals) is available on La Strada website.

All analytical Reports in both Ro and Eng versions are available in digital version on La Strada website and limited printed versions. The Reports are communicated about via press communique, thematic round tables and targeted mailing.

Issues Affecting Children Programme

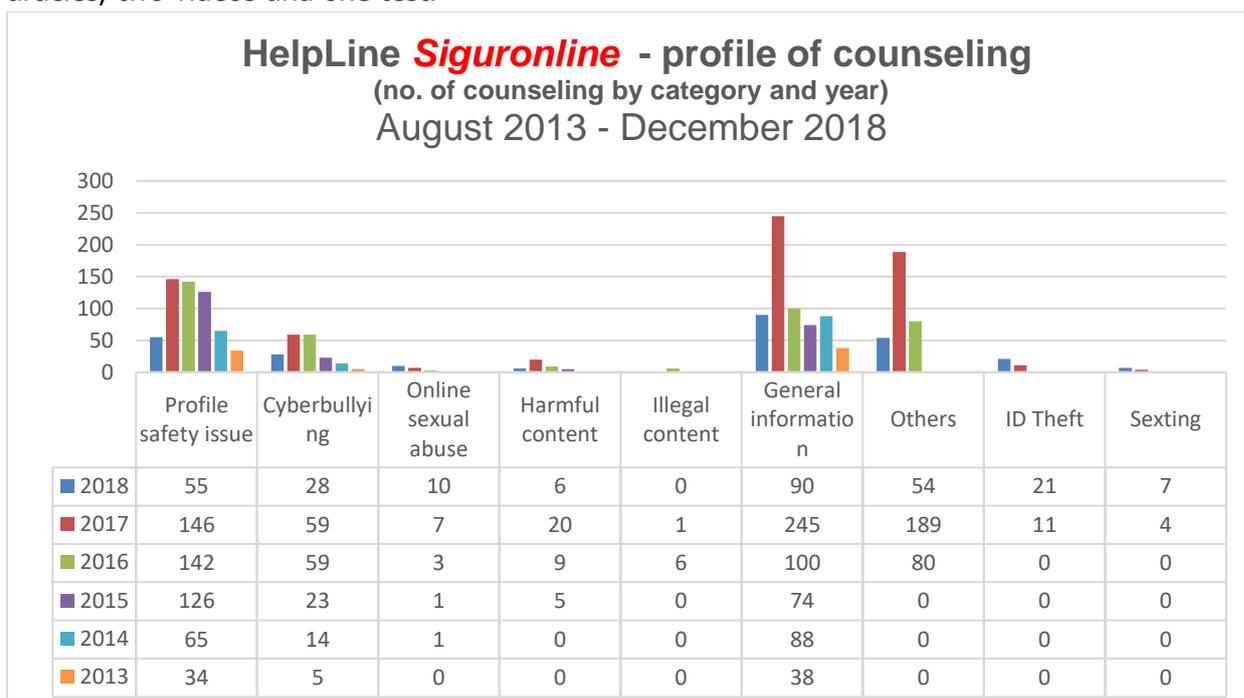


III. Child Online Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

//Increase public awareness about child online sexual exploitation and sexual abuse and reduce vulnerability of children online//

Specially trained **peer to peer educators** delivered 138 informative seminars in schools for **2782 children** and youngsters including 1419 girls and 1363. Collaborations with other Youth Organizations and Youth Councils throughout the year enabled reaching out to additional over **150 children aged 12-16**. Topics discussed varied from cyber bullying to sexting. Educators also helped conceptualise and distribute over 300 copies of information materials (stickers, bookmarks and phone covers). As part of the Internetfaragriji education project – partnership with a private business - over 160 children, aged 5 – 13 were informed by engaging in free discussions, about safe and positive use of internet.

In 2018, La Strada launched Russian version of www.siguronline.md. The portal was visited by **55,982** single visitors. Biggest number was registered in months of February-March (32% of total hits) and October-November (15% of total hits) and corresponds to the awareness campaigns conducted in the context of the Safer Internet Day (February) and European Cyber Security Month (October). The page dedicated to adolescents was enriched with two thematic articles, two videos and one test.



During reporting period, the siguronline.md **Help-Line** registered **174** requests of information and advice, which is lower than the number of requests received in 2017. On the other hand, the number of requests for counselling and advice on specific at-risk situation has increased. Children seek advice about Profile safety, Cyberbullying, hate speech. The reported cases of Sexting describe situations involving teenagers aged 14 – 17 who have sent intimate pictures to young people they trusted and later wanted to delete them. Children also sought advice in cases when girls of 15-17 years old were involved in online communication with unknown adults on sexual subjects. It is important to mention that other children than the victims also report cases of sexual abuse – youngsters requesting advice on ways to help their friends.

SID 2018 media campaign was launched through a press-release and meeting with media to present key findings of a national research conducted by La Strada about child interests and behaviours online. At least 32 media headlines appeared on safer internet topic. Risk of sexual abuse online was under special focus. To gain **attention of children**, La Strada developed two video spots each addressing a specific risk - "*Sexting. Between trust and real dangers*" targeting adolescents 13-15 years old and aims at informing them about the possible negative consequences of self-generated sexually explicit images or videos and their transmission; the final message „You take it. You send it. You lose control“ underlines the risks of sexting. The second video - "*Offline dates. Curiosity and dangers*" is targeting pre-adolescents and addresses the risk of offline dates with unknown people met online. In just couple of weeks, both videos registered over 15000 single views. Dedicated articles and tests were developed and uploaded on the siguronline.md section for children.

La Strada responded to the invitation of the Ministry of Education and Republican Center for Children and Adolescents "Artico" and participated in a series of events and activities in the Public Garden "Stefan cel Mare" dedicated to **International Children's Day**. The event was promoted via facebook and picked up by 4 social media portals. Over 300 children aged 7-10, 100 preteens of 10-14 years old, and 50 adolescents 14-18 years old were informed about the existing free tool to address a problem. All children received promotional materials: stickers, bookmarks, booklets, posters and bracelets. Parents were informed about the informative portal www.siguronline.md and Child Helpline. 20 of them were interested in completing the test for parents, and 30 parents discussed with a counselor and were interested how they should discuss with their children about safety online.



In the context of SID 2018, informative seminars were conducted in schools for 210 parents of children of primary classes. Parents also received OnlineResponsibleParent Guide and "8 steps" flyers. A special animation for parents "How to be an Online Intelligent Parent" was launched suggesting 8 simple steps for bringing more safety for their child in the internet. The animation registered almost 8000 views. Additional thematic articles "Child safety online in four steps", "Grooming of Children on the Internet" and one test have been prepared and available of the page dedicated to parents reflecting FAQ. 7 national media and large online communities including online (ea.md, jurnal.md, suntparinte.md, prime.md, tvr.md) have picked up the SID message targeting parents. Siguronline Help-Line received **97** requests for advice from parents /caregivers which is three times bigger than in 2017. Support was sought in presumed cases of sextortion, exposure of child to pornography, indecent communication/sending messages with sexual content and distribution of CAM. Counseling was sought primarily to basic education about online safety and ways of communication t the child about such.

In partnership with Moldcell - private mobile operator – La Strada unfolded an education Project #InternetfaraGriji targeted to parents, participating as speakers addressing child safety online issue. Over 17 public events were organized in 8 cities of the country reaching out to almost 1000 parents and child carriers. What is internet safety, how to talk to kids about it, how to help kids stay safe online, must does and must nots if the child reports an abuse – topics covered by in the presentations and open discussions.



La Strada developed successful collaboration with one private Mobile Operator (Moldcell) and Internet Resource Center (Tekwill) as part of the #internetfaragriji EduProject with info events around the country reaching out to parents and kids. This is the only and the biggest cooperation project between NGO and private business on issues related to child safety online.

During 2018, 5 853 calls have been received and counselled at the Child Help-Line which shows a decrease with 1115 calls from 2017 (6 968) primarily due to the lack of promotional campaigns. Out of total calls - 4298 are single and 1 555 are repeated calls. Out of 4298 single calls, 3746 calls are from children and other 552 - from adults. The calls represent the following categories:

Request for information - calls 524 (201 calls from adults, 323 calls from children).

Counselling – 1664 calls (27 from adults and 1637 from children).

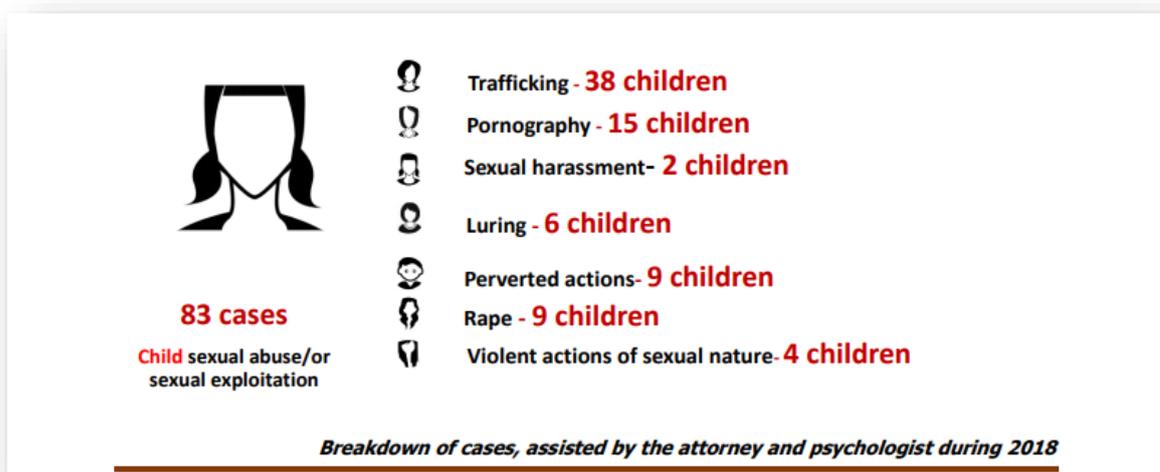
Calls regarding suspected cases of violence, neglect, exploitation or trafficking - 328 calls (268 from adults and 60 from children).

Research calls – 1 782

From the launch of the service, children remain to be the main callers.

//Ensure accessibility and availability of specialized services for children affected by online sexual exploitation and sexual abuse//

The child safeguarding team has taken in 25 new cases which are represented by the lawyer including 10 cases of sexual abuse (art. 171 CC, art. 172 CC, art. 173 CC, art. 175 CC, art. 176 CC) and 15 cases of sexual exploitation (art. 206, 208/1, 208/2 CC). 3 cases were finalized and the ultimate workload at the end of the 2018 year represents 31 cases. La Strada services are primarily requested by specialized police and prosecutor’s agencies but also result from reports on the siguronline.md. Most children assisted are girls, the smallest is 9. Psychologists who are part of the safeguarding team have provided specialized services in 63 new cases and 6 old cases. In additional 12 cases, police sought psychologist’s advice on presumed cases of online sex abuse during early investigation phase. Psychologists conducted 63 child forensic and legal interviews; assisted children in in 28 court hearings; prepared 18 psychological evaluation reports.



//Contribute to the development of capacities of professionals to effectively respond to cases of child online sexual exploitation and sexual abuse//

During 2018, La Strada's psychologist consulted 27 specialists on aspects related to psychological evaluation reports, child hearing under special conditions and specific interventions on cases.

On the occasion of SID campaign, La Strada conducted a debriefing for 50 law enforcement officers (including CCCC representative) on ways to recognise a case of child abuse online and organise protection. Special [brochures](#) explaining risks of sexting, sextorsion, grooming and other forms of sexual abuse online were distributed.

Study visit was organised with CEOP, UK for a group of specialists from National Institute of Justice, General Prosecutors Office and Cyber Crime Centre to discuss possible cooperation for training programs. Communication is also made with NCMEC for training purposes.

On SID 2018, La Strada launched the [siguronline.md](#) page dedicated to teachers/educators. The page is divided into 4 large sections: *Informational resources; Didactic resources; Help; FAQ*. All the materials are available in Romanian and Russian languages and can be printed and used as didactic tools and handouts to run a lesson. The Ministry of Education, circulated a special note to all education departments around the country encouraging schools to use materials available with [siguronline.md](#). In response to school requests, [siguronline](#) coordinators delivered 19 informative seminars for over 500 teachers from 7 rayons. Over 2600 visitors solicited the page dedicated to teachers, with high interest paid to the section "Teaching Resources" with 6679 views and over 700 downloads of lesson plans. Special presentations were delivered to school inspectors for Informatics and Primary Education from all the districts within national methodical reunions.



In December 2018, La Strada launched a promising national-wide Programme meant to inspire and empower teachers to strengthen children's resilience to online violence risk and decrease their vulnerability to online sexual violence. The Programme is entitled INTERSECTION. ONLINE SAFE ZONE. It started with two one-day Conferences – one for teachers from gymnasiums (30 people) focusing on *Online Communication and relationships* and the second for primary schools (29 teachers) dedicated to *ABC of online safety*. Teachers from 27 districts (out of 32) were present at the Conference. The agenda of the events contained 4 info blocks – info about child behaviour and interest online, understanding risks that children face online (for adolescents – what is sexting and for primary class – general safety), what and how can the teachers address this risky behaviour online and finally – tips and recommendations for teachers about ways of using ICT in their daily teaching routine (conventionally called "taking the fear away from ICT") so that they could digitally become closer to their students. The topics of the Conferences were selected on purpose so that to prepare them to unfold seminars on SID 2019. [The Conferences](#) were highly appreciated by the teachers as well as by the Ministry of Education. All teachers reached out received [the Guide of the Online Intelligent Teacher Step-by-Step Online Safety Adventure](#) meant to encourage teachers have open and positive discussions with children about online safety and also help them to overcome fears and doubts regarding their (teachers) role and capacity to address this issue with their students.

Upon request of the **Ombudsman for Child Rights**, La Strada participated in [a conference on online safety of children for the representatives of Education Departments from the Autonomous Territorial Unit of Gagauzia, Comrat](#). Siguronline experts shared findings of the study Children's Online Safety, as well as information about available courses for teachers at [siguronline.md](#).

//Support the government in integrating child online sexual exploitation and sexual abuse issue in national child rights protection policies//

La Strada focused its advocacy efforts on increasing responsibility of the state for **fighting child sexual exploitation by means of ICT** (in line with Lanzarote and Budapest Conventions). Following relevant legal analysis, recommendations were formulated towards the General Prosecutors' Office on the following issues

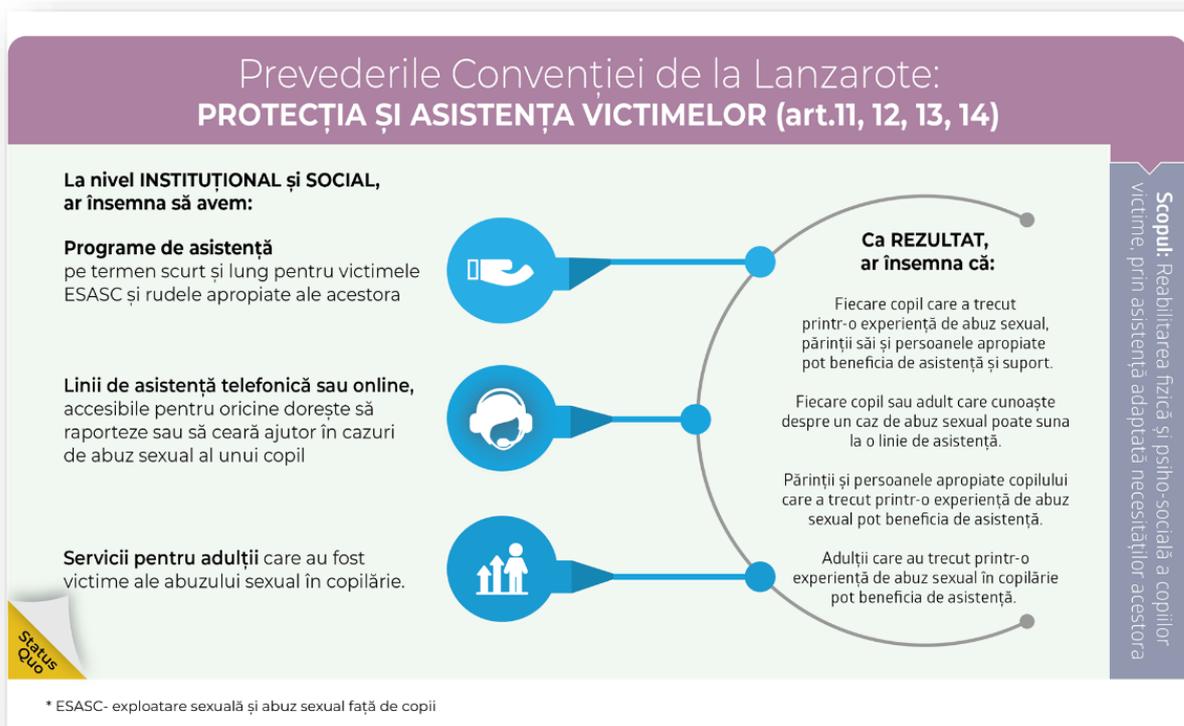
- (a) Review of human trafficking related crimes and consider inclusion of child abuse material, grooming and sextortion as crimes related to human trafficking;
- (b) transfer the monitoring and supervision tasks related to child online sexual exploitation cases from the Cyber-Crime Department to the Specialized Human Trafficking Department under the GPO, in order to ensure an adequate (from the human rights/children rights perspective vs cyber security perspective) and complex approach to cases of child sexual exploitation facilitated by ICTs and contribute to a streamlining national prosecution and trial practices;
- (c) Reconsider definitions and punishment for sexual exploitation crimes, such as CAM, grooming, pervert actions as well as illegal removal of the child from the country (child smuggling); remove age limitations for conducting legal hearing of a child under special conditions.

General Prosecutor's Office considered relevant almost all formulated recommendations and performed institutional changes already in December 2018 while legal aspects have been integrated into the draft law, which is expected to be submitted to the Parliament in 2019.

On February 20-21st, La Strada in partnership with the MFA and CoE organized [Roundtable „Implementation of the CoE Convention on protection of children against sexual exploitation and](#)

sexual abuse in the Republic of Moldova: challenges and good practices". La Strada presented the key findings of the independent monitoring report "Sexual exploitation and sexual abuse against children. Implementation of Lanzarote Convention". The key recommendations discussed included setting of a national coordination platform or mechanism. [The main findings and recommendations](#) of the round table were also discussed at the event organized by UNICEF „National dialogue on violence against children”. The event was focused on the strategies to prevent violence against children. Further, La Strada developed a set of indicators meant to facilitate development of a **national thematic (as per areas covered by Lanzarote) monitoring mechanism**. Based on general provisions of the Lanzarote Convention, the Explanatory Report of the Convention and thematic monitoring reports developed by the Lanzarote Committee, La Strada’s indicators reflect on the full set of measures that should be implemented at the national level in order to ensure an efficient implementation of the Lanzarote Convention. The effort was coordinated with the Ministry of Interior Affairs that has the leadership in promoting Lanzarote Convention implementation. Due to the political context (pre-electoral period), public consultations on the mechanism was postponed for later period.

On the occasion of 18th November, La Strada’s **advocacy campaign focused on raising awareness about the Lanzarote Convention**, following recommendations of the round table held in February 2018. The campaign targeted policymakers and general public. An evaluation tool, named „the semaphore” was distributed as a public monitoring tool. This tool also includes explanations into the graphics reflecting Lanzarote Convention’s provisions, as following: educational measures, public information and awareness measures, capacity building of various specialists measures, protection and victim assistance measures, specific intervention measures. The tool was inspired by Ms Maria Jose de Figuerola Frazao de Castello-Branco – member of the Lanzarote Committee and further developed by La Strada team.



The public policy analysts of La Strada have provided **expert opinion to a number of legal initiatives** of various bodies relevant to the area of concern, including:

- (a) Draft Law on interviewer's activity
- (b) Draft Law on psychologist's activity
- (c) Draft Law on amendments to art. 5 of the Law no. 30 from 7th of March 2013 concerning child protection against negative impact of information
- (d) draft Law on amending national legal framework on crimes against sexual life, and other.

On 17th of January La Strada submitted Comments on the replies of the State to the thematic questionnaire "The protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse facilitated by information and communication technologies (ICTs)" as independent and alternative view to the replies sent by public authorities.

In June 2018, upon invitation of **GRETA**, **La Strada provided inputs to the questionnaire „Access to justice and effective remedies“** from the child well being perspective and covered such aspects as: special protection measures taken in order to ensure the protection of children victims of trafficking in human beings during criminal investigations, protection of children victims of trafficking in human beings during judicial proceedings and assistance, support and protection for unaccompanied child victims of trafficking in human beings.

La Strada promoted a proper application of standards on **child rights protection by journalists** during a round table organized by the National Press Council in partnership with the Ombudsman for Children Rights. The aim of the event was to aware journalists and representatives of public authorities on standards and rules of reflecting the subject in press. La Strada presented 3 case studies from the recently published news in media and recommended a new approach towards the subject – focused on solutions and phenomenon, not on the „sensational“ and details about the abuse.

On May 30, 2018, the **Center of Health Forensics** organized the Republican Symposium of the Moldovan Drug-Legal Service "Violence against women and children, good practice and the role of legal medicine in addressing systemic challenges". The purpose of the event was to assess the phenomenon of violence against women and children and streamline role of the experts of the Centers of Legal Medicine. As one of the key speakers, La Strada brought several case studies to address the role of the health forensics expert in both successful as well as failure terms, also proposing recommendations.

In March 2018 La Strada has initiated discussions with the MHSPF about the opportunity to become a **Member of Child Helpline International** (a global network of 181 members in 147 countries). At the initiative of La Strada, the Ministry submitted all necessary documents. In the last semester of 2018, the National Child Helpline became a member of Child Helpline International network.

In 2018, La Strada took the decision to transfer the Child Help Line to another sectorial implementing agency that would partner with the Ministry. The Ministry has been informed accordingly and La Strada secured full transfer of position including full team.

//Contribute to decision-making process at all levels by providing qualitative data and information//

On February 6, 2018 the **national study “Child Safety Online”** was presented during a press conference as part of Safer Internet Day campaign. This is a first study of this kind in Moldova and aimed at snapshotting major internet usage interest and possible risks of sexual nature deriving from attitudes and behaviours. The report was reflected in 30 media titles among top 5 news. The main findings and recommendations were also presented at the Round Table on the “Implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse in the Republic of Moldova: challenges and good practices”, Anti-Trafficking and Gender Technical Coordination Meeting organized by OSCE Mission to Moldova, during seminars with parents and teachers, etc.

The analysis of the siguronline.md Help Line requests have been reflected in two facts sheets. The fact sheet for the first semester emphasis more cases of child sexual abuse reported in the first six months of the 2018 compared to data from 2017. The fact sheet for the second semester emphasis the significant increase of counselling requests from parents and adults on Siguronline (compared to previous years). This is a result of more active promotion of www.siguronline.md among parents and professionals, then targeted specifically on youngsters.

The **Report on implementation of the Lanzarote Convention by the Government of the Republic of Moldova** is available at [full version](#) and [summary version](#). The Report findings and recommendations were also presented Roundtable on the „Implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse in the Republic of Moldova: challenges and good practices”, organized on February 20-21 by the Ministry of Internal Affairs in partnership with La Strada and the Council of Europe. The independent initiative of developing such report was appreciated by the members of the Lanzarote Committee.

The Annual Report of the Child Helpline reflects on profile of caller and category of violence that the caller/child is suffering and also few aspects about professionals response to these issues.

Shortfalls

- **Postponing capacity building events for law enforcement and judiciary**

Following study visit to CEOP in March 2018 by a group of delegates from law enforcement, judiciary and academia, organised by La Strada with the support of British Embassy to Chisinau and facilitated by NCA, UK liason officer stationing in Bucharest, general agreement was reached about a professional training be delivered in 2019 by CEOP.

IV. Institutional development

Institutional framework built as per Programmes with common admin unit seem to work good for the organizational scopes – sufficiently independent in terms of operational decision making yet sharing common principles, information and coordination of strategic decisions.

The organization decided to freeze for at least 2 years the Peer-to Peer-Program based on the conclusions of the internal workshop of the executive board. The education activities targeting children and adolescents will be implemented by re-involving teachers and school staff. Thus, the relevant position “PPP Coordinator” in both Programmes was dissolved and new ones introduced entitled “Education Managers” by engaging current part time staff (one CHL counsellor and one TL counsellor).

During the executive board workshop, it was decided to discontinue application of La Strada to the public tender organized by the MHSPF for the implementation of the Child Help-line as of 2019. Therefore, La Strada will finalize the current contract and prepare for transfer if required. Thus, the CHL Coordinator position will also be dissolved. Nevertheless, La Strada intends to continue cooperation with the CHL as partner for the assistance on specific cases related to child vulnerability to and/or sexual exploitation including by means of IC.

During 2018, La Strada continued to struggle with the HR issue:

- Important HR changes relate to leave of Financial Manager (emigration) after 17 years of work; as of March, new financial manager was hired with coaching and training on the job secured for 6 months;
- Other HR changes include: leave of specialized lawyer on child protection (burn out), PPP Coordinator (emigration) and Communicator (emigration); Therefore, as of January 2018, La Strada has a new specialized lawyer for the child safeguarding team and as of April 2018, newly hired communicator; due to long maternity leave of resident psychologist of the child safeguarding team, one specially trained child psychologist from the CHL was transferred (late fall 2017) to this position as psychologist-interviewer who started in full position as of January 2018; thus, in 2018, the child safeguarding team was completely changed fact that determined need for renewing communication and networking with key stakeholders; training and coaching was secured with experienced external specialist.

During 2018, two new counsellors – one for Hot-Line and one for Trust-Line – have been recruited who have passed the testing and accommodation period of 6 months.

By the end of 2018, the HR got more stable.

Board renewal process will be launched in 2019.

The visionary structure approved along with the approbation of the Strategic Plan 2016-2020 providing for two distinct specialized Programs with specialized staff and single/common admin team continues to be a viable and efficient solution for strategic and operational functioning of the organization. All further developments are postponed for 2018 after the HR situation is stable including Operational Manual.

5 psychologists have graduated certified training course on psychological (clinical) evaluation delivered by Romanian school; 1 staff – VAWDV Programme Director enjoys specially 5 weeks training program on addressing domestic violence delivered by Government of Sweden; 2 staff – IT and siguronline – enjoyed training on TIC and their use for social media development; one lawyer enjoyed specialized training; 1 TL counselor enjoyed specialized training on working with trauma in family;

One external/Romania/ teambuilding event was organized under shared budget condition.

Child and Women Protection Policies have been coordinated with consultants under the aegis of OAK and Porticus Foundations, adjusted and endorsed by executive board in March 2018 along with relevant SOPs. The Policies and SOPS have been presented, discussed and signed by each staff of the relevant Programs during internal AEPW in July-August 2018.

La Strada received Certificate as organization-holder of personal data according to the national law. Personal Data Protection Guidelines and Protocols have been presented to staff and signed by each.

During internal AEPW in August 2018, analysis of the HL activity has shaped new categories of HL beneficiaries and services that have emerged naturally during the last few years by responding to the needs of callers who, correspondingly, reflect important contextual evolutions. This finding has led to the decision to strategically review the HL Regulation and protocols as well as calls/cases Registry. This activity will continue during 2019.

A Victims Protection Policy was developed as guidelines for cooperation with journalists. The document also guides journalists that intend to cover topics related to violence against women and children.

To date, La Strada has secured funding for core activities for the next 8 months (contracts signed) and agreements in negotiations (OAK, WCF) as well as few applications made with high success rate (WB, US Embassy). The 2% law cannot be considered even alternative source of funding given the fact that religious organizations, state institutions and corporations are (determining) encouraging taxpayers to direct 2% to relevant org/unions.

Given loss of trust to RM Government, the EU has redirected part of funds to country further development via CSO. This announcements has triggered appearance of new (pretend experienced) NGOs but also GONGOS including in our areas of work. And respectively unfair competition.

Narrative and financial Activity Reports per organization and per major Services (fact sheets) are made public on La Strada website in both Romanian and English language. Traditionally, La Strada reflects major events and achievements via press communique. All studies ad researches are made available on La Strada website in full version in Romanian language and English in summary. Changes in the organizational structure or domains are communicated via position briefs or thematic communique.

Changes in the external membership of La Strada occurred:

- Child Help-Line International – accreditation gained.
- SID – in process
- INHOPE – in process

- WAVE – applied as member of a thematic WG as to learn more about WAVE from insight.
- Rape Crisis Network Europe – to apply in 2019

The Strategic Planning and Evaluation Workshop was organized in summer 2018 per each Programme and separate per Executive Board. 4 days have been dedicated to each Programme resulting in development of 2018-2019 (12 months) Action Plans and Budget per distinct area and concepts of key activities particularly new ones (ex. targeting teachers).

In February-April 2019, the Executive Board had developed the concept of the next AP 2019-2021 and budget accordingly also taking into considerations the recommendations and conclusions of the external mid-term SP evaluation.