

Application for Membership

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PART 1	LA STRADA INTERNATIONAL – EUROPEAN NGO PLATFORM AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS
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The La Strada International NGO Platform

In 2019 a solid, leading and innovative Platform, with a **strong NGO voice** and grass root identity will be established which acts based on collected information and evidence obtained via information exchange, **monitoring and advocacy** and that calls for adequate support and protection of the rights of trafficked persons and risk groups.

The main purpose of this new La Strada International NGO Platform is to strengthen cooperation between civil society organisations, to raise awareness of human trafficking in Europe, to raise the profile of anti-trafficking initiatives and the work of NGOs and to engage in joint advocacy and policy work. The platform should be a space, where NGOs can share their experiences, find similarities in challenges that are faced due to policies and best practices.

Focus of the LSI NGO Platform

The focus of the LSI Platform will be on Europe broadly (both EU and non-EU countries) and on addressing all forms of human trafficking. LSI NGO Platform recognises trafficking in human beings as a very complex phenomenon with structural social, political and economic root causes. To end trafficking in human beings these root causes need to be addressed. Therefore where relevant and required, the LSI Platform will monitor and react to issues that closely relate and or impact human trafficking, while having available capacity in mind. Related issues include human/women rights, gender based violence, labour policies, migration policies and violation of rights of vulnerable groups including undocumented workers, sex workers, minority groups and LGBTIQ.

Services provided by the LSI Platform

The following services are expected to be provided by the LSI Platform, where needed through the facilitating and coordinating role of the Secretariat:

Exchange/sharing of experiences, practises, challenges and information from the ground

- Member exchange of experiences; exchange with other organizations that work directly with victims; talk with other people who understand identification and victim assistance in practice.
- Share good practices regarding the actual support services provided to victims, what works and what doesn't – not only shelter, but all aspects of support.
- Share good practices and know-how with other anti-trafficking NGOs in Europe.
- Ensure exchange between EU and non-EU members.
- (Informal) use of each-other's contacts, commonly address issues or prepare feedback on international developments.

Direct cooperation regarding cases

- Cooperate regarding specific cases and providing advice and assistance to NGOs that work with cases from a particular country.

Sharing facts/information

- Learn about policy initiatives from the other countries.
- Ensure exchange of relevant information, development updates, including about legal employment opportunities in EU countries.
- Keep on top of developments and emerging trends/issues in the different countries and at EU level so that members are kept informed on human trafficking developments and European political debates.
- Inform on funding calls.
- Inform on identified cases of nationality of the different countries. *(e.g. when a Platform member in Belgium support Moldovan trafficked persons, it notifies the Platform member in Moldova).*
- Conduct common research; research for which individual NGOs might not have the resources

Common awareness and advocacy

- Raise awareness about relevant issues at European/international level.
- Prepare common statements, position papers, briefing papers.
- Engage with key actors at European/international level on behalf of members and put forward joint submissions in relation to relevant developments/policy changes, etc.
- Ensure visibility of the work of the platform and make **more use of available data of platform members**; allowing to inform about human trafficking and members' work, but also about bad practises and harm done based on members' experience and data.

Joining forces in order to stand firm as civil society

- Provide support to members that face difficulties
- Provide consultations on actions and strategies to take.
- Serve as a channel for dialogue with the institutions and bodies of the European Union to express the concerns and formulate the proposals of members;
- Support LSI Platform members in capacity-building, training and etc.

Structure of the LSI NGO Platform

The bodies of the LSI Platform will include the General Assembly , the Board, the Advisory Council and the International Secretariat and, if needed, (temporary and ad hoc) working groups on specific themes and priority issues.

General Assembly

Each member will have the right to attend the General Assembly meeting and to participate in the discussions and to make proposals by appointing a (permanent) representative for the General Assembly. While the daily management of the LSI Platform and supervision shall be in the hands of the management of the International Secretariat, the Board will remain responsible to ensure that resolutions adopted by the General Assembly are executed by the Secretariat, in accordance with the annual budget and the annual programme as determined by the General Assembly. Further, the board supports the Secretariat to define general strategies and plans.

Board

The Board shall consist of at least three board members, who can be externals or permanent representatives of the NGO members The Board shall consist of at least three board members, who can be externals or permanent representatives of the NGO members. The number of board members should be an odd number to avoid that decision taking is hampered, in case of equal vote (voting tie).

The General Assembly indicates in advance, before voting, the number of board members that are going to be elected. The positions of chair, secretary and treasurer shall be assigned by the Board in consultation with its members. If needed, two positions may be held by one person. The Board members shall be elected, suspended and dismissed by a resolution adopted by the General Assembly.

Becoming a member of LSI & application procedure

New members are welcome for La Strada International's NGO Platform. If you are a non-governmental organisation committed to promoting a human rights based approach to trafficking and/or other related issues such as migration, labour rights, or women's rights you can apply for La Strada International - NGO Platform against trafficking in human beings membership. In order to become a member of the LSI NGO Platform, members should fulfil the membership criteria.

- Members can apply (request) to become a member by filling in the application form and submitting it to the LSI International secretariat
- They should submit the following information stipulated by the board (statute):
 - Copy of formal registration of the organisation
 - Latest annual report
- Membership applications will be handled and reviewed by the International Secretariat. Reference letters from existing members in the region or country may be requested as proof of the applicant's engagement/work in the region or country.
- The board will suggest new organisations to be accepted as members - upon the recommendation of the International Secretariat and or members. The General Assembly will approve membership of new organisations.
- After approval of the General Assembly, the organisation will be informed about the status of their application.

Membership criteria

- Being an (independent) non-governmental organisation at the national level in Europe.
- Active on the issue of human trafficking at the grass root level, preferably by providing direct support.
- Demonstrated and recognised expertise in and commitment to the Anti-Trafficking field at the national level for at least 3 years.
- Adhering to the common vision and values of LSI (as laid down in the Code of Conduct, including a victim-centred and human rights-based approach)
- Recognising the statute of LSI and complying with its Code of Conduct.
- Committed to actively participate in the International La Strada Association (statute), by means of:
 - Supporting a strong and united civil society voice
 - Sharing information and expertise/experience
 - Providing support to the Association, its legal bodies and members
 - Attending and actively participating in LSI meetings, activities and events

Responsibilities

Members should be active, share information and support each other (solidarity). This includes the responsibility to:

- attend and actively participate in meetings/events;
- Bring expertise/experience by sharing best practices, engaging in discussions and sharing data;
- Support LSI initiatives, including joint statements;
- Promote trust and transparency, including sharing information, at least with the LSI board, on the situation of the office that might affect the credibility of the platform (e.g. change of objective of

the organisation, structural changes or financial issues that might have a serious impact), to allow the board to develop a strategy to protect the platform.

Rights

- Members have access to timely, clear and up to date information.
- Members have access to regular meetings.
- Members have an equal vote in decision-making.
- Members have access to participation in projects – and can initiate.
- Membership can be stopped at any time.

Termination of membership

- Termination of membership can be initiated at any time. If a member decides to terminate, a written notification must be sent to the LSI-IS.
- Termination can also be initiated by the International Secretariat/Board Members for the following reasons:
 - The use of the LSI Platform’s name in the endorsement, support or defence of any position, document, material or work product not officially sanctioned by La Strada International.
 - Representation by Member Organisation that its affiliation with LSI NGO Platform makes it eligible for any funding support without prior consent by La Strada International
 - Any action, public commentary or published statement attributed to LSI’s NGO Platform that is contradictory to the mission, objectives and policies of La Strada International.

Procedure to be followed for termination of membership initiated by the International Secretariat/Board Members:

- Prior notice to the Member Organisation of LSI’s intent to terminate membership and to bring the matter to the attention of the LSI Secretariat and board.
- Written notification from the IS of the grounds for termination.
- Opportunity for the Member to respond prior to the matter being brought before the Board.
- Opportunity for member to appear before the LSI Board to discuss their prospective termination from LSI's membership.
- The Board advises the General Assembly and General Assembly makes the final determination on termination of membership and its decision cannot be further appealed.
- Decision is communicated to the organisation.

I agree with the terms of membership and undertake to adhere to the missions and objectives of LSI Platform.

I enclose:

- Copy of organisation’s annual report and finance report
- Copy of the organisation’s formal registration
- Copy of
- Copy of

Date:.....

Signature:.....

Full Name:

Designation:

PART II GENERAL INFORMATION

Contact Details of your Organisation

Full Name of Organisation:

Contact person:

Address:

Country:

Language/s used:

Mailing address (if different from address):

Telephone number(s):

Fax number(s):

E-mail address:

Website:

Twitter:

Facebook:

How many staff members or member organisations does your organisation/network have?

Date of application:

Individual

Organisation

At which geographical level does your organisation work?

National

Regional

International

Mission and Objectives

Short description of your organisation

Areas of Work of the Organisation (Check all that apply)

(X) Human Trafficking	(X) Migration
(X) Human Rights	(X) Women's Rights (e.g. legal, health)
(X) Sex work	() Labour issues (e.g. domestic/factory work, trade union)
() Child trafficking/ labour/ rights	() Development (e.g. globalisation)
() Others. Please specify	

Governance (This information will not be revealed to other members)

Does your organisation keep records of income and expenditure? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Are your accounts independently audited? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Please provide an organigram or a schematic overview of the organisation

PART III MEMBERSHIP QUESTIONNAIRE – ONLY TO BE FILLED BY NEW PARTNERS

Please take some time to respond to these questions. You may like to have a meeting with your colleagues in the office before completing this section. Descriptive answers to the questions below will help us know more about your work.

How did you learn about the LSI NGO Platform and why do you want to become a member?

Has your organisation participated in any common activities with La Strada International NGO Platform such as advocacy, research, events? If yes, which?

Briefly describe your on-going projects and programmes on the issues of trafficking, migration and labour or share web links to the information online.

What channels does your organisation use for communication, e.g. newsletter, social media, blog, TV/radio/press programme or column, press releases, etc? Please specify the name/s and language/s used or refer us to the relevant website:

How would you describe the key strengths and achievements of your organisation?

Do you have a specific interest in any European geographical region or country for cross-border cooperation? If yes, please specify the region/s.

How would you like to collaborate with other Member Organisations of the Platform and the International Secretariat?

Which NGOs and international bodies do you primarily work with? Please briefly describe the nature of cooperation?

La Strada International supports the rights of sex workers and recognises their important role in anti-trafficking efforts. Does your organisation agree not to participate in anti-prostitution activities, neither to advocate for the criminalisation of sex work?

Yes No

Please share any other relevant information that you think could support your application.

Please rate the level of support that you would like to receive from the Platform and the Secretariat, with 1 representing the highest need.

	Rating (e.g. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)
To receive LSI publications and other electronic resource materials	
To bring issues of national concern to the international arena	
To participate in relevant LSI meetings	
To help disseminate your organisation's information and campaigns	
To network with other member organisations	
To receive training/capacity building	
Others, please describe (Please note that La Strada International is NOT a funding agency)	

You can submit the completed form via e-mail to: info@lastradainternational.org

Annex I
LSI Code of Conduct

Annex II
Statutes of La Strada International