



## ANNUAL REPORT 2008

La Strada Česká republika, o.p.s.

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## ABOUT THE ORGANISATION

La Strada Česká republika (henceforth referred to as 'La Strada') is a not-for-profit, non-governmental organisation which works to solve problems related to human trafficking.

### *The Founding of La Strada Česká republika*

La Strada Česká republika o.p.s. operated between 1995-1998 in the Czech Republic as a project run by the organisation proFem. Since 1998, it has been registered as a legal entity in its own right. It is one of the founding organisations in the international La Strada network, which has members in eight other European countries (Belarus, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, The Netherlands, Macedonia, Moldova, Poland and Ukraine), and an international central office in The Netherlands.

**Human Trafficking** is understood to be, under current Czech legislation, a situation in which someone accepts, obtains, leases, coerces, transports, hides, locks up or hands over another human being with the view to the latter being used a) to have sexual intercourse or to solicit, b) to work as a slave or involuntarily c) to be forced to work or exploited, in the case that the individual is under 18 years of age. In the case of adults, charges can only be brought when, furthermore, violence has been used, or the threat of violence has been used, or deception, or a mistake has been capitalised upon, or another human being's hardship or addiction.

(Law no. 140/1961 Sb., The Czech Penal Code, and subsequent decrees, const. § 232a)

### *Aims, Values, Basic Tenants*

#### **Aims**

Human trafficking and exploitation are inadmissible.

La Strada Česká republika, o.p.s. is a specialist non-profit organisation which is dedicated to the prevention of human trafficking and exploitation, which identifies the causes and consequences of such activities, which influences public policy on the matter and which offers social services in the given fields.

La Strada is part of the international organisation La Strada International.

#### **Values**

Each individual perceives things differently. Everyone has the right to make their own life choices and to carry the responsibility for such choices, as this is an expression of freedom. Every individual is able to make their own decisions about the most fundamental aspects of their lives for themselves, should they find themselves in the right conditions and with a sufficient amount of information. La Strada respects an individual's own decisions and strives to create equal opportunities, to abolish prejudice and gender stereotypes.

## Basic Tenants

- Human Rights
- Empowerment
- Feminism
- Equal Opportunities
- Non-Abolitionism
- Transparency

The organisation's aims are furthered by work in three different areas, which, when successfully mutually integrated, attempt to cover all of the clientele's needs and treat the range of clientele's problems. La Strada:

- Offers the target groups social services
- Is dedicated to education and prevention
- Strives for legislative and practical change through advocacy and lobbying, the aim being to foresee human trafficking and exploitation and protect the rights and interests of the target group.

## The Statutory Body

The organisation has a board and a general director/national coordinator, both of which fill the organisation's statutory functions.

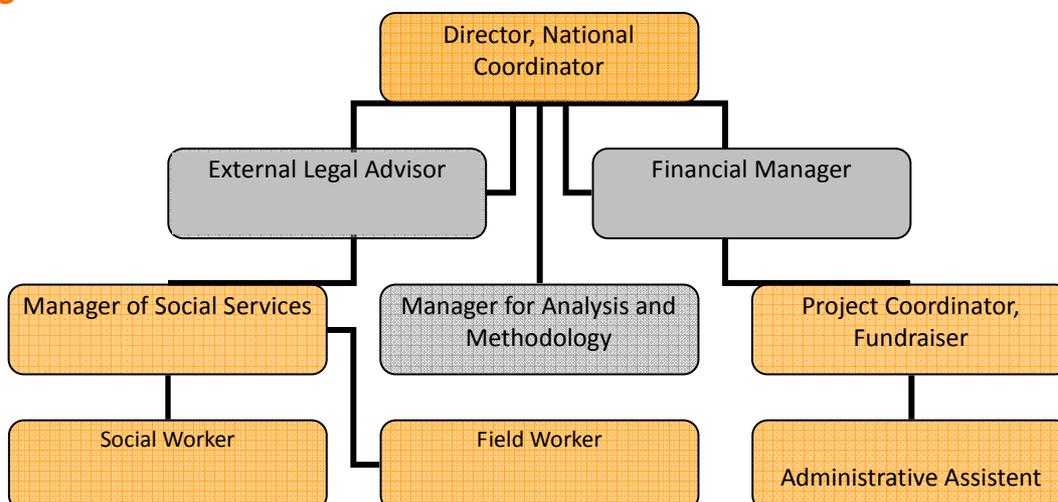
Board:

Monika Ladmanová	Board Member
Barbel Uhl	Board Member
Filip Smoljak	Board Member

Director and National Coordinator:

Irena Konečná

## Organisational Structure



## *The Organisation's Development So Far and Major Landmarks*

### Late 1990s

- By the end of the 1990s, La Strada had launched a special telephone hotline to prevent human trafficking, and had created a template for addressing the issue of human trafficking at a government level and with the general public.

### 2000

- 2000 was a breakthrough year on the international scene when 'The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children', supplementing the United Nations' 'Convention against Transnational Organized Crime' (henceforth referred to as 'the protocol') was negotiated. Its main significance was that it contained the first legally-binding and internationally-accepted definition of human trafficking. La Strada's international network was represented at these protocol negotiations.
- Within La Strada, just at the end of the year 2000, a template for social services to help trafficked women was decided upon and the organisation acquired its first emergency shelter at a undisclosed address. After dealing exclusively with trafficked women working in the sex industry, La Strada started in 2003 to encounter and offer its services to trafficked women employed in sewing workshops.

### 2004

- 2004 was of great significance for the Czech La Strada, and indeed for the organisation as a whole. La Strada had been pushing for a number of years in this country to have the Czech definition of human trafficking as a criminal offence changed to agree with that of the United Nations' protocol. In 2004, the Czech definition of human trafficking was altered so that it no longer only encompassed human trafficking with the view to exploiting people in the sex industry, but with the view of exploiting people in any other sector too.
- La Strada started to offer its services to male clients as well.
- In the same year, La Strada produced its first set of recommendations for the Czech government addressing the issue of human trafficking, and which summarised, from the point of view of the organisation, which steps should be taken to address the causes of human trafficking and offer effective help to trafficked persons.
- In order to improve the organisation's work with its clientele, a counselling centre was opened where advice could be given to the clientele on a face-to-face basis, and where clients had access to information and communication technology.
- The association La Strada International came into being with an administrative office situated in Amsterdam. The association links nine independent organisations in nine European countries.

### 2006

- In 2006, La Strada broadened its operations significantly to encompass field work, specific activities aimed at the Vietnamese clientele, and legal services. The organisation also

acquired more sheltered accommodation.

## The Present Day

- In recent years, La Strada has witnessed a rise in cases of exploitation in sectors other than just the sex industry.
- La Strada successfully helped a client win compensation within a criminal trail.
- La Strada is currently a member of the Global Alliance against Trafficking in Women (GAATW) which is based in Bangkok, and since 2008, is also a member of The Platform for Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM). In the Czech Republic, La Strada is a member of the Forum for Integration (FORINT).

## Planned Development

- La Strada would like to remain a middle-size organisation, which only expands after a great deal of consideration, according to a pre-designated plan and so that it can at least retain its ability to compete.
- In working partnerships, La Strada would like to be a reliable and significant organisation with renowned intellectual capital. It would like to be able to influence public policy.
- La Strada wants to continue to contribute to the abolition of human trafficking and exploitation and to eliminate the ill-effects of human trafficking and exploitation.
- La Strada wants to continue to offer its clientele social services, on the basis of their needs which should be frequently examined. Such services should be clearly outlined, defined and monitored by professional personnel.
- La Strada wants to lobby further for clients' rights, through cooperation with legal experts, especially on the question of compensation being awarded to a client for the effects that human trafficking has had upon his/her health. La Strada considers the possibility of compensation to be one of the fundamental ways in which, on a practical level, justice can be reached. That is why, in the next calendar year, La Strada will dedicate itself to activities which increase the possibility of trafficked persons receiving compensation (following a criminal trial), on both a national and international level.
- In relation to our experience from previous years and in light of the current financial crisis, and the subsequent lay-offs of foreign workers in the Czech Republic, La Strada will map the situation of those foreigners who migrated to the Czech Republic from third countries, so as to avert human trafficking and exploitation.
- La Strada will continue to improve the quality of its methods in light of social service quality-standards guidelines.
- The whole team will continue to attend further trainings..
- La Strada would like to devise sustainable strategies for the organisation in the fields of fundraising, lobbying, media awareness etc.

## **Contacts**

**La Strada Česká republika o.p.s.**

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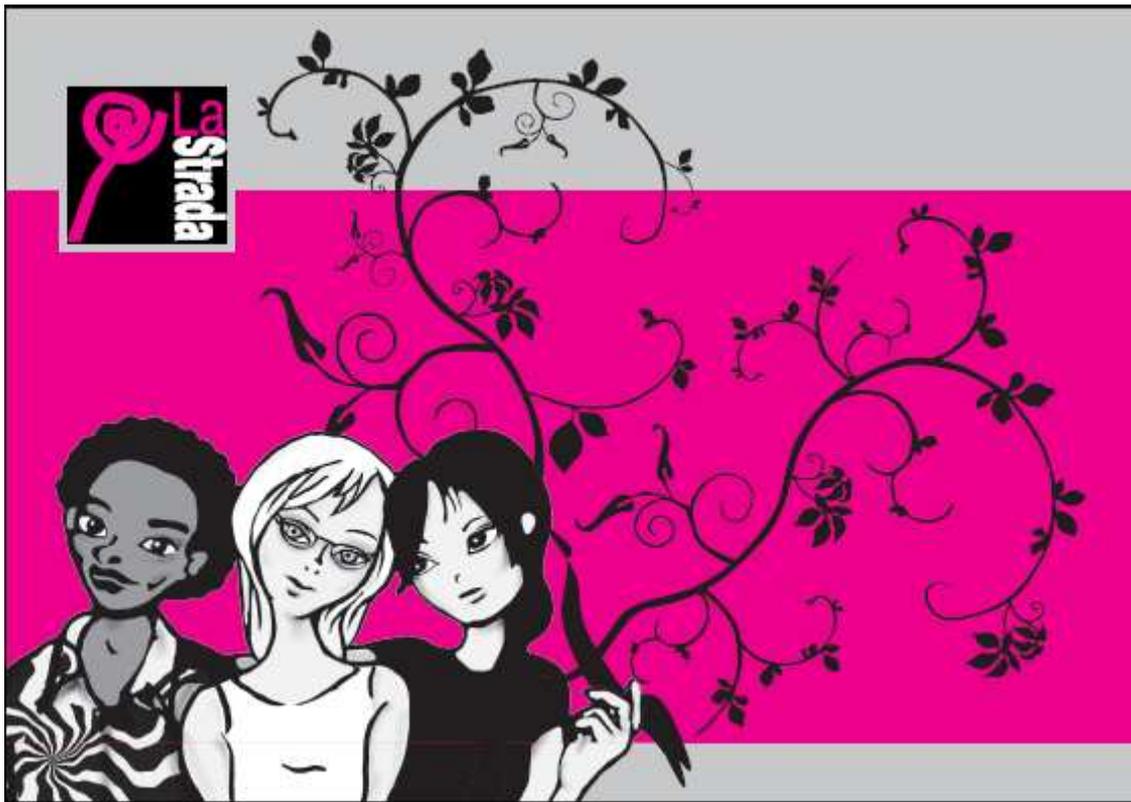
e-mail [lastrada@strada.cz](mailto:lastrada@strada.cz)

telephone office: +420 222 721 810

**Information and helpline:**

**+420 222 71 71 71**

**[pomoc@strada.cz](mailto:pomoc@strada.cz)**



### Have you:

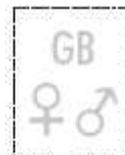
- been forced to work against your will by someone?
- had your documents taken away?
- failed to receive payment for your work?
- had your movements monitored?
- been badly treated?
- been mistreated?
- been threatened?

Or what about someone you know?

**COME TO US – WE CAN HELP**

**We offer counseling** and other forms of assistance to trafficked and exploited persons.

- **emergency assistance** (short-term accommodation, medical care, psychological support, basic clothing, food and toiletries)
- **shelter services** (safe house, financial aid, educational courses, free-time activity, help getting back into the labour market, escort from A to B)
- **social counseling** (social, legal and psychological advice, help dealing with the authorities, contacts to other aid organisations)
- **legal counseling**
- **skilled interpreters**



### La Strada Czech Republic, o.p.s.

fighting to prevent human trafficking - defending the rights of trafficked individuals - helping those who have been exploited, including through prostitution



### La Strada Česká republika

Info/SOS: +420 222 717 171

E-mail: [pomoc@strada.cz](mailto:pomoc@strada.cz)

Web: [www.strada.cz](http://www.strada.cz)

**OUR SERVICES ARE FOR FREE.**

**NOTHING YOU TELL US WILL BE PASSED ON WITHOUT YOUR CONSENT.**

## SOCIAL SERVICES

*Zita (35 years old), is divorced, has two children (aged nine and two years old), comes from Kyrgyzstan, and received a diploma from a massage and healing course. Before she left her homeland, she worked part-time in a health centre. Due, however, to the small amount of money she was paid, she found it difficult to provide for her children. It proved extremely difficult for her to find another job.*

*In her country of origin, a woman contacted Zita (one of her patients), who offered her a visa and work in the Czech Republic. This woman did everything as she said she would, for a very good price given the local rates for such services. Even then, however, Zita had to get into debt to pay her. The whole procedure lasted about one month and a half. The end result was that Zita secured a tourist visa (which was to be changed into a work visa by her employer when she signed a contract) and a train ticket to Prague.*

*In Prague, Zita's future employer and his girlfriend were waiting for her. They told her they needed to take her passport so that they could draw up a contract. Zita gave the woman her passport and got into a car. The drive lasted around three hours. They arrived at a house in which Zita met four female Russian-speaking workers.*

*The house contained a small sewing workshop where Zita and the other women had to work for up to 14 hours a day. They were guarded by Russian-speaking men. These men also monitored the quality of their work, each time one of them made a mistake, they were beaten. Given that they were provided with barely any food and that they slept in cold and damp surroundings within this house, it was hardly possible for these women to conduct their work to the required standards. The men threatened the women with death if they tried to run away.*

*Zita got to know Anna, a Ukrainian, who was, according to her, a great support and with whom she eventually ran away from the workshop. They took advantage of a time when there were few women in the house, and only one guard. This guard helped them with their escape on the proviso that they wouldn't talk to the police. The women in the house, however, asked them to tell the police everything. Zita and Anna waited until two in the morning and then escaped the building. So that they didn't arouse any suspicion, they left all of their personal belongings behind. Anna managed to negotiate with a bus driver who let them travel for free, this meant that they arrived the following day in Prague. Anna left the bus before it reached Prague. The two women parted because Anna didn't want to testify as a police witness.*

*After several hours wandering in Prague, Zita met some Ukrainians who let her stay in their accommodation. They also gave her some basic provisions and contacted La Strada.*

*Zita decided that she would cooperate with the police and give them all of the information that she had. After that she wanted to return home as quickly as possible. When staying with La Strada, Zita often complained of splitting headaches, she also told employees that she sometimes thought about committing suicide. After seven weeks, in the course of which she was in contact with the police, she received temporary travel documents and returned to her family's home.*

*This is a model case study, regarding the privacy of the clientele; La Strada is unable to reveal further details.*

The story above describes one of the many situations in which exploitation and human trafficking can occur.

Human trafficking is for many a broad and incomprehensible phenomenon playing out in both the **sex industry** and in **other parts of the labour market** (for example, construction, forestry, agriculture). For that reason it is difficult for all concerned to identify such individuals and offer them adequate help.

The most common way in which trafficked and exploited **men and women** get in touch with La Strada is through the organisation's **INFO and SOS help lines**, which they either call on their own or through an intermediary. First contact takes the form of, in the most comprehensible manner (often with the aid of an interpreter), telling the potential client what sort of organisation he/she has made contact with and the sorts of services that can be offered. It is always important to take into account the individual's psychological state and the potential safety risk posed to that individual (given that much human trafficking takes place as a consequence of organised crime).

La Strada distributes contacts for its INFO and SOS help lines to the general public and those working in the specific area of human trafficking through its **preventative materials**. It uses the media, lectures, seminars, participation in conferences and so on to get its message across. La Strada also targets groups of people who, given their socially disadvantaged background, could run a higher risk of human trafficking and exploitation (such as migrant communities).

Further contact with trafficked and exploited persons takes place at the organisation's **advisory centre**, which is at a undisclosed address. These individuals can be offered **sheltered accommodation** at one of La Strada's flats, the addresses for which are also undisclosed.

Apart from accommodation and crisis help, La Strada also offers a whole range of social services including the procurement of **medical and psychotherapeutic assistance**, broaching contact with Czech legal bodies, **legal advice** and **representation, legal advice on the labour market** and **support for those seeking to re-enter the labour market**, help returning to the individual's country of origin and so on.

When working with clients, a highly individual approach is employed, the main aim of which is to gradually boost the client's self-sufficiency.

All of the services offered by the organisation are free, accommodation can be secured for an individual for up to one year and, with some exceptions, the maximum time that the organisation cooperates with an individual client does not exceed two years.

### **The Social Services La Strada Offers**

In 2007, La Strada registered, in accordance with the Social Services Law (no. 108/2006 Sb.) **three social services** which it is still currently offering. They are:

- **Counselling service**
- **Crisis aid**
- **Sheltered accommodation**

The clientele most frequently use the social services offered by the organisation in the following order: a client's cooperation with La Strada often starts when crisis help is offered; the cooperation continues in one of La Strada's sheltered flats and continues through to social counselling in later stages of the relationship.

The second most frequent case is when one of the organisation's trained staff offers a client professional social counselling alone.

Each social service should, according to the law, have its purpose and target group.

### Counselling Service – Social Services' Law paragraph 37

#### **Purpose**

La Strada Czech Republic's counseling service aims to create a safe and dignified space, in which clients can consult with others on the topic of their own needs, and share their experiences of human trafficking and exploitation.

Through the dissemination of expert information to clients, and through client support, the service aims to fortify users' abilities to solve their own difficult living problems.

The service is provided either in person or over the telephone.

#### Who is the service for?

The La Strada Czech Republic counseling service is for:

- Trafficked and exploited persons – people who were tricked into and/or forced to carry out work, or offer services, such as prostitution. People who, through their work, were exploited by others.
- People who have lived through, or those who have lived close to, human trafficking and exploitation.
- People who are in a close relationship with those who have been trafficked and/or exploited.
- People who are looking for work, or who are planning to travel, abroad and those who are interested in more information about the risks of human trafficking and exploitation.

The service is offered to those over 18 years of age of Czech and foreign origin, regardless of visa status. The service can be provided in anonymity.

### Crisis Aid - Social Services' Law paragraph 60

#### **Purpose**

La Strada Czech Republic's crisis shelter is there to help solve any crisis which has as its cause human trafficking and exploitation. It creates the conditions in which the client can work towards the overall stabilization of their situation.

The offer of temporary free accommodation for a maximum of seven days in safe and dignified surroundings, where social care and counseling is also available, serves to help people broaden their own horizons and lead their own independent lives.

The purpose of La Strada Czech Republic's crisis aid aims to create a safe and dignified space, in which clients can consult with others on the topic of their own needs, and share their experiences of human trafficking and exploitation.

Through crisis intervention, and the dissemination of expert information to clients, as well as

through client support, the service aims to fortify users' abilities to solve their own difficult living problems.

#### Who is the service for?

La Strada Czech Republic's crisis shelter is for:

- Trafficked and exploited persons – people who were tricked into and/or forced to carry out work, or offer services, such as prostitution. People who, through their work, were exploited by others.

When clients' lives or health is threatened, the unfavourable conditions in which said clients often live require for temporary accommodation to be offered.

La Strada Czech Republic's crisis aid is for:

- Trafficked and exploited persons – people who were tricked into and/or forced to carry out work, or offer services, such as prostitution. People who, through their work, were exploited by others.
- People who have lived through, or those who have lived close to, human trafficking and exploitation.

When clients' lives or health is threatened, the unfavourable conditions in which said clients often live require for crisis intervention to be offered.

The service is offered to those who find themselves in a life or health-threatening situation. Clients must be over 18 years of age of Czech or foreign origin, regardless of visa status. A ambulant version of the service can be provided in anonymity.

#### Sheltered Accommodation - Social Services' Law paragraph 57

##### **Purpose**

La Strada Czech Republic's sheltered accommodation creates conditions in which clients can work towards their overall stabilization. It is where clients can gain support and the motivation to resolve difficult living situations linked to human trafficking and exploitation.

The offer of temporary free accommodation in safe and dignified surroundings, where social care and counseling is also available, serves to help people broaden their own horizons and lead their own independent lives.

#### Who is the service for?

La Strada Czech Republic's sheltered accommodation is for:

- Trafficked and exploited persons – people who were tricked into and/or forced to carry out work, or offer services, such as prostitution. People who, through their work, were exploited by others. The unfavourable conditions in which these people often live require that temporary accommodation is offered.

The accommodation is offered to those over the age of 18 of Czech or foreign origin, regardless of visa status.

In accordance with international trends, La Strada prefers to use the term 'trafficked persons' when referring to the target group. The term 'victim' is avoided because it can imply passivity or powerlessness.

### INFO and SOS help lines

An important part of the organisation's activities both in terms of the social services offered and the prevention work that La Strada does are the **INFO and SOS help lines** which the NGO set up in 2008. The help lines:

- Are open three days a week, more precisely on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am until 4pm and on Wednesdays from 12pm until 6pm.
- At the moment, the help lines operate for a limited period each week (on Wednesdays between 4pm and 6pm) in Russian, Romanian, Moldovan and English, as well as Czech.
- When no one is staffing the help lines, clients can leave a message.

### Results

- A year-on-year rise in the number of clients using the organisation's professional social counselling service has been registered. It is therefore possible to talk about the provision of social counselling as being a success.
- All three of the registered services offered comprised sub-activities which were aimed in particular at the psychosomatic stabilization of the service user. Other sub-activities were oriented towards long-term cooperation with the client designed to gradually emancipate said individual, for example helping him/her return to the labour market and/or gain short term work.
- In the course of 2008, La Strada succeeded in harmonizing the social services it provided with the quality standards in social services directive (SQSS), this meant that the existing ways of monitoring quality standards were reviewed and changes made were put into practice.
- As part of the implementation of social service quality standards, La Strada redrafted its contracts pertaining to social service provision, as well as its information materials for its clientele.
- In 2008, a new team of social work assistants was put together by the organisation. The way the team was lead turned out to be both functional and progressive. The team of social workers is still subject to regular supervision.

### Social Services in 2008 in Numbers

#### In 2008, La Strada:

- Offered three types of social service,
- Offered support to **66** trafficked and exploited persons,
- Offered **27** people complex social services,
- Dealt with 705 enquiries through its SOS and INFO help lines on behalf **315** people.

## PREVENTION AND EDUCATION

### *Aims*

In 2008, La Strada's aim in the field of prevention and education was to combat the causes of human trafficking through education and through information on this topic.

The goal of all of these activities is to help the target group make informed decisions about their lives and fortify their capability to do so – in other words, to empower these individuals.

### *Activities*

#### The Target Group

Education and information are targeted at:

- The general public and in particular younger people (through lectures, public discussions, the media and information materials),
- Specialists working in the field (for example the Police, the Czech Refugee Facilities Administration, labour offices and inspectors, those working in the Czech legal system and so on) this information is often imparted through specialist seminars,
- Those running the risk of being trafficked or exploited (such as migrants in the Czech Republic) through field work,
- Those travelling abroad for work (through flyers and other information materials, the INFO and SOS help lines, and through email).

#### Tools

In order to prevent human trafficking, La Strada uses the following tools:

- Lectures, seminars, workshops, meetings, consultation,
- Information materials,
- Information technology and the media.

#### Field Work

In 2008, La Strada continued with its systematic practice of field work in several parts of the Czech Republic. La Strada understands such work as a specific form of intervention into the target group's surroundings which is born of the methods and principals of social work in the field and social work in general.

One part of the organization's field work aims to collect information with the end goal of creating a useful and pertinent set of prevention materials which address the real needs of the target group. Information materials are disseminated in a range of languages. They contain general information about the organization's activities, the sort of help it can offer and contact details.

In the course of the year, materials, brochures and preventative items such as lighters and mirrors were distributed by field workers, including a consultant and an interpreter. These materials all had the organization's logo and contacts for the INFO and SOS help lines.

## Results

- **An advisory service offering information to people before they go abroad to work, study and so on** forms a lesser, though no less important part of our non-person-to-person counselling. We believe that this side of our operations has grown as information relating to work abroad becomes more accessible and the computer literacy of younger generations, who are predominantly the target group of such information, grows. This form of advisory service is most often carried out through email contact.

The majority of calls the organization received were from people asking La Strada to vouch for a job agency. As a result, La Strada offered a series of guidelines on the safest way to contact employment agencies and negotiate work, most often abroad.

- **As for the advisory service for trafficked and/or exploited individuals, and those close to them:** the most frequent contact the organization had here was with Czech citizens working abroad, who were trying to deal with rights abuses committed against them which bore the traditional hallmarks of human trafficking and/or exploitation. A second important group who were in contact with the organization were foreigners who were dealing with such abuses committed against them in the Czech Republic.
- The number of people, more specifically the number of males, who contacted La Strada's SOS and INFO help lines, grew. Such contact mostly addressed the issues of work-related problems, which the afore-mentioned work in the field contributed to the solution of. In other cases, those calling the helpline wanted to talk about issues relating to domestic violence, homelessness, communication with the police or other institutions, protection from crimes (such as stalking), orientation and the appropriate selection of social services on offer or indeed educational opportunities in the Czech Republic.

## Field Work

- Those working in the field were doing so mostly in various workplaces (such as building sites, hospitals, markets, hotels, warehouses and so on), at contact sites (such as black labour markets, call centres and flea markets) and at workers' dormitories predominantly in Prague but also in central Bohemia, and in Plzen and Pardubice and its surroundings as well. Field workers continued to develop their relationship with relevant parties in both the state and private sectors. Field workers offered members of the target group the necessary information through specialized prevention and information materials in particular. On the basis of their needs having been identified, La Strada employees also put these individuals in contact with various types of social service provider.
- In 2008, work in the field was carried out aimed at three target groups in particular. These groups were, for simplification's sake, defined as *the Russian-speaking community* (meaning those from the former USSR), *the Vietnamese community* and *other linguistic groups/communities*. In particular when dealing with the Russian-speaking and Vietnamese communities, cultural mediators were involved in the process.
- In the course of its field work in 2008, La Strada compiled a report on the basis of semi-structured interviews with Vietnamese workers called 'Vietnamese Workers in Czech

Factories', which describes the living and working conditions of these individuals and the behaviour of agencies which brought these labourers to the Czech Republic. This document can be downloaded from [the La Strada website](#). A legal analysis of the situation forms an addendum to the document.

### *Prevention and Education in 2008 in Numbers*

#### **In 2008 La Strada:**

- Made contact with **349** members of the target group in the field.
- Made contact with **130** people who were close to the target group in the field.
- Distributed **11 813** copies of preventative and information materials made by La Strada Czech Republic.
- Handed out more than **260** copies of materials drafted by other relevant organizations and institutions.
- Drafted and published one study on Vietnamese workers in Czech factories.
- Staged two preventative lectures at schools so as to spread information about human trafficking, the commercial exploitation of individuals and other related themes.
- Fielded 705 calls through the organisation's SOS and INFO help lines, of which:
  - **29** people were helped from a total of 62 enquiries about human trafficking before these individuals went abroad.
  - As with every other year, a critical number of people who had experienced human trafficking or exploitation were helped – some **112** people and 339 enquiries were handled.
  - A further 304 enquiries - and **174** callers were helped.

<b>HELP TO FOREIGNERS - MEN AND WOMEN</b>	
<p><b>BAD WORKING CONDITIONS?</b>  <b>DID THEY TAKE YOUR DOCUMENTS (PASSPORT)?</b>  <b>ARE THEY EXPLOITING YOU?</b>  <b>NO MONEY FOR YOUR WORK?</b>  <b>WE OFFER HELP!</b></p>	<p><b>LA STRADA CZECH REPUBLIC</b>            IS A NON-GOVERNMENTAL            ORGANIZATION PROVIDING            HELP TO PERSONS, WHO            ARE EXPLOITED AT WORK OR            FORCED TO WORK UNDER            INHUMAN CONDITIONS</p>
<p>LA STRADA'S SERVICES ARE FREE OF CHARGE AND STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL            OUR SERVICES INCLUDE:  <b>TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION, MEDICAL,            LEGAL AND WORK RELATED INFORMATION...</b></p>	
 	
<p><b>HELPLINE LA STRADA 222 71 71 71</b></p> <p>(LOCAL CALL CHARGES APPLY; HELPLINE OPERATIONAL ON TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS 10:00 - 16:00,            WEDNESDAYS 12:00 - 18:00 AND WEDNESDAYS 16:00 - 18:00 IN RUSSIAN)</p>	

## ADVOCACY AND LOBBYING

### *Aims*

The goal of advocacy in our organisation is to make the voice of people we work with heard and have their rights and interests upheld. We are trying to establish a systematic set of guidelines which eliminate people's vulnerability to human trafficking and exploitation. The organisation also tries to increase knowledge of the issue through research and monitoring activities and to contribute its experiences to specialist discussion on the matter.

### *Activities*

The main operation that La Strada undertook in the field of lobbying and advocacy work in 2008 was to strive for the improved position of (potentially) trafficked persons in society and to uphold their rights, including their right to access the justice system and to request unconditional assistance and support (which is not conditional, for example, on cooperation with the law enforcement authorities). La Strada believes that the protection of trafficked persons' rights should be firmly embedded in all government policy pertaining to the struggle against human trafficking and its prevention, both on a national and an EU-wide level.

The organisation worked for this at every turn last year. In particular through the activities described below:

Activities included:

- The collection, analysis and distribution of information concerning human trafficking and exploitation.
- The drafting of presentations, case studies and notes for Czech and international institutions.
- Work in both national and international professional working groups.
- The maintenance and development of media contacts and contacts in partner organisations both at home and abroad.

### *Results*

- At the start of 2008, La Strada published recommendations for the prevention of human trafficking and exploitation, and for the protection and improvement of trafficked and exploited persons' position in society.
- La Strada took part in inter-ministerial coordination groups on the topic of fighting human trafficking, which were chaired by the Interior Ministry, which is ultimately responsible for the coordination of activities to stamp out human trafficking in the Czech Republic. As a partner in the Trafficked People's Support and Protection Programme (run by Interior Ministry's Crime Prevention Department), La Strada attended regular coordination meetings.

- La Strada continued to be represented in the Interior Ministry's working group to define forced labour and other forms of exploitation, as well as a working group collecting data for the Interior Ministry's Security Policy Department.
  - With the encouragement of the Interior Ministry, La Strada became involved in two international projects run by the ICMPD (International Centre for Migration Policy Development), in which the Czech Republic is a partner. The projects in question are 'data collection on the issue of human trafficking' and 'transnational mechanisms for victims of human trafficking both in country of origin and destination'.
  - La Strada continued to draft reactions to several legal and strategic documents and took part, for example, in the drafting of a report of the human trafficking situation in the Czech Republic in 2008, published by the Czech Interior Ministry. In March 2008, the organisation drafted a reaction to the law regulating prostitution as drawn up by Prague City Hall.
  - La Strada initiated a meeting of Czech NGOs working in the field of migration, it took part in a European conference of NGOs belonging to the GAATW and working in the field of human trafficking, the organisation also hosted a general assembly of La Strada International in Prague.
  - In autumn 2008 La Strada became involved in a European NGO initiative which was dedicated to trafficked persons' right to compensation. From this initiative the COMP-ACT EUROPE (European Action Pact for Compensation for Trafficked Persons) coalition was born. COMP-ACT EUROPE brings together NGOs offering services to trafficked persons, lawyers, trade unions, migrants' organisations and academics.  
In 2008 La Strada became a member organisation of PICUM (Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants).
  - La Strada continued to work with tens of Czech and foreign media organisations.
  - La Strada continued to update and expand its archive of information on human trafficking, prostitution, the sexual abuse of minors, migration and other areas linked to human trafficking. The archive is made up of a database of documents and a specialist library.
  - La Strada also participated in many national and international conferences, seminars and meetings, where it presented the organisation's work, and in particular the issues surrounding human trafficking, with the emphasis being on a human-rights-based approach to the matter.
- In 2008, La Strada brought out the following publications, studies and articles, all of which can be found at <http://www.strada.cz> in the 'Documents' section:

- Burčíková, P. (2008): The way forward? - Recommendations to Prevent Human Trafficking and Exploitation, and to Protect and Improve the Status of Trafficked and Exploited Persons at Risk of Trafficking and Exploitation. Prague: La Strada ČR o.p.s. ISBN: 978-80-254-1313-5.
- Various Authors (2008): Manual for the Social Inclusion of Trafficked and Exploited Persons. Prague: La Strada ČR o.p.s. ISBN: 978-80-254-1312-8.
- Burčíková, P., Kutálková, P., Hůle, D. and others (2008): It's cool to... know more. Institutional Care and the Risks of Commercial Sexual Exploitation. Prague: La Strada ČR o.p.s. ISBN: 978-80-254-1524-5.
- Krebs, M., Pechová, E. (2008): Vietnamese Workers in Czech Factories. Research Report.
- Burčíková, P., Kutálková, P. (2008): The Irregular Status of Migrants in relation to Human Trafficking. In. /Irregular Residency Status of Foreigners in the Czech Republic: Problems

and Solutions./ Prague: Člověk v tísní, o.p.s., Multikulturní centrum, Organizace pro pomoc uprchlíkům, Poradna pro uprchlíky.

- Krchová, A., Víznerová, H. a Kutálková, P. (2009): Migrant women in the Czech Republic. Prague: Friedrich Eber Stiftung. Sv. edice: Analýzy z České republiky.
- Kutálková, P. (2008): Policy Shifts in the Field of Combating Human Trafficking. In. Večerka, K. (ed.): Trends in Sociopathological Phenomena – A Collection of Articles from a Seminar held by the Sociopathological Section of MČSS. Prague: Masarykova česká sociologická společnost sekce sociální patologie.

### ***Advocacy and Lobbying in 2008 in Numbers***

#### **In 2008 La Strada:**

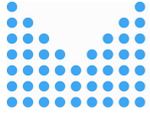
- staged 16 educational meetings and activities,
- offered 60 consultations and internships,
- cooperated with 64 journalists, of these 13 worked for foreign media,
- recorded 68 888 visits on its website,
- added 25 new publications to its library,
- brought out 4 publications and studies.

## PROJECTS

In 2008, La Strada worked on the following projects:

### *Help and Support for Trafficked and Commercially Abused Persons*

Supported by the Czech Interior Ministry



MINISTERSTVO VNITRA  
ČESKÉ REPUBLIKY

Project **Aims:**

- To protect the target group's rights and interests through the provision of legal services.
- To raise awareness of the problems posed by human trafficking through field work.
- To lay a special emphasis on the Vietnamese community when working in the field.
- To cooperate with the media in a targeted fashion, contributing to an improvement in the public's awareness of the problem and provoking debate not only in academic circles.

### *In Search of Effective Ways to Respond Exploitation and Human Trafficking*

Supported by The Trust for Civil Society in Central and Eastern Europe



Trust for Civil Society  
in Central & Eastern Europe

Project **Aims:**

- To highlight the positive effects of migration, with the aim of stimulating discussion and finding an acceptable means of meeting the supply and demand that labour migration requires.
- To raise awareness about issues surrounding human trafficking.
- To highlight the problems facing trafficked and exploited persons and persons at risk of these phenomena, with the aim of assuring their protection, and the protection of their rights - including their right to representation and mediation when dealing with the authorities responsible.

## ***Employing a Multidisciplinary Approach in Search of Appropriate Responses to Human Trafficking and Exploitation***

Supported by The Open Society Institute



### **Project Aims:**

- To raise awareness about the problem of human trafficking and to expand advocacy activities with the aim of implementing new mechanisms and instruments in the fight against human trafficking and the exploitation of individuals on the labour market.

## ***Preventing of Trafficking in Human Beings at Risk Groups with a Special Focus on Institutional Care Facilities in the Czech Republic and Slovakia***

Supported by the European Commission's Daphne II Programme, and the Embassies of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in the Czech Republic and Slovakia



### **Project Aims:**

- To conduct research in the Czech Republic and Slovakia's children's care facilities and create methodological guidelines for preventative work to be carried out by the staff at these institutions. To carry out training in the Czech Republic and Slovakia for these employees and create special preventative materials and activities.
- On the basis of research results, to create means to prevent and carry out preventative activities aimed at eradicating the causes of human trafficking and exploitation of young people who have been raised in care in the Czech Republic and Slovakia.
- In an appropriate and comprehensible way, to inform the target group about how best to protect oneself from exploitation which can often lead to human trafficking.

## ***Viabile Alternatives – Social Inclusion for Victims of Human Trafficking and Commercially Exploited Persons***

Supported by The European Social Fund within the framework of the Human Resources Development Operational Programme



### **Project Aims:**

- To research and adopt precedents concerning the employment of trafficked persons and those who have been commercially exploited so as to facilitate their social inclusion.
- To link in directly with the updated *National Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking* and the *National Action Plan for Social Integration*, this, among other things, aims to increase the social inclusion and employment possibilities of those who have been commercially exploited and/or trafficked.

## SPONSORSHIP AND COOPERATION

Many of us want to live in a just society where each human being's rights are treated equally, where prejudice does not define the value of a human being, and where exploitation is not acceptable, regardless of who it is that is being exploited.

If you are reading this right now, it is probable that you share these values with us and, if so, we need your support. Have a look at how you can help us, and share with us the feeling of really making a difference!

### How Can You Support Us?

- Please share information with us that you think could be important for our work.
- Contribute to the effectiveness of our work by offering your professional skills, your knowledge or experience - especially in the fields of IT, management, PR, accountancy, etc.
- Support our work through a financial or material donation.
- ..... And most importantly, think about the products and services that you use, and don't support those that could have been in some way linked to human exploitation.

### *Bank Details for La Strada*

**478625923/0300**

**Registered with ČSOB**

We welcome offers of help or cooperation, if you are interested then please contact us on **+420 222721810** or by email at [lastrada@strada.cz](mailto:lastrada@strada.cz).

## Thanks to our Sponsors and Donors

La Strada would like to take the opportunity in its annual report to thank all of the donors who have supported the organisation in 2008 and helped it carry out its work, especially:

The European Commission and its Daphne II Programme

The European Commission and its European Social Fund Programme

The Czech Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

The Czech Ministry of Interior

The Open Society Institute

The Trust for Civil Society in Central and Eastern Europe

The Global Fund for Women

The Embassies of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in the Czech Republic and Slovakia

The QED Group a.s.

The Educational Grant Fund within the International School in Prague

Yves Rocher s.r.o.

Bratři Zátkové a.s.

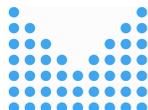
dm drogerie markt s.r.o.

Walmart a.s.

Professor Lubomír Kohout, in memoriam

Rosie Johnston and all our volunteers

And others.



MINISTERSTVO VNITRA  
ČESKÉ REPUBLIKY



OPEN SOCIETY INSTITUTE  
& Soros Foundations Network



Trust for Civil Society  
in Central & Eastern Europe



British Embassy  
Prague

FUND FOR  
EDUCATION



WALMARK®



## Thanks to Partner Organisations and Co-Workers

La Strada would also like to thank all of the organisations and individuals that, in 2008, helped when working with the clientele in particular.

## FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC SUMMARY

*Accounts for 2008*

### BASIC BALANCE SHEET to 31.12.2008

(all figures x1,000 CZK)

ICO: 25656317

Name, Address and Legal Status of the firm:

La Strada Czech Republic

Prague

#### ASSETS

	Line no.	Situation on first day of accounting period	Situation on last day of accounting period
a	b	1	2
<b>A. Fixed Assets – Total</b>	1		
I. Long-Term Intangible Assets	2	27	27
II. Long-Term Tangible Assets	3	709	709
III. Long-Term Financial Assets	4		
IV. Overall Depreciation of Long-Term Assets	5	-736	-736
<b>B. Current Assets – Total</b>	6	3933	1922
I. Supplies – Total	7		
II. Accounts Receivable – Total	8	495	230
III. Short-Term Financial Assets – Total	9	3438	1692
IV. Other Active Capital – Total	10		
<b>ASSETS – TOTAL</b>	11	3933	1992
	<b>Line no.</b>	Situation on first day of accounting period	Situation on last day of accounting period
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY			
a	b	1	2
<b>A. Owner's Equity – Total</b>	12	1667	1394
I. Equity – Total	13	1691	1378
II. Retained Earnings – Total	14	-24	16
<b>B. Current Debt – Total</b>	15	2266	528
I. Reserves – Total	16		
II. Long-Term Debt – Total	17	40	107
III. Short-Term Liabilities – Total	18	1636	245
IV. Other Liabilities – Total	19	550	176
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY – TOTAL</b>	20	3933	1922

Date of Postage/ Stamp/ Organisation's Signature/ Accountant's Signature/ Date of Completion/  
Telephone No.

**PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT to 31.12.2008**

(all figures x1,000 CZK)

ICO: 25656317

Name, Address and Legal Status of the firm:

La Strada Czech Republic

Prague

Label	Header	Line no	Activities	
			Main	Total
			5	7
A.	Expenses	1		
I.	Products or Materials Used – Total	2	596	596
II.	Services Used – Total	3	3743	3743
III.	Staff Costs – Total	4	5620	5620
IV.	Taxes and Fees – Total	5	3	3
V.	Other Expenses - Total	6	159	159
VI.	Depreciation, Sale of Assets, Creation of Reserves	7		
VII.	Grants Awarded to Others – Total	8		
VIII.	Income Tax – Total	9		
	Expenses – Total	10	10121	10121
B.	Revenue	11		
I.	Sales Revenue – Total	12	36	36
II.	Revenue from Discontinued Operations – Total	13		
III.	Actuation – Total	14		
IV.	Other Revenue – Total	15	3394	3394
V.	Revenue Raised by Sales of Assets, Activation of Reserves – Total	16		
VI.	Contributions – Total	17	29	29
VII.	Operational Grants – Total	18	6678	6678
	Revenue – Total	19	10137	10137
C.	Income Before Tax	20	16	16
D.	Income After Tax	21	16	16

Date of Postage/ Stamp/ Organisation's Signature/ Accountant's Signature/ Date of Completion/  
Telephone No.

## **Addendum to La Strada Czech Republic's Final Accounts for 2008**

Name and Address of the Organisation:

La Strada Czech Republic, o.p.s.

Prague

**ICO: 256 56 317**

La Strada Czech Republic, o.p.s. was founded on the basis of a contract with an initial deposit of 3000 CZK being put down by its founders. It was written into section O, sub-section 40, of the list of public benefit corporations (obecné prospěšné společnosti – o.p.s. for short) maintained by Prague Municipal Court on March 30, 1998.

Founders of the public benefit corporation:

- Mrs Barbel Butterwerck
- Mrs Anna Daučíková
- Mrs Dana Šustrová

The main aspects of the public benefit corporation are:

- The initiation, creation and coordination of activities which aim to prevent the trafficking of women,
- Social services for trafficked women,
- The operation of an SOS hotline

The organisation's statutory body is a board, made up of:

- Board member Barbel Uhl
- Board member Monika Ladmanová
- Board member Filip Smoljak

The position of the above-mentioned individuals on the board was prolonged on the basis of a decision taken by the organisation's founders, Dana Šustrová and Anna Daučíková.

Members of the board often represent the organisation externally and independently – their role is such that their signature is linked to the name of the organisation when written or printed. In the event that the organisation is seeking to sell one of its assets or close a contract worth over 100,000 CZK, at least two of the board need to negotiate the move.

An organisational component with its own legal subjectivity was not set up in the past, nor in 2008.

The period to which the organisation's accounts pertain is the calendar year of 2008, the balancing day chosen according to § 19, paragraph 1 of the accountancy law, no. 563/1991 Sb. In accordance with the law, the day these accounts run until is December 31, 2008.

The public benefit corporation has drafted its accounts in accordance with the law on accounting, decree no. 504/2002 Sb., which elaborates upon several aspects of the accountancy law no. 563/1991 Sb., and Czech accountancy standards.

When dealing with foreign currencies, the organisation made its calculations according to the exchange rate set by the Czech National Bank. The rate of exchange according to the CNB on December 31, 2008 was the rate used when counting all financial resources, claims and contracts originally in a foreign currency.

Between the balancing day and the time at which these accounts were drawn up, no significant event took place which could have had an effect on the economic results of the organisation for 2008.

The financial outcome for 2008 – a profit of 16,456.09 CZK came about because of the exchange rate at the time that the „Prevention of trafficking in human beings among at risk groups with a special focus on institutional care facilities in CZ and SK“ project received its final funding. The project was funded by the European Commission and the profit La Strada made due to the exchange rate was a total of 89,947.25 CZK.

The public benefit corporation has outstanding claims from a project worth 87,112.95 CZK, funded by the Foundation Open Society Institute. The sums outstanding are worth 7,000 CZK per employee, which is fixed deposit (payment advance). Organisation doesn't have any liabilities not mentioned in the balance sheet.

#### Employee Information

Number of Employees	21 people
Personal Expenses - Total	5,620 thousand CZK
Of which:	
- Wages	4,283 thousand CZK
- Social and Health Insurance	1,337 thousand CZK

Members of the board were not paid any bonuses, dividends, nor offered down-payments, loans or credit in 2008.

Evaluations and a breakdown of the balance sheet and profit loss statement appear in the organisation's annual report.

The public benefit corporation received small donations to carry out its operations worth a total of 93,310 CZK in 2008, as well as a grant from the 'Nadační fond pro vzdělávání' which was worth 28,637 CZK and was used in 2008 to fund the organisation's operations – another 64,673 CZK from the fund has been put into the organisation's reserves.

The public benefit corporation did not offer any other organisations any significant grants in 2008.

2007's loss to the tune of 24,127.60 CZK was balanced by the sale of assets as agreed by the administrative board when they went through that year's final accounts.

Prague, 10. 6. 2009

Irena Konečná, Ph.D.  
Director

## 2. Auditor's Statement

### Independent Auditor's Report

#### On the Final Accounts for 2008 of La Strada Czech Republic o.p.s

as approved by the board represented by Irena Konečná PhD., director

The final accounts' audit was carried out in La Strada Czech Republic, a public benefit corporation, situated in Prague, IČ 25656317 for the period of the year 2008.

The **object** of this examination was the organisation's final accounts up to December 31, 2008 and the financial section of the NGO's annual report for the year 2008.

The **function** of this examination was, according to §14, paragraph 3 of audit law no. 254/2000 Sb. to examine whether

- The data in the final accounts paints a true and accurate picture of the organisation in question's accounts and the financial situation of the body.
- The data in the financial section of the annual report concurs with the final accounts.
- The organisation maintains the conditions applied to those operating as a public benefit corporation.

The **responsibility** for the compilation of the final accounts and the assurance that this accountancy is conducted in a full, transparent, correct, and comprehensible manner - and that these records are stored for the long term - lies with the organisation in question. My role is to draft a statement attesting to the final accounts' accuracy.

The **authentication** of the attached final annual accounts I conducted in accordance with the law on auditing and auditors' guidelines as set by the Czech Chamber of Auditors. During the course of the audit, I was given a sufficient sense of certainty that the final accounts did not contain any significant falsehood.

The audit certifies the fullness and transparency of the final accounts and judges the accountant's approach to have been correct and appropriate. I gained my information first and foremost through looking at account statements, receipts, and account activity and through asking individual members of staff.

I am convinced that the audit offers a suitable basis for this statement of conclusion.

# **I hereby certify the final accounts to be**

## **Approved without Reservation**

The organisation La Strada Czech Republic's end of year accounts have been compiled on the basis of accountancy which has been carried out in accordance with the legal norms, in particular later versions of the accountancy law 563/1991 Sb. (henceforth referred to as the accountancy law), the Finance Ministry's decree no. 504/2002 Sb., which amends certain aspects of law no. 563/1991 Sb. pertaining to the accounts of not-for-profit organisations, as long as they conduct their accountancy in a manner which adheres to Czech accountancy standards for organisations whose main activity is in the not-for-profit sector.

In my opinion the final accounts are, in all significant matters, true and paint an accurate picture of the organisation's activities, projects, assets and the financial situation of La Strada Czech Republic, o.p.s. until December 31, 2008 – furthermore, they are in accordance with the accountancy law and other relevant Czech legislation.

I examined the information the organisation published in the financial section of its end of year report and how it corresponded to the final accounts. In my opinion the information in the financial section of the annual report contains data in accordance with law no. 248/1995 Sb. pertaining to public benefit corporations and later amendments.

The public benefit organization does uphold the conditions imposed upon those operating as a public benefit corporation.

**Prague, June 10, 2009**

.....  
Engineer Jan Zeman  
auditor, registered with the Czech Chamber of  
Auditors, under certification no. 1765

Addenda:

- Balance Sheet to 31. 12. 2008
- Profit and Loss Statement to 31. 12. 2008
- Addendum to 2008 Balance Sheet – La Strada Czech Republic, o.p.s. to 31.12.2008
- Annual Report of La Strada Czech Republic 2008

### 3. Overview of Income and Expenses

<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Amount in thousands of crowns</b>
Wages	4 283
Social and Health Insurance	1 337
Material Costs	507
Energy Costs	89
Repairs and Upkeep	33
Travel Expenses	123
Representational Costs	60
Other Services	3 527
Other Taxes and Fees	3
Other Fines and Penalties	2
Write-off of Unobtainable Claims	1
Losses caused by Exchange Rate	7
Deficits and Damage	4
Other Expenses	145
Depreciation	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>10 121</b>

<b>Income</b>	<b>Amount in thousands of crowns</b>
Income from Sale of Services	37
Interest	2
Profit caused by Exchange Rate	116
Funds Received	3 275
Other Income	0
Donations	29
Operational Grants	6 678
<b>Total</b>	<b>10 137</b>

<b>Economic Outcome – Profit</b>	<b>16</b>
----------------------------------	-----------

#### 4. A Breakdown of Income according to Source

Name of Source	Amount in thousands of crowns
MPSV – Labour and Social Affairs Ministry - Grant no. POO98/001 – Crisis Aid, Sheltered Accommodation and Counselling Service	4 500
MPSV – Labour and Social Affairs Ministry - Grant – Viable alternatives – social inclusion for victims of trafficking in human beings and commercially exploited persons	1 034
MVČR –Ministry of Interior – Grant – Aid and Support for Trafficked and Commercially Exploited Persons	1 144
DAPHNE – European Commission Programme – “Prevention of trafficking in human beings among at risk groups with a special focus on institutional care facilities in CZ and SK” Project	1 229
GFW – The Global Fund for Women	533
Foundation Open Society Institute – “Employing Multidisciplinary Approach in Search of Appropriate Responses to Human Trafficking and Exploitation” Project	1 031
Trust for Civil Society in Central & Eastern Europe Europe – “In search of effective ways to respond to exploitation and human trafficking” Project	479
Other	187
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10 137</b>

## 5. Development and Completion of Grants

### Projects completed in 2008:

- MPSV – Labour and Social Affairs Ministry - Grant no. POO98/001 – Crisis Aid, Sheltered Accommodation and Counselling Service
- MPSV – Labour and Social Affairs Ministry - Grant – “Viable alternatives – social inclusion for victims of trafficking in human beings and commercially exploited persons”
- MVČR – Interior Ministry – Grant - Aid and Support for Trafficked and Commercially Exploited Persons
- European Commission, DAPHNE Programme – “Prevention of trafficking in human beings among at risk groups with a special focus on institutional care facilities in CZ and SK” Project
- GFW – The Global Fund for Women

### Projects Continued in 2008:

<b>Name of Source</b>	<b>End State of Remaining Funds in thousands of crowns</b>
Foundation Open Society Institute – “Employing a Multidisciplinary Approach in Search of Appropriate Responses to Human Trafficking and Exploitation” Project	<b>-87</b>
Trust for Civil Society in Central & Eastern Europe – “In search of effective ways to respond to exploitation and human trafficking” Project	<b>869</b>
Other	<b>782</b>

**6. A Breakdown of the Cost of the Organisation's Activities and Costs fulfilling Public Benefit Organisation's Remit**

<b>Cost</b>	<b>Amount in thousands of crowns</b>
Expense of fulfilling Public Benefit Organization remit (social services, preventative and educational activities, advocacy)	10 121
Cost of own activities	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>10 121</b>