



COMP.ACT Partners

Austria: LEFÖ-IBF
Belarus: YWCA La Strada Belarus
Bulgaria: Animus Association Foundation La Strada Bulgaria
Bosnia & Herzegovina: La Strada Bosnia and Herzegovina
Czech Republic: La Strada Czech Republic
Germany: KOK e.v.
Ireland: Migrants Rights Centre
Italy: On the Road
Macedonia: Open Gate, La Strada Macedonia
Moldova: association of Women in Legal Careers/Centre for Prevention of Trafficking in Women
Poland: La Strada Foundation against Trafficking in Persons and Slavery
Spain: Women's Link Worldwide and Project Esperanza
Ukraine: International Women's Rights Centre La Strada Ukraine
United Kingdom : Anti-Slavery International

Advisory Board:

CCME: Churches Commission for Migrants in Europe
ITUC: International Trade Union Confederation
PICUM: Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants
OSCE/ODIHR: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

Donors:

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Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe



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European Action for Compensation for Trafficked Persons

COMP.ACT is a three year European project by La Strada International and Anti-Slavery International and their partners to improve access to justice and guarantee compensation for trafficked people.

Compensation means:

Justice for trafficked people and recognizing their right to redress.

Empowering trafficked people to take their future in their own hands and reducing the risk of re-trafficking.

Hitting the traffickers where it hurts the most: confiscation of their criminal assets and using the monies to compensate victims.

Why a project on compensation?

Compensation for trafficked people is crucial in the fight against trafficking - not only as an instrument of restorative justice and prevention of re-trafficking, but also as recognition by the states of the violation of their rights and the damages they have suffered.

Compensation includes remuneration of unpaid wages and payment in restitution for both general damages and special damages suffered by a victim of crime. General damages compensate the claimant for the non-monetary aspects of the specific harm suffered, such as physical or emotional pain and suffering.

Special damages compensate the claimant for the quantifiable monetary losses suffered, such as out-of-pocket medical expenses, repair or replacement of damaged property and lost earnings.

What is the problem?

Research shows that although there is an emerging awareness about the right to compensation for trafficked people and that various compensation mechanisms for victims of crime exist, the actual receipt of a compensation payment by a trafficked person is extremely rare.

In most European countries laws exist allowing victims of crime to claim compensation for material and immaterial damages. The compensation claims can either be pursued in courts as a part of criminal or civil proceedings, in labour courts or tribunals or by application to special compensation funds. The administrative and court proceedings vary in the national legal systems.

Despite the frameworks in place, compensation remains one of the weakest rights of trafficked people when it comes to accessibility. There are obstacles at national level that make the actual receipt of compensation in trafficking cases very difficult.

For example, the trial can take a very long time and the trafficked person may have left the country (either voluntarily or have been deported) before the verdict. Also, specific groups can be excluded from compensation funds on moral grounds and traffickers can have moved the assets abroad.

Next to these systematic obstacles there are also many barriers for trafficked people to apply for compensation. They are often not informed about their rights and do not get legal aid at all or there is a lack of knowledge on compensation measures by the authorities and others, including NGOs.

What is COMP.ACT?

COMP.ACT was initiated by La Strada International and Anti-Slavery International to overcome the problems with the implementation of compensation measures for trafficked people and to raise awareness and mainstream the issue of compensation within the international anti-trafficking agenda.

Because in most countries a legal framework on compensation for victims of crime is in place the task at hand is not to introduce laws or new international instruments – it is to increase awareness of the existing possibilities and to remove obstacles in systems and procedures that prevent those trafficked from accessing compensation.

The aim is simple: Compensation must become one of the key elements of programmes of assistance and services to trafficked people in Europe.

The COMP.ACT project is an initiative in 14 European countries that combines practical work, such as research, test cases and the development of guidelines for professionals with international advocacy and campaigning for access to justice and right to redress for trafficked people.

How you can contribute

Join our campaign and help raise awareness about compensation for trafficked people. You can support the coalition, download materials and find out what concrete actions to take through visiting: www.compactproject.org

For more information on COMP.ACT please contact La Strada International at info@lastradainternational.org

This European coalition, established in 2008, consisting of NGOs that offer direct assistance to trafficked people, the legal community, labour unions, migrant rights organisations and academics will:

In the participating countries:

initiate practical projects to create a system that helps trafficked people gain access to compensation and support them through the process.

On the international level:

the project campaign will attempt to mainstream compensation into the agenda of international bodies and ensure the commitment of governments to guarantee the right to compensation for trafficked people to implement systems to enable them to exercise it in practice.

Interaction and networking within this European Coalition strengthens the dissemination of experience and knowledge. The partner countries include: Austria, Belarus, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Macedonia, Moldova, Poland, Spain, Ukraine and United Kingdom.