



**Centre MARTA  
Events and Results**

Annual Report 2019

#chooseRESPECT

[www.marta.lv](http://www.marta.lv)

@CentrsMARTA

## **SERVICES AND THEIR OUTREACH**

MARTA provides professional services to people who have suffered from trafficking in human beings since 2002 and starting from 2006 also to women and children who have suffered from domestic violence.

In total 334 women received services at MARTA Centre in 2019, including 267 in Riga and 67 in Liepāja.

239 women in Riga received assistance for the first time.

In total in 2019 MARTA has:

- Provided 155 legal counselling sessions directly
- Conducted 275 legal consultations over the phone or e-mail
- Prepared 68 legal documents
- Conducted 966 psychological consultation sessions,
- Carried out 258 direct consultations with a social worker,
- Provided 475 phone or e-mail consultations
- Social workers have prepared 733 documents

Assistance to victims has been provided mainly within 2 state programs, as well as funded by donations and project grants for 68 victims. 13 victims paid for the assistance themselves.

Within the program *State Social Rehabilitation Services for adult victims of domestic violence* assistance has been provided to 177 clients: 174 women and 3 men. Men sought assistance because they suffered from: a violent step-father (physical violence) and a wife (one case of emotional violence, one case - physical).

Majority of the victims (63%) have sought assistance because they suffered from emotional violence, 31% because of physical violence, 4% because of sexual violence.

In 97% of cases the perpetrator was a man (husband, partner, son, father, step-father, brother), in 3% - woman (mother, daughter, wife).

In the majority of the reported cases the perpetrator is the current partner, 20% - former partner, 8% other person in the same household and in 7% events – a stranger. The status of victim within the criminal proceedings law has been granted to 5 people.

The statistics for 2019 suggest that the number of Latvian nationals who have married foreign nationals and have had children together is on the increase. Women with both European Union nationals and also 3rd country nationals as their partners have sought our help. Most frequently we engaged in resolving situations with UK, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish, Swiss, US, Turkey, Egypt and Australian nationals as their partners. In these situations, divorce proceedings are complicated, and so is the establishment of rights of access for fathers. Our experts have concluded that in many countries decisions of Custody Courts are supportive of women if they have suffered from domestic violence by the father of the children.

### Trends

Continuously there is a tendency that many perpetrators are employed in police and military structures. In 2019 several of the reported cases of physical domestic violence have been especially cruel and life threatening.

8 support group meetings for the support of victims took place. They were regularly attended by 6 participants.

In autumn, an open art therapy group for domestic violence victims was established. Classes are run by a volunteer art therapist, and 11 women attended them in 2019. New participants can join any time.

- Within the State Social Rehabilitation Service Program for Human Trafficking Victims, services were provided for 9 victims – 8 women and 1 child.
- 6 clients had suffered sexual exploitation, 2 had suffered labour exploitation and 1 had been the victim of a fake marriage with the elements of sexual exploitation.

Countries where victims had been exploited include Germany, France, Ireland, United Kingdom, Spain, US and Latvia. 8 of the victims are residents of Latvia, 1 – a foreign national.

Social rehabilitation program for the victims of human trafficking provides support by a social worker, psychologist, social rehabilitation and other expert advice. There is also a possibility to provide shelter for the victims, cover transportation expenses and to purchase the essential commodities. MARTA Centre provides a safe shelter to the victims of human trafficking and high risk victims of domestic violence by rendering an anonymous flat available. This has been used by 2 victims.

Anna's story

*Anna met Andis 6 years ago. They formed a relationship very soon and after a short time Anna got pregnant. At the beginning of the relationship Anna's daughter, who was unwanted by Andis, was handed over for adoption.*

*At a later stage of pregnancy Anna could no longer work. Andis was also unemployed, thus he could not earn a living. Anna firmly trusted Andis. He offered her to move in with his mother and sister as due to the lack of money they had nowhere else to live. The family moved. It turned out that both of these relatives worked as prostitutes.*

*Already during pregnancy but especially after the child was born, Andis was becoming physically and emotionally violent and forced her into prostitution, claiming that otherwise the family could not afford to buy food. Anna was most frightened by the threats which Andis made that she would be forced to give up her baby.*

*The man locked Anna in her apartment against her will, took her bank cards and the code cards for online banking, and hid Anna's personal identification documents. Against her express wishes, Andis regularly placed advertisement of sexual nature online. Later he forced Anna to place such ads herself as he knew that he might be sanctioned for selling sexual services. The woman was forced to answer phone calls and also engage in sexual activities in her place of residence. All of the money ended up with Andis. He spent the money on alcohol, engaged in gambling as well as spent a part of it on subsistence according to his judgement. The man often forced Anna to accompany him to gambling venues, as he was afraid that she might flee. He fully controlled her, and if she did not comply, he would beat her.*

*Anna lived in permanent fear. She did not know what to do. She had attempted to flee taking her baby with her, she had pleaded with him to end the relationship and to cease forcing her into prostitution. Anna really wants to end this relationship but she does not believe that it is at all possible. After all escape attempts Andis has always found her, persuaded her to come home, sent her threatening messages.*

*In her conversation with the social worker Anna testified that she would like to find a way out as she does not want to engage in prostitution and wants to end the violent relationship, but she has no support and no place to live.*

## PREVENTION OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

MARTA's experts on service provision organized seminars about the issues of human trafficking in Riga and regions – Rezekne, Preiļi, Cēsis and Liepāja,. The goal of these seminars was to educate local communities about the risks of being recruited and exploited, as well to provide skills to detect potential victims of human trafficking.

Experts of MARTA also visited two orphanages to discuss the risks of human trafficking. In one of the institutions it was discovered that two pupils had been exploited for production of pornographic materials.

With an aim to identify and support persons who have been engaged in human trafficking in their childhood, a digital regional platform was created. The survivors and victims can seek help as well as share their experiences. A project *If you speak, I*

*will join* in partnership with organizations from Norway, Sweden and Russia has been started.

In Liepāja 44 women applied for assistance of MARTA for the first time.

In 2019 MARTA Liepāja provided:

- 47 consultations from a social worker,
- 104 legal consultations and
- 68 sessions with a psychologist.

The majority of women are in the age group of 26 to 45 years.

In MARTA's regional office in Liepāja provision of psychological support to children whose mothers have suffered domestic violence was commenced. Seventeen children received psychological counselling.

MARTA's regional office offers legal aid for complicated domestic violence cases by representing victims in court and other institutions.

Eight women have attended support group meetings in Liepāja.

#### Jana's story

*In September Jana turned to MARTA regional Liepāja office to seek help. She had been suffering emotional violence from her husband for a long time. With an increasing frequency she was now also being physically attacked.*

*Jana received counselling from the social worker and a lawyer. However, she did not believe that it was possible to change the situation, and thus she refused to turn to the court to receive temporary protection against violence in order to protect herself and her children from repeated violence. After the invitation by a social worker Jana reluctantly joined the support group.*

*She spoke little at the support group, mostly listening to what other women were sharing. In November, when the support group was over, she contacted the lawyer at MARTA and asked for help to prepare an application to the court with an aim to receive protection against the perpetrator. The court decided in Jana's favour, removed the violent husband from their home, granting a restraining order to either approach or contact Jana. Finally, after many years, Jana and her children spent a calm Christmas, not being afraid of attacks from her husband.*

In 2019 MARTA's Liepāja regional office continued with the project *Safe city*. In this project interinstitutional cooperation was developed to combat domestic violence more effectively. A study was conducted within this project that included interviews with 18 women and 2 men who had suffered domestic violence during their childhood. The aim of these interviews was to find out about their experience with various institutions and listen to their proposals of how the domestic violence cases could be addressed more efficiently.

MARTA has started a close cooperation with Liepāja municipal Social Service, Custody Court, municipal and state police. A pilot project created a system which requires that after a domestic violence report is lodged with police, this information is also shared with MARTA, municipal Social Service or Custody Court. This procedure created a much more efficient system for providing the necessary help to the victims.

With the aim to create an effective, coordinated and well thought out system for tackling domestic violence, in October 2019 MARTA office in Liepāja, developed the *Interinstitutional cooperation plan against domestic violence for the years 2020- 2025 in collaboration with the municipal Social Service, Custody Court, municipal and state police as well as the Liepāja municipality Board of Education.*

**Thus Liepāja became the first city and municipality in Latvia that has its own plan for reducing violence against women.**

### **Conversation with Kaija, resident of Liepāja, 45 years old**

*...all throughout the previous years I have been affected by both physical and emotional violence.*

#### ***For all of the 28 years?***

*Yes. Initially it was not that bad, because it was the beginning...I was physically attacked but then life somehow rebounded and went on. It was in the 90-ies that I got married. It was the transition time. We established our own business. Everything started progressing, there were many things that had to be developed. At the time I did not think that I wanted to leave him since our children were born and the business was taking off. There were also some gains from this. But his character was such that he did not want me to be my own person and live my own life. Truth be told, all this time I was living his life, I was subjected to his whims, his wishes. I did not have any chances for self-improvement, to allow myself to do things that I liked and wanted. At that time I always wanted to be a good wife. I wanted there to be no disagreements in our family. I tried my best and I now realise that I lost myself.*

#### ***What has changed now? What have you gained?***

*Now I can live my life as I wish. I have changed my way of thinking. I am now convinced that I am a person who truly loves myself. Up until now I was always “the good one,” always pleasing others – the children, the husband. After the last court procedure I feel strong, I feel good that I have gone through this process step by step. I have done it. And thus my self-confidence has grown.*

### **ADVOCACY**

In 2019 MARTA also continued cooperation with Members of the Parliament. Since the first meeting with the informal women’s group in the parliament in 2018, a targeted lobbying work has proceeded to discuss and find best solutions for both the issues with eradicating human trafficking and exploitation as well as for mandatory rehabilitation of domestic violence perpetrators.

In 26 September 2019 the Member of Parliament Anda Caksa founded an MP group *For Promotion of Gender Equality, reproductive health and healthy sexuality*. This group plans to work with various initiatives, including of the improvement of knowledge among the youth regarding the issues of sexual and reproductive health in collaboration with such organisations as MARTA, a reproductive health NGO Papardes Zieds and AGIHAS, an NGO that works with the issues of HIV/AIDS.

On 23 March 2019 MARTA with the collaboration of the Saeima's Human Rights and Public affairs committee organized a conference *On route towards a national plan against human trafficking*. Legislative improvements, new policy initiatives for eliminating various forms of human trafficking – sexual exploitation, labour exploitation and sham marriages, were discussed by the MPs and experts. The chair of the Committee Artuss Kaimiņš and the member of the Committee Dace Rukšāne-Ščipčinska gave opening speeches at the conference.

The director of MARTA Centre Iluta Lāce spoke at the conference about the challenges and good practice of the work with human trafficking victims. A lawyer from the NGO “Shelter – safe house” Gita Miruškina as well as a member of the Lithuanian Parliament Dovilė Šakalienė addressed the audience. A possibility of creating a National Plan for eradication of human trafficking was discussed with participation of the Minister of Interior Sandis Ģirģens, Parliamentary Secretary of Ministry of Health Ilmārs Dūrītis and ombudsman Juris Jansons.

*“The work of MARTA is guided by the experiences of victims. Alongside their stories, we always conduct in-depth analyses and compare practices applied by various countries. We always bring the needs of victims and effective solutions from other countries to the attention of our decision makers. At the same time, we are encouraging the society not to remain passive, to report crimes and encourage women to seek help”*, the director of MARTA Iluta Lāce stated during the conference.

MARTA's team attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Congress of Abolitionists in Mainz, Germany from 1 to 5 April. . The team not only had a chance to listen to the reports from different countries about the spread of sexual exploitation and main problems related to it, but also could exchange experience with international NGOs that work with eradication of sexual exploitation. The forum was a platform for sharing information on national and international strategies and practices for prevention of sexual exploitation. Around 400 activists from all over the world took part in this Congress.

The Congress was launched with a press conference during which women who have survived sexual exploitation shared their stories. To raise awareness of the problem, these women had walked 200 km from France to the place where the Congress took place in Germany. Along with the survivors, representatives from regional and international human rights non-government organizations participated. The audience included academics, journalists, as well as ministers from several countries and members of parliament.

In October a conversation series *Ask – find out!* was conducted in Latvia's regions. The series was devoted to the topic of human trafficking and the Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, i.e. the so-called Istanbul convention. The goal of these conversations was to help identify human

trafficking and to inform about the necessary actions in the cases of suspicion, as well as to dispel the myths about the Convention and explain how the ratification of the Convention would change lives of victims.

In October with the support from US government, Cherie Jimenez visited Latvia for a week. Since 2006 Cherie Jimenez heads the EVA Centre in Boston, USA that bases their work on the expertise gained from frontline work with victims of violence and victims of human trafficking. The centre has created a program for safe housing that takes into account the reasons and hurdles which prevent victims from commencing an independent and safe life.

*"There is no love, no caring in their lives. There is no direction, no sense of community and no place where to belong. They are tired and looking for an exit [from sexual exploitation]", Cherie Jimenez explains.*

During the visit Cherie conducted seminars for social workers to try and determine in collaboration with the participants what could be done to support women in Latvia who have suffered from sexual exploitation and violence. Cherie shared her experiences about the most effective solutions and good practice that would best support the victims. Along with the lectures for social workers, Ms Jimenez also met with members of the parliament, members of Parliament's Social and Labour affairs committee as well as the Ministry of Economics so that to share practical experience with creation of housing projects for the victims of human trafficking and violence.

An international conference *Interinstitutional cooperation for tackling cases of domestic violence: from prevention to rehabilitation* co-organized by MARTA and the Latvian Ministry of Welfare took place on 28 November at the Ministry of Interior.

The goal of the conference was to share the international and Latvian good practice for effective interinstitutional collaboration and prevention of violence among the youth and adults.

Experts from Sweden spoke about their rehabilitation programmes for perpetrators of violence. Expert Dr. Mark J Jaff presented the suspicion index (EASI) that is an effective tool for the first contact institutions to detect violence against senior citizens. The researcher Dr. Kaugare (USA) presented her study about the significance of violence prevention among adolescents from the spring 2019 that analysed data obtained through work with the youth groups.

MARTA and the Latvian Medical Association co-organized the conference *Detection of violence and appropriate medical personnel's response* on 29 November. In this conference, 500 medical practitioners participated with the aim to discuss various aspects of violence, the unique nature of child and adult victims, as well as about the legal aspects of action taken by the medical personnel.

## **YOUTH PROJECTS**

*Elaboration of Youth program methodology, training of youth leaders and commencing the regional youth groups.*

From January to May as many as 658 girls and 648 boys aged 12 to 17 years participated in MARTA's Youth program classes. Through the means of informal education, conversations and discussion the following topics were covered – *what are gender stereotypes, how they influence our decisions and ways in which we communicate and make choices? How to become aware of unhealthy and violent relationships and what to do in such a case? What is mobbing and how to stop it? How to build pleasant and respectful relations with yourself, friends, parents, teachers and those around you?*

In various schools in Latvia training sessions of the EU structural fund project *Disease prevention and health promotion activities in Latvia's regions* were organized. These projects were also financially supported by the Ministry of Culture.

Youth specialists and education workers were successfully trained within the project *Courage to take care! Prevention of violence among youth* in August. This gave an impulse for creation of 16 youth groups in Latvia. All group work was conducted in accordance to the methodology that had been created and elaborated by MARTA and consists of 17 classes. More than 130 young people in the age of 12 to 18 took part in these trainings.

Through theoretical and practical activities, the participants learned the techniques of healthy life that allow of better understanding of their own personality, to create mutually supportive relationships with friends and acquaintances as well as to fight injustice in safe and non-violent ways.

Themes that were covered by the training cycle include:

- *Who we are and what are we like: belonging to a group and a community*
- *Power and relationship: What is violence? What are the types of violence? Why does violence happen and how to mitigate it?*
- *Behaviour and emotions*
- *Adolescent reproductive health and sexuality*
- *Addictive substances and their influence*
- *Caring for oneself and others*
- *Conflicts and the ways to solve them.*





\*In the map red dots indicate where one-off training sessions have taken place, the yellow dots indicate places where the youth groups operate.

In cooperation with Dr. Astrīda Sēja-Kaugara (Marquette University/ Milwaukee, USA) as well as professors and students of University of Latvia Anthropology Department a qualitative research into the impact of youth groups was conducted.

### ERASMUS+

In September, 25 youth work professionals from Spain, Italy, Latvia, Georgia and Bulgaria gathered in Latvia with an aim to participate in the EU youth worker mobility project Erasmus + under the title *GUIDE: successful strategies for prevention of gender based violence*.

The goal of the project was to bring together specialists from the participating states, share the tried and tested methods and acquired knowledge and practice for the fight against gender based violence, and also open new opportunities for future cooperation.

Over the course of the visit the participants visited various organizations – youth reproductive health organization Papardes zieds, Center Dardedze, Youth Centre in Olaine, Resource Centre for Adolescents, Youth House in Liepāja, NGO “Fathers”, Latvian Child Welfare Network and Latvia’s SOS Children’s villages.

### #do\_not\_stay\_silent

#do\_not\_stay\_silent is a social project in Latvia that aims to diminish mobbing in schools.

MARTA’s Youth program started cooperation with #do\_not\_stay\_silent so that with the help of the methodology elaborated by MARTA which has been piloted in Latvia’s schools, mobbing would be identified and a conversation about it would be started with the parties involved, providing help and support where necessary.

Implementation and application of the methodology in school not only educates kids about action needed to be taken in mobbing situations but also promotes and develops the necessary skills and attitudes so that the school environment is more inclusive, respectful and open to diversity.

### THE SCANDAL THAT BROUGHT THE ISSUE OF DAY-TO-DAY SEXISM TO THE FOREFRONT

In July MARTA ended up on the firing line of the public discussion since we brought to the forefront of the public eye an advertisement with openly sexist images placed by the street culture movement Ghetto Games. These posters were placed in sites where the youth of Riga routinely spend their days. After heightened public attention, involvement of media and conversations with Ghetto Games representatives, these posters were removed. However, even after the removal of the posters some incomprehension and debate remained among the general public about the appropriateness of this reaction and whether reasons for this were justified.

What was discussed and what were the posters about? Several of the Ghetto Games posters in their usual place of gathering depicted girls and young women as passive sexualized objects, and the images were supplemented with slogans such as *“some bitches are always ready for opportunities”* and *“a real woman never lets her man go to Ghetto Games hungry or horny”*.

MARTA publically reacted to this, explaining why such posters are sexist and are not permissible in public space. We called onto Ghetto Games to immediately remove them. We explained that such posters with this message are offensive to the girls and women as a group that has historically faced discrimination, and still needs to continue the fight for equal treatment in society. Messages that undermine the role of girls and women and project them as objectified beings that are there to accommodate men’s needs (that is, “to be fed and satisfied”) offer young guys and girls unhealthy modes of relationship, based on old-fashioned stereotypes.

Over the course of one day, MARTA’s call for removal of the controversial posters reached wide publicity, causing heated discussions in social networks and media. Unfortunately the situation was aggravated by the highly inadequate and disrespectful reaction from Ghetto Games representatives.

several problematic aspects could be identified in the discussions, including the lack of awareness in the society regarding continued gender inequalities in Latvia, as well as statements that women can indeed be sorted into “the good and the bad” – those who take care of their men and the temptresses. With the continued engagement of MARTAs specialists this successfully developed in a discussion about the commonplace sexism in Latvia’s society and also the role of advertising and art in the issues of gender equality.

Representatives of MARTA participated in public discussions, spoke on the TV and published several opinion articles. Due to the pressure by MARTA and the public attention it generated, the posters were removed and in general the outcome was rather

positive. However, work needs to be continued relentlessly so that the society becomes more educated and aware.

## GET UP!

Forum GET UP! organised four discussion sessions on the topic of “totalitarian man”. In the series *Totalitarian man. Conversation about the masculinity in today's politics* various aspects of the “totalitarian man” phenomenon were discussed, as features of masculinity were addressed from a historical and contemporary perspective

*Questions that were discussed were the following: Are politics by definition masculine? How has the perception of politics changed over time? What are the features of political leadership and how does it challenge woman leaders?*

We continued our conversations, engaging with women leaders. We invited seven women campaigning for a position of a representative in the European Parliament to discuss gender equality policy in Latvia and European Union. We were trying to find out what their views were about the gender equality in Latvia and EU. We asked - what are their respective political party's priorities in gender equality issues? What are their opinions on current issues in the world and Latvian politics, and what issues they would like to work with if and when elected?

In the end of the year we organized a conversation about the masculinity and the military. We discussed women's experiences while serving in the National Guard and the Latvian Army reserve. We discussed whether the involvement of women in this male-dominated realm has in any way changed the public views about the military as well as explored the potential link between the specifics of the work in military and potential for domestic violence.

## **PUBLIC EVENTS**

### SOLYDARITY. 8TH OF MARCH

In cooperation with the likeminded individuals and organizations – Women's stand-up, festival “Ladyfest Riga”, the association of curators and artists “FemTe”, as well as the Canadian Embassy in Latvia, we organized the Women's Solidarity march that has already become a tradition.

The march started at the Parliament building and passed on to the Freedom Monument. The slogan of the march was *Choice and Freedom*. The aim of the march was to focus the attention of the parliamentarians and society of Latvia to issues such as: - *should the choice to become a public official also mean a choice to receive offensive and humiliating comments on daily bases? Does choice to become someone's spouse mean never being able to say “no”? Should the choice to voice one's own opinions publicly mean that one has accepted receiving constant attacks from those who are of different opinions?*

## LAMPA

This year during the annual summer “conversation festival” LAMPA we invited participants to experience situations of violence victims via an interactive workshop. The goal was to help the participants understand that the exit from a destructive relationship is not simple.

The workshop *In other’s shoes; exit from a violent relationship* made participants and spectators think about the many impossible decisions that must be taken by a victim in the situations of violent relationship. Several participants admitted that the choices were very difficult and unpleasant, causing a feeling of hopelessness and misery. Although it is just a role-play, experiencing what it is like to be in “other’s shoes” develops empathy and understanding why it is not easy for the victims of violence to leave violent relationships and how the support of those around them in such situations is necessary support for making a decision to leave such a relationship.

## **DEDEVELOPMENT COOPERATION**

### CENTRAL ASIA

Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan

The project *Woman’s voice; strengthening participation of women in the democratic processes and public governance in Central Asia* was funded by Latvia’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In accordance to a specifically elaborated training program, adjusted to the need of Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, MARTA provided knowledge and expertise for a more successful advocacy of women’s interests.

To help better prepare for the municipal election in Kyrgyzstan, Latvian experts helped Kyrgyz women to strengthen their communication and self-presentation abilities. Kyrgyz women received help on how to plan their campaigns through interactive tasks. For example, women walked out in the street, addressed their potential voters and asked for their suggestions for their potential programs with an aim to improve the city life. Many of the participants said that it was their first experience with addressing strangers as prospective candidates and admitted that although the beginning was challenging, these exercises strengthened their confidence to call upon others to vote for them.

In Tajikistan the experts trained the leaders of Sugd region who are active in non-governmental initiatives and informal women’s groups to elaborate ideas for local scale projects that would promote women’s access to education as well as to have active and independent employment opportunities. As the participants of the workshop indicated, they especially valued the workshop for mutual contacts and support system that helped them understand how women who are publicly active can support each other in reaching important community goals.

In both countries fundamental knowledge to understand a broader meaning of the importance for gender equality for the overall development of the society and country was provided. This knowledge will be further multiplied by their work in their communities with the local opinion makers, representatives of public institutions, politicians. The training equipped women with the necessary argumentation tools that will be useful when inviting people within positions of power to support their initiatives.

## **BROADENING AND EXPANDING**

Year upon year MARTA faces a serious issue of demand for MARTA's services seriously exceeding our capacity, thus queues are formed for our consultations. This challenge is also to a large extent connected with the limitations of our office space. Consultations need a confined space that would be not only specifically equipped but also comfortable and cosy. It is also very important that they can be accessed with full respect for confidentiality.

Centre MARTA is dreaming about its own building but such dreams do not come true easily. In 2019 we found a possibility to rent additional space. This allowed our Service division to have a separate, modern office for everyday consultations, providing for a possibility to conduct three consultations simultaneously. MARTA's expert team was expanded by the addition of two psychologists and one lawyer. In accordance to a decision taken in 2019 MARTA's work was further expanded to the regional town of Rēzekne, where a regional office has been started.

In 2019 MARTA was able to engage in income generating activity by selling our expertise. We had contracts with municipalities and organizations in Latvia for over 7000 EUR to conduct training for adolescents and youth about the issues of healthy relationships, prevention of violence and gender equality. Thus the goal of our strategy to start developing MARTA into a respected education and training centre has seen the beginning of its fulfilment. MARTA is a cooperation partner of Ventspils High Technology Park in the program for diversity awareness in educational process called *Benefits of diverse views* for entrepreneurs and managers.

## **FUNDING**

MADARA Cosmetics, AS; Sorority IMERIA, EAZYBI, SIA; NGO RUI: Recognize. Understand. Include.; Omnium Novus, SIA; Ibanpay, SIA; PINS.CO, SIA; Riga Luter's Parish, Cafe "Hanna Anna"; individual donors; International Women's Club in Riga, Giving for LATVIA, Latvian Evangelical Church in US (LELBA), Washington D.C. Ev. Lut. Perishes; Finlands Svenska Marthaforbund (Finland), Venner AV Martasenteret, Fellesorganisasjonen (Norway), SISTERHOOD IS GLOBAL INSTITUTE, Donor Direct Action donors (USA), Nordic Council, Swedish Embassy in Latvia, Finnish Embassy in Latvia, Norwegian Embassy in Latvia, Embassy of Netherlands in Latvia, Embassy of Canada in Latvia, US Embassy in Latvia and United Arab Emirates Embassy in Latvia.

## **PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS**

- 1) State program "Social rehabilitation services and support services during the criminal proceedings for the victims of human trafficking"
- 2) State program "Social rehabilitation services for adults who have suffered domestic violence"
- 3) Project "Dare to care. Prevention of violence among youth" financed from OAK Foundation and State budget co-financing to NGOs program
- 4) Interreg Latvia – Lithuania program for years 2014 – 2020 project "Women and Children - Safe in Their City"

- 5) Foundation “Fonds Ziedot.lv” administered donation from AS Latvenergo for the project “Social rehabilitation services by interdisciplinary teams for women and children who have suffered domestic violence in Liepāja”
- 6) European Social Fund (ESF) project Nr. 9.2.1.1/15/I/001 “Development of professional social work in municipal procurements “Elaboration of methodology for social workers for the social work with violence victims and perpetrators”
- 7) State budget financed NGO Fund program project “Strengthening the operational capacity of MARTA Centre”
- 8) Project funded by the Foreign Ministry of Latvia “Women’s voice: Strengthening the participation of women in Central Asian state’s democratic processes and public governance”.
- 9) Funding by the European Commission within the program “Rights, equality and citizenship” project “Towards Fair and Effective Compensation Scheme to Victims of Sexual Violence” (FAIRCOM)
- 10) Baltic Sea Council “If you speak up, I will join!”
- 11) US Embassy in Latvia projects *Support to specialists in the preventive work with adolescents to prevent psychological, physical and sexual violence* and *Courage to care Youth clubs for Healthy Relationships*.
- 12) EU program in education, training, youth and sport „Erasmus+” project *Outlining successful strategies against gender-based violence (GUIDE)*.
- 13) EU program in education, training, youth and sport „Erasmus+” project “Prevenција ++. “Prevention++. Non-formal education and prevention work”.