



# OUTLINE OF THE 5TH EDITION OF THE ELSA DAY

## 30th of November 2016



“ **ALL DIFFERENT, ALL TOGETHER** ”

*Join us in raising awareness of  
human dignity and cultural diversity  
by spreading the word  
about the ELSA Day!*

## Foreword

The celebration of the 5<sup>th</sup> ELSA Day is approaching! The ELSA Day as we know it was introduced to the Network with its first edition in 2013. Since then we have had three editions. The fourth edition took place on the 25<sup>th</sup> of November 2015 and had more than 143 Human Rights events organised in 32 different countries!

At the International Council Meeting (ICM) Malta in 2014 it was decided that the most ideal period for organising this popular project is Autumn, specifically every last Wednesday of November. This means that we can already begin sharing the enthusiasm and getting prepared for the **30<sup>th</sup> of November 2016**. Wishing to increase the number of successful events organised on the ELSA Day, we have enriched this outline with the hope it would be used as a tool for organising the national and local events.

In case you have more questions, please check out <http://elsa.org/elsa-day/> or contact [humanrights@elsa.org](mailto:humanrights@elsa.org).

Best wishes for an efficient cooperation between all ELSA Day organisers,

Robert, Mads, Rob, Ivan, Jakub, Christine, Nigel and Alyona

ELSA International 2016/2017

## 1. What is the ELSA Day?

The network's organised celebration of the ELSA Day was held for the first time on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March 2013. This was the first time in ELSA history that the entire ELSA Network worked together to realise a unique Human Rights forum where we discussed national and international standards of protection and implementation of Human Rights. The forum consisted of coordinated ELSA events falling back on **ELSA's Vision and with the slogan "all different, all together"**.

The aim of the ELSA Day is to **jointly demonstrate our Human Rights commitment** by providing legal education opportunities, which enable law students to be independent and critical members of society. The idea behind the project is to make one big effort together - throughout 43 National Groups and more than 300 Local Groups – resulting in visibility and recognition all over Europe.

ELSA International (EI) will use its home and Facebook pages to promote the project. Check out [fb.com/ElsaDayallDifferentAllTogether](https://fb.com/ElsaDayallDifferentAllTogether) and [elsa.org/elsa-day](https://elsa.org/elsa-day). It is recommended to use social media as much as possible thus, please, use the hashtag [#ELSADay](https://twitter.com/ELSADay) when sharing the news regarding your ELSA Day events.

Moreover, each National Group should have one National ELSA Day Coordinator – the registration form can be found here: [elsa.org/elsa-day/national-coordinator-form/](https://elsa.org/elsa-day/national-coordinator-form/). The task of this Officer is to encourage and support national and local ELSA Day events, pass on the information from the International to the Local level and to make sure the Local Groups fill in the specification and evaluation forms (see below).

## 2. Topic of the ELSA Day

The general topic of the ELSA Day is **Human Rights**. Any events on this topic will be appreciated. The field of Human Rights is relatively broad and it is easy to get lost if we do not focus on a more specific topic. For the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the ELSA Day, National and Local Groups were encouraged to put special focus on the events that reflect our commitment to social responsibility. In the 4<sup>th</sup> edition, focus has been put on the various aspects of gender equality. This year, after relevant discussions at ICM Batumi, the International Board recommends to organise **events that focus on the various aspects of Migration Law**.

Human migration represents the movement of people who cross the boundaries of their home country to another country for the purposes of establishing a permanent or semi-permanent residence. It is perhaps as old as the mankind itself. Migration Law is a branch of law that establishes the rules and conditions that need to be met and that will determine who can migrate, under what circumstances and for how long. This complex field and its rules are implemented through different sources of law adopted at national, regional and international level.

Nowadays, Europe is facing an unprecedented inflow of people looking for its territories. Their intents may vary - fleeing war, terror and/or vast human rights violations, looking for better living conditions, reuniting with their families. The steps in finding their new homes may be legal or illegal. Either way, Europe is facing an immense challenge which requires a joint action and effective policy changes in this matter in order to safeguard people that are seeking a better life and own security.

This year's ELSA Day focus is broad enough for Local and National Groups to explore it via various subtopics, such as asylum policies, refugees, migration crisis, human trafficking, modern slavery, labour migration, war migration, the role of International Organisations and NGOs and many more.

### **3. What events can we organise?**

During the three past editions, students have organised panel discussions, legal debates, institutional visits, study visits, Lawyers@work events, seminars, lectures, trainings, moot court competitions, etc. This year the target group encompasses law students hence creativity might be required. Below you can find some suggestions on the concrete activities that can be organised.

#### 3.1 Human Library

The winner of the second edition's visibility competition, ELSA Istanbul, organised a "Human Library" event. People presenting a minority, or certain groups in society, talk about themselves and answer the questions from the audience. The aim is to break down prejudices and avoid putting human beings into boxes. We believe that being presented to real persons who share their stories, can have a significant impact on the persons who attend. For more information, please, see the ELSA Istanbul's video: [youtu.be/8E1U-SchPvo](https://youtu.be/8E1U-SchPvo)



### 3.2 Tea time

The idea behind “Tea Time” events is similar to the one described above, but in a smaller and more personal scale. It is a fact that different groups in society live parallel lives without interaction. This can create hostility and friction – which eventually can threaten certain human rights. “Tea time” events are arranged meetings between people from different groups, e.g. Muslims and Christians, young and old, gay and straight, with the aim of increasing knowledge and facilitating personal connections between those groups. The conversation between the participants can take place over a cup of tea in a café or at any other location. The concept is explained in the following video: [youtu.be/-vrt-ZeO1IA](https://youtu.be/-vrt-ZeO1IA).

### 3.3 Access to justice

Many groups in our society are not aware of their rights, and acquiring a legal advice is often expensive. As law students we are familiar with the rights we are entitled to and we can share this knowledge with people for whom having such a knowledge can make a difference. Examples of those groups are immigrants, prisoners, children, unemployed people, religious minorities and young workers. “Access to justice” events can be pro bono work with concrete cases or general information meetings - e.g going to an elementary school and teach children about democracy and racism.

### 3.4 Debate

A Human Rights debate can accumulate a bigger interest from the media. Some minority groups, e.g. LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) and Roma people, are sometimes stigmatised by society thus questioning their access to Human Rights can be both controversial and necessary. In order to make an impact on society, remember to advertise the debate among non-lawyers as well. Also, bear in mind ELSA’s non-political status.

### 3.5 Charity

Previous focus on social responsibility was the ideal topic to increase the solidarity events. You can always collect contributions for a good cause. The winning event of the 3rd edition of the ELSA Day was focusing on charity and was organised by ELSA Timisoara. Many students have clothes they want to get rid of and lawyers might be willing to donate money for a good cause. If you organise a seminar or something similar, why don’t you also bake some cakes or arrange a lottery and then donate the income to a charity? Also, an idea which might be popular is to set up an auction. The highest bid gets the opportunity to eat dinner with a prominent professor of your university!

### 3.6 Cultural diversity

A last suggestion from our side is to include the international students in your Human Rights event. Many exchange students have no local contacts hence it can be very lonely to be a foreigner at your faculty. Creating a platform where local and international students get to know each other will make a positive impact on both groups. You should try to recruit the exchange students both as organisers and as participants. After a long ELSA Day, it is nice to finish the great event with a social gathering. Why don't you call for an international dinner party? Everyone brings their national dish and that way cultural diversity is enhanced.

In fact, this means you can organise any Human Rights event you want – just be aware of *how* you organise it.

## 4. Specification Form and Council of Europe Materials

Just like the previous years, the Council of Europe (CoE) will ship **materials to approximately 35 Local Groups**. It is not yet confirmed what we will receive, but we imagine pens, notebooks, calendars, information brochures, etc. to be in the package. Our contact persons in CoE will send materials to the events they find the most interesting. We do not know what they look for but academic quality, creativity, visibility and relevance to the topic will probably be important elements.

It takes some time to pack and ship materials. For this reason, CoE needs information about your event as early as possible. We must therefore operate with strict deadlines (see the timeline below). When the idea of your event is born, please fill in the **ELSA Day Event Specification**

**Form:** [elsa.org/elsa-day/specification-form/](https://elsa.org/elsa-day/specification-form/). ELSA International will post the received information on our webpage. This way all events get international visibility – it is your chance to shine!

## 5. Evaluation

In order to develop our association and improve our activities, we need to evaluate our achievements. Please fill in the **Evaluation Form** after your ELSA Day event. The information will be collected and processed by EI and it will be distributed throughout the Network. The Evaluation form will be available later on.

## 6. ELSA Day competition

The best ELSA Day event will be rewarded. All Local Groups that fill in the Specification and Evaluation forms are entitled to compete. The prize will be eternal honour and glory – together with an object you proudly can bring back to your ELSA office. Upon the discretion of EI, the guiding criteria are: academic quality, relevance to the topic of Human Rights migration law, impact on society, creativity and online and offline visibility. You can check the last edition's winner - ELSA Azerbaijan's video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8EuU2m8CO-Q>. In order to support your application you can submit materials such as pictures, videos, promotion materials etc. to [humanrights@elsa.org](mailto:humanrights@elsa.org).

## 7. Last reminder

Keep in mind ELSA's non-political status when organising the ELSA Day. If you have questions, please, consult the Guideline on ELSA's non-political status or contact ELSA International. Furthermore, you might ask what ELSA means by being committed to Human Rights; what rights are we referring to and what actions can ELSA take? This is indeed a difficult question and we hope that the updated Human Rights Handbook might help.

Finally, please, bear ELSA's Philosophy Statement in mind when preparing for November, the 30<sup>th</sup>. If this day can get us closer to the fulfilment of our beautiful Vision, it is definitely worth to call it a success!

## 8. Timeline

The timeline below is important for a good organisation of your ELSA Day events. However, there is a possibility of minor changes.

<b>25<sup>th</sup> of August</b>	Call for National Coordinators
<b>31<sup>st</sup> of August – 4<sup>th</sup> of September, KAM Münster</b>	Promotion, discussions
<b>10<sup>th</sup> of September</b>	Deadline for NCs Applications, Appointment of National ELSA Day Coordinators, Call for submissions of ELSA Day Event Specification Forms
<b>10<sup>th</sup> of October</b>	First wave of promotion. Marketing materials will be uploaded on Facebook etc.
<b>12<sup>th</sup> of October</b>	Deadline for submitting the Event Specification Form. The form can also be filled in later but the CoE will not take late submissions into consideration when distributing the materials.
<b>Mid-October</b>	Webpage will be uploaded with the information about the ELSA Day Events
<b>16<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> of October, ICM Porto</b>	Presentations and discussions
<b>November</b>	Promotion period
<b>30<sup>th</sup> of November</b>	<b>ELSA Day</b>
<b>31<sup>st</sup> of January</b>	Deadline for filling in the Evaluation Form
<b>26<sup>th</sup> of March to 1<sup>st</sup> of April, ICM Prague</b>	“Award Ceremony” – ELSA Day Competition





## Vision

*A just world in which there is respect for human dignity and cultural diversity*

## Purpose

*To contribute to legal education, to foster mutual understanding and to promote social responsibility of law students and young lawyers.*

## Means

*Providing opportunities for law students and young lawyers to learn about other cultures and legal systems in a spirit of critical dialogue and scientific co-operation.*

*Assisting law students and young lawyers to be internationally minded and professionally skilled.*

*Encouraging law students and young lawyers to act for the good of society.*

**elsa**

The European Law Students' Association