



## OUTLINE OF 4TH EDITION OF THE ELSA DAY 25th of November 2015



“all different, all together”

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

**elsa**  
The European Law Students' Association



**ELSA DAY**  
“all different, all together”

## Foreword

The celebration of the 4<sup>th</sup> ELSA Day is approaching! After various attempts the previous years we led to a very organized series of celebration of this important event with the 1<sup>st</sup> ELSA Day – as we know it – to be introduced to the ELSA Network in 2012. Since then we have had three editions. The third edition, on 26<sup>th</sup> of November 2014, had 133 Human Rights events in 33 different countries! After two spring editions the network decided at the International Council Meeting (ICM) Malta that the most ideal period for organizing this popular project is autumn and specifically every last Wednesday of November. This means that we can already begin sharing the enthusiasm and getting prepared for the **25<sup>th</sup> of November 2015**. In order to increase our successful events we need well organized and accessible information. Therefore we enriched this outline with the hope to be used as an organization tool for the national and local events. In case you have more questions, please check out <http://elsa.org/page/elsa-day> or contact [humanrights@elsa.org](mailto:humanrights@elsa.org).

Best wishes for an efficient co-operation between all ELSA Day organisers,

Anna, Hector, Marek, Dagne, Antonia, Ada, Matej and Vedran

ELSA International 2015/16

## 1. What is the ELSA Day?

The network's organized celebration of ELSA Day was held for the first time on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March 2013. This was 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 page to promote the project. Check out [fb.com/ElsaDayallDifferentAllTogether](https://fb.com/ElsaDayallDifferentAllTogether). It is recommended to use social media as much as possible thus please use the hashtag [#ELSA Day](https://twitter.com/ELSA_Day) when posting.

Moreover, every national group should have one National ELSA Day Coordinator – the registration form can be found here: <http://goo.gl/forms/Zjcgp6HyY3> . The task of this person is to encourage and support national and local ELSA Day events, pass on the information from international to 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 however relatively broad. It is easy to get lost if we do not focus on something more specific. For the 3rd edition of the ELSA Day, local groups were encouraged to put special focus on events that reflect our commitment to social responsibility. This year, after relevant discussions at ICM Bodrum, the International Board recommends **events that focus on the various aspects of Gender Equality**.

Gender Equality does not overrate any neither distinguish the rights between the genders, but it is an attempt for a coequal perception with goal the equation. This year's ELSA Day focus is broad enough and therefore local and national groups can explore it via the various events subtopics; gender mainstreaming, equal economic independence for women and men, equal pay for work of equal value, equality in decision-making, dignity, integrity and ending gender-based violence; feminization of poverty, reproductive rights, equality in the media, women and militarism are only a few examples.

Furthermore, this year's last Wednesday happens to be on 25th of November which is in the same time the International Day for the elimination of violence against women. It seems to be a good coincidence for joint events in order to make even bigger impact!

### **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 find some suggestions on concrete activities.

#### 3.1 Human Library

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

#### 3.2 Tea time

The idea behind "Tea Time" events is much the same as the one 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. The conversation between the participants can take place over a cup of tea in a café or at home. The concept is explained in the following video: [youtu.be/-vrt-ZeO1IA](https://youtu.be/-vrt-ZeO1IA).

#### 3.2 Access to justice

Many groups in society are not aware of their rights and legal advices are often extremely expensive. We all know that knowledge is power. As law students we are familiar with the rights we are entitled to and we can share this knowledge with people for whom this can make a difference. Examples of 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 go to an elementary school and teach children about democracy and racism.

### 3.4 Debate

A Human Rights debate can catalyse a bigger focus in media. Some minority groups, e.g. LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) and Roma people, are sometimes stigmatized 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

Last year's focus on social responsibility was the ideal one to increase the solidarity events. You can always collect contributions for a good cause. Many students have too much cloth they want to get rid of and lawyers seem to have too much money. If you organize a seminar or something similar, not having a clear impact on society, why don't you just 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 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 for sure make a positive impact on both groups – in the short and long run. You should try to recruit the exchange students as organizers 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 organize any Human Rights events you want – just be aware of *how* you organize it. If you want to read more about how ELSA can promote cultural exchange at your faculty, check out Studier Abroad Projects - [elsa.org/page/studies-abroad-projects-2/](https://elsa.org/page/studies-abroad-projects-2/).

#### 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 confirmed what we will receive, but we imagine pens, notebooks, calendars, information brochures etc. 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 long 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 timeline below).

When the idea of your event is born, please fill in the **ELSA Day Event Specification Form**: <http://goo.gl/forms/Oki8TLdQQ0j>. ELSA International will post the received information on our web page. This way all events gets 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 following form after your ELSA Day event. The information will be collected and processed by EI and it will be distributed throughout the Network. Evaluation form: <http://goo.gl/forms/7WCK9e3zgu>

#### 6. ELSA Day competition

The best ELSA Day event will of course 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 and gender equality, impact on society, creativity and online and offline visibility. You can check last edition winner's (ELSA Timisoara) video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rtgg6MIp7R0> In order to support your application you can submit materials such as pictures, videos etc to [humanrights@elsa.org](mailto:humanrights@elsa.org).



## 7. Timeline

The timeline below is very important for a successful organization with the possibility of minor changes to occur.

<b>10<sup>th</sup> of August</b>	Call for National Coordinators
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> of August</b>	Appointment of National ELSA Day Coordinators
<b>2.-6. September, Key Area Meeting Salento</b>	Presentations, brainstorming and discussions
<b>Beginning of October</b>	Web page will be updated and marketing materials will be distributed
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> 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 materials.
<b>7<sup>th</sup> October</b>	First big wave of promotion. Marketing materials will be uploaded on Facebook etc.
<b>18-25 October, ICM Batumi</b>	Presentations and discussions
<b>25<sup>th</sup> of November</b>	<b>ELSA Day</b>
<b>13<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Deadline for filling in Evaluation Form
<b>20-27 March, ICM Malta</b>	“Award Ceremony” – ELSA Day Competition

## 8. Last reminder

Keep in mind ELSA’s non-political status when organising 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, which will be uploaded soon, might help.

Finally, please always bear ELSA’s Philosophy Statement in mind when preparing for November 25<sup>th</sup>. If this day can get us closer to the fulfilment of our beautiful Vision, it is definitely worth it to call it a success!



## 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**

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