



**ACADEMIC GUIDELINE
FOR 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!*

elsa

The European Law Students' Association



ELSA DAY
“all different, all together”

Introduction

This practical academic guideline will help you with organising of your ELSA Day Events. Below you can see an extensive list of potential subtopics related to the 5th ELSA Day Focus topic: Migration Law. In addition, the guideline provides practical tips and tricks how to improve your events and how to make an impact through them.

Choose a hot topic

Picking up a right topic for your ELSA Day event is a prerequisite of your success. Whereas migration law is a relatively broad field which encompasses various issues, you are free to choose any of them to focus on. We encourage you to think and investigate which aspects of migration law could attract the students, society and potential partners in your community. For your inspiration (but not a limitation!), see the list of key issues and some ideas for subtopics below.

Key issues and ideas for subtopics

Refugees and asylum

- Reforms of asylum law and policy in your country
- Common European Asylum System
- International legal framework for refugee and asylum issues (basic criteria for the attainment, denial, and withdrawal of refugee status, the development of the non-refoulement principle, minimum standard of treatment of refugees etc.)

Human rights in context of migration

- Human rights and state sovereignty as the main pillars of international migration law (clash between the protection of human rights on one hand and state security on the other hand)
- Xenophobia
- Human trafficking
- Rights of migrant children

Challenges in the field of migration law

- Implications of the migration crisis on human rights, economy, environment, asylum policies etc.
- Globalisation and international cooperation in the field of migration
- Emerging challenges in international migration law (legislative and administrative responses to current migration issues)
- Reforms of EU law (Dublin system) and national law in response to the migration crisis
- Responsibility and solidarity of EU member states in facing the refugee crisis
- Solution strategies
- Role of NGOs in the field of migration

Institutions and migration

- National, regional (EU, Council of Europe) and international level (UNHCR, International Office for Migration etc.)
- Regulatory mechanisms of the institutions and their enforcement, goals and tasks, various statistics of their activities etc.

Different types of migration – current issues and challenges

- Labour migration (protection of rights of migrant workers, modern work slavery)
- War migration (fleeing from the horror)
- New phenomenon of “climate refugees” (environmentally induced migration) – great link to the current IFP topic - Environmental Law!

What kind of events to organise

If you are already clear about the topic you want to focus on, it is time to pick up a suitable type of your event. Below, we provide you with some examples of events to be matched with respective topics. When choosing the event type, do not also forget to consider its suitability in respect with your target group.

S&C events

S&C events in general are very suitable kind of events if you aim to address a broad audience without necessity of having any previous backgrounds in the topic.

If you want to focus on hot topics, such as migration crisis and current challenges in migration law, we recommend you to organise *a panel discussion*. Panellists shall represent various viewpoints and come from different sectors (academic experts, representatives of government, the third sector, experts from legal practice, students, civil activists etc.). A moderator should have a solid background in the topic and the ability to attract the attention and stimulate a discussion.

Lectures, seminars and conferences organised at the academic premises have rather low interaction, but provide a good platform for discussing various legal aspects of migration and presenting suggestions *de lege ferenda*. Of course, inviting interesting speakers is a prerequisite.

If you would rather like to focus on the institutional aspects of migration law, the best option is to offer the audience a first-hand experience. By organising *an institutional visit*, the attendants can get familiar with the structure, aims and tasks of the respective institution. You can also connect a visit with a discussion on some hot legal topic in order to make your event even more attractive.

Workshops

Workshops are suitable for a smaller group of people with some previous expertise in the topic. They rather focus on practical issues – the participants shall get an opportunity to practice the application of the knowledge they gained.

Human library / Tea time events

These kinds of events are very suitable if you want to focus on different types of migration (war migration, labour migration etc.). They aim to break down prejudices and integrate the vulnerable group via establishing a personal contact. Try to approach community of immigrants in your region and invite them to present their stories to students, academia or broader public. You may also employ them with some joint activities – preparing and/or tasting some national meals, presenting culture/traditions.

Info campaigns

Raise the awareness about human rights and migration and organise info campaigns in your region. Create the info sheets, videos or other materials about migration and distribute them to the respective target groups, e.g. students or citizens. You may include some statistics and figures about migration in your region (use the sources of IOM, UNHCR, CoE, Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International or the statistical office of your country). It is up to you whether you will choose to address broader public and launch a campaign on social media or focus on direct contact, e.g. by organising educational activities for primary and/or secondary schools.

Pro bono activities

Migration law as this year's ELSA Day focus is ideal for organising solidarity events. Options are various – you may offer assistance to asylum seekers in your country, provide aid to centres for immigrants, organise a collection of clothes/toys at your university, bake cakes and sell them during your educational events and donate the income for a good purpose.

Ideas for partner organisations

Establishing partnerships for your events should not only focus on fundraising. Having an interesting partner organisation can help you to raise the credibility, broaden the scope of your event and attract the attention of target groups. Except for your existing partners, try to approach e.g.:

- Ministries and their departments dealing with the issues of human rights and migration
- National human rights bodies
- International Organization for Migration (IOM) – Office in your country
- Representation of the European Commission in your country
- NGOs working in the field of human rights and migration
- University and academic experts
- Centres/camps for immigrants

Increase your impact

As the main idea of the ELSA Day project is to show our commitment to raising the awareness about current human rights issues, we encourage you to take efforts to increase the impact of your event. We offer you a couple of tips which may help you to achieve this aim.

Broaden the scope of your target groups

Although the main target groups of ELSA activities are law students and young lawyer, the ELSA Day is a great opportunity to spread our vision to the whole world. Think about approaching the whole university instead of the law faculty or establish a partnership with student unions and other student NGOs in your region/country. Take efforts to organise some educational activities with primary and secondary schools or try to reach broader public by launching a campaign on social media.

Make your event interesting

Picking up a hot topic is the key element of success, but it is definitely not enough. If you want to make your event more attractive for your target groups, try to get some interesting auspices, partnerships or speakers. Approach the university to provide you with some representative premises that are not open to students usually. When organising a workshop, do not forget on issuing the certificates of attendance and/or awarding the best participants. Distributing freebies and organising an informal reception with your guests after the official programme can also motivate people to attend your event.

Focus on promotion

Start with the promotion as early as you can. Employ various platforms like posters, emails and social media. Create your own ELSA Day event on Facebook and join the general ELSA Day promotion wave by sharing the posts of ELSA International. Ask you project partners to spread your event and promotion materials in order to increase the audience. In order to reach broader public, try to attract the media (e.g. regional/ student TVs and magazines, legal forums). The more people know about your activities, the bigger impact you will have.

Final reminder

While organising your ELSA Day events, always bear in mind the non-political status of ELSA!

We wish you the best of success in organising your amazing events!

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