



## OUTLINE OF 3RD EDITION OF THE ELSA DAY 26th of November 2014

“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 ELSA Day was first introduced to the ELSA Network in 2012. Since then we have had two editions. The second edition, on 5th of March 2014, had 173 Human Rights events in 29 different countries! The project seems to be relatively popular and at the International Council Meeting (ICM) in Malta we chose a new date - every last Wednesday of November. This means we will have two editions in 2014 – it is almost like having birthday twice a year! This means double amount of excitement, double amount of visibility and of course, a tight timeline. In order to be prepared for **November 26**, we must be well organised and information must be easily accessible. For this reason ELSA International created this outline – hopefully a tool that can be used by national and local officers.

For informal sharing of ideas, please join the Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/617046225082637/?fref=ts>.

In case you have 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,

Armin, Alina, Lauri, Idil, Marko, Dasha, Olav and Tanja  
ELSA International 2014/2015

# 1. What is the ELSA Day?

The ELSA Day was held for the first time on the 20th 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 41 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://www.facebook.com/ElSaDayAllDifferentAllTogether). It is recommended to use social media as much as possible thus please use the hashtag #ELSA Day when posting. Moreover, every national group should have one National ELSA Day Coordinator. The task of this person is to encourage and support national 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 2nd edition of the ELSA Day, local groups were encouraged to put special focus on Human Rights on the Internet. This time, after discussing the topic at ICM Malta, the International Board recommends events that reflect our commitment to social responsibility.

There are different opinions on what the term «social responsibility» implies. The means of our philosophy statement does however provide a starting point: [Encouraging law students and young lawyers to act for the good of society](#). Therefore, any events that have a positive impact on society, not only on ELSA members or other law students, should fall within the scope.

## 3. What events can we organise?

During the two 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 last edition's visibility competition, ELSA Istanbul, organised what was called a "Human Library". Persons 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. 3. 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

If you find it difficult to organize a human rights event which is socially responsible, 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 [Studies Abroad Projects - elsa.org/page/studies-abroad-projects-2/](https://elsa.org/page/studies-abroad-projects-2/).

### 3. 7. Opportunities provided by ELSA International

ELSA International is currently working on specific ELSA Day events that we want to offer local groups. We are in contact with external entities and we might present an event that resembles 3.2 “Access to Justice”. We will keep you updated and discuss this further at KAM Prague and ICM Bodrum.

## 4. Specification Form and Council of Europe Materials

Just like last year, The Council of European (CoE) will ship [materials to 40 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 social responsibility 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](#):

[docs.google.com/a/elsa.org/forms/d/1\\_078FYFclA9JheAzflbERdZ5XyhDG4rix1b0EIEO\\_oM/viewform?usp=send\\_form](https://docs.google.com/a/elsa.org/forms/d/1_078FYFclA9JheAzflbERdZ5XyhDG4rix1b0EIEO_oM/viewform?usp=send_form).

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](#):

[docs.google.com/a/elsa.org/forms/d/1n1s\\_iqE8lkxp85sY9rIBJf3JVOirSjzxnjdHGdqQI-U/viewform?usp=send\\_form](https://docs.google.com/a/elsa.org/forms/d/1n1s_iqE8lkxp85sY9rIBJf3JVOirSjzxnjdHGdqQI-U/viewform?usp=send_form)



## 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 social responsibility, impact on society, creativity and online and offline visibility. In order to support your application you can submit materials to [humanrights@elsa.org](mailto:humanrights@elsa.org).

## 7. Timeline

Having two ELSA Days in one year means time is scarce. The timeline below is therefore very important to respect but minor changes might occur.

25th of August:	Appointment of National ELSA Day Coordinators
3-7th of September:	Key Area Meeting, Prague. Presentations, brainstorming and discussions
20th of September:	Deadline for submitting the Event Specification Form. The form can be filled in later but the CoE will not take late submissions into consideration when distributing materials.
Beginning of October:	Web page will be updated and marketing materials will be distributed
14th of October:	Drop the Online Bomb. Marketing materials will be uploaded on Facebook
19-26th October, ICM Bodrum:	Presentations and discussions
26th November:	ELSA Day
15th December:	Deadline for filling in Evaluation Form
19-26th of April 2015, ICM Cluj Napoca:	“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 EI. 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 a very difficult question and it will be topic at our internal meeting this ELSA year.

Finally, please always bear ELSA's Philosophy Statement in mind when preparing for November 26th. If this day can get us closer to the fulfilment of our beautiful Vision, I think we can 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.