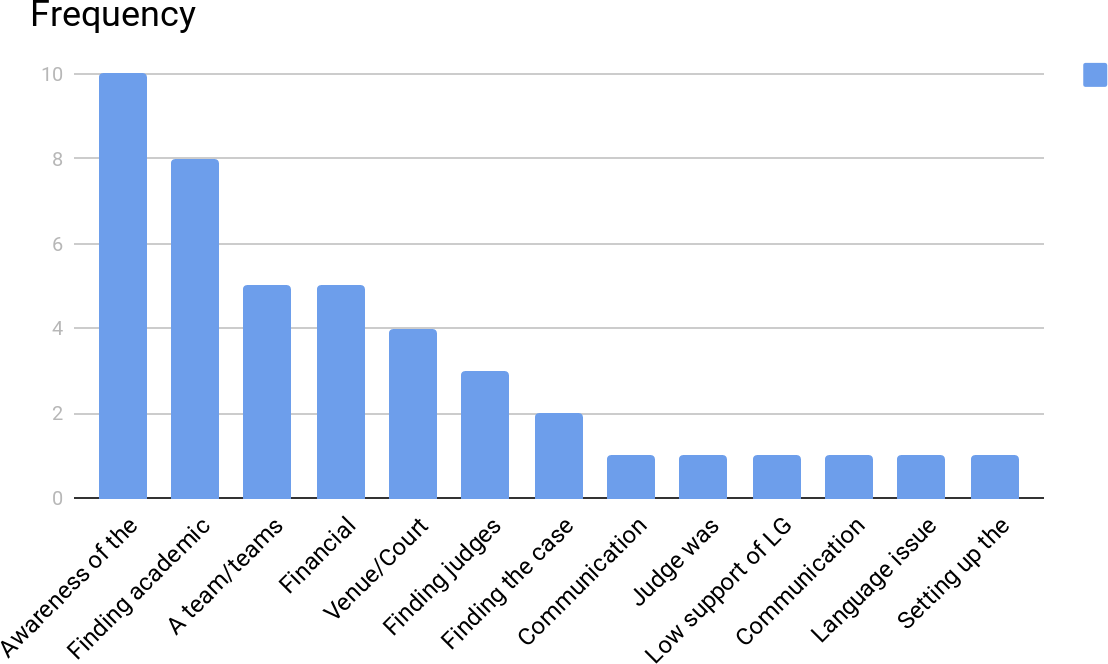
# Problems and Solutions

Even if you have followed this manual step by step, all sorts of problems can occur; this is in the nature of a Moot Court Competition. **But** that is no reason to be deterred by the organisation of an MCC. Rather, we want to create the necessary problem awareness and at the same time provide you with solutions from the network. Therefore, we have compiled suggestions for solutions from the entire MCC network, which you can fall back on if necessary.

1. **Problems with the network**

To sensitise you to which problems you are most likely to encounter, we decided to create a clear, easily visible and understandable statistic showing you, which the most frequent problems the network faces are:



The numbers describe the number of VP MCCs highlighting the Problem as actual in the Evaluation Form

## (Lack of) Awareness of the project

Awareness of the project is one of the most important things because it influences the number of teams registering, the amount of successful sponsorships created and the overall view of the ELSA Group itself. If you are organising a great MCC and people do not know about it, it is a real pity. Therefore, you should always take care of great marketing to reach as many people as possible.

*Approaches which have been proven to be effective are:*

* Informing students by teachers and professors at the university during the lectures;
* Social media promotion;
* Bonus points and facilities to the exams;
* More comprehensive marketing strategy;
* Promotion from people who participated before;
* Presentation of moot courts at university in general;
* Choosing the best time to reach participants (not during the exam period etc.);
* Creating a fact organising material;
* Carrying out MCC at university rather than at the court;
* Allocate course credits to the participants;
* Encouragement of the students by the professors.

## Finding academic partners

Finding (academic) partners is as essential as it is difficult. With a renowned partner, many opportunities may open up both in the organisation and in the acquisition of new members. Unfortunately, it is not always easy to find a suitable partner for your project, partly because of local circumstances. However, there are some important tips that might help you:

* The approach should be as professional as possible;
* Present numbers of how many people you reach with your project;
* Contact them as early as possible, so they can adjust their time schedules in time.

*Look at Annex 1 Project Documentation which you can send your potential partners*

## A team/teams dropped out

For each team registered for the moot court competition it should always be clear and emphasized by the OC, that the registration is binding and that it is not possible to withdraw the application, especially just 24 hours before the start of MCC. Of course, serious reasons should always be upon OC to consider if the team or a participant is allowed to withdraw the application.

Problem approaches which have been proven to be effective are:

* Creating a fact organising material;
* An extra/fake team to step in for the lacking team;
* Bigger support for the teams;
* Informing teams about the MCC progress;
* Organising of pre-moot sessions;
* Having a clause in the application stating the application is binding;
* Reschedule: Perhaps one team needs to argue twice and then receives the better score or the first score.

## Financial problems

Struggling with the finances is not good at any stage of your MCC organisation. The lack of money means the lack of the facilities to make your moot court more attractive and fancier. Here are some tips on how to deal with it:

* Law school support;
* Law firms’ funds;
* Create a detailed budget;
* Fundraise;
* Sign a sponsor just for the MCC;
* Organising the event at uni instead of the court.

## Venue/Court problems

It is not always easy to find a courtroom or a suitable venue. However, it should be a motivation for you to know that a beautiful venue can not only enhance the attractiveness of your event and help you reach more members, but it can also attract more partners. Sometimes the officials of the venue are not familiar with moot courts, which also can cause problems.

* Make the officials clear how much work the judges and they will have to face. Be clear about your expectations towards them, it is absolutely necessary for working cooperation;
* It does not always have to be a courtroom. A moot court in a law firm can also be very invigorating and has many advantages;
* Be flexible about possible dates, usually, courts face a lack of time;
* Some faculties have nice rooms so it’s possible to ask your faculty and organise it in there.

## Finding judges

Judges are one of the key elements of every moot court. If you were able to find a court which will host your moot court, finding judges usually is not a problem anymore. Still, this problem arises quite often, therefore we have a list of handy tips for you:

* Contact judges you have worked with before, even if they are not available, but they may have some connections for you;
* Ask your partners for help;
* You also may ask national board members, your own alumni, the ELSA Alumni or LLM students to judge; get creative.

## Finding the case

Organising a moot court without a case is pointless. Therefore, you always need one. As mentioned before, there are several ways how to achieve one. Below you may see the tips from the network:

* Creating DIY (with changing the general data);
* Finding a lawyer to create it in a high quality (law firm);
* Sample cases.

## Communication with ELSA International

ELSA International is always and should always be at your disposal to assist you and help you with whatever you need. We are working on the best way to help you. Hence, we created this new handbook as a manual on how to organise a moot court.

## Judge interrupted the participants ́ presentation

Even with all the respect towards judges, you should always invest enough time to provide them with detailed instructions on how the procedure of MCC will be held and when the time for their questions should come in order to show enough respect towards the participants as well.

## Low support of LG

Especially as a National Board, you may organise a Moot Court in cooperation with a local group. It can happen that the local group does not support you in the way you expected. A possible solution to that is the implementation of hosting agreements in which you can define responsibilities and expectations to avoid these kinds of situations.

## Communication

Good communication is indispensable, either between HoC and OC, between HoC and judges or even between the HoC and participants. The most useful is to create a channel on which it is the easiest for everyone to communicate (group message, mail channel etc.) Before the event itself, create a to-do list with a precise marking of when the task should be done and who is responsible for that. Afterwards, emphasize the importance of informing everyone about any minimal change to the to-do list so no one from OC, judges or participants lacks any necessary information. If still some problems or misunderstandings occur, the tip from ELSA Group is: Be great at crisis management.

## Language issue

Language barriers can sometimes pose challenges for your participants, potentially discouraging others from joining the event. Think of ways how to minimize the barrier, so more people can participate in your moot court.

* Organise a 'How to session' before the moot court with a focus on the legal language;
* Check out whether there is a 'legal translator app' available.

1. **In General**

The problems above were the ones encountered by the network in multiple terms, and which have a certain frequency throughout the network. These should be kept in mind accordingly. In addition to them, we want to stress that facing problems is part of being a MCCer. Even in view of all these different proposals for solutions, the most important advice is to be emphasized here once again in all clarity: Always be flexible!

As an organiser of an MCC, you never can foresee all the problems which may arise. Flexibility and the ability to improvise are inevitable. Trust your improvisation skills, keep your head cool, and you will be able to overcome any obstacle.

Organising a Moot Court can be very challenging and nerve-wracking, but you can almost be sure: the participants will be endlessly thankful for your work. You contribute to their education, and even if everything isn’t perfect, participants still have the opportunity to learn a great deal. Always keep this in mind when you are facing obstacles during the organisation the next time. You will get this!