

Setting Sail

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LXXXVIII International Council Meeting Helsinki
12.11.2026 - 16.11.2026

elsa

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Remember to check off your name in the **Participants List!**

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Workshop Description:

Description

- During this Workshop, we will go through the work done on ELSA International's side in Professional Development, as well as discuss the current state of the network. This workshop will be a reflective and open discussion of current progression within the PD area.

Outcome

- Get a better understanding of the work done on the international level the first months of office, as well as the direction for the area going forward.



But first... Let's get to know each other



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Update from ELSA International



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Professional Development in general

ELSA International Team

- ELSA Traineeships Team
- Professional Development Team
- Reception & Visa Team
- Coordinators

Open Calls:

1. Introduction
2. Career & Job Fairs
3. National Traineeship Programmes
4. ELSA Traineeships Verification
5. Pre-ICM Open Call

Establishment of the Professional Coaching System

- Better connection between ELSA International and National Groups
- Assigned one ELSA International Team member per National Group

Development of new Professional Development Materials

- Fairs Handbook & Checklist
- New National Traineeship Programme Guidelines
- Professional Development Workshops Handbook



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ELSA Traineeships



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ELSA Traineeships

Updated the Traineeship Specification Form

Updated the Traineeship Application Form

Development of new Privacy Policies

Launch of C1 2025/2026

- 85 Traineeship Positions
- Supporting the Network with Inquiries
- Communication with ELSA International TNPs



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Career Launch



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Career Launch

- Started the work on this year's' edition
- Renegotiated the vFairs Platform Agreement

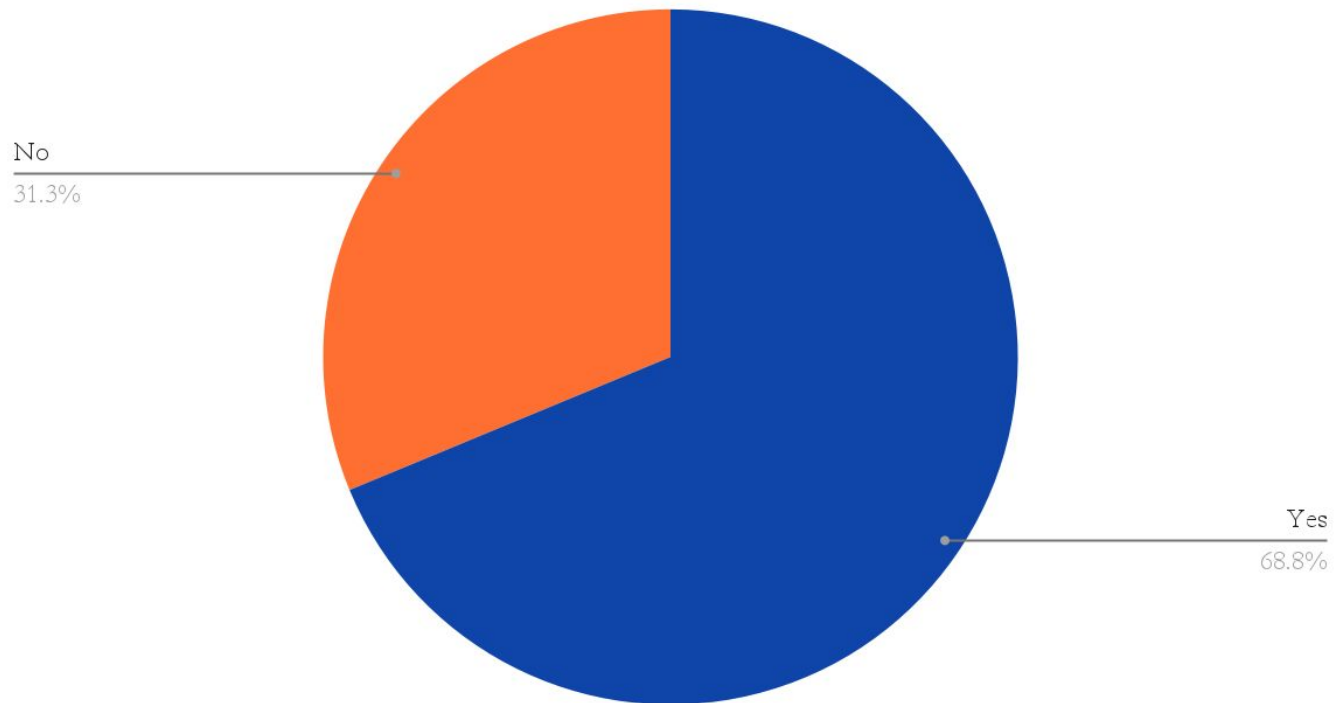
Topics for this terms' edition:

1. Law and Security
2. Artificial Intelligence Law
3. Human Rights Law

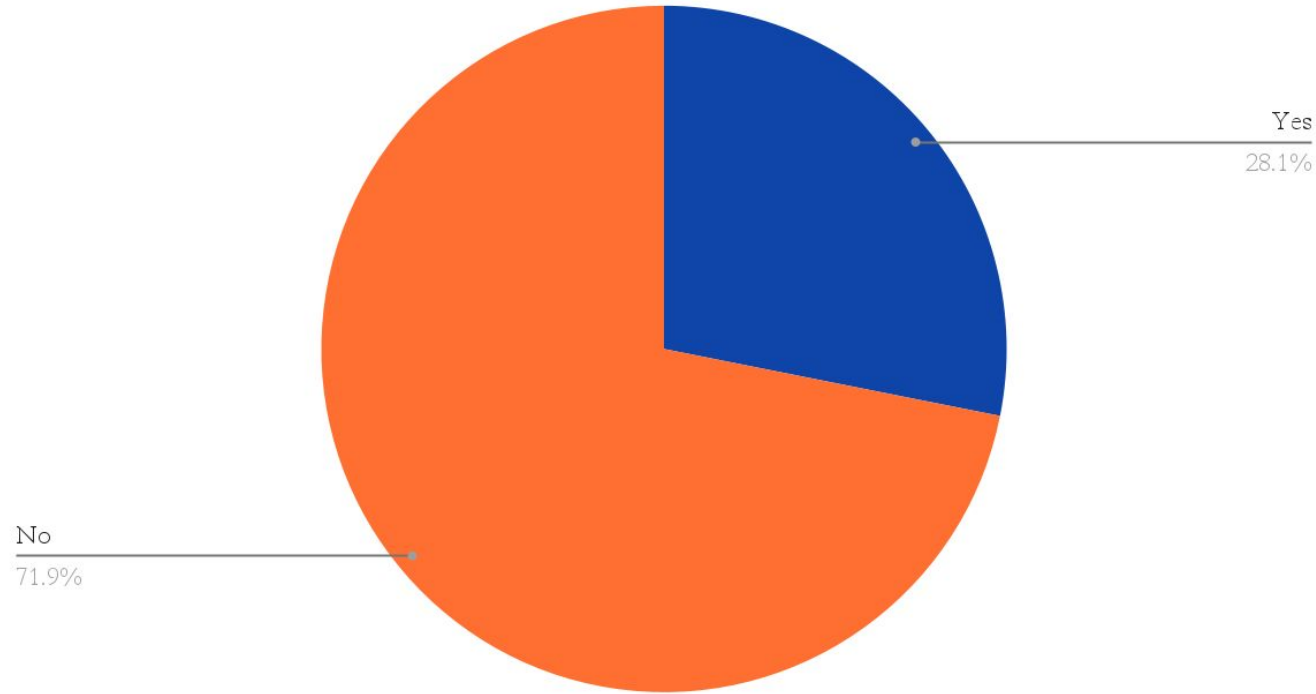


39th State of the Network

Is the Cost of Living Database up to date in your NG?



Have you considered dividing the COLD into subdivisions?



Common Obstacles when finding TNPs

- Lack of interest in International Students
- Remuneration Requirement
- Language Barrier
- Knowledge of National Legislation
- Lack of understanding of how International Students can contribute
- Lack of response entirely
- Already present HR sections responsible for internships
- General unemployment levels in the country
- Lack of Awareness
- Visa Requirements
- Presence of ERASMUS Programmes

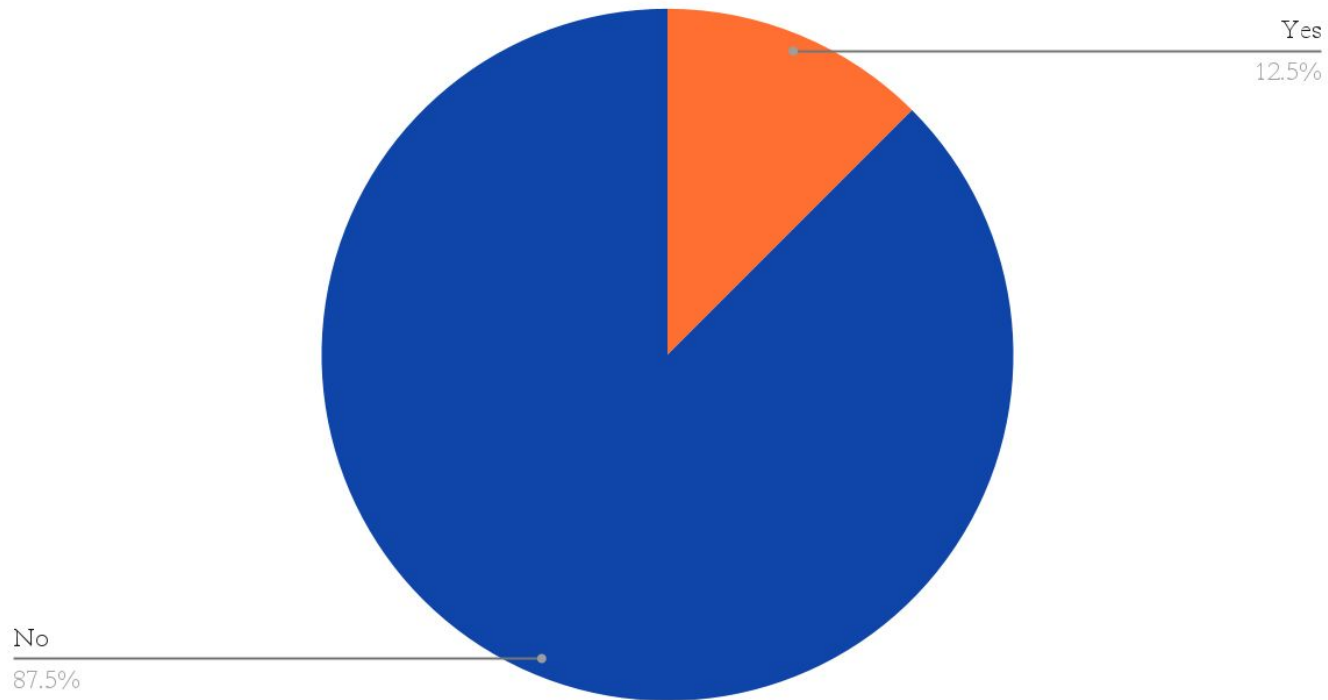
How are Locals involved with the SOS Portal?

- Verification together with the National Group
- Seperate logins and verification processes'
- None (Lack of TNPs or Local Groups)
- Covered the work through videos and workshops to ensure the Locals are prepared
- Contact potential Trainees requesting more information
- Edit applications when necessary
- Taught how EIT grades applications and preliminary matching done
- Close collaboration with the National Team

How does the NG coordinate Reception of Trainees?

- Social and cultural activities organised by NG and LGs
- Never had any Trainees to receive, no experience
- Communication from acceptance until the Traineeship is done
- Following the ELSA Traineeships Handbook section on Reception
- Dedicated Reception Officers/Team to assist them
- Reception Handbook/Booklets
- Welcome / Goodbye Packages for the Trainees
- National Accommodation Database for incoming Students

Do Trainees from your NG usually need Visa?



Which other PD Projects are you organising?

Professional Development Workshops:	24
Career & Job Fairs:	19
Lawyers at Work:	14
Legal Tandem:	12
Legal Clinics:	3

Main Difficulties when organising PD Projects:

- Hard to communicate with or find partner institutions and firms
- Balancing PD Projects with ELSA Traineeships Responsibilities
- Lack of Interest or Lack of Knowledge about PD Projects
- Local Officer Engagement
- Student Attendance
- Engaging ELSA members as PD is still not so popular

Collaboration with other areas:

- Closest cooperation with Marketing
- Organising projects together and good communication
- Often joint projects together with Academic Activities
- Closely with BEE regarding External Relations (CAFs, Partners)
- Closely with FM for the financial aspect of projects
- Collaboration with S&C on Go International Funds
- Providing Traineeship Opportunities for winning AA/C Competitions

Key takeaways: Lack of collaboration, closest collaboration MKT & S&C

Visibility of Professional Development Projects:

- Social Media Marketing
- University Websites
- More Projects to capitalise on Visibility
- Good Marketing Strategy and Branding
- Organising informational meetings and events where you have a platform to promote
- Stronger emphasis on physical marketing
- Dedicated workshops on the *entire* portfolio
- Engaging alumni and testimonials
- Monthly newsletters

Which additional materials could be helpful?

- National Traineeship Programmes Handbook
- Legal Clinic Handbook
- More Handbooks and clearer Guidance
- Reels and Reception Initiatives
- Checklists for each PD Project
- Brandbooks
- Opportunity to participate in other NGs projects
- Solution to the SOS Portal (preach)
- Monthly PD Newsletter

Ensuring knowledge transfer to Local Groups

- Active Communication
- NTM / NOM
- Workshops and Open Calls
- Big focus on NCMs
- Area Meetings
- Transitions
- Shared Google Drives
- One-to-One Meetings

4.03125 / 5

Average Rating of Open Calls



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Other Open Call Feedback:

- Good distribution of topics
- Good focus on ELSA Traineeships, good that it is interactive
- Better follow up (video recording, minutes)
- Good that all the dates are already scheduled
- It would be nice if more National Groups joined the Open Calls (agree)
- Use Open Calls to explore *new initiatives*
- A few Officers have not been able to attend

Updates from the network



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End of International Update Workshop

Thank you for your attention.



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