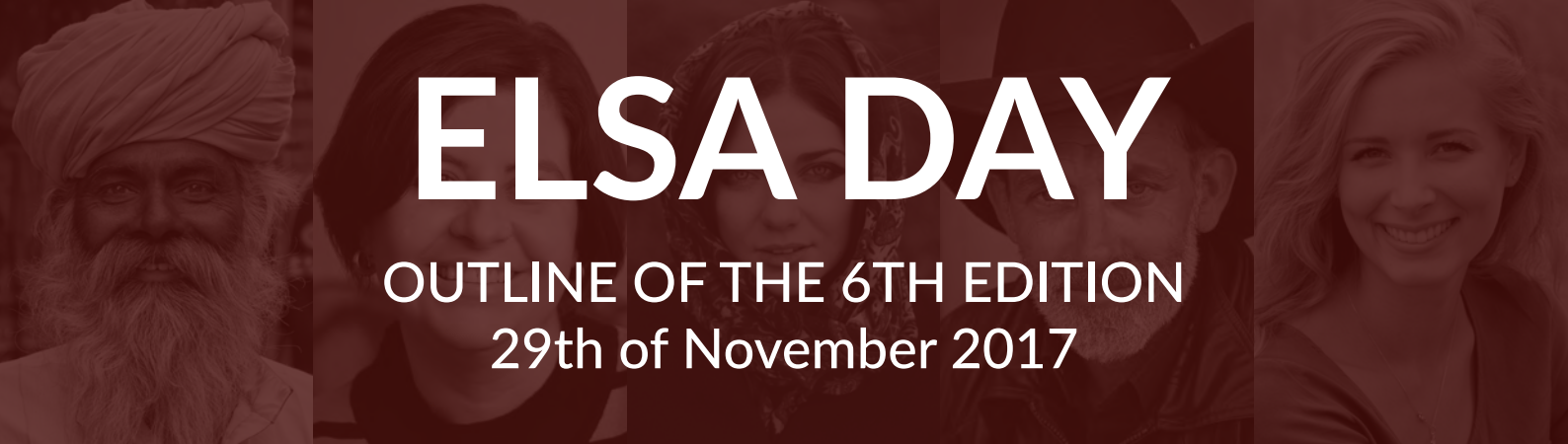




# ELSA DAY

OUTLINE OF THE 6TH EDITION  
29th of November 2017



**elsa**

The European Law Students' Association



**ELSA DAY**  
"all different, all together"

## Foreword

Five years ago, there was an idea; one that would bring our Network together, celebrate our vision and show the strength of our Association - as you might have guessed, this was the ELSA Day.

Today we can start preparing for the 6th edition of ELSA Day, its continuity not only highlighting the success of the project, but also its importance. By organising coordinated events all on one day, together as one Association, we are emphasising the significance of human dignity and cultural diversity, protected by human rights.

Our Network of law students, composed of different nationalities and backgrounds, will demonstrate to the entire continent that young students can take part in and influence the international discussion on Human Rights, the subsequent international obligations and integration, with events of high academic quality and with the energy and creativity that distinguishes our events.

As said by Federica Toscano, founder of ELSA Day, a culture of sharing and understanding shall not halt at some political borders, but should go beyond these frontiers: Human Dignity is not connected with a certain passport or the place where we are born. Let us ensure then that we move the discussions from the constraints of national borders and unite them under the ELSA Day.

Therefore, we are honoured to invite you to celebrate the 6th ELSA Day together with us on the 29th of November 2017.

**Anastasia, Nana, Elena, Krzysztof, Kerli, Michelle, Deniz and Aneta**

International Board 2017/2018

## 1. What is the ELSA Day?

The first time the network organised the ELSA Day was on the 20th of March 2013. The aim was to unify the Network, develop internationality and focus on Human Rights events. It succeeded in realising a unique Human Rights forum of coordinated ELSA Day events where the Network discussed national and international standards of protections and implementation of Human Rights. The forum was united under the banner “*all different, all together*”, the idea falling back on ELSA’s Vision.

Since then we have continued to jointly demonstrate our Human Rights Commitment by providing legal education opportunities, which enable law students to be independent and critical members of society every year. The success of the project has convinced us to continue to develop it in scope and quality. Together we can promote our vision and our values, and show to universities, media, partners that there is a strong group of internationally minded and professionally skilled students behind the name ELSA that can achieve big results together.

The key to the project is to make one big effort together – throughout 43 National Groups and more than 300 Local Groups – resulting visibility and recognition all over Europe. Join us in organising the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of ELSA Day and making it the biggest one yet!

## 2. How is the ELSA Day organised?

Each National Group should have one National ELSA Day Coordinator. The Coordinator’s task is to encourage and support national and local officers in organising ELSA Day events, to pass on the information from the International to the Local level and to ensure that the Local groups have no trouble with filling in the Specification and Evaluation Forms.

ELSA International will provide the necessary support to the organisers through the National Coordinators by creating guidelines and unified marketing materials. Moreover, ELSA International will use its Facebook page and ELSA Day webpage to promote the project. Nevertheless, promotion will be so much more effective if the whole network joins in the effort, thus we ask you to use **#ELSADay** and **#alldifferentalltogether** when sharing the news regarding your ELSA Day event.

## 3. Topic of the ELSA Day

The general topic of ELSA Day is Human Rights. Any event on this topic will be appreciated. However, as the field of Human Rights is very diverse and it is easy to get lost in it, we want to focus on a specific topic. For the 6<sup>th</sup> edition, the focus is on Access to Justice Beyond Borders.



## Access to Justice Beyond Borders

Access to Justice is imperative to the ability of exercising one's rights and a corner stone of the principle of the rule of law. In the absence of it, people are powerless in making their voices heard, practising their rights, confronting discrimination or holding decision-makers accountable. It is not only a right itself but a right that enables and empowers individuals to enforce other rights and obtain redress. Access to Justice is the key to transforming fundamental rights from theory to practice. Therefore, research and academic discussions on it will also improve access to other rights.

With the wave of globalisation and migration, the need to access justice is no longer limited within one's national borders. Ensuring access to justice beyond borders is an even more monumental task with further implications for individuals, states and international organisations. Consequently, there's need for a discussion on the length, cost and knowledge of international means of protecting one's rights through foreign or international court systems. Thus, discussions on how access to justice can be achieved or supported by human rights institutions, equality bodies and ombudsman institutions, international courts and so on are the key to unlocking this edition's ELSA Day topic.

More specifically, you may focus on the following:

- Transnational Justice, their tools, mechanisms and their efficiency
- Criminal Law Cooperation and its impacts on right to fair trial, including right to information, legal representation etc
- Judicial impartiality and independence and their main challenges
- Fighting Terrorism and Organized Crime
- Addressing discriminatory practices, focusing on multifaceted individuals and intersectional discrimination
- Access to information regarding exercising one's rights

These are just some examples of the topics you could focus on. Creativity is more than encouraged in finding other relevant sub-topics under Access to Justice Beyond Borders.

As stated by the Council of Europe unhindered and full access to rights is an essential element of culture of human rights, democracy and rule of law. Let us go forth and organise ELSA Day events that would support this!

## 4. What events could be organised?

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. Below you can find some suggestions on the concrete activities that can be organised.

### 4.1 Human Library

The winner of the second edition's visibility competition, ELSA Istanbul, organised a "Human Library" event. People presenting a minority, or certain groups in society, talk about themselves and answer the questions from the audience. The aim is to break down prejudices and avoid putting

human beings into boxes. We believe that being presented to real persons who share their stories, can have a significant impact on the persons who attend. For more information, please, see the [ELSA Istanbul's video](#).

#### 4.2 Tea Time

The idea behind “Tea Time” events is similar to the one described 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 between those groups. The conversation between the participants can take place over a cup of tea in a café or at any other location.

#### 4.3 Access to Justice

Many groups in our society are not aware of their rights, and acquiring a legal advice is often expensive. As law students we are familiar with the rights we are entitled to and we can share this knowledge with people for whom having such a knowledge can make a difference. Examples of those 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 going to an elementary school and teach children about democracy and racism.

#### 4.4 Legal Debate

A Human Rights debate can accumulate a bigger interest from the media. Some minority groups, e.g. LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) and Roma people, are sometimes stigmatised 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 nonlawyers as well. Also, bear in mind ELSA's non-political status.

#### 4.5 Charity

Previous focus on social responsibility was the ideal topic to increase the solidarity events. You can always collect contributions for a good cause. The winning event of the 3rd edition of the ELSA Day was focusing on charity and was organised by ELSA Timisoara. Many students have clothes they want to get rid of and lawyers might be willing to donate money for a good cause. If you organise a seminar or something similar, why don't you also 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!

#### 4.6 Cultural diversity

A last suggestion from our side 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 make a positive impact on both groups. You should try to recruit the exchange students both as organisers 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 organise any Human Rights event you want – just be aware of how you organise it.

## 5. ELSA Day 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 yet confirmed what we will receive, but we imagine pens, notebooks, calendars, information brochures, etc. to be in the package. Our contact persons in CoE will send materials to the events they find the most interesting. We do not control what they look exactly for but academic quality, creativity, visibility and relevance to the topic will probably be important elements.

It takes some 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 the timeline below). When the idea of your event is born, please fill in the ELSA Day Event Specification Form: [elsa.org/elsa-day/specification-form/](http://elsa.org/elsa-day/specification-form/). ELSA International will post the received information on our webpage. This way all events get international visibility – it is your chance to shine!

## 6. Evaluation

In order to develop our association and improve our activities, we need to evaluate our achievements. Please fill in the Evaluation Form after your ELSA Day event. The information will be collected and processed by EI and it will be distributed throughout the Network. The Evaluation form will be available later on.

## 7. ELSA Day competition

The best ELSA Day event will 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 migration law, impact on society, creativity and online and offline visibility. You can check the last edition's winner - [ELSA Izmir's video](#). In order to support your application you can submit materials such as pictures, videos, promotion materials etc. to [humanrights@elsa.org](mailto:humanrights@elsa.org)

## 8. Last reminder

Keep in mind ELSA's non-political status when organising the 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 might help. Finally, please, bear ELSA's Philosophy Statement in mind when preparing for November, the 30th. If this day can get us closer to the fulfilment of our beautiful Vision, it is definitely worth to call it a success!

## 9. Timeline

The timeline below is important for a good organisation of your ELSA Day events. However, there is a possibility of minor changes.

27.09.2017	Call for Submissions of ELSA Day Event Specification Forms
8.10.2017	Deadline for National ELSA Day Coordinator Applications
9.10.2017	Appointing National ELSA Day Coordinators
15.10.2017	Deadline for Submitting the ELSA Day Event Specification Forms for CoE Visibility Materials
25.10.2017	Launch of the 6th edition
13.11.2017	Updating the ELSA Day webpage with the ELSA Day Events
26.11.2017	Deadline for Submitting the ELSA Day Event Specification Forms
<b>29.11.2017</b>	<b>ELSA Day</b>
10.12.2017	Deadline for Submitting the ELSA Day Event Evaluation Form
April ICM	"Award Ceremony" of the ELSA Day Competition at ICM Lviv





## 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**

The European Law Students' Association