

Dear Network,

Ever since 2013, ELSA Day has brought the Network together to celebrate our vision and show the strength of our Association. Today, over 850 ELSA Day events have been organised in total, involving more than thirty countries with every edition.

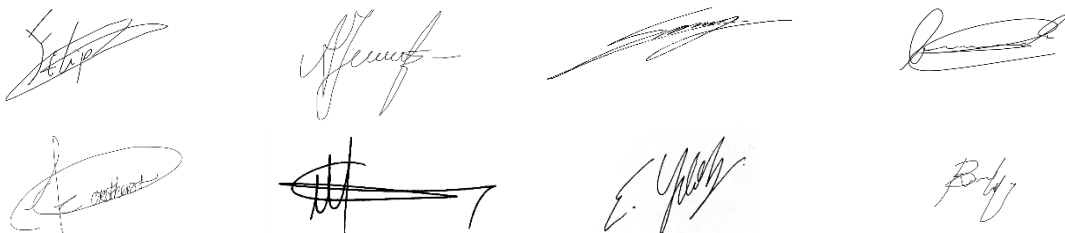
As we start preparing for the 7th edition of ELSA Day, its continuity does not only highlight the success of the project, but also its importance. By organising coordinated events all on one day, together as one Association, we are emphasising the significance of human dignity and cultural diversity, 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, the 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.”

We are honoured to invite you to celebrate the 7th ELSA Day together with us on the 28th of November 2018.

The image displays seven distinct handwritten signatures arranged in two rows. The top row contains four signatures, and the bottom row contains three. Each signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Filipe, Akvile, Loup, Matteo, Eva, George, Ezgi and Barlascan

International Board 2018/19

1. What is 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 44 National Groups and more than 350 Local Groups – resulting visibility and recognition all over Europe. Join us in organising the 7th edition of ELSA Day and making it the biggest one yet!

2. How is 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 much more effective when the whole network joins in the effort: therefore, we ask you to use **#ELSADay** and **#alldifferentaltogether** when sharing the news regarding your ELSA Day event.

3. Topic of the 7th 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, we want to focus on a specific topic. For the 7th edition, the focus will be on **“the right to education”**.

The right to education is both a human right and an undisputable means of accessing ones Human Rights. Already in 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) stipulated that free and mandatory education falls within the scope of Human Rights. The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights reaffirmed this right to education in 1976, stipulating it to be a legally binding obligation. Education has a vital role in empowering vulnerable groups, safeguarding them from exploitation and promoting democracy, human rights and participation in society. Interesting topics for your ELSA Day can be:

3.1 Education, defined as a Human Right

What international, regional, national or local legal instruments are applicable in your area? How do they define the right to education, and which criteria must such education meet? What obligations are creative as positive (requiring action) and which are negative (require omission/abstaining)?

3.2 Education and inequality

Does everyone have the same right to education? The level of education or the drop-out rates often vastly differ between different ethnicities, genders or economic status. How does your legal system aim to protect those vulnerable groups?

3.3 Education and religion

To what extent is religion included in the education of your country? Does your state provide or recognise religious educational institutions, and if so, does it recognise all of them, or are their certain qualities to be met? Are all religions treated equally?

3.4 Education and recognition

Often, a requirement to access higher education is to have attained certain qualifications. How does your country treat those having foreign qualifications? Are they accepted, not recognised, or are there extra tests or steps to take in order to get access?

Of course, this list is not exhaustive. Feel free to choose your own topic or check out the [page of the Council of Europe](#) on the topic of the right to education.

4. What events could be organised?

During the 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 may 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, check out the 2nd Edition winner's video ([ELSA Istanbul's](#))!

4.2 Legal Clinic

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. "Legal Clinic" 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. You can check the 5th Edition winner's video ([ELSA Izmir](#)) for inspiration, or the album of the 7th Edition winner ([ELSA Zagreb](#)).

4.3 Legal Debate

A Human Rights debate can accumulate a bigger interest from the media. Some minority groups, (e.g. LGBTQ+ or Roma people) are sometimes stigmatised by society – thus questioning their access to Human Rights such as education can be both controversial and necessary. In order to make an impact on society, remember to advertise the debate among non-lawyers as well. However, always bear in mind ELSA's non-political status.

4.4 Charity-based events

The winning event of the 3rd edition of the ELSA Day had focused 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. When organising a seminar or anything of that kind, it might be interesting for the level of participation of your audience to add charity-based aspects.

Examples of this can be donating the income to a relevant charity or setting up an auction to bid on meeting established experts within the topic of the seminar.

4.5 Digital options

In the 21st century, not every event needs to have a location or venue. Consider the possibilities of videos, webinars and digital documents to raise awareness for the topic of your choice. Especially on the National level, it can be nice to consider a project that does not require travel, such as input papers, legal research groups, webinars or video materials, that can be shared online. Also, these options can be used as an additional promotion for the event or as an extension of the event to raise more awareness on the topic, if you wish to add some sprinkle on top.

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 40 Local Groups. The exact content will remain unknown for now, but is likely to include pens, notebooks, calendars, information brochures, etc. to be in the package. Our contact persons in Council will send materials to the events they find the most interesting. We do not control precisely how the Groups are selected, but academic quality, creativity, visibility and relevance to the topic are important elements.

It takes some time to pack and ship materials. For this reason, the Council needs information about your event as early as possible. We must therefore operate with strict deadlines (see the timeline at the bottom). When the idea of your event is hatched, please fill in the [ELSA Day Event Specification Form](#). ELSA International will forward your event to the Council and save your form for the ELSA Day Competition and Report.

6. Evaluation

In order to develop our association and improve our activities, we need to evaluate our achievements. Please fill in the [ELSA Day Evaluation Form](#) after your ELSA Day event. The information will be collected and processed by ELSA International and it will be distributed throughout the Network. The Evaluation form will be available until January. Keep in mind that your event will not be taken into account for the Competition or final statistics in the Report if there is no Evaluation Form.

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. You will also be featured forever as the 7th Edition winner on the [ELSA Day website](#). Upon the discretion of ELSA International, the guiding criteria are:

- **the required forms have been filled in;**
- the topic of the event is relevant to the right to education;
- academic quality;
- impact on society,
- creativity;
- online and offline visibility.

In order to support your application, you are encouraged to submit materials such as pictures, videos, promotion materials etc. to humanrights@elsa.org.

8. Last reminder

Keep in mind ELSA's non-political status when organising the ELSA Day. It can be a tricky subject to approach non-politically, so if you have questions, please 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? The [Human Rights Handbook](#) might help guide you towards an answer on this.

Finally, please bear [ELSA's Philosophy Statement](#) in mind when preparing for November 28th. 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 the schedule ELSA International will maintain with regards to the organisation of ELSA Day. Keep this in mind for a good organisation of your ELSA Day events. However, there is a possibility of minor changes. Though minor alterations to this schedule may be made, compliance with these deadlines will ensure a well organised ELSA Day event.

Date	Description
24-08-18	Call for Submissions of ELSA Day Event Specification Forms
12-09-18	Deadline for National ELSA Day Coordinator Applications
19-09-18	Appointing National ELSA Day Coordinators
07-10-18	Deadline for Submitting the ELSA Day Event Specification Forms for CoE Visibility Materials
27-11-18	Deadline for Submitting the ELSA Day Event Specification Forms
28-11-18	ELSA Day!
06-01-19	Deadline for Submitting the ELSA Day Event Evaluation Form
24-03-19 until 31-03-19	Award Ceremony of the ELSA Day Competition at ICM Baku