

# 8TH ELSA DAY OUTLINE

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ELSA INTERNATIONAL  
2019/2020



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The European Law Students' Association

Dear Network,

Since its first edition in 2013, ELSA Day has brought the Network together in celebration of our vision to show the strength of our Association. During the past 7 editions, more than 1,000 ELSA Day events have been organised and, in each edition, more than 30 countries have been engaged.

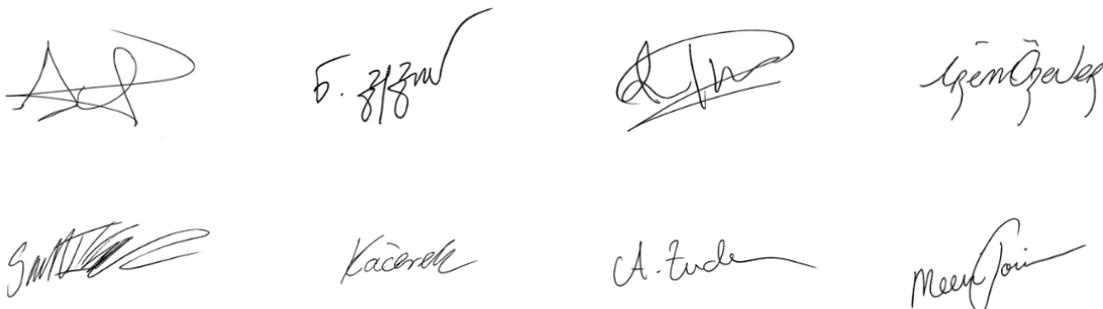
As we start preparing for the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of ELSA Day, its continuity does not only highlight the success of the project, but also its importance. By organising coordinated events all on one day, as one United Network, we are emphasising the significance of human dignity and cultural diversity, protected by human rights.

Our Network composed law students and young lawyers from different nationalities and backgrounds will demonstrate to the entire continent that students and young graduates can take part in and influence the international discussion on human rights as well as the subsequent international obligations and integration.

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 8<sup>th</sup> ELSA Day together with us on 27 November 2019.



**Diomidis, Nana, Sotiris, Irem, Sarah, Jakub, Aleksandra and Meeri**

International Board 2019/2020

## 1. What is ELSA Day?

ELSA Day was organised for first time on 20 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 having a great united impact.

The key to the project is to make one big effort together – throughout 44 National Groups and more than 350 Local Groups – resulting in visibility and recognition all over Europe. Join us in organising the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of ELSA Day and making it the largest edition to date!

## 2. How is ELSA Day organised?

In each National Group, the efforts towards ELSA Day are coordinated by the respective National ELSA Day Coordinator. The tasks of the Coordinator include encouraging and supporting National and Local officers in organising ELSA Day events, passing on information from international to local level, and ensuring that the Local Groups have no trouble 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](#), [Instagram page](#) and other social media platforms to promote the project. Nevertheless, promotion will be more efficient 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 8<sup>th</sup> ELSA Day**

The general topic of ELSA Day is Human Rights and 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 8<sup>th</sup> edition, the focus will be on **Freedom of Expression Online**.

Through the dissemination of the internet, the opportunity for people across the globe to express themselves has grown rapidly. However, as have challenges to the freedom of expression in form of *inter alia* state censorship of online contents and private take down procedures. Therefore, the protection of freedom of expression online deserves special attention. Interesting topics for your ELSA Day can be:

#### **3.1 Filtering, blocking and taking down content from the internet**

With the increased access to express oneself online comes also the risk of harmful and illegal content online. Thus, information shared may violate the privacy of others, and content posted may infringe IP-rights. Sharing of illegal content may be prevented *ex ante* through filtering and blocking or *ex post* by taking down content. Such mechanisms, however, limit the access to freedom of expression online and must, hence, satisfy the criteria put forward under article 10 of the ECHR. Thus, the mechanism must be necessary in the democratic society to pursue a legitimate goal, as enumerated in Article 10(2) of the ECHR. The measure must also respect the limits of proportionality. See this [2017 study](#) for more information.

#### **3.2 Protection of children and young people online**

One in three people accessing the internet is underage and Europeans today begin using the internet at the average age of seven years old. However, children are particularly vulnerable online and are in risk of sharing too much personal data as well as being victims to the sharing of illegal and harmful content. Therefore, it is interesting to explore if your country takes special measures to protect children online. If not, you might take the initiative to organise an event on online rights for school children and young people.

#### **3.3 The roles and responsibilities of internet intermediaries**

Internet intermediaries play an increasingly important role in modern society, because they can affect the choices made by consumers, the way we interact, and how we exercise our rights online. While it is primarily the responsibility of the state to ensure that the individual's right to expression online is protected, internet

intermediaries still have the responsibility to respect the internationally recognised human rights of their users and of third parties affected by their activities. This can be done through development of terms and conditions for use, community standards, ethics codes etc. Should a public authority wish to demand internet intermediaries to restrict access to content, such request must fulfil the requirements under article 10 of the ECHR. Similarly, internet intermediaries must, if wishing to implement private content-restriction policies, do so in a transparent and non-discriminatory manner.

### **3.4 Protection of freedom of speech on the internet**

Article 10 of the ECHR grants protection to all kinds of expression, both offline and online. However, in some countries special protection is granted to freedom of speech on the internet, e.g. through specific legal provisions on the right to access the internet. Thus, it may be interesting to explore if your country provides such specialised protection and look into the reasons behind the choice to grant or not grant special protection online.

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 freedom of expression online. You can also get inspiration from the Council of Europe's [Guide to Human Rights for Internet Users](#).

## **4. What events could be organised?**

During the past editions, Officers 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 any prejudice and avoid putting human beings into boxes. We believe that being presented to real people who share their stories can have a significant impact on the attendees. For more information, check out the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition winner's [video](#)!

## **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 see this [video](#) from the 5<sup>th</sup> Edition winner, ELSA Izmir, or the [album](#) of the 6<sup>th</sup> Edition winner, ELSA Zagreb, for inspiration.

## **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) may experience stigmatisation in society. Thus, questioning their access to Human Rights such as freedom of expression 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 the non-political status of ELSA.

## **4.4 Charity-based events**

The winning event of the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of ELSA Day 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 21<sup>st</sup> century, not every event needs to have a location or venue. Consider the possibilities of creating videos, webinars and/or digital documents to raise awareness of the topic of ELSA Day. Especially on the national level, it can be beneficial to consider a project that does not require physical presence. This can be input papers,

legal research groups, webinars or video materials, which allow for online sharing. These options can also be used as an additional promotion for a physical event or as an extension of the event to raise even more awareness on the topic.

## **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 contacts 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 National and Local Groups that fill in the Specification and Evaluation Forms automatically compete in the Competition. 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 8th Edition winner on the [ELSA Day section of the ELSA website](#). Upon the discretion of ELSA International, the guiding criteria are:

- 1. the required forms must be filled in;**

2. the topic of the event must be relevant to freedom of expression online;
3. the academic quality of the event;
4. impact on society of the event,
5. the level of creativity; and
6. online and offline visibility of the event.

In order to support your application, you are encouraged to submit materials such as pictures, videos, promotion materials etc. to [humanrights@elsa.org](mailto:humanrights@elsa.org).

## 8. Kind reminder

Keep in mind ELSA's non-political status when organising your ELSA Day event. 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: Which rights are we referring to and which actions can be taken by ELSA? 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 ELSA Day. 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

Below you will find the schedule used by ELSA International as regards the organisation of ELSA Day. Please note, however, that the timeline may be subject to small changes due to unforeseen circumstances. Nevertheless, compliance with the deadlines below will ensure a well organised ELSA Day event.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>
7 September 2019	Call for ELSA Day National Coordinators applications
9 September 2019	Call for ELSA Day Video submissions
21 September 2019	Deadline for National ELSA Day Coordinator applications
23 September 2019	Appointing National ELSA Day Coordinators
13 October 2019	Deadline for Submitting the ELSA Day Event Specification Forms for CoE Visibility Materials

25 November 2019	Deadline for Submitting the ELSA Day Event Specification Forms
27 November 2019	<b>ELSA Day!</b>
11 December 2019	Deadline for Submitting the ELSA Day Event Evaluation Form
15 to 22 March 2020	Award Ceremony of the ELSA Day Competition at ICM Malta