



The European Law Students' Association



ROLE Rule of Law
Education

ROLE Rule of Law Education

ANNUAL REPORT

TERM 2025–2026



ELSA ALUMNI

TOWARDS A JUST WORLD - LEADING BY EXAMPLE



COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

1. Foreword

Dear Network,
Dear Reader,

Before you lies the ROLE Annual Report for the term 2025/2026.

Since the beginning of my term, I have been looking forward to writing these pages, not only because they reflect what we have achieved throughout the year, the number of students reached, the sessions delivered, and the commitment of ELSA officers, but also because they remind me of something even more important. It is easy to become absorbed in spreadsheets, reports, meetings, and the many technical aspects of managing a project, and in doing so, we sometimes lose sight of why we started in the first place. This report is a reminder of that bigger picture: the impact behind every training session, every email, every planning call, and every hour dedicated by volunteers who choose to contribute not because they have to, but because they believe in a purpose.

For me, ROLE has been my favourite project, representing the very best of what ELSA can offer to society. What I am now proud to call a Flagship Project of ELSA is a testament to our commitment to giving back through our knowledge, our skills and the energy of young people, with our eyes set on the future of democracy.

This year, we continued to grow, strengthened the foundations of the project, and reached more students than ever before, but behind every number in this report are dedicated organisers, facilitators, and officers who made that impact possible. I hope these pages not only showcase what we accomplished together, but also remind us why we do it: because investing in the next generation is one of the most meaningful contributions we can make as an Association.

Anastasios Vavvas

Vice President in charge of Academic Activities
International Board of ELSA 2025-2026



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Rule of Law Education 2025–2026

3.1. About ROLE

Six years after its conception, the Rule of Law Education (ROLE) project continues to grow in scale, engagement, and impact.

As ELSA's educational initiative on the Rule of Law, ROLE is built on a simple yet powerful idea: law students can use their knowledge to give back to society. Through a youth-to-youth approach, the project connects the legal knowledge of ELSA members with the curiosity and potential of the next generation.

ROLE brings together two communities: ELSA members who become facilitators and high school students who take part in the sessions. Through the project, law students are trained to use the ROLE Curriculum and deliver interactive sessions based on non-formal education methods. After completing their training, facilitators take ROLE beyond the training room and into the heart of the project: classrooms across Europe. They engage directly with young people, bringing something that is often missing from traditional education: critical thinking, civic awareness, democratic values, and an element of fun.

3.2. Centralised Coordination – Multiplier effect

ROLE starts from one common foundation: the ROLE Curriculum. Developed by ELSA Alumni, the Curriculum provides the framework of the project, serving as a shared template for all national implementations. Consisting of 10 lessons, it has one common goal: educating young people on the principles of the Rule of Law.

To ensure consistency and quality across Europe, ELSA International coordinates the project and supports National Organisers, making sure that every implementation follows the same vision and core objectives. This centralised approach allows ROLE to grow as one united European initiative while maintaining its identity.

At the same time, ROLE's impact comes from its ability to multiply through the ELSA Network. After being trained, facilitators bring the project from the international level into classrooms across Europe, transforming one common framework into local educational experiences.

The growing engagement of National Groups and the increasing interest in ROLE demonstrate the strength of this model: one project, multiplied by a Network, creating impact on the ground.

3.3. Our Goals

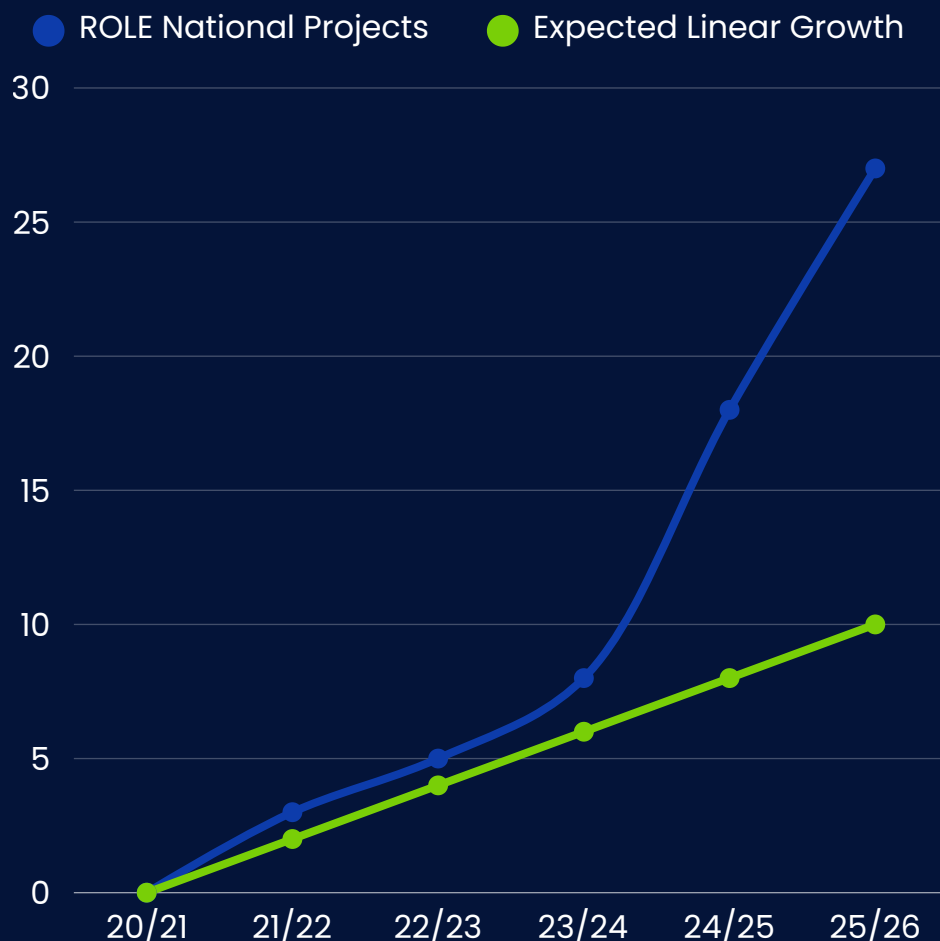
The 2025–2026 term started with great potential. The growing interest of the ELSA Network, combined with the dedication of previous ELSA officers who believed in ROLE and understood its importance, brought the project to new heights. Greater ambitions also brought greater challenges. Throughout the term, our focus was on building a stronger foundation for a project that requires effective international coordination in order to maximise its reach, strengthen its implementation, and ensure its long-term development.

The main goals for the term were:

- Establishing a more effective project framework;
- Strengthening support for National Organisers;
- Providing financial support;
- Delivering an impactful International Training Conference;
- Increasing ROLE's visibility and recognition;
- Growing the project's reach and local impact.

3.4. ROLE's Growth

ROLE started in 2020 as a concept, presented at ELSA's International Council Meeting. Since then, the project has experienced remarkable growth, expanding its reach and engagement across the ELSA Network.



The growth trajectory demonstrates both the scalability of the project and the commitment of the ELSA Network to promoting legal education beyond university classrooms. From a single concept in 2020, ROLE has grown into a recognised initiative implemented by an increasing number of National Groups, reaching more students and contributing to the development of future generations of legally aware citizens.

With **27 countries** registered as ROLE organisers for 2025-2026, either in preparation or already implementing the project, ROLE continues to expand its reach across Europe.



From Iceland to Malta, from Portugal to Azerbaijan, ELSA members are taking action to strengthen the Rule of Law across Europe.

Behind every ROLE implementation are dedicated ELSA Officers who brought the project to life in their countries. We sincerely thank all National Coordinators for their commitment and contribution to ROLE's growth.

ROLE Albania: **Martina Gllavaj**
ROLE Azerbaijan: **Atiga Gasimova**
ROLE Belgium: **Célia Mpiana**
ROLE Bosnia and Herzegovina: **Kanita Obhodaš**
ROLE Croatia: **Mateo Štimac**
ROLE Czech Republic: **Jana Knížová**
ROLE Denmark: **Farid Sahel**
ROLE Estonia: **Maksim Kobozev**
ROLE Finland: **Kasper Kotimäki**
ROLE Georgia: **Elene Gatchava**
ROLE Greece: **Maria Remoundou**
ROLE Hungary: **Fanni Horváth**
ROLE Iceland: **Aníta Lind Hlynsdóttir**
ROLE Malta: **Sereena Azzopardi Muscat**
ROLE North Macedonia: **Rebeka Ivanova**
ROLE Norway: **Adela Alexandra Tkachev**
ROLE Poland: **Zuzanna Poczyczyńska**
ROLE Portugal: **Beatriz Franco**
ROLE Romania: **Denisa Bîlteanu**
ROLE Serbia: **Nađa Milić**
ROLE Slovak Republic: **Enara Könözszyová**
ROLE Slovenia: **Melissa Smovnik**
ROLE Spain: **Maite Tormo**
ROLE Sweden: **Ebba Löwenadler Hoffsten**
ROLE Switzerland: **Bora Maxime Gedikli**
ROLE the Netherlands: **Goncha Huseynzade**
ROLE United Kingdom: **Aurore Talazac**

Together, ELSA Officers, AAers and members, dedicated themselves to making ROLE thrive. Together, we created impact and brought the project closer to reaching its full potential.

3.5. Our Achievements in 2025–2026

27

NATIONAL ROLE
PROJECTS

SCHOOLS
VISITED

109

4686

HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENTS IMPACTED

ENGAGED
FACILITATORS

352

216

SESSIONS DELIVERED
IN SCHOOLS

THINK GLOBAL.

4.1 Inspired by coaching

GOAL: STRENGTHEN SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL ORGANISERS.

This term, we introduced an enhanced coaching system to provide personalised support to ROLE organisers across Europe. A dedicated ROLE Coaching Team, composed of experienced ELSA officers, was recruited to guide organisers throughout their implementation journey. Each organiser was assigned a coach from ELSA International, ensuring direct support, regular follow-up, and access to practical expertise.

Supported by a structured coaching framework and coordinated by the Director for ROLE and the Coordinator for Coaching, the system helped organisers better understand the project, overcome challenges, and successfully bring ROLE to their countries.



Enara Könözszyová
Director for ROLE



Mateo Štimac
Coordinator for ROLE Coaching



Nadja Milić
ROLE Coach

Czech Republic
Estonia
Denmark
Greece
Portugal
Romania
Spain



Stefanos Georgopoulos
ROLE Coach

Azerbaijan
Iceland
Norway
Serbia
Slovak Republic
Slovenia



Magdalena Dragović
ROLE Coach

Bosnia and Herzegovina
Croatia
Georgia
Hungary
Sweden
Switzerland
United Kingdom



Denisa Bîlteanu
ROLE Coach

Albania
Belgium
Finland
Malta
Poland
Netherlands

4.2 Trained by ROLE Training Conference

GOAL: DELIVER AN IMPACTFUL INTERNATIONAL TRAINING CONFERENCE.

The 2025–2026 term marked the organisation of the 4th ROLE Training Conference, bringing together future ROLE multipliers from across Europe. **With a record 172 applications**, the Conference focused on three core objectives: educating participants on the Rule of Law, training them to deliver the ROLE Curriculum, and preparing them to implement and further develop the project in their countries.

Beyond its capacity-building purpose, the Conference remained a unique networking opportunity, connecting ELSA members passionate about civic education in an inclusive and collaborative environment. This year's edition also introduced significant organisational and logistical improvements, resulting in an enhanced learning experience and a stronger foundation for future implementations.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the Conference Team: the ROLE Director, Conference Coordinator, and the Assistants, for their dedication and commitment throughout the organisation of the Conference. We also express our appreciation to all trainers who contributed their time and expertise to preparing the next generation of ROLE facilitators and multipliers. Finally, we thank all participants for their active engagement and commitment, which contributed significantly to the success of the Conference.



Enara Könözsyová
Director for ROLE



Vuksan Jovanović
Coordinator for ROLE Training Conference



Kifayet Afandizada
Conference Assistant



Maria Silva
Conference Assistant

4th ROLE Training Conference Overview

5

Days

35

Participants

13

Training Sessions

22

Countries represented

18

Simulation Sessions



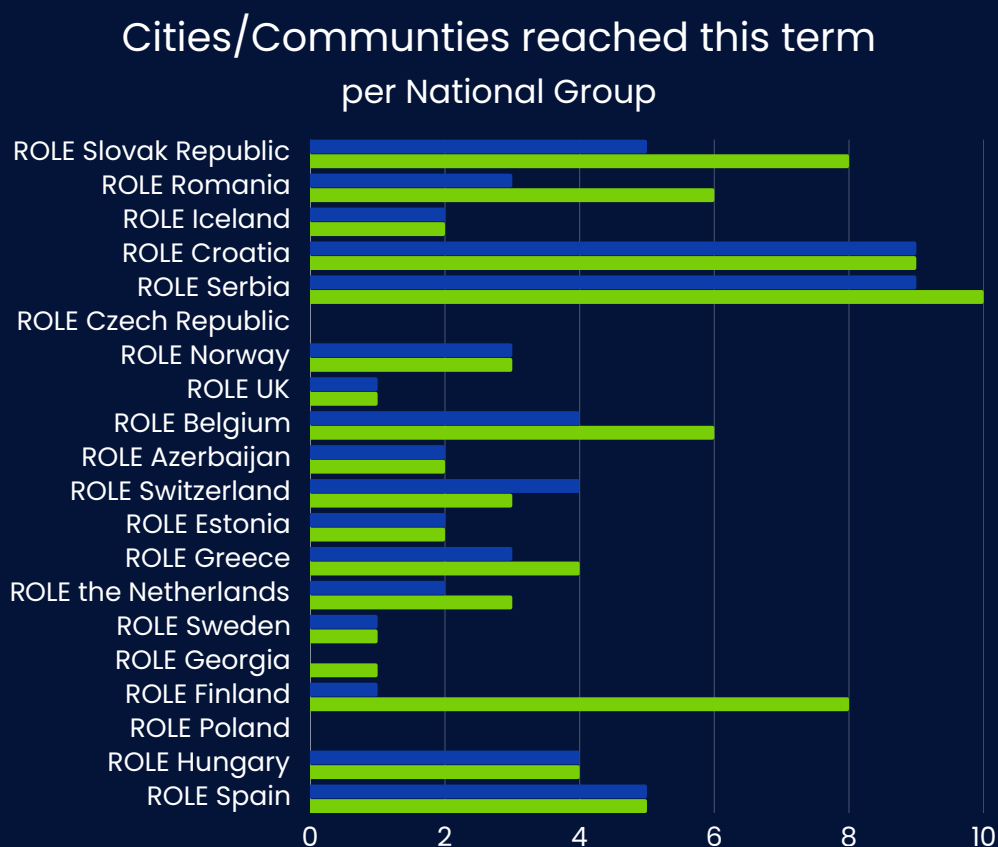
ACT LOCAL.

5. National Groups Engaged – Local Impact

GOAL: GROWING THE PROJECT'S REACH AND LOCAL IMPACT.

A record of **27 National Groups** joined the ROLE project this term, with 20 actively implementing ROLE and 7 preparing their first implementation. This expansion translated into tangible impact on the ground, reaching new communities and bringing Rule of Law education into the lives of young people.

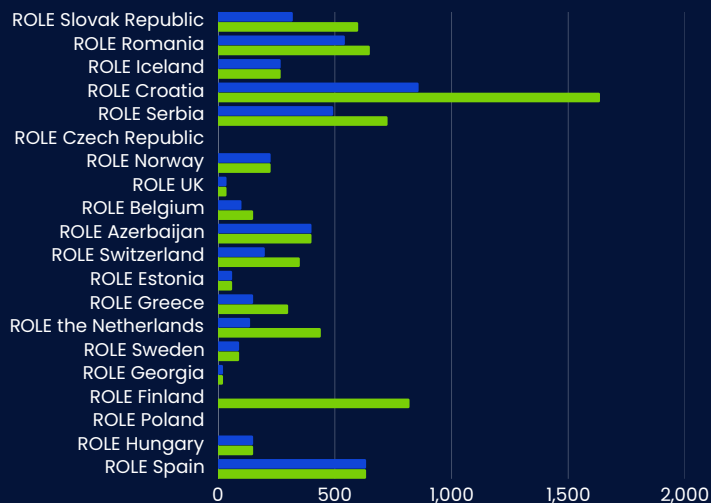
Across Europe, ROLE reached **60 cities and communities this term**, contributing to a total of 78 cities where facilitators have delivered interactive sessions and inspired the next generation through Rule of Law education.



This chart shows the local outreach achieved by each National Group. The **blue bars represent the number of cities reached during this term**, while the **green bars show the cumulative number of cities reached since each National Group joined the ROLE project**. For newly participating Groups, these numbers are the same, whereas returning Groups demonstrate continued expansion over multiple terms. **Altogether, ROLE has reached 78 cities and communities, illustrating both the project's geographical growth and its sustained local impact.**

5.1. Impact on real lives

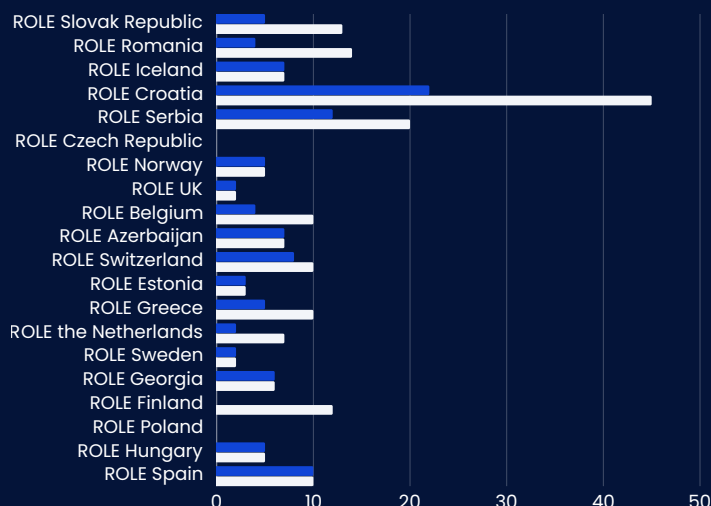
Pupils Impacted
per National Group



4,686 PUPILS

have been reached by
ROLE this term, bringing
the total number of
pupils reached since
the project's launch to
8,724.

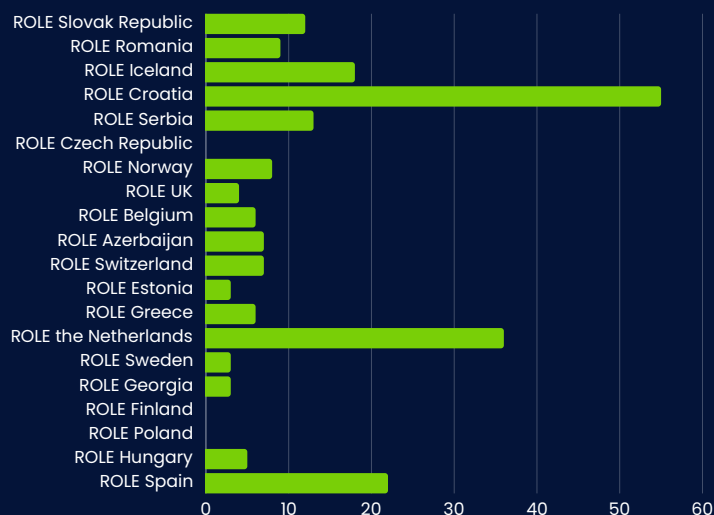
Schools Visited
per National Group



109 SCHOOLS

have been visited this
year out of a total of
188.

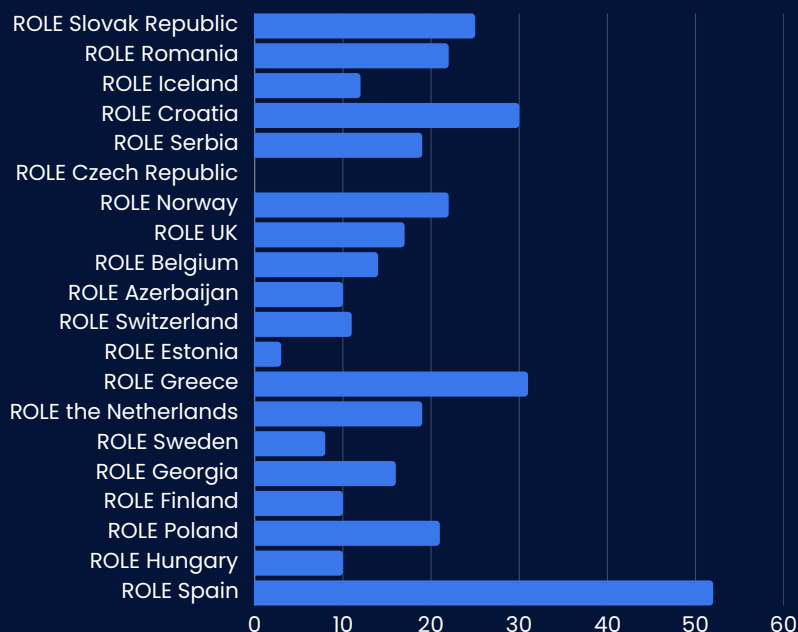
ROLE Sessions Delivered this term
per National Group



217 ROLE sessions were
delivered this year in
classrooms across
Europe.

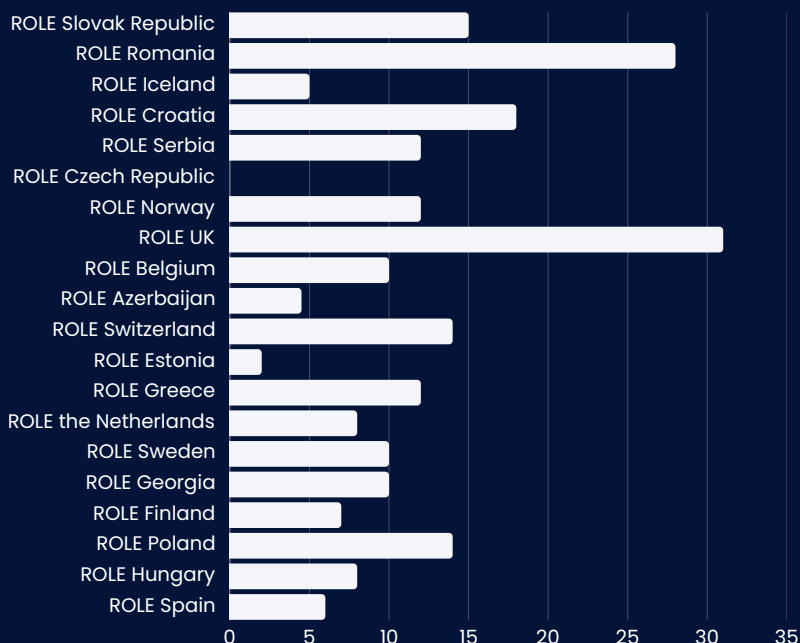
5.2. Impact on the ELSA Members

Facilitators engaged
per National Group



358 FACILITATORS were engaged this term: **309** were recruited this year, and **49** were returning facilitators who continued into this term.

Total hours of ROLE Training conducted
per National Group



222 HOURS of ROLE training were delivered, during which ELSA members were trained to visit schools and facilitate the ROLE curriculum.

6. Grant Management

GOAL: PROVIDING FINANCIAL SUPPORT

This year marked a major milestone for both ROLE as a project and ELSA as an Association. Following the successful approval of ELSA International's grant application to the European Youth Foundation (EYF) in April 2025, the Network was given the opportunity, for the first time in ELSA's history, to implement an internal Subgranting System dedicated to supporting ROLE implementations across Europe.

Through the EYF grant, ELSA International received €60,000. Of this amount, €25,000 was allocated to the organisation of the 4th Rule of Law Education Training Conference, while the remaining €35,000 was reserved for distribution to National Groups through the Subgranting System. This initiative enabled local organisers to strengthen and expand their ROLE implementations, further increasing the project's reach and impact across the ELSA Network.

6.1. Grant for the 4th ROLE TC

Thanks to the support of the European Youth Foundation (EYF), the ROLE Training Conference continues to be one of the most financially accessible events organised by ELSA International. A total of €25,000 was allocated to the Conference, allowing participants to attend for a symbolic participation fee of only €50.

Unlike most ELSA's international events, this fee covers accommodation, meals, the conference venue, and travel reimbursement, ensuring that financial barriers do not prevent motivated ELSA members from participating. By making the Conference accessible to students from across Europe, ELSA International invests directly in the next generation of ROLE facilitators, multipliers, and project leaders.

6.2. Subgranting System: Investing in Local Impact

One of the key achievements of the 2025–2026 term was the launch of the ROLE Subgranting System, the first initiative of its kind within the project. With the support of the European Youth Foundation (EYF), ELSA International was able to transform international funding into meaningful local action, providing National Groups with the resources needed to bring their ROLE Projects to life.

Through the EYF grant, an approximate amount of €30,000 was allocated to support ROLE implementations across the Network. The aim was not only to fund activities, but to strengthen the quality, sustainability, and reach of national projects, enabling more training, more school visits, and more young people to engage with Rule of Law education.

National ROLE Project	Total Grant Awarded
ROLE Belgium	2200 €
ROLE Croatia	4300 €
ROLE Greece	4100 €
ROLE Iceland	1000 €
ROLE Norway	1000 €
ROLE Romania	3100 €
ROLE Serbia	3500 €
ROLE Slovak Republic	3300 €
ROLE the Netherlands	4365 €
ROLE United Kingdom	3400 €
TOTAL	30,265 €

6.2.1. How the System Worked

The first call for applications opened in June 2025 and generated strong interest across the Network. National Groups were invited to submit project proposals outlining their implementation plans, expected impact, organisational structure, financial needs, and alignment with the values and priorities of the European Youth Foundation. Alongside the narrative application, each applicant submitted a detailed project budget. Following a comprehensive assessment process, 8 National Groups received a total of €29,500 during the first call. A second call for applications was launched in August 2025, resulting in 2 additional National Groups receiving €2,000.

In total, 10 National Groups were awarded financial support, representing an unprecedented investment in local ROLE implementation. Following the selection process, each beneficiary signed a Subgrant Agreement with ELSA International, establishing clear standards regarding the use of funds, reporting obligations, eligible expenses, and project requirements. Participation in the coaching system and engagement with the ROLE Training Conference further ensured that financial support was complemented by capacity-building and continuous guidance.

6.2.2. From Funding to Impact

The implementation period began following the 4th ROLE Training Conference, allowing newly trained multipliers to return to their countries and put their knowledge into practice. Supported by the Subgranting System, National Groups organised facilitator trainings, coordinated school visits, and delivered ROLE sessions in communities across Europe. To ensure transparency and accountability, all beneficiaries submitted narrative and financial reports documenting the activities implemented, the impact achieved, and the use of funds. This reporting process demonstrated how targeted financial support directly translated into stronger national projects and increased outreach.

7. Flagship Status

GOAL: ESTABLISHING A MORE EFFECTIVE PROJECT FRAMEWORK

After being voted on in two consecutive International Council Meetings, the decision has been made: ROLE is now an ELSA Flagship Project.

Flagship Projects are among ELSA's most established and impactful initiatives. Organised and/or coordinated by ELSA International, they represent one of the primary ways through which ELSA contributes to society. Achieving this status requires extensive reporting and assessment against a wide range of criteria, including impact, reach, continuity, coverage, and long-term sustainability. Even then, recognition is not automatic; the final decision rests with the International Council.

This milestone is a testament to the dedication of everyone who has contributed to ROLE over the past six years. More importantly, it marks the beginning of a new chapter. With the confidence of the Network and the recognition of its impact, ROLE is well-positioned to continue growing, empowering young people, and strengthening Rule of Law education across Europe.

CHAPTER 7. FLAGSHIP PROJECTS

Article 1. Definition

1.1 The Flagship Projects of ELSA are well-established projects of key importance to the National Groups and ELSA International organised and/or coordinated by ELSA International.

- 1.5 The Flagship Projects of ELSA are:
- a. the ELSA Law Review;
 - b. Rule of Law Education;
 - c. Annual Human Rights Campaign;
 - d. the John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition;
 - e. the Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition;
 - f. ELSA Traineeships;
 - g. ELSA Law Schools;
 - h. ELSA Delegations.

8. Building Recognition

GOAL: INCREASING ROLE'S VISIBILITY AND RECOGNITION;

Throughout the term, ELSA International worked on raising awareness of ROLE, both within the Network and among external stakeholders. We presented the project to several partners, including ELSA Alumni at their Annual Meeting in Split, strengthening cooperation that supports the project's future.

Within the Network, we delivered workshops and presentations at IIMs, Regional Officers Meetings, and National Council Meetings across Europe, helping National and Local Officers better understand the project and its goals.



Beyond the Network, our partners, and schools, we have also been working to build recognition on a wider scale. This term, ROLE was submitted to the World Forum for Democracy's call for innovative initiatives from around the world that work towards strengthening democracy and contributing to sustainable peace. We are currently awaiting the outcome of our application for the opportunity to present ROLE at the World Forum for Democracy.

9. New Regulatory Framework

GOAL: ESTABLISHING A MORE EFFECTIVE PROJECT FRAMEWORK;

At the 88th ICM in Helsinki, the Council approved major changes to ROLE's regulatory framework. The revised rules give the project a clearer structure, distinguishing Rule of Law Education as a whole from the National ROLE Projects that carry it out on the ground, and clarifying the responsibilities of both ELSA International and National Groups.

The most significant addition was the introduction of a new article on compliance and quality control, establishing a clear framework for ELSA International to oversee the implementation of ROLE at the local level. This includes key aspects such as facilitator training and the use of the Curriculum, ensuring that the project is delivered according to common standards across all National Groups. As ROLE is implemented directly with high school students, this framework represents an important step in strengthening the project's consistency, quality, and long-term sustainability.

The proposal sparked discussion within the Network, particularly around how quality standards should be defined and by whom. After the debate, the Council approved the proposal, marking an important step in ROLE's development as a Flagship Project.

Article 3. Compliance and Quality Control of National Projects

3.1 ELSA International shall have the power to:

- a. check whether the Facilitators of a National Project have received any form of training, prior to conducting any ROLE session;
- b. check academic and/or institutional partner involvement in a National Project;
- c. check the Curriculum Derivatives used for a National Project;
- d. check any additional aspects of a National Project that ELSA International seems necessary to guarantee the quality of the Rule of Law Education as a whole;
- e. request any further information and/or clarifications about the National Project from the organisers.

3.2 In case the breach is drawn to the attention of ELSA International during or after a National Project has taken place, it shall try to solve the issue by means of dialogue. The International Board may determine the form and procedure of such dialogue, in consultation with the relevant National Board. Should the dialogue prove unsuccessful, the International Board of ELSA may:

- a. issue three written notifications to the respective Organising Group specifying the measure(s) to be taken to address the breach, providing a reasonable and appropriate timeframe to resolve the aforementioned issue;
- b. remove the respective Organising Group from the current Rule of Law Education edition, and prevent it from using the "Rule of Law Education" label, only as a last resort, and if no corrective action has been taken following the three notifications.

3.3 The International Board of ELSA may allow an Organising Group to deviate from the regulations concerning National Projects upon presentation of a concrete and justified reason.

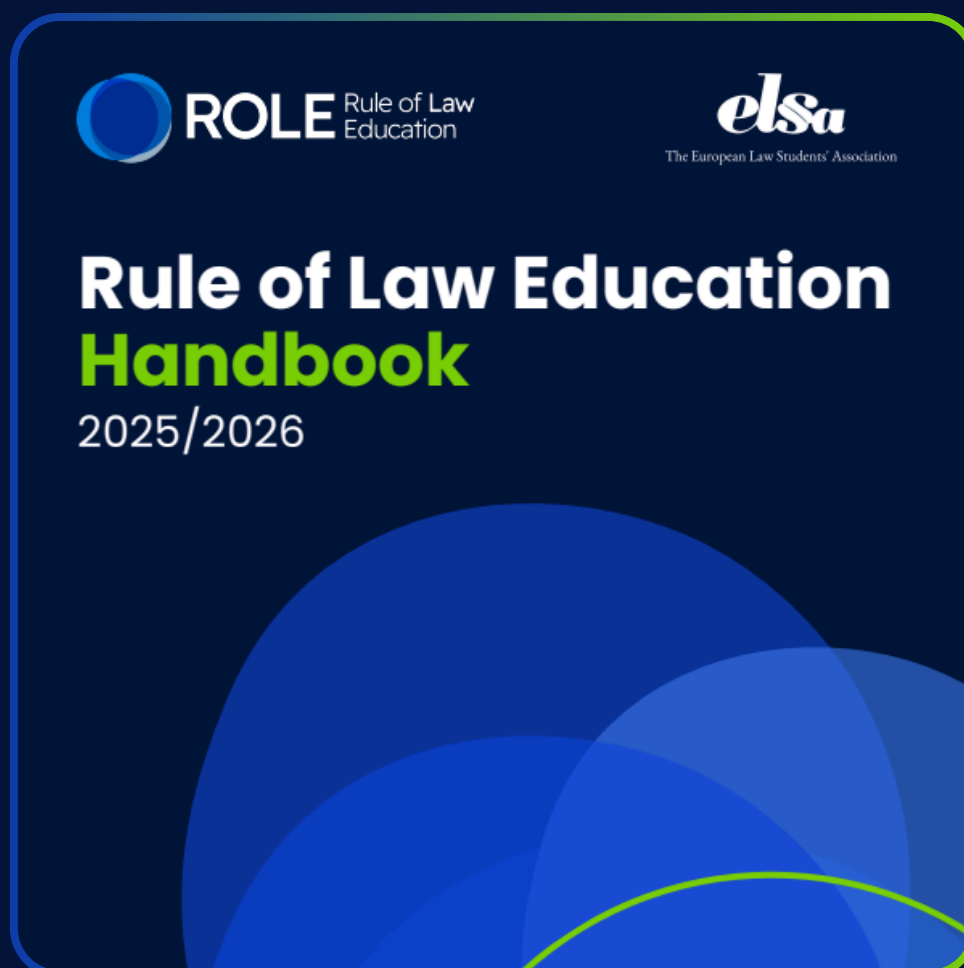
3.4 During an International Council Meeting, the Vice President in charge of Academic Activities of the International Board of ELSA shall report in an area workshop about the use of the power listed under Article 3.2.b.

10. New Handbook

GOAL: STRENGTHENING SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL ORGANISERS

At the very beginning of the term, the updated ROLE Handbook was published as a practical guide for organisers across the Network. Building on the strong foundation of the previous Handbook, this new version was further developed and expanded to reflect the project's growth and the new elements introduced this year. It offered clearer guidance on the structure of ROLE, the Training Conference and its cascading effect, National ROLE Projects, curriculum use and localisation, facilitator recruitment and training, school sessions, budgeting, the Coaching System, the Subgranting System, and additional practical materials such as templates and an organisational checklist.

AVAILABLE ON ELSA'S OFFICERS PORTAL



11. Concluding Remarks

The 2025–2026 edition of ROLE has come to an end, a year marked by successes, new challenges, ambitious milestones, and continuous growth. Above all, it was a year that inspired people across the Network and demonstrated the power of ELSA's commitment to creating meaningful impact through legal education.

As my term in ELSA and as Project Leader of ROLE comes to an end, I hope this report will be remembered as more than a collection of numbers and statistics. While achievements matter, the true impact of ROLE lies in the people behind them and in the meaningful dissemination of Rule of Law values to young people across Europe. Every training, school visit, and conversation has contributed to building a stronger culture of democracy, justice, and active citizenship.

It has been an honour to serve the ROLE Officers and work alongside so many committed individuals throughout this journey. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all National and Local Officers who dedicated their time, energy, and expertise to bringing the project to life within their communities. I would also like to extend my deepest thanks to the ROLE Team: Enara, Mateo, Vuksan, Nadja, Magdalena, Stefanos, Denisa, Kifayet, and Maria, whose dedication and constant support were essential to our achievements. Together, you transformed ideas into action and helped ROLE continue to grow and make an impact across Europe.



ANASTASIOS VAVVAS

Vice President in charge of Academic Activities
of the International Board of ELSA 2025/2026

