



The European Law Students' Association

ANNUAL REPORT

2025/2026



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Annual Report of the International Board of ELSA 2025/2026

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FOREWORD



GABRIEL MARTI

PRESIDENT

INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF ELSA 2025/2026

A bit more than a year ago, eight law students from Portugal, Norway, Greece, Malta, Italy, the Czech Republic and Switzerland walked through the big blue door at Boulevard Général Jacques 239. To most people, it is simply the garage door of an ordinary house in Brussels. To us, it became the entrance to a world we could never have imagined, the place where eight strangers slowly became a family. From the first day of Transition, we felt at home, welcomed by our predecessors. And throughout the year, this blue door has been our home port, the place to which every adventure eventually brought us back. From Helsinki to Tbilisi and Brno; from Reykjavík to Sofia, Porto, Komotini, Madrid and Copenhagen; from Belém to Strasbourg and New York; from Oslo to Athens, Birmingham, Lima and Beijing, we have seen many countries, and met many people, yet every journey eventually brought us back home. And this home is ELSA.

For the first time in two years, we started our term with the privilege of being eight to carry our responsibilities. After the joy and relief of welcoming our Treasurer, we quickly realised that having this great power meant great responsibilities. With this in mind, we began this journey full of ideas, ambition, and the hope that we would achieve everything we had set out to do. And of course, this came along with many challenges: securing hosts for our internal meetings, supporting the areas that had remained without an elected officer during the previous term, running all our projects, and all this with one date remaining quietly in the background throughout the year: 4 May 2026. Forty-five years after ELSA's foundation, we wanted to ensure that the Association we celebrated was even stronger than the one we had inherited.

Looking back, we leave behind an Association that has continued to grow. Throughout the year, we implemented important reforms, saw ROLE and the AHRC becoming Flagship Projects, expanded our Delegations, celebrated record participation in our Moot Court Competitions, welcomed more ELSA Law Schools, and saw an impressive number of institutions join Career Launch. We are proud of these achievements, but even more grateful for everyone who made them possible.

The pages that follow tell the story of our work. They cannot fully tell the story of our year. The discussions around the kitchen table, the nights spent in airports, the lost luggage, the late evenings in the office, and the countless meetings shaped our year, and, more importantly, they shaped us. Today, we walk back through that same door one last time, not as strangers from seven different countries, but as a family united by a common purpose and countless shared memories. Nevertheless, we hope that these pages capture at least a glimpse of what this extraordinary year meant to us, and of the Association that has shaped us in ways we will continue to discover for years to come. Welcome behind the blue door.

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INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF ELSA 2025/2026



GABRIEL MARTI
PRESIDENT



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SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES



ABOUT ELSA

The European Law Students' Association (ELSA) is an international, independent, non-political, non-profit organisation run by and for students and recent graduates, interested in achieving academic and personal excellence in addition to their legal or law-related studies at university. Founded in **1981** by students from Austria, Hungary, Poland, and West Germany, ELSA is the world's largest independent law students' association.

ELSA aims to provide its members with a platform to develop their existing skills and acquire new ones, to interact with fellow students and experienced practitioners from different states and legal systems around Europe, and to be equipped for a professional life in an international environment, through **mutual understanding, intercultural cooperation, and the great variety of activities** and projects the Association offers.



+60,000 MEMBERS



400+ LAW FACULTIES



41 COUNTRIES

OUR NETWORK

ELSA's members are internationally-minded individuals who have an interest in foreign legal systems and practices. Through our activities, such as seminars, conferences, law schools, moot court competitions, legal writing, legal research, and traineeships our members acquire a broader cultural understanding and legal expertise.

OUR SPECIAL STATUS

ELSA has gained a special status with several international institutions. In 2000, ELSA was granted Participatory Status with the Council of Europe and, in 2008, the CoE became a partner of ELSA. ELSA also has Consultative Status with several United Nations bodies: UN ECOSOC, UNCITRAL, UNESCO, & WIPO.

BOARD MANAGEMENT, EXTERNAL RELATIONS, AND EXPANSION

BEYOND THE AGREEMENTS: BUILDING ELSA'S EXTERNAL RELATIONS



GABRIEL MARTI
PRESIDENT
INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF ELSA 2025/2026

As expected when taking on the position of President, External Relations constituted one of the central aspects of my work throughout the term. While partnerships often receive the greatest visibility, External Relations extends far beyond concluding agreements. It also involves representing ELSA before our partners and external stakeholders, while ensuring that the Network is equipped with the necessary tools and support to develop and maintain its own professional relationships. Throughout the year, our work therefore focused on these three complementary dimensions.

STRENGTHENING OUR PARTNERSHIPS

Throughout the term, our principal objective was to further strengthen ELSA's existing partnerships while preparing the Association for future outreach opportunities. Long-term partnerships are built upon trust, consistent communication and mutual understanding, and we therefore placed particular emphasis on maintaining close relationships with our current partners and identifying new opportunities for collaboration within our existing cooperation.

At the same time, we remained committed to expanding ELSA's network of partners. Successful outreach, however, requires considerably more than approaching potential organisations. It relies upon well-prepared materials, a clear strategy and a thorough understanding of both ELSA's strengths and the needs of prospective partners. For this reason, an important part of this year's work was dedicated to strengthening the foundations upon which future outreach efforts can build.

Building upon the work carried out by previous Boards, Kat and I substantially reviewed and redeveloped our partnership materials, including the preparation of new partner packages, while undertaking extensive research into prospective partners, previous collaborations and long-term outreach strategies. Throughout this process, I also had the privilege of working closely with several Alumni, whose experience and external perspective provided invaluable feedback on our materials and strategic approach. Their contributions helped us further refine the way in which we present ELSA and communicate the value of collaborating with our Association. Although much of this work takes place behind the scenes and its results will become visible only over time, I am confident that it has significantly strengthened the foundations of ELSA's external relations. I sincerely hope that these efforts will facilitate future outreach and provide Elisabeth and our successors with an even stronger basis upon which to continue developing ELSA's partnerships in the years to come.

REPRESENTING ELSA

Representation equally constitutes an essential dimension of External Relations. Alongside the continuous communication and numerous online meetings held throughout the year, I had the privilege of representing ELSA at several events organised by our partners and external stakeholders.

Alongside the continuous online meetings and day-to-day communication with our partners, I had the privilege of representing ELSA at several external events organised by our partners and institutional stakeholders. Throughout the year, I attended the Annual Conference of the European Law Institute (ELI) in Vienna, the Annual Conference of the European Young Bar Association (EYBA) in Belfast, during which we signed a Memorandum of Understanding between our organisations, the Annual Conference of the European Law Faculties Association (ELFA) in Bilbao, where I also had the honour of co-chairing a panel discussion, and the Half-Year Conference of the International Association of Young Lawyers (AIJA).

In addition, I was invited, on behalf of ELSA, to participate as a panellist in a conference organised by the European Parliament to mark the 40th anniversary of the Schengen Agreement. This provided an excellent opportunity to present the perspective of European law students on the importance of student mobility and European cooperation, while also highlighting that ELSA, as an organisation extending beyond the Schengen Area itself, brings together members with diverse experiences and perspectives. Above all, it was a valuable occasion to ensure that the voice of students was represented within discussions that often take place primarily between institutional and professional stakeholders.

In addition, I travelled to London with Kat in November and Elisabeth in July, and Strasbourg with my Board in September and our successors in July, for dedicated partnership meetings and took the opportunity of my presence in Geneva and Brussels to organise further in-person meetings, which also contributed to the transition with Elisabeth. These meetings proved invaluable in maintaining close relationships with our partners, strengthening mutual understanding, and ensuring that ELSA remained a visible and engaged stakeholder within the international legal community.



SUPPORTING THE NETWORK

Another important objective during the final months of the term was the complete modernisation of the systems used to implement the External Relations Regulations. Following the major regulatory reform adopted last year, I sought to simplify and modernise the practical implementation of these procedures by developing an entirely new External Relations Regulations Platform. The platform centralises the different regulatory procedures within a single interface and automates a significant part of the administrative process, thereby reducing manual work, limiting the possibility of errors and considerably improving efficiency. Beyond simplifying the daily management of these procedures, the platform also creates new possibilities for collecting and structuring information regarding partner outreach and existing partnerships across the Network. I am confident that this tool will not only strengthen compliance with the External Relations Regulations but also provide National and Local Groups with a far more practical and efficient system to manage their external relations in the years to come.

Before concluding this part, I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who dedicated their time to testing the Platform throughout its development. In particular, I would like to thank Pedro Severo (ELSA International Team and ELSA Portugal), Elisabeth Rapp (ELSA International Team and ELSA Norway), Antonino Palumbo (ELSA International Team and ELSA Italy), Caisa Billger (ELSA International Team and ELSA Sweden), Vojtěch Pešout (ELSA the Czech Republic), Kyriaki Mamougiorgi (ELSA Greece), Nadine Hirth (ELSA Germany), Filippa Elmlunden (ELSA Stockholm), Hanna Depaulis (ELSA Linköping), Matilda Roxenhed (ELSA Sweden), Matilda Lundgren Gustafsson (ELSA Gothenburg), Enya Akyüz (ELSA Stockholm), Ruan Soryani (ELSA Linköping), Tim Prusse (ELSA Switzerland), and Rodrigo from my Board, whose valuable feedback, motivation and willingness to explore the system, identify potential improvements and provide constructive feedback greatly contributed to refining the Platform before its launch. Their motivation and commitment greatly contributed to transforming this idea into a practical tool that will benefit the entire Network. A special thanks goes as well to Hedin for his help and assistance with the programme used to build this platform.

External Relations within ELSA does not end with ELSA International. Throughout the year, considerable attention was therefore dedicated to supporting National and Local Groups in developing their own partnerships and implementing the significant regulatory changes adopted during the previous term.

Together with my team, we developed a wide range of new materials and guidance documents designed to support officers throughout every stage of the partnership process, from identifying and approaching potential partners to preparing meetings, maintaining long-term relationships and ensuring compliance with ELSA's regulatory framework. These resources were complemented by numerous workshops and training sessions, each addressing External Relations from different practical perspectives and seeking to equip officers with the confidence and knowledge necessary to represent ELSA professionally.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to my Director for External Relations, Pedro Severo, and my three Assistants, Elisabeth Rapp, Mikołaj Walczak and Antonino Palumbo, who dedicated their time, expertise and enthusiasm to this area. External Relations is an area that relies heavily on teamwork, initiative and the ability to share knowledge across different levels of the Network. Throughout the year, I was fortunate to work with a team that consistently approached its responsibilities with professionalism and a genuine willingness to support both ELSA International and the wider Network. Their contributions went far beyond the visible outcomes of the term and played an essential role in creating a dynamic, supportive and forward-looking environment within the area.

I will now leave the floor to Pedro, who will give his perspective of the work carried out throughout the year.



PEDRO SEVERO

DIRECTOR FOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS
ELSA INTERNATIONAL TEAM 2025/2026

Serving as Director for External Relations at ELSA International has been a highlight of my ELSA journey. Over the past year, I worked with the External Relations team to support the International Board and Network in strengthening ELSA's external relationships.

A key part of our work was helping BEE Officers use the External Relations Regulations confidently in their daily tasks. We ran workshops at the International Training Meeting, Helsinki and Brno ICMs, BEE Academy sessions, and open calls. These sessions, along with one-on-one support, aimed to turn the regulations into practical tools for building partnerships in National and Local Groups. Helping to create the External Relations Handbook was very rewarding, and I hope it remains useful for future BEE Officers. We also researched and mapped potential opportunities with educational institutions, public organisations, private companies, and law firms, compiling lists of possible partners to support future collaborations.

I also helped test the new External Relations Regulations Platform to ensure it was user-friendly and contributed to updating partner pages in the ERR database to keep information accurate for Officers. Most importantly, this role gave me a new perspective on the ELSA Network. Working with Officers across Europe, learning about each National Group, and supporting them through challenges made me appreciate even more the strength and unity of our association. It also highlighted the teamwork and dedication needed to move ELSA International forward.

I am grateful to Antonino, Elisabeth, and Mikołaj for their support, commitment, and teamwork this year. Working with them made this experience memorable. I also thank Gabriel for his trust and leadership, and I appreciate the chance to support ELSA International this term.

FROM VISION TO ACTION: BRINGING THE STRATEGIC PLAN TO LIFE



GABRIEL MARTI
PRESIDENT
INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF ELSA 2025/2026

The implementation of the ELSA Strategic Plan 2023–2028 remained a central consideration throughout the term. Very early on, I realised that ensuring its implementation could not be the responsibility of the President alone, but had to become a shared commitment of the entire International Board. For this reason, we sought to integrate the Strategic Plan into our work from the very beginning of the term and to use it as a guiding framework for the decisions we took throughout the year.

This process began during the drafting of our One Year Operational Plan (OYOP), where the Strategic Plan naturally served as the foundation upon which we built our priorities and defined the direction of our term. Shortly afterwards, it also played a central role in the preparation of our application for the European Youth Foundation Structural Grant. Developing this application required us not only to explain the Strategic Plan, but also to translate its long-term objectives into concrete implementation goals for the year ahead.

Throughout the term, our efforts focused on advancing the Strategic Goals across all three pillars of the Strategy. Particular attention was given to increasing the accessibility of ELSA's activities, strengthening welfare and knowledge management, embracing technological innovation, improving compliance and internal coherence, supporting the development and recognition of ELSA Officers, and reinforcing the Association's advocacy, human rights and legal education activities. Rather than treating the Strategic Plan as a standalone document, we consistently sought to integrate its objectives into the daily work of the Board and into the development of our projects, regulations and long-term initiatives.

The International Strategy Meeting represented one of the most important milestones in this regard. The programme was deliberately structured around several priorities identified in the Strategic Plan. The first day focused on the future of International Internal Meetings, with discussions on hosting feasibility, financial sustainability and quality standards. These exchanges directly contributed to the proposal later adopted by the International Council in Brno, introducing a revised structure for International Internal Meetings aimed at making them both more accessible and more financially sustainable for future Hosts. The second day was dedicated to IT and Compliance, with workshops on ELSA's websites, the responsible use of artificial intelligence, and the handling of regulatory breaches.

Finally, the third day focused on Human Resources, covering Alumni engagement, Human Resources across the Network, particularly within Financial Management and Professional Development, and the future development of ELSA Training. Beyond the concrete outcomes of these discussions, the International Strategy Meeting also allowed the Network to actively contribute to the implementation and future development of the Strategic Plan.

Finally, throughout the year, we took advantage of having a particularly active Director for Strategic Planning to significantly strengthen the support provided to the Network in this area. A wide range of workshops and training sessions on Strategic Planning were organised, all of which were very well received, particularly given the complexity of the topic for many officers across the Network. These initiatives ultimately led to the development of a dedicated Strategic Planning Handbook, providing National and Local Groups with practical guidance on every stage of the strategic planning process, from drafting and implementation to monitoring and reporting. Together with the work carried out through the European Youth Foundation application, the workshops and the Handbook, these initiatives substantially strengthened the Network's understanding of Strategic Planning and its practical implementation.

I would like to conclude by expressing my sincere gratitude to my Director for Strategic Planning, Caisa Billger. Her commitment, professionalism and continuous support enabled us to accomplish far more than we had initially anticipated in this essential area, and played a significant role in ensuring that the Strategic Plan became a living framework for the work of this Board, rather than simply a long-term policy document.

LEARNING TOGETHER, LEADING TOGETHER

SUPPORTING THE NETWORK



GABRIEL MARTI
PRESIDENT
INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF ELSA 2025/2026

Being part of the International Board of ELSA means that one of the most important aspects of our work is engaging with and supporting our Network. Throughout this term, a particular emphasis was placed on accompanying National Groups facing specific challenges and providing them with tailored support according to their individual circumstances. Following a term during which the expansion of the Network had been a major focus, we naturally followed up on this work by ensuring that every National Group could fully participate in and benefit from the opportunities offered by ELSA.

Throughout the year, we therefore remained in close contact with several National Groups, seeking to identify practical solutions together and supporting them in overcoming the various challenges they encountered. I am particularly pleased that these efforts contributed to an increasingly active and engaged Network, reflected, among other things, in the participation of 38 out of our 41 National Groups in the voting during the International Council Meeting in Brno, one of the highest participation rates of recent years. More importantly, they allowed several Groups to further strengthen their involvement within ELSA and continue their development with renewed confidence. On this point, I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to Viktoria Farkas, my Director for Expansion, whose commitment and support greatly contributed to these efforts.

Within the Presidents' area, we are fortunate to have one particularly valuable tool that enables us not only to engage with our National Presidents, but also to provide direct, practical and continuous support whenever it is needed. The BEE Academy has now existed for several years and continues to grow into one of the strongest and most appreciated initiatives within the Presidents' area. Throughout this term, we sought to further develop the programme by introducing more structured common sessions, while also facilitating a dedicated workshop to support National Groups in establishing their own National BEE Academies. In this way, the programme not only continued to strengthen cooperation at the international level but also encouraged its expansion throughout the Network.

None of this would have been possible without someone who truly embodies the values that the BEE Academy seeks to promote: a genuine willingness to support others, to listen, and to motivate every President within our Network. Thanks to the dedication and professionalism of Christina Schimetta, my Director for BEE Academy, the programme has continued to evolve and reach an even higher standard.

I would therefore like to leave the floor to her to present in greater detail the work carried out throughout the year. Thank you very much, Christina, for your hard work, your constant availability, and, above all, for the ELSA Spirit that you brought to this role. Your commitment was unanimously recognised and deeply appreciated by the Presidents of our Network.

THE BEE ACADEMY



CHRISTINA SCHIMETTA
DIRECTOR FOR BEE ACADEMY
ELSA INTERNATIONAL TEAM 2025/2026

The BEE Academy has now evolved into a permanent part of the BEE area. With participation increasing slightly year on year, the focus this year was on promoting the BEE Academy further. Following its launch in September, the President of the IB and Director of BEE Academy held introductory sessions with all 25 initial participants. Throughout these sessions, we could perceive a pattern: External Relations was a struggle across the network. With the expertise of the members of the External Relations Team, the first group sessions were held, split into a local and a national officers roundtable. The External Relations Team explained in detail what difficulties could arise in relation to the External Relations Regulations and answered all questions patiently.

Over the next individual sessions, it became clear that the next group session should focus on Strategic Planning. This session, held in October, was led by the EIT Director of Strategic Planning in cooperation with the Director of BEE Academy and the previous President of the International Board of ELSA. Throughout the session, participants learned how to prepare, implement and evaluate strategic plans step by step.

At the first ICM in Helsinki, we took the concept of the TheraBEE sessions - as they are known internally - to the international level. The idea behind these workshops was not only to demonstrate what the BEE Academy is about and how it is established in practice but also to show the potential of reaching out to fellow presidents about one's struggles, which resulted in overwhelmingly positive feedback and increased contact between presidents seeking advice and the Director for BEE Academy. As might be expected given the motivational curve in associations, increasing difficulties regarding Network Management were observed amongst the presidents in January and February. This third group session was therefore held soon after this trend was noticed. This session focused on motivation, communication, and practical tools to improve network interaction. This refresher on the basics continued at the second ICM of the year in Brno. Due to popular demand, the TheraBEE session was held again at this ICM.

Towards the end of the term, the Transition Curriculum was launched for the third time. This project aims to improve the transitioning process for both incoming and outgoing presidents. Overall, thanks to the hard work of previous organisers, the BEE Academy was able to draw on resources from previous years and focus on minor adjustments to promotion and organisation. This year's edition adopted a more "listening to the network" than "foreseeing a fixed schedule" approach, which seemed to be the perfect fit for this year's BEEhive. Ultimately, I thoroughly enjoyed acting as a kind of big sister, coach and open ear for the network's presidents, and I am very grateful for the positive feedback I received from my participants. New ideas for the BEE Academy include a similar concept for other areas, BEE Academy coaching specifically for advocacy, and a monthly Q&A with anonymous questions, as well as many other small improvements that will allow this programme to evolve further.



A LASTING CONNECTION: ALUMNI AND LECERCLE



GABRIEL MARTI
PRESIDENT
INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF ELSA 2025/2026

As mentioned previously, Alumni was discussed during both the International Strategy Meeting and the International Council Meeting. While the two workshops focused on different aspects of Alumni engagement, they both stemmed from the same observation: throughout this term, our work with ELSA Alumni was profoundly influenced by the celebration of ELSA's 45th Anniversary. Preparing for this important milestone encouraged us to significantly strengthen our communication with Alumni and, above all, to broaden its reach in order to reconnect with as many former members of the Association as possible. Throughout the year, we therefore placed particular emphasis on strengthening the relationship between ELSA and our Alumni Network, both collectively through ELSA Alumni and individually through former members of our Network.

As part of this effort, many Alumni were invited to join us for the anniversary celebrations. Beyond celebrating together, these exchanges also provided an opportunity to present the current work of ELSA, our projects and our ambitions for the future. For many former members, it became an occasion to reconnect with the Association after several years and to rediscover the work currently being carried out across the Network.

In many ways, the 45th Anniversary reminded us that ELSA's greatest strength lies not only in its current members, but also in the generations of Alumni who continue to identify with its values. Rather than viewing the anniversary as a standalone celebration, we saw it as an opportunity to strengthen these long-standing relationships and to reflect on how Alumni can continue to play an active role in the life of the Association long after their student years.

This interaction naturally led us to reflect on the future of LeCercle. Five years after its creation, the initiative continues to represent one of the most meaningful ways for Alumni and friends of ELSA to support the Association beyond their active years as students. In last year's Annual Report, our predecessors highlighted the significant potential of LeCercle for further development. Throughout this term, we sought to contribute to that development by adapting the initiative to better reflect both the current needs of ELSA and the expectations of its supporters.

One of the main developments was the introduction of a new subscription form, which now allows supporters to indicate the areas of ELSA that interest them the most. This information enables us to maintain a more meaningful relationship with our supporters by sharing updates that are relevant to their interests and by fostering a more continuous dialogue with the Association. Supporters may also indicate whether they would particularly like their contribution to support certain areas or projects of ELSA. While all contributions continue to support the overall mission and financial sustainability of the Association, these indications provide valuable guidance when allocating resources and offer supporters a clearer understanding of the impact their support can have on the initiatives they are most passionate about.

Another important development concerned the contribution model itself. While preserving the fundamental principle of voluntary contributions, allowing every supporter to decide the amount they wish to contribute, we sought to make LeCercle more accessible and flexible. A suggested annual contribution of €20 was introduced as an entry point, encouraging those with more limited financial means to continue supporting ELSA while remaining part of the initiative. At the same time, supporters wishing to support the Association more extensively can now not only determine the amount of their contribution but also choose, directly through the subscription form, how frequently they would like to contribute, whether on a monthly, quarterly, biannual or annual basis. This new structure aims to make supporting ELSA simpler, more accessible and better adapted to the different possibilities of our supporters, while ensuring that every contribution, regardless of its amount, remains equally valued.

In this sense, LeCercle has gradually evolved into a platform for continued engagement with ELSA. While financial support naturally remains an important aspect of the initiative, it also represents an opportunity to remain connected to ELSA, to continue following the development of the Association, and to actively support the values and projects that have shaped so many of our members' journeys. For those wishing to join this community of supporters, the new subscription form can be accessed by scanning the QR code below.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to every member of LeCercle - Eero Ilmari Rautalahti, Johanna Kauppinen, Andrew Brooke, Bartosz Balewski, Anu Mattila, Mikko Laitinen, Yuri van Steenwijk and Vasco Silva. Your continued trust, generosity and commitment enable ELSA to pursue new initiatives, strengthen existing projects and continue creating opportunities for future generations of law students. It is thanks to supporters such as you that today's Network remain connected with those who helped shape the Association before them, ensuring that ELSA continues to grow as one community across generations.

**SCAN THIS QR CODE TO
DONATE TO LE CERCLE NOW!**



INTERNAL MANAGEMENT

WHERE THE NETWORK COMES TOGETHER: INTERNATIONAL INTERNAL MEETINGS



LUCIE NOVÁKOVÁ
SECRETARY GENERAL
INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF ELSA 2025/2026

International Internal Meetings form an essential part of every ELSA term. They bring together Officers from across 41 National Groups to exchange experiences, discuss the development of the Association and contribute to its work at the international level. They also create the setting in which ideas can be challenged, cooperation can develop, and the Network can participate directly in shaping ELSA.

Four International Internal Meetings accompany the different stages of the year. The International Training Meeting focuses on preparing Officers at the beginning of their mandates, while the International Strategy Meeting provides space to evaluate the implementation of ELSA's Strategic Plan and discuss its future direction. The two International Council Meetings bring together the International Council, ELSA's supreme decision-making body, in the autumn and spring.

Although their formats and purposes differ, the meetings are closely connected. Knowledge and questions raised at the beginning of the term inform later discussions, strategic ideas are developed into concrete measures and proposals, and the decisions of the International Council determine how the Association moves forward. During our term, we aimed to preserve the distinct purpose of each meeting while ensuring that their programmes responded to the current needs of the Network.

V INTERNATIONAL TRAINING MEETING ONLINE

The first International Internal Meeting (IIM) of our term took place online from the 19th to the 21st of September 2025. The V ITM received more than 240 applications, demonstrating the continued interest of Officers in beginning their terms with an international learning opportunity. As the only IIM organised online annually, the ITM enables broad participation free of charge. It makes the international level accessible to Officers who may not yet have attended an in-person meeting and allows participants to meet others carrying out similar responsibilities across the Network.

The programme was designed as an introduction to the year ahead. We strengthened the training character of the area workshops by combining introductory knowledge with practical, area-specific skills. Alongside the workshop programme, we offered 9 Trainings on 6 different topics. As participants joined with different levels of prior experience, the Training helped establish a common foundation and made the programme more approachable for those at the beginning of their ELSA journey.

We further developed the Training allocation system. Participants were initially allocated according to their preferences, while available places were monitored throughout the meeting and offered to those on waiting lists. This increased attendance, reduced unused capacity and allowed more participants to join the sessions most relevant to them. We also introduced a dedicated Reporting Time for the ELSA International Team, where team members could connect across areas, exchange information about their work and interact with the International Board before gathering in person at the Autumn International Council Meeting.

The V International Training Meeting therefore fulfilled both an introductory and developmental role. It connected Officers with the international Network, supported them in understanding their positions and provided practical preparation for the term ahead.



CLOSING OF THE V ITM ONLINE

LXXXVIII INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING HELSINKI

From the 12th to the 16th of November 2025, the Network gathered in Helsinki for the LXXXVIII International Council Meeting, hosted by ELSA Finland. The meeting received more than 280 applications and was joined by 27 delegates from the ELSA International Team. International Council Meetings combine the formal decision-making responsibilities of the Association with the development of its Officers. Through the Plenaries, National Groups exercise their rights as members of ELSA, oversee the work of ELSA International and decide on matters binding upon the entire Network. The workshops provide space for proposals and current developments to be examined in greater detail.

The Plenaries covered a wide range of matters important to the Association. The ELSA International Team was presented to the Network, amendments to ELSA's Regulations were adopted, and the revised budgets of ELSA and the ELSA Development Foundation were considered. The International Council also received the final accounts and Auditors' Reports of both entities and voted on granting relief of responsibility to the International Board of ELSA 2024/2025. Presentations by the Council of Europe and Católica Global School of Law further introduced participants to ELSA's cooperation with both institutions.

The workshop programme covered all areas of ELSA and included joint sessions on matters involving shared responsibilities. Alongside providing practical knowledge, the workshops enabled Officers to contribute their perspectives to the work of ELSA International. The discussions in Helsinki provided valuable input for the remainder of the term and allowed the experiences of National and Local Groups to inform developments at the international level.

The meeting also carried particular significance for the International Board of ELSA 2025/2026. The International Council confirmed Tommaso Giordano as Treasurer, filling the final vacant position and completing our Board. After beginning our journey without a full team, we officially left Helsinki as a Board of eight, marking both an important organisational development and a long-awaited moment for us.



**ELSA INTERNATIONAL AT THE
GALA BALL**



**MID PLENARY SESSION OF
THE LXXXVIII ICM**

VI INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY MEETING TBILISI

The VI International Strategy Meeting was hosted by ELSA Georgia in Tbilisi from the 11th to the 15th of February 2026. Taking place in the middle of the Strategic Planning Cycle, the meeting focused on the consistent implementation and evaluation of ELSA's Strategic Plan. The International Strategy Meeting is centred on discussion rather than formal decision-making, allowing participants to consider challenges in greater depth before possible solutions are developed into strategies or proposals. For this edition, we reintroduced themed days based on different parts of the Strategic Plan, creating a clearer connection between individual workshops and the broader development of the Association.

The themed days addressed three broader areas of the Strategic Plan. Discussions on International Internal Meetings focused on the financial and organisational challenges of hosting and on how the existing model could become more sustainable without compromising accessibility. The IT & Compliance covered ELSA's websites, the use of artificial intelligence across projects and possible responses to breaches of our Regulations. Human Resources discussions centred on Alumni cooperation, recurring vacancies and the future development of ELSA Training, while also contributing to the preparation of the next Human Resources Strategy.

The themed days allowed the programme to move beyond individual workshop outcomes and towards a broader assessment of ELSA's development. We took the ideas generated in Tbilisi forward during the following months, with several matters developed further in preparation for the Spring International Council Meeting. In this way, the International Strategy Meeting connected the objectives of the Strategic Plan with the practical measures required for their implementation.



**WORKSHOPS AT THE
INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY MEETING**

LXXXIX INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING BRNO

The final International Internal Meeting of the term took place from the 19th to the 26th of April 2026, when ELSA Brno welcomed the Network to the LXXXIX International Council Meeting. More than 290 applications were received, together with 29 applications from members of the ELSA International Team. The Spring International Council Meeting marks an important point in the ELSA year. It brings much of the work undertaken during the term before the International Council and concludes with the election of the International Board responsible for leading the Association during the following year.

The Opening Plenary officially commenced the meeting, and the Network was given the opportunity to pose questions to the International Board, supporting direct communication and accountability between ELSA International and the members of the Association.

Both ELSA International and the National Groups submitted a considerable number of proposals for amendments to ELSA's Regulations. The area workshops therefore involved extensive discussion, allowing Officers to examine the proposals, consider their consequences and prepare recommendations for their delegations. The level of participation reflected both the importance of the decisions and the willingness of the Network to engage actively in the development of the Association.

During the Mid Plenary, the International Council voted on the first set of regulatory amendments discussed in the workshops. IE Law School delivered a presentation as one of ELSA's educational partners. In cooperation with the Council of Europe, the winner of the Annual Human Rights Campaign was announced, together with the topic of the Campaign for the 2026/2027 term.

The Final Plenary addressed the remaining regulatory proposals, including amendments relating to the ELSA Development Foundation and International Internal Meetings. The Council also elected an Internal Auditor of ELSA before proceeding to the election of the International Board of ELSA 2026/2027.

Almost the entire incoming Board was elected during the meeting. The position of Vice President in charge of Competitions initially remained vacant but was filled through an appointment shortly afterwards. With the appointment completed, the new Board also marks a first in ELSA's history: it is the first International Board composed entirely of women. A noteworthy conclusion to an already significant election. We congratulate the International Board of ELSA 2026/2027 on their election and appointment and wish them every success during the coming term.



**ELSA INTERNATIONAL AT THE
GALA BALL**



**WORKSHOPS AT THE
INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING**



INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF ELSA 2026/2027



PLENARY SESSION

From the online Training Meeting in September to the decisions and elections in Brno, each International Internal Meeting contributed differently to the work of the Association. Together, they provided opportunities to develop Officers, evaluate ELSA's direction and enable the members of the Association to exercise their role in its decision-making.

SECURING THE FUTURE: IIM HOST ATTRACTION



LUCIE NOVÁKOVÁ
SECRETARY GENERAL
INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF ELSA 2025/2026

Three of ELSA's four International Internal Meetings take place in person each year. Their organisation depends on National and Local Groups willing to welcome the Network and take responsibility for the financial, logistical and practical demands of hosting.

In recent years, finding hosts has become increasingly difficult. Hosting was often perceived as financially risky and surrounded by uncertainty, while previous Organising Committees frequently completed their meetings at a considerable loss. Our term began without a confirmed host for any of its three in-person International Internal Meetings, making host attraction an immediate priority.

The meetings are essential not only because of their formal programme, but also because they enable the Network to meet, exchange ideas and participate directly in the development of the Association. Our work therefore focused on two connected objectives: making hosting easier to understand and making it more feasible in practice.

RETHINKING THE HOSTING EXPERIENCE

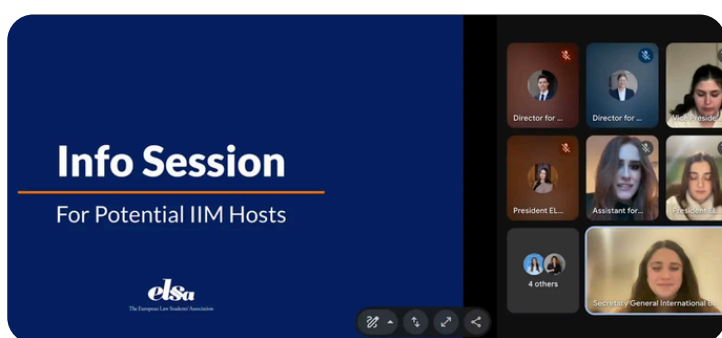
During the Internal Management Workshops of the LXXXVIII International Council Meeting Helsinki, we organised a workshop dedicated to hosting International Internal Meetings. Following an introduction to the responsibilities and application process, participants joined a panel discussion with representatives of previous, current and future Organising Committees. The panel brought together experience from the International Council Meetings in Antalya, Malta and Helsinki, the International Strategy Meetings in Malmö and Tbilisi, and the future International Council Meeting in Prague. Participants could ask directly about the motivation to host, the challenges involved and the advice organisers would give to interested Groups. By including hosts at different stages of the process, the discussion provided a more practical and transparent picture of what hosting requires.

The International Council Meeting in Helsinki also demonstrated that an International Council Meeting does not need to follow the traditional model of placing the entire programme within a large conference hotel. ELSA Finland introduced a lower-budget and decentralised approach, using affordable accommodation, a university canteen for dinners and the offices of partners and Alumni for workshops. This model lowered some of the expectations traditionally associated with hosting and showed how Groups can make use of the resources and relationships available locally. Although it required careful logistical planning, it offered an important example of how a high-quality meeting can be organised without relying on the most expensive format.

In March, we also held an Open Call for Prospective Hosts. The session was open not only to Groups preparing an application, but to anyone interested in learning more about the possibility of hosting. Previous hosts joined to answer questions, while an anonymous platform allowed participants to raise concerns directly. The session was recorded so that it could continue to support prospective hosts in future Calls. The Open Call led to a concrete outcome. One of the participating National Groups subsequently approached ELSA International with the intention to host and was later appointed as the host of an International Council Meeting. This demonstrated the value of offering Groups an informal and accessible point of contact before expecting them to submit a complete application.

Alongside these initiatives, we continued developing the International Internal Meetings Host Handbook, building upon the basis created during the previous term. The aim was to make the Handbook a more practical source of guidance throughout the organisation process and to preserve knowledge that might otherwise be lost between successive Organising Committees.

The most substantial structural change was adopted at the LXXXIX International Council Meeting in Brno. Under the previous model, hosts received one daily participation fee from which they were expected to cover accommodation, three meals, workshop and Plenary venues and the logistics of the meeting. With rising prices, this was increasingly difficult for hosts, while simply raising the fee would have made attendance less accessible for many National Groups. The adopted proposal separated the existing fee into an accommodation fee and a participation fee. The accommodation fee covers accommodation, breakfast and dinner, while the participation fee covers logistics, workshop and Plenary venues and lunches. This provides greater flexibility for participants who may need to arrange more affordable accommodation while still joining the formal programme. At the same time, the accommodation fee can better reflect the actual costs faced by hosts. Lunches remain included in the participation fee for logistical reasons and to preserve the shared working programme of the meeting. The amendments also introduced the possibility of participating online free of charge. This ensures that National Groups unable to attend physically can still take part in the International Council and exercise their rights as members of the Association. With both hosts and participants in mind, its purpose was to support more realistic hosting budgets without responding solely through a general increase in fees, which could exclude Groups already facing difficulties in attending International Internal Meetings.



PROSPECTIVE HOSTS INFO SESSION



PROPOSAL DISCUSSION DURING
ICM BRNO

SIX HOSTS, TWO TERMS

The clearest outcome of this work was securing hosts for two complete sets of in-person International Internal Meetings. Although we entered the term without any confirmed hosts, all three meetings of 2025/2026 were successfully organised. ELSA Finland welcomed the Network to Helsinki, ELSA Georgia hosted the International Strategy Meeting in Tbilisi, and ELSA Brno organised the Spring International Council Meeting. We also secured hosts for all three in-person meetings of the following term. The XC International Council Meeting will be hosted by ELSA Hungary in Budapest, the VII International Strategy Meeting by ELSA Greece in Komotini and the XCI International Council Meeting by ELSA Prague. ELSA Prague was elected by the International Council in Helsinki following an application submitted within the regular Call for Hosts. This was the first time in three years that a Group applied in time to be elected by the International Council rather than subsequently appointed by the International Board.

In total, six hosts were elected or appointed during our term. To our knowledge, and at least since the current structure of International Internal Meetings was introduced and the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, this is the first time complete sets of hosts have been secured for two consecutive terms. This result provides greater continuity for future International Boards and allows the Network to prepare for its meetings further in advance. The sustainability of the revised model will need to be evaluated in the coming terms, but the combination of clearer information, direct engagement with prospective hosts and regulatory changes has established a stronger foundation for the future.

We extend our sincere gratitude to ELSA Finland, ELSA Georgia and ELSA Brno for welcoming the Network during our term and taking on the considerable responsibility of organising an International Internal Meeting. We equally congratulate ELSA Hungary, ELSA Greece and ELSA Prague on their election and appointments. We thank them for stepping forward and wish their Organising Committees every success in preparing the meetings of the coming term.



**ELSA PRAGUE'S ELECTION AS HOSTS OF
THE XCI INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING**

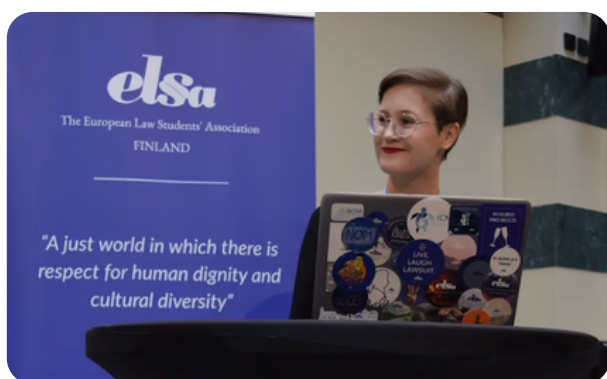
STRENGTHENING ELSA FROM WITHIN: HUMAN RESOURCES



LUCIE NOVÁKOVÁ
SECRETARY GENERAL
INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF ELSA 2025/2026

Human Resources are present behind every activity of ELSA. The continuity of our projects, structures and institutional knowledge depends on the people willing to take responsibility for them, transfer their experience and prepare others to continue the work.

The Human Resources Strategy 2024-2026 was created to strengthen this foundation through three focus areas: ELSA as an Engaging Association, ELSA International Team to the Fullest Support and the International Board as a Worthwhile Experience. During our term, we continued its implementation and presented the Human Resources Strategy Progress Report at the LXXXVIII International Council Meeting Helsinki, evaluating the developments made since its adoption and identifying areas requiring further attention.



EMMA NURMILAUKAS,
DIRECTOR FOR HUMAN RESOURCES,
PRESENTING THE HUMAN RESOURCES
STRATEGY PROGRESS REPORT

ELSA AS AN ENGAGING ASSOCIATION

The regular turnover of Officers is one of ELSA's strengths, bringing new perspectives and motivation into the Association each year. At the same time, it creates a constant risk of knowledge being lost between terms. Effective knowledge management therefore requires more than storing documents. Information must remain accessible, understandable and relevant to the way ELSA currently operates.

One of our main developments in this area was the revision of the ELSA Wiki. The platform has the potential to serve as a central knowledge base for Officers, but parts of its content no longer reflected the current structure of the Association. We therefore worked on updating its terminology and organisation.

The former Moot Court Competitions content was revised to reflect the broader Competitions area, including Academic Competitions, while references to the Student Trainee Exchange Programme were updated in accordance with the current Professional Development structure. These changes went beyond updating outdated terminology. We also incorporated selected information from handbooks and other knowledge-management materials across all areas of ELSA, condensing key information into shorter and more accessible entries. This made the Wiki easier for Officers to navigate and use as a practical point of reference, while the original materials remained available for more detailed guidance.



ELSA INTERNATIONAL TEAM TO THE FULLEST SUPPORT

The ELSA International Team plays an essential role in supporting the work of the International Board and the implementation of ELSA's projects. During our term, more than 140 people formed part of the Team across the different areas of ELSA International.

Recruitment took place through two Calls, held in August and October. The first enabled us to establish the Team at the beginning of the term, while the second allowed us to respond to remaining vacancies and additional needs that became visible as the year developed. We also introduced and expanded positions to better reflect the workload and priorities of the Association. Data Protection developed from a single Assistant position into a dedicated Team, recognising the increasing extent of compliance work across ELSA's activities. Fundraising positions were introduced within key areas to create additional capacity for identifying and developing funding opportunities connected to their projects. The intention was not simply to increase the size of the Team, but to create positions in which members could make a clear and meaningful contribution. With a Team of this scale, communication, supervision and a shared understanding of ELSA International's wider objectives remain especially important.

Supporting the Team also means recognising the contribution of its members. During the term, we offered dedicated opportunities including special Calls for ELSA Delegations and ELSA Traineeships available exclusively to members of the ELSA International Team. These opportunities allowed Team Members to benefit from the projects to which their own work contributes, while supporting their academic, professional and personal development.

The ELSA International Team should offer more than a list of tasks. It provides experience in an international working environment, cooperation across borders and areas, and access to further opportunities within the Association. Making these benefits visible is important both for recognising current Team Members and for attracting future applicants.



ELSA INTERNATIONAL AT
ICM HELSINKI

THE INTERNATIONAL BOARD AS A WORTHWHILE EXPERIENCE

Attraction to the International Board has remained a recurring Human Resources challenge. Serving on the Board offers a unique opportunity to influence the direction of ELSA and gain extensive personal and professional experience. At the same time, the candidacy process, relocation to Brussels and the practical realities of living and working together can appear difficult to understand from the outside. Our work therefore focused on increasing transparency and providing potential candidates with clearer information and direct opportunities to ask questions.

One of the main developments was the creation of the Fact Sheet for Potential Candidates for the International Board. The document brought together information that had previously been distributed across different sources or transferred informally. It covered the role and composition of the Board, the candidacy and election process, transition, life in Brussels and the ELSA House, financial considerations and the collective responsibilities of serving on the International Board. The purpose was to allow interested Officers to make informed decisions based on both the opportunities and expectations connected to the position. Attraction should not rely on presenting an incomplete picture, but on making the experience sufficiently clear and accessible.

The Fact Sheet was complemented by an Open Call for potential candidates, where interested members of the Network could learn more about the International Board and raise their questions directly. Candidates were also offered a Training before the elections, delivered by a Trainer from the International Trainers' Pool, to support them in preparing for the election process. The results were visible at the LXXXIX International Council Meeting Brno. Ten candidates stood for election to the International Board, the first time in four years that the elections had attracted this number of candidates. Including the nominees for the Internal Auditors of ELSA, the total reached 13 nominations, the highest number in five years.

While candidate numbers cannot measure every aspect of Human Resources development, they provide an important indication of engagement and confidence in the opportunities offered by the Association. The combination of accessible information, direct communication and practical preparation helped bring the International Board closer to the Network and supported a stronger field of candidates.



INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF ELSA 2025/2026

TURNING KNOWLEDGE INTO SKILLS: ELSA TRAINING



LUCIE NOVÁKOVÁ
SECRETARY GENERAL
INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF ELSA 2025/2026



ELSA Training supports the development of skills that extend beyond traditional education. Through soft-skills Trainings, members can strengthen abilities relevant to their academic and professional lives, while Officers' skills provide more specific preparation for the responsibilities and projects they encounter within the Association.

The project therefore serves two closely connected purposes. It creates development opportunities for individual members, while also strengthening the knowledge and capacity of the Network. During our term, our work focused on ensuring that the International Trainers' Pool remained active and relevant, bringing ELSA Training closer to Officers and continuing to provide accessible opportunities to develop practical skills.

INTERNATIONAL TRAINERS' POOL

During the term, we welcomed the new Trainers who had completed the Train the Trainers in October 2024. Their onboarding marked the next stage in the development of the International Trainers' Pool and provided the Pool with new members prepared to deliver Trainings across the Network. At the same time, we began reviewing its existing structure. Voluntary Agreements were renewed to ensure that the International Trainers' Pool reflected the Trainers who remained active and interested in delivering sessions. Maintaining an accurate overview is essential both for ELSA International and for Groups seeking Trainers, allowing requests to be directed towards members who are available and willing to contribute.

The content of ELSA Training must develop together with the needs of the Network. We therefore shared a survey inviting Officers to evaluate the existing Training topics, assess potential additions and propose their own ideas. Alongside established areas, the survey explored topics such as Legal English, Cybersecurity, Data Protection, Artificial Intelligence as a Tool, Work-life Balance and Practical IT Skills. The aim was not simply to expand the list of topics, but to understand which Trainings remain useful and where the programme should evolve. The feedback gathered provides a basis for modernising the ELSA Training portfolio and ensuring that future sessions respond to the realities faced by members and Officers.

We also worked on creating greater consistency in the path towards becoming a Trainer. At the LXXXVIII International Council Meeting Helsinki, the International Council adopted amendments concerning the Train the Trainers and Refreshment Weekend.

The previous framework allowed participants to be accepted into the International Trainers' Pool under differing conditions between editions. The amended Regulations introduced a minimum number of academic programme hours that must be attended before a participant can become a Trainer, establishing a clearer and more uniform standard. Bringing ELSA Training closer to the Network remained equally important. Workshops were held throughout the International Internal Meetings to introduce Officers to the project, explain how Trainings can support their work and encourage National Groups to establish their own National Trainers' Pools. This was complemented by an Open Call, including guidance on the steps involved in establishing a Trainers' Pool at the national level. At the LXXXIX International Council Meeting Brno, two Trainers from the International Trainers' Pool joined a dedicated workshop where participants could ask directly about becoming a Trainer, requesting a Training and organising sessions within their Groups. Providing this direct contact helped make the project more understandable and accessible to Officers who had not previously engaged with it.

Throughout the term, ELSA International organised 20 Trainings delivered by members of the International Trainers' Pool. The sessions were prepared for a variety of audiences and purposes, demonstrating the flexibility of ELSA Training and its ability to support different projects and groups of participants.

ELSA SKILLS ACADEMY

From the 9th to the 13th of March 2026, the ELSA Skills Academy was held online as part of Career Launch. Continuing the joint format allowed the two initiatives to complement one another: Career Launch introduced participants to professional opportunities, while the ELSA Skills Academy provided them with practical abilities that could support them in pursuing those opportunities. The cooperation also helped ELSA Training reach an audience extending beyond currently active Officers. For participants with limited previous involvement in the Association, the ELSA Skills Academy offered both an accessible development opportunity and an introduction to the wider academic and professional possibilities available through ELSA.

This edition received a record 58 applications. Eight Training sessions were offered throughout the week, covering public speaking, personal strategic planning, networking, negotiation, communication and team management. The combination of topics reflected different stages of academic and professional development, from presenting ideas confidently to working effectively with others and approaching long-term goals more strategically. Participants attending at least two sessions received a certificate recognising their completion of the programme. Logistical information on the Skills Academy was also included in the Career Launch Magazine, bringing the Training programme into the broader presentation of the project and making it easier for participants to plan their involvement.

The feedback received was highly positive and confirmed the continued value of offering the ELSA Skills Academy. The success of the ELSA Skills Academy, together with the 20 Trainings organised throughout the term, demonstrated the range of audiences ELSA Training can serve. At the same time, the review of the International Trainers' Pool, the consultation on future topics and the clearer regulatory framework provided a stronger foundation for its continued development.

We extend our sincere thanks to all Trainers who contributed their time and expertise during the year. Their work allows ELSA Training to remain a project through which knowledge is not only shared, but transformed into skills that members can carry into their positions, studies and future careers.

ELSA SKILLS ACADEMY

Dear Participant,

Welcome to the ELSA Skills Academy!

Through this initiative, we aim to complement career insights with practical skill development. The ELSA Skills Academy provides a space to strengthen key competencies essential for professional growth and future careers.

I would like to thank our Trainers from the International Trainers' Pool for preparing these sessions for you, as well as the ELSA Training Team for their work on this project.

I hope the ELSA Skills Academy equips you with skills you will confidently carry into your professional journey.

Best regards,

Lucie Nováková
Secretary General
International Board of ELSA 2025/2026

Lucie Nováková

WHAT IS IT?

The ELSA Skills Academy is a training programme focused on developing practical skills relevant to participants' future careers. The trainings are delivered by Trainers from ELSA's International Trainers' Pool, ensuring high-quality, interactive learning experiences.

The programme supports participants in strengthening their CVs while building transferable skills applicable across professional fields. Through workshops based on practical exercises, simulations, and real-life scenarios, participants are encouraged to actively engage, collaborate, and apply theoretical knowledge in practice.

By combining learning with participation, the ELSA Skills Academy helps participants develop competencies that contribute to both personal growth and professional readiness.

TOPICS

The topics of this edition of the ELSA Skills Academy are:

COMMUNICATION SKILLS	INTERVIEW & CV SKILLS
PUBLIC SPEAKING	STRATEGIC PLANNING
NEGOTIATION SKILLS	PROJECT MANAGEMENT
NETWORKING	TEAM MANAGEMENT

PAGE FROM THE CAREER LAUNCH MAGAZINE
FEATURING THE ELSA SKILLS ACADEMY

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND FINANCIAL STRATEGY OF THE ASSOCIATION



TOMMASO GIORDANO

TREASURER

INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF ELSA 2025/2026

For a Treasurer, joining an area called Financial Management, the objectives are already clear: ensuring the continuity of day-to-day administration and managing the financial operations of the year, while also identifying opportunities for improvement, addressing existing challenges, and creating more effective processes for future Treasurers.

It has not been an easy year; it has been a year of significant changes, strategic reflection and a renewed vision. Based also on my personality, I strongly believe that once in a while the Financial Management Area should not only focus on the annual budget cycle and the responsible management of resources within a given mandate, but should also adopt a medium- and long-term perspective. Periodic reviews, structural improvements and the ability to adapt to a changing environment are essential to ensure that the area continues to evolve and meet the needs of the Association. I would like to thank my predecessors and my Board for their continuous support throughout this process.

Some of these steps were done in accordance with an important document, “Financial Strategy 2025-2028”, approved in Malta, that seeks to align the vision of the Network with the work of the Treasurers of ELSA International during the years. While each Treasurer strives to perform to the best of their abilities during a given term, it is essential to have a shared set of principles and common priorities to guide our work. We have consistently sought to act in accordance with the principles set out in the Financial Strategy. In addition, we introduced several objectives that reflected the specific priorities of this term.

Analysing more in details the article of the Strategy, we worked on the partnerships. Not all of the achievements mentioned below can be attributed solely to my individual work. I want to emphasise the work done by the C, BEE and S&C Area that brought new partnerships for the John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition and the one with University of Oxford for its Summer School, these generates several thousand euros in revenue in the coming years. All Areas also worked to secure and consolidate existing partnerships by ensuring compliance with the agreements, so that they can be successfully renewed.

With regard to investments, we prepared a proposal of the Statutes to be discussed by the ICM Brno and it was approved where we also discussed an initial budget. This represents the first concrete steps towards implementing investments, particularly during the Transition month, where we built a common understanding and calls to start this new path.

Finally, concerning grants, we successfully applied for the Structural Grant and we identified additional funding opportunities that we are recommending to the next Board. We also continued our cooperation with the Council of Europe, both in relation to the Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition and the Council of Europe's broader financial support for ELSA International. In addition, successful applications were submitted for funding from the City of Strasbourg. For what concerns UNECA, we used the fund accordingly and we managed to submit the interim and final report.

About the European Youth Foundation (EYF), the cooperation continued throughout the year. A particularly significant achievement was the organisation of the ROLE Conference in Brussels, and the new role of ELSA International acting as grant authority with its National Groups for 35000 Euros. This represented a major responsibility and I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the AA Area for its excellent work on this matter. The conference was a success and was supported by a grant of approximately EUR 25,000, covering around two-thirds of the total project costs, while the remaining share was financed by ELSA. EYF made some changes and this funding model for future editions has changed as well, that is the reason why we had some cash flow issues during half of the term.

Regarding project revenues, efforts were made to increase income whenever possible, where increasing revenue was not feasible, the focus shifted to reducing costs while maintaining the quality of the projects. This effort is particularly evident in the next year budget of the PD Area where we reduced half of the cost. Obviously, on the expenditure side, costs were reduced wherever possible both for projects than for fixed costs.

Concerning the management of the Reserves, we used them just for loan usage to address temporary liquidity issues while safeguarding the overall financial stability of the Association.

One big success of the year was to externalise accounting. Saving time through better financial tools and ensuring more accurate accounting allows for more informed financial decision-making and enables the Association to support its Areas more effectively. We can define this passage as a key strategic step. Although the transition between the systems was particularly challenging, it was a change that the Association had sought to implement for many years without success. The new system is more user-friendly, easier to manage, clearer and more transparent, while also simplifying the work of future Treasurers and contributing to greater long-term financial stability.

Beyond this, high workload was carried out within the FM EIT. I cannot thank Beatriz, Ondřej, Michał, Konstantinos, Dominik, Emma, Sofia, Melissa, and Jens enough. Together, we built an incredible team of people who worked tirelessly and supported the area and the Network in every possible aspect. Most importantly, we achieved something that had never been seen before within the FM area: so many people were genuinely willing to step up, lend a hand, and contribute beyond what was expected. They set an example for the entire Network and made the area more dynamic, collaborative, and attractive.

Regarding the proposed amendments related to FM, the proposal to introduce a fees for traineeships was unfortunately not adopted, it did not pass short by only a small margin, nevertheless, it generated a valuable discussion within the Network, highlighting the central importance of financial sustainability and responsible financial management with the Area of PD. At the same time, many of the underlying objectives had already been pursued in practice, particularly, through efforts to significantly reduce costs and these initiatives were widely appreciated by the Network. As a result in this matter, I believe we are leaving the Association in a stronger financial position than at the beginning of the term. Another key reform concerned the ICM fee structure. While I will not elaborate on the details here, the fundamental objective was to improve the financial sustainability of International Internal Meetings, as these events had generated losses for far too many years. This was a necessary reform, developed in close cooperation with the IM Area.

Regarding all proposals related to the ELSA Development Foundation (EDF), I refer to the dedicated chapter of this Report.

With regard to the budget, I sought to improve its clarity by introducing a more transparent structure for budget lines and by providing a clearer presentation of the use of the Association's Reserves and the corresponding contributions to them. The objective was to ensure that all the changes and reforms described throughout this Report were consistently reflected in the budgeting process. This has allowed both the financial year now concluded and the budget for the following year to be based on positive financial prospects. The reforms initiated during this term have the potential to generate significant benefits in the short, medium and long term, provided they continue to be implemented with consistency and continuity.

In addition, I would also like to extend my gratitude to all Treasurers, the Network, and everyone who took part in the open calls, joined individual meetings and reached out to discuss and address specific challenges, questions and issues throughout the year. Thank you for your trust, our talks, to listen to each other and for the genuine exchange of ideas that has always characterised our discussions. Whether we were sharing the same vision and proposals or engaging in constructive disagreement, every conversation was driven by the same goal: working together for the benefit of the Association. This is precisely what makes the Association a welcoming place for all of us, regardless of our country of origin or our different ideas and perspectives.

Furthermore, the support of an external accounting professional has strengthened the Association's compliance, including in relation to VAT obligations, which is particularly important for an organisation of ELSA International's size and complexity. On the VAT we clarified the situation and we regularise what was not done by the previous accountant.

A new Traineeship Portal was also developed; this platform is expected to reduce the related costs by approximately one sixth, while providing a more modern, efficient and user-friendly system for the management of the programme and it's a good image to sell for potential partners so that it is possible to increase the income of an Area that as you know struggles on its financial side.

Regarding the working conditions of the International Board, the Grant of Relocation was increased. Despite years of inflation, this grant had remained unchanged due to financial constraints. Following a broader reorganisation of the budget, it became possible to introduce an increase.

Finally, we worked on looking for insurances, although the relevant agreements have not yet been signed, substantial preparatory work has been completed, providing a solid basis for the next International Board to continue and conclude this initiative.

Alongside these goals, significant effort was dedicated to the day-to-day financial administration of the Association. This included the continuous management of events, projects, income, expenditure, reporting obligations and the many unforeseen challenges that inevitably arise throughout the year. Every effort was made to ensure that financial management was carried out with the highest possible level of transparency and always with the objective of serving the best interests of the Association and making the most appropriate financial decisions.

The first half of the term was undoubtedly the most demanding, primarily due to the transition from an internal accounting system to an external accounting provider and the implementation of a completely new accounting platform. One of the objectives behind these reforms was also to make the position of International Treasurer more attractive while freeing up time to focus on broader strategic priorities. Traditionally, the Treasurer requires a highly technical level of accounting expertise that can only be acquired through experience during the year and time consuming. This has often made the position particularly demanding, both in terms of workload and the distance it creates from the work of the other Areas. By introducing a clearer, more transparent and more efficient financial system, we have sought to reduce the administrative burden of the role and allow future Treasurers to dedicate more time to developing the Association. This includes strengthening the human resources within the Financial Management Area, improving financial knowledge across the Network, identifying new funding opportunities and working alongside all Areas rather than being primarily occupied with administrative tasks.

ELSA DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION



ONDŘEJ TUHÁČEK

DIRECTOR OF EDF

INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF ELSA 2025/2026

The true strength of ELSA lies in the effort of so many talented people working together through international cooperation with one shared vision. However, the little help needed in turning this vision into reality and achieving amazing things can sometimes be of a monetary kind, too. For this type of solidarity between Groups of ELSA, the ELSA Development Foundation (EDF) is here to offer its helping hand. It is financed collectively by National Groups of ELSA and its purpose is to financially support measures and activities that further the vision, purpose and means of ELSA. It is a true testament to what makes ELSA the association it is.

For this term, it was led by Tommaso as Chairperson and Director, Lucie as Vice-Chairperson and Director, and Gabriel as Director. The EDF Team also consisted of Ondřej as Director for ELSA Development Foundation, and also, when operational resources demanded it, of Assistants for Financial Management. We want to thank him for his incredible work and dedication to the Foundation; his tireless efforts and unwavering commitment have made a lasting impact on the Network, leaving a legacy that will be remembered for years to come.

While EDF cannot achieve miracles due to its limited resources, it remains a vital tool for facilitating part of the solidarity in our Network. This term, we heavily focused on optimising the way EDF operates, both externally and internally, to make the whole process of applying for EDF support way more approachable and practical, while maintaining the evaluation standards established in the past. On top of that, we set out to resolve several historical administrative matters, such as duly publishing historical Final Accounts and notarising the EDF Statutes.

Our work started right away, with our first milestone being presenting the final draft of the reworked EDF Guidelines at the V ITM. Through feedback from the Network during the practical workshop held there, we made sure we are on the right track. From there, we released the new Guidelines together with new Application Forms, better reflecting the different types of documentation Groups need to submit. We also switched to using Google Workspace for all EDF operations, which made both applying and subsequent internal work easier. During the two ICMs, a total of 14 different proposals to EDF Statutes and Standing Orders were introduced, some small, some with a bigger impact, some reflecting longstanding weaknesses of EDF, some reacting to current needs of the Network. As the vast majority of them passed, in a way, it represented a regulatory rebirth for EDF.

To highlight the most significant changes, we elevated the EDF Guidelines to a full-fledged part of our regulatory system. Standing alongside the Statutes and Standing Orders, the Guidelines now serve as a more clearly arranged, less legally cluttered primary point of reference that offers applicants detailed instructions. To achieve this, the document was continuously expanded throughout the term. We also opened new avenues for EDF utilisation. Financial assistance for internal events aimed at developing Officers' skills and knowledge, previously reserved only for National Groups, is now available to Local Groups as well. This change reflects the reality that such trainings are often organised at the local level, now enabling Local Groups to fully utilise EDF for these purposes. Furthermore, EDF was the first to adapt to the current shortage of ICM hosts. While not a definitive solution to the problem, EDF offered a crucial helping hand by raising the maximum possible support for an ICM host from 2,000.00 EUR to 3,000.00 EUR. Additionally, this sum does not count toward a Group's maximum grantable limit, making ICM hosting the most substantially supported initiative. We were thrilled to see this change bear fruit immediately, as one of this term's ICM hosts successfully received the full 3,000.00 EUR support, helping them partially remedy the loss incurred by organising the event.

Besides the changes, the normal EDF agenda was our main focus. With 22 total EDF Applications submitted and only 4 of them not being successful for differing reasons, EDF distributed a total of 13,080.00 EUR to the ELSA Network, marking a significant increase in the overall financial support provided to Groups. Besides the Application evaluations themselves, we have individually worked with a number of Groups that requested additional assistance with how to approach applying for EDF support.

All in all, a considerable effort has been allocated to EDF. Although sometimes tiring, the journey EDF and the team behind it took this term was truly an amazing experience for us. We strongly believe that this effort was not in vain and that EDF will continue to support the Network in an even better way than it did before, building on the new wheels we set in motion this term.

Finally, we would like to express our deepest gratitude to all the National Groups. Your collective financial contributions and commitment to the Network are the very lifeblood of EDF, proving year after year that this solidarity truly makes a meaningful difference.

MARKETING

BEYOND SHAPES AND COLOURS



KAT BONELLO

VICE PRESIDENT IN CHARGE OF MARKETING
INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF ELSA 2025/2026

Looking back on the 2025/2026 term, the work of the Marketing Area cannot be reduced to individual campaigns, revised logos or social media posts. At its heart, it was about how ELSA presents itself: how we preserve an identity built over forty-five years while allowing it to evolve, how we communicate opportunities in a way that feels authentic, and how we ensure that ELSA International's platforms reflect the entire Network rather than the work of the International Board alone.

The year was guided by a simple belief: ELSA's brand should be consistent without becoming predictable, adaptable without losing its identity and professional without losing the people behind it. Whether revising the Brand Book, developing audiovisual campaigns, supporting National and Local Groups or celebrating the Association's anniversary, the objective remained the same: to communicate ELSA in a way that felt dynamic, accessible and unmistakably ours.



THE MARKETING AREA AT THE 89TH INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING IN HELSINKI, FINLAND

STRENGTHENING THE FOUNDATIONS

A successful brand is not one that remains unchanged, but one that evolves with purpose. The continued development of ELSA's Brand Book and Marketing Regulations was therefore not intended to redefine our visual identity, but to strengthen it. Each amendment sought to provide marketers with greater creative freedom while preserving the consistency, professionalism and recognisability that give the ELSA brand its value across Europe and beyond.



One of the most significant developments was the introduction of greater flexibility in the use of the ELSA logo. While the blue logo remains the Association's primary visual identifier, the Brand Book now permits the **use of the black logo** where it better complements a project's overall identity. It is a subtle change, but one that allows marketers to create more cohesive and polished campaigns without compromising the integrity of the ELSA brand.

The year also brought greater clarity to ELSA's content ecosystem. **Synergy** was repositioned as a platform that not only showcases the work of the Network, but also engages the wider legal community through accessible content relevant to law students. At the same time, the ELSA Law Review Blog was removed from the Decision Book, reinforcing the ELSA Law Review's position as the Association's flagship academic publication while allowing Synergy to develop its own editorial identity. This created a clearer distinction between two important forms of communication: one dedicated to academic excellence and the other to accessible legal discourse, storytelling and engagement.

Several international projects also received strategic brand refreshes. The **Annual Human Rights Campaign** was updated to better reflect the versatility of its original identity, giving marketers greater flexibility in using its distinctive visual elements while preserving its recognisability.



Accessibility was an equally important consideration. The **ELSA Traineeships** brand adopted the Roboto typeface, ensuring compatibility with Cyrillic and Hellenic alphabets and removing technical barriers for marketers across the Network. Its visual language was also simplified and brought into closer alignment with the wider Brand Book.

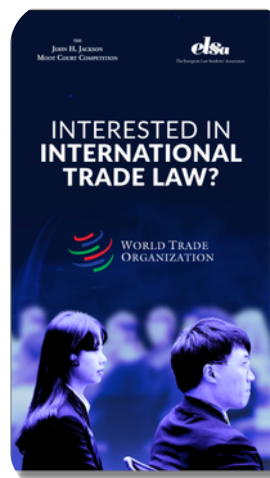
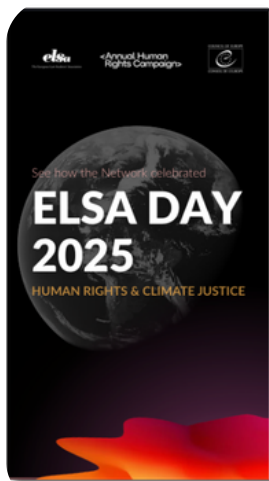
The **Summer and Winter ELSA Law Schools** were refreshed through refined colour palettes, updated logos and contemporary design elements that better reflect the distinct character of each programme. **ELSA Delegations** similarly adopted a cleaner visual language through textured backgrounds, a simplified logo and updated design guidance. Rather than allowing the design to overshadow the opportunity, the revised identity directs attention towards the people, institutions and experiences at the heart of the project. Further refinements, including the updated identity of ELSA Webinars, helped create greater coherence across ELSA's growing Brand portfolio.

These developments were never intended to make every project look the same. Instead, they created a stronger foundation from which each project could express its own character. Throughout the year, the Brand Book was treated as a strategic asset, protecting ELSA's identity while giving marketers the confidence to experiment thoughtfully.

The promotional campaign for **The John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition** perhaps best demonstrated this philosophy. ELSA's signature blue was transformed from a familiar brand asset into the defining visual concept of the campaign. No amendment to the Brand Book was required; the campaign simply interpreted the existing identity in a fresh and distinctive way.



Engaging graphics act as an entry point to a project: they capture attention, create curiosity and make the opportunity easier to understand at a glance. This leads to greater awareness and engagement, which can then translate into stronger participation. A consistent visual identity also builds brand recognition and reinforces ELSA's reputation as a professional organisation and showed that consistency does not need to come at the expense of originality; instead, a strong identity can give campaigns the foundation to be both recognisable and memorable.



This year, the way we communicated opportunities also began to change. A static graphic will always have its place, but the most effective way to introduce an experience is often not to describe it, but to let people see it for themselves. Thus, audiovisual content became one of the cornerstones of ELSA's Instagram strategy this term.

One thing video does particularly well is answer the question most people in our target audience are thinking as they scroll through Instagram: "What actually is this?"

With attention spans growing shorter and audiences increasingly drawn to short-form content, we could not rely on open-call graphics alone to communicate the value of our projects. As part of the pre-launch campaign, we used footage from previous editions, participant testimonials and memorable moments to build anticipation and introduce each project to new audiences before applications opened. By creating engaging, shareable Reels with the potential to reach users beyond ELSA International's existing following, we aimed to generate early interest and help prospective applicants picture themselves taking part. The focus shifted from simply promoting an opportunity to marketing the experience behind it.

COMMUNICATING THE COMMUNITY

MAKING ELSA INTERNATIONAL A PLATFORM FOR THE NETWORK

People became far more visible in ELSA International's communications this year. Officers appeared throughout our publications, and photographs from events across the Network formed part of the promotional materials themselves, rather than being treated as an afterthought. The result was content that felt more representative of ELSA: still polished, but rooted in the people doing the work.

This was perhaps clearest in the videos produced for the **ROLE Training Conference** with Anastasios Vavvas and **Career Launch** with Hedin Indregård. They remain some of my favourites to have directed. Their personalities carried the message, allowing both videos to be informative without feeling scripted or forced. They were also a useful reminder that a thirty-second video almost always takes considerably longer than thirty seconds to record.

The **Summer and Winter ELSA Law Schools** called for a slightly different approach. Previously, many of their promotional videos had been confined to Instagram Stories and disappeared after twenty-four hours. Publishing them as Reels gave each one a permanent place on ELSA International's profile, where it could continue introducing audiences to the Law Schools between application periods. More importantly, the format gave proper visibility to the Organising Committees behind them. Each Reel captured not only the destination and academic programme, but the volunteers responsible for making the experience possible.

With more video on the profile came a greater need for consistency. Cohesive covers, recurring editing choices and a shared visual rhythm allowed the content to sit together naturally without reducing every project to the same template. Each video could retain its own character while remaining recognisably ELSA International.



The **TikTok Usage Guidelines** extended this work to National and Local Groups. Developed through discussions across the Network, they brought together different experiences, concerns and views on the platform's role within ELSA. Rather than prescribing a single style, the Guidelines offered practical direction on branding, trends, copyright and platform-specific communication, giving Groups the confidence to experiment while protecting ELSA's identity and professional standards.

Every post published under the ELSA name contributes to the reputation of an Association present in 41 countries and more than 400 law faculties. The TikTok Usage Guidelines acknowledged this responsibility, helping Groups make use of the platform without losing sight of the standards associated with ELSA.

Our campaigns also had a purpose beyond attracting applications. Institutional spotlights, explainers and project factsheets gave members more context about the opportunities we promoted, the organisations we worked with and the values behind our activities.

Making this information available was only part of the task; Groups also needed the means to share it. Throughout the year, we provided editable templates, draft captions, factsheets and communication packs that could be adapted to local audiences. This made international campaigns easier to promote across the Network without asking every Group to start from scratch. It was a more collaborative way of working: ELSA International provided the framework, and the Network gave each campaign its reach.

14TH EDITION OF THE Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition
About the European Law Students' Association

Founded in 1981, ELSA is the world's largest international, independent, non-political, non-profit association, represented in nearly 375 law faculties in 41 countries, with membership exceeding 40,000 law students and young lawyers. ELSA is the main organizer of the 14th Edition of Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition that is held in collaboration with the Council of Europe and the European Court of Human Rights.

The Case: "Orwell v. Valdora"

How does the case of Orwell v. Valdora illustrate the conflict between the efficiency of AI-driven tools in criminal justice and the fundamental right to a fair trial under the European Convention on Human Rights?

Regional Rounds will take place in Valletta (Malta) Athens (Greece) and Birmingham (United Kingdom)

The benefits of having a team representing your university

- Global Recognition & Prestige: Showcase your university among more than 50 universities all over Europe! Participation highlights your commitment to academic excellence, internationalization, and leadership in legal education.
- Career Opportunities for Students: Teams gain access to internships and career pathways, while alumni success stories reflect positively on the university's brand and reach.
- Enhancing Faculty & Institutional Networks: Build lasting ties with leading academics, practitioners, and institutions around Europe, opening doors for collaborations, exchanges, and joint research initiatives.
- Strengthening Academic Reputation: Demonstrate your university's expertise in Human Rights Law, enhancing its profile in European rankings and among peer institutions.

Timeline:

- 1st November 2023: Launch of the Competition
- 1st December 2023: Registration Fee Deadline
- 15th January 2024: Written Submission Deadline
- 10th, 12th March 2024: 2nd European Regional Round (in-person)
- 17th, 19th February 2024: 1st European Regional Round (in-person)
- 23rd, 25th June 2024: Final Oral Round (in-person)

Participate in the biggest human rights moot court!

PARTICIPATE IN THE BIGGEST GLOBAL TRADE LAW MOOT COURT! PARTICIPATE IN THE BIGGEST GLOBAL TRADE LAW MOOT COURT!

24TH EDITION OF THE John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition

Why Participate?

- Travel to the Regional Round for the chance to qualify for the Final at the World Trade Organization Headquarters in Geneva
- Build a global network with opportunities for scholarships and internships
- Strengthen your legal writing, speaking, critical thinking and advocacy skills in English
- Expand your knowledge of international trade law and join participants from more than 90 law faculties

This Year's Case: "Engeli - Measures Relating to Critical Minerals"

How can WTO Members advance sustainable goals through local content rules, structure critical mineral partnerships, and address human rights concerns in the supply chain, in a manner consistent with WTO rules?

Timeline of the Competition:

- 1st November 2023: Launch of the Competition
- 1st December 2023: Registration Fee Deadline
- 15th January 2024: Written Submission Deadline
- 10th, 12th March 2024: 2nd European Regional Round (in-person)
- 17th, 19th February 2024: 1st European Regional Round (in-person)
- 23rd, 25th June 2024: Final Oral Round (in-person)

Is your Team Missing a Coach?

ELSA may be able to match your team with a volunteer coach! Make sure to contact us at: teams@elsaonline.org

Join Mundi Support: All registered teams will receive access to the Jus Mundi platform as a tool for research during the period of the Written Submissions!

For more information, visit elsamootcourt.org

About the European Law Students' Association (ELSA)

Founded in 1981, ELSA is the world's largest international, independent, non-political, non-profit law students' association, represented in 400 law faculties in 41 countries, with over 70,000 members. ELSA is the Main Organizer of the 24th edition of the John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition.

New to International Trade Law and Mooting?

We have the resources to help you get started!

- Debate Settlements course
- Understanding the WTO materials
- WTO Analytical Index
- Interview with Gabrielle Marceau

John Howard Jackson (1922-2015)

Served as Professor of Law at the University of Michigan Law School and at Georgetown University Law Center from where he also directed the Institute of International Economic Law. Was a pioneer of International Trade and Economic Law and is considered one of the chief architects of the multilateral trading system and the World Trade Organization.

He acted as General Counsel to the U.S. Office of the Trade Representative, contributing significantly to the Trade Act of 1974.

John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition

CELEBRATING THE PEOPLE BEHIND FORTY-FIVE YEARS

Perhaps no initiative captured this approach more completely than ELSA's 45th Anniversary Campaign.

When I first stepped into the ELSA House in Brussels, I was immediately struck by the stories its walls must hold. I found myself thinking about the generations of ELSA Officers who had lived there before us: the friendships they built, the late nights they shared, the projects into which they poured themselves and the experiences that shaped who they became.

It reminded me of something I have always loved about ELSA. No matter where you go in the Network, whether Brussels, Valletta, Tbilisi or Lisbon, people speak about the Association in the same way. Different countries, cultures and legal systems are connected by the same sense of belonging. The same stories emerge of friendships that last a lifetime, opportunities that change career paths, conversations that challenge perspectives and experiences that inspire people to become more engaged lawyers, advocates and citizens. That feeling became the inspiration behind the campaign.

When I ran for the position of Vice President in charge of Marketing, I ended my candidacy with one simple goal: to give more people the opportunity to discover and fall in love with ELSA, just as I had. Looking back, I cannot think of a campaign that reflected that ambition more completely.

The anniversary was never intended to celebrate forty-five years merely as a number. It was about celebrating the people behind those years.





From the beginning, I wanted the campaign to belong to the entire Network. National and Local Groups were invited to explore their own histories, reconnect with alumni, celebrate defining moments and share the stories that shaped their identities. Watching Groups across Europe embrace that invitation is undoubtedly one of the things of which I am proudest.

Current members, former members, alumni, National Groups and Local Groups became the protagonists of the campaign. They shared memories, revisited defining moments and reflected on what ELSA had meant to them. Individuals who had dedicated years to the Association were given the opportunity to take centre stage, transforming the anniversary into a celebration not only of institutional history, but also of the passion that made that history possible.

The campaign concluded with an anniversary event at the ELSA House in Brussels, bringing together current and former members to celebrate not only ELSA's past, but also the community continuing to carry it forward.

None of this would have been possible without the people who believed in the idea from the beginning. My heartfelt thanks go to **Marta Pilchak, Eliška Veselská, Lea Pöschl** and **Elisabetta Rossi**, whose countless hours of editing, reviewing and refining every detail transformed a vision into something of which I am immensely proud. To my fellow International Board members, thank you for supporting my ambitious ideas even in the middle of an already demanding year. Your trust made the campaign possible.

To every National and Local Group that contributed, thank you for sharing your stories and making the celebration your own. By looking inwards and reflecting on your histories, you helped create something far more meaningful than any single campaign could have been.

My sincere thanks also go all Alumni of ELSA, whose enthusiasm and willingness to revisit their memories reminded us that ELSA creates memories that last a lifetime!

The 2025/2026 term was a year of strengthening foundations while exploring new ways of communicating. We revised regulations and refreshed visual identities, but also placed more people in front of the camera. We established clearer frameworks, but encouraged experimentation within them. We promoted international projects, but also created more room for National and Local Groups to showcase their own work. We celebrated ELSA's history while continuing to shape how its story will be told in the future.

The most meaningful result was not any individual rebrand, Reel or campaign. It was seeing ELSA International's communication become a truer reflection of the Association it represents: international yet personal, professional yet approachable, consistent yet capable of change.

Throughout the year, the Brand Book remained our anchor, protecting the identity that connects the Network across borders. At the same time, audiovisual communication, authentic storytelling and greater collaboration allowed us to move towards new horizons. Together, they demonstrated that ELSA's brand is not simply a collection of logos, colours and typefaces. It is the way we communicate our values, recognise our volunteers and invite others to become part of our community.

After 45 years, ELSA's greatest achievement cannot be measured solely through its projects, partnerships or institutional milestones. It is found in the people whose lives it has touched, the friendships it has created and the countless individuals who, like me, found their place, their passion and, most importantly, their people.



ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

TWO PROJECTS; ONE PATH



ANASTASIOS VAVVAS

VICE PRESIDENT IN CHARGE OF ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES
INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF ELSA 2025/2026

Projects are the language through which ELSA creates change. They are how we transform our vision into action, connect with society, and leave a lasting impact on thousands of people every year. It is therefore only natural that the highest recognition within our Association is reserved for the projects that best embody these values: ELSA's Flagship Projects. This term marked a historic milestone for Academic Activities as an area and for ELSA as a whole. Following the preliminary approval received at the 87th International Council Meeting in Malta, the 88th International Council Meeting in Helsinki officially recognised both the Annual Human Rights Campaign and the Rule of Law Education Project as Flagship Projects of ELSA.

The significance of this achievement extends far beyond the recognition of two successful projects. Under ELSA's current regulatory framework, becoming a Flagship Project requires the most demanding decision making processes within the Association. A proposal must be approved by two consecutive International Council Meetings, one in spring and one in autumn, meaning that two different Councils, composed of different officers, must independently conclude that a project fulfills the highest standards established by ELSA. Each proposal is accompanied by an extensive report demonstrating how the project satisfies every criterion required for Flagship status.

Successfully completing this process was therefore not only a recognition of the Annual Human Rights Campaign and ROLE, but also the culmination of years of development by countless Academic Activities officers who transformed these initiatives into ELSA's leading platforms for human rights advocacy and rule of law education. Through stronger regulatory frameworks, sustainable financial models, increased accessibility, enhanced visibility and improved international coordination, both projects have grown into examples of what ELSA can achieve when a shared vision is supported by long term commitment.

This milestone also stands as a unique example of continuity within ELSA. It was only possible because two consecutive International Boards carried the same vision through one of the Association's most demanding decision making procedures. The International Board 2024/2025 laid the foundations by preparing the applications and securing their preliminary approval, while the International Board 2025/2026 completed the process by guiding both proposals through their final vote.

Together, these two Boards had the privilege of witnessing the culmination of years of work by generations of Academic Activities officers, proving that ELSA's greatest achievements are never the result of one term alone, but of a shared commitment that extends beyond mandates.

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.

1.2 In order to qualify as a Flagship Project of ELSA, a project should:

- a. be continuously organised over a period of at least 3 years;
- b. engage law students and young lawyers from at least a third of the Network or be organised by at least 10 National Groups;
- c. be coordinated by ELSA International and supported by the National Groups of ELSA;
- d. have a uniform brand across the Network.

1.3 In order to be included or removed from the list of Flagship Projects of ELSA, besides fulfilling the criteria set out in Article 1.2, the Council needs to vote favourably on its inclusion or removal at consecutive Spring and Autumn International Council Meetings.

1.4 ELSA International shall publish a Report in the Working Materials of the International Council Meeting for any project that is being proposed to be added or removed from the list of Flagship Projects. The report shall contain a detailed description of the fulfilment of the criteria mentioned in Article 1.2 in regards to the respective project.

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.

EXCERPT FROM THE ICM DECISION BOOK FOLLOWING THE ICM HELSINKI AMENDMENTS



MID PLENARY DURING ICM HELSINKI AFTER THE PROPOSALS WERE SUCCESSFULLY INTRODUCED



COVERS OF THE FIRST EDITIONS OF THE NEW FLAGSHIP PROJECT REPORTS

IMPACT ON THE GROUND



ANASTASIOS VAVVAS

VICE PRESIDENT IN CHARGE OF ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES
INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF ELSA 2025/2026

The two newest Flagship Projects of ELSA are, in many ways, completely different. The Annual Human Rights Campaign is a movement built around a common cause, a topic that requires different perspectives, formats, voices and platforms to raise awareness and inspire action. Rule of Law Education Project, on the other hand, is a structured educational initiative built around a clear methodology, empowering law students to bring their knowledge directly into schools and communities.

Despite these differences, both projects share the same foundation: their impact is created at the local level. It is there, within classrooms, communities and conversations, that human rights and the Rule of Law become more than concepts. It is there that young people discover their role in protecting democracy, understanding their rights and contributing to a fairer society. The following pages showcase the impact created on the ground by ROLE and AHRC throughout the term, highlighting the people reached, the activities delivered and the dedication of the ELSA members who transformed these projects from international initiatives into meaningful local action.

RULE OF LAW



Mateo Štimac
Coordinator for
ROLE Coaching



Enara Könözyová
Director for ROLE



Vuksan Jovanović
Coordinator for
ROLE Training Conference

ROLE is built on a multiplication effect. Starting from the international level, where knowledge, methodology and support are developed, the project travels through National Groups and local organisers until reaching the communities where its true impact is created. Every training, every facilitator and every school session represents another step in bringing the Rule of Law closer to young people across Europe.

This year marked the organisation of the 4th ROLE Training Conference, bringing together future ROLE multipliers from across the Network. 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 within their countries. Beyond its educational purpose, the Conference remained a unique space for networking, connecting ELSA members passionate about civic education and creating a strong community around the project. This year's edition also introduced significant organisational and logistical improvements, further strengthening the foundation for future implementations.

To ensure that this knowledge could successfully reach local communities, this term we further developed the ROLE Coaching System. A dedicated ROLE Coaching Team composed of experienced ELSA officers was created to provide personalised guidance to organisers throughout their implementation journey. By assigning each organiser a dedicated coach from ELSA International, the project ensured continuous support, practical advice and a stronger connection between international coordination and local implementation.



However, the true measure of ROLE's success lies where its impact is ultimately created: at the local level, where Rule of Law values are shared, discussed and brought to life within communities.



This year, a record 27 National Groups joined the ROLE project, with 20 actively implementing ROLE and 7 preparing their first implementation. This expansion translated into tangible impact across Europe, bringing Rule of Law education to new communities and new generations. Throughout the term, ROLE reached 60 cities and communities, contributing to a total of 78 cities where facilitators have delivered interactive sessions and inspired young people through Rule of Law education.

From Iceland to Malta, from Portugal to Azerbaijan, ELSA members continue to transform legal knowledge into action, strengthening the Rule of Law one community at a time.

109 SCHOOLS VISITED
4686 PUPILS IMPACTED
27 NATIONAL ROLE PROJECTS
352 ELSA MEMBERS ENGAGED AS FACILITATORS
216 ROLE SESSIONS DELIVERED IN SCHOOLS

A NEW ERA OF SUPPORT



MICHAŁ PODLEWSKI

DIRECTOR FOR GRANTS

ELSA INTERNATIONAL TEAM 2025/2026

This year marked the beginning of a new era of support for ROLE. What started as an ambitious educational initiative has now evolved into one of ELSA's most strategically supported projects, demonstrating how sustained investment can transform both international and local impact. Through the successful implementation of the €60,000 grant awarded by the European Youth Foundation, ROLE not only became more accessible than ever before, but also introduced a completely new model of financial support within the Association. For the first time in ELSA's history, a single project generated sufficient scale and structure to establish its own internal funding mechanism, setting a precedent for how international funding can empower local initiatives across the Network.

The €60,000 grant was strategically divided between strengthening international capacity-building and expanding national implementation. Half of the funding enabled the organisation of the 4th ROLE Training Conference, making it the most financially accessible international event organised by ELSA. The grant covered accommodation, meals, transportation reimbursements, and the organisational costs required to deliver a high-quality training experience, ensuring that participation was determined by motivation rather than financial means.

The remaining €30,000 was invested directly in the Network through the newly established ROLE Subgranting System. Following the development of a comprehensive framework for applications, evaluation, selection, contracting, monitoring, and reporting, funding was awarded to 10 National ROLE Projects across Europe. More than a financial mechanism, the Subgranting System introduced a new standard of project coordination, accountability, and strategic support within ELSA. It demonstrated that international funding can be translated into sustainable local impact, enabling National Groups to expand their ROLE activities while strengthening the governance and long-term development of the project itself.

The successful implementation of both the Training Conference and the Subgranting System reflects the remarkable growth of ROLE over recent years. Beyond supporting individual activities, this investment established a lasting framework for collaboration, capacity-building, and financial sustainability, making this grant not only a milestone for ROLE, but a defining moment in the evolution of ELSA's project portfolio.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND CLIMATE JUSTICE



NISHAN HÜLBIG

DIRECTOR FOR ANNUAL HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN
ELSA INTERNATIONAL TEAM 2025/2026

The Annual Human Rights Campaign continues to be ELSA's largest platform for mobilising the Network around human rights challenges. Each year, it transforms one common theme into hundreds of local initiatives, allowing National and Local Groups to address global issues through their own perspectives and communities.

This year's Campaign focused on **Human Rights and Climate Justice**, exploring the connection between environmental challenges and the protection of fundamental rights. Throughout the term, our work focused on two main priorities: increasing the visibility and recognition of organisers, who are at the heart of the Campaign's impact, and strengthening the structure of AHRC to ensure its long-term development as a sustainable annual initiative.

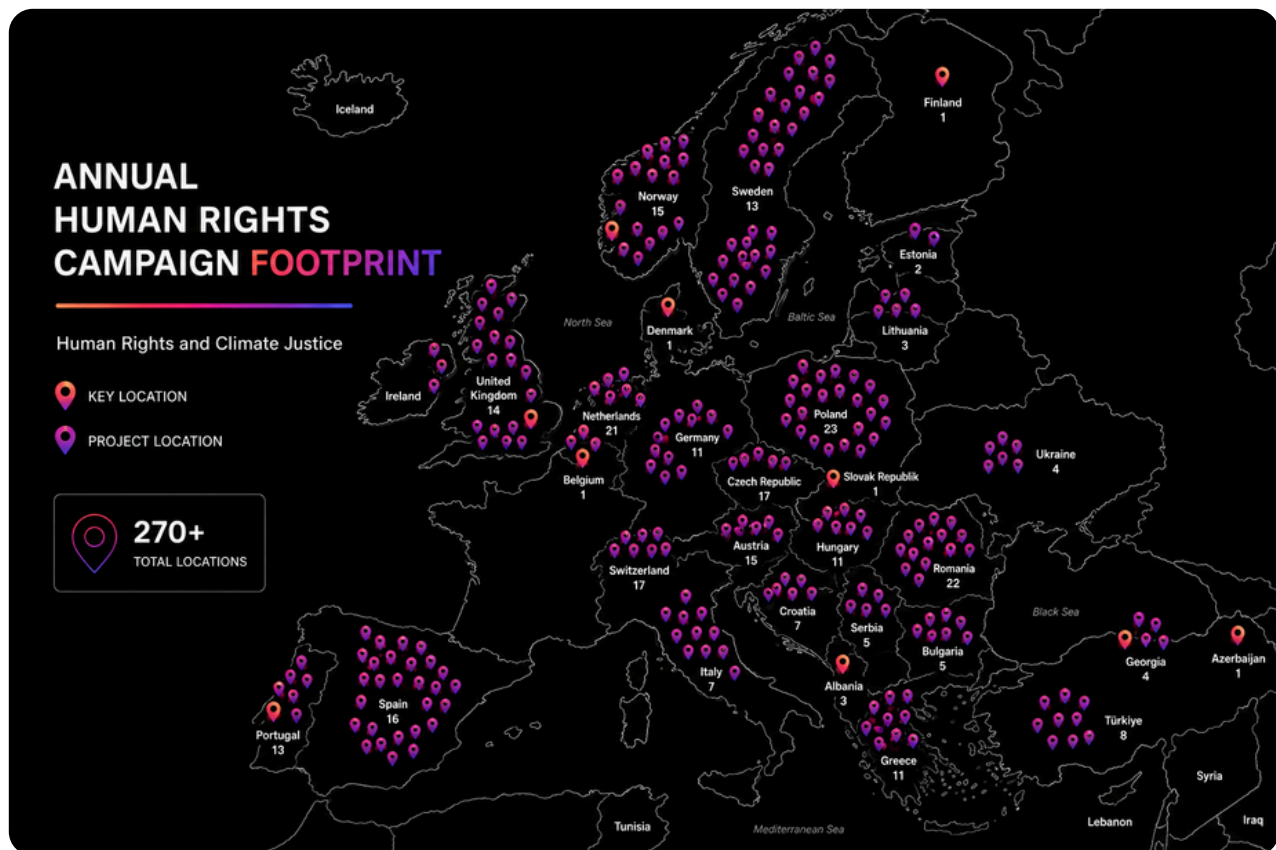
For the first time, a dedicated **AHRC Coaching System** was introduced to provide individualised guidance to organisers throughout the implementation of their activities. In parallel, the structure of periodically releasing supporting materials every four months was maintained, ensuring that organisers continued to receive timely resources, guidance and inspiration throughout the Campaign.

The AHRC Visibility Spotlight was launched to showcase the work of National and Local Groups, highlighting their efforts and increasing the visibility of human rights initiatives across the Network.

At the same time, supporting materials were further developed and shared, while the AHRC Competition continued to recognise and encourage high-quality initiatives.



These developments contributed to another year of strong engagement and impact. Through conferences, seminars, workshops, competitions and awareness activities, AHRC continued to bring human rights discussions closer to communities across Europe, demonstrating once again that meaningful change starts with education, dialogue and collective action.



These developments contributed to another year of strong engagement and impact. Through conferences, seminars, workshops, competitions and awareness activities, AHRC continued to bring human rights discussions closer to communities across Europe, demonstrating once again that meaningful change starts with education, dialogue and collective action.

The 14th Campaign has proven that large-scale, legally rooted human rights campaigns can remain simple in spirit while achieving exceptional reach and quality. This year's growth, both in numbers and substance, demonstrates the Network's ability to adapt, scale, and lead.

As we move forward into the next Campaign focused on Human Rights in Digital Democracy, the momentum built this year provides a powerful foundation for even greater achievements to come.

<Annual Human Rights Campaign>
14TH EDITION

29 NATIONAL GROUPS PARTICIPATED
110 LOCAL GROUPS PARTICIPATED
> 29,000 PARTICIPANTS REACHED

FROM REVIVAL TO ROUTINE

ELSA LAW REVIEW



VELINA STOYANOVA & NIKOLA PANTELIC

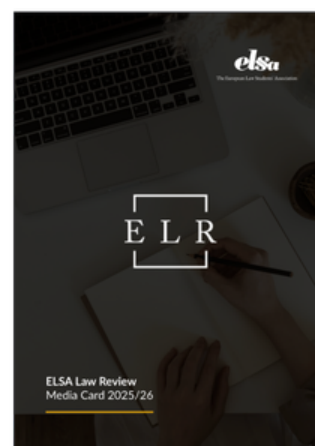
DIRECTOR FOR PUBLICATIONS;
ASSISTANT FOR ELSA LAW REVIEW
ELSA INTERNATIONAL TEAM 2025/2026

Following the successful revival of the ELSA Law Review in the previous term, this year was dedicated to achieving something equally significant: consistency. As ELSA's oldest flagship project and one that lies at the very heart of legal education by promoting academic writing and legal research, the ELSA Law Review entered a new phase of development. After years of uncertainty, the project demonstrated that its return was not temporary but sustainable, becoming a stable and recurring publication once again.

For the first time in many years, two consecutive volumes were successfully completed within the same term. The 16th Volume was published in December, while applications for the 17th Volume opened in January. By the end of the term, the editorial process for the 17th Volume had reached its final stage, with publication scheduled for the beginning of August. This achievement reflects not only improved planning and coordination, but also the establishment of a reliable publication cycle capable of delivering high-quality academic work on a regular basis.

Alongside restoring regularity, the ELSA Law Review continued to expand its outreach. To strengthen engagement with prospective authors, a dedicated ELR Media Card was introduced as a new promotional tool. Rather than relying primarily on social media, the campaign shifted its focus towards universities, recognising that students and young researchers are best reached through academic institutions.

The Media Card presented the purpose of the project, the theme of the Volume, and the application process in a concise and accessible format, enabling universities to promote the opportunity directly to their students and reinforcing the ELSA Law Review's position within the academic community.



BEYOND LEGAL EDUCATION



DHIMITËR ZGURO

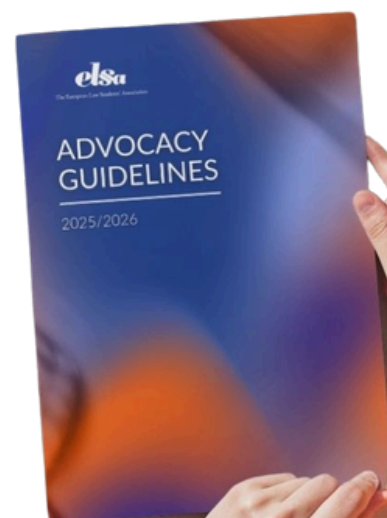
DIRECTOR FOR ADVOCACY

ELSA INTERNATIONAL TEAM 2025/2026

Advocacy has been one of ELSA's defining characteristics for a long time. Throughout this term, our objective was not only to continue advocating for the values of the Association, but also to strengthen the way in which advocacy is understood, developed and implemented across the Network. Our work therefore focused on three complementary pillars: supporting the Network, making greater use of the advocacy potential already present within ELSA's projects, and reflecting on the future development of advocacy within the Association.

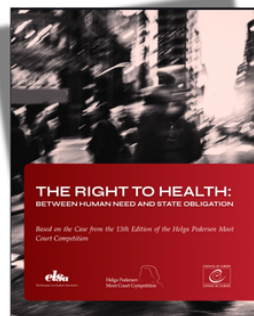
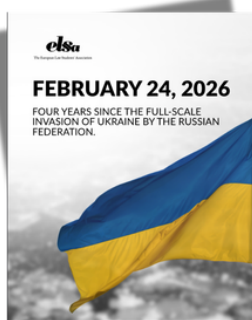
The first pillar focused on providing National and Local Groups with clearer guidance and practical support. Throughout the year, considerable work was dedicated to drafting and publishing the Advocacy Guidelines, providing the Network with a common framework and shared principles for advocacy activities. Rather than limiting advocacy, the Guidelines were designed to clarify the existing framework, promote transparency and consistency, and support Groups in developing their own initiatives while remaining faithful to ELSA's values. To complement this work, dedicated workshops were organised during International Internal Meetings, creating an opportunity to explain the Guidelines, exchange experiences with the Network and gather valuable feedback that will contribute to their future development.

At the same time, we sought to make greater use of the considerable advocacy potential already embedded within ELSA's existing projects. This has always been one of ELSA's greatest strengths, and throughout the term we continued to build upon it. The legal and societal issues addressed by the John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition and the Helga Pedersen Human Rights Moot Court Competition were highlighted through dedicated advocacy publications, while the Annual Human Rights Campaign remained one of our strongest regular advocacy tool. More specific publications also focused on the topics of Pride Month, the situation in Gaza and the war in Ukraine. Throughout these publications, particular attention was paid to transparency by systematically citing the sources used, encouraging readers to explore the issues further while reinforcing the credibility and neutrality of our communication.



Finally, the term also provided an opportunity to reflect on how advocacy within ELSA can continue to evolve. Discussions surrounding the ELSA Delegations explored how one of ELSA's flagship projects could further strengthen its advocacy dimension, while the publication of the Advocacy Guidelines established a valuable basis for future discussions by providing a clearer picture of the current state of advocacy within the Association. Conversations held during International Council Meetings, together with continuous exchanges with the Network, also enabled us to refine our publications and adapt the way in which we communicate ELSA's positions and values.

Alongside this, numerous discussions with the members of the Advocacy Team generated new ideas and perspectives on how ELSA can continue to advocate effectively while remaining fully aligned with its identity and constitutional framework.



None of this work would have been possible without the dedication of the members of the Advocacy Team composed by our Director Dhimitër Zguro, and our three Assistants Ana Lira, Kuba Krzemiński and Antonio Anghel whose commitment, expertise and willingness to engage in thoughtful discussions greatly contributed to the progress achieved throughout the year. Their readiness to challenge ideas, propose new approaches and continuously reflect on the role of advocacy within ELSA has been invaluable, and we would like to express our sincere gratitude for their work and support throughout the term.

PLANTING THE SEED



AUORE TALAZAC

DIRECTOR FOR ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES
ELSA INTERNATIONAL TEAM 2025/2026

While many of this year's achievements can be measured through tangible results, one of the most meaningful developments lies in what has only just begun. This term marked the beginning of a new conversation within ELSA on the future of Social Responsibility not as a collection of isolated initiatives, but as a structured project capable of creating measurable impact across the Network.

The first seed was planted during the 88th International Council Meeting in Helsinki, where an initial vision for a new international Social Responsibility project was presented to the Network. The idea centred on rethinking how ELSA approaches social responsibility by moving beyond participation-based activities towards a model focused on tangible community impact, international coordination, and local implementation. The discussions that followed demonstrated a genuine interest in creating a more structured framework that could strengthen ELSA's contribution to society while remaining rooted in its educational mission.

Throughout the year, the concept continued to evolve through discussions with members of the Network, including a dedicated workshop during the EIT Weekend. These exchanges transformed an initial idea into a concrete project proposal, refining its objectives, methodology, and long-term vision.

By the time of the 89th International Council Meeting in Brno, the proposal had developed into a comprehensive framework centred on the principle of Think Global. Act Local. Measure Impact. The project envisions international participation combined with locally organised volunteering initiatives, creating measurable outcomes that allow ELSA to demonstrate its social impact in a consistent and meaningful way across Europe.

Although the project is yet to be implemented, this year established its foundations. More importantly, it initiated a broader discussion on the role ELSA can play in addressing societal challenges, not only by educating future lawyers, but by empowering them to create tangible change within their communities.

COMPETITIONS

WE MADE IT TO THE UNITED NATIONS LIBRARY!



INÊS RIBEIRO

VICE PRESIDENT IN CHARGE OF COMPETITIONS

INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF ELSA 2025/2026

The inclusion of the Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition and the John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition within the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law (AVL) Moot Courts section represented a significant milestone for ELSA and for its Flagship Moot Court Competitions. Being featured alongside internationally recognised Moot Court Competitions, such as the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition and the FDI International Arbitration Moot, reflects the growing academic standing and international recognition of ELSA'S Moot Courts as leading educational platforms.

The United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law is one of the most comprehensive and respected educational resources dedicated to international law. Through its extensive collection of lectures delivered by leading scholars and practitioners, historical documents, legal instruments, and research materials, the AVL has become an indispensable reference for students, legal professionals, universities, and institutions worldwide. Its free and open-access format embodies the United Nations' commitment to promoting the teaching, study, dissemination, and wider appreciation of international law by ensuring that high-quality legal resources are available to anyone, regardless of geographical location or institutional affiliation.

Beyond its educational benefits, this initiative significantly enhances the visibility and outreach of the Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition and the John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition. The AVL is consulted by a global audience of students, educators, researchers, practitioners, and institutions interested in international law. Featuring the Moots within this platform increases awareness of the Competitions among prospective participants, universities, and legal professionals across the globe, particularly in jurisdictions where opportunities to engage with international moot court competitions remain limited. This increased visibility aligns with ELSA's commitment to fostering greater accessibility, inclusivity, and participation in international legal education.

The collaboration also reinforced the shared objectives of ELSA and the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law. Both institutions seek to strengthen legal education, promote the rule of law, and facilitate broader access to international legal knowledge. Furthermore, the initiative has the potential to create a lasting educational legacy. As the collection develops over time, it will become an enduring repository of carefully selected resources supporting the study of international trade law and WTO dispute settlement as well as human rights law and the European Convention of Human Rights. One more accomplishment for our Flagship Projects!



AUDIOVISUAL LIBRARY
OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

BEYOND THE JOB DESCRIPTION: EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND FUNDRAISING



TOBIAS CONZELMANN & HAROLD VAN KLAVEREN

EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND FUNDRAISING TEAM
ELSA INTERNATIONAL TEAM 2025/2026

In the term 2025/2026 of ELSA the positions of Director and Assistant for External Relations and Fundraising for Moot Court Competitions were created by the Vice-President in Charge of Competitions 2025/2026 for the first time in the history of ELSA. When the positions were posted in the call for the ELSA International Team in August 2025, the description varied from what came to be the tasks that the positions entailed throughout the term - and that is what made the experience so special.

Initially, the positions were created due to the fluctuation in funding for the John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition and the Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition. Therefore, knowledge was required to find new partners and especially assist the Vice-President in Charge of Competitions in any matters regarding External Relations and Fundraising. Before this term, neither Harold nor I had experience in the field of Competitions in ELSA. Harold brought experience from Financial Management, and I brought experience from Board Management, External Relations and Expansion. This combination of these experiences, on the other hand, brought important knowledge to the positions and therefore to the area.

Throughout this term, the tasks expanded beyond assisting the Vice-President in Charge of Competitions in her day-to-day work by creating general knowledge management about External Relations and Fundraising for Competitions within our organisation, with the aim of preserving the valuable insights and takeaways of previous generations of ELSA officers. Recognising that important knowledge is often lost during officer transitions, we set out to create a lasting resource that would bridge this gap for future novice Competition officers and teams. As a result of this initiative, we created the Handbook on Fundraising for Competitions. This concise, yet comprehensive handbook has been designed to equip ELSA officers working in the area of Competitions with a solid understanding of how fundraising operates within this specific context. Rather than leaving officers to learn through trial and error, the handbook consolidates years of accumulated experience into a single, accessible reference tool.

Additionally to this handbook, we provided in-person knowledge transfers through workshops at the International Council Meetings throughout this term. Officers had the chance to gain further knowledge in External Relations and Fundraising and practice it in simulations with fictitious potential partners in various situations when planning a Competition.

Looking back, the freedom of what the position entailed and what it grew into is what made it a valuable and special experience to us. What began as a necessary position to try to stabilise the funding for the John H. Jackson and Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competitions, became an opportunity to create knowledge management materials tailor-made for the Competitions area on 69 which future ELSA officers can build and improve their expertise.

OPENING DOORS, ENSURING ACCESSIBILITY



INÊS RIBEIRO

VICE PRESIDENT IN CHARGE OF COMPETITIONS
INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF ELSA 2025/2026

Competitions are, above all, academic exercises designed to provide participants with the opportunity to develop their legal knowledge and advocacy skills. However, for these opportunities to truly fulfil their purpose, accessibility must remain at its center.

With this principle in mind, throughout the term, the areas of Financial Management and Competitions worked closely together to identify ways to reduce financial barriers and create more equal opportunities for participants across all regions. Ensuring accessibility required looking beyond individual initiatives and approaching financial support as an integral part of the long-term sustainability and inclusiveness of our competitions.

This commitment was reflected throughout the different stages of the Competitions. During the registration phase for the John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition, fee waivers were implemented to support participants facing financial constraints and ensure that economic circumstances would not prevent teams from taking part. Furthermore, significant efforts were dedicated to securing external support, including the application for the UNECA Grant, which aimed to strengthen the African Regional Round and provide additional support to its participants. Through initiatives such as these, ELSA continued to work towards ensuring that its competitions remain truly global platforms where participants from diverse backgrounds can compete on equal footing.

Accessibility also guided the development of opportunities connected to the John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition. One of the most recent achievements in this regard has been the Special Prize for the Best Orator of the European Regional Rounds of the John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition: the opportunity to complete a six-to-eight-week internship at the European Commission in Brussels. Launched during the 23rd Edition of the competition, this prize represents a unique opportunity for participants to gain first-hand professional experience within one of the most significant EU institutions.

During this Edition, efforts were made not only to maintain the prestige and attractiveness of this opportunity but also to ensure that the awardee could fully benefit from it. Recognising that financial considerations could otherwise limit the accessibility of such an experience, support was provided to assist the intern with living expenses in Brussels. By doing so, the prize became not only a recognition of outstanding academic performance and advocacy skills, but also a genuinely accessible opportunity for professional growth.

Looking back, these initiatives reflect a broader commitment: creating competitions where excellence is rewarded, opportunities are accessible, and every participant has the possibility to benefit fully from the experiences that our Moot Court Competitions offer.

AGAINST ALL ODDS: A JOURNEY THROUGH THE JOHN H. JACKSON MOOT



YELYZAVETA FROLKIS

BEST ORATOR OF THE EUROPEAN REGIONAL ROUNDS OF THE 24TH EDITION OF THE JOHN H. JACKSON MOOT COURT COMPETITION

This year spent in the rhythm of the John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition has been, by all means, transformative. My teammates and I were selected almost a year prior to the Final Rounds, in July 2025. We started our preparation with learning the basics of the WTO law from our coaches prior to the release of the case, as none of us had any prior background in trade or WTO law – as for the majority of the law schools out there, this course would have probably been too specific and would only be taught at the Master's level.

We were very much realistic when embarking on this journey – I would not say that we ever wished to advance that far in the Final Rounds, I think in our minds we just wished to try to proceed to Geneva; the best result for our university was actually from one of our coaches' team when they had finished in the quarterfinals in Geneva. Little did we know that we would not only reach the same result, but that we would also top it. I think that such a humble approach helped us not underestimate our competition and do our best at all stages of the competition.

If someone asked me to describe this year in one phrase, I would definitely say “against all odds”. Coached by the student and alumni volunteers from our university, managing to keep up with studies and, for some, work, as well as, for the majority of the team, living through the hardest winter for Ukraine since 2022. I came to Ukraine several times during the preparation period to visit my family as well, but I cannot overestimate the dedication that my teammates (and coaches) showed to continue researching, drafting, and then, pleading, in the shelters, with long hours and days without electricity, heating, or water. Nobody ever complained. We would only check up on each other after the most difficult nights in our group chat and then come back to the discussion of the arguments.

When we arrived in Oslo, we were fully prepared that we might not even advance to the semi-finals of the regional rounds, yet each and every one of us continued staying out late preparing as if we certainly would. That is probably why we screamed and cheered sincerely every single time when we advanced to the next stage – first, into the semi-finals from the second place, then, to the final rounds. As in Oslo I was pleading two of the three submissions for the Respondent, my main priority was not to let the team down, I did not have any specific goals as to awards or other. I was thus genuinely surprised to receive the Best Oralist of the Grand Final. It was so unexpected for me to receive this award that, when we went out of the awards ceremony, my coaches had asked me: “Do you know which prize you get if you become the Best Oralist of both European Regional Rounds?” I, of course, had no idea. “A summer internship at the European Commission”. I was astonished. In around a week or so, I have received confirmation that I scored higher between the two Best Oralists, which meant that I will spend this summer in Brussels.

After our result in Oslo, the stakes got higher. I vividly remember how our coaches', and our own, expectations of ourselves, suddenly got more demanding. Having completed the preliminary rounds, we were more or less sure that we would proceed into the quarterfinals. However, when we learned that we officially became the first team from our university to proceed into the semi-finals (second best result for Ukraine ever), I remember that I almost fainted leaning on one of my teammates. It was a wild mix of tears, happiness, exhaustion and accomplishment. Now, a month later, I revisit the memories from the finals a lot. I have asked myself a couple of times if we could have won, and I think the answer is "probably". At the same time, I have absolutely no regrets and only pride in what we have done. Each of our teammates has made a personal breakthrough in legal skills during this year, and all of us gave our 100% in all of the political and personal circumstances that we all experienced.

Two biggest takeaways for me personally from this competition are not the legal skills, but the friendship (with my teammates and other participants) and self-confidence. It was an honour to meet so many incredible people – among participants, coaches, panellists and organisers – and my team had multiple times regretted that we cannot participate in the JHJ more than once.

John H. Jackson also became special for me, because it did not end with the final hurrah in Geneva. After completing another competition in-between, I came to Brussels for my two-month internship at the Legal Services of the European Commission, within both Trade and Competition units. I turned out to be the second-ever JHJ mootie to participate in this internship, as well as the first one to receive the invaluable financial contribution from ELSA International that enabled me to go. From the very first week, I started working on exceptionally interesting cases and tasks for me – the members of the Legal Service welcomed me in all possible and impossible ways and assisted me throughout the way, and I also had a say in what I would most like to work on. In my role at the EC, I have the opportunity to continue developing my passion for both trade law and arbitration, and I started getting a bit more familiarized with competition law as well. This internship is a unique opportunity for somebody from Ukraine, as, on one hand, the regular Bluebook program only recruits a limited number of the non-EU candidates, while, on the other, experiences in the European institutions are extremely important for Ukrainian students in view of our ongoing negotiation process to become part of the Union. It is thus a huge privilege for me personally to complete such an internship as a Ukrainian citizen, and I strongly believe that, in providing this internship, ELSA International does not only motivate the students to perform better in the competition but also contributes to improving the general accessibility of the legal profession and similar large-scale opportunities in renowned institutions.

THE 14TH EDITION OF THE HELGA PEDERSEN MOOT COURT COMPETITION



INÊS RIBEIRO

VICE PRESIDENT IN CHARGE OF COMPETITIONS
INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF ELSA 2025/2026

76 Registered Teams

31 Countries Represented

61 Teams submitting Written Submissions

57 Teams competed in the Regional Rounds

13 Countries represented in the Final Oral Round

What began over a decade ago as a vision to bring the European Convention on Human Rights to life for law students continues now to flourish, almost fifteen years after. Since its establishment in 2012, the Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition, organised in cooperation with the Council of Europe and the European Court of Human Rights, has provided generations of students with a unique opportunity to engage with human rights law through practical advocacy.

The 14th Edition marked a year of remarkable growth for the Competition. We welcomed the participation and representation of newcomers countries, reflecting the expanding reach and accessibility of the project across the ELSA Network. This growth was equally evident in the organisation of the Regional Rounds, with new host locations joining the Competition for the first time, including the Regional Round held in Malta. These milestones demonstrate the Competition's continued development and its ability to bring high-quality advocacy experiences to an increasingly diverse community of participants.

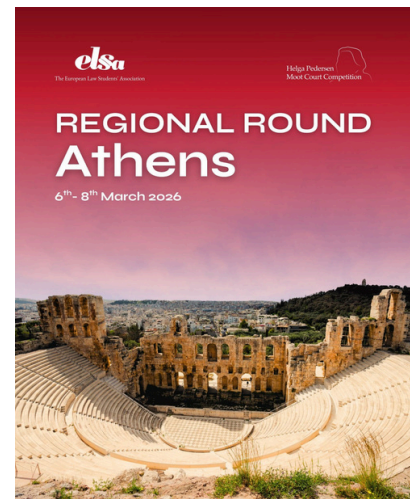
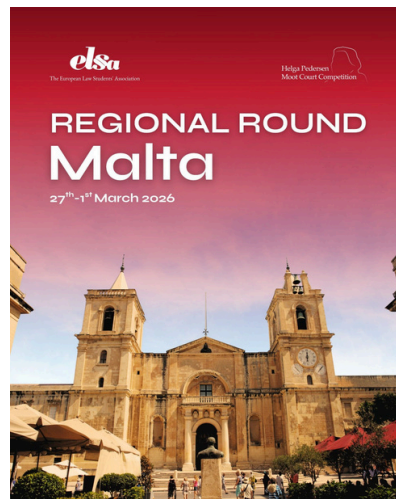
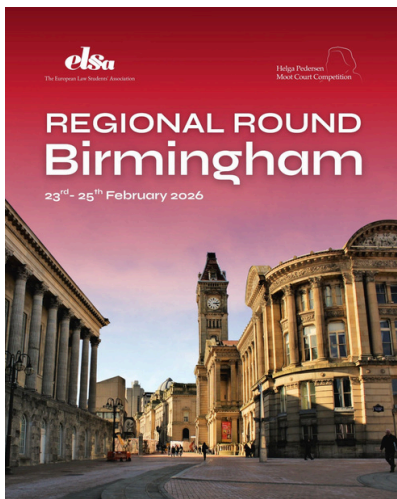
From the publication of this year's case in September, addressing the usage of Artificial Intelligence in criminal proceedings, to the Regional Rounds held between February and March and the Final Oral Round before the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg in June, the Competition once again showcased the exceptional commitment and legal excellence that it is its characteristic. Throughout every stage, teams engaged deeply with the values underpinning the European Convention on Human Rights, contributing to a challenging and rewarding academic experience.

The continued success of the Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition would not have been possible without the dedication of its participants, coaches, judges, Academic Board members, Regional Round Organisers, and institutional partners. Their expertise and commitment remain the foundation upon which the Competition continues to grow.

Finally, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the outstanding members of the ELSA International Team who dedicated countless hours, unwavering enthusiasm, and exceptional professionalism throughout the year. My sincere thanks go to Elena Baciú, Director for the Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition; Anvar Huseynov, Assistant for Teams; Sofia Turati, Assistant for Judges; and Virginija Baranauskaitė, Assistant for Regional Rounds. Their dedication, competence, and passion have been instrumental in making this edition a resounding success!

THE REGIONAL ROUNDS

After the deadline for Written Submissions on the 11th of January 2026, which marked the conclusion of the first stage of the Competition, 61 teams were eligible to participate in the second phase - the Regional Rounds. 57 teams participated in one of the three Regional Rounds, which took place in Birmingham, United Kingdom, Valletta, Malta, and Athens, Greece, from February to March 2026. A huge thank you and congratulations to the organisers of ELSA Birmingham, ELSA Malta and ELSA Greece for their efforts and dedication in organising such successful events!



Each Regional Round was held over the course of three days, beginning with an Opening Ceremony and followed by two days of Oral Pleadings. Throughout the pleadings, every team represented both the Applicant and the Respondent, ensuring a balanced and comprehensive advocacy experience.



Beyond the academic programme, each Regional Round offered a carefully curated cultural and social programme, providing participants with valuable opportunities to connect, exchange experiences, and build lasting relationships. These activities remain an essential component of the Competition, reflecting ELSA's commitment to fostering mutual understanding, international cooperation, and friendship among law students across Europe.

ASSISTANT FOR REGIONAL ROUNDS - THE RIGHT ARM OF THE VP C THROUGHOUT THIS JOURNEY!



VIRGINIJA BARANAUSKAITĖ

ASSISTANT FOR REGIONAL ROUNDS OF THE HPMCC
ELSA INTERNATIONAL TEAM 2025/2026

On paper, the role of Assistant for Regional Rounds of the Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition is quite straightforward: guiding the Regional Round Organisers throughout their preparation and ensuring that each Regional Round meets the standards of the Competition. For many participants and coaches, the Regional Rounds are their first direct experience with ELSA. Therefore, the Regional Rounds must reflect the professionalism and values of our Association.

In practice, however, the role extends far beyond coordinating timelines and monitoring progress. As Assistant for Regional Rounds, my role was, in many ways, to prepare for the unpredictable. Every host brought its own ideas, challenges, and local context, and my responsibility was to provide guidance, share best practices, and support each Organising Committee in delivering a Regional Round of the highest standard. It was a role that required flexibility, trust, and constant communication - one that I genuinely enjoyed from beginning to end.

One of the greatest highlights of the position was watching each Regional Round develop from an initial idea into a successful event. What began with introductory meetings, presentations on the Regional Round structure, and discussions about key organisational aspects evolved into months of close cooperation with the dedicated hosts - ELSA Birmingham, ELSA Malta, and ELSA Greece. Throughout this process, I had the privilege of working alongside passionate members of our Association who dedicated countless hours to delivering successful Regional Rounds. I am also grateful to Inês for her tireless work in ensuring the smooth organisation of both the Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition and the John Jackson Moot Court Competition, and to the EIT Team for their invaluable support throughout the term.

After months of preparation, it was incredibly rewarding to see these efforts come to life. On 23 February, my Regional Round journey began in Birmingham, where Inês and I attended the first Regional Round of the 14th edition. The pleading venue, with its distinctive atmosphere reminiscent of the world of Harry Potter, created a memorable setting for the Competition. The Organising Committee, together with President Sundal and Vice President in charge of Competitions Ayaan, welcomed us warmly and ensured that every aspect of the event ran seamlessly.

From Birmingham, we travelled to sunny Malta, where the largest Regional Round of the edition took place, with 22 teams from all around Europe. The Organising Committee together with the Head of OC Timothy, hosted the pleadings at the Court of Justice, which elevated the experience for participants, allowing them to plead their cases in an authentic courtroom.

Beyond the formal programme, ELSA Malta once again showed its hospitality through engaging social events that encouraged participants to connect while enjoying the unique atmosphere of the island.

Our final destination was Athens, where ELSA Greece hosted the last Regional Round of this edition. The largest Organising Committee with Head of OC Evangelia and three Co-Heads of the OC Christine, Kyriaki and Haris who showed impressive coordination, with every member of the OC taking on a clearly defined role that contributed to the smooth delivery of the event. A personal highlight was experiencing the local cuisine, thoughtfully incorporated into the programme and offering participants the opportunity to enjoy not only the Competition but also the culture of the host country.

At every Regional Round, one moment stood out in particular: seeing the relief and pride of the Organising Committees as months of preparation culminated in a successful event. Witnessing their hard work pay off was as rewarding as the Competition itself.

Equally valuable were the relationships built throughout the year. Our monthly meetings gradually became much more than discussions about venues, catering or printed materials. They became opportunities to celebrate successes, support one another during exam periods, and learn more about the people behind each Organising Committee. By the time we met in person, it felt less like meeting colleagues for the first time and more like reconnecting with friends who had been working towards the same goal for months.

Serving as Assistant for Regional Rounds was a deeply rewarding experience. It gave me the opportunity to support the hosts, witness exceptional teamwork across Europe, and contribute to creating memorable experiences for participants and coaches. Above all, it reaffirmed that the success of the Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition is built not only on careful planning and high standards, but also on the commitment, enthusiasm, and collaboration of the people who bring it to life.

THE FINAL ORAL ROUND

The Final Oral Round of the 14th Edition of the Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition gathered teams from all over Europe in Strasbourg, France, between the 1st to the 5th of June 2026. As per tradition, the Final Oral Round took place in the Palais de l'Europe, with the Grand Final taking place in the European Court of Human Rights. The team from the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy emerged as the Winner of the 14th Edition, with the Team from Maastricht University being the Runner-Up Team!



The esteemed Grand Final Bench was composed of seven judges, including the active Judge of the European Court of Human Rights - Judge Diana Sarcu from the Republic of Moldova.

We were also honoured by the presence of the President-elect of the Court, Judge Mattias Guyomar, who presented the Winner Award, and the Registrar of the Court, Marielena Tsirli, who handed over the Runner-Up Award.



*President-elect of the ECtHR,
Judge Mattias Guyomar*



*Registrar of the ECtHR,
Marielena Tsirli*

SUPPORTERS OF THE 14TH EDITION

ELSA would like to express its deepest gratitude to all the supporters of the 14th Edition of the Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition, starting with the Council of Europe and the European Court of Human Rights for their technical and financial support. The financial and organisational contributions from the Permanent Representations of the Czech Republic, Monaco and Switzerland, as well as the City of Strasbourg. Their unwavering support throughout the stages of the Competition is instrumental in successfully organising this project, and especially the Final Oral Round in Strasbourg.



Czech Republic



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Représentation permanente de la Suisse
auprès du Conseil de l'Europe



Présidence de / Presidency of
MONACO
Conseil de l'Europe / Council of Europe
05/2026 - 11/2026

THE 24TH EDITION OF THE JOHN H. JACKSON MOOT COURT COMPETITION



INÊS RIBEIRO

VICE PRESIDENT IN CHARGE OF COMPETITIONS
INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF ELSA 2025/2026

106 Registered Teams
38 Countries Represented
90 Teams submitting Written Submissions
77 Teams competing in Regional Rounds
11 Countries represented in the FOR

For over two decades, the John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition has brought together students, academics, legal practitioners, and professionals from across the globe, fostering excellence in international trade law and dispute settlement. Organised in cooperation with the World Trade Organization, the Competition continues to provide participants with a unique opportunity to deepen their understanding of trade law while developing essential advocacy, legal research, and oral pleading skills.

The 24th Edition of the John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition was characterised by growth, diversity, and newcomers. This year welcomed teams from countries that had never before been represented in the Competition, further expanding its global outreach and reinforcing its role as a truly international academic platform. The Regional Rounds also continued to evolve, with new host locations joining the Competition for the first time, allowing even more students to experience the unique combination of academic excellence and international exchange that defines the John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition.

Throughout both the written and oral phases, participants engaged with complex and contemporary issues of international trade law, demonstrating outstanding legal analysis, advocacy, and teamwork. Guided by the expertise of distinguished panellists from around the world, the Competition once again provided an invaluable opportunity for participants to refine their skills while building lasting professional and personal connections across jurisdictions.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the dedication of the participating teams, coaches, panellists, Regional Round organisers, and partners, whose commitment ensured the continued success and academic excellence of the Competition.

I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation to the ELSA International Team members who worked tirelessly behind the scenes throughout the year. My heartfelt thanks go to

Beyza Çakır, Director for the John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition;
Jacek Korzeniewski, Assistant for Teams;
Diana Deputat, Assistant for Panellists;
Austėja Rikutė, Assistant for the European Regional Rounds;
Monica Buțerchi, Assistant for the Regional Rounds outside Europe.

Their reliability, initiative, and unwavering commitment enabled the Competition to continue expanding its reach while maintaining the high standards that are its characteristics.



THE REGIONAL ROUNDS

90 Teams submitted their Written Submissions by the deadline on the 11th of January 2026, which made them eligible to participate in the second stage of the Competition. 77 teams participated in one of the six Regional Rounds organised across the globe. They took place in Brussels, Belgium; Oslo, Norway; Jodhpur, India; Perú, Lima; Yaoundé, Cameroon; and Beijing, China, from February to April 2026.



Each Regional Round was held over the course of four or five days, comprising an Opening Ceremony, Preliminary Rounds, Semi-Finals, the Grand Final, and an Award Ceremony. Throughout the Competition, participants had the opportunity to engage in high-level advocacy before experienced panellists while competing in a dynamic and collaborative environment.

Complementing the academic programme, every Regional Round featured a diverse cultural and social programme, creating meaningful opportunities for participants and panellists to connect beyond the pleadings. These activities remain a defining element of the Competition, fostering international cooperation, professional exchange, and lasting friendships among law students and practitioners from across the globe.



1st European Regional Round, Belgium



West & South Asia Regional Round, India



East Asia & Oceania Regional Round, China



African Regional Round, Cameroon



2nd European Regional Round, Norway



All-American Regional Round, Perú

ASSISTANTS FOR REGIONAL ROUNDS - THE RIGHT ARM OF THE VP C THROUGHOUT THIS JOURNEY!



AUSTĖJA RIČKUTĖ

ASSISTANT FOR EUROPEAN REGIONAL ROUNDS OF THE JHJMCC
ELSA INTERNATIONAL TEAM 2025/2026

The position of the Assistant of the European Regional Rounds consisted primarily of three periods. First was the introduction to the role stage: getting familiar with the materials, JHJMCC team and preparing for the start of work together with the hosts. During the second period I met up with the organising committees and started our work together. This period took the longest, from September till February/March. Throughout the period I had regular calls with both committees, answering their questions, getting updates on how the preparations are going, as well as having individual calls with certain members to assure that everything goes smoothly. Parallely had calls with the JHJ team individually and all together to ensure that everyone was on the same page and the preparations were going smoothly. The last period included actual trips to the regional rounds to execute and supervise them. This year the European Regional Rounds happened in Belgium (Brussels & Leuven) and in Norway, Oslo.

As the Assistant throughout this tenure I was able to assist 2 organising committees on the preparation and execution of this competition. The first regional round was organised in mid February in Belgium. The organising committee consisted of two ELSA local groups, Saint-Louis and Leuven. They started their preparations in early September, and throughout this period until the regional round we had regular calls with the whole team, as well as individual calls to ensure that everyone knew what their position was and what they had to do to prepare for the round. Simultaneously the preparations for the second European round started together with the ELSA Norway board. Work with both teams differed significantly, since the Belgian team was a lot bigger in size, it needed a lot more coordination from myself and the Head of OC, while the Norwegian team was smaller in size, but was a lot more structured and independent. Due to this, my contributions towards the organisation differed as well. But I'm glad to say that both rounds were successful and participants could fully focus on their performance in the competition.

The actual rounds passed quite quickly. During the first round I was able to stay at the ELSA house and together with the International Board travel to supervise the rounds, participate in activities and help with the execution. It was an insightful experience as well as fun and I couldn't be more grateful to the IB for welcoming me into their house. During the second round I traveled to Oslo and met up with the team there. The OC graciously hosted us there as well. Throughout these rounds together with the IB/EIT we managed to not only oversee the rounds but experience the culture of each hosting country, meet many exceptional panelists and inspiring participants.

ASSISTANTS FOR REGIONAL ROUNDS - THE RIGHT ARM OF THE VP C THROUGHOUT THIS JOURNEY!



MONICA-DIANA BUTERCHI

ASSISTANT FOR REGIONAL ROUNDS OUTSIDE OF EUROPE OF THE
JHJMCC
ELSA INTERNATIONAL TEAM 2025/2026

The version of myself from a few years ago, deeply rooted in S&C and BEE, would never have believed I'd become so attached to a Competitions project. Yet, here I am, incredibly thankful for the opportunity to have served as Assistant for Regional Rounds outside Europe for two consecutive years. Looking back at the 24th Edition of the John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition, I can finally say, "What a journey!"

I began this term with the firm belief that last year's experience had fully prepared me to navigate all this project's complexities. Little did I know, a series of entirely new situations awaited. From the deep research involved in identifying new universities to participate in the competition, to the recurring meetings with all four hosts of the Regional Rounds; from the 31-hour journeys between rounds, to the lost luggage (sometimes even twice in one week!), this Edition was seasoned with all the spices. We had a strong start with the West & South Asia Regional Round, held in Jodhpur, India, for the second consecutive year in which the local team was able to once again showcase great organisational and communication skills, despite the international crisis caused by the war driving last-minute flight cancellations and preventing ELSA representatives from being present. Luckily, we were able to travel to Lima, Peru, for the All-American Regional Round, where the vibrant community spirit and warm welcome we received left me wishing I could spend just a few more days with the amazing people we met. We then continued with a long and tumultuous journey straight to Yaoundé, Cameroon, for the African Round, where the absence of our baggage was more than compensated by the tremendous help we received from the members of the Organising Committee. We ended this edition monumentally with the East Asia & Oceania Regional Round held in Beijing, China, which was, in every way possible, a great example of professionalism and textbook collaboration.

As initially mentioned, this was by no means a smooth sail; managing meetings across numerous time zones, dealing with last-minute panellist cancellations, or facilitating online participation for teams unable to travel were only a few of the obstacles we encountered. Yet, every challenge was surmountable thanks to the exceptional support of the Vice President in charge of Competitions, the JHJMCC ELSA International Team and the Regional Round Organisers.

All in all, I believe this year's highly successful Regional Rounds not only significantly contributed to the John H. Jackson Competition's international recognition but also perfectly set the stage for a great anniversary edition next year.

THE FINAL ORAL ROUND

The Regional Rounds culminated in a highly competitive Final Oral Round held in Geneva, Switzerland, from the 23rd to 27th of June 2026, bringing together the best 24 Teams from all around the globe. During the Final Oral Round, the participants were hosted by the Geneva Graduate Institute and the World Trade Organization. The Team from the University of Nairobi emerged as the Winner of the 24th Edition of the Competition.

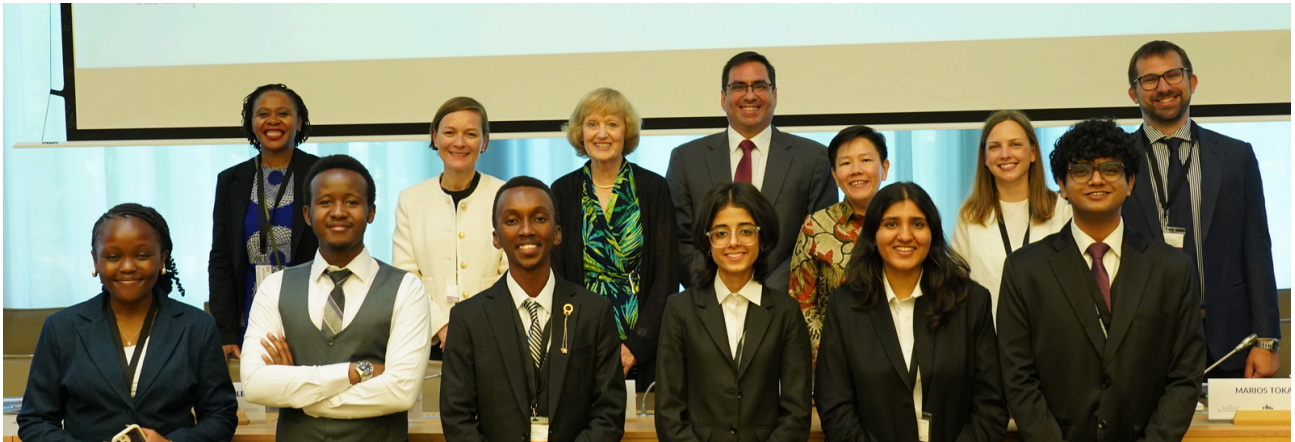


Participants with the Director-General of the WTO, Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala



Room W of the WTO during the Grand Final of the 24th Edition of The JHJMCC

The Grand Final and Award Ceremony took place in Room W of the WTO Headquarters on the 27th of June and were live-streamed by the Video Conferences Service of the WTO.



SUPPORTERS OF THE 24TH EDITION

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to all the Sponsors and Supporters of the 24th Edition of the John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition. We are deeply grateful for the unwavering technical and institutional support of the World Trade Organization throughout all stages of the Competition. In addition, we want to thank Van Bael & Bellis, Baker McKenzie, Sidley, White & Case, Dentons, Mayer Brown, Nishimura & Asahi, Georgetown University Law Centre, the World Trade Institute, Jus Mundi, and the Advisory Centre for WTO Law for their financial and academic support, that was instrumental in successfully organising the 24th Edition and especially the Final Oral Round.

Technical Supporter



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Supporters of the African Regional Round



THE LEGACY OF THE ALL-AMERICAS REGIONAL ROUNDS



INÊS RIBEIRO

VICE PRESIDENT IN CHARGE OF COMPETITIONS
INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF ELSA 2025/2026

Continuing to build on our predecessors efforts, Kat and I, the Vice President in charge of Marketing, continued to strengthen the legacy of the JHJMCC by creating the **Voices of the Americas Regional Rounds Booklet**.

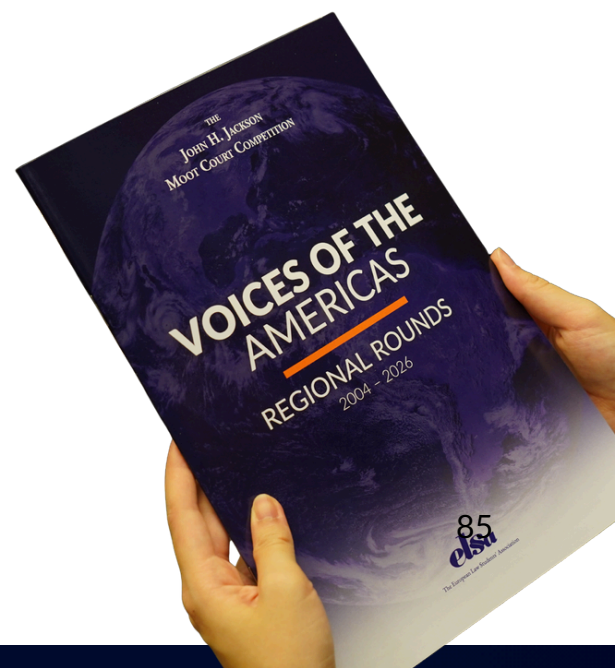
Over the years, we have witnessed countless stories of how participating in the JHJMCC has shaped the academic and professional journeys of students across the globe. For many, the Competition represents a first opportunity to engage deeply with international trade law, develop advocacy skills, build lifelong connections, and become part of a global community of practitioners. Many former participants return as coaches, panellists, and organisers, continuing to contribute to and strengthen the community that helped shape their own careers.

The All-Americas Regional Round holds a particularly special place within the history of the Competition. Present since the earliest editions of the JHJMCC, it has evolved alongside the Competition itself, from separate North American and Latin American Regional Rounds to today's unified Regional Round bringing together participants from across the continent. Its history is a testament to the dedication of the students, coaches, panellists, organisers, universities, and partners who have built this vibrant community over the years.

The JHJMCC proves itself, year after year, as more than a Moot Court Competition. It is a long-term investment in the future of international trade law. Through the knowledge gained and experiences shared, participants become part of a network that continues to grow and contribute to the development of the field.

This booklet is a tribute to the people who have shaped the All-Americas Regional Round and to the lasting impact of this community. It celebrates the achievements of participants, highlights the diversity and excellence that define the region, and serves as a reminder of the importance of supporting initiatives that bring together future generations of international trade law experts.

We are proud to share the stories, history, and legacy of the All-Americas Regional Round, and we hope this booklet inspires future participants to become part of this extraordinary journey!



NISHIMURA & ASAHI - A NEW BRONZE SPONSOR OF THE JOHN H. JACKSON MOOT COURT COMPETITION!



VICTOR CROCHET
PARTNER
NISHIMURA & ASAHI

When Nishimura & Asahi became a partner of the John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition in 2025, we were proud to support one of the most important educational initiatives in the field of international trade law.

The Competition provides students with a unique opportunity to develop practical advocacy, research, and analytical skills while engaging with complex questions of international economic law. Just as importantly, it allows participants to build relationships with peers, academics, and practitioners from around the world, creating a truly global community of future trade lawyers.

This mission is particularly important today. As the WTO and the multilateral trading system face significant challenges, and as trade regulation increasingly shifts toward domestic measures and unilateral instruments, future lawyers must be able to navigate both international rules and their interaction with national legal frameworks. The John H. Jackson Moot Court remains one of the best training grounds for developing these skills. It fosters rigorous legal reasoning, an understanding of the broader policy context, and a lasting appreciation for the role of law in managing international economic relations.

From our perspective as a new partner, ELSA has demonstrated a clear commitment to ensuring the long-term sustainability and reach of the Competition. Through its efforts in external relations and fundraising, ELSA has built strong and stable partnerships with organizations that share an interest in supporting legal education and the next generation of trade law practitioners.

We have particularly appreciated the professionalism and enthusiasm of the ELSA International team throughout our first year of cooperation. Their proactive approach to partner engagement creates a strong foundation for lasting relationships and enables the Competition to continue attracting talented students from across the world.

Nishimura & Asahi is honoured to contribute to this mission and looks forward to supporting the continued growth of the John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition in the years ahead.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

DEVELOPING FORWARDS



HEDIN RAGNFRED INDREGÅRD

VICE PRESIDENT IN CHARGE OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF ELSA 2025/2026

The 2025/2026 term has been characterised by growth and increased activity within the Professional Development area. Across the Network, there has been a noticeable increase in the organisation of Professional Development projects, with more Officers engaging directly with the work of the area and a greater number of initiatives being developed and implemented at the National and Local levels of ELSA.

This increase in activity demonstrates the continued relevance of Professional Development within ELSA. The area plays an important role not only in providing members with direct access to career opportunities, but also in equipping them with the knowledge, skills and experience necessary to develop professionally. The increased engagement of Officers and the continued expansion of projects throughout the Network therefore represent a positive development for the area as a whole.

The goal set out by myself was to ensure the function & future of the Professional Development key area of ELSA. I believe through the changes described following, as well as the active contribution and participation of the Officers of the Network, this goal has been achieved for the 2025/2026 term.

PROVIDING A FRAMEWORK FOR KNOWLEDGE

One of the significant developments during the term was the continued expansion and improvement of the materials available to Professional Development Officers. Throughout the term, individual handbooks as well as supplementary materials and knowledge management resources were developed for each of the codified Professional Development projects.

The purpose of this approach was to provide Officers with more accessible, structured and practical guidance for the implementation of the different projects. Rather than relying on general and broad guidance, the individual handbooks allow each project to be presented in a more focused manner, including relevant information regarding the purpose of the project, its implementation, recommended practices and practical tools.

There are now individual handbooks for every project within the Professional Development key area that is codified in the International Council Meeting Decision Book. With the specialised support in project management by ELSA International, we hope this makes all of our projects more feasible to organise for the Network in the future.

CONNECTING ELSA INTERNATIONAL AND THE NETWORK

Another significant development during the term was the introduction of a new Professional Development Coaching system. Under this system, each member of the Professional Development ELSA International Team was assigned specific National Groups to coach in the Professional Development area. The purpose of this system was to establish a more direct and consistent connection between the ELSA International Team and the National Groups. Rather than relying solely on general communication and broader Network-wide support, the coaching system created a clearer point of contact for each National Group within the area.

Through this system, the members of the ELSA International Team were able to follow the development of their assigned National Groups more closely, provide more targeted support and gain a better understanding of the specific circumstances and needs of the Groups they were coaching. This also allowed for a more proactive approach to coaching, with the possibility of identifying challenges at an earlier stage and providing support before they developed into larger issues. The introduction of the Professional Development Coaching system also strengthened the relationship between the ELSA International Team and the Network. By establishing more direct communication channels, the system created greater opportunities for the exchange of ideas, the sharing of good practices and the development of projects within the area.

While the system will continue to develop in future terms, I believe that the introduction of a more structured approach to Professional Development Coaching will be an important step towards strengthening the support provided to National Groups and ensuring a more consistent development of Professional Development throughout the Network.

ELSA TRAINEESHIPS IN TRANSITION



HEDIN RAGNFRED INDREGÅRD

VICE PRESIDENT IN CHARGE OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF ELSA 2025/2026

The 2025/2026 term marked the 41st consecutive year of ELSA's flagship project, ELSA Traineeships! Throughout the term, the programme operated successfully across both the autumn and spring Cycles, with the second Cycle in spring seeing an increase in the number of Traineeship Applications higher than a consecutive number of cycles before it. This continued interest demonstrates the programme's relevance and popularity among law students and young legal professionals, not only across Europe, but also beyond, all the way from Colombia to India.

JOB HUNTING - FINDING NEW OPPORTUNITIES BEYOND THE CONTINENT

From ELSA International's perspective, the Job Hunting phase during this term was characterised by a combination of continuity and new opportunities. The term saw the continued cooperation with many of our long-standing Traineeship Providers, including Kock's & Partners, the Academy of European Law, Mandat International, the European Centre for Certification and Privacy, Zeidler Legal Services, Butzel Long, Bermeo & Bermeo Law Firm and the Council of Europe Liaison Office to the European Union.

At the same time, the term also saw the introduction or reintroduction of several Traineeship Providers to the programme, including LEXR Germany & Switzerland and the Asociación Latinoamericana de Derecho y Economía, in addition to new partnerships in Latin America that hopefully will result in additional Traineeships in the future. These developments allow ELSA Traineeships to continue expanding its geographical reach and to provide new opportunities for Trainees across different legal systems and regions. ELSA Traineeships have always been about not only providing real legal work, but also this key international and intercultural understanding to our members.

The continued success of the Job Hunting phase would not be possible without the significant efforts of the National and Local Professional Development Officers throughout the Network. Their work remains essential to the continued growth and development of the programme, and we are proud to have reached a total of 173 individual Traineeship Providers during the term, with 87 participating in the first Cycle and 86 in the second Cycle. Of these, 24 Traineeship Providers were acquired directly by ELSA International.

APPLICATIONS IN NUMBERS: THE OUTCOME OF THE CYCLES

Regarding Student Hunting and the number of applications, the term produced a mixed, albeit ultimately positive, result. During the first Cycle, we received a total of **611 applications** from **33 National Groups**, in addition to **12 external applications**. From a strategic perspective, this represented a relatively low number of applications for ELSA Traineeships. This, however, was made up for by the second Cycle providing a higher than usual number for the spring Cycle of a term of ELSA Traineeships.

During the Second and final Cycle of the term, a total of **650 applications** were received from **28 National Groups**, alongside **16 external applications**. This represented a higher number of applications than in the previous few Cycles and demonstrated a positive development in the overall interest in the programme. What was especially inspiring with the second Cycle is how far the reach of ELSA Traineeships was, seeing applications from external law students and young professionals from all the way to Colombia and to India, covering a greater extent of the world than in many Cycles before this spring Cycle. Consequently, if you add together the numbers of the autumn and the spring Cycles throughout the 2025/2026 term, ELSA Traineeships received a total of **1,261 Traineeship Applications**, corresponding to **2,944 individual applications**.

ELSA TRAINEESHIPS TAKING THE NEXT STEP INTO THE FUTURE

While the number of applications remains satisfactory, the most significant accomplishment of the term has been the transition to a new digital platform for ELSA Traineeships. This transition represents an important step in the continued modernisation and development of the programme.

The new platform significantly improves the user experience, provides a more modern and accessible visual identity, and automates and simplifies a number of functions for the ELSA International Traineeships Team. By improving both the external experience of applicants and Traineeship Providers as well as the internal management of the programme, the platform creates a stronger foundation for the future development of ELSA Traineeships. I am confident that this transition will have a positive impact on both the number of Traineeship Providers and the number of applications in the future, allowing the project to reach new heights and further expand its impact.

Another significant development during the term was the introduction of additional regulations concerning the reception of ELSA Trainees. These regulations provide greater clarity regarding the relationship between ELSA International and the National and Local Networks, and establish a clearer framework for the responsibilities involved in the reception of Trainees. There is now a new system in place requiring certain obligations in the reception of Trainees both from ELSA Internationals side, as well as for the National and Local Groups of ELSA that are hosting both their own Trainees, but also those from ELSA Internationals acquired Traineeship Providers.

Finally, a new annual flagship project report has been introduced for ELSA Traineeships. The report provides the Network and our partners with access to more comprehensive data regarding the programme and its development. This will strengthen our ability to evaluate the project, identify trends and areas for improvement, and provide our partners and the Network with a clearer overview of the impact and development of ELSA Traineeships.

HEAR FROM THE TRAINEES

ZUZANNA POCZYCZYŃSKA

TRAINEE AT THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR
BIOETHICS AND TECHNOETHICS
GREECE

“The online traineeship allowed me to combine valuable international experience with my day-to-day duties. I carried out research independently and regularly presented my findings at meetings with my supervisor. I had the freedom to organise my own work, but I also received valuable practical guidance on how to carry it out.”

TUANA ÖZKAN

TRAINEE AT BIOMEDLEX
GREECE

“My traineeship at BioMedLex was an extremely valuable experience for both my academic and professional development. Through research in the fields of bioethics and health law, I had the opportunity to expand my knowledge and strengthen my legal research and analytical skills. Working with the BioMedLex team was both inspiring and highly educational. Throughout the traineeship, the team maintained continuous communication, provided support whenever needed, and was always willing to answer my questions. This allowed me to feel like a part of a professional and international working environment. The experience broadened my perspective on contemporary issues at the intersection of law, medicine, and ethics, while also enhancing my research and critical thinking abilities.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the ELSA Traineeships Programme for providing students with such valuable international opportunities. I would also like to thank BioMedLex for welcoming me as part of their team and for offering such a rewarding learning experience. I highly recommend this traineeship to all law students interested in bioethics, health law, and legal research.

ȚĂPÎRDEA SILVIA-GABRIELA

TRAINEE AT MASTERLAW+ ATTORNEYS AT LAW
TÜRKIYE

“ELSA Traineeships was something truly unique, an adventure that constantly challenged me. This internship definitely pushed me out of my comfort zone, offering me the incredible opportunity to be involved in cases that were widely discussed in the international press. While I was there, I made the most of every chance to travel and discover amazing places. It was a fascinating learning process within a vibrant environment that consistently provided me with new perspectives.

HEAR FROM THE TRAINEES

HANNA MELKAS

TRAINEE AT CERHA HEMPEL DEZSŐ AND PARTNERS LAW FIRM
HUNGARY

“My two-month traineeship in Budapest was extremely valuable for my future career and gave me meaningful insight into the operations of an international law firm. While I arrived with a strong foundation in legal theory, the opportunity to apply this knowledge in practice made the experience particularly rewarding. I also had the chance to explore a broad range of legal areas in practice, which helped me better understand my interests and clarify the direction I would like to pursue in the future. Through meetings with the national ELSA group, I also connected with local law students, which further enriched my stay. Overall, this experience strengthened my ambition to pursue international legal career opportunities.

ÁLVARO GARCÍA GÓMEZ

TRAINEE AT RÎȘNIȚĂ ALEXANDRU - CABINET DE AVOCAT
ROMANIA

“The experience has been truly positive. I've returned from Cluj-Napoca with a different perspective on law; more open, more honest, more realistic. I definitely recommend doing this type of internship as often as possible. I'll be back.

DARIA LUNCA

TRAINEE AT ATTORNEY OFFICE ALEXANDRU RÎȘNIȚĂ
ROMANIA

“I completed a two-week ELSA Legal Traineeship at an Attorney Rîșniță's office, where I had the opportunity to engage with compelling cases and legal memoranda and gain a clearer understanding of how legal work functions in practice and before the courts. The traineeship gave me valuable insight into the daily work of legal professionals and further strengthened my interest in pursuing a legal career.

NUBAR KHALILZADE

TRAINEE AT TEIXEIRA ADVOGADOS & ASSOCIADOS
PORTUGAL

“Participating in ELSA's traineeship program has been an invaluable experience. It allowed me to develop my professional skills. I highly recommend it to anyone looking to grow both personally and professionally.

HEAR FROM THE TRAINEESHIP PROVIDERS

DELIA BIJNEA

HEAD OF MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS
STRATULAT ALBULESCU ATTORNEYS AT LAW, ROMANIA

“Hosting an ELSA Trainee was a very rewarding experience for our firm. The programme provided an excellent opportunity to connect with a talented and motivated law student from a different jurisdiction, while fostering international collaboration and knowledge exchange. We were particularly impressed by the trainee's enthusiasm, commercial awareness and willingness to contribute across a variety of projects. We would be pleased to participate in the ELSA Traineeships programme again and would encourage other law firms to do the same.

DR. PEDRO TEIXEIRA

TRAINEE AT RÎȘNIȚĂ ALEXANDRU - CABINET DE AVOCAT
ROMANIA

“Participating in the ELSA Traineeships programme was a very rewarding experience for our firm. The programme provides an excellent opportunity to welcome motivated law students from different legal backgrounds and to promote international cooperation in the legal field. We strongly value this initiative and would be pleased to participate again in the future.

LAUNCHING NEW OPPORTUNITIES WITH VI CAREER LAUNCH



HEDIN RAGNFRED INDREGÅRD

VICE PRESIDENT IN CHARGE OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF ELSA 2025/2026

In addition to ELSA Traineeships, throughout the 2025/2026 term, the VI edition of ELSA's Career Launch was successfully hosted during the beginning of March. This edition did not dramatically change the structure of the Career Launch event, but rather expanded on its successful elements, with more informative sessions, and additional partners present at the virtual job fair. The three topics of the VI edition of Career Launch were Law and Defense, Artificial Intelligence Law and Human Rights Law. These topics were chosen for their current relevance, and were incorporated in the different aspects of the event. Through workshops and engaging webinars led by key experts in the fields, participants were able to engage with different career paths, explore new specialisations, and gain clarity on their professional aspirations within the chosen fields.

One change however, was a new look for the project. The branding of Career Launch has changed from being predominantly a darker shade of yellow to now featuring a red to yellow gradient, giving it a new and fresher look, all credit due to the Vice President in charge of Marketing, Kat Bonello.

THE OUTCOME OF THE EVENT

This event saw a slight increase in the scope compared to previous years, with closer to 20 different speakers, and eight firms participating in the virtual Career Fair hosted on the vFairs platform. I would like to thank all the speakers for this edition; Rados Musovic & Jan Wijn from NATO, Angela Parlanti & Adelina Dermian from CJEU, Veronique Bagge from EPSO, Jose Ignacio Fernandez-Salavdor from IE Law School, Vicki Prais as a partner of ELSA, Gregory Pasche from The Geneva Academy, Paola Tonarelli-Lacore from the CoE & ECtHR, Jean-Luc Marcelin from the UNDP, Jonathan Kwik from T.M.C. Asser Institute, Francesco Bondi from eBay, Shashagay McIntosh from Barbri, Valentin Dupouey-Sterdyniak from College of Europe, Christian Law from Dentons & David Liang from Conflict Analytics. And for the Job Fair; the European Law Academy, the Court of Justice of the European Union, the Geneva Academy, White & Case, Nishimura & Asahi, Council of Europe & The European Court of Human Rights, North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and Dentons.

THE CAREER LAUNCH MAGAZINE

The speakers, the partners and further information of ELSA also received further promotion in the newly established first edition of the Career Launch Magazine. The magazine contained all the relevant information necessary for participation in the event, and information about career opportunities and vacancies at ELSAs partners. The outcome was a multi-page comprehensive magazine giving our members and attendants new opportunities to clearly discover everything that the Career Launch event had to offer. I hope that this magazine structure will keep being improved upon for the next edition of the event.

A SECOND YEAR OF ELSA SKILLS ACADEMY AND CAREER LAUNCH INTEGRATION

In addition to the Career Launch event, just like the previous term, the ELSA Skills Academy was integrated as an extension of the project. The ELSA Skills Academy is a separate event for providing the Officers' of ELSA with further soft skill knowledge to further improve their skills and work for ELSA as an association. If Career Launch was successful, then perhaps the ELSA Skills Academy even more so.

AN EXCITING FUTURE

During the LXXXIX International Council Meeting in Brno, Czech Republic, a small, but important change was made to the event. With the new regulations for Career Launch, the event does no longer have to be wholly or in part digital. Although the event was born during the COVID-19 pandemic to capitalise on the digitalisation of the world, the world has since then long moved on to a more physical format once more. To follow up on this trend, we now open up for the Career Launch to be an in person event for our participants in the future. It is up to my successors as VP PDs to choose how to capitalise on this change, but I am excited about the prospect of Career Launch landing as a fully fledged in person event, bringing further direct participation for the attendants from across the European continent and abroad.

HEAR FROM THE PARTICIPANTS:

DARIO ZHOROVA

PARTICIPANT OF VI CAREER LAUNCH

“ELSA International has been an invaluable platform for connecting with like-minded peers and industry professionals. The programs are well-structured, engaging, and provide practical skills that truly prepare you for real-world challenges. Participating has significantly boosted my confidence, expanded my network, and inspired me to pursue my career goals with clarity and determination.”

TEZI JAMRULIDZE

PARTICIPANT OF VI CAREER LAUNCH

“Once all students and graduates should attend ELSA Career Launch. This is not only about how to develop career path, but it also contributes to meet new people, create new contacts, broaden and enhance your knowledge area. You have opportunity to learn some beneficial tricks, from the speakers, they have experienced and get many advices which will assist in future. Just try, ELSA stuff will support during the process.

SURAYYA IZZATZADA

PARTICIPANT OF VI CAREER LAUNCH

“Career Launch was a transformative experience for me as a junior law student exploring international career paths. As a national of a non-EU member country, I appreciated that we were also taken into account when the topics on career opportunities were chosen. Sessions covering “The skills you need to kickstart your Human Rights Career”, “Legal Career Paths to CoE and ECHR”, “How to start your Career in the United Nations” have been the most remarkable ones for me as I was able to form a clear sense of direction on how and where I should start, motivating me to pursue a career internationally. And the most exciting part is that you get to personally interact with the recruiters of the organisations you are interested in, get to ask questions on matters that are of particular importance to you during virtual job fair. If you are not sure where and how to start, or what field would better suit you, this is your chance to answer those questions of uncertainty and explore diverse legal career paths within Career Launch.

HEAR FROM THE PARTICIPANTS:

BÍBORKA KÁDÁR

PARTICIPANT OF VI CAREER LAUNCH

“Career Launch and Job fair gave me a chance to get insight to different european and international institutions, to the path and daily life of an international lawyer. These Workshops helped me understand better what kind of job options I will have in the future as someone with a law degree. These are all fields that we usually don’t talk about in our everyday, at uni, so it feels “impossible to reach”, but the speakers changed my mind, made it more realistic and understandable. Overall I think it was a great opportunity to learn a little about ourselves, about our interests as well. It was motivating to hear others speak about their experiences, their career lives, and this way learn that not everything has to be perfect in your life to fit in to these places. Afterall, I’m so happy that I signed up for this program.

HEAR FROM THE SPEAKERS:



VICKY PRAIS

SPEAKER OF VI CAREER LAUNCH

“It was a huge pleasure to deliver a session, 'The skills you need to kickstart your human rights career' as part of the ELSA Career Launch in March 2026. The event was incredibly well organised by the ELSA team and I enjoyed excellent communication with the Vice President in charge of Professional Development in the run up to the session. On the day, the event ran smoothly and was well moderated by the ELSA team. Thank you so much ELSA!”

CAREER
LAUNCH

SEMINARS & CONFERENCES

ELSA LAW SCHOOLS



RODRIGO PREHAZ

VICE PRESIDENT IN CHARGE OF SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES
INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF ELSA 2025/2026

ELSA Law Schools remains one of the most influential projects within ELSA. For more than 25 years now, ELSA Law Schools have been enhancing legal education, fostering cultural exchange and international connections. This term, we worked on strengthening the foundation of the project, improving the promotion, and successfully improving the numbers.

The Winter ELSA Law Schools (WELS) broke records once again - 2,286 applications and 18 events across 12 European countries. This was a huge step forward for the project, reflecting the hard work of the ELSA Network in contributing to this Flagship, both from traditional Organisers and from the Groups who had their pilot editions this year. Likewise, the Summer ELSA Law Schools (SELS) kept the good numbers that we are used to. With 32 events and 4,809 applications, SELS once again ranked among the Network's most anticipated experiences, offering participants a unique opportunity to expand their knowledge, develop their skills, and build meaningful connections with law students from across Europe.

Internally, the ELSA Law Schools Team has worked on improving all of the tools, templates and guides, providing more detailed information, facilitating the process for the Organising Committees. Throughout the process, we remained flexible and responsive, adapting to the specific needs of each Organising Committee and providing additional support whenever needed. Our priority was to ensure that every organising team felt fully supported at every stage, from initial planning through to successful execution.

Additionally, the Assistants for ELSA Law Schools, Andreia and Pedro, gave great focus to the ELSA Mentorship Programme. This initiative has the goal of attracting ELSA Groups who have not organised ELSA Law Schools in the past, and who aim to acquire more knowledge about the project, by giving these Groups the foundation they need for starting the project in their cities. This term, the project adopted a new method of Open Calls instead of the 1-on-1 calls practised since the beginning of the initiative, allowing ELSA Groups to learn from each other's questions.

As part of our commitment to supporting the successful delivery of ELSA Law Schools, pre-visits were conducted to WELS Manchester on Law and Ethics, organised by ELSA Manchester, and SELS Iași on International Relations and Law, organised by ELSA Iași. These visits provided an excellent opportunity to meet with the respective Organising Committees, discuss the progress of the events, and offer tailored guidance on both organisational and logistical aspects. Meeting the teams in person allowed for productive exchanges, helping to identify any remaining challenges and provide additional support where needed. Both Organising Committees demonstrated remarkable dedication and professionalism throughout the preparation process. These visits further strengthened cooperation, ensured alignment with ELSA's quality standards, and contributed to the successful delivery of both ELSA Law Schools.

Internally, during the International Internal Meetings, we held several discussions on the ELSA Law Schools Quality Standards and ELSA Law Schools Participation Fees, allowing both ELSA International and Organisers to reach a consensus on the next steps for the project.

This year we saw the introduction of the ELSA Law Schools Cycle Final Reports. With the objective of comprising the statistics and testimonials from both Organisers and Participants, we drafted the first reports this year. This report has the ultimate goal of being distributed to the general audience, helping the Organising Committees to gather new partners for their events. You may read the SELS Cycle 2024/2025 Final Report [here](#) and the WELS Cycle 2025/2026 Final Report [here](#).

Lastly, this year we gathered new Partner Law Schools. Partner Law Schools are events similar to ELSA Law Schools organised by universities or institutions, which ELSA promotes within its Network. This year we had the privilege to work with Columbia Law School for the US Business Law Academy, where we had the opportunity to send two ELSA Members with full scholarships; and with the Worcester College of the University of Oxford for their Certificate Programmes, where ELSA Members had a discount on their participation fee. We are grateful to our Partner Law Schools for their collaboration, and I wish this collaboration lasts for the upcoming terms!

Looking forward, the ELSA Law Schools Team is committed to continuously improving the experience of both participants and organisers. We will keep exploring options to bring the project to new cities and countries, ensuring that ELSA Law Schools continues to be one of the most influential student-organised projects in Europe.

I would like to thank the ELSA Law Schools Team, who work hard for and with our Organising Committees in order to provide the best possible experience for our participants.

ELSA DELEGATIONS



RODRIGO PREHAZ

VICE PRESIDENT IN CHARGE OF SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES
INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF ELSA 2025/2026

ELSA Delegations is a Flagship Project of ELSA which allows ELSA Members and Alumni to take part in sessions of International Organisations with which ELSA has observer status. This project has been growing over the past terms, and this year was no different - we had an increase of 50 applications since the 2024/2025 term. Significant progress was achieved in the development of new resources, the continued advancement and innovation of ELSA's advocacy initiatives, and the enhancement of the Network's knowledge and understanding of Delegations. ELSA Members and Alumni have participated in 46 different sessions, with more than 750 applications received and over 141 Members selected to represent ELSA in diverse international forums around the world. Additionally, we provided 3 special sessions only available for ELSA International Team members, reinforcing our commitment to providing exciting opportunities to our team to represent ELSA on the highest level.

ELSA's advocacy has evolved rapidly this term, an achievement that brings great potential and unprecedented challenges. The ELSA Delegations Team received 3 statements this year, drafted diligently by our delegates and reviewed at length by the Team and International Board. The ELSA Delegations Team has worked hard to identify advocacy-related challenges within each institution and create internal guidelines for statements, laying some groundwork for further development.

The biggest highlight of the term would be the invitation from the International Labour Organization to the 114th International Labour Conference, after ELSA acquired observer status with the ILO. This achievement represents a huge step for ELSA Delegations, considering the uniqueness of the topics discussed in the ILC.

Additionally, the International Board of ELSA had members representing the Association at the COP30, in Belém, Brazil, organised by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); the World Forum for Democracy, organised by the Council of Europe; and the 25th session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Public Administration.

I would like to congratulate and show my gratitude to the ELSA Delegations Team, who provided excellent support to our Delegates and worked immensely on the project's development.

ELSA X EUROPRIVACY WEBINAR SERIES ON DATA PROTECTION



RODRIGO PREHAZ

VICE PRESIDENT IN CHARGE OF SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES
INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF ELSA 2025/2026

This year, ELSA had the privilege of collaborating with Europrivacy for our yearly Webinar Series. Europrivacy is an official European data protection certification scheme that helps organisations demonstrate that specific data processing activities comply with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation. This online academy offered law students and recent graduates an exclusive opportunity to deepen their understanding of data protection, GDPR compliance, and privacy certification, guided by experts working at the forefront of European data protection.

During the three days of the event (25th to the 27th of February), the participants dived into key areas of data protection, including GDPR certification, international data transfers, and medical data regulations.

What made this collaboration particularly exciting was the introduction of a hybrid format. This was the second time we offered a live online experience alongside the flexibility of recorded sessions. Participants were able to choose their preferred mode of participation, attending the live sessions or watching the recordings at their convenience.

Live participants received their Certificate of Participation immediately, but for those who opt to watch the recorded sessions, we implemented an Attendance Form with practical and evaluation questions. This helped us confirm that they actively engaged with the content and, upon completion, they were also able to receive a certificate. This added level of verification ensured that participants gained the full benefit of the academy, whether they attended live or not.

Collaborating with Europrivacy was an immense honour, and I hope this collaboration lasts for the upcoming terms! This project perfectly showcases our ongoing commitment to providing professional, enriching educational experiences that help our members grow and succeed in their legal careers.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES OF ELSA



RODRIGO PREHAZ

VICE PRESIDENT IN CHARGE OF SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES
INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF ELSA 2025/2026

International Conferences of ELSA have been one of the most important projects within the Seminars and Conferences area, representing the most academically driven initiative organised by S&C Officers.

This year, six International Conferences of ELSA took place around our Network - Prague, Vienna (pilot edition!), BeNeLux, Brussels, and Geneva. Even though fewer events happened compared to last year, we can see that the traditional organisers keep investing in the project!

One of the highlights of the term is the implementation of a structured coaching system. This year, we saw the addition of the position of International Conference of ELSA Coach, which was filled by two very dedicated officers, Ali and Tovuz. Since the guidance of the Organisers was delegated to the Coaches, the rest of the team was able to focus on other important tasks, updating several materials and bumping the project internationally.

However, the biggest landmark for International Conferences of ELSA is definitely the Cycle Unification. During this term, we held several discussions about the future of the project and how International Conferences of ELSA were perceived within our Network. In the end, we realised that more support and coordination from ELSA International was needed. Hence, the International Board proposed its unification, creating two organisation cycles around the year. After a fruitful debate, the International Council approved this proposal.

Starting from August, we will have the Autumn International Conferences of ELSA Cycle; and, starting from January, the Spring International Conferences of ELSA Cycle. This represents a huge development, and I am excited what the future brings to one of the most important projects for the S&C Network.

Lastly, I would like to thank the International Conferences of ELSA team for their amazing support throughout the year, both in drafting the proposal but especially in their support to our Organisers.

FINAL REMARKS

GABRIEL MARTI
PRESIDENT
INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF ELSA 2025/2026



As you reach the final pages of this report, we hope they have offered you a glimpse of the year we have had the privilege to experience. They are more than a record of our work, but above all, they tell the story of an Association that continues to grow through the dedication of its people.

None of what has been accomplished this year would have been possible without the countless individuals who believed in us, challenged us, supported us, and shared this journey with us. To the entire ELSA Network, thank you for your trust, your motivation, and your commitment to our shared vision. To the ELSA International Team, to our sponsors, to our predecessors Nathalie, Mie, Nikola, Niko, Aliena and Paula, to our four extraordinary Chairs Maja, Ainoa, Luciana and Arga, to our amazing coach Val, and everyone who offered their time, advice, and encouragement throughout the year: thank you for helping us make this term what it has been.

To our successors, Elisabeth, Anita, Elena, Natalie, Enara, Caisa, Ece, and Admantia, thank you for sharing this final month with us. Watching you begin your own journey has reminded us of the excitement we felt only a year ago as we first stepped through the blue door. We wish you every success and every joy that this extraordinary experience can bring. Take care of this house, and it will take care of you.

Finally, to the seven people who walked through the blue door with me over a year ago: thank you. Your commitment, passion, resilience, and friendship have made this journey more extraordinary than I could ever have imagined. As I wrote at the beginning, we arrived as eight law students from seven different countries, but we leave as a family. That will always be the greatest privilege of this year, and the memory I will carry with me long after we close this report.



The European Law Students' Association