

# Academic Competitions Handbook

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COMPETITIONS 2024/2025



**elsa**

The European Law Students' Association

## FOREWORD

Dear reader,

We invite you to read the Academic Competitions Handbook, created as the complete organisers guide to conducting an Academic Competition. In writing this handbook, we have been inspired by the Academic Activities Handbook drafted in 2019/2020 by Sarah Ikastrøm Kristoffersen, Vice President in charge of Academic Activities, ELSA International 2019/2020, and Maja Rajić, Vice President in charge of Academic Activities, ELSA International 2020/2021. It is also largely based on the Moot Court Competitions Handbook, published in Autumn 2024, the work for which has been started by Maciej Łodziński, Vice President in charge of Competitions, ELSA International 2023/2024, and his team. We wish to thank them for their important work. However, considering the development and some changes since then, we decided to create this new handbook, specifically for Academic Competition.

This Handbook provides you with a set of basic rules applicable to Academic Competitions organised on any level, such as the description of the tasks to be covered in the course of organising an Academic Competition and the risks one may face while organising such a Competition. The Handbook is designed as a guide that will help you in different periods of organising any Academic Competition.

Best wishes,

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## Introduction to Academic Competitions

An Academic Competition (Academic Competition) is an event in which law students and/or young lawyers compete against each other with the aim of preparing the participants for the specialised forms of skills, experience and knowledge that are required within the legal profession. Academic Competitions focus on the evaluation and development of soft skills, hence they are suitable for students at all levels of higher education.

Since only the Organising Committee knows their target audience, you should, and we encourage you to do so, make adjustments on any part of the competition, to make the project truly yours and adherent to your members' needs.

ELSA Negotiation Competitions, Client Interviewing Competitions, Witness Interviewing Competitions, and ELSA Legal Debates are just some examples of Academic Competitions that can be organised by your National/Local Group.

*\*\*\*Please note that this Handbook currently does not have any annexes - however, we invite you to consult the [Moot Court Competitions Package](#) with its Annexes, in case you need more details on a certain topic.\*\*\**

### **Purpose**

Bridging the gap between theory and practice by giving law students the chance to act as representatives for fictitious parties in a case, to negotiate a case and thus to attempt the work of a law practitioner in various fields of law.

### **Benefits for Participants**

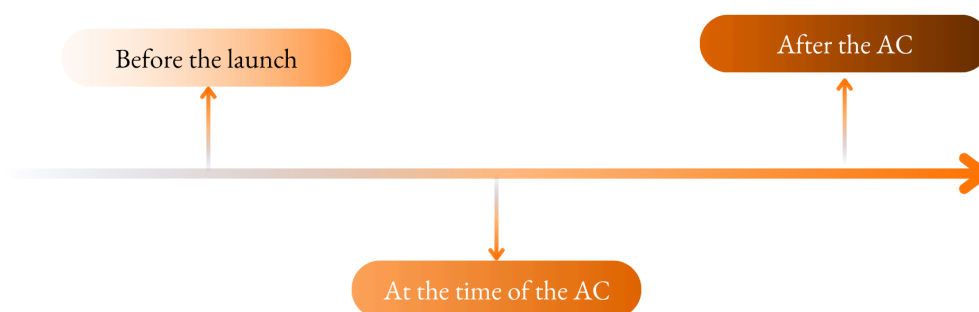
1. Practising and improving soft skills important for the different legal professions;
2. Ability to prepare and train for proper and successful negotiations, interviews and other interactions in the legal field;
3. Enhancing the use of rhetoric and gestures;
4. Increasing self-confidence and intellectual flexibility;
5. Networking opportunities with legal professionals.

### **Main Definitions**

Academic Competitions Handbook	A document that consists of guidelines to aid in the organisation of Academic Competitions. It includes the basic aspects that organisers should take into account.
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Academic Competition (AC)	A simulated legal interaction between different parties in a certain area of law that aims at improving the specialised skills required within the legal profession.
Case	The facts of the legal interaction on which the Academic Competition is organised.
Judge	A person who is in charge of presiding over the simulated legal interaction and evaluating the teams' performance in the Academic Competition either alone or as a part of a panel of judges.
Organising Committee (OC)	Members of a team in charge of organising an academic competition for the respective edition.

There are many different ways to set up an Academic Competition, but all of them require going through the same 3 periods of organising:



## I. First Stage - Before the Launch of the Academic Competition

### Timeframe

The whole competition including preparation takes about 2-5 months. This will, however, depend on every competition as the organisation requires flexibility above all else; not everything will always go as planned, so dare to distance yourself from the first ideas. This is the recommended time frame for the organisation of an Academic Competition.

1. Finding a partner (if you choose to have one) – 1-2 months;
2. Case preparation – 3 weeks - 1 month;
3. Preparing marketing materials based on the competition – 3 weeks;
4. Launch of the competition and deadline for submitting applications – 4 - 6 weeks;
5. Local round(s) - 2 weeks or more (if applicable);
6. Determining qualifying teams - 1 week or more (if applicable);
7. Final round - 1 day or more.

Tip: Draft a TO-DO list and check if everything goes according to plan! (*you can find examples for such checklists in the packages for the respective Academic Competitions*)

### First Steps

First of all, you need to ask yourself a few basic questions:



## **What kind of Academic Competition should it be? What kind of skills is the Academic Competition testing?**

The selection of the type of competition sets the course for all further considerations. Various factors play a role in the selection process:

- You should consider which skills the members of your Local Group might be the most useful to practice;
- You should take into account the resources you have at your disposal. For example, if a particular professor or law firm wants to be the patron of the Academic Competition, then choose the type of competition and field of law in consultation with him or her if necessary;
- Think about how big you want your Academic Competition to be - the more specific or niche your topic is, the more difficult it may be to attract participants.

## **Who will participate in your Academic Competition?**

Determining the eligibility of the participants is a critical step in organising an Academic Competition, as it ensures that the competition is both fair and meaningful for everyone involved. You should define the target group of participants at an early stage by considering whether you want to open the competition also for freshers or whether participants should have more advanced legal knowledge. The beauty of Academic Competitions is that they don't require much in-depth knowledge of the law, as they are more targeted to test the participants' soft skills.

More importantly, assessing the skills participants already possess and those they need to acquire to compete effectively is essential. For example, certain competitions may require foundational experience with public speaking in specific fields, while others may focus on advocacy skills or the knowledge of the language in which the competition is held. Setting clear eligibility criteria ensures that participants are adequately prepared to engage with the competition's challenges while fostering a rewarding experience. This approach also helps to maintain the competition's academic integrity and promotes skill development in the intended audience.

## **How many members should each team include?**

The number of teams and team members in your Academic Competition will depend on the scale you envision for the event. Some National Groups organise competitions exclusively for teams, while others allow participation alone. You can choose to limit participation to teams of two or three members or allow individuals to compete. The format of the competition can guide this decision – for example, team-based setups may be more appropriate for events like the ELSA Negotiation Competition, while individual participation works well for activities such as Legal Debates.

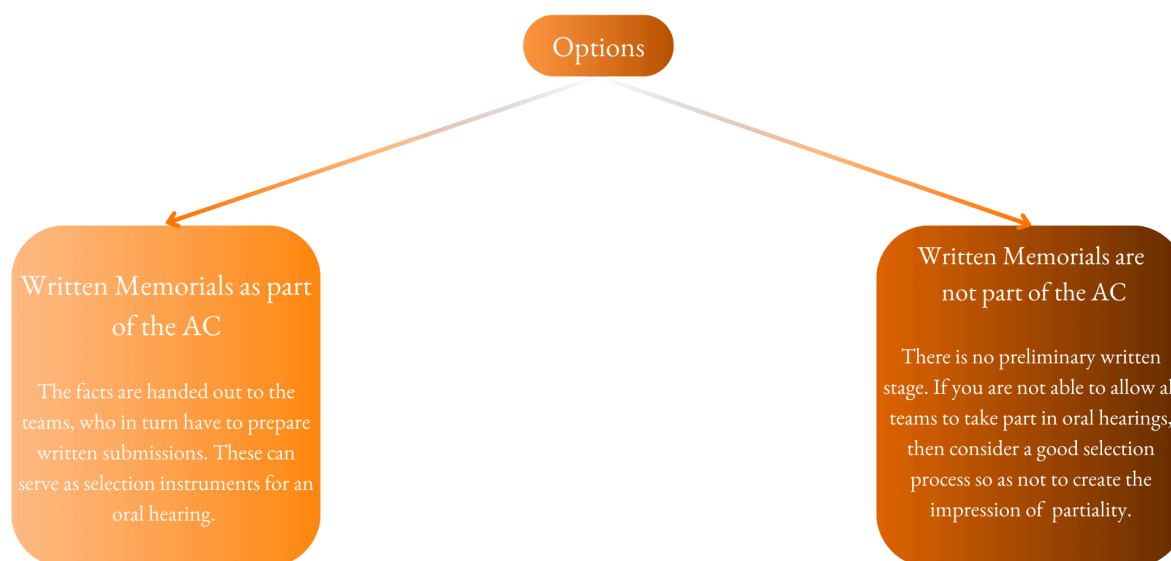


Smaller ELSA Groups often complete their competitions in a single day, but larger groups with more teams might find it beneficial to extend the schedule to two or three days. If teams are travelling from distant locations, it's considerate to offer suggestions for accommodation. Keep in mind that this can affect their budget and your overall planning, so careful attention to these details is important.

### How many rounds should my Academic Competition have?

An Academic Competition can have one or more rounds. It depends if your ELSA group decides to organise just a national round or also local or regional elimination or qualification rounds. It is even possible to collaborate with other National Groups and use the national finals as elimination rounds for the international final. It is also possible to organise a written round prior to the oral part, especially if you have too many teams registered - you can use the written round as an elimination round.

Concluding all of the above, we can see two main options for organising an Academic Competition:



### Conclusion

By this stage, you should have a clear vision of the Academic Competition you plan to organise. However, keep in mind that nothing is set in stone just yet. Now is the time to start putting your plans into action – use each of the following sections as key items on your checklist.

## **Organising Committee & Your Board**

Assemble an Organising Committee to assist with planning your Academic Competition. The number of members required will depend on the event's scale. Your OC can consist solely of your team members or you can open a call for volunteers from specific areas that can provide valuable support.

Simultaneously, collaboration with your Board is essential, particularly with supporting areas. Your President can help secure partners and sponsors, the Secretary General can offer expertise on data protection and welfare issues, the Treasurer can assist with budgeting, and the Marketer can take the lead in the promotion of your competition.

## **The Case**

Any Academic Competition needs at least one case, but more in case you have several rounds or stages, so the teams don't always work with the same case. This would defeat the purpose of the teams receiving the case only a couple of days or hours before the competition - they need to be surprised by the case facts.

Finding someone who can draft such a complex problem is not always easy. There are different stakeholders you can approach to become your case authors, provided they have enough expertise in the respective field of law. Cases should be drafted by the organising group with the help of an academic partner. For the ENC, ELSA International can provide cases, if it is not possible to acquire a case elsewhere.

- a) Your team: Academic Competitions don't require the most complex cases or in-depth knowledge of the law in question. If you have Board or team members who are further advanced in their studies, you can approach them to draft a couple of cases. However, don't forget to make sure that an expert has a look at them, in order to ensure the high quality of your cases.
- b) University: Approach faculty staff to draft cases for you. If you are not directly offered cases from a specific department at your faculty, you can contact a professor, a PhD candidate or an older student with expertise in the field to help you draft the cases.
- c) Law firms: Another very frequent and popular practice is finding case authors through partnering with a (local) law firm, especially if they are already a supporter of the competition and even provide you with judges.
- d) Legal authority/agency: Another way of finding case authors is getting support from professionals working in companies, courts etc.
- e) Another possibility, which usually makes the competition a bit harder, is asking for a real case and documents from a partner, be it a law firm or any other kind of law operator.

## **Materials**

Every Academic Competition requires a specific set of materials in addition to the case itself, including rules, regulations, and scoring and procedural guidelines. The rules should clearly outline the competition's entry requirements and process. These regulations must be detailed, precise, and of high quality to minimise the need for clarifications and provide a solid foundation for any decisions made by you or the judges during the event.

Basic provisions (clauses) should include the following:

1. Structure of the competition (rounds);
2. Team composition, eligibility and exclusion clauses;
3. Scoring procedure and criteria;
4. Procedures of the rounds (including the allocated time for each stage);
5. Penalties.

The regulations serve as a comprehensive manual for the entire Academic Competition and are applicable to the Organising Committee, judges, and participants. Ensure that all participants and judges are familiar with the rules and have a couple of printed copies available for reference.

Additionally, clear scoring guidelines should be provided for judges to determine the winning team. Collaborating with Academic Partners to develop a detailed scoresheet is highly recommended. The scoresheet should also be given to participants, so they have the ability to better understand what is required from them and what they will be judged upon.

## **The Jury**

The Jury should consist of three people; at least two of them should be legal professionals. Lawyers with practical experience are most suited for this and can be one of the main incentives for students to participate in the competition, as it also provides a networking opportunity. Finding experts is a very important and sometimes difficult stage because you want to procure a high-quality panel for your competition.

The judges are one of the key elements to any kind of Academic Competition and the suitable people usually have a busy schedule in their professional lives. This is why it is imperative to establish contact with them as soon as possible. Make sure to do thorough research on people who you would like to invite as soon as you decide on the type and the topic, the format and the dates of the competition and reach out to them well in advance. This will not only increase the chances of them being available but also give you a more professional and organised image.

Unlike in moot courts, the jury in Academic Competitions has a more passive role and usually isn't allowed to ask questions during the proceedings. Its composition depends on the type of

competition, the case you were given, the field of law covered and the skills tested in the competition. It may be composed of: lawyers, law practitioners, judges, professors or academics, teachers, ELSA Alumni, Alumni of your National or Local Group or speakers at former ELSA events. If you have the opportunity, a good idea might be to contact people who are well known in your area, as their participation might attract more students to the competition.

### **Info Session**

An information session is an open meeting arranged by the organising ELSA Groups. These sessions, which can be held online or in person, provide an opportunity to connect with participants and judges in a more informal setting. It is an ideal platform to share details about your Academic Competition and address any questions related to the rules, structure, or procedures directly.

### **Training & Lectures**

Trainings e.g. of negotiation and/or rhetoric skills are well suited to prepare the teams for the competition. An interesting way to engage participants more before the actual competition and to give them a possibility to feel more prepared is to organise a lecture, either in-person or as a webinar, where an expert trains them in the skills - mostly soft skills - needed to excel in the competition. It will give them more confidence and the right approaches for the event itself, which will make the experience more enjoyable both for the participants, but also the judges.

### **Marketing**

Effective marketing is essential to attract participants and present a professional image for your competition. At a minimum, you will need social media graphics and certificates for participants. Collaborate with your Vice President for Marketing, and consider creating specific graphics or a logo for your Academic Competition that can be reused annually, enhancing the event's recognisability and professional appeal for years to come. Before launching the competition, it is important to develop a solid promotion strategy and prepare key visuals and materials.

Additionally, arranging appealing prizes such as cash awards, books, vouchers, or branded items like pens can significantly boost participation. Partnering with a law firm to offer internships as prizes is another excellent way to incentivise students to register. Use these benefits as part of your promotional campaign to attract interest.

When crafting your promotion strategy and calendar, focus on versatility and creativity. Tailor your posts, stories, and reels to highlight these unique selling points effectively, ensuring they reach their full potential in engaging your audience. Try to keep the marketing materials and graphics

coherent, in order to develop a strong visual identity for your competition: this way, if you ever want to repeat the experience and organise a second edition, your followers and members will immediately identify the project you are launching.

### **The Budget/Fundraising**

Expenses for an Academic Competition typically include travel, meals, coffee breaks, venue costs, and prizes. For local rounds, organisers might consider covering travel costs for teams advancing to the National Final Round, if applicable. To effectively plan your fundraising strategy, start by preparing a detailed budget. This could involve using funds from your ELSA group's general budget, securing a partner to sponsor the event, or charging a participation fee. However, if team recruitment is challenging, it may be better to forgo participation fees and rely solely on partnerships or your ELSA budget.

The first step is to create a clear, detailed, and realistic budget. This involves listing all potential expenses and balancing them with your anticipated income sources. Avoid allocating funds to non-essential items and carefully consider the final amount needed for each aspect. Keep in mind that actual costs often exceed initial projections, so including a contingency fund in your budget is crucial.

If your expenses exceed your resources, a strong fundraising strategy will be essential. This may require creativity, as fundraising is not limited to monetary contributions. Explore opportunities for in-kind support, such as partnerships with caterers, print shops, or other companies that can help reduce unavoidable costs.

### **Partners**

Consider whether you want to bring on a partner to support your Academic Competition. A partnership can significantly reduce expenses, as partners can help cover costs, prepare a case, provide judges, or even offer their office space as the main venue of the competition. Academic Competitions are an excellent opportunity to establish new partnerships, particularly with law firms. These firms often see value in engaging with the next generation of legal talent and may be eager to collaborate by offering resources, expertise, and prizes.

To secure a partner, use your project documentation to showcase the competition's benefits and approach potential partners via email. Once you have found a suitable partner, be ready to formalise the collaboration by drafting a contract or partnership agreement between your ELSA Group and the partner. Establishing such relationships can not only support your current competition but also lay the groundwork for future collaborations.

## **Venue**

The requirements in a venue always depend on several attributes:

- The size of the Academic Competition;
- The support of the Academic Competition;
- The programme and activities you want to organise at the venue.

For a national or larger local Academic Competition, a courtroom or the office of a bigger law firm is often the ideal venue. Many law faculties have dedicated rooms for such events, so it is worth exploring these options. If you are working with a partner, consider asking if they can provide their office or another suitable space within their law firm. Other institutions may also be approached to secure an appropriate venue.

For smaller local competitions, a room within a law faculty building is usually sufficient. Ensure the room has at least three to four tables, providing enough space for two teams and a panel of judges. Additionally, designate separate rooms for teams to use as a waiting area and preparation space. Including refreshments for judges and participants is a thoughtful touch that can enhance the overall experience.

Always bear in mind that even a small Academic Competition should be provided with a ceremonial announcement of the results and a reception. This “finishing line” of an Academic Competition is a great way to ensure:

- The honourable mentions of the court members, the participants and the OC;
- The possibility for the participants to discuss their topics with the judges and partners in a less formal setting;
- The high quality and experience of the competition overall.

### **What to keep in mind when booking the pleading venues:**

- Ideally, one month before the final round, it is necessary to book a room where the final round will be held;
- Timekeepers should be seated opposite the Judges and teams on both sides of the Judges;
- You need to create an atmosphere that reflects the reality of the simulated proceedings as much as possible, whatever your venue/room is.

## **Teams**

Each team consists of two to four students depending on the competition. The organiser may consider whether your Academic Competition is open to law students exclusively, or if you also wish to invite other students.

## II. Second Stage - At the Time of the Academic Competition

### **Course of Events/Process**

Unlike in moot court competitions, Academic Competitions are usually not preceded by a written phase. The teams usually receive the case or topic of the competition only a couple of hours or days before the actual oral event. The teams, usually comprising two students, negotiate, interview or debate in front of the jury, on behalf of the parties they represent.

### **Preparation process:**

- It is necessary to prepare rooms, arrange tables, banners, and all necessary materials;
- For judges: scoring sheets and pens, a glass of water and ideally name cards;
- For Timekeepers: stopwatch, timekeeper guidelines and sheets. Some volunteers should act as timekeepers during the oral pleadings. The timekeeper should be able to introduce the case and the jury;
- Make sure there is water, refreshments, cups, and paper towels in the pleading rooms.

### **Final Round**

Congratulations! Your dedication has brought you to the final stage of your Academic Competition. However, it is essential to remember that the final round also requires careful preparation. This is the time to involve additional helpers, such as a photographer, videographer, or even role players like witnesses, to ensure the event runs smoothly.

Keep in mind that your time management is especially important before the final:

- 2 weeks before — the person in charge of Marketing should create diplomas and certificates for participants, which should be printed by the time of the final day;
- 1 week before — all materials necessary for the final round, including the case, evaluation sheets, competition schedule, rules and etc. should be prepared and printed;
- 2-3 days before — prizes, refreshments or food for coffee breaks should be taken care of.

Considering all of the attributes, bear in mind that even a small Academic Competition should be always provided with a ceremonial announcement of the results and the reception.

### **Error Handling and Crisis Management**

Mistakes are inevitable, and that's perfectly normal. As you go through the process of organising an Academic Competition, you will likely encounter errors despite your best efforts to avoid them. While these mistakes can be unpredictable, there are some guiding principles that can help you manage them:

First and foremost, it is important to hope for the best but prepare for the worst. Ensure your rules are as detailed as possible, covering a wide range of situations to guide you in addressing any uncertainties. It is also wise to include a flexibility clause, which allows the Organising Committee to make rule amendments at any point if necessary. While this may not be practical in larger or more formal competitions, it can be particularly useful in smaller events.

Remember, you are the ultimate authority in the competition! If a judge misinterprets the rules, do not hesitate to step in and correct them. Although this may feel intimidating, judges will recognise that you are the most knowledgeable about the competition's procedures and will respect your decision. Addressing issues quickly will prevent them from escalating and affecting the competition. Additionally, instruct your timekeepers to act as "guardians of the rules," encouraging them to intervene if regulations are not being followed.

In some cases, improvisation may be necessary. While not ideal, unforeseen circumstances can require quick adaptation. If a situation arises that is out of your control, discussing it with the judges and participants to find a solution can be effective. However, keep in mind that, as the authority figure, you may need to make a decision that does not satisfy everyone, but that you believe is in the best interest of the competition.

Now, let's cover how to handle some common situations you may face:

*Team dropping out last minute:* This is a major concern for organisers. If you have more than two teams in your Academic Competition, you can adjust the format to accommodate the remaining teams. If only two teams remain, rescheduling might be complicated due to timing constraints. A preventive measure you could implement is a penalty system, such as banning a team from participating in future ELSA events if they drop out. But be careful with such measures, as they might be considered as a bit too drastic.

*Judges dropping out:* To avoid having to reschedule, always ensure your jury consists of at least three judges, and try have some alternatives. This provides backup if one or two judges need to drop out. If you have only one judge and they withdraw, having a list of reliable substitute judges can help. Be sure to have their consent before adding them to this list to avoid any data protection issues.

*Loss of venue:* If you lose your venue unexpectedly, try to find an alternative, especially if you have already paid for or agreed on the space. If this is not possible, consider rescheduling or moving the competition online. While not ideal, this allows the event to continue.



*Judge or participant incorrectly applying the rules:* This is a common issue in Academic Competitions, but it is usually easy to resolve. Have the timekeeper or an OC member interrupt the proceedings to address the issue. In some cases, if the error is minor and does not affect the competition's substance, it might not need to be addressed. The OC will need to use their judgment to decide if it is worth correcting.

### **OC Responsibilities**

As mentioned above, general rules are for the Organising Committee itself, the judges and participants. However, we consider it necessary to emphasise how the OC should treat judges and teams, and what should be done only from the perspective of the OC.

During the Academic Competition, the responsibilities of the OC are:

- Distributing materials;
- Introducing the case and the jury before the start of each competition round;
- Writing and delivering the opening speech (the introductory speech should include explaining what Academic Competition is about, thanking judges and sponsors, acknowledging the OC's efforts, wishing participants "good luck" and referring to your brochure and availability of your case);
- Sending out invitations for the sponsors and university. Send out judging materials to the members of the panel/s (bench/es) of the oral pleadings along with the venue (how to get there, agenda and "thank you" note);
- Having certificates for participants, prizes for winners and gifts for the judges at hand;
- Taking pictures, mainly with winners, partners, banners and certificates;
- Being flexible (just make sure everyone knows when any changes are happening).
- Having a member note down any mistake made during the event and any error in the regulation, so you can have a clear and "fresh" idea of what to improve on for the next edition.

### **Specificities regarding Judges:**

- Distribute scoring documents to judges;
- Buy gifts for the judges, such as chocolates;
- Always check whether they need something or have any questions;
- Be attentive to the lawyers or your professors who are participating as judges, and respect their time and efforts.

## **Refreshments**

You can have refreshments for teams and judges after the competition, so they can talk about the competition together and also some snacks during the whole day.

### III. Third Stage – After the Event

#### **Awards**

An award is your mark of recognition given in honour of the achievements of participants in the Academic Competition. You should have a transparent system, e.g. a scoring system, in place that determines who best fits the “Best of” nominations, for example, Best Team, Best Speaker, etc. and give them a prize.

#### **“Thank you” notes**

- Thank the Organising Committee for their work (e.g. organise an OC night out, etc.);
- Send a thank you letter to all the people/partners who supported the event (e.g. sponsors, professors, in-kind sponsoring, OC etc.);
- Certificates of appreciation;
- Report (short description of the organising efforts, competition results, responses from the participants, judges, the audience and maybe use of donations).

#### **Evaluation**

- Send teams the evaluation of their work from the evaluation sheets;
- Then you need to create a feedback form that you send to the teams and ask them to fill it out, so you know what to improve and what to keep in the coming editions;
- Conduct an evaluation meeting with the partner/sponsor;
- Prepare a document when you write what could be improved by your successor.

#### **Media coverage and marketing materials**

You made it! The hearing is over. However, the competition does not end here. Rather, you must make sure that all your efforts are worth it and that your Academic Competition gets well-deserved media attention and visibility. Furthermore, you can already lay a sustainable foundation for an upcoming edition by maintaining contact with sponsors and supporters. Here are some options for how to give your competition more visibility:

- Picture gallery online (send pictures or links to participants, sponsors etc.);
- Picture gallery/Poster stand in the ELSA office or at the next ELSA event;
- Post a video from the event on social media;
- Newspaper/ University paper article;
- Newsletter of your ELSA group;
- Write an article for Synergy.

**Use the event as a networking opportunity:**

- Organise a reception in relation to the Oral Pleading;
- Create and watch a video about the Academic Competition;
- Official report which would include pictures of the teams' pleadings;
- Report on the way your budget was carried out (for the sponsors and supporters);
- Report how each faculty/law school was represented (if the Academic Competition was open to students from different universities).

## IV. Specific Academic Competitions

### **ELSA Negotiation Competition**

The ELSA Negotiation Competition (ENC) is an interactive competition which simulates a negotiation process between two teams consisting of two students. The participants act as the legal representatives of two hypothetical parties who – despite opposing interests – try to find a common ground for a contract or a dispute. The goal is not only the signing of a contract or settling a dispute but also fulfilling the interests of the client as much as possible. For this reason, each team receives additional and confidential information in addition to the generally available information, specifying which aims need to be met.

We encourage you to consult the [ENC Package](#), where you can find branded materials such as score sheets, rules and the logo of the competition.

### **Client Interviewing Competition**

Client Interviewing Competition (CIC) is the simulation of the first consultation with a fictional client. Cases for the CIC are not long, however, the client's preparation needs to be done thoroughly since the client sets the requirements for the teams and the academic level of the competition.

Teams should consist of two students, and the panel of judges shall consist of at least three judges. Participants of the CIC acquire advanced soft skills and learn how to approach a client, which is not part of the regular university curricula.

We encourage you to consult the [CIC Package](#), where you can find branded materials such as score sheets, rules and the logo of the competition.

### **Witness Interviewing Competition**

A Witness Interview Competition (WIC) is an academic competition simulating a witness interview in legal proceedings. Teams of two participants assume the role of lawyers interviewing a witness in order to assess whether an individual can provide significant observations pertaining to a certain event. The main task of the teams is to interview the witness to gather all the information relevant to the case and to form a witness statement. Witness statements are legal documents containing the witness' description of events.

While improving communication and interpersonal skills, WIC is also an amazing opportunity for students to gain practical skills and knowledge of writing a legal document essential to a criminal trial.

We encourage you to consult the [WIC Package](#), where you can find branded materials such as score sheets, rules and the logo of the competition.

### **ELSA Legal Debates**

ELSA Legal Debates (ELD) are referred to as a debating competition in which two teams of two to four law students and/or young lawyers present their arguments in favour or against a particular motion. An ELSA Legal Debate consists of participants, a moderator who oversees the debating process and judges evaluating the participants based on criteria set out by the rules of the competition.

Participants of an ELSA Legal Debate acquire advanced and practical research competence, evidence evaluation, argumentative skills and most importantly critical thinking while learning how to make more effective informed judgments about crucial legal issues.

ELSA Legal Debates are very popular with law students and young lawyers because of its structure. To accomplish this project, it does not necessarily need any financial support and you can manage it easily. The publicity and simplicity of the ELSA Legal Debates can be used properly to increase knowledge about ELSA among law students and young lawyers and this induces the Association to have potential participants in other projects organised by ELSA.

We encourage you to consult the [ELD Package](#), where you can find branded materials such as score sheets, rules and the logo of the competition.

## Contact Details

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