

Helga Pedersen  
Moot Court Competition



# GENERAL OUTLINE

HELGA PEDERSEN  
MOOT COURT COMPETITION

14<sup>th</sup> Edition | 2025 - 2026

*elsa*

The European Law Students' Association



<b>What is the Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition?</b> .....	2
History.....	2
Structure.....	2
Prizes.....	2
<b>Timeline of the 14th Edition</b> .....	3
<b>How can you promote the Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition amongst your Members?</b> .....	4
1. Sharing Promotional Materials.....	4
2. Promoting and Highlighting Opportunities for the Students of your University.....	4
3. Human Rights-Focused Organisations in Your City.....	5
4. Word-of-mouth Marketing.....	5
5. Educating the ELSA Officers.....	5



## What is the Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition?

### History

The first edition of the Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition (formerly known as the European Human Rights Moot Court Competition) was organised in February 2013.

The aim was to supply students with the opportunity to gain insight in the principles and implementation of the European Convention of Human Rights and gain practical experience in the field. The Competition simulates the experience of pleading a case before the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR). Lastly, the Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition (HPMCC) became the largest English-speaking human rights moot court competition in the world.

### Structure

The Teams examine a fictitious case written by human rights professionals and draft a set of Written Submissions for Applicant and Respondent respectively. Experts from the Council of Europe, the European Human Rights Association, and the European Court of Human Rights score the Written Submissions. Furthermore, all teams take part in one of the three mandatory Regional Rounds organised by ELSA Groups.

The best 18 Teams based on their performance in the Written Submissions and the Regional Rounds get a chance to plead in the Final Oral Round which takes place in the Council of Europe and the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, France.

The Competition is held entirely in English. The Competition is open to all law students in ELSA Member Countries as well as Council of Europe Member Countries.

### Prizes

Every member of the Winning Team is invited for a traineeship at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, and the best Orator of the Grand Final is invited for a traineeship at the Council of Europe's Liaison Office in Brussels.



## Timeline of the 14<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition

Deadline	Activity
8 <sup>th</sup> of September 2025	<b>Competition Launch via Website</b> ELSA International officially launches the Competition, by publishing relevant documents on the Website of the Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition.
31 <sup>st</sup> of October 2025	<b>Team Registration Deadline</b> To be eligible to participate in the competition, teams must register by the online <a href="#">Registration Form</a> on the Website and pay the Registration Fee.
5 <sup>th</sup> of November 2025	<b>Clarification Question Deadline</b> The final date for each Team to send a maximum of 3 clarification questions to the Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition Case, which must be sent to ELSA International via the <a href="#">Clarification Questions Form</a> on the Website of the Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition.
10 <sup>th</sup> of November 2025	<b>Team Registration Fee Deadline</b>
11 <sup>th</sup> of January 2026	<b>Written Submission Deadline</b> Deadline for registered Teams to dispatch electronic copies of the Written Submissions via the <a href="#">Written Submissions Form</a> . The deadline for dispatch shall be 23:59 Central European Time and sent via the relevant form on the Website.
23 <sup>rd</sup> to 25 <sup>th</sup> of February 2026	<b>Regional Round Birmingham</b>
27 <sup>th</sup> of February to 1 <sup>st</sup> of March 2026	<b>Regional Round Malta</b>
6 <sup>th</sup> to 8 <sup>th</sup> of March 2026	<b>Regional Round Athens</b>
13 <sup>th</sup> of March 2026	<b>Announcement of Finalists</b> The official announcement of the 18 Teams that have been selected to plead in the Final Oral Round.
1 <sup>st</sup> to 5 <sup>th</sup> of June 2026	<b>Final Oral Round, Strasbourg</b> Lasting 5 days, consisting of Preliminary Rounds, Quarter Finals and Semi Finals in the Palace of Europe as well as the Grand Final at the European Court of Human Rights.



## How can you promote the Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition amongst your Members?

### 1. Sharing Promotional Materials

**Share the promotional materials of ELSA's Instagram and LinkedIn page.** Do not limit yourself to sharing it merely with the social media pages of your Group; you can also share the post yourself and encourage your Board, Directors, Assistants and other team members to do the same.

Additionally, **your Marketer can also create promotional materials**, using this [Marketing Kit](#) or inspired in our [factsheet](#)!

**Share the materials in relevant circles.** This can be social media groups of your law faculty, social media groups of international students in your city, online platforms for law students at your university etc. Be creative!

### 2. Promoting and Highlighting Opportunities for the Students of your University

**Discuss with your faculty.** Focus especially on the European and/or International Law Department or even with the Human Rights Department, should your university have one.

As the winning team is promoted on the website of the Council of Europe, it is a great opportunity for the faculty to gain promotion too!

**Ask for the opportunity of awarding credits to the participants.** In many degrees, credits are awarded for participation in international moot court competitions. Prepare well for the meeting with the dean or other person responsible for the academic programme by researching the credit system at your university looking into previous similar cases and bringing reports on previous moots. Furthermore, remember to use the reputation of ELSA as one of your main tools.

Finally, **recommendations from alumni, sponsoring firms, professors and former participants** could assist you, if delivered in an appropriate manner and on time.

If your university holds classes in person, promote the event during Human Rights-focused classes. Do not forget to ask the permission of the teacher first.

A **short presentation or handing out brochures** can help a great deal in attracting new students, both to your ELSA Group and the HPMCC. You might even convince the professor to assist a Team (as a coach or for proofreading their Written Submissions).

**Feature the event in your faculty's newsletter or magazine.** Most faculties have at least one internal newsletter or magazine, reaching all students at once. It could also be worth checking if there are any specific newsletters for employees to promote the idea amongst all professors. Sometimes there is even a newsletter specifically for international students. Also, reach out to university services/administration and ask them to allow you to **send out information about HPMCC via the university/faculty mailing list.**



### 3. Human Rights-Focused Organisations in Your City

**Approach human rights-focused associations** in your city and look into collaborating with them to promote the Competition. This can be as big as, for example, holding a mini moot court, or as small as asking them to promote the HPMCC materials as well.

**Hold promotional events.** This can range from a general human rights-based event where the HPMCC is mentioned to organising an informational event specifically for ELSA's International moots (the HPMCC and the John H. Jackson MCC), or even to organising your own moot court competition to let participants have a taste of the experience.

**Organising an online info session** is also highly recommended. An idea is to organise a networking event for interested participants who do not have a team yet; that way they can work together in forming a team.

### 4. Word-of-mouth Marketing

**Ask former participants for testimonials.** The words of former participants are usually much more convincing than those of organisers and hence you should use them wisely. Featuring testimonials is also a nice opportunity to give former participants recognition for their hard work and efforts.

### 5. Educating the ELSA Officers

**Educate other Officers.** Make sure to highlight the existence of the HPMCC as well as this document during your Council Meetings and/or Officers' Meetings. This will allow for the information to trickle down through the Network.

*We sincerely thank you for your support in promoting the Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition and wish you lots of success in this endeavour,*

Inês Ribeiro

**Inês Ribeiro**

Vice President in charge of Competitions  
International Board of ELSA 2025/2026