

Helga Pedersen
Moot Court Competition



elsa

The European Law Students' Association

FINAL REPORT

of the 13th edition of the Helga Pedersen
Moot Court Competition

helgapedersen.elsa.org

Foreword

Dear participants, colleagues, and friends,

It is with great pleasure and deep appreciation that we write this foreword to the final report of the 13th edition of the Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition. As co-authors of this year's case, we have had the privilege of accompanying you on a journey that has been both intellectually challenging and greatly inspiring.

This year's case, Marlier v. Zemland, invited participants to grapple with the legal and ethical dimensions of the use of cannabis for medical reasons, issues of personal autonomy, and the boundaries of criminal law. Set against the backdrop of a fictional Council of Europe Member State, the case followed the story of a chronically ill woman who cultivated cannabis to alleviate her suffering, sparking a national debate on the access to cannabis for medical reasons as well as the proportionality of criminal sanctions. Through this scenario, we tried to challenge students to think critically about the intersection of human rights, public health policies, criminal legislation, and evolving societal norms. The legal questions raised, ranging from the interpretation of Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights to the protection of property under Article 1 of Protocol No. 1, are not hypothetical dilemmas.

As every year, we attempted to mirror emerging legal debates taking place across Council of Europe Member States. We greatly appreciate all kind words, and many reflections shared about Ms. Marlier and the Zemlandic legislation during the final oral round in Strasbourg.

To all the students who participated: your commitment, your preparation, and your courage to engage with difficult questions have left a lasting impression on us. Whether you stood in the final round or not, you are all winners. The skills you have shown will serve you well in your future careers and we hope that your passion for human rights will guide you wherever your journey takes you.

We were once students ourselves. To now sit alongside Judges of the European Court of Human Rights and witness the final oral rounds in the hearing room that saw landmark human rights cases was a humbling and uplifting experience.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the winning team and the runner-up. Your performance was exceptional, and you presented your arguments with clarity, confidence, and grace. At the same time, we want to emphasize that every team that participated played a vital role in the success of this competition.

We also want to express our sincere gratitude to ELSA International for their tireless work in organising this competition. In particular, we would like to thank Aliena and Elena for their

unwavering support, professionalism, and dedication throughout the process. Your efforts behind the scenes have made this experience possible for so many.

As we look ahead, we are excited as much as we were during our first year as authors, to explore the legal questions for the next edition. We hope it will once again challenge, inspire, and unite students from across Europe in their shared commitment to human rights and the rule of law.

And at the end of this year's Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition journey, to all of the teams and their mentors:

*"And if you find her poor, Ithaka won't have fooled you.
Wise as you will have become, so full of experience,
you'll have understood by then what these Ithakas mean."*

C. P. Cavafy

Zuzana Kovalova and Slavica Cubric¹

¹ Zuzana Kovalova is a Legal Officer at the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR). The views Expressed herein are hers personally and do not reflect those of the United Nations. Slavica Cubric is the case co-author. The views expressed herein are her own and do not reflect those of her employer.



Table of Contents

Foreword	1
Table of Contents	3
Supporters of the 13th Edition	5
Council of Europe and European Court of Human Rights	5
Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe	6
About the Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition	7
About the 13th Edition	9
Scoring System	12
Appendix A - Calculation of Scores	12
Written Round	13
Regional Rounds	16
Regional Round Prague	17
About the Regional Round	17
An Organiser's Perspective	17
Results	20
Team Scores	20
Individual Scores	21
Regional Round Porto	23
About the Regional Round	23
An Organiser's Perspective	23
Results	26
Team Scores	26
Individual Scores	27
Regional Round Vilnius	30
About the Regional Round	30
An Organiser's Perspective	30
Results	32
Team Scores	32
Individual Scores	33
Qualification Scores	36
Statistics	39
Final Oral Round	40
Results	50
Written Submission Scores	50
Team Scores	51
Preliminary Rounds	51

Quarter-Finals	52
Semi-Finals	53
The Grand Final	54
Individual Scores	55
Preliminary Rounds	55
Quarter-Finals	58
Semi-Finals	60
Grand Final	62
Testimonials	64
Winner's Perspective	64
Runner-Up's Perspective	66
Best Orator's Perspective	68
A Coach's Perspective	70
The People Behind the 13th Edition	71
Council of Europe and European Court of Human Rights	71
ELSA International Team	71
The International Organising Committee	72
Closing Remarks by the Head of Organising Committee	74

Supporters of the 13th Edition

We would like to start by expressing our deepest gratitude to all the sponsors and supporters of the 13th Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition. Their unwavering support throughout the stages of the Competition is instrumental in successfully organising this project, and especially the Final Oral Round in Strasbourg.

ELSA would like to extend its utmost gratitude to all individuals and parties involved in the planning and execution of the 13th edition of the Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition. We want to thank specifically:

Council of Europe and European Court of Human Rights

We are immensely grateful for the technical and financial support of ELSA's Human Rights Partner, the Council of Europe, and the European Court of Human Rights. Thanks to their support, we continue to be able to organise one successful edition of the Competition after another.



The 13th edition of the Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition took place in the year during which the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) is marking its 75th anniversary in 2025. Signed in Rome on 4 November 1950, the European Convention on Human Rights was the first instrument to crystallise and give binding effect to the rights set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

To mark the 75th anniversary of the Convention, the European Court of Human Rights is organising throughout the year international conferences and judicial seminars.

In the context of the 75th anniversary celebrations, the Council of Europe also promoted a better visibility of Moot Court Competitions. The Grand Final of the 13th Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition on 23 May 2025 was broadcasted live on the Court's YouTube channel.

Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe

We also sincerely thank the Permanent Representations of Malta, the United Kingdom, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and Switzerland for their financial contributions. Special thanks to the Permanent Representation of Malta and the United Kingdom for hosting the Closing and the Opening Receptions, respectively.



Presidency of Malta
Council of Europe
May - November 2025

Présidence de Malte
Conseil de l'Europe
Mai - Novembre 2025



United Kingdom
Delegation to the
Council of Europe



GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG
Représentation permanente auprès
du Conseil de l'Europe



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

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



Koninkrijk der Nederlanden

About the Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition

The Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition (HPMCC) - formerly known as the European Human Rights Moot Court Competition (EHRMCC) - was founded in cooperation between ELSA and the Council of Europe. The idea of developing a moot court in the field of Human Rights in collaboration with the Council of Europe was born a long time ago, with the aim of providing students with the opportunity to experience the principles and implementation of the European Convention of Human Rights firsthand. Finally, after negotiations and a lot of preparations consisting of gathering Case Authors, Judges, and other helpers, this idea became a reality in 2012, with the launch of the first edition of the EHRMCC and the Final Oral Round (FOR) taking place in spring of 2013.

Since 2012, a lot of changes have been made. Rules have changed, stages have been introduced and adapted, and the structure has become more sustainable to keep up with the development of the HPMCC. For the Academic Year 2019/2020, ELSA introduced an additional stage in the Competition: Regional Rounds. For previous editions, some ELSA groups organised “Pre-Rounds” in which teams could participate to practise their oral pleading skills and prepare in the event that they would qualify for the Final Oral Round. However, the Written Submissions scores were still the only thing taken into account to determine the qualifying teams for the Final Oral Round. Following the overwhelming success of the Pre-Rounds, ELSA International decided to introduce official Regional Rounds, mandatory for all teams. With this introduction, the teams were scored on their Oral Pleading skills, in addition to their Written Submissions. The scores from both the Written Submissions and the Regional Rounds were then combined to determine the best teams that would qualify for the Final Oral Round.

In the term 2020/2021, as the Competition was coming close to its 10th anniversary, there were discussions about whether the Competition should be renamed, perhaps in honour of an important person within the Human Rights field. One of the names being circulated was that of Helga Pedersen. Helga Pedersen was a Danish judge who had a remarkable and inspirational legal career. She was a student at Slagelse Gymnasium in 1930 and earned her M.Sc. from the University of Copenhagen in 1936. She was Secretary to the Ministers of Justice in Denmark during World War II, and after the war, Pedersen attended Columbia University in New York, which was funded by an International Study Grant from the American Association of University Women. After returning to Denmark, she became a Copenhagen District Court judge from 1947 to 1950. She was elected to the Danish Parliament in 1950 and was appointed Minister of Justice from 1950 to 1953. She continued to be a Member

of Parliament until 1964, when she distinguished herself as an advocate of prison and penal reform and the advancement of women's legal status. During this time, she was also a judge for both the District Court and the Appeals Court. She was later appointed as a judge to the Supreme Court. She was also named chairman of the Danish Women's National Council. In 1950, she participated in the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women and served as a delegate at the UNESCO General Assembly. In 1971, she was appointed as the first female judge at the European Court of Human Rights. Other highly prestigious achievements of Pedersen include being a recipient of a gold medal from the Association of World Peace Through Law, becoming the first female commander of the Order of the Dannebrog. To this day, she serves as a role model to law students across Europe and beyond. To honour Helga Pedersen, we named this Competition after her.

Since its implementation, the HPMCC has become one of ELSA's biggest and most important projects, not only due to its size, but also its impact. This competition serves as a powerful tool, equipping law students with the necessary skills to advocate for and engage with human rights, which is further emphasised for the winners with the opportunity of a traineeship at the Council of Europe and the Liaison Office of the Council of Europe, respectively.



About the 13th Edition

The 13th edition of the Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition was launched on the 2nd of September 2024. The Case was once again written by our returning Case Authors, Zuzana Kovalova and Slavica Čubrić.

CASE

Marlier v. Zemland

HELGA PEDERSEN MOOT COURT COMPETITION

13TH EDITION - 2024/2025

Every year, the Case Authors draft a case on a highly topical issue affecting various human rights around the world. We had topics ranging from the sterilisation of HIV infected women after giving birth, to the role of the Convention in international armed conflicts, and many more. This year, Ms Kovalova and Ms Čubrić added the possession and use of cannabis and its legalisation or criminalisation to this important collection. This large variety of topics is a testament to the versatility of the Competition and an accurate representation of the issues that we as law students need to learn about, talk about and speak up for. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Zuzana Kovalova and Slavica Cubric, who have been the case authors since the 5th edition of the Competition, for providing us with these topical and important cases every year and contributing to spreading the knowledge and awareness of human rights among law students. The Competition would not have been the same without your involvement.

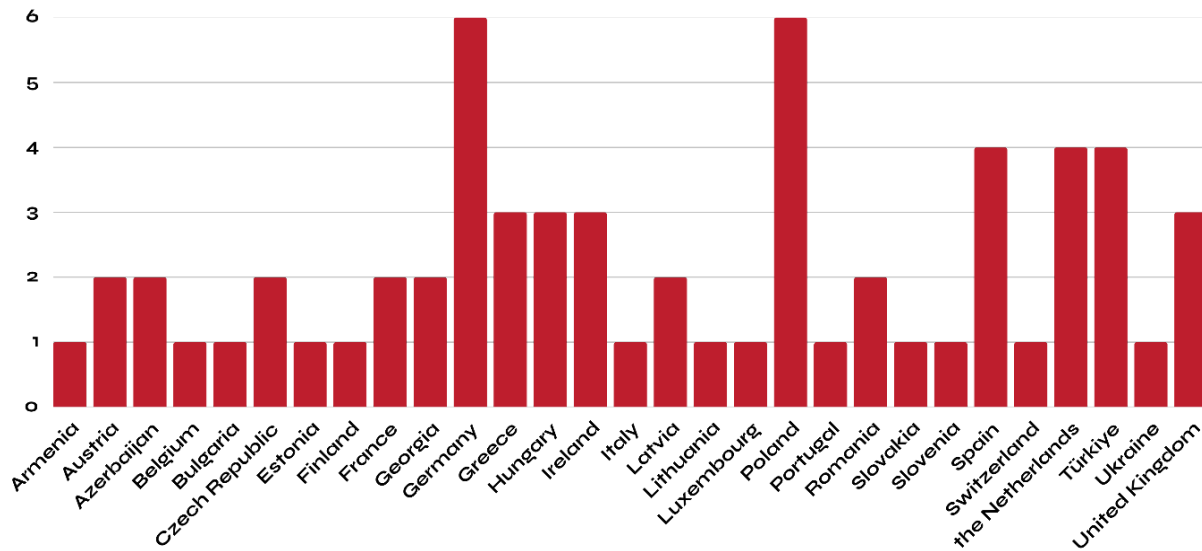


Slavica Čubrić, Case Author of the 13th HPMCC



Zuzana Kovalova, Case Author of the 13th HPMCC

The registration period closed on the 20th of October 2025, with 64 registered teams from 29 countries.



The registered teams had until the 29th of October 2025 to submit up to three Clarification Questions to the Case Authors. The Answers to the Clarification Questions were then published on the 19th of November 2025.

The next step was for the teams to submit their Written Submissions on behalf of the Applicant and Respondent. Out of the 64 registered teams, 59 teams had fulfilled all requirements and successfully submitted their Written Submissions by the deadline on the 9th of January 2025. These Written Submissions were scored by a group of human rights experts. Each Written Submission was scored twice by four different experts (two scores for the Applicant and two scores for the Respondent). The team score is the average score out of these four, deducting the penalty points. The penalties are based on the list from the Rules of the Competition and checked for formal errors, plagiarism, and violations of other provisions of the Rules.

Teams that fulfilled the requirements and submitted their Written Submissions got the chance to showcase their Oral Pleading skills in one of three Regional Rounds. This year, we had the privilege of organising the Regional Rounds in three cities across Europe. The first Regional Round was organised in Prague, Czech Republic, by ELSA Prague from the 5th to the 7th of February 2025; the second in Porto, Portugal, by ELSA Portugal from the 10th to the 12th of February 2025; and the third and final one in Vilnius, Lithuania, by ELSA Lithuania from the 21st to the 23rd of February 2025. We wish to express our gratitude to ELSA Prague, ELSA Portugal, and ELSA Lithuania for their hard work and successful organisation of these

Regional Rounds. They created a great environment in which teams had the chance to demonstrate their pleading skills, learn from experts within the field, as well as learn from each other and get to know fellow students who share their interest in human rights law.



Based on the Written Submission scores and the Regional Round Oral Pleading scores, the best 18 teams qualified to compete in the Final Oral Round in the beautiful city of Strasbourg, France. This year, the Final Oral Round took place from the 19th to the 23rd of May 2025 and, as always, we welcomed the Teams to the Palais de l'Europe for the Preliminary Rounds, Quarter-Final Rounds and Semi-Final Rounds and to the European Court of Human Rights for the Grand Final Round. During these 5 days, we hosted an Opening Ceremony on the first day; the Preliminary Rounds and Mid-Ceremony on the second and third day; the Quarter-Finals and Semi-Finals on the fourth day; and the Grand Final on the fifth day. The Grand Final was followed by the Award Ceremony and the Closing Reception, which took place at the European Court of Human Rights. You may read more about the different stages of the Competition in the following sections of this report.

Scoring System

The Written Submissions and the Oral Submissions are scored based on the following criteria, each weighing 25% of the final score:

1. Identification of legal issues and relevant legal framework: This ground sought to assess the team's general understanding of the case and the issues it raises.
2. Knowledge of ECHR and relevant case law: This ground sought to judge the extent of the team's technical ECHR knowledge.
3. Quality of legal analysis and persuasiveness of arguments: This ground concerned the overall persuasiveness of the team's pleadings and legal analysis.
4. Style: This ground addressed issues of presentation and accessibility.

The Written Submission scores and the Oral Pleading scores each comprise 50% of the overall Qualification Score. For each criterion, the possible scores ranged between 0 (the lowest) and 40 (the highest). The Applicant and Respondent scores of each Judge were calculated by adding up the points for each criterion and dividing them by 4. The scores have been calculated in accordance with the scoring system outlined in Appendix A of the Rules of the Competition, as below:

Appendix A - Calculation of Scores

The Written Submission Score shall be calculated in accordance with the following formula:

$$\frac{\left(\frac{WSA1+WSA2-PA}{2}\right) + \left(\frac{WSR1+WSR2-PR}{2}\right)}{2}$$

The Regional Round Score shall be calculated in accordance with the following formula:

$$\frac{\left(\frac{A1+A2+A3}{3}\right) + \left(\frac{R1+R2+R3}{3}\right)}{2}$$

The Qualification Score shall be calculated in accordance with the following formula:

$$\frac{WSS + RRS}{2}$$

The Preliminary Round Score shall be calculated in accordance with the following formula:

$$\frac{\left(\frac{A1+A2+A3}{3}\right) + \left(\frac{R1+R2+R3}{3}\right)}{2}$$

Written Round

The first challenge teams face in the Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition is submitting their Written Submissions. Each team must provide two Written Submissions: one on behalf of the Applicant and one on behalf of the Respondent.

This stage is mandatory to qualify for the oral Regional Rounds. After the Regional Rounds conclude, the Written Submissions' scores are factored into the Qualification Score, which determines the top 18 teams that will advance to the Final Oral Round in Strasbourg. For the 13th edition, 59 out of 64 teams submitted their Written Submissions by the deadline set by ELSA International on the 9th of January 2025. In total, 36 experts in the human rights field generously scored each Written Submission. ELSA International ensures that all submissions are scored twice by organising two stages of scoring. This year, the first round of scoring took place from the 17th to the 31st of January 2025, and the second round from the 10th to the 24th of February 2025.

We would like to express our appreciation to: Zuzana Kovalova, Slavica Cubric, Anna Maralyan, Mihail Stojanoski, Geanina Munteanu, Jan Kratochvil, Vicki Prais, Kristaps Tamužs, Šárka Dušková, Simon Palmer, Dmytro Tretyakov, Jerome Joseph, Rafał Sokół, Oana Girlescu, Kresimir Kamber, Jeremy McBride, Katia Sokur, Gulara Abdullayeva, Dovilė Gailiūtė-Janušonė, Maria Torbisco-Casals, Aleksandra Mezykowska, Agata Bzdyn, Andreea Maria Rosu, Inga Abramavičiūtė, Francoise Tulkens, Ada Paprocka, Günter Schirmer, Claire Windsor, Stéphanie Bourgeois, Piers Gardner, Rachael E. Ita, Marina Makarova, Irina Chepaykina, Ingunn Elisabet, Anastassia Shadarova, Orri Heimisson, and Viktoria Stoyanova.

Thank you for taking the time to read and score the Written Submissions of all teams. We hope you found them interesting!

The Written Submissions scores were scored in accordance with the formula that can be found in Appendix A of the Rules of the 13th HPMCC, as well as in the Scoring System part of this report. Additionally, the teams had to format their Written Submissions according to the criteria set out in the Rules of the 13th HPMCC. The ELSA International Team conducted the "penalty scoring", where points were deducted from the overall score for rule infractions based on the formal requirements in the Rules. This is marked as PA (Penalty Applicant) and PR (Penalty Respondent). The average scores from each of the Written Submission judges are demonstrated below; however, for a more detailed breakdown of the points awarded for each of the categories, please click [here](#).

Team No.	Applicant				Respondent				Total Score
	Judge 1	Judge 2	Penalties	Total	Judge 1	Judge 2	Penalties	Total	
1	30.25	19.00	1.25	24.000	23.75	20.00	1.25	21.250	22.625
2	27.00	23.25	0.5	24.875	31.75	17.50	0.5	24.375	24.625
3	11.75	25.25	0.5	18.250	26.25	25.75	1.75	25.125	21.688
4	16.00	32.25	1	23.625	33.25	26.75	0.5	29.750	26.688
6	27.00	27.50	0.5	27.000	9.75	38.75	0.75	23.875	25.438
7	17.00	29.50	0	23.250	33.50	33.50	0	33.500	28.375
8	23.75	29.00	0.5	26.125	20.75	19.25	0	20.000	23.063
9	26.75	29.25	0.5	27.750	33.00	31.75	0.5	32.125	29.938
10	32.25	33.75	0	33.000	26.75	27.50	0	27.125	30.063
11	15.00	29.50	0	22.250	30.75	25.00	0	27.875	25.063
12	29.25	35.75	0	32.500	32.50	35.50	0.25	33.875	33.188
13	28.75	37.50	0	33.125	27.50	22.50	0.25	24.875	29.000
14	25.25	32.50	0.5	28.625	18.25	28.00	0.5	22.875	25.750
17	30.00	33.00	0.75	31.125	24.75	32.25	0.75	28.125	29.625
18	24.25	38.00	0.5	30.875	24.50	37.25	0.75	30.500	30.688
19	32.25	36.00	0.5	33.875	33.25	31.00	0.75	31.750	32.813
20	18.25	15.00	1.25	16.000	25.50	34.50	0.5	29.750	22.875
21	18.75	38.00	0.5	28.125	20.00	35.50	0	27.750	27.938
22	34.00	16.50	1	24.750	22.00	28.75	1	24.875	24.813
23	25.00	25.00	0.5	24.750	35.50	20.25	0.5	27.625	26.188
24	22.50	18.50	0.5	20.250	26.50	24.50	0.5	25.250	22.750
25	28.25	28.75	0.5	28.250	20.00	30.50	0.5	25.000	26.625
26	36.00	34.50	0	35.250	35.75	30.00	0.5	32.625	33.938
27	30.00	20.25	0.5	24.875	16.00	15.00	1	15.000	19.938
28	31.50	28.00	1	29.250	32.00	31.00	1	31.000	30.125
29	30.75	27.50	1	28.625	25.50	21.75	1	23.125	25.875
30	35.00	38.75	0.5	36.625	29.00	37.00	0.5	32.750	34.688
31	30.25	36.50	1	32.875	29.50	35.00	1	31.750	32.313
32	22.00	37.00	0.5	29.250	31.25	22.00	0.5	26.375	27.813
33	32.75	28.00	0.5	30.125	34.00	28.75	0.5	31.125	30.625
34	20.00	27.50	1	23.250	33.75	37.00	0.5	35.125	29.188
35	28.25	26.00	0.5	26.875	13.75	28.00	0.5	20.625	23.750
36	37.50	38.50	0.5	37.750	23.50	31.00	0	27.250	32.500
37	25.75	27.00	0	26.375	31.25	21.50	0.5	26.125	26.250
38	34.25	21.25	0.25	27.625	26.00	29.25	0	27.625	27.625

39	17.50	28.75	0	23.125	20.50	18.75	0	19.625	21.375
40	32.00	36.25	1	33.625	34.50	15.00	0.5	24.500	29.063
41	35.50	28.00	0.5	31.500	31.75	35.25	0.5	33.250	32.375
42	31.25	37.00	0	34.125	38.50	30.00	0	34.250	34.188
43	25.75	23.00	0.5	24.125	34.50	32.25	0.25	33.250	28.688
44	29.00	34.75	0.5	31.625	19.25	20.00	0.5	19.375	25.500
45	22.75	34.00	0	28.375	30.50	26.00	0	28.250	28.313
46	23.50	30.00	0.5	26.500	17.50	22.50	0.5	19.750	23.125
47	24.25	31.75	0	28.000	23.00	37.25	0	30.125	29.063
48	30.25	29.75	0	30.000	30.50	24.50	0	27.500	28.750
49	23.50	23.50	0	23.500	29.25	33.50	0	31.375	27.438
50	37.00	36.00	0	36.500	35.50	33.00	0	34.250	35.375
51	31.00	30.25	0	30.625	34.75	31.75	0	33.250	31.938
52	27.00	28.75	0.5	27.625	16.00	28.75	0.5	22.125	24.875
53	36.00	33.00	0	34.500	24.50	30.50	0	27.500	31.000
54	21.00	32.00	0.25	26.375	31.50	30.50	0	31.000	28.688
55	29.50	34.25	0.5	31.625	28.25	33.25	0.5	30.500	31.063
56	29.50	25.25	1.5	26.625	34.00	29.50	1	31.250	28.938
58	20.00	15.00	2	16.500	26.00	27.75	2	25.875	21.188
59	28.25	36.00	1.5	31.375	21.50	14.00	1.5	17.000	24.188
60	32.00	12.75	0	22.375	29.00	31.00	0	30.000	26.188
61	32.50	22.00	0.5	27.000	35.75	16.00	0	25.875	26.438
62	31.50	40.00	0.5	35.500	9.75	35.00	0	22.375	28.938
63	20.75	30.50	0.5	25.375	31.00	26.00	0.5	28.250	26.813

Regional Rounds

Teams that submitted their Written Submissions on time advanced to the second stage of the competition: the Regional Rounds. Here, they presented their legal arguments orally before a panel of three human rights experts. The scores from the Regional Rounds contribute 50% of the Qualification Score for the Final Oral Round. A total of 57 teams participated in one of three Regional Rounds, assigned randomly. These rounds took place in Prague, Czech Republic, Porto, Portugal, and Vilnius, Lithuania, in February 2025. Each Regional Round spanned three days, starting with an Opening Ceremony, followed by two days of Oral Pleadings. Additionally, all rounds featured a rich cultural and social program designed to facilitate networking among the teams. This aspect is particularly significant as it aligns with ELSA's goal of promoting mutual understanding and friendship among law students across Europe. The Regional Rounds concluded with an Awards Ceremony on the evening of the third and final day, where prizes were awarded for the Best Team, the Runner-Up Team and the Best Orator of each Regional Round. Each Regional Round also recognised the team that best embodied the ELSA spirit, honouring those who displayed good sportsmanship, adherence to ELSA's philosophy, and a genuine interest in building connections across Europe.

Regional Round Prague

About the Regional Round

The first Regional Round of the 13th HPMCC was organised by ELSA Prague from the 5th to the 7th of February 2025. A total of 18 teams from the following universities participated in this Regional Round: Riga Graduate School of Law (Latvia), Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg (Germany), Technische Universität Dresden (Germany), Maastricht University (the Netherlands), Cunef Universidad (Spain), Széchenyi István University (Hungary), Eurasia International University (Armenia), University of Graz (Austria), Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University (Türkiye), Eötvös Loránd University (Hungary), University of Zielona Gora (Poland), Marmara University (Türkiye), Trnava University (Slovakia), Georgian Institute Of Public Affairs (Georgia), University of Innsbruck (Austria), King's College London (United Kingdom), and Charles University (Czech Republic).

The Regional Round was supported by 17 judges, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank Veronika Bílková, Vít Alexander Schorm, Martin Kopa, Milan Lipovský, Miroslav Crha, Jakub Drahorád, Kristýna Molková Foukalová, Jan Kratochvíl, Martina Grochová, Marián Giba, Milena Ingelevič-Citak, Roman Kwiecień, Dagmara Kornobis-Romanowska, Michael Geistlinger, Max Timofeyev, Cynthia Sturfels, and Federica Cristani.

An Organiser's Perspective

Organising the 13th Regional Round of the Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition in Prague was not only an honour, but also an unforgettable and enriching experience for all of us involved. This was a particularly special occasion as it marked the very first time the HPMCC was held in the Czech Republic.

The event took place from 5th to 7th February 2025 and brought together 18 exceptional teams from 14 countries across Europe. We are immensely grateful to ELSA International for trusting us with the responsibility of hosting this round and for their unwavering support and cooperation throughout the preparation and the competition itself.

The first day of the Regional Round began at the Faculty of Law of Charles University, our proud venue partner. After the teams completed their registration, we officially opened the competition with the Opening Ceremony in one of the faculty's historical halls. We had the pleasure of welcoming the participants with speeches from Jiří Meister, the Head of the Organising Committee, and Aliena Trefny, the Vice President in charge of Competitions of ELSA International. Their

words marked the symbolic beginning of this Regional Round - the very first one of the 13th edition of HPMCC. Following the welcoming speeches, we presented the Code of Conduct, along with all relevant practical and procedural information necessary for a smooth competition. We also held the Drawing Ceremony, during which the matchups for the following days were determined. The day concluded with a joint dinner for participants and organisers, followed by a social programme at a bowling center, the perfect way for participants to get to know each other in a relaxed and friendly environment.

The next two days were fully dedicated to pleadings, with each team pleading once per day, first on behalf of one party (either the Applicant or the Respondent), and then switching roles the following day. Each pleading was evaluated by three judges, selected from a group of 17 distinguished legal professionals, including professors, practising lawyers, and former moot court participants from the Czech Republic and abroad. Every pleading was closely monitored by our trained timekeepers, who ensured the smooth and fair conduct of each session. In the evening, participants were invited to continue socialising, including a unique cultural experience in a local Prague pub, where they could enjoy Czech cuisine and beer poured directly from taps installed at their tables.

The third and final day of the competition featured another round of pleadings. Each team had the opportunity to plead once again, this time representing the opposite side of the case and facing a new opponent. In the evening, we all gathered at a local venue for the Closing Ceremony, where we celebrated the successful conclusion of the Prague Regional Round. During this ceremony, all teams and their coaches received official certificates, and the best-performing teams were recognised. We are incredibly proud to announce that the winning team of the Prague Regional Round was Team 53, representing the Georgian Institute of Public Affairs. Moreover, the Best Oralist Award was presented to Matěj Plewa, a member of Team 63 from Charles University in Prague.

Following the official ceremony, we celebrated the end of the Regional Round with one final social evening, a joyful and relaxed conclusion to a competition filled with legal excellence, collaboration, and unforgettable memories.

We would like to sincerely thank everyone who made this Regional Round possible. Our gratitude goes to the Faculty of Law of Charles University for providing the venue, and to ELSA Prague, the hosting Local Group, for their exceptional support and cooperation.

We deeply appreciate the dedication of the Organising Committee, especially our timekeepers, whose precision and commitment ensured a smooth competition. Thank you also to the judges, who contributed their time and expertise, and to all the participants and their coaches, whose passion and preparation brought this event to life.

And last but not least, we thank ELSA International for their trust, guidance, and continuous support throughout this journey.

Written by Jana Knížová, Head of Participants of the Regional Round Prague



The Organising Committee of the Regional Round Prague

Results

Team Scores

The teams got the chance to plead twice - once as Applicant and once as Respondent. They were scored on their overall performance as a team by three independent human rights experts. The Regional Round scoring formula can be found in Appendix A of the Rules as well as above in the Scoring System part of this report.

Rank	Team No.	Applicant				Respondent				Total
		Judge 1.	Judge 2.	Judge 3.	Total	Judge 1.	Judge 2.	Judge 3.	Total	
1	53	38.00	38.75	31.25	36.00	36.75	37.50	36.25	36.83	36.42
2	12	32.00	37.50	34.00	34.50	33.50	40.00	36.75	36.75	35.63
3	63	35.50	38.00	32.00	35.17	34.00	37.50	33.00	34.83	35.00
4	62	31.25	29.50	28.75	29.83	36.00	37.50	38.25	37.25	33.54
5	6	29.25	38.75	35.00	34.33	32.00	34.75	28.25	31.67	33.00
6	7	29.50	25.75	24.50	26.58	36.50	40.00	35.00	37.17	31.88
7	59	36.00	27.50	31.75	31.75	31.75	25.25	30.00	29.00	30.38
8	22	31.00	30.00	31.75	30.92	31.25	27.00	29.25	29.17	30.04
9	38	28.75	20.00	28.50	25.75	36.25	26.50	35.00	32.58	29.17
10	2	31.50	29.00	29.00	29.83	26.75	25.00	30.50	27.42	28.63
11	25	29.25	23.00	27.75	26.67	25.00	23.75	24.25	24.33	25.50
12	50	22.75	27.00	25.00	24.92	29.88	24.00	23.25	25.71	25.31
13	14	30.50	20.00	16.25	22.25	25.00	30.00	26.00	27.00	24.63
14	56	21.00	22.50	23.00	22.17	22.50	23.50	24.00	23.33	22.75
15	28	20.00	17.00	15.00	17.33	31.25	16.25	20.00	22.50	19.92
16	24	10.75	19.00	12.00	13.92	28.75	25.75	18.25	24.25	19.08
17	46	28.00	23.00	15.75	22.25	11.00	15.00	18.50	14.83	18.54
18	39	9.00	13.25	9.50	10.58	23.00	19.25	15.50	19.25	14.92

Based on the Regional Round scores, Team 53 from the Georgian Institute Of Public Affairs (Georgia) was awarded the Best Team Award of the Regional Round Prague. The title of the Runner-Up Team was awarded to Team 12 from Maastricht University (the Netherlands).

Individual Scores

In addition to the team scores, each orator was also scored individually. Only those team members who pleaded as both Applicant and Respondent were eligible to compete for the Best Orator Award in the Regional Round Prague.

The individual scores are presented in the table below:

Team No.	Team Members	Applicant				Respondent				Best Orator
		Judge 1.	Judge 2.	Judge 3.	Total	Judge 1.	Judge 2.	Judge 3.	Total	
2	Beāte Bauga	31.50	29.50	28.00	29.67	27.50	30.00	30.50	29.33	59.00
	Adele Sakoviča	31.50	28.00	28.00	29.17	26.75	27.50	31.25	28.50	57.67
	Sabīne Grīsele	31.50	27.50	27.00	28.67	26.25	25.00	30.00	27.08	55.75
	Annika Līze Valtere	31.50	27.75	20.00	26.42	25.75	25.00	30.00	26.92	53.33
6	Pius Röthig	26.00	35.00	34.25	31.75	31.00	34.75	24.75	30.17	61.92
	Jasper Giesenhausen	28.75	30.00	32.50	30.42	33.25	34.75	31.25	33.08	63.50
	Leon Hofmann	31.50	40.00	38.00	36.50	32.00	34.75	28.75	31.83	68.33
7	Maja Finke	30.00	27.00	29.00	28.67				0.00	n/a
	Anna Niessen	28.75	24.50	21.00	24.75				0.00	n/a
	Jule Eppler				0.00	36.25	40.00	35.00	37.08	n/a
	Lina Baumann				0.00	37.00	40.00	33.75	36.92	n/a
12	Sun Liu	30.00	33.75	33.75	32.50				0.00	n/a
	Luísa Pimenta				0.00	38.00	40.00	35.00	37.67	n/a
	Erin Behlić	33.75	36.25	36.25	35.42				0.00	n/a
	Ivor Meštrović				0.00	29.00	40.00	34.00	34.33	n/a
14	María Dolores Peña López	29.00	20.00	15.75	21.58				0.00	n/a
	Alejandra Rivas de la Calle				0.00	24.50	29.75	26.00	26.75	n/a
	Álvaro Ortego Rubio	32.00	20.00	15.00	22.33				0.00	n/a
	Álvaro Segura Bartolomé				0.00	26.25	30.25	25.00	27.17	n/a
22	Réka Etelka Kérészt	35.75	30.00	32.50	32.75	30.50	20.00	28.00	26.17	58.92
	Réka Mária Erős	25.75	27.50	28.75	27.33	31.50	31.25	29.50	30.75	58.08
24	Mariam Sargsyan	10.00	19.00	10.00	13.00	26.25	23.50	18.75	22.83	35.83
	Marine Karapetyan	11.25	19.00	15.00	15.08	32.50	26.50	17.25	25.42	40.50
25	Sascha Preßnig	26.50	23.00	27.25	25.58	21.00	23.25	21.25	21.83	47.42
	Florian Schosteritsch	26.50	23.00	27.25	25.58	27.00	23.50	27.50	26.00	51.58
	Nina Lex	30.00	26.00	28.50	28.17	23.25	18.25	22.50	21.33	49.50
28	Feyza Kellegöz				0.00				0.00	n/a
	Aybüke Özmen	21.00	20.00	16.50	19.17	33.75	16.25	20.00	23.33	42.50
	Zeynep Nur Yayla	20.00	15.00	15.00	16.67	28.75	15.25	13.75	19.25	35.92

38	Tamás Baumstark	27.50	19.50	29.50	25.50				0.00	n/a
	Lilla Berényi	28.75	20.50	26.50	25.25				0.00	n/a
	Luca Csanády				0.00	36.50	28.75	40.00	35.08	n/a
	Ádám Gábor Nagy				0.00	32.50	24.25	27.50	28.08	n/a
39	Karolina Szakoła				0.00	19.50	19.00	10.00	16.17	n/a
	Julia Dziubałka	8.50	10.00	8.50	9.00	23.25	18.25	16.00	19.17	28.17
	Tatiana Lewczenko	10.25	16.50	10.50	12.42	22.25	21.00	18.00	20.42	32.83
46	Ceren Güngör				0.00	10.00	10.00	17.50	12.50	n/a
	Kayra Nur Hatapçı				0.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	n/a
	Zelal Özen	10.75	13.50	10.00	11.42				0.00	n/a
	Marta Giannelli	34.50	32.50	28.50	31.83	12.50	27.50	28.50	22.83	54.67
50	Tomáš Jurkanin	21.00	27.25	25.00	24.42	26.25	20.00	20.00	22.08	46.50
	Jakub Sopóci	23.50	28.50	25.00	25.67	27.00	20.00	17.00	21.33	47.00
	Nela Veselovská	23.00	29.00	25.00	25.67	34.25	30.00	27.50	30.58	56.25
	Nikola Konkořová	20.50	25.75	25.00	23.75	31.75	25.00	26.75	27.83	51.58
53	Ani Lazarashvili	32.50	37.50	30.50	33.50	37.00	37.50	36.25	36.92	70.42
	Salome Gorjomeladze	40.00	38.75	32.25	37.00				0.00	n/a
	Salome Bakuradze				0.00	36.75	37.50	36.25	36.83	n/a
	Tezi Jamrulidze				0.00				0.00	n/a
56	Orator 1	20.75	22.00	22.00	21.58	21.75	22.00	22.00	21.92	43.50
	Orator 2				0.00	23.00	22.25	24.00	23.08	n/a
	Orator 3	21.50	22.50	22.00	22.00	21.75	22.00	23.00	22.25	44.25
	Orator 4	21.00	22.50	24.00	22.50				0.00	n/a
59	Nauman Nadeem	37.75	37.25	34.00	36.33	36.75	33.75	24.25	31.58	67.92
	Nok Ching Cheung	34.00	25.00	26.50	28.50	32.75	28.75	32.50	31.33	59.83
	Charles Wong	35.50	20.00	28.25	27.92	25.50	13.75	27.50	22.25	50.17
62	Krizia Testa				0.00	38.00	39.75	38.50	38.75	n/a
	Sarah McDonnell	36.25	30.25	31.25	32.58				0.00	n/a
	Pádraig O Beolain				0.00	33.00	34.75	37.25	35.00	n/a
	Klaudia Knyzewska	27.50	28.00	25.00	26.83				0.00	n/a
63	Alice Sklenářová	26.50	31.25	20.00	25.92				0.00	n/a
	Jakub Kozumplík				0.00	27.50	30.00	25.00	27.50	n/a
	Matěj Plewa	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	37.50	32.50	40.00	36.67	76.67
	Dan Sklenář	40.00	40.00	35.00	38.33	28.75	38.75	35.00	34.17	72.50

*To be eligible for the Regional Round's Best Orator Award, each orator must present oral pleadings for the Applicant and the Respondent.

Based on the scores, Matěj Plewa from Team 63 from Charles University (Czech Republic) was awarded the Best Orator of the Regional Round Award.

Regional Round Porto

About the Regional Round

The second Regional Round of the 13th HPMCC was organised by ELSA Portugal from the 10th to the 12th of February 2025. A total of 18 teams from the following universities participated in this Regional Round: Universidad Pontificia Comillas (Spain), Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv (Ukraine), Tilburg University (the Netherlands), Universitatea de Vest din Timișoara (Romania), BPP University (United Kingdom), University of Groningen (the Netherlands), University of Birmingham (United Kingdom), Istanbul Medipol University (Türkiye), Universidad Complutense de Madrid (Spain), University of Lucerne (Switzerland), University of Ljubljana (Slovenia), Lyon Catholic University (France), Leiden University (the Netherlands), Baku State University (Azerbaijan), Freie Universität Berlin (Germany), University of Latvia (Latvia), Sciences Po Reims (France), University of Galway (Ireland), and Masaryk University in Brno (Czech Republic).

The Regional Round was supported by 27 judges and we would like to take this opportunity to thank Fernanda Sintra Amaral, Graça Enes Ferreira, Daniel Gomes, Anabela Costa Leão, João Taborda da Gama, Tiago Morais Rocha, Marisa Araújo, Dulce Lopes, Sandra Tavares, Eva Dias Costa, Francisco Costa Leite, Carla Isabel Carecho, João Manuel Araújo Ramos Lopes, Zita Xavier de Medeiros, Paula Veiga, Margot Lopes Martins, Maria A. Pelayo, Inês Neves, Nuno Peres Alves, Paulo de Mesquita Teixeira, Francisco Quelhas Lima, Catarina Serra, Ana Luísa Loureiro, José Manuel Monteiro Correia, Lina Castro Baptista, Artur Dionísio Oliveira and Catarina Alves Pimenta for the time, effort and expertise that contributed to the organisation and academic quality of the Regional Round.

An Organiser's Perspective

In the last term, ELSA Portugal decided to host the 2nd European Regional Round of John H. Jackson in Lisbon. In an attempt to decentralise events from the capital, make our Invicta city known and adventure my recently appointed National Board, a few days after my election, the application to be hosts of Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition was sent. With prior knowledge and experience in hosting these Competitions, a deep passion for Human Rights and a dedicated Organising Committee, I can proudly say that this adventure not only matched my expectations but also exceeded them!

Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition holds a big prestige and, as much as we can say that finding partners for a Human Rights Competition can be quite hard, we got very lucky in this process! Starting with the City Council, Câmara do Porto, that

ensured merchandise to our welcome packages and Cerejeira Namora Marinho Falcão, a law firm, that contributed also with their merch, with a big presence with Judges and financially, to our Gold Partner law firm Moraes Leitão Galvão Teles & Soares da Silva, which also ensured their presence with Judges, merch and a financial contribution to the Superior Council of the Judiciary, an entity involved in one of ELSA Portugal's Flagship Projects and that to this Competition decided to open the doors of the second instance court, Tribunal da Relação do Porto, to be one of the venues and to involve their own Judges in this lifetime experience and, finally, to Universidade Portucalense Infante D. Henrique, headquarters of one of our local groups and the venue that welcomed the first day and the mornings of pleadings!

With all of this support and a robust set of Judges, everything was aligned to welcome our dear teams from all over Europe! After registering, the Participants dived into the Academic Programme marked by two lectures, "Comparative International Protection of Human Rights Law", "Criminal Justice and Gender", and a Roundtable, "The jurisdiction of ICC: is it enough or should it expand?", setting already a Human Rights environment!

With the Opening Ceremony delivered, and after a stressful moment for our participants who were anxious about the Drawing Ceremony, what's better to relax, and to put our dear motto of cultural diversity into action, than to present a typical cultural moment of our universities? With the musical performance of two academic groups from the Faculty of Law of the University of Porto (FDUP), named "Tunas" in Portugal, the Portuguese vibes were planted, and we even got a dancing moment between participants and the academic groups!

The next two days were dedicated to the main part of the Competition – the Oral Pleadings, and this is where the Head of Timekeepers and their large team come in, the ones in charge of ensuring that the rules were followed and that every pleading was a safe space for our Participants. On the third and last day of the Regional Round, the Closing Ceremony was held after the Pleadings with speeches from the President of the Court and our dearest Aliena, passing to the announcement of Team 36 as the Best Team, Team 4 as the Runner-Up Team, and Charlie Singh as the Best Orator and Team 40 as the Most ELSA Spirited Team, and finalising it with a celebration cake and a Final Dinner with view to our beautiful Douro River!

Three years after the start of my path in Competitions, I can say that nothing fulfilled me as much as organising a Regional Round and feeling in my skin what moves us in ELSA - for the people, to the people, to positively impact people's lives and to create opportunities. It was truly an honour. To my Organising Committee - Ana Lira, Ana Beatriz Franco, Inês Cardoso, Juliana Abreu, Sílvia Nemchuk, Rodrigo

Prelhaz, Gustavo Lopes, Maria Eduarda Pereira, Afonso Oliveira and Diogo Soares - for the several months, days and hours in meetings and briefings and for understanding my passion and making sure the same amount of it was put into every aspect of this Competition - I am beyond than grateful.

To the Helpers and Timekeepers - for having been the skeleton that materialised this Competition every single day.

To Henrique, my predecessor, for having allowed me to be his right arm and for incentivising me to venture into the field of organising international competitions.

To Maciej and Aliena, for believing in our potential and for ensuring that support was something we constantly felt since the moment we expressed interest in organising this Regional Round.

After 2 successful terms where ELSA Portugal hosted both of the Competitions Flagship Projects of ELSA International, we pass the honours to the next organisers and hope this can be an inspiration for you!

Written by Inês Ribeiro, Head of the Organising Committee of the Regional Round Porto



The Organising Committee of the Regional Round Porto

Results

Team Scores

The teams got the chance to plead twice - once as Applicant and once as Respondent. They were scored on their overall performance as a team by three independent human rights experts. The Regional Round scoring formula can be found in Appendix A of the Rules as well as above in the Scoring System part of this report.

Rank	Team No.	Applicant				Respondent				Total
		Judge 1.	Judge 2.	Judge 3.	Total	Judge 1.	Judge 2.	Judge 3.	Total	
1	36	35.00	34.50	34.50	34.67	38.00	38.00	38.00	38.00	36.33
2	4	37.75	37.75	37.50	37.67	34.25	34.25	34.25	34.25	35.96
3	34	34.25	35.25	35.00	34.83	36.00	36.00	36.00	36.00	35.42
4	10	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	37.00	35.00	35.00	35.67	35.33
5	31	35.00	35.75	33.50	34.75	36.00	35.75	35.00	35.58	35.17
6	41	32.50	31.25	35.75	33.17	37.50	36.75	35.75	36.67	34.92
7	30	36.25	36.25	36.25	36.25	30.75	32.75	26.00	29.83	33.04
8	55	32.50	34.00	34.00	33.50	32.50	32.50	32.50	32.50	33.00
9	23	30.00	30.00	28.50	29.50	34.75	34.25	30.50	33.17	31.33
10	13	27.50	26.00	26.50	26.67	34.00	36.50	32.00	34.17	30.42
11	44	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	28.00	28.75	32.50	29.75	29.88
12	60	27.00	27.00	27.00	27.00	33.75	29.00	30.00	30.92	28.96
13	47	32.00	30.00	35.00	32.33	25.25	25.25	25.25	25.25	28.79
14	40	23.75	25.25	23.75	24.25	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	27.13
15	35	32.50	30.25	30.00	30.92	25.00	28.00	26.00	26.33	28.63
16	51	33.25	33.25	33.25	33.25	19.00	23.00	28.00	23.33	28.29
17	27	22.50	25.00	24.50	24.00	29.25	27.50	28.50	28.42	26.21
18	58	23.50	27.50	31.50	27.50	21.00	23.75	22.50	22.42	24.96
19	33	23.25	23.50	25.00	23.92	23.00	23.00	23.00	23.00	23.46

Based on the Regional Round scores, Team 36 from the University of Ljubljana (Slovenia) was awarded the Best Team Award of the Regional Round Porto. The title of the Runner-Up Team was awarded to Team 4 from Universidad Pontificia Comillas (Spain).

Individual Scores

In addition to the team scores, each orator was also scored individually. Only those team members who pleaded as both Applicant and Respondent were eligible to compete for the Best Orator Award in the Regional Round Porto.

The individual scores are presented in the table below:

Team No.	Team Members	Applicant				Respondent				Best Orator
		Judge 1.	Judge 2.	Judge 3.	Total	Judge 1.	Judge 2.	Judge 3.	Total	
4	Charlie Singh	38.25	38.50	37.50	38.08	34.75	34.75	34.75	34.75	72.83
	Alvaro Manuel Escobar	37.75	37.50	37.00	37.42	29.25	31.25	29.50	30.00	67.42
	Leticia Martinez-Echverria				0.00				0.00	n/a
	Autumn Skylar Mena				0.00				0.00	n/a
10	Sabrina Radutska	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00				0.00	n/a
	Marharyta Karmaniuk				0.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	n/a
	Myroslava Kalynovska	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00				0.00	n/a
	Polina Savinska				0.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	n/a
13	Agnes Therese Larsdatter Garder	29.00	27.00	32.25	29.42	34.25	35.75	32.50	34.17	63.58
	Maximilian Michel Angelo Cortie	28.00	26.00	20.75	24.92	34.00	34.25	31.75	33.33	58.25
	Bianka Kovács				0.00	32.25	34.25	32.00	32.83	n/a
	Lizi Kachibaia	27.50	25.00	24.00	25.50	33.00	36.50	31.75	33.75	59.25
23	Horea-Avram Ardelean	30.00	30.00	28.00	29.33	36.00	34.25	31.75	34.00	63.33
	Mihaela Daia	33.50	30.00	28.00	30.50	32.75	32.25	30.00	31.67	62.17
	Anastasia Prodius	30.00	30.00	30.50	30.17	34.50	33.00	30.00	32.50	62.67
27	Sylvia Chukualim	22.50	25.00	24.50	24.00	27.00	22.50	24.75	24.75	48.75
	Adam Bradbury				0.00				0.00	n/a
	Laila Omer				0.00				0.00	n/a
	Purity Bolo	25.00	27.50	25.75	26.08	30.50	27.50	27.50	28.50	54.58
30	Lennart-Justus Stoffers				0.00	31.00	33.75	26.50	30.42	n/a
	Ľana Opartyová	37.50	37.50	37.50	37.50				0.00	n/a
	Matej Sedlár	33.25	33.00	33.25	33.17				0.00	n/a
	Mihnea-Radu Curta				0.00	30.00	32.00	23.00	28.33	n/a
31	Kunal Gupta	32.50	35.75	34.00	34.08				0.00	n/a
	Benjamin Faulkner				0.00	35.75	35.75	35.00	35.50	n/a
	Warda Minhas				0.00	36.50	35.75	35.00	35.75	n/a
	Ishar Bhullar	32.50	34.00	33.00	33.17				0.00	n/a
33	Deniz Çiloğlu	23.75	23.75	25.75	24.42	27.00	27.00	27.00	27.00	51.42
	Ayça Seçkin	22.75	22.50	24.75	23.33				0.00	n/a
	Emel İşcan	23.25	23.50	24.75	23.83	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	44.83
	Emine Bıçakçı				0.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	n/a

34	Carlos Eduardo García	34.25	35.50	35.00	34.92	36.25	36.25	36.25	36.25	71.17
	Walter Incerti	34.00	34.75	35.00	34.58	34.25	34.25	34.25	34.25	68.83
	Joaquín Calvo Alcázar				0.00				0.00	n/a
	Bruno Herrero Castellanos				0.00				0.00	n/a
35	Oliver Wilhelm Gerster	30.00	30.50	30.00	30.17				0.00	n/a
	Anna Rahel Berneis				0.00	24.00	26.75	23.75	24.83	n/a
	Chantal Raphaella Wittwer	32.50	30.75	30.00	31.08				0.00	n/a
	Zoé Mireille Rodriguez Rios				0.00	24.00	29.00	27.25	26.75	n/a
36	Jona Šmalc Novak				0.00	37.75	38.00	38.00	37.92	n/a
	Tamara Humar	34.00	34.25	33.50	33.92				0.00	n/a
	Maruša Škrjanc	35.50	35.00	35.00	35.17				0.00	n/a
	Lara Likar Knavs				0.00	37.75	38.25	38.00	38.00	n/a
40	Khady Gaye	22.75	24.00	22.75	23.17				0.00	n/a
	Aya Ben Saad	24.50	25.75	24.50	24.92	31.25	35.00	35.00	33.75	58.67
	Hanna Bekhti				0.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	n/a
	Aya Carouba				0.00				0.00	n/a
41	Emily Cay Bjurqvist				0.00	37.50	36.75	36.00	36.75	n/a
	Lea Roswell				0.00	37.75	36.50	36.50	36.92	n/a
	Anastasiia Sivash	31.50	30.25	33.50	31.75				0.00	n/a
	Catharina Sophie Nowack	32.50	32.25	36.50	33.75				0.00	n/a
44	Riad Ahmedov				0.00	28.50	27.50	31.25	29.08	n/a
	Elmira Sadiqzade	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00				0.00	n/a
	Tural Demirov				0.00	25.00	27.50	23.75	25.42	n/a
	Alsu Karimova	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00				0.00	n/a
47	Gabriela Sobiš				0.00	25.75	25.75	25.75	25.75	n/a
	Juliette Al Hajji	32.50	35.00	36.00	34.50				0.00	n/a
	Shashwati Wagle	31.00	30.00	35.00	32.00				0.00	n/a
	Mia Barnikel				0.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	n/a
51	Evija Velvele	33.75	33.25	33.75	33.58				0.00	n/a
	Ņikita Paņins				0.00	16.00	21.00	27.75	21.58	n/a
	Kristīne Ilga Budķēviča				0.00	22.00	25.00	27.75	24.92	n/a
	Katrina Rūmniece-Pakule	31.50	31.50	31.50	31.50				0.00	n/a
55	Lilia Hessabi	36.75	34.25	35.00	35.33				0.00	n/a
	Martyna Meskauskaitė				0.00	32.00	32.00	32.00	32.00	n/a
	Louise Tabary				0.00	33.50	33.00	33.00	33.17	n/a
	Louisa Derbez	33.75	33.00	34.00	33.58				0.00	n/a
58	Ruth Dillon	23.50	27.50	30.75	27.25	20.00	22.25	22.50	21.58	48.83
	Rory Burke	23.50	27.50	30.00	27.00	21.25	24.00	22.50	22.58	49.58

60	Ondřej Kalandra	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.25	35.75	35.00	35.33	70.33
	Klára Kamarádová				0.00				0.00	n/a
	Karolína Šandorová	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	29.00	20.00	19.00	22.67	42.67
	Kamila Šicová	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	33.50	29.00	21.00	27.83	52.83

*To be eligible for the Regional Round's Best Orator Award, each orator must present oral pleadings for the Applicant and the Respondent.

Based on the scores, Charlie Singh was the Best Orator from Universidad Pontificia Comillas (Spain), was awarded the Best Orator of the Regional Round Award.



Regional Round Vilnius

About the Regional Round

The final Regional Round of the 13th HPMCC was successfully organised by ELSA Lithuania in Vilnius, Lithuania, from the 21st to the 23rd of February 2025. A total of 22 teams from the following universities participated in this Regional Round: Vilnius University (Lithuania), Católica Global School of Law (Portugal), University of Passau (Germany), Democritus University of Thrace (Greece), Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski (Bulgaria), University of Cologne (Germany), ADA University (Azerbaijan), Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece), Alma Mater Studiorum Università di Bologna (Italy), University College Freiburg (Germany), Universitat Ramon Llull (Spain), Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary (Hungary), National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (Greece), IE University (Spain), University of Turku (Finland), Uniwersytet im. Adama Mickiewicza w Poznaniu (Poland), University of Warsaw (Poland), Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi (Romania), Tallinn University (Estonia), Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń (Poland), and Université UCL Saint-Louis Bruxelles (Belgium).

The Regional Round was supported by 19 judges, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank Algirdas Gedminas, Ana Kiknadze, Anhelina Andrieieva, Aurelijus Gutauskas, Aušrinė Pasvenskienė, Darius Žilyš, Donatas Murauskas, Dovilė Gailiūtė-Janušonė, Edita Gruodytė, Edita Žiobienė, Inga Abramavičiūtė, Kristaps Tamuzs, Jolita Miliuvienė, Laurynas Biekša, Lina Urbaitė, Loreta Šaltinytė, Nika Bruskinė, and Raminta Matulytė.

An Organiser's Perspective

After five years without hosting an international moot court competition, ELSA Lithuania was honoured to organise the HPMCC Regional Round. We would like to thank ELSA International for their trust and guidance in making this event a truly exceptional experience. Understanding the challenges and pressures participants feel preparing for the HPMCC, we aimed to make the competition as smooth and supportive for the participants as possible. Prior to the event, we provided an informative guide to ensure all teams felt informed about cultural and legal differences. To help ease nerves at the competition itself, we organised an academic programme on Stress Management. We believe these insights were valuable not only in the pleading rooms but also in participants' daily lives.

Beyond the competition, we wanted to showcase the beauty of our capital city. After the first day's official proceedings, we organised an optional city tour. Despite the

cold, we hope the walk allowed participants to connect, fostering friendships that will last well beyond the competition.

Pleadings took place at the Vilnius University Faculty of Law, with four sessions happening at the same time, three times a day. Each round featured three judges with extensive experience in human rights law and moot court competitions, ensuring participants received both a challenging experience and constructive feedback. The sessions were efficiently managed by timekeepers, ensuring smooth proceedings throughout the competition.

This event would not have been possible without the collective effort of our partners and sponsors. We are incredibly grateful for the support of our cooperative partners, Ellex Valiunas and Sorainen Lietuva, as well as our partner, TGS Baltic, whose dedication enhanced the quality of the event. Our deepest appreciation also goes to our main sponsor, UAB Tonerta, and our sponsor, INFOLEX, for their invaluable support. Additionally, we extend our thanks to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania, Ignitis Group, VU Law Faculty, and Go Vilnius for their backing. We are especially thankful to Vilnius City Municipality and Vilnius University Faculty of Law for providing outstanding venues for the opening ceremony and pleadings, offering participants a professional setting to showcase their skills.

We were grateful for all the beautiful words and appreciation. What truly made this event special was the passion of the participants, the insightful feedback from the judges, and simply, feeling the ELSA spirit. Thank you to everyone who helped organise it, who learned something, who taught something and who participated.

Written by Virginija Baranauskaitė, Head of Organising Committee of the Regional Round Vilnius



The Organising Committee of the Regional Round Vilnius

Results

Team Scores

The teams got the chance to plead twice - once as Applicant and once as Respondent. They were scored on their overall performance as a team by three independent human rights experts. The Regional Round scoring formula can be found in Appendix A of the Rules as well as above in the Scoring System part of this report.

Rank	Team No.	Applicant				Respondent				Total
		Judge 1.	Judge 2.	Judge 3.	Total	Judge 1.	Judge 2.	Judge 3.	Total	
1	32	38.00	38.50	35.50	37.33	33.75	33.50	34.50	33.92	35.63
2	18	32.00	30.50	36.50	33.00	40.00	38.25	34.00	37.42	35.21
3	43	36.75	30.50	33.50	33.58	39.25	35.00	35.25	36.50	35.04
4	19	27.00	28.75	32.75	29.50	39.75	40.00	40.00	39.92	34.71
5	9	34.50	34.75	31.50	33.58	35.50	36.00	35.50	35.67	34.63
6	8	38.75	38.75	39.00	38.83	27.25	31.75	28.75	29.25	34.04
7	42	30.00	31.75	32.75	31.50	38.50	35.50	35.00	36.33	33.92
8	11	31.50	31.50	27.75	30.25	38.00	39.25	32.50	36.58	33.42
9	61	20.75	29.50	29.00	26.42	38.00	38.50	36.50	37.67	32.04
10	21	29.50	35.00	38.25	34.25	27.00	30.50	31.00	29.50	31.88
11	48	30.75	32.50	29.50	30.92	31.00	30.75	31.50	31.08	31.00
12	26	28.75	27.50	31.25	29.17	30.00	31.25	34.50	31.92	30.54
13	29	32.75	28.75	30.00	30.50	32.25	30.00	25.00	29.08	29.79
14	49	33.00	31.75	23.25	29.33	30.25	28.75	30.50	29.83	29.58
15	52	35.25	22.00	22.50	26.58	31.75	25.75	27.50	28.33	27.46
16	17	28.75	30.25	29.00	29.33	14.75	25.25	26.75	22.25	25.79
17	37	21.50	25.25	29.00	25.25	20.50	27.00	27.50	25.00	25.13
18	3	19.25	13.00	24.00	18.75	34.00	28.50	23.75	28.75	23.75
19	45	21.75	32.75	24.00	26.17	20.00	20.50	19.50	20.00	23.08
20	54	29.50	24.00	23.00	25.50	11.50	21.50	28.00	20.33	22.92
21	20	11.75	25.50	25.00	20.75	21.25	30.50	21.25	24.33	22.54

Based on the Regional Round scores, Team 32 from the Universitat Ramon Llull (Spain) was awarded the Best Team Award of the Regional Round Vilnius. The title of the Runner-Up Team was awarded to Team 18 from Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski (Bulgaria).

Individual Scores

In addition to the team scores, each orator was also scored individually. Only those team members who pleaded as both Applicant and Respondent were eligible to compete for the Best Orator Award in the Regional Round Vilnius.

The individual scores are presented in the table below:

Team No.	Team Members	Applicant				Respondent				Best Orator
		Judge 1.	Judge 2.	Judge 3.	Total	Judge 1.	Judge 2.	Judge 3.	Total	
3	Liepa Tamošiūnaitė	21.25	14.75	23.00	19.67				0.00	n/a
	Inga Zacharevič				0.00	32.00	25.75	22.75	26.83	n/a
	Povilas Virbašius				0.00	36.00	25.75	24.50	28.75	n/a
	Arnoldas Čepkauskas	19.00	13.75	22.00	18.25				0.00	n/a
8	Zuzanna Karcz	39.00	39.00	39.50	39.17				0.00	n/a
	Urszula Kałaur				0.00	20.25	28.00	26.00	24.75	n/a
	Antonina Mierzejewska				0.00	30.75	33.50	31.75	32.00	n/a
	Błażej Ulman	38.25	38.75	38.75	38.58				0.00	n/a
9	Catalin-Ioan Pantiru	33.75	34.50	36.00	34.75	37.75	36.00	37.00	36.92	71.67
	Isabela Assis	29.50	40.00	24.00	31.17	32.00	36.00	34.25	34.08	65.25
	Thandiwe Majay	38.50	39.50	38.00	38.67	28.50	33.75	33.00	31.75	70.42
11	Sophia Theresa Klinger	29.25	34.00	24.75	29.33				0.00	n/a
	Tabea Hanna Karg	33.00	33.75	25.00	30.58	37.75	39.00	36.25	37.67	68.25
	Helena Ludmilla Karl	29.25	30.00	22.00	27.08				0.00	n/a
	Katharina Maria Hochmuth				0.00	37.25	39.25	30.00	35.50	n/a
17	Lydia Marou	28.75	30.00	28.25	29.00				0.00	n/a
	Athanasia Magklara	29.25	30.25	29.50	29.67	19.75	24.50	26.75	23.67	53.33
	Kleio Koromila				0.00	15.50	25.75	27.00	22.75	n/a
18	Aleksandra Zlateva	32.00	29.00	37.00	32.67	39.50	38.50	33.50	37.17	69.83
	Svetlana Slavcheva	31.75	30.75	35.25	32.58	39.50	37.75	33.50	36.92	69.50
19	Mounira Hssaine				0.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	n/a
	Julie Dovern	37.25	33.50	39.00	36.58				0.00	n/a
	Nil Su Ketenci	21.25	24.50	38.00	27.92				0.00	n/a
	Alessandra Reputin				0.00	39.00	39.50	39.50	39.33	n/a
20	Bayaz Mammadzada				0.00	25.00	37.00	27.00	29.67	n/a
	Gunel Niyazova				0.00	25.50	37.00	21.75	28.08	n/a
	Azera Huseyn	15.25	26.25	32.50	24.67				0.00	n/a
	Gunay Hasanli	14.00	24.50	23.75	20.75				0.00	n/a
21	Alexandra Dougali	30.50	36.25	38.00	34.92				0.00	n/a

	Nestor Papakonstantinou				0.00	25.75	29.75	30.75	28.75	n/a
	Panagiotis Ilias Tzitzilis	28.25	29.00	38.00	31.75				0.00	n/a
	Nikolaos Tsitlakidis				0.00	31.00	31.25	31.75	31.33	n/a
26	Marco Celeghin	28.50	29.25	28.25	28.67	29.00	30.00	34.00	31.00	59.67
	Filippo Coccia	29.00	29.50	25.75	28.08	22.50	26.25	33.50	27.42	55.50
	Tommaso Malpensa				0.00	29.00	36.25	35.50	33.58	n/a
	Agnese Valente	31.00	32.25	30.75	31.33	32.50	35.00	36.50	34.67	66.00
29	Luna Thielmann	32.75	27.50	30.00	30.08	31.50	30.00	25.00	28.83	58.92
	Angelina Schülke	32.75	20.25	28.75	27.25	31.75	30.00	23.25	28.33	55.58
	Theo Cullen Mouze	33.50	33.25	38.75	35.17	31.75	29.25	27.50	29.50	64.67
32	Helena Durban Batllori	38.00	36.50	37.50	37.33	37.50	35.00	30.25	34.25	71.58
	Cristina Calvo Marin	38.00	39.00	35.75	37.58	27.50	33.00	30.00	30.17	67.75
	Irene Aspa Mayor	37.00	37.00	33.00	35.67	27.50	33.50	30.00	30.33	66.00
	Antia Garcia Barbosa	37.00	39.00	34.00	36.67	30.00	33.00	35.25	32.75	69.42
37	Lili Petra Kovács	22.25	25.50	29.00	25.58	21.00	29.50	28.50	26.33	51.92
	András György Gruber	21.25	23.50	29.00	24.58	20.00	21.50	26.25	22.58	47.17
42	Andriana Handanou	33.75	31.00	31.50	32.08				0.00	n/a
	Kyriaki Chronaki				0.00	36.25	32.50	31.25	33.33	n/a
	Nikolaos Kyrillidis	28.75	32.50	33.75	31.67				0.00	n/a
	Iason Homeros Christidis				0.00	39.50	39.00	39.50	39.33	n/a
43	Gabriela George Georgieva				0.00	39.00	30.00	33.75	34.25	n/a
	Adela Casado Perez	35.00	27.50	32.25	31.58				0.00	n/a
	Claudia Espinosa Segura	38.25	32.75	36.75	35.92				0.00	n/a
	Matilde Romagnoli				0.00	39.25	36.25	37.00	37.50	n/a
45	Ilona Mattila	25.50	32.75	32.00	30.08	22.00	25.75	20.75	22.83	52.92
	Aino Aro	21.50	27.75	20.00	23.08	20.25	21.25	21.25	20.92	44.00
	Helmi Koskinen	17.75	27.75	20.00	21.83	18.00	14.50	15.75	16.08	37.92
48	Martyna Kłujśza	29.00	35.00	28.75	30.92	31.00	33.50	31.50	32.00	62.92
	Kamila Morawiec	28.25	30.00	30.25	29.50				0.00	n/a
	Monika Stanisławska				0.00	31.75	29.50	31.50	30.92	n/a
	Maja Przybylak				0.00				0.00	n/a
49	Bianca Maria Bordieanu	30.00	31.75	25.00	28.92	28.75	27.50	30.00	28.75	57.67
	Raisa Milena Manolescu				0.00	36.00	31.25	31.75	33.00	n/a
	Mălina Turtureanu	29.50	31.50	26.25	29.08	31.50	22.50	31.00	28.33	57.42
	Ana Raisa Țușcă	33.00	33.25	26.50	30.92	26.25	22.50	29.00	25.92	56.83
52	Sabina Sawicka				0.00	31.75	27.50	28.75	29.33	n/a
	Harshita Mardikar	35.00	24.50	25.00	28.17				0.00	n/a
	Mitchell Curtis				0.00	31.50	24.00	28.75	28.08	n/a
	Hitesh Bhaskar	35.75	22.50	27.50	28.58				0.00	n/a

54	Aleksandra Pawełek				0.00	13.25	21.00	27.25	20.50	n/a
	Małgorzata Michalska				0.00	12.00	22.25	30.00	21.42	n/a
	Emilia Kozłowska	29.50	28.00	27.25	28.25				0.00	n/a
	Ilona Wróblewska	29.50	20.00	21.75	23.75				0.00	n/a
61	Camilla Cicoria				0.00	40.00	39.25	38.00	39.08	n/a
	François Hannequart				0.00	36.00	37.25	34.25	35.83	n/a
	Marie-Astrid Soenen	22.50	28.75	31.25	27.50				0.00	n/a
	Arthur Tondeur	20.00	30.50	27.25	25.92				0.00	n/a

*To be eligible for the Regional Round's Best Orator Award, each orator must present oral pleadings for the Applicant and the Respondent.

Based on the scores, Catalin-Ioan Pantiru was the Best Orator from Católica Global School of Law (Portugal), was awarded the Best Orator of the Regional Round Award.

Qualification Scores

Based on their scores in the Written Submissions and the Regional Rounds, each weighing 50% of the Qualification Score, in accordance with provision 6.4 of the Rules of the Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition, 18 teams were selected for the Final Oral Round. The Rules provide the following guidance on the selection of the qualifying Teams:

6.4 Qualification to the Final Oral Round

6.4.1 The Qualification Score shall be calculated in accordance with Rule 8.1.5.

6.4.2 18 Teams shall qualify for the Final Oral Round. ELSA International will determine the number of Teams qualifying from each Regional Round, as follows:

- a) The four highest-scoring Teams from each Regional Round shall automatically proceed to the Final Oral Round.*
- b) After the Teams who qualify automatically are determined, the remaining spots in the Final Oral Round go to the six Teams who scored highest among the Teams in all the Regional Rounds.*

Based on the above:

- a) 12 out of the 18 Teams:
 - i) 4 out of the 12 Teams qualified from Regional Round Prague;
 - ii) 4 out of the 12 Teams qualified from Regional Round Porto
 - iii) 4 out of the 12 Teams qualified from Regional Round Vilnius
- b) The remaining 6 Teams qualifying to the Final Oral Round came from:
 - i) Porto (3 Teams)
 - ii) Vilnius (3 Teams)

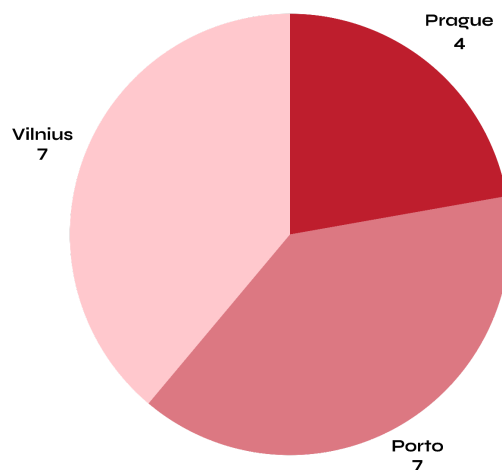
Please find the qualifying scores in the table below:

Rank	Team No	Regional Round	RR Score	WS Score	Qualification Score
1	36	RR Porto	36.330	32.50	34.415
2	12	RR Prague	35.630	33.19	34.409
3	42	RR Vilnius	33.917	34.19	34.052
4	30	RR Porto	33.040	34.69	33.864
5	19	RR Vilnius	34.710	32.813	33.761
6	31	RR Porto	35.170	32.31	33.741
7	53	RR Prague	36.420	31.00	33.710
8	41	RR Porto	34.917	32.38	33.648
9	18	RR Vilnius	35.210	30.688	32.949
10	10	RR Porto	35.330	30.06	32.696
11	34	RR Porto	35.420	29.19	32.304
12	9	RR Vilnius	34.630	29.94	32.284
13	26	RR Vilnius	30.540	33.94	32.239
14	55	RR Porto	33.000	31.06	32.031
15	43	RR Vilnius	35.042	28.69	31.865
16	32	RR Vilnius	35.630	27.81	31.721
17	4	RR Porto	35.960	26.69	31.324
18	62	RR Prague	33.540	28.94	31.239
19	63	RR Prague	35.000	26.81	30.906
20	50	RR Prague	25.310	35.375	30.343
21	7	RR Prague	31.880	28.375	30.128
22	51	RR Porto	28.290	31.94	30.114
23	21	RR Vilnius	31.860	27.938	29.899
24	48	RR Vilnius	31.000	28.750	29.875
25	13	RR Porto	30.420	29.00	29.710
26	11	RR Vilnius	33.420	25.06	29.241
27	61	RR Vilnius	32.040	26.44	29.239
28	6	RR Prague	33.000	25.44	29.219
29	47	RR Porto	28.790	29.063	28.926
30	23	RR Porto	31.330	26.188	28.759
31	8	RR Vilnius	34.040	23.063	28.551
32	49	RR Vilnius	29.583	27.438	28.510
34	38	RR Prague	29.170	27.63	28.398
35	40	RR Porto	27.125	29.06	28.093
36	29	RR Vilnius	29.790	25.88	27.835

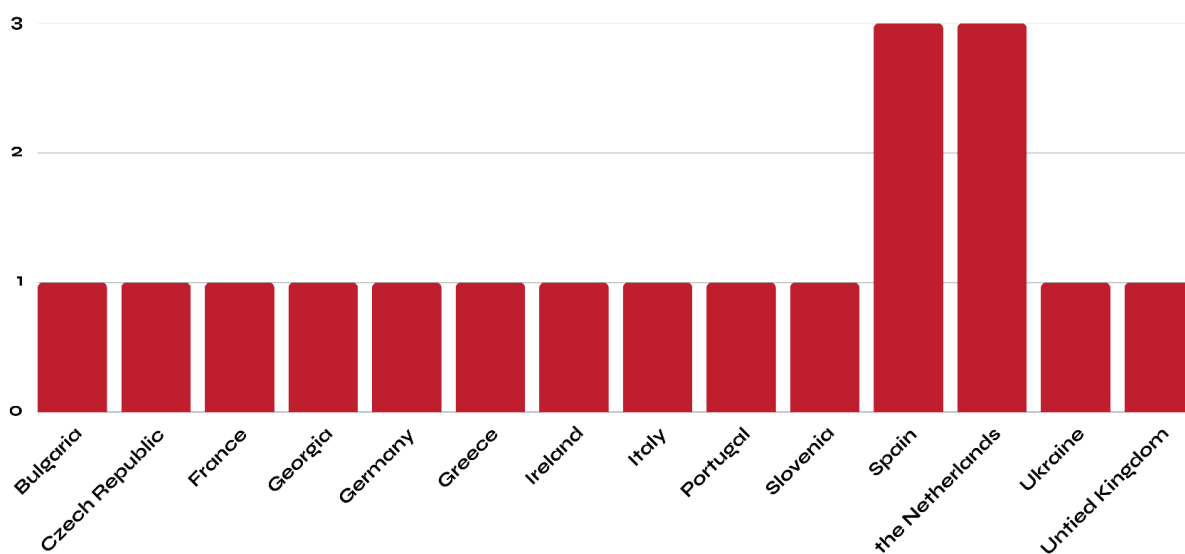
37	44	RR Porto	29.920	25.50	27.710
38	17	RR Vilnius	25.790	29.625	27.708
39	60	RR Porto	28.960	26.19	27.574
40	22	RR Prague	30.040	24.813	27.426
41	59	RR Prague	30.380	24.19	27.284
42	33	RR Porto	23.450	30.63	27.038
43	2	RR Prague	28.630	24.63	26.630
44	35	RR Porto	28.630	23.75	26.190
45	52	RR Vilnius	27.460	24.88	26.168
46	25	RR Prague	25.500	26.625	26.063
47	56	RR Prague	22.750	28.94	25.844
48	54	RR Vilnius	22.920	28.69	25.804
49	45	RR Vilnius	23.080	28.313	25.696
50	37	RR Vilnius	25.130	26.25	25.690
51	14	RR Prague	24.630	25.75	25.190
52	28	RR Prague	19.920	30.13	25.025
53	27	RR Porto	26.210	19.94	23.074
54	58	RR Porto	24.960	21.19	23.074
55	3	RR Vilnius	23.750	21.69	22.719
56	20	RR Vilnius	22.540	22.88	22.708
57	24	RR Prague	19.080	22.75	20.915
58	46	RR Prague	18.540	23.13	20.833
59	39	RR Prague	14.920	21.38	18.148

Statistics

Qualifying Teams by Regional Round



Represented Countries in the Final Oral Round



Final Oral Round

The Final Oral Round of the 13th Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition gathered teams from all over Europe in Strasbourg, France, between the 19th to the 23rd of May 2025. 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.

On the first day, we welcomed the teams to the Palais de l'Europe to register.



Registration of teams in the entrance hall of the Palais de l'Europe

The participants then attended the Opening Ceremony, where the Head of Organising Committee, Aliena Trefny, had a welcome speech and the Welfare Officer, Amina Bakhtaoui Van Deputte, presented the Code of Conduct of ELSA.



Opening Ceremony

After the Opening Ceremony, we made our way to the Association parlementaire européenne. On behalf of the winning team of the previous 12th edition, the Opening Reception was graciously hosted by the Permanent Representation of the United Kingdom and was opened by Ambassador Sandy Moss, Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom Delegation to the Council of Europe. During the Ceremony, ELSA International conducted a draw to determine the pleading order of the teams for the Preliminary Rounds. Thank you again to the Permanent Representation of the United Kingdom for your hospitality.



Opening Reception and Drawing Ceremony, hosted by the Permanent Representation of the United Kingdom, represented by Ambassador Sandy Moss (right)

For the second and third day of the Final Oral Round, the Preliminary Rounds took place where all of the qualified teams pleaded once on behalf of each party - Applicant and Respondent - before a 3-member Bench.



Preliminary Rounds in the Palais de l'Europe

On the third day, the 21st of May, all participants gathered in the Palais de l'Europe for the announcement of the 8 Quarter-Finalists, as a result of the scores of the Preliminary Rounds.



Announcement of the 8 Quarter-Finalists

The fourth day of the Final Oral Round started with the Quarter Finals, with Benches of 5 Judges, and after the lunch break, the Semi-Finalists were announced by ELSA International.



Quarter-Finals and announcement of the 4 Semi-Finalists

After the announcement, the Semi-Finals took place. Team performances were then evaluated by the Benches, consisting of 7 esteemed Judges. After the Semi-Finals, all Teams gathered in Room 5 for the announcement of the Grand Finalists on Friday.



Semi-Finals

For the evening, all teams gathered for dinner at Restaurant “Rive”, where Participants were invited to meet and network, before the big day of the Grand Final.



Helga Pedersen
Moot Court Competition

FINAL ORAL ROUND
19-23 May 2025



The European Law Students' Association



EUROPEAN CONVENTION
ON HUMAN RIGHTS
CONVENTION EUROPEENNE
DES DROITS DE L'HOMME
1950 - 2025 **75**

Livestream of the Grand Final of the 13th edition of the Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition



Présidence of the Swiss Confederation
Présidence de la Confédération suisse
Confederaziun svizra
Confederaziun svizra



United Kingdom
Delegation to the
Council of Europe



GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG
Représentation permanente auprès
du Conseil de l'Europe



European
Human
Rights
Association



Strasbourg.eu
europe métropole



COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

With the support of:



EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS
COUR EUROPÉENNE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME

Finally, on Friday the 23rd of May, after lunch at the Conseil de l'Europe, Judges, Permanent Representatives, and eliminated Teams gathered in the European Court of Human Rights in the Grand Chamber Hearing room to cheer on the two finalist Teams who plead in front of a Bench consisting of 7 members: Judge Gilberto Felici, acting Sammarinese Judge of the of the European Court of Human Rights, President of the Grand Final Bench, Judge Darian Pavli, acting Albanian Judge of the European Court of Human Rights, Judge Erik Wennerström, acting Swedish Judge of the of the European Court of Human Rights, Ms Ganna Yudkivska, previous Ukrainian Judge of the European Court of Human Rights, Mr Armen Harutyunyan, previous Armenian Judge of the European Court of Human Rights, Ms Zoë Bryanston-Cross, Deputy Head of the Private Office of the President, Registry of the European Court of Human Rights, and Zuzana Kovalova, Case Author of the 13th Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition.



Grand Final of the 13th Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition in the Grand Hearing Room of the European Court of Human Rights

After the deliberation and calculations of the outstanding scores, the Closing and Award Ceremony were held in the Grand Hearing Room of the Court. The Ceremony was opened by Mr Daniel Holtgen, representing the Directorate for Communications of the Council of Europe, on behalf of the Secretary-General of the

Council of Europe. Thereafter, welcoming addresses by Ms Fleur Abela, Deputy Permanent Representative of Malta to the Council of Europe, Ms Nathalie Labar, President of the International Board of ELSA, and Ms Aliena Trefny, Vice President in charge of Competitions of the International Board of ELSA and Head of Organising Committee of the 13th HPMCC, were delivered.



Award Ceremony with speeches by Daniel Holtgen, representing the Directorate for Communications of the Council of Europe (top-left), Fleur Abela, Deputy Permanent Representative of Malta to the Council of Europe (top-right), Nathalie Labar, President of the International Board of ELSA (bottom-left), and Aliena Trefny, Head of Organising Committee

The Award for Best Applicant's Written Submission was presented by Ms Fay Keeris, Deputy to the Permanent Representative representing the Netherlands. Mr. Urs Beer, Deputy Permanent Representative representing Switzerland, presented the Award for Best Respondent's Written Submission. Moving on with the Best Orator Awards, Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the Council of Europe, Mr. Sandy Moss, presented the Award for the Best Orator of the Preliminary Rounds. The Awards for the Best Orator of the Quarter-Finals and the Semi-Finals were presented by Ms Fleur Abela, Deputy Permanent Representative of Malta to the Council of Europe.

We then had the honour of welcoming Ms Marielena Tsirli, Registrar of the European Court of Human Rights, to the stage to present the Awards for the Best Orator of the Grand Final. Finally, the Winner Award of the 13th HPMCC was presented by the President-elect of the Court, Judge Mattias Guyomar, and the Runner-Up Award was jointly presented by both of them.



Marielena Tsirli, Registrar of the European Court of Human Rights (left), and Judge Mattias Guyomar, President-elect of the Court, gave speeches during the Award Ceremony

Afterwards, all the attendees of the Grand Final were hosted for a reception and some celebratory drinks by the Permanent Representation of Malta in the cafeteria of the Court.

In its 13th edition, 40 Judges contributed to the Final Oral Round with their time, energy, and knowledge. We would like to thank all of them: Gilberto Felici, Darian Pavli, Erik Wennerström, Ganna Yudkivska, Armen Harutyunyan, Zoë Bryanston-Cross, Davor Derenčinović, Mykola Gnatovskyy, Zuzana Kovalova, Slavica Cubric, Hüseyin Hezer, Ali Bozkaya, Rachael Ita, Mariia Rudko, Anna

Maralyan, Šárka Dušková, Viktoria Stoyanova, Martin Kopa, Afroditi Gkagkatsi, Bianca Boji Tahvaninen, Daria Pistriak, Katia Sokur, Sergey Dikman, Revşan Deniz Yildirim Çobanoğlu, Mihnea Novac, Cristina Tomulet, Wiktoria Klaja, Patricija Glavica, Nika Bruskin, Pamela McCormick, Mihail Stojanoski, Marta Borkowska, Aušrinė Dambrauskaite, Dovilė Gailiūtė-Janušonė, Kanstantsin Dzehtsiarou, Dana Contac, Barbara Piskulak, and Hristo Peshev.

Thank you to every single one of you. Some of you have contributed for multiple years, and for others, this was your first HPMCC. Either way, we are incredibly grateful for your support and hope to see you again next year.



We were honoured to have an esteemed Bench of Judges in the Grand Final: (from left to right) Judge Erik Wennerström, Armen Harutyunyan, Judge Gilberto Felici, Zoë Bryanston-Cross, as well as (not present in the picture) Judge Darian Pavli, Ganna Yudkivska, and Zuzana Kovalova

Results

Written Submission Scores

Based on the Written Submission scores, Team 36 from the University of Ljubljana (Slovenia) was awarded the prize for the Best Applicant's Written Submission, while Team 34 from the Universidad Complutense de Madrid (Spain) was awarded the prize for the Best Respondent's Written Submission.



Team 36 from the University of Ljubljana (Slovenia) was awarded the prize for the Best Applicant's Written Submission by Ms Fay Keeris, Deputy to the Permanent Representative representing the Netherlands



Team 34 from the Universidad Complutense de Madrid (Spain) was awarded the prize for the Best Respondent's Written Submission by Mr. Urs Beer, Deputy Permanent Representative representing Switzerland

Team Scores

Preliminary Rounds

Below you can find the Team scores from Preliminary Rounds of the Final Oral Round of the 13th edition of the Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition, each judged by 3 human rights practitioners and academics:

Rank	Team No.	Applicant					Respondent				Total	Average
		Judge 1.	Judge 2.	Judge 3.	Summary	Total	Judge 1.	Judge 2.	Judge 3.	Total		
1	12	35.25	34.50	36.75	0.00	35.50	34.25	34.50	35.50	34.75	70.25	35.13
2	36	34.00	33.25	33.75	0.00	33.67	33.25	32.75	28.00	31.33	65.00	32.50
3	63	38.00	35.50	32.50	0.00	35.33	31.25	26.25	27.75	28.42	63.75	31.88
4	62	29.00	28.25	28.25	0.00	28.50	32.00	37.00	36.25	35.08	63.58	31.79
5	19	32.00	31.00	31.00	0.00	31.33	29.50	28.50	33.00	30.33	61.67	30.83
6	30	34.50	35.25	31.00	0.00	33.58	29.25	27.00	27.00	27.75	61.33	30.67
7	31	20.00	28.75	28.50	0.00	25.75	38.25	35.50	32.00	35.25	61.00	30.50
8	43	34.00	28.75	26.50	0.00	29.75	33.75	25.25	34.50	31.17	60.92	30.46
9	26	28.75	29.00	28.00	0.00	28.58	29.25	32.25	31.00	30.83	59.42	29.71
10	18	23.25	28.75	28.25	0.50	26.25	27.75	36.50	33.00	32.42	58.67	29.33
11	34	31.50	25.25	31.75	0.00	29.50	30.50	26.50	25.25	27.42	56.92	28.46
12	32	31.75	22.25	28.00	0.00	27.33	28.00	30.00	30.25	29.42	56.75	28.38
13	53	32.50	24.50	30.25	0.00	29.08	27.00	28.25	27.25	27.50	56.58	28.29
14	42	25.00	31.25	22.50	0.00	26.25	34.25	25.50	30.00	29.92	56.17	28.08
15	9	26.00	22.00	25.50	0.00	24.50	26.25	32.50	31.50	30.08	54.58	27.29
16	10	26.00	26.75	27.00	0.00	26.58	27.25	28.25	22.50	26.00	52.58	26.29
17	55	30.50	23.00	26.50	0.00	26.67	28.50	17.25	23.25	23.00	49.67	24.83
18	41	26.00	24.75	26.75	0.00	25.83	21.50	21.25	21.25	21.33	47.17	23.58

The 8 Teams qualifying for the Quarter-Finals are marked in green in the table above. Additionally, below, you can find information on the Quarter-Final match-ups and the sides on which the Teams pleaded the next day.

Quarter-Finals

Below you can find the Team scores from Quarter-Finals of the Final Oral Round of the 13th edition of the Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition, each judged by 5 human rights practitioners and academics:

Team No.	Applicant						Respondent					
	Judge 1.	Judge 2.	Judge 3.	Judge 4.	Judge 5.	Total	Judge 1.	Judge 2.	Judge 3.	Judge 4.	Judge 5.	Total
Quarter Final Round 1												
43	30.00	34.25	34.00	30.00	30.00	31.65						
12							28.00	26.50	29.00	32.25	26.00	28.35
Quarter Final Round 2												
36	29.00	34.00	30.25	34.00	32.25	31.90						
31							32.00	32.00	33.75	31.25	31.00	32.00
Quarter Final Round 3												
30	33.00	31.00	32.50	32.25	29.50	31.65						
63							33.50	33.25	35.25	34.00	36.50	34.50
Quarter Final Round 4												
62	26.50	27.00	16.25	29.00	28.75	25.50						
19							34.50	33.00	35.00	34.00	35.00	34.30

The 4 Teams qualifying for the Semi-Finals are marked in green in the table above. Additionally, below, you can find information on the Semi-Final match-ups and the sides on which the Teams pleaded the same afternoon.

Semi-Finals

Below you can find the Team scores from the Semi-Finals of the Final Oral Round of the 13th edition of the Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition, each judged by 7 human rights practitioners and academics:

Team No.	Applicant								Respondent							
	Judge 1.	Judge 2.	Judge 3.	Judge 4.	Judge 5.	Judge 6.	Judge 7.	Total	Judge 1.	Judge 2.	Judge 3.	Judge 4.	Judge 5.	Judge 6.	Judge 7.	Total
Semi Final Round 1																
19	23.75	21.75	21.50	21.75	19.00	20.00	32.50	22.89								
43									26.25	28.00	30.00	25.00	32.50	28.75	30.00	28.64
Semi Final Round 2																
63	36.50	33.25	28.25	32.00	30.00	33.75	32.50	32.32								
31									30.00	30.25	30.00	29.00	33.00	32.75	30.00	30.71

The 2 Teams qualifying for the Semi-Finals are marked in green in the table above. Additionally, below, you can find information on the Grand Final match-up and the sides on which the Teams pleaded the next day.

The Grand Final

Below you can find the Team scores from the Grand Final of the Final Oral Round of the 13th edition of the Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition, judged by 7 human rights practitioners and academics as well as the acting Judges of the European Court of Human Rights:

Team No.	Applicant							Total
	Judge 1.	Judge 2.	Judge 3.	Judge 4.	Judge 5.	Judge 6.	Judge 7.	
43	26.25	30.75	31.00	31.00	30.00	31.75	31.00	30.25

Team No.	Respondent							Total
	Judge 1.	Judge 2.	Judge 3.	Judge 4.	Judge 5.	Judge 6.	Judge 7.	
63	31.75	30.00	32.00	32.00	33.75	32.00	32.00	31.93

Upon deliberation and calculation of scores, Team 63 from Charles University (Czech Republic) was declared Winner, while Team 43 from IE University (Spain) was declared the Runner-up of the 13th edition of the Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition.

Congratulations to the Grand Finalists and all the Teams participating in the Competition!

Individual Scores

Preliminary Rounds

Each orator received individual scores based on the same scoring criteria as used for the Team Score. In order to compete for the Best Orator of the Preliminary Rounds award, the orator had to plead for both Applicant and Respondent, and the following table gives an overview of the individual scores awarded to each of the orators of the Preliminary Rounds. Fulfilling the aforementioned criteria, 9 orators were eligible to compete for the Best Orator of the Preliminary Rounds Award.

Team No.	Team Members	Applicant				Respondent				Best Orator
		Judge 1.	Judge 2.	Judge 3.	Total	Judge 1.	Judge 2.	Judge 3.	Total	
9	Cătălin Panțiru				0.00	30.50	33.75	25.00	29.75	n/a
	Isabela Assis	22.00	25.00	22.00	23.00	31.50	35.00	26.25	30.92	53.92
	Thandiwe Majama	21.75	27.00	25.25	24.67				0.00	n/a
10	Marharyta Karmaniuk				0.00	27.00	27.25	20.25	24.83	n/a
	Polina Savinska				0.00	27.50	28.25	22.25	26.00	n/a
	Myroslava Kalynovska	27.00	29.00	28.00	28.00					n/a
	Sabrina Radutska	25.00	25.00	26.00	25.33				0.00	n/a
12	Sun Liu	34.25	35.00	36.50	35.25				0.00	n/a
	Luísa Pimenta				0.00	33.75	33.50	35.25	34.17	n/a
	Erin Behlić	34.75	36.50	37.00	36.08				0.00	n/a
	Ivor Meštrović				0.00	34.75	34.75	36.75	35.42	n/a
18	Aleksandra Zlateva	28.75	23.50	30.00	27.42	34.25	37.50	30.00	33.92	n/a
	Svetlana Slavchea	27.25	23.00	25.75	25.33	30.00	35.00	25.00	30.00	n/a
19	Alessandra Reputin				0.00	31.00	27.00	29.25	29.08	n/a
	Nil Su Ketenci	30.00	29.75	30.00	29.92				0.00	n/a
	Julie Dovern	36.00	34.75	35.00	35.25				0.00	n/a
	Mounira Hssaine				0.00	34.00	29.25	30.25	31.17	n/a
26	Marco Celeghin				0.00	33.75	22.50	29.75	28.67	n/a
	Filippo Coccia	29.00	27.25	25.00	27.08				0.00	n/a
	Tommaso Malpensa	28.75	28.75	29.00	28.83	33.25	32.00	29.50	31.58	60.42
	Agnese Valente	32.25	29.00	28.00	29.75	32.25	30.75	31.25	31.42	61.17
30	Ina Opartyova	30.00	35.00	31.75	32.25				0.00	n/a
	Matej Sedlar	33.50	33.50	33.75	33.58				0.00	n/a
	Lennart Stoffers				0.00	29.00	29.75	29.00	29.25	n/a
	Mihnea-Radu Curta				0.00	24.00	28.50	24.00	25.50	n/a

31	Kunal Gupta	28.00	32.00	17.50	25.83				0.00	n/a
	Ishar Bhullar	28.50	27.25	15.00	23.58				0.00	n/a
	Benjamin Faulkner				0.00	35.50	38.00	31.00	34.83	n/a
	Warda Minhas				0.00	35.50	38.50	33.00	35.67	n/a
32	Helena Durbán Batllori				0.00	33.00	32.00	33.25	32.75	n/a
	Irene Aspa Mayor	22.00	31.75	29.75	27.83	28.00	29.00	29.00	28.67	56.50
	Antía García Barbosa	22.00	31.25	28.00	27.08	25.00	28.00	27.25	26.75	53.83
	Cristina Calvo Marín	22.00	32.50	30.00	28.17				0.00	n/a
34	Carlos Eduardo García	28.50	32.25	32.00	30.92	27.00	25.00	29.25	27.08	58.00
	Walter Incerti	22.00	31.00	31.50	28.17	21.75	25.75	31.50	26.33	54.50
	Bruno Herrero Castellanos				0.00				0.00	n/a
	Joaquín Calvo Alcázar				0.00				0.00	n/a
36	Lara Likar Knavs				0.00	26.25	27.50	26.00	26.58	n/a
	Jona Šmalc Novak				0.00	35.00	29.00	32.00	32.00	n/a
	Maruša Škrjanc	32.75	33.25	34.25	33.42				0.00	n/a
	Tamara Humar	31.75	35.00	33.75	33.50				0.00	n/a
41	Catharina Sophie Nowack	24.50	25.75	27.50	25.92				0.00	n/a
	Léa Roswell				0.00	21.00	22.75	21.25	21.67	n/a
	Emily Cay Bjurqvist				0.00	21.25	23.75	21.25	22.08	n/a
	Anastasiia Sivash	22.00	25.00	25.75	24.25				0.00	n/a
42	Nikolaos Kyrillidis	24.00	31.75	25.25	27.00				0.00	n/a
	Andriana Handanou	21.00	30.25	24.00	25.08				0.00	n/a
	Kyriaki Chronaki				0.00	25.00	31.00	28.00	28.00	n/a
	Iason-Homeros Christidis				0.00	29.25	35.25	33.00	32.50	n/a
43	Claudia Espinosa Segura	26.25	28.50	35.00	29.92	36.75	26.00	33.25	32.00	61.92
	Adela Casado Pérez				0.00				0.00	n/a
	Matilde Romagnoli	26.50	28.00	33.00	29.17	30.25	24.50	33.50	29.42	58.58
	Gabriela Georgieva				0.00				0.00	n/a
53	Ani Lazarashvili	31.50	24.25	29.50	28.42	26.50	25.00	25.50	25.67	54.08
	Salome Gorjomeladze	33.00	24.25	31.25	29.50				0.00	n/a
	Salome Bakuradze				0.00	30.00	27.75	29.50	29.08	n/a
	Tezi Jamrulidze				0.00				0.00	n/a
55	Lilia Hessabi	23.75	30.50	29.25	27.83				0.00	n/a
	Louisa Derbez	23.75	31.25	28.25	27.75				0.00	n/a
	Louise Tabary				0.00	31.25	18.50	29.75	26.50	n/a
	Martyna Meskauskaite				0.00	26.50	15.00	19.50	20.33	n/a
62	Krizia Testa				0.00	38.00	34.00	38.50	36.83	n/a
	Padraig Ó Beoláin				0.00	34.25	29.75	32.50	32.17	n/a
	Sarah McDonnell	29.00	27.25	27.25	27.83				0.00	n/a
	Klaudia Knyzewska	29.00	29.25	30.50	29.58				0.00	n/a

63	Alice Sklenářová	31.25	29.00	28.75	29.67				0.00	n/a
	Dan Sklenář	37.00	38.75	35.00	36.92	23.00	24.25	29.75	25.67	62.58
	Jakub Kozumplík				0.00	23.00	24.25	30.50	25.92	n/a
	Matěj Plewa	34.50	35.50	35.00	35.00	30.25	28.25	31.75	30.08	65.08

Based on the scores from Preliminary Rounds, Matěj Plewa (Team 63) from Charles University (Czech Republic) was awarded the prize of Best Orator of the Preliminary Rounds.



Matěj Plewa (Team 63) from Charles University (Czech Republic) was awarded the prize of the Best Orator of the Preliminary Rounds by Ambassador Sandy Moss, Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom

Quarter-Finals

Each orator received individual scores based on the same scoring criteria as used for the Team Score. The following table gives an overview of the individual scores awarded to each of the orators of the Quarter-Finals. In the Quarter-Finals, 17 orators competed for the Best Orator of the Quarter-Finals Award.

Team No.	Team Members	Judge 1.	Judge 2.	Judge 3.	Judge 4.	Judge 5.	Best Orator
12	Ivor Meštrović	27.25	27.25	26.75	33.50	28.00	28.55
	Luísa Pimenta	28.75	25.75	28.25	31.00	28.00	28.35
	Erin Behlić						n/a
	Sun Liu						n/a
19	Mounira Hssaine	38.00	34.00	38.00	35.00	36.00	36.20
	Alessandra Resputin	33.00	31.50	35.00	34.00	35.25	33.75
	Julie Dovern						n/a
	Nil Su Ketenci						n/a
30	Ina Opartyova	32.50	30.50	31.00	31.75	29.00	30.95
	Matej Sedlar	33.50	31.00	31.25	32.75	30.50	31.80
	Lennart Stoffers						n/a
	Mihnea-Radu Curta						n/a
31	Benjamin Faulkner	29.25	32.25	28.25	30.00	30.75	30.10
	Warda Minhas	33.50	35.50	35.75	37.00	34.00	35.15
	Benjamin Faulkner						n/a
	Ishar Bhullar						n/a
36	Maruša Škrjanc	28.50	34.25	29.25	33.00	32.00	31.40
	Tamara Humar	29.25	34.00	31.25	35.00	32.00	32.30
	Lara Likar Knavs						n/a
	Jona Šmalc Novak						n/a
43	Matilde Romagnoli	33.00	36.50	34.25	30.25	32.00	33.20
	Claudia Espinosa Segura	29.50	32.00	31.75	30.00	29.25	30.50
	Adela Casado Pérez						n/a
	Gabriela Georgieva						n/a
62	Sarah McDonnell	28.50	26.50	18.50	29.00	28.75	26.25
	Klaudia Knyzewska	28.50	27.00	18.50	29.00	26.25	25.85
	Krizia Testa						n/a
	Padraig Ó Beoláin						n/a
63	Dan Sklenář	35.00	29.25	31.75	30.00	33.25	31.85
	Jakub Kozumplík	35.50	29.50	31.50	31.00	30.75	31.65
	Matěj Plewa	37.50	34.25	37.00	33.00	35.75	35.50
	Alice Sklenářová						n/a

Based on the scores from the Quarter-Finals, Mounira Hssaine (Team 19) from the University of Cologne (Germany) was awarded the prize of Best Orator of the Quarter-Finals.



Mounira Hssaine (Team 19) from the University of Cologne (Germany) was awarded the prize of Best Orator of the Quarter-Finals by Fleur Abela, Deputy Permanent Representative of Malta

Semi-Finals

Each orator received individual scores based on the same scoring criteria as used for the Team Score.

The following table gives an overview of the individual scores awarded to each of the orators of the Semi-Finals. In the Semi-Finals, 9 orators competed for the Best Orator of the Semi-Finals Award.

Team No.	Team Members	Judge 1.	Judge 2.	Judge 3.	Judge 4.	Judge 5.	Judge 6.	Judge 7.	Best Orator
19	Nil Su Ketenci	31.25	21.75	21.25	21.50	15.00	22.50	32.50	23.68
	Julie Dovern	30.00	23.50	29.00	22.25	23.50	21.00	31.25	25.79
	Alessandra Resputin								n/a
	Mounira Hssaine								n/a
31	Benjamin Faulkner	28.00	32.25	32.00	31.00	31.00	25.00	25.00	29.18
	Warda Minhas	37.75	34.75	34.00	33.00	35.00	31.25	35.00	34.39
	Benjamin Faulkner								n/a
	Ishar Bhullar								n/a
43	Matilde Romagnoli	28.75	28.75	33.25	26.00	30.00	30.00	27.50	29.18
	Claudia Espinosa Segura	26.25	27.75	28.25	24.00	29.00	29.00	30.00	27.75
	Adela Casado Pérez								n/a
	Gabriela Georgieva								n/a
63	Matěj Plewa	31.75	34.75	31.00	33.00	28.25	31.25	36.00	32.29
	Dan Sklenář	29.00	34.25	27.00	33.00	32.00	31.25	38.00	32.07
	Jakub Kozumplík	23.75	32.50	24.00	31.00	26.25	30.00	27.00	27.79
	Alice Sklenářová								n/a

Based on the scores from Semi-Finals, Warda Minhas (Team 31) from the University of Birmingham (United Kingdom) was awarded the prize of Best Orator of the Semi-Finals.



Warda Minhas (Team 31) from the University of Birmingham (United Kingdom) was awarded the prize of the Best Orator of the Semi-Finals by Fleur Abela, Deputy Permanent Representative of Malta

Grand Final

Each orator received individual scores based on the same scoring criteria as used for the Team Score.

The following table gives an overview of the individual scores awarded to each of the orators of the Grand Final. In the Grand Final, 5 orators competed for the - Best Orator of the Grand Final Award - “The Liaison Office of the Council of Europe Award”.

Team No.	Team Members	Applicant							
		Judge 1.	Judge 2.	Judge 3.	Judge 4.	Judge 5.	Judge 6.	Judge 7.	Total
43	Matilde Romagnoli	32.00	32.25	23.75	33.00	33.00	30.00	28.75	30.39
	Claudia Espinosa Segura	30.00	32.00	33.75	32.00	32.00	32.00	25.00	30.96
	Adela Casado Pérez								n/a
	Gabriela Georgieva								n/a

Team No.	Team Members	Respondent							
		Judge 1.	Judge 2.	Judge 3.	Judge 4.	Judge 5.	Judge 6.	Judge 7.	Total
63	Dan Sklenář	27.50	33.75	30.00	30.00	25.00	20.00	30.00	28.04
	Jakub Kozumplík	28.75	20.00	28.00	29.00	24.00	32.25	28.00	27.14
	Matěj Plewa	32.50	35.00	36.00	36.00	36.00	35.00	36.00	35.21
	Alice Sklenářová								n/a

Based on the scores from the Grand Final, Matěj Plewa (Team 63) from Charles University (Czech Republic) was awarded the prize of Best Orator of the Grand Final Award - “The Liaison Office of the Council of Europe Award”.



Matěj Plewa (Team 63) from Charles University (Czech Republic) was awarded the prize of Best Orator of the Grand Final Award by Marielena Tsirli, Registrar of the Court

Testimonials

Winner's Perspective

They say you should always expect the unexpected. I suppose that's true, though I've found that even when you tell yourself that, the unexpected still arrives with a certain jolt. When we won the Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition, the feeling wasn't one of triumph exactly. It was quieter than that - something like gratitude, mixed with disbelief, and the weight of everything that had led us there.

To explain it, you have to go back to July. I was in a hotel room, halfway across the world, scrolling through a string of photos I had taken that day - mostly palm trees, overly bright skies. That felt important at the time. Then came the email. No ceremony, just a few lines of text: This year's participation in the Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition has been cancelled.

It was a strange kind of silence that followed. Not devastation, exactly, but disorientation. Strasbourg was no longer just far away - it had become theoretical.

Then fall came, and with it, a shift. Word spread: the Regional Rounds would take place in Prague. There was no grand announcement, no time to plan. What happened next was something closer to improvisation than strategy - names assembled, responsibilities sketched. A team, in progress.

We made our submission with minutes to spare. Literally. Ten, to be exact. At the time, it felt more like survival than success. But still - we had done it.

Then came the wait. The regionals passed. Exams blurred in and out. And for a while, we didn't know. We joked about betting on whether we'd make it to Strasbourg, but beneath the jokes was something else - a kind of cautious hope, the kind you don't speak aloud.

When the results came, they came all at once. We were in. And with that, everything accelerated. More prep, more drafts, more late nights of trying to make our arguments just a little sharper, just a little cleaner. The bus ride to Strasbourg took eleven hours. It felt longer and shorter than that.

Once there, the rhythm returned: morning pleadings, late-night revisions, the comforting chaos of shared focus. People say teamwork makes the dream work - it's the kind of phrase you see printed on mugs or lanyards. But in our case, it was also true. The best parts of our arguments weren't individual discoveries - they were

born out of collective friction. Out of asking hard questions and not settling for easy answers.

I didn't always feel ready. The night before my pleadings, I still asked my teammates to brief me on case law. It became a kind of ritual, a joke that said: we're doing this together.

We didn't want to get our hopes up. And still, when the quarterfinalists were announced, I zoned out after fifth place, assuming we hadn't made it. Hearing our name in third felt like catching something that had already passed you.

After that, it was different. Not easier, but steadier. With each round, our confidence grew - not in ourselves, exactly, but in each other. That trust, that camaraderie, is what carried us.

Yes, we won. And yes, I am proud. But that's not the only thing I carry from Helga. What I carry most is the sense of what it means to build something - an argument, a case, a team - with care, with patience, with the knowledge that law, at its best, is a shared pursuit.

What I also carry is gratitude. For my teammates, for our coach, for the late nights and long rides, for every moment we doubted ourselves but didn't give up. And for the chance to be reminded that the law can still feel alive. Not just doctrine and precedent - but something human. Something worthwhile.



Team 63 from Charles University (Czech Republic) was awarded the prize of Winner of the 13th HPMCC by Judge Mattias Guyomar, President-elect of the Court

Runner-Up's Perspective

We just made it back to Madrid after reaching the Grand Final of this year's edition of the Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition, and we, the members of Team 43, are writing this letter as a reflection of our journey. We also want to take a moment to express our gratitude to everyone who made it possible. Participating in this year's edition to represent our university (IE University) was an absolute privilege and an incredible experience that we will definitely never forget.

The four members of our team, along with our coaches, dedicated countless hours to preparation for the Competition. During this time, we each were spurred to question our own beliefs with regards to medical cannabis while attempting to stay objective and to navigate the legal arguments to defend both sides to the best of our abilities. Our goal was to push our legal knowledge to the limits and really dive deep into a Human Rights case to develop our advocacy skills, but soon, we realised that the Competition is about much more than just this.

The preparation was intense, we poured over the case, switching our positions internally, challenging each other with Trial Runs, and writing and re-writing pleadings! This enabled us to learn the crux of the case from each side and helped us grow as legal professionals. Apart from the substance, we also learnt to work hand in hand and to support each other to be able to showcase the best version of ourselves. Teamwork was a key ingredient in our success, and the bond we formed with each other and with our coaches was one of the most rewarding aspects of the experience.

There were moments of frustration, sleepless nights, and last-minute revisions, but we also gained an overwhelming sense of growth, both academically and personally. We found ourselves comfortable navigating through the case law of the Court, deepening our legal understanding, and gaining confidence in public speaking. This competition has tested our knowledge, but has also pushed us to develop our legal reasoning and resilience in a way no classroom ever could.

In addition, we are grateful for the personal lessons and experiences that we had the opportunity to enjoy beyond the academic and scholarly aspects of the Competition. We had the opportunity to visit two countries, explore their cities, meet wonderful people along the way, and create unforgettable memories. We cannot stress how much we have learnt during this competition. Being able to plead the case before Supreme Court judges, state lawyers, ECtHR judges, lawyers of the Court and many more professionals was priceless. This atmosphere encouraged us to perform our

best and allowed us to learn from the judges and the teams around us between rounds.

The four of us were very happy when ELSA announced that we had made it to the final round in Strasbourg. As law and international relations students, arguing in the Palace of the Council of Europe, and in the finale, in the European Court of Human Rights, was a dream come true! Although we still strove to put our best foot forward during every round of the final stage, our focus was to make the most of our time in Strasbourg with the other teams and enjoy how far we had come to be there. Making it through to the Grand Final was a moment we will never forget. To be among the best teams in such a prestigious competition was incredibly gratifying and exciting. We could not believe it!! We gave it our all, and becoming the runner-ups of this competition was the result of many months of hard work, teamwork and dedication. Without a doubt, we would choose to relive the entire experience again with our eyes closed!

Finally, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the organisers and everyone in ELSA who made the competition possible. Thank you to the judges and professionals who generously gave their time and expertise, and above all to our coaches for their unwavering support and guidance. We also want to take the opportunity to thank and congratulate the winning team, and all the other teams who took part in the competition. Every round was a challenging learning experience, and we are grateful to have shared it with such talented and inspiring peers.

With gratitude and happiness, Adela, Claudia, Gabriela and Matilde, Team 43



Team 43 from IE University (Spain) was awarded the prize of Runner-Up of the 13th HPMCC by Marielena Tsirli, Registrar of the Court

Best Orator's Perspective

Although the Award for the Best Orator in the Grand Final is nominally an individual honour, it is by no means an individual achievement. Partly, it is obviously awarded for how things are said, and I am willing to take some personal credit for that. However, the Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition is not a contest in sophistry - it is a legal competition where substance matters just as much as rhetorical skills.

When it comes to the substance of my pleading, both in the Grand Final and throughout the competition, I cannot claim much individual credit for it. The arguments presented were shaped through countless hours of team preparation, which were always intense and inspiring, sometimes slightly frustrating, nevertheless, always enjoyable thanks to the great camaraderie that we managed to build as a team. This camaraderie was, I believe, the most important ingredient to our success, and what is even more important, it made the entire journey truly enjoyable. So, while my name may be on the Award, it truly belongs to the entire team and to our wonderful team coach.

Nevertheless, the Award for the Best Orator is not the most valuable thing that I am taking away from the Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition. What I am truly grateful for is the inspiration it has given me for my future legal endeavours. It was a privilege to meet so many passionate, talented, and deeply committed students who share an interest in human rights. ELSA deserves the highest praise for organising such a formative and inspiring event - and for doing so with absolute professionalism. The organisation was, quite honestly, flawless.

To anyone thinking of participating in future editions of Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition - or any moot court - I cannot recommend it enough. In all honesty, I was, myself, at first hesitant to participate. My worry was that I wouldn't have enough time for my studies because of the competition. And while it is true that the preparation required a great deal of time and effort that I could otherwise dedicate to my legal studies, the participation taught something that my studies alone could not: that the law is not only about solitary study of legal doctrine and case-law, but that it can be collective and meaningful endeavor, which is highly thought-provoking, and most importantly, worthwhile.



Matěj Plewa – Best Orator of the Grand Final

A Coach's Perspective

For starters, let me say that I really love the idea of moot courts! I think the whole concept of diving deep into a case and the relevant legal issues, as well as the skill of presenting while fielding questions from judges, is incredibly thrilling, terrifying, and rewarding all at once!

As a student, I participated in the Jessup Moot Court Competition and found it a fantastic experience. Not only did it teach me a lot, but I also remained close friends to some of the people on my team to this day. This definitely encouraged me to start coaching moot court teams when I had the chance to do so, almost six years ago, when I became co-coach of the team of IE University in Spain participating in what was later to be called the Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition in the winter semester of 2019. In the semesters and years that followed, each team that we coached has been wonderful and successful in its own way and has kept the thrill of the moot alive! Every year, the participating students have made us proud and I am happy to say that I am still in touch with many of them. At the same time, our teams and coaches have consistently received incredible support from our university, without which all of this would not have been possible.

As regards this particular moot court competition, the cases have varied and have ranged from armed conflicts to ecological disasters to COVID-type epidemics to legalizing cannabis – each year, I wonder what the drafters of the case will come up with next, and every time again, I am pleasantly surprised at how multi-layered, legally interesting and timely relevant the facts of the cases end up being.

And finally, I must add that the whole organizational structure of the competition, with so many ELSA students from different European countries getting involved, is always amazing, both during the national rounds and during the final (and thank you to all of you for that!).

So, to sum up – the moot has remained thrilling, terrifying and rewarding for me as a coach as well...and I can't wait to see what the next semester has in store for us!

Written by Alice Thomas, Coach of Team 43 from IE University

The People Behind the 13th Edition

Council of Europe and European Court of Human Rights

We extend our gratitude to Ms Sophie Lobey and Ms Maria Dominguez from the Directorate of Communications of the Council of Europe, as well as to Ms Martina Dervaux from the Registry of the European Court of Human Rights, for the support throughout the preparation process leading up to the Final Oral Round.



ELSA thanks Martina Dervaux, Maria Dominguez and Sophie Lobey (from left to right) for the collaboration and support

ELSA International Team

The Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition is not only made possible due to the incredible contributions by the participants, coaches, Judges, Academic Board members, and Regional Round Organisers, but also in large part because of the International Team Members who dedicate so much time, energy, and knowledge to this Competition. From corresponding with Judges and teams, to checking internal and external documents, to always being there whenever something is needed, we know that this edition would not have been such a success without them. Therefore, we would like to take the opportunity to thank the amazingly dedicated, competent, and lovely ELSA International Team members who have worked so hard to ensure the success of this year's edition:

- Director for the HPMCC: Teodora Yordanova
- Assistant for Teams of the HPMCC: Jacek Korzeniewski
- Assistant for Judges: Elena Baci
- Assistant for Regional Rounds of the HPMCC: Inês Ribeiro



The International Organising Committee

Additionally, for the Final Oral Round, the ELSA International Team and I needed reinforcement to ensure the smooth organisation of the week in Strasbourg. I had the honour of having all members of the International Board of ELSA, my colleagues, come and support the team this week, as well as some great ELSA members who also decided to help. We also had the great pleasure of having some ELSA International Board members of the Board 2024/2025 who were present to learn in preparation for next year, including my own successor, Inês, who will be in charge of organising the 14th edition of the HPMCC next year. I want to take the opportunity to express my gratitude to all of them.

The International Organising Committee:

- Nathalie Labar, President of the International Board of ELSA 2024/2025;
- Mie Tveit, Secretary General of the International Board of ELSA 2024/2025;
- Nikola Grochowska Vice President in charge of Marketing of the International Board of ELSA 2024/2025, Head of Marketing of the 13th FOR;
- Niko Anzulović Mirošević, Vice President in charge of Academic Activities of the International Board of ELSA 2024/2025;
- Paula Bačić, Vice President in charge of Seminars & Conferences of the International Board of ELSA 2024/2025;
- Teodora Yordanova, Director for the HPMCC, Head of Teams of the 13th FOR;
- Elena Baciú, Assistant for Judges, Head of Judges of the 13th FOR;
- Inês Ribeiro, Assistant for Regional Rounds of the HPMCC, Head of Scoring of the 13th FOR
- Amina Bakhtaoui Van Deputte, Vice President in charge of Academic Activities of ELSA Belgium 2024/2025, Welfare Officer of the 13th FOR;
- Théo Deswaef, Vice President in charge of Moot Court Competitions of ELSA Belgium 2024/2025;
- Jon Kola, Secretary General of ELSA Albania 2024/2025;
- Klára Dvořáková, Member of ELSA Pilsen, Czech Republic;

- Peter Čapkovič, Director for the Client & Witness Interviewing Competition of ELSA the Netherlands 2024/2025;
- Nathalie Kneisel, Alumna of ELSA Switzerland.

Thank you all for joining us on this adventure!



The Organising Committee of the Final Oral Round of the 13th Edition of the Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition

Closing Remarks by the Head of Organising Committee

As we bring the 13th edition of the Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition to a close, I find myself reflecting on the an intense, inspiring, and rewarding journey that all of us started together nearly a year ago - organisers, participants, judges, partners, and supporters alike. As the Head of the Organising Committee, it has been a great privilege to lead the preparations for this edition and to witness, from behind the scenes, the incredible amount of work, passion, and dedication that so many individuals have poured into making this Competition what it is.

What began over a decade ago as a vision to bring the European Convention on Human Rights to life for law students has once again culminated in a week filled with dedication, eloquence, and purpose. The Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition was born out of the idea of bringing human rights law closer to students in a practical, meaningful way - and since 2012, it has grown into one of ELSA's most important projects. This year has been no exception. From the publication of the case in September, through the Regional Rounds in February, and the Final Oral Round in Strasbourg this May, the journey has once again been defined by excellence, hard work, and an unwavering commitment to the values at the heart of the European Convention on Human Rights.

The case topics tackled, the thoughtful arguments raised, and the invaluable feedback shared by our esteemed judges - all of these demonstrate the enduring relevance of this Competition in today's legal and political landscape, in a shared commitment to the fundamental values of human rights, democracy, and the rule of law.

To our participants: it has been inspiring to witness your efforts over the past months. Whether or not you received an award at the end, you leave with something greater - confidence, knowledge, and lasting memories and friends. I hope that you carry these forward into your future careers.

To all the judges, coaches, and legal professionals who volunteered their time and expertise: thank you for nurturing the next generation of human rights defenders. Your support ensures that the spirit of the European Convention on Human Rights is not only preserved but continuously developed through education and practice.

To our partners - the Council of Europe, the European Court of Human Rights, and the Permanent Representations - thank you for your unwavering commitment to this initiative. Your belief in the importance of the Competition transforms this project

from a moot court into a bridge between academic learning and professional practice.

To my team - Teodora, Jacek, Elena, my successor Inês, and all the members of the International Organising Committee and the International Board of ELSA International: thank you for your tireless effort, dedication, and the heart you've put into every detail. Working alongside you has been both an honour and a joy.

As I step away from my role as Head of the Organising Committee, I do so with immense pride and a full heart. Organising this Competition has been one of the most impactful and fulfilling experiences of my life. I hope that each of you carries forward the lessons and experiences of this Competition with you, continuing to advocate for a just world in which there is respect for human dignity and cultural diversity. Thank you to everyone for being part of this unforgettable journey!

With that, it is with a great sense of accomplishment that I officially close the 13th edition of the Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition, and cannot wait to see the development of the project in the coming editions.

With best regards,



Aliena Trefny

Head of the Organising Committee 13th Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition
Vice President in charge of Competitions
International Board of ELSA 2024/2025



Helga Pedersen
Moot Court Competition



helgapedersen.elsa.org