

Helga Pedersen
Moot Court Competition



elsa

The European Law Students' Association

FINAL REPORT

The Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition | 14th Edition



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FOREWORD

Dear participants, colleagues, and friends,

It is a real pleasure to write this foreword to the Final Report of the 14th Edition of the Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition. As co-authors of this year's case, we had the privilege of following your work from the written stage until the final round in Strasbourg and seeing how you engaged with the issues we tried to put forward.

This year's case, brought by Ms Lyra Orwell against the fictitious state of Valdora, invited you to step into a space where law meets technology in a very concrete way. It raised questions about the use of artificial intelligence in criminal proceedings, the right to a fair trial, and the limits of relying on systems that may not be fully transparent. Through the story of Ms Orwell, we wanted to explore what happens when traditional safeguards are tested by new tools, and whether existing human rights standards are strong enough to respond.

Like every year, the aim was not to give you easy or straightforward answers. The case reflects real debates that are already happening across Europe: how much we can trust AI, what "fairness" means in practice, and how to ensure that efficiency does not come at the expense of fundamental rights. Many of you approached these questions with creativity, precision, and sometimes with courage in defending positions that are not straightforward. It was inspiring to see you all.

To all of you who took part in this edition: thank you. Your preparation, your arguments, and your willingness to engage with difficult issues are what make this competition meaningful. Whether you reached the final round or not, what you gained here goes far beyond the results. The ability to think critically, to argue clearly, and to stay grounded in human rights will stay with you long after this competition.

Each year, we come to Strasbourg with great expectations, and each year we are pleasantly surprised by the dedication, talent, and spirit that participants bring to the competition. The Helga Pedersen Moot Court means a lot to us. Seeing you engaging with the case and taking part in passionate discussions about AI and the European Court of Human Rights' case-law reminds us why this competition matters. It is not only about legal skills - it is about building a community of people who care about fairness and the rule of law.

We would also like to warmly congratulate the winning team from the National University of Kyiv - Mohyla Academy, Ukraine and the runners-up from the Maastricht University, Faculty of Law, the Netherlands. Your performances were outstanding, and it was a pleasure to listen to your arguments.

A big thank you goes to ELSA International, especially to Inês, Elena, and everyone involved in organising this year's edition. Your work behind the scenes makes this experience possible, and it never goes unnoticed.

As you move on, whether into practice, academia, or something completely different, we hope you keep a part of what you experienced here. Human rights work is not always easy, and it does not always bring quick results. But it matters. And it needs people who are willing to ask questions, challenge assumptions, and try to do things better.

We are already looking forward to what comes next. For now, thank you for being part of this journey.

Zuzana Kovalova and Slavica Cubric*

Case Authors of the 14th Edition of the HPMCC

* 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.

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Supporters of the 14th Edition

We would like to start by expressing our deepest gratitude to all the sponsors and supporters of the 14th Edition of the 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 14th Edition of the Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition. We want to thank specifically:

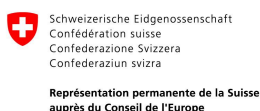
Council of Europe and European Court of Human Rights

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.



Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe

We also sincerely thank the Permanent Representations of the Czech Republic, Monaco and Switzerland for their contributions. Special thanks to the Permanent Representation of the Czech Republic and Monaco for hosting the Opening and the Closing Receptions, respectively.



Czech Republic



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



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 14th Edition

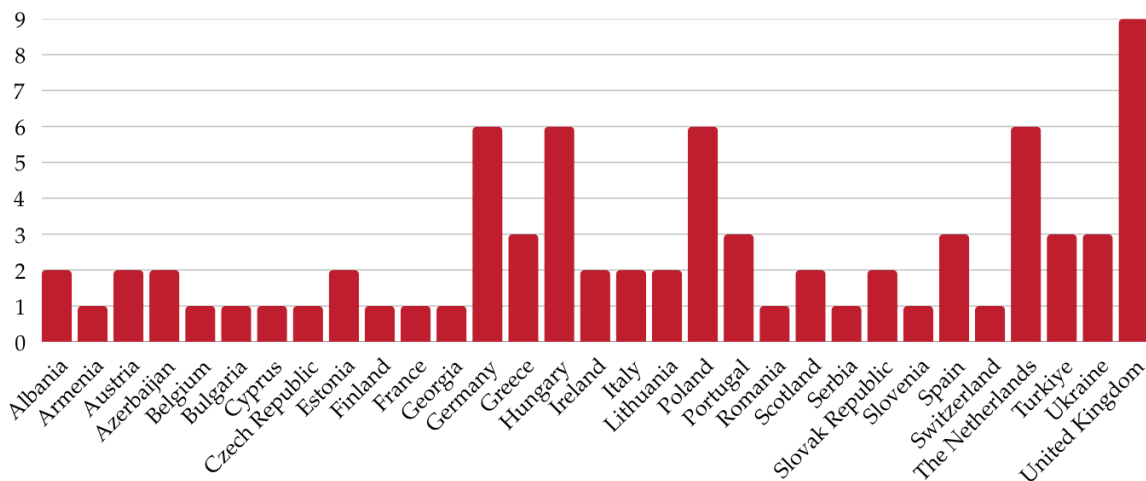
The 14th Edition of the Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition was launched on the 8th of September 2025. The Case was once again written by our returning Case Authors, Zuzana Kovalova and Slavica Čubrić.



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 usage of AI in the criminal procedure to this catalogue. 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.



The registration period closed on the 31st of October 2025, with 76 registered Teams from 30 countries.

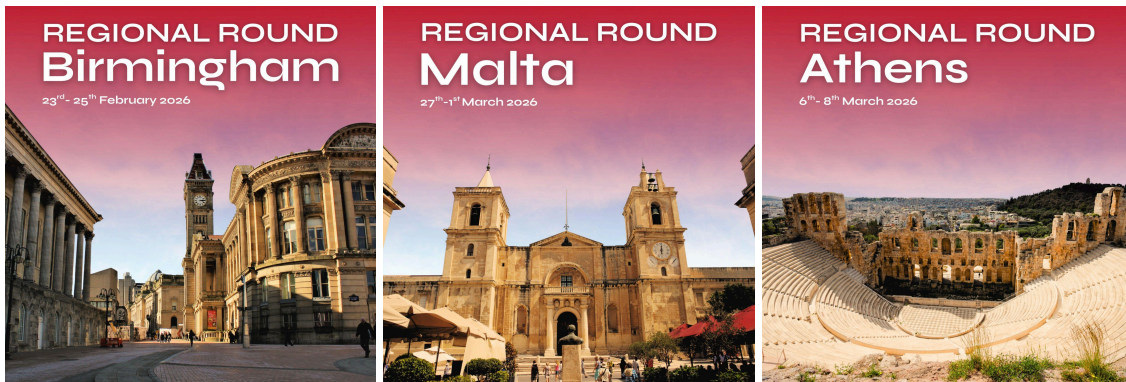


The registered teams had until the 5th of November 2025 to submit up to three Clarification Questions to the Case Authors. The Answers to the Clarification Questions were then published on the 17th of November 2025.

The next step was for the teams to submit their Written Submissions on behalf of the Applicant and Respondent. Out of the 76 registered teams, 61 teams had fulfilled all requirements and successfully submitted their Written Submissions by the deadline on the 11th of January 2026. 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 Birmingham, the United Kingdom Republic, by ELSA Birmingham from the 23rd to the 25th of February 2025; the second in Valletta, Malta, by ELSA Malta from the 27th of February to the 1st of March 2026; and the third and final one in Athens, Greece, by ELSA Greece

from the 6th to the 8th of March 2026. We wish to express our gratitude to ELSA Birmingham, ELSA Malta, and ELSA Greece 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 1st to the 5th of June 2026 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 14th Edition, 61 out of 76 teams submitted their Written Submissions by the deadline set by ELSA International on the 11th of January 2026. In total, 48 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 20th to the 31st of January 2026, and the second round from the 9th to the 22nd of February 2026.

We would like to express our appreciation to: Anna Maralyan; Slavica Cubric; Mihail Stojanoski; Geanina Munteanu; Jan Kratochvil; Vicki Prais; Kristaps Tamužs; Šárka Dušková; Simon Palmer; Dmytro Tretyakov; Jerome Joseph; Oana Girlescu; Ana Dangova Hug; Jeremy McBride; Katia Sokur; Dovilė Gailiūtė-Janušonė; Lucja Miara; Maria Neus Torbisco-Casals; Aleksandra Mezykowska; Andreea Maria Rosu; Inga Abramavičiūtė; Piers Gardner; Rachael E. Ita; Marina Makarova; Irina Chepaykina; Anastasia Shadarova; Rimante Tamulyte; Sergey Golubok; Orri Heimisson; Viktoria Stoyanova; Ilhami Alkan Olsson; Sue Anne Teo; Stoyan Panov; Lize Glas; Emilia Klebanowski; Adam Macaj; Emilie Thage; Lucia Galletta; Andrea Saccucci; Nika Bruskin; Jolita Miliuvienė; Maria-Louiza Deftou; Aikaterini Tsampi; Felix Torres; Simone Penasa; Mohammed Amin Al-Midani; Frédéric Vanneste and Isabelle Zundel.

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 14th 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 14th 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.

Team No.	Applicant					Respondent					Total Score
	Judge 1	Judge 2	Judge 3	Penalties	Total	Judge 1	Judge 2	Judge 3	Penalties	Total	
4	20.00	33.25	n/a	0	26.625	14.25	36.25	n/a	0	25.250	25.938
7	32.00	25.50	n/a	0	28.750	24.50	27.25	n/a	0	25.875	27.312
8	36.75	32.75	n/a	0	34.750	24.50	32.50	n/a	0	28.500	31.625
9	18.00	36.50	33.50	3.5	29.333	17.00	35.50	30.75	1	27.750	24.042
10	30.50	30.50	n/a	0.25	30.500	23.50	36.50	n/a	0.5	30.000	29.500
11	24.00	21.75	n/a	0.25	22.875	33.75	12.00	n/a	0.25	22.875	22.375
12	30.00	12.25	n/a	0	21.125	28.00	30.00	n/a	0	29.000	25.093
14	39.00	33.00	n/a	0	36.000	32.25	33.75	n/a	0	33.000	34.500
15	25.25	23.00	n/a	0.5	24.125	29.25	29.00	n/a	0	29.125	26.125
16	30.25	33.00	n/a	0	31.625	33.50	32.00	n/a	0	32.750	32.188
18	35.50	33.00	n/a	0	34.250	35.00	32.50	n/a	0	33.750	34.000
19	33.50	33.25	n/a	0	33.375	31.00	33.00	n/a	0	32.000	32.688
21	32.00	35.50	n/a	0	33.750	35.00	37.50	n/a	0	36.250	35.000
22	35.00	30.50	n/a	0	32.750	32.50	38.50	n/a	0	35.500	34.125
23	30.75	29.50	n/a	0	30.125	34.75	29.75	n/a	0	32.250	31.188
25	27.50	33.25	n/a	0	30.375	35.00	32.50	n/a	0	33.750	32.063
26	38.00	24.50	n/a	0.5	31.250	36.50	29.50	n/a	0	33.000	31.625
27	17.25	32.50	n/a	0	24.875	18.25	31.25	n/a	0	24.750	24.813
28	29.00	37.00	n/a	1.5	33.000	20.00	19.00	28.75	0	22.583	26.292
29	34.00	15.50	n/a	0.5	24.750	30.75	32.75	n/a	0	31.750	27.750
30	29.50	34.00	n/a	0	31.750	30.00	38.00	n/a	0	34.000	32.875
31	28.75	30.00	n/a	0	29.375	16.50	27.50	n/a	0	22.000	25.688
32	34.25	35.25	n/a	0	34.750	34.25	23.00	n/a	0	28.625	31.688
33	18.25	36.00	n/a	0.75	27.125	31.50	19.00	n/a	0	25.250	25.437
34	30.25	24.00	n/a	0.5	27.125	13.75	25.50	n/a	0	19.625	22.875
35	36.25	32.50	n/a	0	34.375	31.75	32.25	n/a	0	32.000	33.188
36	28.75	27.00	n/a	0	27.875	37.25	21.50	n/a	0	29.375	28.625
37	29.00	28.75	n/a	0	28.875	31.50	31.75	n/a	0	31.625	30.250
38	28.25	26.25	n/a	0	27.250	20.50	19.50	n/a	0	20.000	23.625
39	31.50	23.00	n/a	0	27.250	29.00	27.50	n/a	0	28.250	27.750
40	24.50	28.75	n/a	0	26.625	35.25	27.50	n/a	0	31.375	29.000

Team No.	Applicant					Respondent					Total Score
	Judge 1	Judge 2	Judge 3	Penalties	Total	Judge 1	Judge 2	Judge 3	Penalties	Total	
41	34.75	30.50	n/a	0	32.625	34.00	15.25	n/a	0	24.625	28.625
42	34.00	34.00	n/a	1	34.000	35.25	28.25	n/a	0	31.750	31.875
43	33.50	38.50	n/a	1.25	36.000	23.00	28.00	n/a	1.25	25.500	28.250
45	21.50	38.00	n/a	0	29.750	35.00	30.00	n/a	0	32.500	31.125
46	20.75	32.25	n/a	0.75	26.500	18.00	38.00	n/a	0.5	28.000	26.000
47	27.25	33.25	n/a	1	30.250	32.50	22.25	n/a	0	27.375	27.812
48	26.00	32.75	n/a	0	29.375	37.50	33.00	n/a	0	35.250	32.313
49	27.75	24.00	n/a	0	25.875	27.25	28.50	n/a	0.5	27.875	26.375
50	33.00	32.50	n/a	0	32.750	37.00	36.00	n/a	0	36.500	34.625
51	37.75	33.25	n/a	0	35.500	30.75	31.25	n/a	0	31.000	33.750
53	28.50	20.00	n/a	0.5	24.250	24.00	37.25	n/a	0	30.625	26.938
54	31.75	35.00	n/a	0	33.375	38.00	31.75	n/a	0	34.875	34.125
55	36.75	34.00	n/a	0	35.375	34.00	33.50	n/a	0	33.750	34.563
58	26.75	26.25	n/a	0	26.500	29.00	17.50	n/a	0.5	23.250	24.875
60	30.00	30.50	n/a	0	30.250	24.00	24.00	n/a	0.5	24.000	26.625
61	38.85	33.50	n/a	0.5	36.175	28.00	34.25	n/a	0.5	31.125	32.625
62	38.75	25.00	n/a	0.25	31.875	32.25	34.50	n/a	0.25	33.375	32.125
66	27.75	33.00	n/a	0.25	30.375	21.75	23.00	n/a	1	22.375	25.125
67	10.50	18.75	n/a	1	14.625	21.50	19.75	n/a	0.75	20.625	15.875
69	28.00	19.75	n/a	0.25	23.875	32.00	32.00	n/a	1	32.000	26.687
71	34.00	38.50	n/a	0	36.250	30.00	30.00	n/a	0	30.000	33.125
72	37.75	32.25	n/a	0	35.000	27.75	25.50	n/a	0.5	26.625	30.313
73	28.75	31.25	n/a	0	30.000	27.75	30.50	n/a	0.5	29.125	29.312
74	23.75	32.75	n/a	0.5	28.250	32.50	28.75	n/a	0	30.625	28.938
76	23.50	28.75	n/a	0.5	26.125	28.75	33.75	n/a	1.5	31.250	26.688

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 56 teams participated in one of three Regional Rounds, assigned randomly. These rounds took place in Birmingham, the United Kingdom, Valletta, Malta, and Athens, Greece, between February and March 2026. 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 Birmingham

About the Regional Round

The first Regional Round of the 14th Edition of the HPMCC was organised by ELSA Birmingham from the 23rd to the 25th of February 2026. A total of 13 teams from the following universities participated in this Regional Round: Masaryk University, Faculty of Law (Czech Republic); Tallinn University Law Faculty (Estonia); Dublin City University (Ireland); Mykolas Romeris University, Law School (Lithuania); Tilburg University Law School (the Netherlands); University of Groningen Faculty of Law (the Netherlands); Utrecht University - Faculty of Law, Economics and Governance (the Netherlands); The University of Edinburgh (Scotland); King's College London Dickson Poon School of Law (the United Kingdom); University College London (UCL) Faculty of Laws (the United Kingdom); University of Birmingham (the United Kingdom); University of Durham (the United Kingdom); University of Liverpool, School of Law and Social Justice (the United Kingdom).

The Regional Round was supported by 15 Judges: Adam Nicholls; Aleksandra Cavoski; Anastasia Shadarova; Ann Maralyan; Apeksha Gandhi; Emma Scali; Gurbinder Gill; Ilyas Siddique; Lydia Morgan; Martin Trybus; Meghan Campbell; Nauman Reayat; Piers Gardner; Rishika Sahgal; Stefano Faoraoni.

An Organiser's Perspective

In this term, I was offered the opportunity to organise the Regional Round of the 14th edition of the Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition, hosted in Birmingham. With a past of both winning and hosting the conference previously, ELSA Birmingham has a rich history with the HPMCC.

Having previously been involved in Model United Nations and having organised the very first conference to ever be held within the University of Birmingham, I approached the task with an air of familiarity. However, organising a Moot Court Competition proved to be a unique experience, largely due to the prestige of the event as well as the high expectations which were put on our chapter.

From the outset, one of the most demanding aspects of the organisation was securing judges. Unlike other events, moot court competitions rely heavily on legal professionals and academic professors with relevant expertise, due to which finding individuals who were both available and willing to commit their time was a continuous challenge.

We were also kept on our feet throughout the competition as judges would constantly need to pull out due to unfortunate circumstances, requiring quick thinking, adaptability and a strong reliance on the support network we had built. Thankfully, after countless hours emailing and calling academics and professionals, we were successfully able to hold the rounds with the sufficient number of judges.

Nevertheless, with determination and teamwork, we were able to welcome participants from across Europe to Birmingham. After the initial registration, delegates were given the chance to get to know each other informally through the academic programme, wherein they had to represent countries within a Model United Nations session based on a fictional crisis session. After this, delegates were taken to the Opening Ceremony to be introduced to the Organising Committee while also being given their pleading schedule through the Drawing Ceremony.

The core of the competition, the Oral Pleadings, took place over the following two days. Despite the organisational hurdles, particularly regarding the composition of judging panels, we ensured that each round was conducted fairly and in accordance with the rules. This would not have been possible without the dedication of the organising team and volunteers, who remained extremely dedicated and flexible throughout.

Beyond the competitive aspect, the event also provided a space for cultural exchange and connection. Birmingham, and particularly the beautiful UOB campus, offered an excellent backdrop for participants to engage not only academically but also socially, creating a well-rounded experience.

The Closing Ceremony marked the culmination of an intense yet rewarding journey. It was a moment to formally recognise the achievements of not only the participants but also the numerous Members of the OC without whom the competition would not have been possible.

Looking back, this experience differed significantly from my previous involvement in Model United Nations. While MUN taught me valuable organisational and communication skills, this Regional Round tested my resilience, adaptability, and ability to manage high-pressure situations in real time. The difficulties, while substantial, ultimately made our success even more well-earned.

Organising this Regional Round reinforced the core idea that such events are built not on perfection, but on commitment, dedication and most importantly, teamwork.

Without the countless hours which were put in by volunteers, the Heads of the OC and the board of ELSA International, this event would not have been possible.

In particular, I want to thank the following people. Sundal, the President of ELSA Birmingham – The backbone of the entire event. Without your commitment, presence and knowledge this conference would have never been possible. Ilyas, the Treasurer and Head of Finance – The hardest worker within the OC who was constantly involved with every limb of the competition, making sure everything ran smoothly. Malavika and Jiny, Head of Logistics and Participants – The two most prepared members of the OC, who helped make sure everything was organised and done on time. Shabnam, Head of Timekeepers – Thank you for keeping all the timekeepers aware of their obligations, ensuring a high level of competition throughout. Roan Sidhu, Head of Judges – Thank you for helping us out on short notice when we needed you the most. Thank you to Honda, Chloe, Michael, Katrina, Ewruha, Becky, Lily, Nicole and all the other Volunteers for your time and constant hard work throughout this entire process.

Written by Muhammed Ayaan Mirza, Head of the Organising Committee of the Regional Round Birmingham



The Organising Committee of the Regional Round Birmingham

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. It is also important to note that, unfortunately, this Regional Round had last minute withdrawals from Judges and therefore there were benches of 2 Judges authorised by ELSA.

Rank	Team No.	Applicant				Respondent				Total
		Judge 1.	Judge 2.	Judge 3.	Total	Judge 1.	Judge 2.	Judge 3.	Total	
1	55	40.00	32.25	40.00	37.42	32.50	33.50	30.25	32.08	34.75
2	41	36.50	35.50	32.00	34.67	29.50	38.75		34.13	34.40
3	43	31.25	32.75	34.75	32.92	29.75	31.25		30.50	31.71
4	73	31.25	32.50	31.25	31.67	29.50	31.00	33.75	31.42	31.54
5	58	31.00	25.00	21.25	25.75	38.75	34.50	35.50	36.25	31.00
6	39	27.75	32.50		30.13	32.00	29.75	30.00	30.58	30.35
7	4	31.25	35.00		33.13	25.25	28.00		26.63	29.88
8	66	29.00	28.75	23.50	27.08	37.25	28.50	22.50	29.42	28.25
9	60	26.75	28.25		27.50	24.25	26.75	32.50	27.83	27.67
10	69	29.25	27.50	25.25	27.33	28.25	25.75	26.75	26.92	27.13
11	53	25.75	24.00	21.00	23.58	30.00	23.75	24.25	26.00	24.79
12	11	28.75	25.50	21.25	25.17	24.00	20.00	24.75	22.92	24.04
13	15	25.00	20.00	21.50	22.17	15.00	20.75	20.50	18.75	20.46

Based on the Regional Round scores, Team 55 from the University of Groningen Faculty of Law (the Netherlands) was awarded the Best Team Award of the Regional Round Birmingham. The title of the Runner-Up Team was awarded to Team 41 from Tilburg 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 Birmingham. 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	Hollie Howland	30.00	26.75		28.38					28.38
	Fiona Pazari	38.75	34.25		36.50					36.50
	Shoug Khozestani					29.00	26.00		27.50	27.50
	Melanie Walter					27.00	24.25		25.63	25.63
11	Ella Santoro	20.00	19.00	16.25	18.42	19.50	22.75	22.00	21.42	39.83
	Dáire Walsh	36.25	31.50	28.25	32.00	22.25	25.00	26.50	24.58	56.58
15	Anni Lisette Hallimäe	23.00	20.00	18.75	20.58					20.58
	Faisal Moniruzzaman	26.00	21.75	24.00	23.92					23.92
	Mercedes Gailit					22.50	21.50	22.00	22.00	22.00
	Nella Niemistö					18.75	7.75	19.00	15.17	15.17
39	Aliza Ali	29.25	32.75		31.00					31.00
	Tawfeeq Alum	25.75	28.00		26.88					26.88
	Rose Pickard					33.00	30.00	30.00	31.00	31.00
	Vanessa Diaz Passarelli					31.75	29.50	30.00	30.42	30.42
41	Karlis Sverns					30.50	35.00		32.75	32.75
	Alexandra Escobar	30.25	38.25	33.25	33.92	28.00	27.50		27.75	61.67
	Deyan Hristov	34.75	37.75	40.00	37.50	26.00	25.00		25.50	63.00
	Hjördis-Tamara Koch	30.25	36.25	33.50	33.33					33.33
43	Olena Leshchenko	31.25	32.50	39.25	34.33	31.25	31.50		31.38	65.71
	Magda Khalvashi	31.25	32.25	28.75	30.75	26.25	27.25		26.75	57.50
53	Marie Marsová	23.00	29.25	21.50	24.58	34.00	30.00	30.75	31.58	56.17
	Boris Šabík	22.50	27.00	22.00	23.83	34.00	23.75	24.25	27.33	51.17
	Elisa Nakano	18.00	25.75	18.75	20.83					20.83
	Klára Čepičková					22.00	20.00	27.50	23.17	23.17
55	Peter Čapkovič	40.00	34.75	35.00	36.58	34.00	33.50	30.75	32.75	69.33
	Nela Otočková	39.75	29.75	30.00	33.17	33.25	32.50	30.75	32.17	65.33
	Ines-Cristiana Cutaru	39.75	32.50	36.25	36.17	29.50	29.00	30.75	29.75	65.92
58	Ruby Freeland					38.75	33.75	33.50	35.33	35.33
	Beatriz Ventura					38.75	33.00	35.25	35.67	35.67
	Julia Liao	20.00	31.00	23.00	24.67					24.67
	Oliver Hodges-Jackson	30.00	31.00	27.00	29.33					29.33
60	Sarah Hu	23.00	25.75		24.38	26.50	27.00	32.75	28.75	53.13
	Panagiotis Diamantis	32.75	28.25		30.50	25.75	28.00	32.35	28.70	59.20
	Kyle Bower	23.50	28.75		26.13	28.50	29.00	32.00	29.83	55.96
66	Harry Challinor	29.00	27.00	23.50	26.50	37.00	27.00	23.50	29.17	55.67
	Mrinaal Tomar	28.00	32.00	22.25	27.42	37.50	27.50	23.50	29.50	56.92
	Katie Stephanou					37.50	28.50	22.50	29.50	29.50
69	Jambo-Ree Paagman	23.00	23.75	16.50	21.08					21.08
	Bruna Lopes	30.50	33.75	28.00	30.75	28.25	25.00	28.25	27.17	57.92
	Leire Regaño Monllor					26.75	25.00	28.25	26.67	26.67
73	Victoria Acheson	30.25	32.00	33.00	31.75					31.75
	Apolline Simmons	31.75	32.50	32.75	32.33					32.33
	Ava Gibson					40.00	30.50	30.25	33.58	33.58
	Eleonora Keller Rodriguez					40.00	29.00	31.75	33.58	33.58

Regional Round Malta

About the Regional Round

The second Regional Round of the 14th Edition of the HPMCC was organised by ELSA Malta from the 27th of February to the 1st of March 2026. A total of 22 teams from the following universities participated in this Regional Round: ADA University, Law School (Azerbaijan); UCLouvain Saint-Louis - Bruxelles (Belgium); Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Law Faculty (Bulgaria); University of Lapland (Finland); Sciences Po Reims (France); Georgian Institute of Public Affairs (GIPA) (Georgia); University of Cologne - Faculty of Law - Academy of European Human Rights Protection (Germany); University of Passau (Germany); Democritus University of Thrace, Faculty of Law (Greece); Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church (Hungary); Széchenyi István University, Deák Ferenc Faculty of Law (Hungary); University of Pécs Faculty of Law (Hungary); University of Bologna, Faculty of Law (Italy); Vilnius University Faculty of Law (Lithuania); Maastricht University, Faculty of Law (the Netherlands); Faculty of Law and Administration, University of Warsaw (Poland); University of Silesia in Katowice, Faculty of Law and Administration (Poland); University of Zielona Gora, Faculty of Law and Economics (Poland); Trnava University in Trnava, Faculty of Law (Slovak Republic); ESADE (Ramón Llull University) (Spain); National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy (Ukraine); Ukrainian Catholic University (Ukraine).

The Regional Round was supported by 34 Judges: Aaron Bugeja, Alec Sladden, Alex Scerri Herrera, Ana Kiknadze, Andrew Camilleri, Annelise Seguna, Carla Camilleri, Carmel Argius, Cedric Mifsud, Danielle Mercieca, David Dimech, Deo Falzon, Emma Portelli Bonnici, Felicity Attard, Francesco Depasquale, Gianluca Busuttil, Henri Mizzi, John Attard Montalto, Krista Refalo, Lara Dimitrivejic, Lucia Galletta, Luke Bonanno, Malcom Mifsud, Martina Caruana, Martina Grech, Michael Camilleri, Paul Olivier, Peter Fenech, Schembri Orland, Sharon Xuereb, Stefano Filletti, Timothy Bartolo, Toni Abela, and Veronica Campbell.

An Organiser's Perspective

ELSA Malta was humbly grateful for the opportunity to host a Regional Round in the 14th Edition of the Helga Pedersen Moot Court. This marked ELSA Malta's first venture on the international moot court scene. The Organizing Committee knew the task was large and worked very hard from the first day of the term to create a successful regional round, not only for our satisfaction, but overall the lovely participants that were able to come to Malta and compete.

On the first day, ELSA Malta welcomed participants at Aula Prima in Valletta Campus, where they all registered and received a tote bag and their respective lanyards. Following their registration, they had an academic talk about Maltese Criminal Law, which was given by Dr. Francesco Refalo, who is a prosecutor at the Attorney General's office. After the academic talk, there was the opening ceremony, which was opened by a speech from one of the Co-Heads of the Organizing Committee and also a speech from one of the representatives from ELSA International and the Draws were completed in the presence of the participating team. Later in the evening, the Organizing Committee organized a dinner for the participants at Luxol Sports Club and then had a social event at Hugo's lounge in Paceville.

The following 2 days were the pleading days. The pleadings were hosted in the Courts of Malta in Valletta. In order for a Regional Round to successfully take place, each pleading required a panel of three judges, making the sourcing of legal professionals one of the Organising Committee's most important responsibilities. ELSA Malta reached out to lawyers, magistrates, and judges from both Malta and abroad, ultimately securing an exceptional panel of legal experts for the competition. Among them were a judge from the European Court of Human Rights and the former President of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, further elevating the prestige of the event. In total, ELSA Malta successfully recruited 34 legal professionals who served as judges throughout the weekend.

On the final evening, the Organising Committee hosted all participants at the db San Antonio Hotel for the Closing Ceremony. The evening began with dinner, followed by a speech delivered by one of the Co-Heads of the Organising Committee, reflecting on the success of the Regional Round and the experience shared throughout the weekend. During the ceremony, each participant was presented with a certificate by the Co-Heads of the Organising Committee in recognition of their efforts and participation in the competition. Additionally, prizes and certificates were awarded to the two best-performing teams of the Malta Regional Round.

The hosting of the Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition Regional Round by ELSA Malta represents far more than a successful event, it stands as a landmark achievement for Maltese students, the legal profession, and Malta's international reputation. As the first ever international moot court competition to be hosted in Malta, this initiative brought together participants, coaches, and legal professionals

from across Europe, creating an unprecedented platform for cultural exchange, legal advocacy, and academic excellence.

Through months of dedication and organisation, ELSA Malta successfully managed every aspect of a highly prestigious international competition, from coordinating 22 teams and over 125 participants, to sourcing distinguished judges and organising a full programme of events for delegates. The competition not only showcased Malta's ability to host events of international calibre, but also highlighted the professionalism, ambition, and capability of Maltese students on a European stage.

The Regional Round could not have been a success without the lovely teams that participated who were all impressive and received incredibly positive feedback from judges. A special mention goes to Team 8 from the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy who competed in Malta's Regional Round and went on to win the Helga Pedersen Moot Court. Congratulations!

On behalf of the Organizing Committee a special thank you goes to ELSA International for allowing us to take part in this historical Moot Court and also the Co- Heads of the Committee, Timmy and Beppe alongside Lucia and Nirvana who helped and organized a stellar Regional Round.

Written by Julian Mifsud, Head of Judges of the Organising Committee of the Regional Round Malta



The Organising Committee of the Regional Round Malta

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. It is also important to note that, unfortunately, this Regional Round had last minute withdrawals from Judges and therefore there were benches of 2 Judges authorised by ELSA.

Rank	Team No.	Applicant				Respondent				Total
		Judge 1.	Judge 2.	Judge 3.	Total	Judge 1.	Judge 2.	Judge 3.	Total	
1	8	38.00	38.00	38.00	38.00	37.50	34.00	32.75	34.75	36.38
2	19	37.25	37.00	37.50	37.25	36.00	33.50	35.50	35.00	36.13
3	9	31.75	34.00	34.00	33.25	37.00	37.00	37.00	37.00	35.13
4	25	34.13	33.50	30.75	32.79	37.75	35.25	36.63	36.54	34.67
5	34	36.00	36.00		36.00	34.75	31.00		32.88	34.44
6	31	36.25	36.25	36.25	36.25	29.00	31.25	30.75	30.33	33.29
7	26	31.63	31.75	31.75	31.71	35.00	34.25	34.75	34.67	33.19
8	29	33.00	34.50		33.75	32.75	29.50	32.75	31.67	32.71
9	71	32.75	34.50		33.63	28.75	33.75	31.00	31.17	32.40
10	72	33.25	33.50		33.38	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	31.69
11	18	34.50	31.00	32.50	32.67	30.25	30.25		30.25	31.46
12	37	27.25	32.50	27.00	28.92	34.19	34.00	33.75	33.98	31.45
13	23	30.75	31.25	30.75	30.92	31.75	30.75		31.25	31.08
14	50	31.00	27.00	21.25	26.42	35.25	35.25	35.25	35.25	30.83
15	22	31.00	35.00	29.25	31.75	29.75	29.50	30.00	29.75	30.75
16	47	27.25	27.50	22.50	25.75	34.50	34.50		34.50	30.13
17	33	31.50	30.00	28.25	29.92	29.25	29.00	23.25	27.17	28.54
18	35	27.50	27.75	27.75	27.67	30.50	27.75		29.13	28.40
19	7	25.50	25.00	30.00	26.83	32.25	28.75	28.75	29.92	28.38
20	61	32.25	31.50		31.88	22.00	25.50	25.50	24.33	28.10
21	36	22.25	23.25	21.75	22.42	24.00	27.75	29.25	27.00	24.71
22	49	13.25	14.75	14.25	14.08	32.00	24.50	29.25	28.58	21.33

Based on the Regional Round scores, Team 8 from the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy (Ukraine) was awarded the Best Team Award of the Regional Round Malta. The title of the Runner-Up Team was awarded to Team 19 from ADA University, Law School (Azerbaijan).

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 Malta. 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	
7	Kasper Kotimäki	23.00	25.00	28.00	25.33	23.25	30.00	23.25	25.50	50.83
	Leo Järvelä	21.25	25.25	28.25	24.92	30.75	28.00	31.00	29.92	54.83
	Julia Tuomaala	22.50	21.75	29.75	24.67	29.00	34.00	29.00	30.67	55.33
	Meea Juntunen	32.50	28.75	32.50	31.25	30.50	33.25	30.50	31.42	62.67
8	Yuliia Lazar					29.50	33.25	37.25	33.33	33.33
	Yuliia Rudenko	37.50	37.50	37.50	37.50	30.50	33.50	37.50	33.83	71.33
	Arsen Seletskyi	38.00	38.00	38.00	38.00					38.00
9	Anastasii Variichuk					38.00	38.00	38.00	38.00	38.00
	Tetiana Hladunets					36.00	36.00	36.00	36.00	36.00
	Vitalii Masnyk	34.50	34.25	34.50	34.42					34.42
	Oleksandr Pushkar	34.00	34.00	34.00	34.00					34.00
18	Aleksandra Çakmak					30.25	30.25		30.25	30.25
	Aria Sayan	34.25	29.00	31.50	31.58					31.58
	Felix Heider	32.75	32.75	32.75	32.75					32.75
	Jannis Carl Brandt					31.00	31.00		31.00	31.00
19	Banovsha Abbasova	37.00	37.25	37.00	37.08					37.08
	Aydan Mehdiyeva	37.00	37.25	37.25	37.17					37.17
	Mahira Huseynli					32.50	36.50	31.75	33.58	33.58
	Nigar Huseynova					34.25	35.00	34.50	34.58	34.58
22	Emili Stoyanova					30.50	28.00	30.00	29.50	29.50
	Fuat Rasim	34.25	28.00	24.75	29.00					29.00
	Nadya Denkova					30.50	25.00	30.00	28.50	28.50
	Kristivana Genadieva	35.00	31.00	33.00	33.00					33.00
23	Jaiden Ahuja					33.75	30.25		32.00	32.00
	Elektra Sereti					28.50	31.00		29.75	29.75
	Elaine Shen	33.00	30.50	30.50	31.33					31.33
	Gwen Guo	31.00	30.75	30.75	30.83					30.83
25	Denisa Demianova					36.25	34.50	35.75	35.50	35.50
	Samuel Insa Mee					37.75	36.75	37.50	37.33	37.33
	Marco Pinto Topic	32.75	32.25	27.00	30.67					30.67
	Ana Picado	35.50	34.50	34.25	34.75					34.75
26	Lukas Walter					35.25	35.25	35.25	35.25	35.25
	Sophia Kochherr					33.75	34.75	31.00	33.17	33.17
	Paula Richter	28.75	29.50	30.00	29.42					29.42
	Amelia Holcman	33.75	33.75	33.50	33.67					33.67
29	Antonia Patra	31.50	29.25		30.38					30.38
	Odysseas Lekidis	33.25	37.25		35.25					35.25
	Anastasia-Maria Kyrailidi					30.25	32.00	33.00	31.75	31.75
	Lydia Marou					27.00	33.25	32.50	30.92	30.92
31	Réka Mária Erős	35.50	35.50	35.50	35.50	32.00	27.25	31.75	30.33	65.83
	Réka Etelka Kérés	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	32.00	30.25	27.50	29.92	64.92
	Laura Vas	36.25	36.25	36.25	36.25	30.00	29.25	30.25	29.83	66.08
33	Dávid Molnár	28.00	25.00	30.00	27.67	28.50	26.25	29.50	28.08	55.75
	Zoltán Petrovics	27.75	23.00	22.00	24.25	26.75	22.75	13.25	20.92	45.17
	Vizler Anna	30.25	31.50	31.25	31.00	29.50	35.00	23.25	29.25	60.25

34	Nojus Nevardauskas					32.00	30.50		31.25	31.25
	Patricija Viliusytė					37.00	30.75		33.88	33.88
	Justė Skodžiūtė	34.25	24.25		29.25					29.25
	Inga Zacharevič	37.25	37.25		37.25					37.25
35	Zsombor Barnabás Trenka	31.25	30.50	31.25	31.00					31.00
	Bálint Zalay	28.00	26.75	28.25	27.67					27.67
	Mór Berényi					32.00	27.25		29.63	29.63
	Péter Nagy					30.25	27.50		28.88	28.88
36	Yasmine BOUASSIDA	24.50	25.50	23.75	24.58	30.25	24.75	30.75	28.58	53.17
	Exaucé GANDAHO	13.00	13.75	16.00	14.25					14.25
	Adèle-Marie Uhlmann	26.75	27.50	29.50	27.92	30.00	26.00	28.25	28.08	56.00
	Chloe Beukeleirs	21.25	24.00	27.50	24.25	28.25	24.50	28.25	27.00	51.25
37	Karolina Szakoła									0.00
	Julia Dziubałka	32.25	25.50	26.50	28.08	30.75	31.25	30.00	30.67	58.75
	Jan Czeszczewik	31.00	25.75	30.50	29.08	34.50	34.25	33.75	34.17	63.25
	Anna Kołodziej	32.50	23.00	26.50	27.33	35.00	34.75	33.75	34.50	61.83
47	Valentín Cáceres Martí	30.25	28.50	24.75	27.83					27.83
	Héloïse d'Anglade	26.25	24.25	20.75	23.75	32.75	32.75		32.75	56.50
	Clàudia Costas Quan					35.25	35.25		35.25	35.25
	Laura Rubio Peguero	26.25	24.25	21.50	24.00	28.25	28.25		28.25	52.25
49	Anna Ziętek	16.00	16.75	13.00	15.25	26.50	23.75	24.25	24.83	40.08
	Maria Cembrzyńska									0.00
	Natalia Wieczorek	12.25	12.00	12.50	12.25	30.00	29.50	30.25	29.92	42.17
	Paulina Siewierska	10.75	12.00	12.50	11.75	27.75	21.50	33.50	27.58	39.33
50	Martina Glionna					34.75	34.50	34.50	34.58	34.58
	Giulia Salvador					36.00	36.00	35.25	35.75	35.75
	Giulia Rossolini	26.75	32.25	21.75	26.92					26.92
	Giulia Carchidio	26.25	30.50	22.75	26.50					26.50
61	Zuzanna Karcz	32.25	36.50		34.38					34.38
	Krzysztofa Gąsiorowska	31.50	29.75		30.63	24.25	23.00	22.00	23.08	53.71
	Jakub Fortuna	31.50	26.75		29.13	26.75	26.00	26.50	26.42	55.54
	Krystyna Citak					24.25	18.75	22.25	21.75	21.75
71	Mariam Kardava	33.25	34.00		33.63	31.00	33.75	29.25	31.33	64.96
	Nia Linchik	29.75	36.00		32.88	30.00	33.00	27.50	30.17	63.04
	Tamar Pirtskhalaishvili									0.00
72	Eva Gergelová	38.25	38.25		38.25	35.25	35.25	35.25	35.25	73.50
	Matej Vysocký	29.25	29.50		29.38	34.00	34.00	34.00	34.00	63.38
	Jakub Kmec	28.50	28.50		28.50	22.50	22.50	22.50	22.50	51.00

Based on the scores, Eva Gergelová from Team 72 from Trnava University (the Slovak Republic) was awarded the Best Orator of the Regional Round Award.

Regional Round Athens

About the Regional Round

The third and last Regional Round of the 14th Edition of the HPMCC was organised by ELSA Greece from the 6th to the 8th of March 2026. A total of 21 teams from the following universities participated in this Regional Round: University of Graz, Faculty of Law (Austria); Baku State University, Faculty of Law (Azerbaijan); Tallinn University of Technology, Faculty of Law (Estonia); Freie Universität Berlin (Germany); TU Dresden (Germany); Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece); National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (Greece); University of Milan, Faculty of Law (Italy); Leiden University (the Netherlands); Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Faculty of Law and Administration (Poland); University of Wrocław, Faculty of Law, Administration and Economics (Poland); NOVA School of Law (Portugal); Universitatea de Vest Din Timișoara (Romania); University in Niš, Faculty of Law (Serbia); Comenius University in Bratislava, Faculty of Law (Slovak Republic); Pravna fakulteta Univerze v Ljubljani (Slovenia); IE University Law School (Spain); Universidad Pontificia Comillas (Spain); University of Lucerne, Faculty of Law (Switzerland); Baskent University (Turkiye); Marmara University Law Faculty (Turkiye).

The Regional Round was supported by 34 Judges: Apostolos Vorras; Chara Zerva; Christos Tsevas; Christos Zanganas; Dimitra Papageorgiou; Efthymios Papastavridis; Eleftherios Chelioudakis; Eleni Micha; Emmanouil Billis; Evangelia Vagenas; Fotios Papadopoulos; Galatea Kapellakou; Georgios Galanopoulos; Georgios Giannopoulos; Georgios Michalas; Iliana Papantoni; Ioanna Pervou; Iro - Maria Chioni; Konstantinos Kakavoulis; Konstantinos P. Anagnostopoulos; Maria - Alexandra Papoutsis; Maria-Louiza Deftou; Metaxia Kouskouna; Myrto Stavridi; Nikolas Vellios; Nikolaos Papaspyrou; Nikolaos Voulgaris; Panagiotis Perakis; Philippos Mitleton; Spyros Tassis; Stavros Evdokimos Pantazopoulos; Stefanos Vitoratos; Stergios Konstantinou; Theodore Konstantakopoulos.

An Organiser's Perspective

Four years after successfully hosting a virtual Regional Round, ELSA Greece was delighted to welcome 21 Teams from all over Europe to the Athens Regional Round of the 14th Edition of the Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition.

The 3-day journey in the city of democracy started on Friday, 6th of March. The first day entailed the Opening Ceremony and the Academic Programme, which took place at the prestigious Athens Armed Forces Officers' Club. After registration and greetings from the Organizing Committee and the International Board of ELSA, the participants had the opportunity to attend two constructive speeches revolving around the contemporary issue «Geopolitics vs Human Rights: The Venezuelan Crisis in a Multipolar World». Specifically, Dr. Nikolaos Lampas delivered a speech on «Democratic Legitimacy and International Recognition» and Dr. Antonios Stylianou gave some thoughtful remarks on the theme «From Policy to People: Human Rights Impacts of Sanctions». Subsequently, we proceeded with the drawing of lots, in order to determine the pleading order of the next two days. Eager to make the participants relax and connect with each other, we organized an optional walking tour around the capital's beautiful and historical spots.

The next two days, 7th and 8th of March, were devoted to the pleading sessions, where each team presented their arguments on behalf both of the Applicant and the Respondent State. These two days the competition was relocated to the Court of Appeals. It was an intense schedule, as four sessions were happening at the same time, three times a day. 34 renowned experts, with extensive experience in human rights and AI law, listened to the legal arguments, posed insightful questions, ensuring that participants had a challenging experience, and gave valuable feedback. Each pleading session was efficiently managed by members of the Organising Committee, making sure that the proceedings were executed smoothly. The Regional Round concluded on Sunday evening, 8th of March, with the Closing Ceremony at the Amphitheatre of the Court of Appeals. Team 48 was awarded Best Team, while Teams 16 and 21 were both awarded Runner-ups of the Athens Regional Round. Ardelean Ana-Marina from Team 62 was announced as the Best Orator of the Athens Regional Round, while Team 10 was awarded as the Most ELSA-Spirited Team.

Of course, this endeavour would not have been the same without the kind support of our partners; our financial sponsors: the Athens Bar Association, NK Law Firm, Sakkoulas Publications and SF Legal Law Firm, as well as those who placed the Regional Round under their auspices: the Municipality of Athens, the Athens Bar

Association, the European Public Law Organisation, the National Commission for Human Rights and the Association of European Studies Scientists.

We are forever grateful to the entire Organizing Committee for all the incredible work they put in, and to the board of ELSA Greece for all their support. We are honoured to have been trusted by ELSA International to organise one Regional Round of the largest English-speaking human rights-oriented moot court competition, as well as thankful for all the help and guidance Inês and Virginija offered throughout the past 8 months.

**Written by Evangelia Papadatou and Christine Sotiriou,
Co-Heads of the Organizing Committee of the Regional Round Athens &
Ioannis Panos and Elpida Samara, Directors for the Athens Regional Round of HPMCC**



The Organising Committee of the Regional Round Athens

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	48	36.50	34.25	35.00	35.25	39.50	38.75	36.75	38.33	36.79
2	16	36.75	36.75	36.50	36.67	36.50	33.50	34.50	34.83	35.75
2	21	37.50	37.50	38.25	37.75	30.25	32.50	38.50	33.75	35.75
3	14	31.75	37.50	38.00	35.75	34.25	36.25	36.00	35.50	35.63
4	10	35.00	36.25	35.00	35.42	33.50	35.50	34.75	34.58	35.00
5	76	32.75	32.00	34.25	33.00	35.50	37.00	36.00	36.17	34.58
6	32	32.75	31.50	32.00	32.08	38.00	34.75	34.50	35.75	33.92
7	67	32.50	36.50	33.75	34.25	33.75	33.25	33.50	33.50	33.88
8	54	37.00	28.75	33.50	33.08	34.25	36.75	32.25	34.42	33.75
9	27	33.25	31.50	36.25	33.67	34.75	31.25	33.00	33.00	33.33
10	62	35.00	37.00	36.75	36.25	30.00	29.00	32.00	30.33	33.29
11	28	29.00	30.75	33.25	31.00	35.00	36.25	34.00	35.08	33.04
12	45	28.75	29.25	34.00	30.67	37.00	36.25	31.75	35.00	32.83
13	42	30.50	31.75	31.00	31.08	35.50	33.00	33.75	34.08	32.58
14	51	37.00	37.00	37.75	37.25	28.25	25.75	29.50	27.83	32.54
15	30	35.00	38.00	32.75	35.25	29.00	28.75	28.75	28.83	32.04
16	40	34.75	37.25	37.50	36.50	28.25	24.50	27.75	26.83	31.67
17	74	33.50	29.00	34.00	32.17	30.25	31.50	31.00	30.92	31.54
18	12	28.75	28.25	24.50	27.17	31.25	31.25	29.25	30.58	28.88
19	38	21.75	22.00	21.50	21.75	32.25	33.00	32.25	32.50	27.13
20	46	20.25	29.75	28.00	26.00	31.25	25.75	24.25	27.08	26.54

Based on the Regional Round scores, Team 48 from the Leiden University (the Netherlands) was awarded the Best Team Award of the Regional Round Athens. The title of the Runner-Up Team was tied between Team 16 from NOVA School of Law (Portugal) and Team 21 from the University of Milan (Italy).

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 Athens. 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	
10	Sara Louise Owens	32.00	34.00	29.25	31.75	33.75	32.25	33.75	33.25	65.00
	Lauren Ashley Mallaber	33.75	35.25	33.25	34.08	36.00	34.50	35.75	35.42	69.50
	Cristina Ruiz Tobaruela									0.00
	Ara Lotfi	35.25	35.75	36.00	35.67	34.50	35.00	34.50	34.67	70.33
12	Amelia Żukowicz	28.50	30.00	26.50	28.33					28.33
	Martyna Walkowiak					25.00	30.25	25.75	27.00	27.00
	Julia Zerbst	28.75	27.75	25.00	27.17	35.00	31.50	29.25	31.92	59.08
	Grzegorz Szajkowski	29.25	28.25	25.50	27.67	35.00	30.75	29.00	31.58	59.25
14	Sarah Flütsch					36.00	36.50	35.50	36.00	36.00
	Cedric Herbst	40.00	31.75	37.50	36.42	37.00	33.50	36.00	35.50	71.92
	Caroline Frei					34.50	36.00	33.00	34.50	34.50
	Iliad Kamazani	32.00	27.00	30.25	29.75					29.75
16	Inês da Costa Delgado	37.00	37.00	38.00	37.33					37.33
	Ana Nogueira de Oliveira					34.00	33.25	36.50	34.58	34.58
	Alexandre Freiherr von Hornstein	35.75	35.50	34.50	35.25					35.25
	Maria Roberta Constantin					34.50	33.25	36.50	34.75	34.75
21	Nick Straile	39.75	37.50	38.75	38.67	32.50	34.25	36.75	34.50	73.17
	Bianca Redaelli	35.50	36.75	37.00	36.42	30.00	29.50	38.50	32.67	69.08
	Vittoria Zuca	35.50	36.75	37.75	36.67	33.75	33.25	40.00	35.67	72.33
27	Luka Čabarkapa									0.00
	Vera Milenković	33.75	30.00	36.25	33.33	32.00	33.25	33.00	32.75	66.08
	Lana Kocić	33.00	31.50	35.75	33.42	30.25	32.75	32.00	31.67	65.08
	Milica Randelović	34.25	32.75	36.25	34.42	30.25	35.00	34.00	33.08	67.50
28	Annika Portuné					37.75	35.00	34.75	35.83	35.83
	Tara Leyla Waldren	33.00	32.00	33.50	32.83					32.83
	Anne-Katrin Spitzer	29.25	30.50	32.50	30.75					30.75
	Sandra Wenzel					33.75	33.25	33.00	33.33	33.33
30	Ana Marie Gradišar	34.75	33.25	31.50	33.17					33.17
	Kim Fricelj					29.50	29.25	29.50	29.42	29.42
	Laura Breclj					26.50	28.50	26.25	27.08	27.08
	Liza Koncilja	34.75	37.75	30.00	34.17					34.17
32	Zofia Anna Juricová					39.00	35.25	35.00	36.42	36.42
	Dorotea Lukačovičová	31.50	33.50	32.00	32.33					32.33
	Alžbeta Pauleová					38.00	33.00	32.50	34.50	34.50
	Eliška Váňová	31.00	32.50	31.00	31.50					31.50
38	Ayça Altunışık	21.25	23.75	19.25	21.42	33.00	32.50	34.75	33.42	54.83
	Hüseyin Tuna Gökdoğan	28.25	24.50	28.50	27.08	32.50	31.50	32.50	32.17	59.25
	Serra Aydın	20.50	20.75	21.75	21.00	33.00	31.75	30.75	31.83	52.83
	Ezo Ferda Topal	21.75	25.75	21.75	23.08	32.75	32.75	33.00	32.83	55.92
40	Olimpia Potocka					30.00	28.50	30.50	29.67	29.67
	Julia Siuda					20.50	25.75	30.25	25.50	25.50
	Martyna Nowicka	33.75	36.50	37.50	35.92					35.92
	Julia Zajaczkowska	35.75	38.25	38.00	37.33					37.33
42	Fazil Valizada	33.25	33.75	32.00	33.00	31.50	35.75	31.25	32.83	65.83
	Kamil Abdullazada	32.00	30.25	30.00	30.75	34.50	37.25	35.75	35.83	66.58
	Fatima Mammadova	32.00	30.00	30.50	30.83	34.00	37.75	34.75	35.50	66.33
	Nazrin Sadigova	31.25	29.75	30.25	30.42	31.50	35.25	31.50	32.75	63.17

45	Nikolaos Tsitlakidis					36.50	37.00	31.25	34.92	34.92
	Elisavet Aidinopoulou	28.75	27.00	30.00	28.58					28.58
	Marialena Limenopoulou	31.00	30.75	34.50	32.08	35.25	36.50	32.50	34.75	66.83
46	Ceren Güngör	29.00	25.75	28.00	27.58	34.25	27.50	34.00	31.92	59.50
	Ece Nur Yılmaz	30.25	29.50	29.25	29.67					29.67
	Asuman Danyer					30.50	26.75	31.25	29.50	29.50
	Arzu Su Gülveren					27.75	24.25	27.25	26.42	26.42
48	Guillermo Arranz Sánchez					38.50	39.50	37.00	38.33	38.33
	Aarushi Agarwal	35.00	36.50	35.00	35.50					35.50
	Mazarine de Briey	33.75	36.25	33.00	34.33					34.33
	Juliette Badrinath					39.50	39.25	38.75	39.17	39.17
51	Verena Borecky-Kutej	37.25	37.25	36.50	37.00	23.25	29.50	29.50	27.42	64.42
	Daniela Lauermann	35.25	37.50	35.50	36.08	22.25	20.50	28.50	23.75	59.83
	Marius Krabbe	39.00	38.50	39.00	38.83	30.75	31.25	32.00	31.33	70.17
54	Helena Patricia Krupa	31.25	38.75	36.75	35.58					35.58
	Tim Luca Giacomo Hoppe	27.50	36.00	30.00	31.17	36.25	30.00	27.50	31.25	62.42
	Caspar Leon Oesterling	25.00	39.25	31.75	32.00	37.75	34.75	34.50	35.67	67.67
	Estella Cristina Neumayr					35.75	33.75	29.25	32.92	32.92
62	Modol Iarina Maria	36.75	36.50	37.00	36.75	33.00	30.00	31.50	31.50	68.25
	Răulea Daria Cristina	33.50	35.00	33.75	34.08	27.50	29.75	31.50	29.58	63.67
	Ardelean Ana-Marina	39.25	39.00	39.00	39.08	33.50	35.50	33.75	34.25	73.33
67	Jniel Louise Tahl Bulaong	38.75	33.25	36.00	36.00	36.00	34.50	34.00	34.83	70.83
	Aigi Aavastik	37.75	31.25	31.25	33.42					33.42
	Vira Mykhailova					34.75	32.75	32.50	33.33	33.33
	Shivpriva Sunil Pawar	38.50	31.50	35.00	35.00	34.25	32.25	33.00	33.17	68.17
74	Rafaella Antonopoulou	27.50	34.75	33.25	31.83					31.83
	Aikaterini Zografopoulou					30.00	29.25	28.50	29.25	29.25
	Efstathia Steiropoulou	28.50	32.00	30.25	30.25					30.25
	Eleni Kokkali					31.50	33.00	30.50	31.67	31.67
76	Agustin Plaza de los Reyes					36.25	35.75	34.00	35.33	35.33
	Mariana Arraes Correa de Araujo					36.50	35.00	35.00	35.50	35.50
	Ariane Sorensen Albisu	31.50	34.25	34.25	33.33					33.33
	Ingrid Cristina Zmuda	32.00	33.00	34.25	33.08					33.08

Based on the scores, Ana-Marina Ardelean from Team 62 from Universitatea de Vest Din Timișoara (Romania) 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 Birmingham;
 - ii) 4 out of the 12 Teams qualified from Regional Round Malta;
 - iii) 4 out of the 12 Teams qualified from Regional Round Athens.
- b) The remaining 6 Teams qualifying to the Final Oral Round came from:
 - i) Athens (4 Teams)
 - ii) Malta (2 Teams)

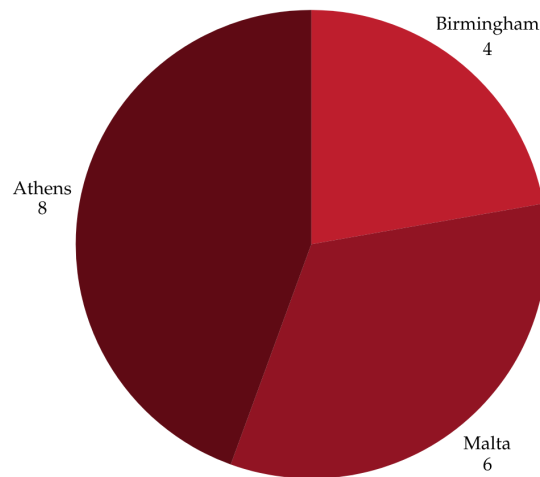
Please find the qualifying scores in the table below:

Ranking No	Team No	RR score	Regional Round	WS score	QS
1	21	35,75	Regional Round Athens	35	35,375
2	14	35,625	Regional Round Athens	34,5	35,062
3	55	34,75	Regional Round Birmingham	34,562	34,656
4	48	36,791	Regional Round Athens	32,312	34,551
5	19	36,125	Regional Round Malta	32,687	34,406
6	8	36,375	Regional Round Malta	31,625	34
7	16	35,75	Regional Round Athens	32,187	33,968
8	54	33,75	Regional Round Athens	34,125	33,937
9	25	34,666	Regional Round Malta	32,062	33,364
10	51	32,541	Regional Round Athens	33,75	33,145
11	32	33,916	Regional Round Athens	31,687	32,801
12	71	32,395	Regional Round Malta	33,125	32,76
13	18	31,458	Regional Round Malta	34	32,729
14	50	30,833	Regional Round Malta	34,625	32,729
15	62	33,291	Regional Round Athens	32,125	32,708
16	30	32,041	Regional Round Athens	32,875	32,458
17	22	30,75	Regional Round Malta	34,125	32,437
18	26	33,187	Regional Round Malta	31,625	32,406
19	10	35	Regional Round Athens	29,5	32,25
20	42	32,583	Regional Round Athens	31,875	32,229
21	45	32,833	Regional Round Athens	31,125	31,979
22	41	34,395	Regional Round Birmingham	28,625	31,51
23	23	31,083	Regional Round Malta	31,187	31,135
24	72	31,687	Regional Round Malta	30,237	30,962
25	9	35,125	Regional Round Malta	26,75	30,937
26	37	31,447	Regional Round Malta	30,25	30,848

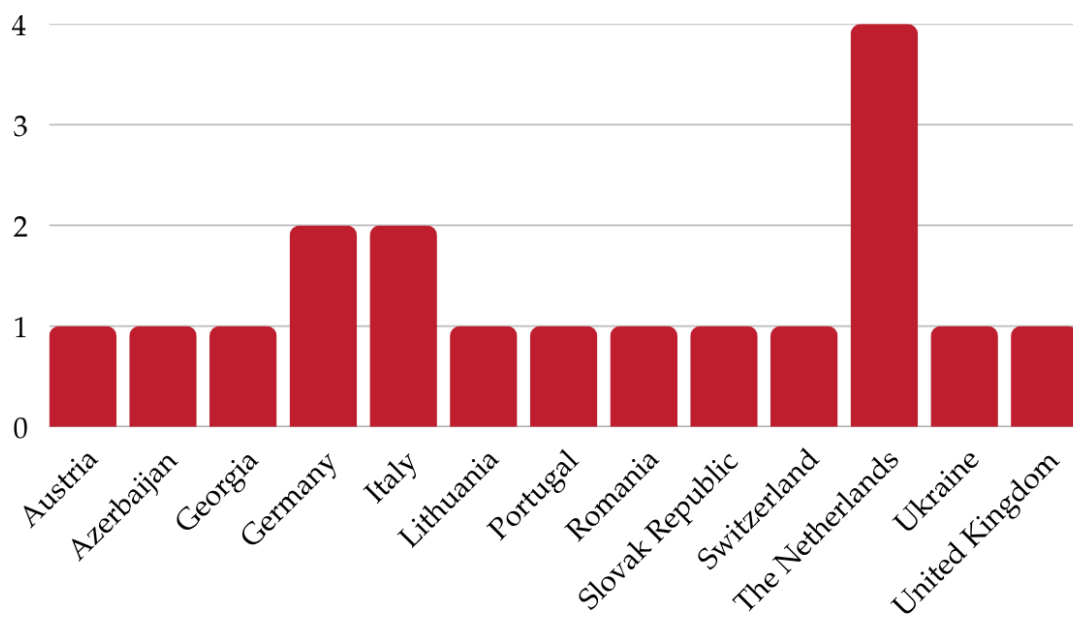
27	35	28,395	Regional Round Malta	33,25	30,822
28	76	34,583	Regional Round Athens	26,687	30,635
29	73	31,541	Regional Round Birmingham	29,312	30,426
30	61	28,104	Regional Round Malta	32,625	30,364
31	40	31,666	Regional Round Athens	29	30,333
32	74	31,541	Regional Round Athens	28,937	30,239
33	29	32,708	Regional Round Malta	27,75	30,229
34	43	31,708	Regional Round Birmingham	28,25	29,979
35	28	33,041	Regional Round Athens	26,25	29,645
36	31	33,291	Regional Round Malta	25,687	29,489
37	27	33,333	Regional Round Athens	24,812	29,072
38	39	30,354	Regional Round Birmingham	27,75	29,052
39	47	30,125	Regional Round Malta	27,812	28,968
40	34	34,437	Regional Round Malta	22,875	28,656
41	58	31	Regional Round Birmingham	24,875	27,937
42	4	29,875	Regional Round Birmingham	25,937	27,906
43	7	28,375	Regional Round Malta	27,312	27,843
44	60	27,666	Regional Round Birmingham	26,625	27,145
45	33	28,541	Regional Round Malta	25,437	26,989
46	69	27,125	Regional Round Birmingham	26,687	26,906
47	66	28,25	Regional Round Birmingham	25,125	26,687
48	36	24,708	Regional Round Malta	28,625	26,666
49	46	26,541	Regional Round Athens	26	26,270
50	53	24,791	Regional Round Birmingham	26,937	25,864
51	38	27,083	Regional Round Athens	23,625	25,354
52	12	28,875	Regional Round Athens	21,312	25,093
53	67	33,875	Regional Round Athens	15,875	24,875
54	49	21,333	Regional Round Malta	26,375	23,854
55	15	20,458	Regional Round Birmingham	26,125	23,291
56	11	24,041	Regional Round Birmingham	22,375	23,208

Statistics

Qualifying Teams by Regional Round



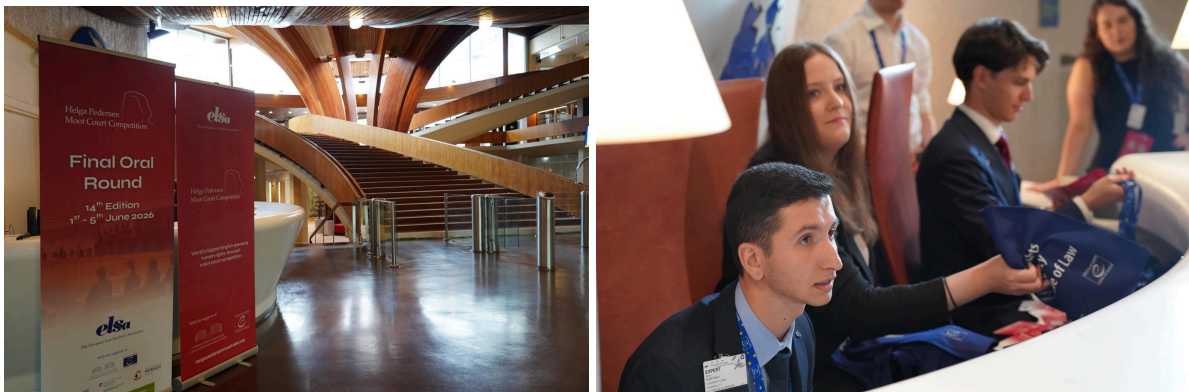
Represented Countries in the Final Oral Round



Final Oral Round

The Final Oral Round of the 14th Edition of the Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition gathered teams from all over Europe in Strasbourg, France, between the 1st to the 5th of June 2026. As per tradition, the Final Oral Round took place in the Palais de l'Europe, with the Grand Final taking place in the European Court of Human Rights.

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



The participants then attended the Academic Session: Working as a Judge in the European Court of Human Rights, delivered by the Danish Judge to the ECtHR, Anne Louise Haahr Bormann that followed with the Opening Ceremony, where the Head of Organising Committee, Inês Ribeiro, had a welcome speech and the Secretary General of the International Board of ELSA, Lucie Nováková, and the Welfare Officer, Ana Beatriz Franco, presented the Code of Conduct of ELSA.



Academic Session "Working as Judge in the European Court of Human Rights" delivered by Anne Louise Haahr Bormann, Danish Judge to the ECtHR

After the Opening Ceremony, we made our way to the Lieu d'Europe. On behalf of the winning team of the previous 13th Edition, that represented the Charles University, the Opening Reception was graciously hosted by the Permanent Representation of the Czech Republic and was opened by Ambassador Krystyna Najmanová, Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic Delegation to the Council of Europe and the Czech Republic Judge to the European Court of Human Rights, Kateřina Šimáčková. 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 Czech Republic for your hospitality.



Opening Ceremony hosted by Czech Republic with Ambassador Krystyna Najmanová, Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic Delegation to the Council of Europe (left), Inês Ribeiro, Vice-President in charge of Competitions of the International Board of ELSA (middle) and Kateřina Šimáčková, Czech Republic Judge to the European Court of Human Rights

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.



On the third day, the 3rd of June, 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.



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.



We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all Judges that contributed with their time and expertise to this Edition.



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.



Finally, on Friday the 5th of June, 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 Diana Sarcu, acting Moldovan judge at the European Court of Human Rights, President of the Grand Final Bench; Mihail Stojaniski, lawyer at the Council of Europe and member of the Academic Board; Pamela McCormick, lawyer at the Council of Europe and member of the Academic Board; Kristaps Tamuzs, Head of the Legal Department of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Latvia and member of the Academic Board; Piers Gardner, solicitor with extensive experience in international human rights litigation; Eva Hubalkova, senior lawyer at the European Court of Human Rights; Jeremy McBride, barrister and Visiting Professor specialising in human rights law and public international law; Evelyne Schmid, Professor at the University of Lausanne specialising in international human rights law and international criminal law; and Zuzana Kovalova, Case Author of the 14th Edition of the Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition.



Zuzana Kovalova, Case Author of the 14th Edition of the Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition and Member of the Bench of the Grand Final

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 Ms Clare Ovey, the Director of Human Rights of the Council of Europe, on behalf of the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe. Thereafter, welcoming addresses by Mr Ambassador Revel, Permanent Representative of Monaco to the Council of Europe, Mr Gabriel Marti, President of the International Board of ELSA, and Ms Inês Ribeiro, Vice President in charge of

Competitions of the International Board of ELSA and Head of Organising Committee of the 14th Edition of the HPMCC, were delivered.



Marielena Tsirli, Registrar of the European Court of Human Rights, Judge Mattias Guyomar, President-elect of the Court, and Mykola Tochytskyi, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the Council of Europe with the Winning Team (left) & Best Orator Award with Krystyna Najmanová, Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the Council of Europe



Urs Beer, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the Council of Europe with the Winning Team of the Best Applicant's Written Submissions.

The Award for Best Applicant's Written Submission and Best Respondent's Written Submissions were presented by Mr Urs Beer, Deputy to the Permanent Representative representing Switzerland. Moving on with the Best Orator Awards, Mr. Clare Ovey, 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 Krystyna Najmanová, Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic 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 14th Edition of the 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.

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

In its 14th Edition, 37 Judges contributed to the Final Oral Round with their time, energy, and knowledge. We would like to thank all of them: Ada Paprocka; Alexandra Sofran; Ana-Maria Enache; Ann Maralyan; Anna Adamska-Gallant; Diana Sarcu; Dmytro Tretyakov; Eva Hubalkova; Evelyne Schmid; Hristo Peshev; Jeremy McBride; Jerome Joseph; Katerina Stepanova; Kristaps Tamuzs; Marjama Bagdasarjana; Mariia Novikova; Mariia Rudko; Marina Makarova; Marten Breuer; Mihail Stojanoski; Monika Plozza; Mustafa Oguzhan Yalcin; Natalia Vorobyeva; Nika Bruskina; Oana Girlescu; Oleksandr Melnyk; Ondrej Szalonnas; Pamela McCormick; Patricija Glavica; Petr Vystreil; Piers Gardner; Rachael Kondak; Revşan Deniz Yildirim Çobanoğlu; Sarka Duskova; Serena Zanirato; Viktoria Stoyanova and Zuzana Kovalova.

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.



Results

Written Submission Scores

Based on the Written Submission scores, Team 71 from the Georgian Institute of Public Affairs (Georgia) was awarded the prize for the Best Applicant's Written Submission, while Team 50 from the University of Bologna, Faculty of Law (Italy) was awarded the prize for the Best Respondent's Written Submission.



Team 71 from the Georgian Institute of Public Affairs (Georgia) was awarded the prize for the Best Applicant's Written Submissions.



Team 50 from the University of Bologna (Italy) was awarded the prize for the Best Respondent's Written Submissions.

Team Scores

Preliminary Rounds

Below you can find the Team scores from Preliminary Rounds of the Final Oral Round of the 14th 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	8	36.00	36.50	34.50	0.00	35.67	36.00	35.25	32.50	34.58	70.25	35.13
2	25	37.75	31.25	32.00	0.00	33.67	32.00	31.50	32.75	32.08	65.75	32.88
3	48	35.25	34.75	34.25	0.00	34.75	32.50	29.50	30.50	30.83	65.58	32.79
4	51	37.25	36.00	35.50	0.00	36.25	26.50	29.50	31.00	29.00	65.25	32.63
5	41	34.50	34.00	35.50	0.50	34.67	31.00	31.00	31.00	31.00	65.67	32.33
6	73	30.75	28.25	24.00	0.00	27.67	35.25	37.50	36.50	36.42	64.08	32.04
7	19	35.00	34.75	32.00	0.00	33.92	28.50	29.00	29.25	28.92	62.83	31.42
8	14	30.50	29.00	32.25	0.00	30.58	30.00	30.00	30.5	30.17	60.75	30.38
9	43	26.75	25.00	30.50	0.00	27.42	30.25	34.75	35.00	33.33	60.75	30.38
10	54	31.00	33.25	33.50	0.00	32.58	30.00	28.75	25.75	28.17	60.75	30.38
11	55	25.00	29.00	29.75	0.00	27.92	33.25	32.50	32.00	32.58	60.50	30.25
12	50	28.00	29.50	29.00	0.00	28.83	31.75	27.00	30.50	29.75	58.58	29.29
13	16	33.00	30.75	32.50	0.00	32.08	28.00	27.00	24.00	26.33	58.42	29.21
14	18	25.00	28.75	27.75	0.00	27.17	29.50	24.00	36.50	30.00	57.17	28.58
15	21	21.25	20.50	25.00	0.00	22.25	33.25	35.25	34.00	34.17	56.42	28.21
16	71	24.00	28.25	25.25	0.00	25.83	32.25	30.75	25.00	29.33	55.17	27.58
17	32	23.00	24.63	25.00	0.00	24.21	25.00	26.00	28.50	26.50	50.71	25.35
18	62	21.50	27.00	26.50	0.00	25.00	27.00	24.99	23.25	25.08	50.08	25.04

The 8 Teams qualifying for the Quarter-Finals are marked in green in the table above. The 8th place of the Competition had a tie between three teams. According to the Rules, namely 7.2.7 under 7.2 Structure, *“The Qualification Scores shall not be taken into consideration unless there is a tie between Teams following the Preliminary Rounds. In this case, the Team with the highest Qualification Score shall proceed to the Quarter-Finals.”* In light of this, Team 14 had the highest Qualification Score and proceeded to the Quarter-Finals.

Quarter-Finals

Below you can find the Team scores from Quarter-Finals of the Final Oral Round of the 14th 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												
8							35.00	36.00	35.25	35.00	33.75	35.00
14	35.75	33.25	32.25	32.00	32.50	33.15						
Quarter Final Round 2												
25							36.25	34.25	36.75	35.00	30.50	34.55
19	28.25	28.00	29.00	28.50	28.00	28.35						
Quarter Final Round 3												
48	33.50	25.75	32.00	30.00	30.13	30.28						
73							27.75	28.00	29.00	24.75	30.00	27.90
Quarter Final Round 4												
41	23.00	26.25	31.00	37.25	25.25	28.55						
51							30.00	38.25	30.00	26.25	33.00	31.50

The 4 Teams qualifying for the Semi-Finals are marked in green in the table above.

Semi-Finals

Below you can find the Team scores from the Semi-Finals of the Final Oral Round of the 14th 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																
8									39.00	37.00	35.25	37.25	36.50	36.00	37.75	36.96
48	32.75	31.75	34.00	33.25	31.50	32.25	35.00	32.93								
Semi Final Round 2																
25									33.75	36.25	36.50	34.00	29.75	36.00	31.00	33.89
51	29.00	31.00	36.25	34.25	32.50	34.00	32.50	32.79								

The 2 Teams qualifying for the Semi-Finals are marked in green in the table above.

The Grand Final

Below you can find the Team scores from the Grand Final of the Final Oral Round of the 14th 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.	Judge 8.	Judge 9.	
8	35.75	35.00	31.75	37.00	35.00	34.75	40.00	40.00	34.88	36.01

Team No.	Respondent									Total
	Judge 1.	Judge 2.	Judge 3.	Judge 4.	Judge 5.	Judge 6.	Judge 7.	Judge 8.	Judge 9.	
25	33.50	33.00	31.25	35.00	32.00	33.75	32.50	32.50	34.63	33.13

Upon deliberation and calculation of scores, Team 8 from the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy was declared Winner, while Team 25 from the Maastricht University (the Netherlands) was declared the Runner-up of the 14th 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, 26 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	
8	Yuliia Lazar					32.00	34.25	35.25	33.83	33.83
	Yuliia Rudenko	35.00	37.50	37.00	36.50	33.00	36.50	35.75	35.08	71.58
	Arsen Seletskyi	34.25	36.00	35.00	35.08					35.08
14	Sarah Flütsch					28.75	28.00	30.00	28.92	28.92
	Cedric Herbst	30.75	30.50	35.00	32.08	29.00	31.25	31.00	30.42	62.50
	Caroline Frei									0.00
	Iliad Kamazani	29.25	28.25	30.25	29.25	31.50	28.50	32.00	30.67	59.92
16	Inês da Costa Delgado	34.25	32.00	32.50	32.92	28.75	28.25	26.00	27.67	60.58
	Ana Nogueira de Oliveira					25.25	30.00	26.00	27.08	27.08
	Alexandre Freiherr von Hornstein	33.00	30.50	30.00	31.17					31.17
	Maria Roberta Constantin	27.50	26.00	31.00	28.17	23.75	26.50	21.00	23.75	51.92
18	Aleksandra Çakmak					37.25	22.40	31.25	30.30	30.30
	Aria Sayan	28.50	29.00	25.00	27.50					27.50
	Felix Heider	27.00	28.00	25.00	26.67					26.67
	Jannis Carl Brandt					31.00	16.25	36.00	27.75	27.75
19	Aydan Mehdiyeva	32.00	33.25	35.00	33.42					33.42
	Banovsha Abbasova	32.00	33.00	34.50	33.17					33.17
	Mahira Huseynli					29.25	28.50	28.00	28.58	28.58
	Nigar Huseynova					29.25	29.75	28.00	29.00	29.00
21	Nick Straile	25.50	21.25	21.25	22.67	34.50	35.50	35.00	35.00	57.67
	Bianca Redaelli	25.50	18.75	19.25	21.17	34.50	34.75	33.00	34.08	55.25
	Vittoria Zucca	25.00	18.75	23.00	22.25	32.25	34.75	29.00	32.00	54.25
25	Denisa Demianova					33.00	33.00	34.75	33.58	33.58
	Samuel Insa Mee					29.00	31.00	33.00	31.00	31.00
	Marco Pinto Topic	30.75	30.25	38.00	33.00					33.00
	Ana Picado	29.50	35.00	37.25	33.92					33.92
32	Žofia Anna Juricová					26.75	25.50	29.75	27.33	27.33
	Dorotea Lukačovičová	23.00	25.25	25.00	24.42					24.42
	Alžbeta Pauleová					25.25	24.50	27.00	25.58	25.58
	Eliška Váchová	23.00	24.00	24.25	23.75					23.75

41	Karlis Sverns					29.00	30.00	30.00	29.67	29.67
	Alexandra Escobar	33.50	33.25	35.00	33.92	31.00	32.50	32.00	31.83	65.75
	Deyan Hristov	34.50	32.25	36.00	34.25	30.00	30.50	29.00	29.83	64.08
	Hjördis-Tamara Koch	33.50	34.25	34.50	34.08					34.08
43	Olena Leshchenko	30.50	25.75	27.75	28.00	34.50	35.75	30.25	33.50	61.50
	Magda Khalvashi	26.50	24.50	25.00	25.33	34.50	35.25	30.00	33.25	58.58
48	Guillermo Arranz Sánchez					30.00	29.75	33.25	31.00	31.00
	Aarushi Agarwal	35.00	38.25	34.75	36.00					36.00
	Mazarine de Briey	34.50	33.25	34.00	33.92					33.92
	Juliette Badrinath					30.50	29.00	32.50	30.67	30.67
50	Martina Glionna					29.75	28.00	31.75	29.83	29.83
	Giulia Salvador					31.75	26.50	31.75	30.00	30.00
	Giulia Rossolini	25.75	28.25	29.00	27.67					27.67
	Giulia Carchidio	30.25	30.25	29.00	29.83					29.83
51	Verena Borecky-Kutej	36.50	36.00	38.00	36.83	28.00	32.75	30.00	30.25	67.08
	Daniela Lauermann	34.25	34.00	37.25	35.17	26.00	28.00	26.75	26.92	62.08
	Marius Krabbe	35.00	33.00	35.00	34.33	25.50	30.25	30.00	28.58	62.92
54	Helena Patricia Krupa	33.50	33.50	31.50	32.83	23.75	28.50	24.75	25.67	58.50
	Tim Luca Giacomo Hoppe	33.50	32.00	30.50	32.00					32.00
	Caspar Leon Oesterling	31.75	32.00	27.75	30.50	35.00	32.50	27.50	31.67	62.17
	Estella Cristina Neumayr					30.00	30.00	24.75	28.25	28.25
55	Peter Čapkovič	30.00	28.00	25.25	27.75	31.25	32.50	33.75	32.50	60.25
	Nela Otočková	30.75	31.25	27.00	29.67	30.50	28.75	31.75	30.33	60.00
	Ines-Cristiana Cutaru	30.00	27.00	26.00	27.67	30.50	32.25	34.25	32.33	60.00
62	Modol Iarina Maria	26.75	21.50	30.00	26.08	24.50	25.75	23.00	24.42	50.50
	Răulea Daria Cristina	26.50	20.00	25.25	23.92	24.50	25.00	23.50	24.33	48.25
	Ardelean Ana-Marina	27.25	22.50	24.50	24.75	26.00	25.00	23.00	24.67	49.42
71	Mariam Kardava	25.25	27.25	22.75	25.08	32.25	31.00	25.00	29.42	54.50
	Nia Linchik	18.00	27.25	28.50	24.58	33.00	29.75	25.00	29.25	53.83
	Tamar Pirtskhalaishvili									
73	Victoria Acheson	31.25	29.50	24.25	28.33					28.33
	Apolline Simmons	26.00	27.00	24.25	25.75					25.75
	Ava Gibson					35.25	36.75	35.00	35.67	35.67
	Eleonora Keller Rodriguez					37.75	38.50	36.25	37.50	37.50

Based on the scores from Preliminary Rounds, Yuliia Rudenko (Team 8) from the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy (Ukraine) was awarded the prize of Best Orator of the Preliminary Rounds.

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.

Team No.	Team Members	Judge 1.	Judge 2.	Judge 3.	Judge 4.	Judge 5.	Best Orator
8	Yuliia Lazar	34.00	35.50	34.25	36.00	34.50	34.85
	Yuliia Rudenko	33.75	35.00	35.75	36.25	35.00	35.15
14	Iliad Kamazani	31.00	30.75	30.50	32.25	36.00	32.10
	Cedric Herbst	32.25	33.00	34.00	33.75	35.00	33.60
19	Banovsha Abbasova	28.25	28.50	28.00	27.75	28.00	28.10
	Aydan Mehdiyeva	25.75	29.50	28.00	28.25	28.00	27.90
25	Samuel Insa Mee	29.50	35.00	38.25	34.75	36.25	34.75
	Denisa Demianová	30.50	34.75	36.75	33.50	36.25	34.35
41	Alexandra Escobar	25.00	35.25	31.00	24.25	26.25	28.35
	Deyan Hristov	27.50	38.00	31.25	28.50	28.50	30.75
	Hjördis-Tamara Koch	25.75	37.25	29.00	25.25	24.00	28.25
48	Mazarine de Briey	29.75	30.00	31.50	26.00	33.00	30.05
	Aarushi Agarwal	30.50	30.00	30.50	25.00	32.00	29.60
51	Daniela Lauermann	25.50	29.25	38.00	30.50	26.25	29.90
	Verena Kutej	22.75	30.25	38.25	30.75	33.50	31.10
	Marius Krabbe	28.50	29.75	36.50	29.25	34.50	31.70
73	Ava Gibson	30.00	24.25	27.50	28.00	27.25	27.40
	Eleonora Rodriguez	31.00	25.25	30.00	28.00	28.25	28.50

Based on the scores from Quarter-Finals, Yuliia Rudenko (Team 8) from the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy (Ukraine) was awarded the prize of Best Orator of the Quarter-Finals.

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.

Team No.	Team Members	Judge 1.	Judge 2.	Judge 3.	Judge 4.	Judge 5.	Judge 6.	Judge 7.	Best Orator
8	Yuliia Lazar	38.00	35.00	38.00	36.25	35.00	37.00	38.50	36.82
	Yuliia Rudenko	36.50	36.75	35.25	37.75	35.25	36.00	39.00	36.64
25	Samuel Insa Mee	31.25	36.00	30.00	35.00	38.25	34.75	34.00	34.18
	Denisa Demianová	30.50	35.25	28.75	32.50	32.00	34.00	32.25	32.18
48	Mazarine De Briey	35.00	31.00	32.25	32.00	32.00	32.25	32.25	32.39
	Aarushi Agarwal	35.00	35.00	31.00	34.00	37.25	32.25	32.00	33.79
51	Daniela Lauermann	33.50	30.00	27.75	33.00	37.50	29.50	29.75	31.57
	Verena Kutej	32.25	37.00	30.00	33.75	37.50	32.00	29.00	33.07
	Marius Krabbe	31.50	37.50	33.25	35.25	35.00	30.25	29.25	33.14

Based on the scores from the Semi-Finals, Yuliia Lazar (Team 8) from the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy (Ukraine) was awarded the prize of Best Orator of the Semi-Finals.

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, 4 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.	Judge 8.	Judge 9.	Total
8	Arsen Seletsuyi	34.75	37.75	37.75	35.00	38.00	35.00	34.50	37.00	36.25	36.22
	Yuliia Rudenko	35.00	35.00	35.00	34.50	36.00	36.00	32.75	33.00	34.50	34.64

Team No.	Team Members	Respondent									
		Judge 1.	Judge 2.	Judge 3.	Judge 4.	Judge 5.	Judge 6.	Judge 7.	Judge 8.	Judge 9.	Total
25	Samuel Insa Mee	35.50	32.50	32.50	34.00	34.25	35.00	32.25	34.00	33.00	33.67
	Denisa Demianová	33.75	33.00	33.00	33.00	31.50	35.00	32.00	32.00	31.75	32.78

Based on the scores from the Grand Final, Arsen Seletsuyi (Team 8) from the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy (Ukraine) was awarded the prize of Best Orator of the Grand Final Award - “The Liaison Office of the Council of Europe Award”.

Testimonials

Winner's Perspective

It is hard to count how many times we have said to ourselves “*Prepare for the worst, hope for the best*”. Precisely, that happened with our Team. We carried this humble optimism through the Regional Rounds in Malta and kept it at every stage of the Final Oral Rounds that we have reached.

We acknowledge that this perspective helped our case. In fact, we have achieved way more than what we have hoped for.

We have pleaded numerous times — better or worse, before distinguished judges, received and implied their feedback, and proceeded further in the rounds. The Final Oral Round helped us reach the most valuable achievement of all — knowledge, not only from the judges, but from the other teams as well.

To them we must express our highest gratitude. It helped us to win. After all the morning rounds and late-night revisions, we were standing in the European Court of Human Rights — running a little late, having forgotten our pass-by cards. Yet, we were there. We had a privilege to compete against an excellent team, who made us push ourselves to the highest limits, and winning the Grand Final was a big honour. Every time our team went to collect the Best Oralists awards, all our training pleadings would flash in front of our eyes. Every time – in our University basement, random offices or during the flights, – we understood that it was absolutely worth it.

In fact, everything was: all the friends we made along the way or the jokes that we have made up during our stay in both Malta and Strasbourg.

To have gotten to know so many wonderful people is also the greatest of experiences. It felt very heartwarming to rise before the Court and feel the audience behind you. For those moments, the stress washed away by all the support we have received. We felt all the sincerity expressed to us by the other teams and the unspoken cheering of our coaches. We had them and we have always had each other's back. In the moment, we got it.

Recalling the mid-autumn of this season, applying for the HPMCC meant taking a path yet unknown. Yet, it turned out to be the most fun, honourable and engaging experience of the entire season for us all. There are more ways still in the dark for us, however this competition has given us the assurance and experience which was nowhere else to be found. We will forever be grateful; we will remain determined to pursue the thrill of all that the HPMCC gave us. In the end, few things can compare.



Runner-Up's Perspective

Us members of Team 25 could not feel more honoured to have taken part in the 14th Edition of the Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition. This has been a transformative experience in every sense of the word, and one we will be sure to cherish for years to come. The knowledge and skills we have acquired in debate, legal research and human rights law have made us into better legal practitioners, and better people all around.

Our journey started in October 2025, when we were selected to form part of Maastricht University's Team for the competition. Despite being new to the university and having barely spoken before, we quickly bonded and found our footing as a team. After a couple of initial meetings with our coaches, where we discussed the salient issues of the case, brainstormed possible arguments, and divided the workload, we began preparing our written submissions.

What followed was an intense, but extremely rewarding period. We can only laugh when we look back on our initial drafts now, full of unclear phrases and missing footnotes. Having studied in our home countries and with English not being most of our first languages, drafting the written submissions proved to be a steep learning curve. We constantly debated and put our arguments to the test; many ambitious ideas were put down in our submissions, only to be discarded when we realised they did not hold water. We slowly overcame these challenges through our effort,

commitment, and a lot of late nights. As our familiarity with the case grew, so did our confidence in our legal research and writing. After intensely working through Christmas, with our Team Captain having endured a particularly nasty fever, we submitted our final drafts, feeling excited as to what was to come.

The next challenge we faced was preparing the oral rounds. If we had thought that preparing written submissions was intense, it paled in comparison to practicing our pleadings. Learning courtroom manners, working on how to handle questions, structuring our argumentation in a persuasive way, and improving our legal reasoning were no easy tasks. Thanks to the invaluable guidance of our coaches, as well as the essential feedback of the many guest judges that participated in our practice sessions, we improved, slowly but surely building our coordination and confidence as a team. A month of practice passed in what felt like a week, and before we knew it we had pleaded in the Regional Round in Valletta and were anxiously awaiting the results.

When we received the news that we had made it through to the Final Round in Strasbourg, the reaction was immediate and unrestrained: relief, disbelief, and excitement all at once. Strasbourg itself lived up to every expectation. Pleading in front of top legal professionals and scholars was a humbling experience in a way that is difficult to put into words. The nerves were unlike anything we had felt before, and if anything, they sharpened as we advanced further into the competition. We had come in hoping to do well, but making it this far was something none of us had seriously allowed ourselves to imagine. We still struggle to believe the fact that we reached the Final and pleaded in the Grand Chamber of the Court. Despite finishing as Runners-Up, we are incredibly proud of our achievements. Finishing as one of the top teams in the competition is truly an honour after so many months of study, hard work and dedication.

We are extremely grateful to everyone who made this experience possible: our two wonderful coaches, Šejla and Valentina; the judges in Valletta and Strasbourg; and all the hard-working ELSA staff members that supported the teams during every step of our journey. We also would like to congratulate Team 8 for their win, and for letting us enjoy a challenging and exciting final round. Competing against so many passionate, competent, and inspiring teams was nothing short of a pleasure.

For us, the Helga Pedersen Moot Court has been far more than an extracurricular activity. It has been a journey; one with its share of high points and low points, and no shortage of challenges along the way. Through it, we have grown not only as

aspiring legal professionals, but as people. And looking back, we all agree: we would not change a thing. Whatever awaits us in the future, we know that this experience will hold a special place in our hearts, and we can only hope that it continues to influence other young students in the same way it did us

With gratitude and happiness,

Ana, Denisa, Marco & Samuel, Team 25.



Best Orator's Perspective

When I stood up as the first Applicant, I realized: this was the moment. I faced a bench of nine people — far more than I had ever encountered — as well as a room full of spectators and the best opponent I had faced during this edition of the HPMCC. There was no room for error in this round. It was clear that I had to perform in a manner that significantly outshone anything I had done during the training or preliminary rounds.

The only terra incognita for me was what kind of bench I would be appearing before. When preparing for moot court, many coaches tell you that finals are almost always “silent” — few questions are asked, and if they are, they are very general and expected. That is definitely not what happened in the Grand Final. I had the good fortune to plead before one of the most engaged benches I have ever seen. It felt less like a formal pleading and more like a high-level conversation that carried real weight, signaling that my case was of significant importance for the development of human rights law. That is why I applied for this moot court in the first place: to convey my arguments and be heard by people with whom I am on the same page.

Luckily, I had that opportunity. As I proceeded with my speech, the pleading became increasingly fascinating. I faced questions I had never heard before and had to

navigate my structure from end to beginning in mere seconds — an experience I highly admire and wish for all mooties to have during their rounds.

Being awarded Best Oralist of the Grand Final was incredibly meaningful; I knew I had not missed the chance to perform my best during what was, possibly, my most unforgettable round ever.

That award is not mine alone. I owe so much to my team, who helped me prepare the pleadings and truly "live" this round. The fact that it wasn't initially clear during the award ceremony who had won — me or my co-counsel — only confirms that this award is a joint achievement.

I will treasure the memories of this round for a long time. It was truly an amazing experience, and I thank everyone for making it so outstanding. I look forward to even more incredible pleadings!

Arsen Seletsuyi, Team 8



A Coach's Perspective

Seeing our team plead so excellently in the Grand Final before the European Court of Human Rights was a very proud and emotional moment. It was the culmination of months of hard work, perseverance, and a truly remarkable team effort.

For me, coaching in the Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition is a unique opportunity to connect my academic work and research with the practical realities of the legal profession. Human rights law is not simply a subject that I teach and research; it is an area of law I am deeply passionate about. The moot court allows me to share that passion with students more extensively and, in many ways, to experience it anew through their eyes every year.

What motivates me most is witnessing the incredible learning curve that takes place over the course of the competition. Students begin the process with different levels of knowledge, confidence, and experience. They encounter many obstacles along the way: difficult legal questions, demanding written submissions, setbacks during practice sessions, and moments of self-doubt. Yet, over the course of several months, they grow tremendously. They develop not only into excellent pleaders but also into more resilient and confident future lawyers. Some arrive with a clear passion for human rights law that only deepens throughout the competition, while others discover it along the way and even go on to pursue further studies or careers in the field. Watching that transformation unfold is one of the greatest privileges of coaching.

At the same time, the learning process goes beyond ECHR law or advocacy skills. My goal is also to teach students how to work under pressure, think strategically, accept criticism, and support one another. And I learn a great deal from them in return. Every team brings new perspectives, new ideas, and new ways of approaching human rights questions. Their curiosity, creativity, and dedication continuously inspire and challenge me.

This year's team once again embodied everything that makes coaching so meaningful. Their commitment to excellence, willingness to improve, and unwavering support for one another were truly admirable.

After several years of coaching in this competition, I can safely say that it remains at the top of my favourite responsibilities in my work in academia. It is demanding and time-intensive, but it is also so rewarding. Ultimately, the results and awards matter, but what stays with me are the people: the students who grow into confident

advocates, discover new passions, and remind me every year why teaching and mentoring are such privileges.

For all these reasons, I remain very grateful for the opportunity to accompany such talented students on this journey year after year, and equally grateful to the dedicated ELSA organising teams whose hard work and commitment make this experience possible for so many students across Europe.

Šejla Imamović, Coach of Team 25 from Maastricht University



The People Behind the 14th Edition

Council of Europe and European Court of Human Rights

We extend our gratitude to Ms Sophie Lobey, Ms Sophie El Gayar, Ms Maria Dominguez from the Directorate of Protocol and Public Relations 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 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: Elena Baci
- Assistant for Teams of the HPMCC: Anvar Huseynov
- Assistant for Judges: Sofia Elisa Turati
- Assistant for Regional Rounds of the HPMCC: Virginija Baranauskaitė

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 2026/2027 who were present to learn in

preparation for next year. I want to take the opportunity to express my gratitude to all of them.

The International Organising Committee:

- Gabriel Marti, President of the International Board of ELSA 2025/2026;
- Lucie Nováková, Secretary General of the International Board of ELSA 2025/2026;
- Tommaso Giordano, Treasurer of the International Board of ELSA 2025/2026;
- Anastasios Vavvas, Vice President in charge of Academic Activities of the International Board of ELSA 2025/2026;
- Hedin Indregård, Vice President in charge of Professional Development of the International Board of ELSA 2025/2026;
- Rodrigo Prelhaz, Vice President in charge of Seminars & Conferences of the International Board of ELSA 2025/2026;
- Elena Baciú, Director for the HPMCC, Head of Judges of the 14th Edition of the FOR of the HPMCC;
- Anvar Huseynov, Assistant for Teams, Head of Teams of the 14th Edition of the FOR of the HPMCC;
- Natalie Kehlet, Vice President in charge of Marketing of the International Board of ELSA 2026/2027;
- Enara Könözyová, Vice President in charge of Academic Activities of the International Board of ELSA 2026/2027;
- Ana Beatriz Franco, Treasurer of ELSA Portugal 2025/2026, Welfare Officer of the 14th Edition of the FOR of the HPMCC;
- Nicola Stalder, Vice President in charge of Competitions of ELSA Switzerland 2025/2026;
- Ronja Arnold, Vice President in charge of Academic Activities of ELSA Düsseldorf 2025/2026.

Thank you all for joining us on this adventure!

Closing Remarks by the Head of Organising Committee

As we bring the 14th Edition of the Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition to a close, I find myself reflecting on a journey that has been at once intense, inspiring, and deeply rewarding. What began nearly a year ago with the first steps of preparation has now unfolded into a truly European experience shared by Organisers, participants, judges, partners, and supporters alike.

From the publication of the case, through the Regional Rounds in Birmingham, Malta, and Athens, and culminating in this week in Strasbourg, this Edition has once again demonstrated the strength and relevance of this Competition. Built on the foundation of the European Convention on Human Rights, the Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition continues to offer students a unique opportunity to engage with human rights law in a practical, challenging, and meaningful way.

This year, 56 teams from 30 countries took part in the competition, each contributing to the level of discussion, argumentation, and legal reasoning that we have witnessed throughout the season. The performances in Strasbourg, in particular, were exceptional. Regardless of outcomes, every participant can take pride in having reached that far as a result of months of preparation, perseverance, and intellectual growth.

To all participants, thank you for your energy, curiosity, and commitment. You leave this competition not only with experience in advocacy, but with new perspectives, friendships, and confidence that will accompany you far beyond this week.

To the Judges, Coaches, and legal professionals who dedicated their time and expertise across all stages of the competition, I extend my sincere gratitude. Your engagement ensures that this project remains rooted in excellence and continues to inspire the next generation of human rights practitioners.

I would also like to thank our institutional partners - the Council of Europe, the European Court of Human Rights and the Permanent Representations - for their continued trust and support. Their involvement is what allows this Competition to bridge academic learning with the realities of legal practice and international cooperation.

Finally, my deepest gratitude goes to the Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition ELSA International Team, the International Organising Committee and everyone behind the scenes whose commitment, resilience, and attention to detail made this Edition possible. It has been a privilege to work alongside you.

As this Edition comes to an end, I do so with a sense of pride and gratitude. Organising this Competition has been one of the most meaningful experiences of my journey, and I hope that all who took part will carry forward what they have gained here into their future paths as lawyers, judges, academics, or advocates for human rights.

To my successor, Caisa, I extend my warmest wishes and full confidence. The upcoming edition carries a special significance as it marks an anniversary year, an opportunity not only to celebrate how far this Competition has come, but also to reaffirm the values and legacy of Helga Pedersen herself, the first woman elected as a judge to the European Court of Human Rights. Her legacy is one of courage, equality, and an unwavering commitment to the rule of law, and it is these principles that continue to guide and inspire this project today. I am certain that you, Caisa, are going to honour this responsibility with the same dedication and passion that have shaped every Edition so far, ensuring that the Competition continues to grow as a space of excellence, learning, and shared commitment to human rights across Europe.

With that, I officially close the 14th Edition of the Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition, and I look forward to seeing how this project continues to grow in the years ahead.

With best regards,

Inês Ribeiro

Inês Ribeiro

Head of the Organising Committee 14th Edition Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition
Vice President in charge of Competitions
International Board of ELSA 2025/2026

Helga Pedersen
Moot Court Competition

