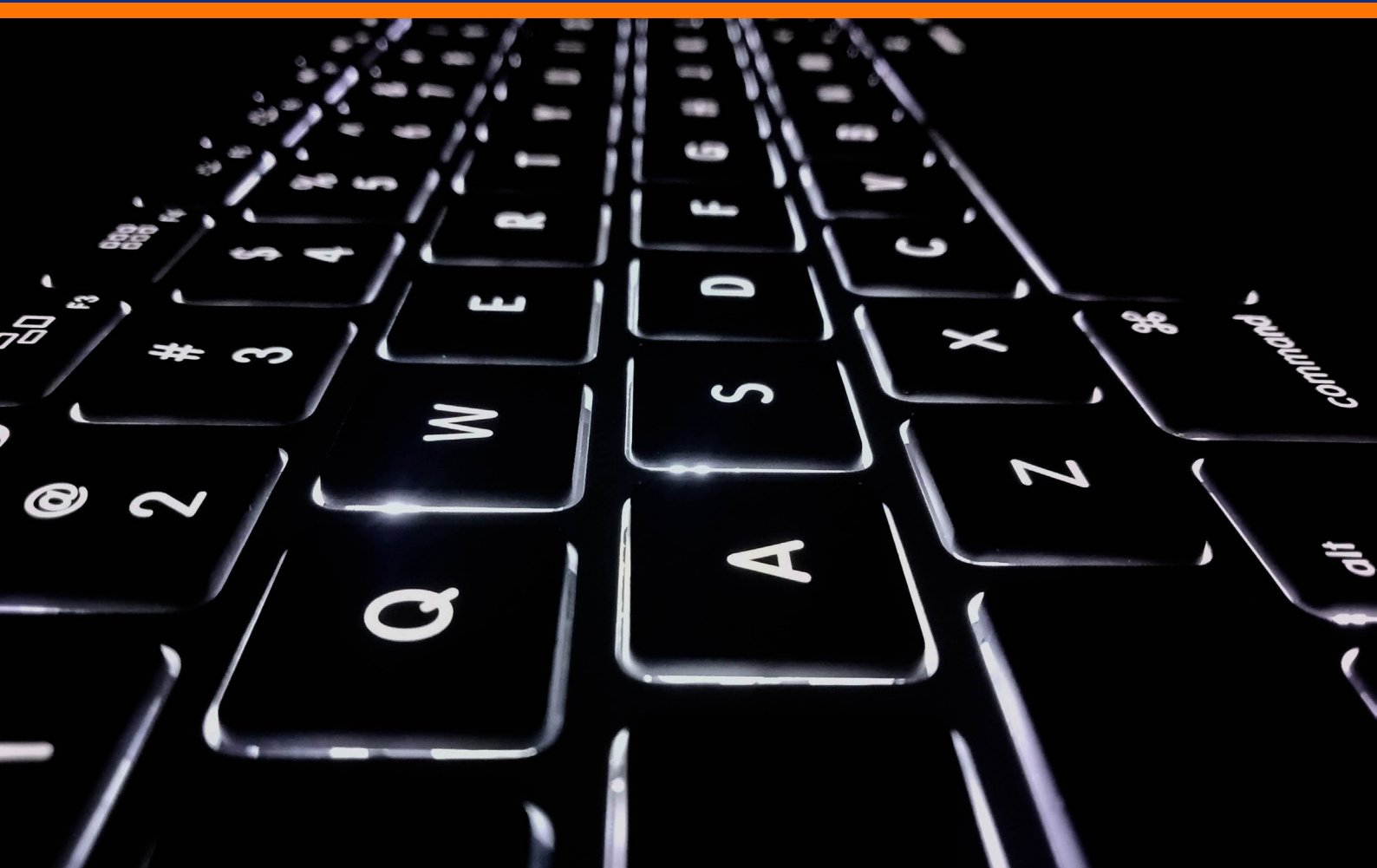


ANNUAL HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN OUTLINE

ELSA INTERNATIONAL
2020/2021



elsa

The European Law Students' Association

1. What is ELSA Day?

ELSA Day constitutes a part of the annual Human Rights Campaign and was first introduced to the ELSA Network in 2012. The aim was to unify the Network, develop internationality and focus on human rights events. Since then, we have had eight editions and more than 1,000 ELSA Day events. The first edition was held on the 20th of March 2013.

At the ICM in Malta in 2014, it was decided that the event will take place on the last Wednesday of November each year. Over the years the ELSA Day project has gained high popularity and recognition and it has been established as the biggest and most influential event across the whole ELSA Network. The aim of the ELSA Day is to jointly demonstrate our Human Rights commitment by providing legal education and opportunities that enable law students to be independent and critical members of society. The event is also dedicated to raising awareness of human dignity and cultural diversity.

As said by Federica Toscano, the Vice President in charge of Seminars and Conferences of ELSA International 2012/2013 and the founder of ELSA Day: *“A culture of sharing and understanding shall not halt at some political borders, but should go beyond these frontiers: human dignity is not connected with a certain passport or the place where we are born. Let us ensure then that we move the discussions from the constraints of national borders and unite them under the ELSA Day.”*

2. How is ELSA Day organised?

Each National Group appoints a National Coordinator, who is in charge of encouraging and supporting the Local Groups in organising ELSA Day events, passing on information from international to national and local level, reminding and helping the Local Groups in filling in the Specification and Evaluation Forms.

ELSA International is in charge of guiding the network through the National Coordinators by creating guidelines and unified marketing materials. Make sure to use #ELSADay and #alldifferentaltogether when sharing the news regarding your ELSA Day event in order to achieve efficient joint promotion.

3. Topic of the 9th ELSA Day: *Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights*

For the 9th edition of ELSA Day, the network will focus on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights. The term “Artificial Intelligence” refers to “*systems that display intelligent behaviour by analysing their environment and taking actions – with some degree of autonomy – to achieve specific goals.*”¹ by involving techniques such as, but not limited to machine learning, that enable machines to simulate human cognition. Machines are, with the use of algorithms, capable of surpassing human capabilities, in analyzing vast amounts of data, make inferences, predict behaviour and find solutions to complex problems. AI has revolutionised the way out societies function and experts acknowledge great opportunities but forecast risks as well.

Further development of AI will provide solutions to crucial issues, improve well being and increase productivity. Moreover, AI can facilitate daily needs and the chance of reaching accuracy with a greater degree of precision is a possibility. AI can create opportunities in transportation, health, security and education, from enabling advancements in diagnosis and treatment of disease, to revolutionizing transportation and urban living, to mitigating the effects of climate change . AI can contribute to the advancement of human rights across many areas of life, e.g. by facilitating more personalised education.

But there is an alternative future in which the engagement of AI in addressing human rights abuses, is the not source of prosperity, but a source of additional, unpredictable dangers. Past technological steps and developments are of little use in trying to predict and combat the dangers posed by AI since we have never created something that has the ability to outsmart us. Apart from the fact that human biases – conscious or not - may permeate the design and development of AI systems and lead to unlawful discrimination based on protected characteristics (e.g. race, gender, sexual orientation), AI algorithms may put the right to privacy in jeopardy, due to their data-driven nature. Machine-learning algorithms ‘learn’ from a variety of data sources, including publicly available social media data that might unveil sensitive characteristics protected by law. such as racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs etc. Thus, AI algorithms can make inferences about behaviour, including relating to their political opinions,

¹ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on Artificial Intelligence for Europe, Brussels, 25.4.2018 COM(2018) 237 final.

religion, state of health or sexual orientation (e.g. providing users with purchasing suggestions based on their browsing history). When it comes to artificial neural networks, the machine learns and makes decisions on its own, while humans cannot explain the exact process through which the machine has reached a decision or produced an output. The issue of lack of explainability and auditability prevents the human from noticing errors in the algorithmic decision making or output. For example, if an algorithm is used to predict the risk of prisoners reoffending in the context of judicial decisions on parole, the algorithm in question may deprive the prisoner of their liberty or support the release of a dangerous individual, due to an undetected error.

AI is currently used in several sectors that engage with human rights, such as but not limited to law enforcement, judicial decision-making, border security, international migration management and the military. Different domains of application raise specific ethical and human rights issues. How much privacy are we willing to give up in order to be safe or make our lives easier? Is AI an objective measure for individuals, or does it reinforce discrimination that already exists? What safeguards are there? How can we be aware of the full implications of AI?

4. What events could be organised?

Legal debates can be organised on a local level, debating upon the advantages and disadvantages of Artificial Intelligence, on the future of AI generally. In order to make an impact on society, remember to advertise the debate among non-lawyers as well. However, always bear in mind the non-political status of ELSA.

Institutional visits or **“Lawyers at work”** are another key event for this topic, where ELSA members will have the opportunity to get in touch with experts and lawyers on Law and Technology, and legal issues emanating from the world of Artificial Intelligence and acquire practical knowledge on the topic at hand.

The National Groups can conduct **surveys** via questionnaires prior to the ELSA Day on what people think about AI, how familiar they are with the issue and if they trust this new technological step, and the results can be provided to the local groups and be implemented in their events.

In the last months, ELSA officers have taken advantage of the circumstances and broaden their options when it comes to organising an event in the midst of a pandemic. Consider the

possibilities of organising events that do not require physical presence, such as creating **videos**, **webinars** and/or **digital documents** to raise awareness of the topic of ELSA Day. This can be **input papers**, **Legal Research Groups**, **ELSA Webinars**, **ELSA Webinars Academy** or video materials, which allow for online sharing. These options can also be used as additional promotion for a physical event or as an extension of the event to raise even more awareness on the topic.

5. ELSA Day Specification Form

Just like the previous years, the Council of Europe (CoE) will ship materials to approximately 40 Local Groups. The exact content will remain unknown for now, but is likely to include pens, notebooks, calendars, information brochures, etc. to be in the package. Our contacts in the Council of Europe will send materials to the organising groups whose events they find the most interesting. We do not control precisely how the groups are selected, but academic quality, creativity, visibility, and relevance to the topic are important elements.

It takes some time to pack and ship materials. For this reason, the Council of Europe needs information about your event as early as possible. We must therefore operate with strict deadlines (see the timeline at the bottom). When the idea of your event is hatched, please fill in the ELSA Day Event Specification Form. ELSA International will forward your event to the Council and save your form for the ELSA Day Competition and Report.

6. Evaluation

In order to develop our association and improve our activities, we need to evaluate our achievements. Please fill in the Annual Human Rights Campaign Evaluation Form after your ELSA Day event. **If your Annual Human Rights Campaign consists of multiple events throughout the year, feel free to fill it in after each event organised.** The information will be collected and processed by the International Board and it will be distributed throughout the Network. The Evaluation Form will be available until 15 March 2021. Keep in mind that your event will not be taken into account for the Competition or final statistics in the Report if the Evaluation Form has not been filled in on time.

7. ELSA Day Competition

The best Annual Human Rights Campaign will be rewarded, including the ELSA Day events. We strongly recommend you to organise events throughout the whole year with regard to artificial intelligence. All National and Local Groups that fill in the Specification and Evaluation Forms automatically compete in the Competition. The prize will be eternal honour and glory – together with an object you proudly can bring back to your ELSA office. You will also be featured forever as the 9th Edition winner on the ELSA Day section of the ELSA website. Upon the discretion of ELSA International, the guiding criteria are:

1. the required forms must be filled in;
2. the topic of the event must be relevant to artificial intelligence and human rights;
3. the academic quality of the event;
4. impact on society of the event,
5. the level of creativity; and
6. online and offline visibility of the event.

In order to support your application, you are encouraged to submit materials such as pictures, videos, promotion materials etc. to humanrights@elsa.org.

8. Timeline

Below you will find the schedule used by the International Board as regards the organisation of ELSA Day and the Annual Human Rights Campaign. Please note, however, that the timeline may be subject to small changes due to unforeseen circumstances. Nevertheless, compliance with the deadlines below will ensure a well organised ELSA Day as part of the Annual Human Rights Campaign.

Call for National Coordinators	5 - 12 October 2020
Appointment of the National Coordinators	14 October 2020
Deadline for submitting the ELSA Day specification forms for CoE visibility materials	1 November 2020
Deadline for submitting the ELSA Day specification forms	23 November 2020

ELSA Day and the beginning of the Annual Human Rights Campaign	25 November 2020
Deadline for submitting the Annual Human Rights Campaign Evaluation Form	15 March 2021
Award ceremony of the competition at the ICM Brno	11 - 18 April 2021