

INTERNATIONAL TRAINING MEETING REPORT

2ND - 5TH SEPTEMBER 2021



Human Rights Partner of ELSA



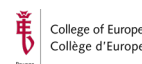
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The European Law Students' Association

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ASSOCIATION KNOWLEDGE WORKSHOPS

Supporting Areas

This Workshop was about introducing all participants to the Supporting Areas of ELSA. We started off with a quiz on general ELSA knowledge, to engage the participants and explain some key aspects of the Association. Following this, the BEE, IM, FM, and Marketing Areas were explored by a presentation of their main responsibilities and how they support the other areas. The participants were then divided into groups, where they were able to brainstorm on how to improve the support we give in ELSA.

Key Areas

This Workshop was aimed to introduce all participants to the Key Areas of ELSA and the respective Flagship Projects. We went through every area - Academic Activities, Moot Court Competitions, Professional Development and Seminars & Conferences - starting with a quiz that allowed us to understand the general level of knowledge. After every question, we commented together the answer providing some additional information and explanation when necessary and at the end of each area quiz session each Vice President provided a brief presentation of their area. At the end of the Workshop, a Q&A session was held.

AREA WORKSHOPS

Board Management, External Relations & Expansion

BEE 101: Who are we?

During the first Workshop, the participants went through the main responsibilities of the President. Special emphasis was given to Board Management, as it was a topic not further developed during the ITM. That being said, they discussed their ways of looking into how to manage a Board, how to identify the main traits of their Board Members and how to assist them through the term. Secondly, we touched upon External Relations, the main categories of partners we can have and what to ask of them. Lastly, we had Expansion and Strategic Planning, where a general presentation of the topics was given as well as on why we do strategic plans and who is responsible for them.

Let's be Advocates!

This Workshop was fully dedicated to advocacy and on how to plan an advocacy campaign. First, we started by discussing the reason why we advocate in ELSA. Then, we went through the main steps of making an advocacy campaign, the objectives it may have and the topics the participants need to think of when they start planning for the term. Second, the participants were informed of the topics that the International Board will focus on, as well as the means through which it will implement its campaigns, to serve as a model for them to start advocating nationally. Last, they had the opportunity to do group work, where the participants were divided into teams to prepare their own advocacy campaigns.

Time to Chill

The last Workshop was dedicated to Q&A on topics that the participants considered relevant. They touched upon network management, advocacy, coaching systems, etc. On the other hand, they gave feedback on the ITM and the content it provided them.

Internal Management

Mission IMpossible

For the first IM Workshop of the ITM, the objective was to give an overview on what is the role of a Secretary General. This was presented to the participants, by describing the main areas of IM and what is done in each of them. The specificities of Administration, Communication & Information, Human Resources and ELSA Training were presented. As the purpose of this Workshop was also to get everyone to contribute and discuss ideas, the exercises involved a roundtable on difficulties and obstacles that a Secretary General may face, as well as ways in which we can fulfil our tasks more efficiently. The ideas presented by the participants allowed for the creation of some good practices and tools for the year. The Workshop ended with an ice breaker to allow the participants to get to know each other better.

Welfare: The New Kid on the Block

The Workshop was aimed at getting the participants acquainted with what welfare is, why it is important for ELSA, and how to improve it. We also talked about diversity and inclusion and how these two terms correlate with each other. Besides this, the participants were also introduced to the Code of Conduct, its basics, applicability and potential sanctions.

For the practical part the participants were divided into two groups and given hypothetical situations of unacceptable behaviour during international events. This had the objective of transmitting a clear understanding of what intolerable actions are and how to deal with them.

No Train no Gain

The purpose of the “No TRAIN no Gain” Workshop was to introduce the participants to ELSA Training, give them an idea of the differences between Workshops and Training, and ultimately showcase the benefits of the programme through engaging them actively in the process of organisation. The Workshop started with a brief overview of training both generally and specifically in ELSA. This was followed by an explanation of the process of organising training sessions and a short Q&A.

After the Q&A the participants had to form groups of 3-4 each and perform a collective task - organising and requesting an ELSA Training session. Over the course of 30 minutes, they had to brainstorm the “What”, “When”, “Where”, “Who” and “Why” of their envisaged training session and submit a request for it. In the second half of the Workshop, the participants gained knowledge on the foundations of building a National Trainers’ Pool. This was followed by a second short Q&A.

IMake the Rules

As an essential part of a Secretary General’s job is to be the keeper of the Regulations, this Workshop consisted of explaining the structure of the Regulations as well as the process of writing proposals. This was followed by the famous IM Regulations Quiz, presented with the help of Nea Nurmela, the Assistant for International Internal Meetings of ELSA International. The quiz gave everyone a chance to participate by answering questions about the Regulations, consequently learning more about them.

It's your Time to Shine!

The last IM Workshop of the ITM was all about the participants. The first part of it consisted of presenting useful information and tools for the year to come, including the Officers' Portal, the ELSA Wiki, the IM Shared Drive, and the IM Calendar. Following this, the participants were given the chance to talk about anything they needed to discuss, any tools they were lacking or anything they needed from the International Board. Lastly, there was a roundtable discussion regarding feedback on the International Training Meeting.

Financial Management

FM Basic B's: Budgeting and Bookkeeping

During our first FM Workshop the main objective was to provide the participants with basic knowledge and tips on how to proceed in two fundamental FM areas: Budgeting and Bookkeeping. During the first part of the Workshop, we explored the ways of creating a budget, as well as giving the floor to National Treasurers to share the budgets of their National Groups. In the second part of the Workshop, we analysed the concept of bookkeeping and the difference with the concept of accounting, as well as the importance of Financial Statements and how to produce them. Additionally, some of the tools that Treasurers can use for this purpose were presented during the Workshop, and at the end we had a roundtable discussion on the different tools each National Group uses for this purpose.

EDF will be there for you

In this Workshop we explored the main concepts of the ELSA Development Foundation, such as cycles, priorities, modes of support, and application procedures. Furthermore, we had some time for discussion about the experiences of the participants in applying for EDF, and also to share if the different National Groups had Foundations or Funds, how they were financed, and how they supported their respective networks.

Marketing

First Month in the Office

During this Workshop, the participants got to know each other. We got to know about the main attributes of a Vice President in charge of Marketing. We also discussed what we did during August and what problems we encountered. Lastly, we uncovered a set of tips and tricks to ensure a successful start of the term.

Graphic Design 101

As graphic design is one of the most important and more frequent tasks in the job of a Marketeer, we learnt about the fundamentals of a good design. Then, we discussed how to achieve a proper design, by showcasing tools and resources that will take our work to the next level. Finally, all of us did a small 15-minute design challenge on a given topic and we showcased our work.

Social Media 101

Without social media presence nowadays, you are basically unreachable. We have unveiled key tips to make our ELSA social media channels more present and effective by finding out the best type of content for each situation. We also took into account tools that help us manage better our social media, tools that also help us understand our audience better.

Audiovisual 101

To complete the main attributes of a Marketeer, we looked at how we can develop audiovisual content very easily, so we can incorporate it more frequently in our promotion strategies. Similar to the Graphic Design Workshop, we discussed tools and resources to develop better video content and we finished with a 30-minute exercise where we had to develop a short video with freedom of choice regarding the theme.

What's to come

At the final Workshop, we started the discussions on some key topics in the Marketing area and all of us had the chance to speak upon them. We also presented our main plans for the upcoming months. Finally, we talked about how the ITM worked in their opinion so we know how to improve further the Workshops of this event.

Academic Activities / Moot Court Competitions

We all have a story to tell...

We started our AA & MCC Workshops with getting to know each other even more. After sharing our ELSA stories, we presented all the fields which fall within our beloved areas. The aim of the Workshop was to update our Officers on the recent and future changes of the AA & MCC Area, as well as to learn about the specific topics that they want to hear more about during the International Training Meeting.

Be the chAAnge you want to see in the world

For this Workshop, we aimed to raise awareness on the social responsibility concept as an important part of our purpose. As the first step, definitions and types of social responsibility were explained to the participants. Following the initial information, we presented the social responsibility initiatives implemented on the international level such as ELSA4Schools, Rule of Law Education Campaign and our new initiative - Mental Health Project. In the “Time for Network’s Opinion” part, we asked our participants their opinions on the content that we should focus on to be socially responsible as an Association. During this part of the Workshop, we also got a chance to create a space for Groups to present their projects and ideas related to social responsibility. Feedback and the ideas received from the participants are very valuable for us in order to improve the knowledge management tools for the Network and to plan new projects.

Step by Step to the Final – ENC

Considering the growing interest of the Network towards the Academic Competitions, the objective of this Workshop was to share detailed information about our Academic Competitions: ELSA Negotiation Competition, ELSA Legal Debates, Client Interviewing Competition, Witness Interviewing Competition and how to organise them. Since the European Final Round for the ELSA Negotiation Competition is almost here, we briefly talked about the ongoing preparations. Discussing the plans of the Groups regarding Academic Competitions, especially ELSA Negotiation Competition, helped us to see which improvements can be made within the area. Following the discussions, the participants were assigned with a group work which was based on creating the timeline and steps to organise an ENC within the suggested time period. This task was aiming to practice the work needed to be done while organising any Academic Competition and from the results of the group work, we can proudly say that our AA & MCC Officers are ready to join the Academic Competitions family!

We will see you in court – Mooting in ELSA

During this Workshop, we focused on the moot court competitions happening on the international level: Helga Pedersen and John H. Jackson Moot Court Competitions. Sharing the structure of these Competitions, we presented the new plans for the current editions. Coming back to the national and local levels, we got a chance to create a space for our Officers to share their challenges towards their national/local moot court competitions.

What are your plAAans?

The more we share, the more we have. As is the tradition of AA & MCC Workshops, we gave the floor to our participants to share their plans for this term. Listening to their project-related goals

was very beneficial in order to determine in which ways we can support them, also to show their willingness to cooperate with other Groups.

[Insert article title]: 'How to do Legal Writing?'

Starting with presenting the projects falling under the Legal Writing field, during the Workshop we focused on ELSA Law Review, Legal Research Groups and Essay competitions. Main goal before us was to share organisational steps for Legal Writing projects in detail as well as to deliver the benefits of starting these initiatives for the Network. After sharing our plans related to Legal Writing in ELSA, we asked feedback from the participants on the difficulties they are facing when implementing Legal Writing projects. Learning about the challenges and plans of the Network will be very helpful to establish the most effective support system. Following the fruitful discussions, the participants were assigned with next group work. This group work included a simulation of the first meeting of Legal Research Group Organisers (Organisers from different Groups) where they had to create a plan and timeline covering all organisational levels. Considering the high interest from the Network on organising Legal Research Groups for this term, the given task aimed to let the participants practice organising this project from scratch and pointing out the issues that need to be focused during the process. With the help of our engaged Officers, we are happy to say that the group work reached its potential.

Miscellaneous

Our last Workshop aimed to fill in the gaps about any issue discussed during the previous AA & MCC Workshops. Following the end, we asked our participants to provide us with feedback with the aim of improving our Workshops in the next International Internal Meetings. Looking back on all the discussions and plans, we are happy to share that our participants were very engaged and motivated, no doubt we will achieve great things together!

Professional Development

ET Phone Home

In the first Workshop (ever) of the Professional Development area, we discussed in detail all the processes of our beloved Flagship Project, ELSA Traineeships. Starting from the basics - ELSA Traineeships Calendar, websites for day-to-day work, documents and form - the discussion went very natural on a more mature level. We analysed strengths and weaknesses during a very productive brainstorming session in which we shared our best practices. The results of this discussion will be very helpful to improve the communication strategy for the two cycles of the term, the support provided by ELSA International throughout the year and the elaboration of the Development Goals of ELSA Traineeships.

Professional Development Events

During this Workshop, we went through the events and the activities that now will be under the responsibility of the Professional Development area. We started from the events already mentioned in the ICM Decision Book, trying to answer the most frequently asked questions about them. Furthermore, we analysed together new events organized by different National and Local Groups of ELSA and, not less important, the contribution that the Professional Development area can give to other Key Areas' projects and activities and joint projects.

The purpose of this Workshop was to give a clearer idea of the possibilities of the area but also give inspiration and motivation to newly appointed Professional Development Officers to start this new challenging adventure in project management.

My name is Bond, Team Bond!

This Workshop was aimed at team building inside the Professional Development area. One of the most important things to keep our Officers motivated is the sense of belonging to the Network and to a bigger scope that we all together, with our day-to-day work, contribute to pursuing. For this reason, we created a comfortable space to know each other better, to share ELSA memories and personal experiences, always keeping in mind the importance of being respectful and open-minded. The atmosphere at the end of the Workshop was very friendly and full of good vibes.

Seminars and Conferences

The roots of S&C and our future

During the first S&C Workshop of the first ever ITM we had the chance to discuss what can be considered as our main roots. We had the chance to discuss the necessary steps required to organise a physical event from logistics to considering the budget needed or preparing a social program. The participants of this Workshop also had the opportunity to work in working groups and come up with a plan on how they would organise an ELSA Law School.

We also discussed what we consider our future and the approach we can have, in this case hybrid events. We had the opportunity to present the research done last year and to consider whether or not this is a feasible option in our Association.

Strategic plan is the key to success

For this Strategic Planning session, we had the opportunity to reflect on the current S&C Development Goals created for our area in 2019, and assess what we accomplished, what still needs to be done, and what is not feasible. We also had the opportunity to start the discussion on the creation of the next Development Goals that we want to elaborate for the next 3 years, by identifying the problems in our area and our projects and their solutions.

VIP Access to International Decision Making

This Workshop was focused on presenting the ELSA Delegations project. Firstly, with the statistics of the previous year but also by presenting the way ELSA International evaluates each application and the criteria used for the grading. We also had the opportunity to reflect on the current promotion of the project, how it can be improved, and the plans elaborated by the International Board to improve the promotion which will be already used during the first call in September.

Winter and Summer are coming

When it comes to Winter and Summer ELSA Law Schools, we had the opportunity to learn each requirement and specific aspects of the project in a more fun way through a quiz that gave the opportunity for the participants to think further and learn in a fun way. We also had the opportunity to discuss together the upcoming way of categorisation that will be used during the next call and how we would like it to be represented on the portfolio cover. The discussion led to many interesting proposals which will be considered and presented to the Network before the first ELSA Law Schools call of this year.

Tools to be Sexy and Cool

To be a perfect S&C Officer there are some tools in your term that can be used to make the year as easy as possible. We therefore had the opportunity to share together the tools used by each National Group as well as the International Board, and that are available for each different situation. Workshop participants had the opportunity to also discover some new tools that they could use while organising their projects for example.

ELSA Webinars and ELSA Webinars Academy

ELSA Webinars and ELSA Webinars Academy are currently one of the most organised projects in the Network by S&C Officers. During this Workshop we therefore had the opportunity to discuss and explain the requirements needed to organise each project. But because it is also important to plan the after-pandemic future of this project we had the chance to discuss what changes we believe could be implemented in order to make those projects sustainable in a normal year.

JOINT WORKSHOPS

Back to the Future: An introduction to Strategic Goals

In this joint Workshop, Presidents, Secretary Generals and Treasurers explored the Strategic Goals of ELSA in detail. The participants had the opportunity to discuss in working groups how to achieve them, as well as how to implement some of them at the national level. Additionally, as an introduction to the new Financial Strategy of ELSA, the participants were provided with an overview of the current Financial Strategy, and the goals accomplished to the date. They were also asked to give their contribution regarding topics to be added to the new Financial Strategy.

External Relations and Fundraising

This Workshop was fully dedicated to understanding different fundraising sources. Presidents, Treasurers and Professional Development Officers analysed the different ways to approach partners, what to offer them, as well as the different grants sources and how to apply for them. Furthermore, the participants were divided into working groups to discuss how to develop the new Professional Development area and how to get partners for it.

It's been 84 Years: Hosting International Internal Meetings

During this joint Workshop, Secretary Generals and Treasurers explored the whole procedure of applying to host an International Internal Meeting. We analysed all the documentation that is required for the application, as well as the new quality standards for the hosting. The participants also had the opportunity to create their own ICM agenda, and brainstorm new ways of raising funds for this kind of event. The objective of this Workshop was to get the Network thinking once again about organising these events as we slowly return to the physical reality.

Past, Present and Future of IFP and Human Rights in ELSA

The International Focus Programme and the Annual Human Rights Campaign have been a complex topic within the Network. During this Workshop we discussed the two different projects and tried to explain the main differences between both for a correct understanding of what they consist of and how to implement them. We discussed the main difficulties for the Network and tried to tackle the problems that arose during this Workshop. Also, we mentioned the new Marketing strategy for the Annual Human Rights Campaign which should also show a clear difference with the International Focus Programme.