

ELSA Training Newsletter

elsa

The European Law Students' Association

ABOUT ELSA

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The European Law Students' Association

The European Law Students' Association (ELSA) is an international, independent, non-political, non-profit making organisation run by and for students and recent graduates, who are interested in achieving academic and personal excellence in addition to their legal or law-related studies at university.

ELSA aims at providing its members a platform to develop their existing skills and acquire new ones, to interact with fellow students and experienced practitioners from different states and legal systems around Europe, and to be equipped for a professional life in an international environment, through mutual understanding, intercultural cooperation and the large variety of activities and projects the Association offers.

OUR VISION

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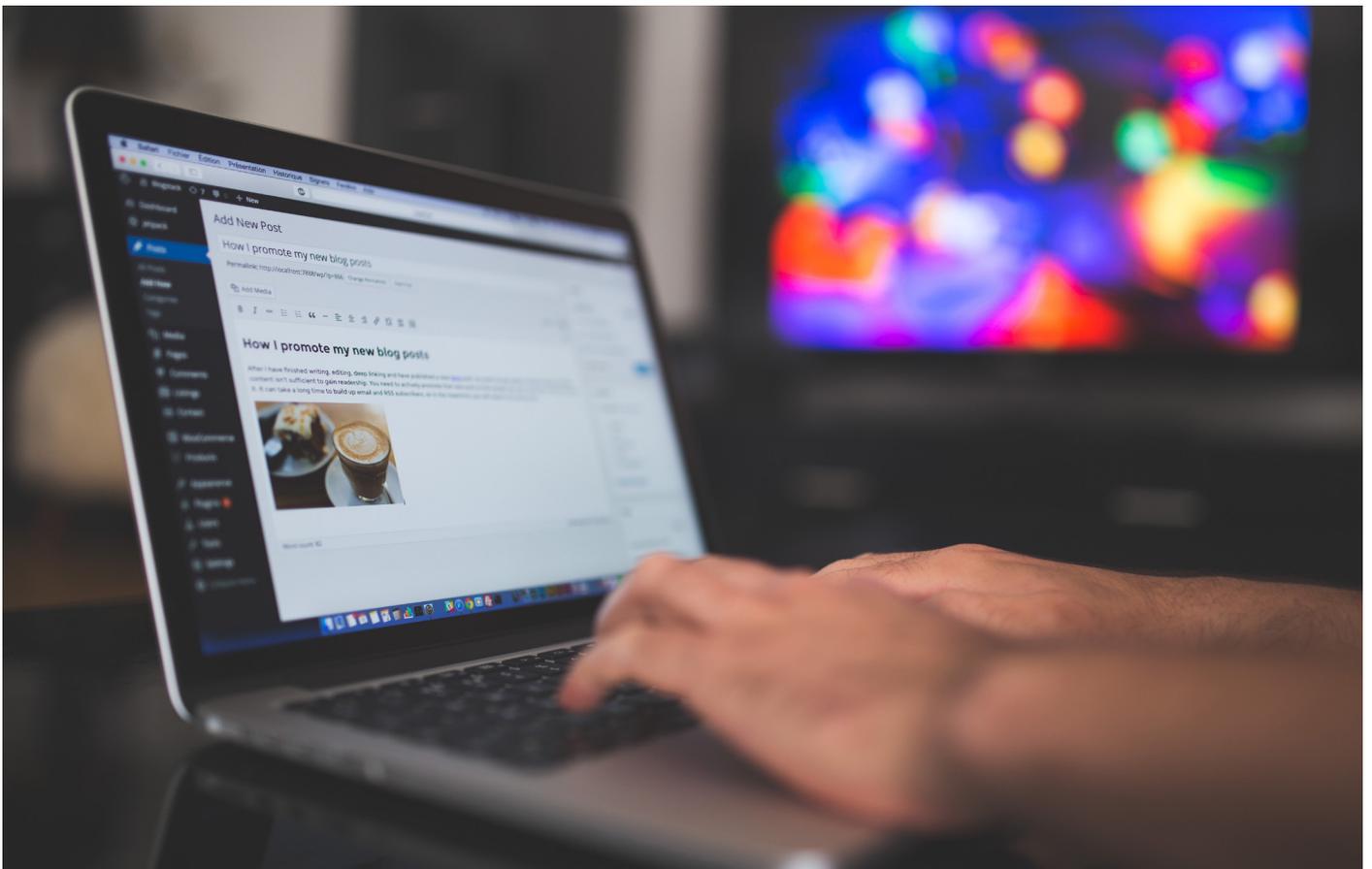
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ELSA Training back in the game!



Narmin "Nana" Aliyeva
Secretary General
ELSA International 2017/2018

On behalf of the ELSA Network of 2017/2018, I am proudly sharing that ELSA Training is back in the game. The internal project of ELSA has been facing many challenges throughout the past years. There were many changes and innovations implemented during the past term. Hence, I would like to give some insight into the work that was performed with regards to it.

Training Requests

The number of training requests has increased during the term by around 100% compared to the statistics of the previous years. The total number of the training requests has reached 42 involving National and Local Groups from different parts of Europe. The new digits made ELSA Training popular and attractive in the ELSA Network bringing them back to the 2000s when the International Trainers' Pool was just established by my legendary predecessors - Sofia Amaral and Michael Zammit Maempel.

The Network

How do you convince everyone to start using ELSA Training as a tool to equip the officers with necessary skills? You use it yourself first! Obviously, ELSA International comes first on the list of the Groups that have used the International Trainers' Pool the most this year. Other Groups that have been actively organising training events were ELSA Sweden, ELSA United Kingdom and ELSA Ukraine. Besides the traditional trainings in connection to the NCMs and other events, I was positively surprised by creativity the Groups have shown in their approach.

Training Topics

The variety of topics on which the trainings are delivered is big enough for the Network to be able to choose from. Nevertheless, we have the topics that

have been used very frequently – Board Management, Conflict and Crisis Management, Communication Skills, Project Management and Negotiation Skills.

ELSA International Team Weekend

Even though ELSA International Team usually comprises of the most experienced and hardworking officers in the Network, it is important to get together to improve the individual soft skills and build ourselves into a Team that we are meant to be. With this idea in mind, we organised the first ELSA International Team Weekend which took place in connection to the annual Christmas Cocktail in the ELSA House. We had a day long training on Teambuilding and Communication within the Team. As a result, we left the room as a Team instead of individuals working for the same cause who did not know each other.

Refreshment Weekend

The event is aimed at conserving and enhancing the quality of the ITP Trainers. It was held from the 16th to the 18th February in Malta in connection to the 55th International Presidents' Meeting. Refreshment Weekend was organised for the first time since 2009 and turned out to be a good quality time for the 8 Trainers who attended the event, sharing their knowledge and experience with all the participants, spending the time with the ELSA Network, thus integrating into it.

Train the Trainers Week

TtTW is mainly aimed at recruiting new Trainers to the ITP. At the ICM Sarajevo, it was proposed by the International Board to organise this event annually which was positively perceived and approved by the Council. The event was organised in Paris, France from the 18th to the 25th May. As a result, ELSA has gained 5 new Trainers – Narmin "Nana" Aliyeva, An-

astasia Kalinina, Inti-Loys Villamil, Alena Diepold, Gabriel Hureau and Jasmin Rosita. "Fresh blood" in the Pool is always welcome!

Open Trainings

At the 73rd ICM Lviv, the new term "Open Training" was introduced to the Council. Open Training sessions had a great success as many participants gave positive feedback on them. There was a block of 4 trainings taking place simultaneously giving the participants an opportunity to choose the topic they were interested in the most. The topics together with short descriptions and the names of the trainers were shared in the Working Materials of the ICM which gave the officers time to make the right decision long before the Meeting started.

Regulations

The relationship and mutual obligations between the Trainers and ELSA International shall be regulated to have a better definition of the work that is being handled. After a short research I had realised that the ITP Regulations used to exist but weren't updated or implemented since 2008. Having found the version of that very year I created new ITP Regulations which were presented at the Refreshment Weekend in Malta to the Trainers, discussed and amended accordingly.

YNGO TN

ELSA has joined the Youth Non-Governmental Organisations Training Network (YNGO TN) that is a platform for meeting and cooperation of training committees from international student associations. The YNGO TN is relatively new, thus ELSA became one of the first organisations to become part of it and contribute to its growth, and being involved in the discussions thereof.

"Formal education will make you a living; self-education will make you a fortune."

- Jim Rohn

It was a great year of ELSA Training for which I would like to express my gratitude to the Trainers of the International Trainers' Pool and my Team. I say...to many more years of ELSA Training!

Train the Trainers Weekend

Paris, France 

May 18-25, 2018 



How to request an ITP Training - step by step



Nana Gegia
Assistant for Administration
ELSA International 2017/2018

While making a decision to invite a trainer from the ITP there are several factors that need to be taken into consideration:

1. Why should I apply for the training from the ITP?

You should identify what is the aim of the training. What are the problems that your National or Local Group is facing at the moment? Keep in mind, that ITP Trainers are experienced ELSA officers who want to give back skills and knowledge learned when being part of the Association. So, it is the best way to motivate your officers, enhance their skills, make your National/Local Group stronger and also make participants feel what does internationality means in ELSA. Inviting an ITP Trainer will bring a bit of “cultural diversity” to your group.

“Contributing to the well-being and the growing of the Network, this is the goal of an ITPer!”

– Delia Orabona

2. Who is a target group of the training (freshers, officers, board members)? How experienced are the participants within ELSA?

This information will help you to choose the topic and also it will be very helpful for the trainer to plan the agenda for the training session.

1. Which topic to choose?

There are two types of Trainings in ELSA:

Soft Skills Training - that is aiming at developing personal attributes that enhance an individual’s interactions, career prospects, and job performance and Officers’ Training - that is aiming at developing the members to be fully equipped as ELSA officers. You

should think of the needs of your members and your group, which topic will be most interesting and useful for them.

You can find all the topics of the ITP for the training sessions here: <https://elsa.org/training-sessions/>

2. How much money are you willing to spend on the training?

Please, take into consideration that the inviting ELSA Group shall bear any travel and accommodation costs for the ITP Trainer as well as any materials that the ITP Trainer may ask for, such as papers, markers, whiteboard, beamer, etc.

However, ELSA offers the opportunity to cover the aforementioned expenses through the ELSA Development Foundation.

3. ITP Training Request

ITP Training Request procedure:

STEP 1: Visit the website: <https://elsa.org/training-request/>

STEP 2: Fill in the ITP Training Request.

STEP 3: Wait for the Secretary General of the International Board who appoints a trainer for the requested event.



Trainings in ELSA Sweden



Kristin Ferm
Secretary General
ELSA Sweden 2017/2018

For the past few years, trainings have become more and more popular in ELSA Sweden—this year leading to our national group being the one arranging the most in the entire network! Apart from us having quite a lot of trainers in Sweden—which of course helps—I believe one of the main reasons is that we stopped arranging them at our NCM:s. Despite the trainers themselves being excellent, there would usually be a shortage of time and way too many people participating in the same session, leading to the participants being disappointed and thus, not seeing the need to bring it back to their local group.

In the course of the past few years, instead of trainings being introduced at the NCM, it has become customary for some of our local groups to arrange a training in conjunction with the transition of one board to the next. Topic-wise, it is usually a combination of ELSA-knowledge and team building, which is a great way to start off a new term, as it gives the new board a deeper understanding of ELSA and of each other at the same time. Another upside is, of course, that the officers are introduced to the project at the very beginning of their term, allowing for them to plan follow-up trainings later on, as well as generally making it seem a more accessible tool.

The response to these “transition-trainings” has been very positive and led to some local group arranging additional trainings throughout their term. My hope for the future is that it will expand to cover not only the boards, but the various working groups within the local groups as well.

I really believe in trainings as one of the main ELSA projects—after all, one of the main aims of our association is the personal development of our members—and I am hoping this tool will be used in more innovative ways in the future, to enable more of our members to take part of it. For example, arranging a series of trainings on a specific topic (like ELSA UK did this past term), or allowing them to take place at

meetings like the Nordic Officers’ Meeting, where there is usually more time to have proper ones than at the statutory meetings. The key being knowledge of the projects’ existence, and the right amount of time and participants to make it worthwhile.



Dream it possible



Elena Maglio
Treasurer
ELSA International 2017/2018

“Most of the time, you find that the smaller the budget, the more the project is about something substantive.”

- Robert Carlyle

Trainings have the potential to be one of the liveliest events in the ELSA Network. In a job market focused one side on specific education and on the other side on a wide set of skills, the relevance of trainings is rising fast.

Trainings organisers are often discouraged by the challenges of fundraising money for this type of event.

Here you can find some suggestions to overcome this obstacle.

Focus on Quality. A good training event costs a lot of money. But for a good training event, the participants are usually willing to pay a small fee. Don't be afraid to develop a good content just for wanting to keep it free.

Failing to plan is planning to fail. Trainings are often a priority for several institutions. Take a ride on the depts of Google and try to find possible grants and funds to apply for. For example, in the Erasmus Plus microcosmos is easy to find grant possibility for trainings. Downsides? Operates under grants funding is often challenging and requires to start planning the event at least one year in advance.

Together is better. You don't feel confident in organising a full training event? Try to combine it with another (bigger) event! A good practice is to add trainings to National Council Meetings. Your members will get used to this type of event and you will save quite a lot of money on the organisation of it. Win-win!

The ELSA Development Foundation. ELSA concretely supports the organisation of trainings within the Network. If you are planning to organise a training, you can apply for a grant at the ELSA Development Foundation (EDF). There are four deadlines each year, usually at the end of September, December, March and June. Here you can find the application form: <https://elsa.org/edf-application/>. Complete guidelines on how to apply can be found in the Trainings section of the ELSA Officers Portal.

Dream Big! At the beginning it may be hard to launch a training event, but if you dream big and you don't give up, results will show. In some organisations trainings event do not require funding anymore because they are so developed that professional trainers volunteer to participate in order to build their brand.

Ask for help. If you are looking for more information on how to fund your training event or for an advice on how to improve your project budget, please contact edf@elsa.org or treasurer@elsa.org.

Remember that the best way to predict the future of your training projects is to create it. Dream it possible!



My first year as an ITP Trainer



Robert Vierling
ITP Trainer

Once your active time in ELSA comes to an end you start asking yourself what comes next. Some of us decide to take a cut and focus on our studies or start working. Others decide to keep a little space in their lives for ELSA and join ELSAs' International Trainers' Pool – the ITP.

For me it was never much of a question and therefore I took the chance and went to the Train the Trainers Week in Tirana, Albania in May 2017. It was a very intense but fun week which gave us - the new trainers - the knowledge and skills to offer a set of various trainings to the ELSA network.

Since then I had the chance to give four trainings to different groups and to attend the Refreshment Weekend of the ITP in Malta. If I would be asked a question in the typical ELSA style "Can you, please describe your first year as an ITP trainer in one word?" my answer would probably be: enriching. I truly believe that giving a training can often be as enriching for us trainers as for the ELSA group receiving the training.

After spending many years in the association, it requires a change of perspective to enable the people in front of you to grow and to become the best version of themselves. It is a challenge that gives oneself the opportunity to keep growing whilst supporting ELSA.

From an ELSA perspective - on the contrary - it is a very unique opportunity for any ELSA group to work with someone who has been in their shoes and understands the challenges which may lay ahead of them as a team and individuals. An ITP training will create the space for self-improvement and help to activate the potential of oneself as well as setting the frame to grow as a team.

Lastly, an ITP training gives both sides of the table - in a very unique way - the opportunity to advance together. Therefore, I will conclude with:

Grab that opportunity and apply for an ITP training.

Refreshment Weekend

St. Julians, Malta 

February 16-18, 2018 



New project in the Network



Maria Carolina Centeno

*Vice President for Trainings
ELSA Queen Mary 2017/2018*

Between Legal Research Groups, Summer Law Schools, Delegations, Moot Court Competitions, and Student Exchange Programmes, ELSA is already a remarkable association with an exceptional offer to law students all over Europe. I took it as my mandate this year to bring in a new initiative that would strengthen our offer at ELSA Queen Mary. The Trainings Programme was my attempt to do this.

I found the Trainings section in ELSA's general website. I had never heard about it and neither had my colleagues at ELSA Queen Mary or at other branches. It invited ELSA branches to apply for individual sessions of soft skills training with a trainer selected from the International Trainers' Pool (ITP). After a request had been made online, the Secretary General of ELSA International would contact the applicant to confirm details and introduce the applicant branch and the trainer to each other. The applicant branch was responsible for covering the trainer's travel and accommodation expenses.

I wanted to set up several training sessions for our branch but I wanted them to have a sequence and a structure. It was at this point that I realised ELSA's offer for individual, unconnected training sessions was still very much at an embryonic stage but with very high potential for development. I applied to set up our first training session and selected a trainer based in London. This would make our expenses negligible. Once Secretary General Narmin "Nana" Aliyeva contacted me to confirm details, I told her of my idea to set up a Certified Trainings Programme: a series of connected training sessions with the offer of a certificate to those who attended a minimum number of sessions. I cannot describe how enthusiastic and supportive of this Nana was. And for that I also cannot thank her enough. The project had official green light to go ahead. And so it did. Together with Ms. Dixsha Patel, who delivered all four training sessions this academic year, the ELSA Queen Mary Certified Trainings Programme arose and it was an unbelievable success.

It has been a very exciting project to be involved in. Its benefits are evident: it offers law students the chance to develop their transferable skills, crucial to our professional lives; it is an initiative which can expand ELSA's offer and make it more attractive. I would undoubtedly invite ELSA to carry on with this project, to improve it and to expand it.

I would like to thank Nana and Ms. Dixsha Patel for helping to make this project come to life.



Train the Trainers Week Paris



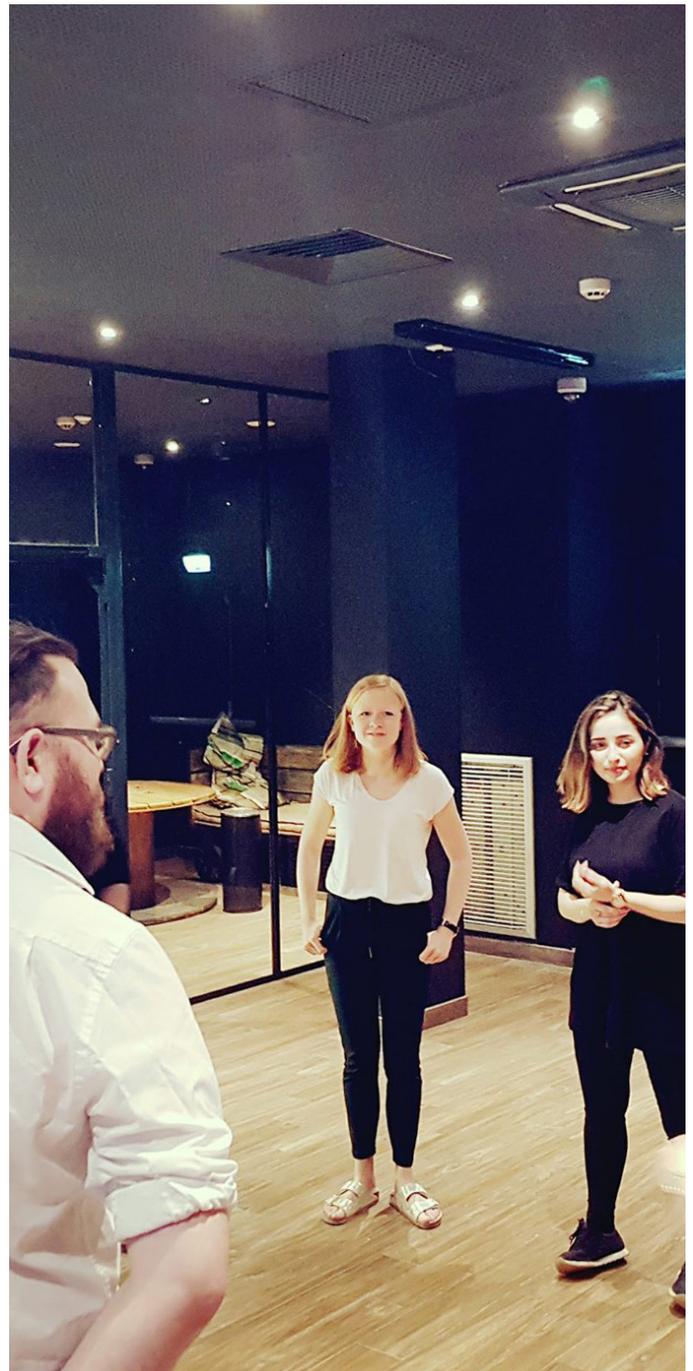
Gabriel Hureau

*President
ELSA Paris 1 Pantheon Sorbonne 2017/2018*

The Train the Trainers Week gathered 8 participants and 2 trainers for one week. I believe this edition of the event has been a success due to the high symbiosis within the Trainers and the group. The high pressure merged with the progressive strategy of deepening the analysis of participants' behavior as trainers, has helped each person to get very close to each other and feel confident to discuss the skills needed to be trainers. By the end of the week, all of the participants were comfortable when doing this, which helped contributing to the quality of the training. Moreover, as always in TtTW, the low amount of participants makes it easier to interactions within the group. I can't really imagine the same results if there were, for instance, 20 or 30 participants working together throughout the week!

As OC, the most challenging was managing the mix between the requirements of the events and the activities of the city. It's been four years since the last international event was organized in Paris, and we didn't want to miss the opportunity of giving our participants the best taste of French lifestyle. From the French Crêpes we cooked for them, to the much appreciated Wine & Cheese dinner at the Seine River, our guests met the diversity and internationality of Paris while enjoying its gastronomy. The same analysis is to note regarding the sightseeing and social program. Participants had the opportunity to visit some of the most iconic places in Paris such as Montmartre, Musée des Invalides, Bassin de la Villette (where we could play Pétanques, a French game) and Quai de Jemmappes. It was very much appreciated that the social program was also related to the externals staying at the hostel, as half of it was interconnected with activities organized by the hostel itself.

As this adventure as HoC comes to an end, I'd like to take my chance to specially thank our Trainers Alyna and Thiago and our participants. They made me realize how worth it was to take up this challenge and made of this week one of the most unique in my life.



Train the Trainers Weekend

Paris, France

May 18-25, 2018

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