



The European Law Students' Association

ITALIA

INPUT PAPER IFP

- **Topic:** Responsible consumption and production.
- **Description of the Topic**

Responsible consumption and production means promoting a more efficient use of resources and energy via technical and theoretical assistance, including the law field.

It is considered one of the three overarching objectives (and an essential requirement) of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), which is a list of 17 development goals proposed by the UN General Assembly in 2015.

Regarding the importance of this goal and his focus on essential services other than dignified and environmentally friendly jobs, this subject will have strong implications from the legal point of view and direct repercussions on various fields of law all over the world.

In the framework of our Association, it can be developed into topics such as business related themes like the development of policies improving the sustainable supply chain and the corporate social responsibility, energy law related topics, in particular price manipulation policies, waste management or the EU Emission Trading Systems.

Other topics more related to the law side of the topic are labour law and international harmonisation standards, workers' rights, tourism law and consumer law.

- **Why would ELSA benefit from choosing this topic?**

The proposed topic is aligned with the purpose of ELSA¹.

ELSA has the duty to train the new generations of lawyers, by informing and raising awareness by choosing one of the UN goals. We would like to focus on this aspect because ELSA will be able to contribute to the training of new legal figures specialized in issues related to sustainability and corporate social responsibility.

About the partnerships, the topic permits to broaden up the scenario by getting in contact with international institutions. It is likely that organisations already partnering with us for the ELSA

¹ To contribute to legal education, to foster mutual understanding and to promote social responsibility of law students and young lawyers



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Delegations will approve this new focus, such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law.

New partnerships and agreements could be made with organisations and agencies such as the International Labour Organisation, the World Tourism Organisation, the International Atomic Energy Agency and private entities and businesses like Too good to go.

Another key factor of benefit from choosing this topic is the relevant possibility of gaining visibility all over the world. Picking a Sustainable Development Goal as a IFP Topic will spot a light on ELSA with our partners and could be a chance to propose the acquisition of data all over Europe about this particular topic and handing them over to the UN or other interested externals. Moreover, if managed at best, there's the possibility for ELSA to be invited to conferences with world leaders and major stakeholders in the role of speaker. These conferences might be relevant on an advocacy side such as the [ICSD](#) or on the academic side the [ICSPCs](#).

At a local level there will be the possibility to broaden the scenario of interested Externals: not only law firms but also startups, companies and local institutions..

Eventually, another peculiarity of this topic is that the academic side does not outshadow the human rights and advocacy part of ELSA due to the perfect harmony between the practical and the theoretical part of the subject, offering to the Network a possibility to approach human rights in a present and stimulating way of developing events.

- **What kind of events can be organised/traineeships may be found**

The choice of such a wide-ranging and topical subject will stimulate the imagination of the National Groups. Many different formats are perfectly suited to develop the topic of responsible consumption and production, from the established formats that every National Group uses every year to the most innovative ideas that we have seen developing in the last period such as events created from the international cooperation of National and Local Groups or events that could mix the format from different areas, improving the collaboration inside the same Board.

The potential versatility and transversality of the SDG 12 is such that any Area could create events based on itself as listed below.

Seminars & Conferences: Over the last year and a half, ELSA has shown that it can cope with any difficulty, without stopping and offering members events of a high academic standard



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despite the distance, so the ELSA webinars and digital events should be mentioned first and foremost. Being able to adapt perfectly to the subject matter, the infinite possibilities offered by working remotely opens the door to the organisation of transversal events with different and international professionals. Two flagships of this area are given the opportunity to shine even brighter in this topic, namely the ELSA Delegations and the ELS. The ELSA Delegations are not only a popular format but also a source of potential new partnerships and international relations for ELSA. As for the ELS, the versatility of the topic could be implemented in the subsidiary activities as reception and social programme, in order to offer an all-around experience about responsible consumption and production.

Academic Activities: This topic could offer this area multiple growth chances; in particular, the number of LRGs could be increased, both because there are various topics that lend themselves well to in-depth study and analysis and for the potential fundraising that might be developed from interested external privates and public entities. Another format that would benefit from this topic would be Client Interviewing Competitions. The role of the lawyer as counsel on issues such as sustainability is still not very well known and recognised, and this might be a great opportunity for young lawyers to put themselves to the test. Among the ELSA formats that have the greatest practical relevance there is the Open Legislation, a format that can fit in perfectly with the topic of choice, since it has only just begun its journey in the legislative sphere.

Professional Development: at a time when the classic legal profession is leading to new job prospects, this area could benefit enormously from the proposed topic. To mention just a few emerging sectors that represent the labour market of the coming years, we could underline energy law and corporate social responsibility. The young lawyer is thus open not only to law firms, but also to companies, start-ups and institutions. One of the formats that sees an interesting collaboration between this area and Academic Activities are the Law Clinics, a format that is still growing and that could find in this topic the right push to become an ELSA standard format. Considering the practical relevance of the topic and the fact that is still underdeveloped inside our field of studies, Professional Development could benefit from this IFP Topic both directly by creating ad hoc events and indirectly, since the increase of events from other Areas could lead a growth in selected people in the ELSA Traineeships programmes around the Network due to the particular lack of knowledge about sustainability and law in the offer of workers in the law market today.

- **What kind of impact we can have with this topic**



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ITALIA

Responsible consumption and production have a self-explanatory impact. Nowadays we are no longer simply talking about the environment, we are talking about an ecosystem that must be protected. It would be limiting to just focus on the natural ecosystem, in this case we have the opportunity to go deeper and think about the so called business ecosystem, which defines the entire life-cycle of a product, not only the supply chain but all the subjects involved. The subject is within everyone's reach also between common people. Raising the awareness of an entire network on the subject would create a generation of young professionals and more aware human beings.

The impact on the next generation of lawyers will bring consciousness and the possibility to satisfy part of the high-skilled workers demand, in particular related to workers with a mixed skillset of law knowledge, environmental sensibleness and sustainable growth theory. Law firms, institutions and private businesses will hugely benefit from the transversal competences generated by ELSA.

Additionally, the ELSA network has the opportunity to show that young lawyers are ready to take an interest also in subjects that are partly outside the world of law, that they are able to respond to challenges of the future and have an elastic and proactive mind.

Furthermore, the knowledge of this topic allows law students to steer this change in a responsible direction, as well as making them aware of the challenges that the law will have to respond to in the coming years.

By choosing this theme, ELSA would have the opportunity to give the image of a united and cohesive network, not only through the classic scientific events or simulations, since it could also open up the possibility of providing awareness days on the international level regarding food waste or products obtained from sustainable supply chains.

We aim to be a network united in everyday life activities and advocacy campaigns, not just by events.