



SELS

Summer ELSA Law Schools

elsa

The European Law Students' Association

SELS Cycle 2024/2025 FINAL REPORT



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1. FOREWORD BY PAULA



ELSA Law Schools, and especially the Summer ELSA Law Schools Cycle, remain one of the most engaging and influential projects within the ELSA Network. Over the years, SELS has continued to grow in visibility and recognition, attracting increasing interest from students. This growth also brings responsibility: to keep the quality and standards SELS is known for, while making sure the project remains accessible to students from different backgrounds.

Beyond its academic value, SELS plays a unique role within ELSA. For many members, it is the project that encourages further involvement in the Association and often marks the beginning of a longer ELSA journey. Whether as assistants, organisers, or participants, many ELSA officers trace their continued engagement back to their first experience with an ELSA Law School. What SELS offers goes far beyond formal learning, and its impact is best reflected in the people who choose to stay active and grow within ELSA.

Launching the SELS Cycle during my mandate as Vice President in charge of Seminars & Conferences was, for me, one of the most important moments of the term, and writing this foreword brings back many of the emotions connected to that time. The scale and standards of SELS today are only possible thanks to a strong support system that consistently stands behind the project. The work of the ELSA International Team, the support of the International Board, and the continuous efforts of the Vice President in charge of Marketing in promoting SELS are fundamental elements of its success in every Cycle.

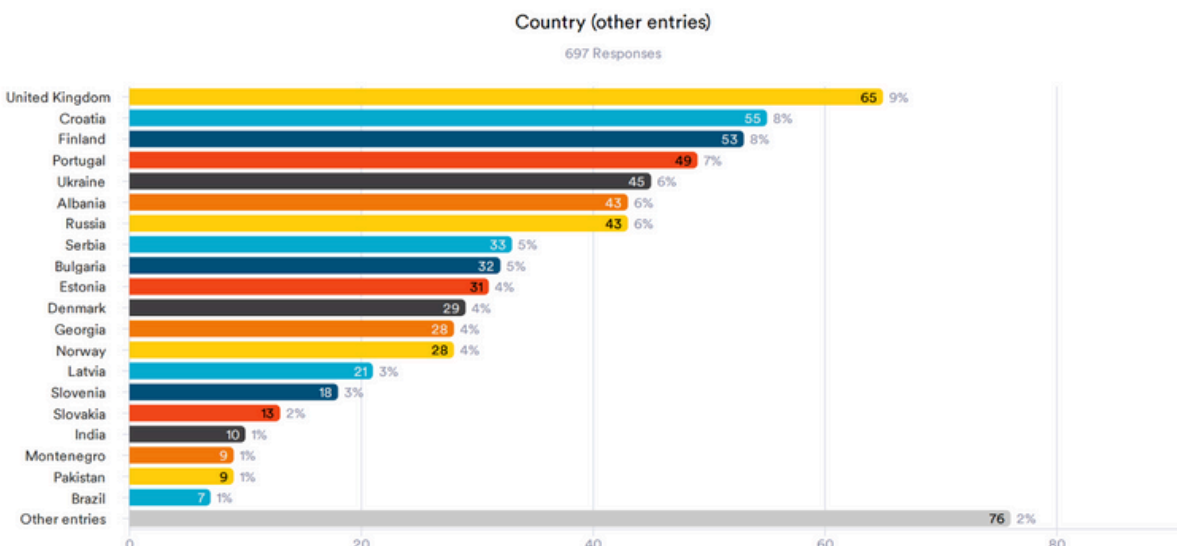
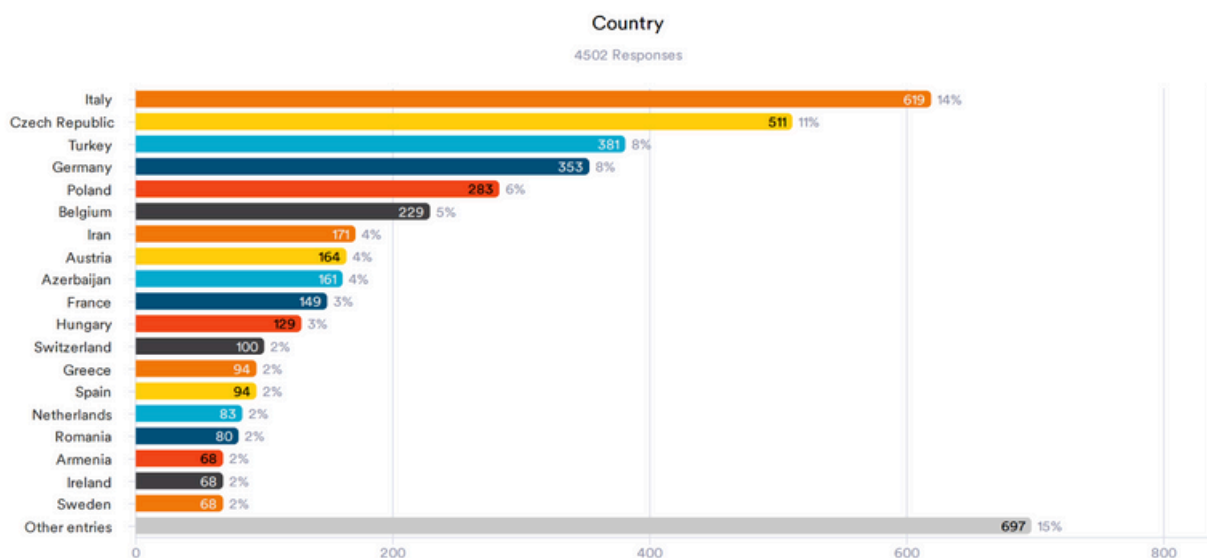
As my mandate ended before the conclusion of the Cycle, I would like to express my appreciation to my successor, Rodrigo and the ELSA International Team 2025/2026 for finalising the Cycle and preparing this Final Report. Their work reflects the continuity, commitment, and long-term effort invested in SELS year after year.

I invite future participants and ELSA members to engage with SELS, whether by taking part as participants or contributing to its organisation, and to experience the value of this project firsthand. I promise you won't regret it!

2. STATISTICS AND OVERVIEW OF THE CYCLE

When it comes to the Summer ELSA Law Schools Cycle 2024/2025, we had 42 specifications, matching the same number as last term. Unfortunately, some of them were cancelled, closing the Cycle with 34 SELS successfully concluded. As for the number of Applications, both Application Periods collected 4502 applications, showing the high interest from the ELSA Network and its members in this Flagship Project.

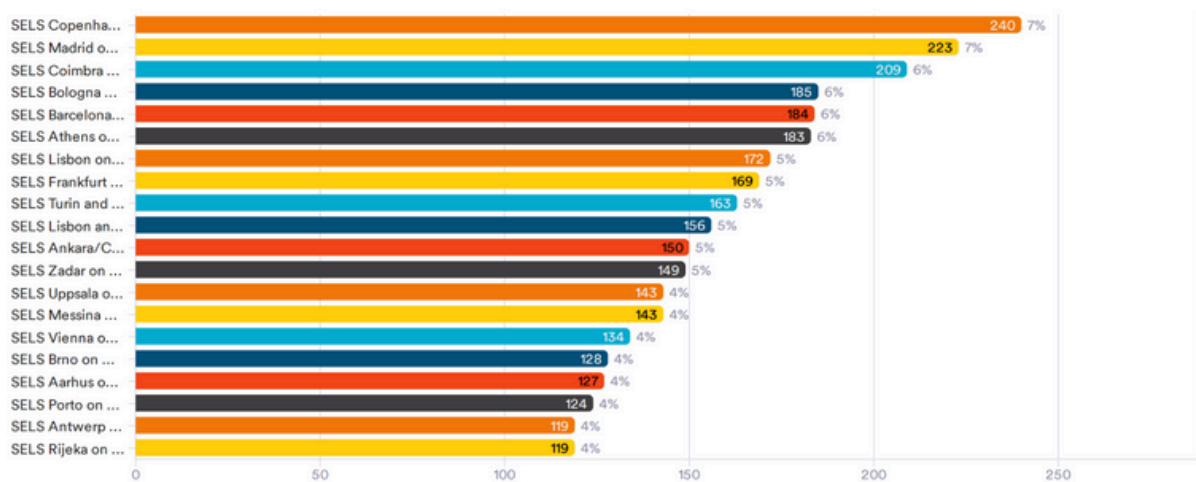
Below, we can check the countries with the highest number of applications:



Looking at the applications per SELS, we would like to congratulate all of the Organisers for managing the applications, highlighting SELS Copenhagen, SELS Madrid (uncompleted) and SELS Coimbra, the three Summer ELSA Law Schools with the highest number of applications. Below, you can find all of the applications per SELS:

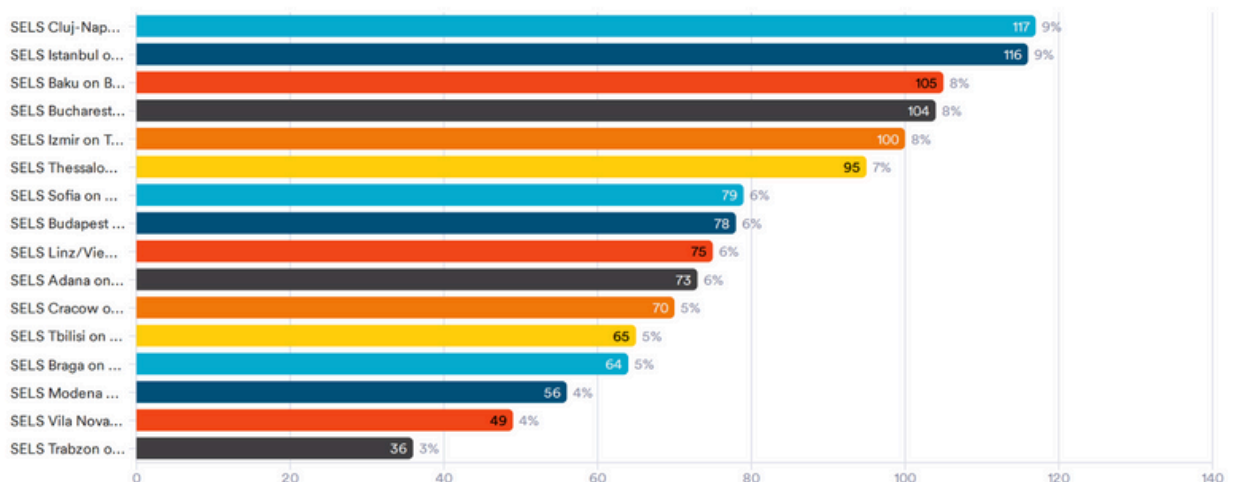
Choose the ELSA Law School you are applying to

3220 Responses

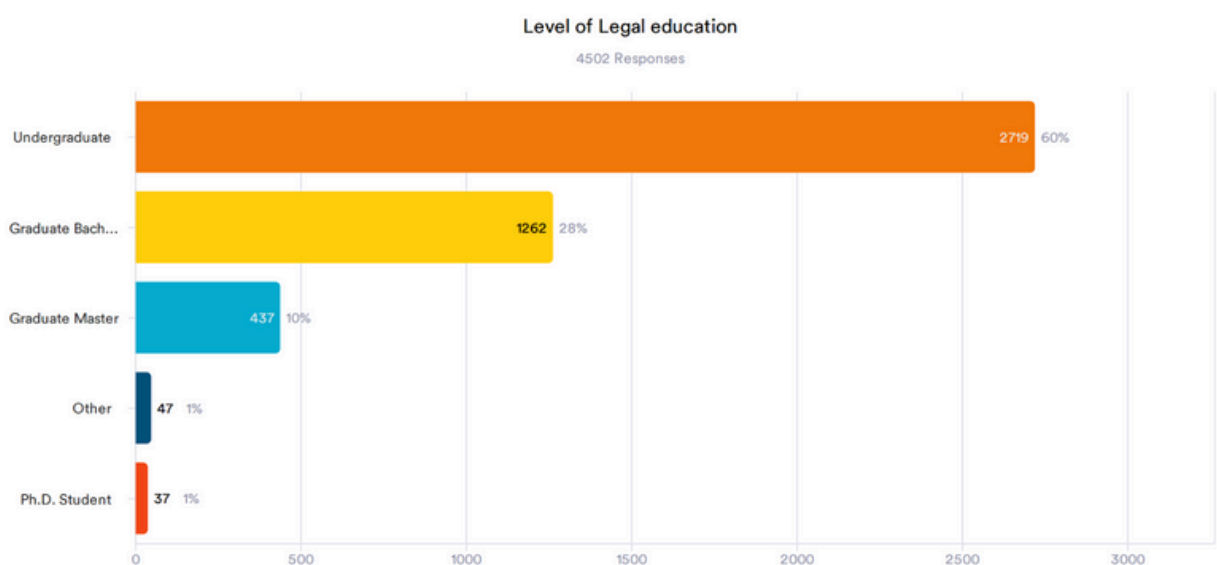


Choose the ELSA Law School you are applying to (other entries)

1282 Responses



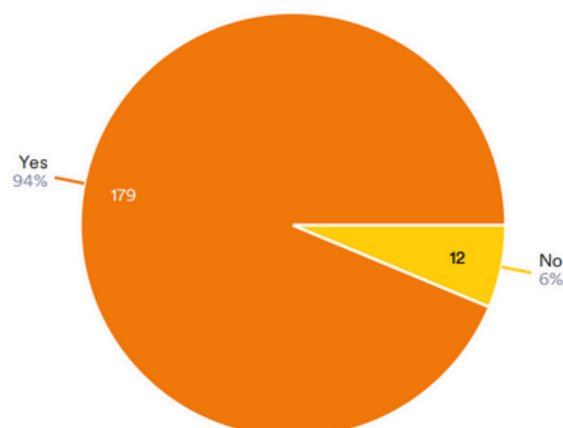
Going forward, as you may know, ELSA Law Schools are open to everyone. We are very proud to gather applicants from all over the world, but also that the pool is quite wide in terms of their academic experience. Even though there is a big predominance of undergraduate students applying for Summer ELSA Law Schools, we can see there's still some diversity within the applications:



The Participants evaluation is something taken very seriously by ELSA International. We are constantly aiming to improve the project. Therefore, we distribute a Participants Evaluation Form between all participants after the respective event. Here you can see some feedback of their experience:

Would you recommend the ELSA Law School to your friends?

191 Responses



Were you satisfied with the meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner) that were available during the ELSA Law School?

191 Responses



3.75

Avg. Response

191

Responses

Were you satisfied with the accommodation provided?

191 Responses



3.90

Avg. Response

191

Responses

Were you satisfied with the Social and Cultural Programme provided?

191 Responses



4.22

Avg. Response

191

Responses

Please indicate your general satisfaction regarding the ELSA Law School.

191 Responses



4.37

Avg. Response

191

Responses

Looking at the numbers, we can conclude that the satisfaction of the participants is quite satisfactory. This has been the reality of the project for some years now, and ELSA International is constantly working with the Organising Committees to make these numbers grow.

3. SELS TRAINING WEEKEND

SELS Training Weekend is an annual weekend dedicated to online sessions and workshops delivered by the ELS team, aimed at supporting the organisers of the respective cycle and familiarising them with the overall organisational process. The sessions focus individually on each area of SELS organisation, including the academic programme as well as the social and cultural programme, enabling organisers to gain a clear understanding of their respective roles and responsibilities. Throughout the weekend, practical tips and tricks are shared, the applicable standards are presented, and space is given to address questions and concerns raised by the organisers.

Particular emphasis is placed on financial management, sponsorships, and the broader economic aspect of organising an ELSA Law School, ensuring that participants are well prepared to handle these crucial responsibilities. In addition, marketing and welfare workshops are conducted in collaboration with the respective ELSA International officers, offering valuable insights and guidance. The programme also includes a session on crisis management, during which realistic scenarios are discussed and possible approaches to addressing them are explored. Overall, the SELS Training Weekend serves as a preparatory and familiarisation experience for both experienced and first-time organisers, contributing to the successful planning and delivery of future SELS.

The SELS Training Weekend functions as a key supporting mechanism within ELSA, strengthening the capacity of organisers and ensuring continuity, quality, and alignment with ELSA standards. Through preparation, guidance, and open discussion, it enables organisers to approach their role with confidence and clarity, laying a strong foundation for the successful organisation of future SELS.

4. TESTIMONIALS OF SELS ORGANISERS

SELS COPENHAGEN

Organising SELS last year was a valuable and at times demanding process that provided me with concrete insight into both academic and organisational practice.

The work involved coordinating participants, planning the programme, managing deadlines, and maintaining ongoing communication with speakers and co-organisers. The planning phase was characterised by continuous and relatively informal collaboration within the OC, where tasks were distributed but consistently followed up through close dialogue. This created space for mutual sparring, adjustments, and support when circumstances changed. For me, it was particularly rewarding to take part in a collaboration where we could rely on each other's strengths and where responsibilities were shared collectively rather than handled individually.

– *Sofie Hellensberg (Head of Cultural Programme and Head of Marketing)*



SELS BARCELONA

Organising a SELS was one of the most intense, chaotic, and at the same time rewarding experiences of my three-year journey as a Seminars & Conferences officer. It requires constant coordination with the International Board and gives you a deep understanding of how the ELSA network works beyond your local group. At the same time, it greatly strengthens your sense of community, as you work closely with officers from different countries.

Then the SELS week finally arrives, and everything goes by almost too fast. Getting to know the participants, listening to their different stories and seeing how quickly bonds are formed is truly special. After months of work, stress, and even a few tears (not gonna lie), you can only look back at the experience with pride and a smile.

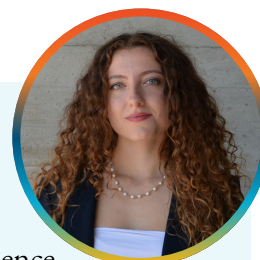
– *Luna Marzullo (Head of Organising Committee)*



SELS THESSALONIKI

As a head organiser of the Summer ELSA Law School on Business Law and the Digital Economy held in Thessaloniki, I can confidently say that the experience exceeded our expectations. Participants from various countries and legal backgrounds created an international and dynamic learning environment. The Organizing Committee demonstrated remarkable engagement and enthusiasm, bringing positive energy and teamwork that helped our SELS truly stand out. This year's theme explored the evolution of Business Law in the era of digital transformation, highlighting key contemporary legal challenges. Thessaloniki provided the perfect setting, combining academic excellence with cultural richness and fun, making this SELS a memorable experience for all of us. Stay tuned for this year's edition!

– *Artemis Varela (Head of Organising Committee)*



SELS FRANKFURT

The SELS Frankfurt on Banking and Finance was an intriguing and enriching experience. Organizing it was not only rewarding in itself, but also enjoyable from start to finish. The week passed incredibly quickly and was shaped by inspiring discussions, engaging lectures, and a great atmosphere among everyone involved. The cultural and social diversity of Frankfurt am Main certainly did not disappoint. One of the true highlights was the wide range of connections we were able to build throughout the week. Meeting students from different countries and exchanging perspectives once again showed how such events strengthen the international spirit of ELSA and bring its members closer together.

– *Ilya Tourtchenko (Head of Organising Committee)*



SELS IZMIR

Being the Head of the Organising Committee for SELS Izmir 2025 has been a journey full of learning, laughter, challenges and unforgettable moments.

Working side by side with a dedicated team and shaping both the academic and social programme from scratch was truly special. My favourite part was watching participants from different countries become friends, engage with experts and enjoy the city we proudly represent. There were intense days and countless decisions but every effort felt worth it when the event came to life. SELS gave me confidence, teamwork, long-lasting memories and a reminder of why I love being part of ELSA.

– *Şavkın Sila Kerem (Head of Organising Committee)*



SELS BOLOGNA

Organising an ELSA Law School is an intensive and demanding journey, a long-term process whose results are not immediately visible, but slowly take shape through dedication and commitment. It requires careful planning of both the academic programme, combining lectures with workshops, simulations and visits, and the social programme, which brings people together by blending learning with fun. The days before the participants' arrival are often hectic and unpredictable, testing patience and teamwork. Yet, despite the tiredness and the pressure, every effort proves worthwhile when the experience finally comes to life.

Not everything will always go as planned; this is something to come to terms with from the outset. What matters, in my view, is the management of the unexpected, especially in relation to the participants. I strongly believe in transparency and constant communication with the students taking part in the SELS; I am convinced that if the OC is not serene, if there are tensions, the participants are the first to notice it, and this risks creating a climate of discomfort between the OC and the participants.



SELS BOLOGNA

Take a moment each day to compare notes, as an OC, on how the week is going: we, as a truly Italian SELS, have “The OC’s Coffee”, to take stock of the situation, understand what is not working, what works and what can be improved. One week normally seems like a short time, but in a SELS it can feel like a month, because of the amount of time spent together.

One last thing I would like to leave as an account is the importance of trying to reduce as much as possible the distance between the OC and the participants: the best moments are created when members of the OC also take part and become friends with the students. We are there for them, but also with them, and I believe this is the beauty of organising a SELS: not only organising it, but also living it, as if you were one of them.

– *Costanza Calandrino (Head of Organising Committee)*



5. TESTIMONIALS OF SELS PARTICIPANTS

“

I attended SELS Rijeka on Diplomacy in the 2025 cycle. It made me realise what this programme is truly about. The academic experience was taken to a new high by us, the participants. It was the most intellectually enlightening week of my life, getting to know how different countries form their opinion on different matters. I also met some of the most wonderful people in the world, whose personality also added a lot to the week.

– *Bence*

“

The ELSA Summer Law School in Ankara was an unforgettable experience for me both academically and personally. Through the academic programme on International Law and Arbitration, I gained valuable insights from a wide range of speakers, including judges, lawyers and arbitrators, especially during the interactive workshops that encouraged active participation and discussion. The social program was just as memorable, allowing us to explore Ankara, the Atatürk Mausoleum, Ankara Castle and even Cappadocia together. The exchange with students from diverse countries and legal systems – from Europe and beyond – made the discussions particularly enriching. Thanks to the outstanding support of the Organizing Committee, close friendships developed in a very short time.

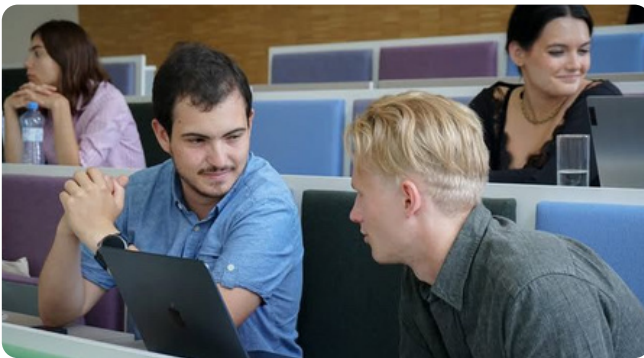
– *Patricia*



“

Participating in the SELS Brno on Contract law was an extremely enriching experience. For one week we had the opportunity to not only learn about different aspects of contract law from a multitude of experts, but also to socialise with participants from all over Europe over a multitude of activities, showing us the beauty of the Czech Republic in the process. The Friendships I made during that week are ones I still maintain to this day, and the memories made are ones I cherish. This SELS was overall an unforgettable experience that I would recommend to any student.

– *Sebastian*



“

SELS Messina was my first ELS, and I therefore arrived in Sicily without quite knowing what to expect. It turned out to be an immensely rewarding experience, both academically and socially. The academic programme offered a well-balanced and diverse range of speakers, and no two days were alike — one day we would be at the university and the next day we would be at the beach. The social activities organised by the OC were equally enriching and thoughtfully planned, and gave a broad insight into the history of Messina and Sicily.

Above all, I am most grateful for the opportunity to meet so many wonderful people, many of whom I am still in contact with today and hope to remain so with for a long time to come.

– *Aimee*

“

Attending the SELS in Vienna was a highly enriching experience. Not only did we have the opportunity to hone our legal knowledge and skills by attending engaging lectures delivered by leading law firms in the field of arbitration, but we also had the chance to connect with law students from around the world in a multicultural setting.

Furthermore, we were able to put the knowledge we had acquired into practice by participating in a moot court at the end of the week, hosted by one of Vienna's most renowned law firms.

– *Sam*

“

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– *Patricia*

6. MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME



Before sharing my experience, I would like to mention a few words about the ELSA Law Schools Mentorship Programme itself.

The ELSA Law Schools Mentorship Programme is a highly valuable opportunity for potential participants and for the ELSA network as a whole. It plays an important role in building a solid base of knowledge directly from the ELSA Law Schools team itself, making the process much easier to understand from an early stage. Through the programme, participants are able to gain a clear overview of how ELSA Law Schools work, what to expect, and how the overall procedure unfolds before specification, which often represents one of the most uncertain phases for national/local groups.

One of the key strengths of the Mentorship Programme is the space it creates for open communication and knowledge-sharing. Participants can ask practical questions, exchange experiences, and learn from each other, while also gaining inspiration from the ELSA Law Schools team. This supportive environment helps clarify expectations and reduces uncertainty, allowing potential organisers to feel more confident and informed. At the same time, the programme encourages early preparation by helping participants start working on materials in advance and develop the necessary understanding and mindset to be truly ready before the coaching system begins.

By complementing the ELSA Law Schools cycle, the Mentorship Programme contributes to better-prepared participants, smoother transitions between phases, and stronger engagement within the network.

From my perspective as Assistant for Law Schools at ELSA International, working on the Mentorship Programme was a very beneficial experience. It allowed me to gain valuable practical experience in coordination and organisation, while also giving me the opportunity to contribute to an initiative that has a clear and positive impact on the ELSA network. Coordinating development of the programme allowed me to gain practical experience in organisation, communication, and working closely with different levels of the network. Beyond the technical aspects, the continuous exchange of experiences with mentors, participants, and colleagues was particularly inspiring and motivating. Seeing how shared experiences and guidance could support others in their preparation reinforced the importance of mentorship within ELSA. Overall, this experience not only contributed to my personal and professional development, but also strengthened my appreciation for the collaborative spirit and impact of the ELSA Law Schools Mentorship Programme.

7. FINAL REMARKS



Starting this Cycle as the Coordinator for ELSA Law Schools Coaching, and ending it as the Vice President in charge of Seminars and Conferences of ELSA International was very rewarding. I have been very close to ELSA Law Schools, since the early start of my ELSA Career, so it brought me much joy to be highly involved in it last term. ELSA Law Schools impact life of Law Students all over the world and we are proud to keep bringing this Project every year, creating long lasting memories between Organisers and Participants. I am extremely grateful to the ELSA Law Schools Team 2024/2025: Savena, Elene, Adamantia, Alik, Christina, Costanza, Gary and Şavkin, for their constant work throughout the term, and of course, to my predecessor, Paula, for brilliantly coordinating this Summer ELSA Law Schools Cycle.

I hope this first ELSA Law Schools Final Report is interesting for you, allowing you to better understand the project and its achievements.
Good reads!



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