

elsa

The European Law Students' Association



WELS

Winter ELSA Law Schools

FINAL REPORT

Winter ELSA Law Schools
2025/2026



Winter ELSA Law Schools, one of our flagship projects, provide students and young lawyers with a unique opportunity for academic learning and cultural exchange during the winter months, beyond the lectures, assignments, and commitments that usually define this period of the year.

Every year, more groups choose to organise a Winter ELSA Law School, contributing to the growth and impact of a project that continues to evolve through diverse topics, destinations, and experiences. What makes the project particularly special is its ability to combine academic excellence, international networking, and cultural exchange, creating opportunities that extend far beyond the classroom.

At a time of the year when students and young professionals are usually focused on their academic and professional responsibilities, with fewer opportunities to participate in international events, Winter ELSA Law Schools provide a unique space for learning, personal development, and intercultural exchange.

As Coordinator for ELSA Law Schools Coaching, I had the privilege of witnessing this growth firsthand. Working closely with organisers, participants, and applicants allowed me to discover the many dimensions of the project and appreciate the dedication, creativity, and commitment required to bring each edition to life.

Whether supporting first-time organisers or accompanying experienced groups through another successful edition, it was inspiring to see the passion invested in every Winter ELSA Law School.

During such a demanding term, with 18 Winter ELSA Law Schools taking place and many first-time organisers joining the project, none of this would have been possible without the incredible ELS Team behind it.



Adamantia Lora

Coordinator for ELSA Law Schools Coaching
ELSA International Team 2025/2026

To Rodrigo, our Vice President in charge of Seminars & Conferences, who was always there to support and guide us throughout the term; to Andreia and Pedro, whose dedication and efficiency made even the most demanding tasks seem manageable; and to Adri, Gary, Gioia, Maria, Phoebe, and Stefania, thank you for your hard work, commitment, and continuous support to all organisers.

The Cycle would simply not have been the same without you. Through countless coaching calls, discussions, follow-ups, and guidance sessions, you played a key role in helping each group reach its full potential and contributed to a project that keeps growing, evolving, and surprising us with its diversity, innovation, and endless possibilities.

Looking back at this Cycle, I am proud of what has been achieved and grateful to everyone who contributed to its success. Winter ELSA Law Schools continue to demonstrate the very best of our Network: bringing together people from different backgrounds, promoting legal education, and creating experiences that leave a lasting impact on both participants and organisers.

I am confident that this project will continue to grow, inspire, and create unforgettable opportunities for future generations of ELSA members, and I look forward to seeing where the next Winter Cycle will take us!



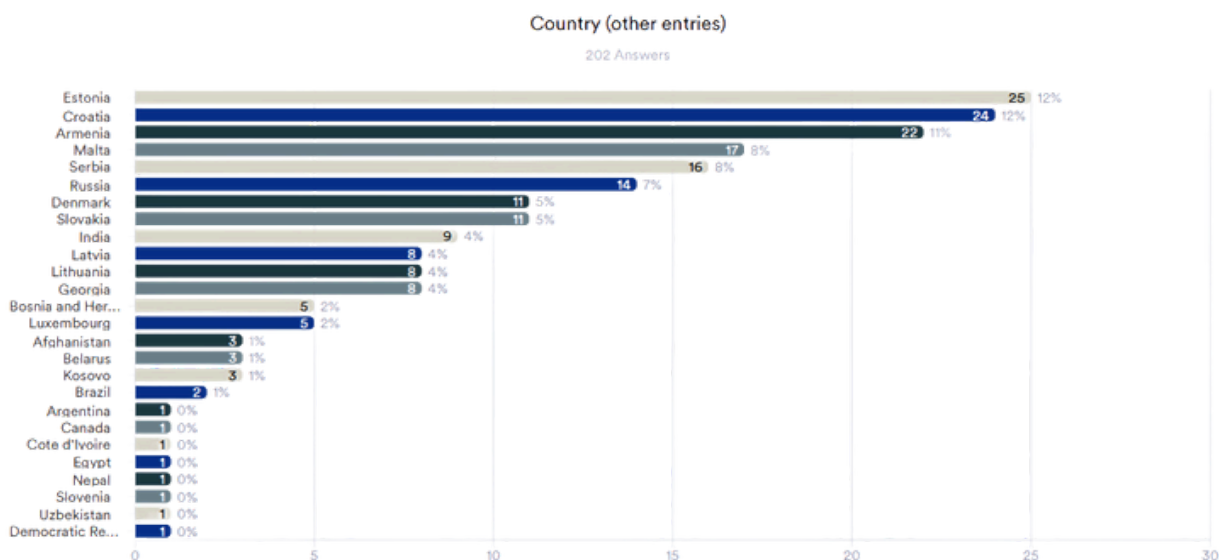
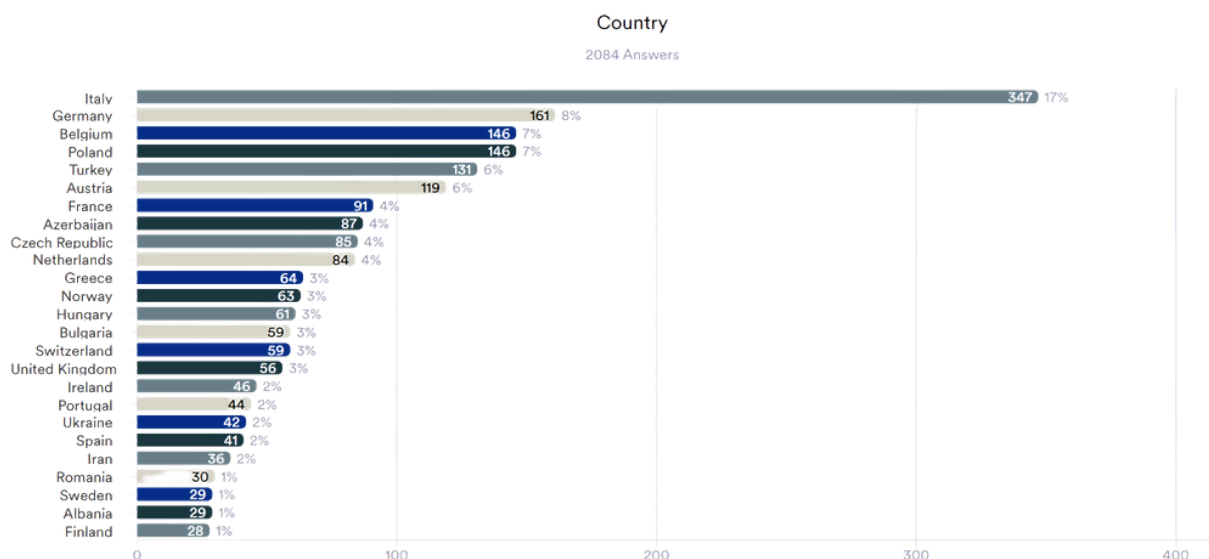
Adamantia Lora
Coordinator for ELSA Law Schools Coaching
ELSA International Team 2025/2026

STATISTICS AND OVERVIEW OF THE CYCLE



When it comes to the Winter ELSA Law Schools Cycle 2025/2026, we had 19 specifications, a new record for WELS! Unfortunately, one of them was cancelled, closing the Cycle with 18 SELS successfully concluded. As for the number of Applications, both Application Periods collected 2286 applications, the highest number ever of applications in the Winter Cycle!

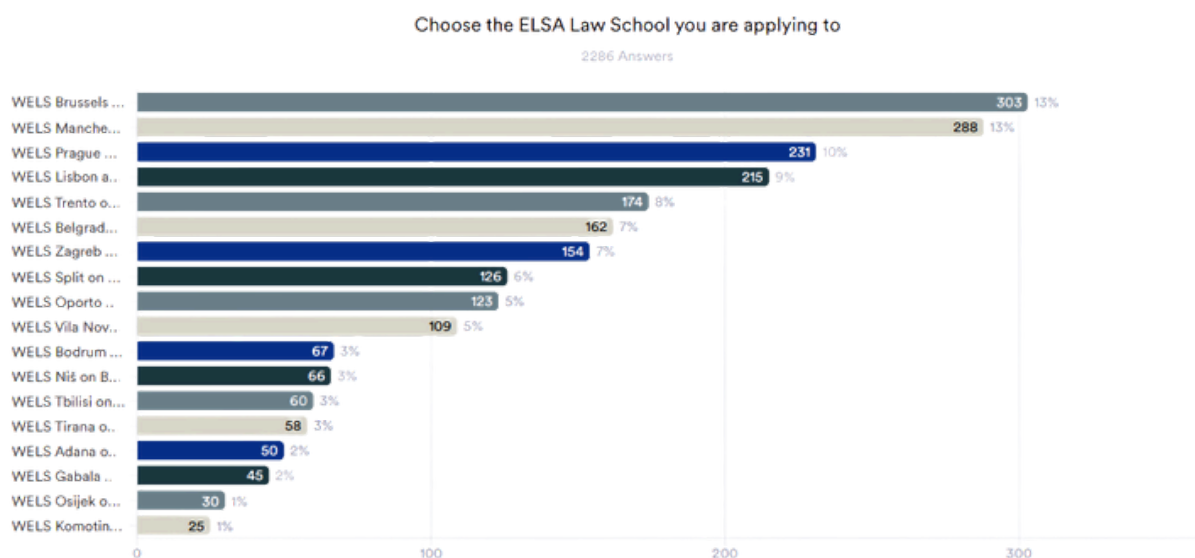
Below, we can check the countries with the highest number of applications:



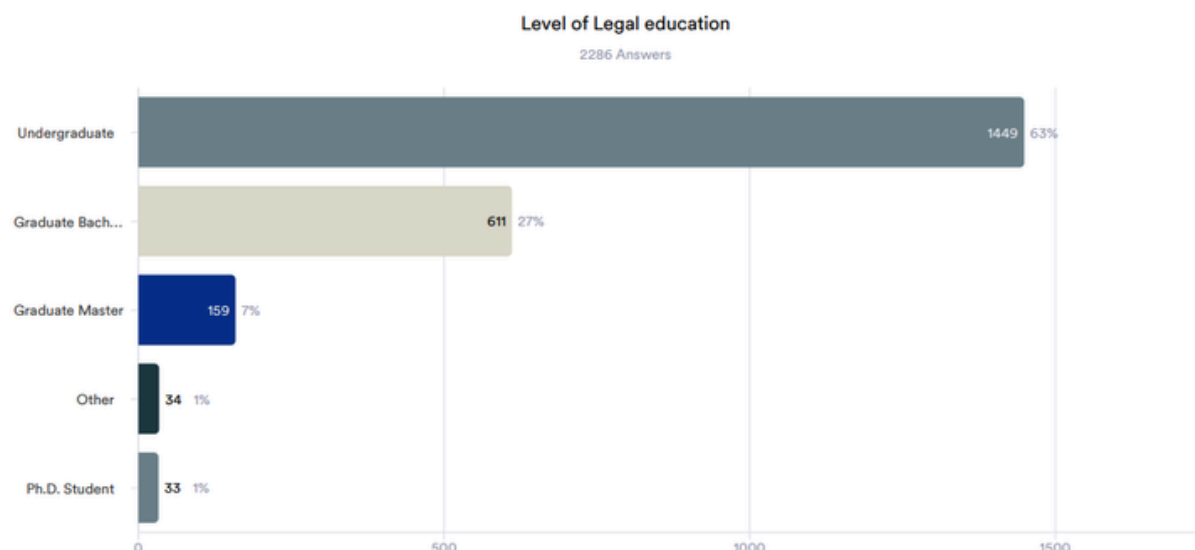
STATISTICS AND OVERVIEW OF THE CYCLE



Looking at the applications per WELS, we would like to congratulate all of the Organisers for managing the applications, highlighting WELS Brussels, WELS Manchester and WELS Prague, the three Winter ELSA Law Schools with the highest number of applications. Below, you can find all of the applications per WELS:



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 Winter ELSA Law Schools, we can see there is still some diversity within the applications:



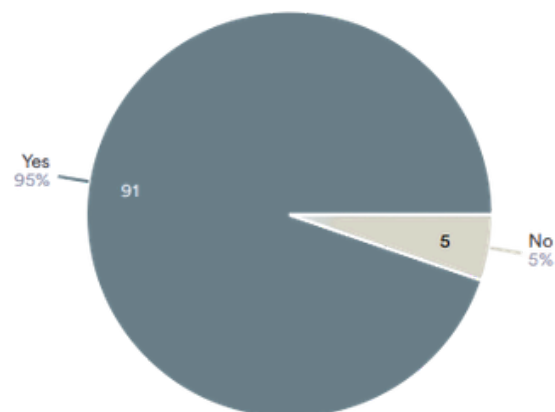
STATISTICS AND OVERVIEW OF THE CYCLE



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 to all participants after the respective event. Here you can see some feedback on their experience:

Would you recommend the ELSA Law School to your friends?

96 Answers



Were you satisfied with the accommodation provided?

96 Answers



3.78

Avg. Response

96

Responses

STATISTICS AND OVERVIEW OF THE CYCLE



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

96 Answers



Were you satisfied with the Social and Cultural Programme provided?

96 Answers



Please indicate your general satisfaction regarding the ELSA Law School.

96 Answers



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.

The WELS Training Weekend is an annual event consisting of online training sessions and workshops led by the ELSA Law Schools Team. Its purpose is to support Organisers of the upcoming Cycle and provide them with a comprehensive understanding of the organisational process behind a WELS. Each session is dedicated to a specific aspect of the organisation, ranging from the Academic Programme to the Social and Cultural Programmes, allowing participants to become familiar with their individual duties and responsibilities. Throughout the weekend, organisers receive practical guidance, learn about the relevant standards, and are given the opportunity to raise questions and discuss any concerns they may have.

Special attention is devoted to budgeting, sponsorship acquisition, and the wider financial dimension of organising an ELSA Law School, equipping participants with the knowledge and skills needed to manage these essential areas effectively. Furthermore, dedicated workshops on marketing and participant welfare are delivered in cooperation with the relevant ELSA International officers, providing additional expertise and best practices. The programme also features a crisis management session, where participants analyse realistic situations and examine potential strategies for responding to challenges that may arise during the event. This year, the ELSA Law Schools Team tried to dynamise the weekend, reducing the time of the sessions, making them more practical and similar to real-life situations that the Organisers will face during their WELS.

As an important support structure within ELSA, the WELS Training Weekend enhances the competence of organisers while promoting consistency, quality, and compliance with ELSA standards. By combining training, practical guidance, and constructive dialogue, it empowers organisers to undertake their responsibilities with greater assurance and understanding, ultimately contributing to the effective organisation and long-term success of future WELS editions.



Rodrigo Prelhaz

Vice President in charge of Seminars and Conferences
International Board of ELSA 2025/2026



WELS NIŠ

Being the Co-Head of the Organising Committee for a project like WELS is a very responsible, demanding, time-consuming job.

WELS Niš on Business Law and IT is the cornerstone of our local group, a project that has become a tradition but also a great responsibility in the last three years, accordingly, we pay great attention to take a step forward every year, this year it is a great honor that we welcomed the largest number of participants, additionally refined all three key aspects of the program (academic, social and cultural program).

What I would emphasize as the biggest challenge in organizing a project like this is that it is most important to keep the OC motivated during all periods of the project, not only in the key 7 days.

And the biggest reward that an organizer can carry after a project is emotions, and we feel them after every WELS, and they encourage us to continue!

– Vuksan Jovanovic (Co-Head of the Organising Committee)



WELS MANCHESTER

After attending two WELS myself, organising one was my dream. The process of organising the law school was chaotic, challenging and exciting at the same time. We started our preparations 9 months back where we just had a pen and notebook. Until the law school I had no idea of what I was doing and it all seemed abstract. However those abstract concepts came to life during the week and honestly it was one of the best and the most successful weeks. The overall experience was not only rewarding but extremely memorable as well. I would definitely recommend anyone planning to organise a Law School to just do it.

– Abhishu Chatterjee (Head of the Organising Committee)

WELS TIRANA

Organising WELS Tirana was a significant milestone, as it marked the first international activity of ELSA Albania, making the experience especially meaningful for the entire team. The process was both demanding and rewarding, requiring coordination of participants, development of the academic programme, and continuous communication with speakers and partners. The Organising Committee worked closely together, sharing responsibilities and ensuring a smooth implementation. A key highlight were the participants from different countries, whose active engagement and enthusiasm created a dynamic and enjoyable atmosphere, making the experience even more memorable. Overall, it was an extraordinary experience that strengthened our organisational and teamwork skills, while highlighting the value of international projects within ELSA.

– Marios Prendi (Head of the Organising Committee)



WELS VILA NOVA DE GAIA

As Co-Head of the Organising Committee for WELS Vila Nova de Gaia, I can say that organising a law school may initially feel daunting and overwhelming. However, that feeling quickly fades away when you realise you are part of a dedicated and supportive team, united by a common purpose. Along the way, challenges are inevitable, from unpredictable weather to last-minute changes, but each obstacle becomes an opportunity to grow, adapt and strengthen the team. In the end, everything comes together, often more beautifully than expected. When the week finally arrives, it is filled with a unique sense of excitement and anticipation and it passes far too quickly. Almost instantly, it turns into a cherished memory, leaving behind a sense of nostalgia for the people, the dynamic and the experience itself. Organising a WELS has been one of the most inspiring and unforgettable experiences of my ELSA journey. If given the chance, I would do it all over again without a second thought. In closing, I want to say that what once felt overwhelming became unforgettable the moment we realised we were capable all along.

– Bruna Costa (Co-Head of the Organising Committee)



WELS GABALA

Organising WELS was an incredibly rewarding experience for me. Although it was my third time being part of a Law School Organising Committee, this term was different, I was the Head of OC and the main person responsible for the planning and coordination of every component, including academic programme, social and cultural activities, meals, logistics, and the overall participant experience. The responsibility was significant, and the challenges were many, but the strong coordination and unity within the OC constantly pushed us forward, motivating us to deliver the best possible result at every stage.



One of the most important lessons I learned is that every aspect of the event becomes clearer and more manageable when you understand the participant's perspective. When you gather your team, think through each detail, and try to imagine how participants will feel at every moment, the entire planning process gains structure and purpose. This mindset helped ensure that all parts of the project were prepared thoughtfully and intentionally.

The proudest moments came during the event itself. Hearing that participants enjoyed the academic sessions, had fun during the social activities, or appreciated the meals made all the challenges worth it. But nothing compared to the feedback about the hospitality of the OC. Knowing that participants felt welcomed, supported, and genuinely cared for throughout the entire week was the strongest confirmation that our efforts had created real value.

This experience reinforced that organising a WELS is not simply about meeting organisational standards, but it is about creating an atmosphere where participants feel comfortable, engaged, and inspired. The success of the event is reflected in the smiles, the positive conversations, and the connections formed along the way. WELS showed me once again that teamwork, empathy, and dedication are what truly transform a demanding project into an unforgettable experience.

– Ali Safaraliyev (Head of the Organising Committee)

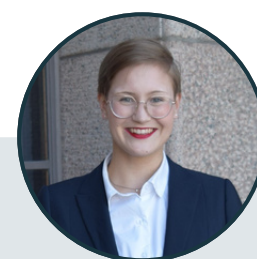
TESTIMONIALS FROM WELS PARTICIPANTS



WELS TIRANA

One of the best experiences that I have had with ELSA was WELS in Tirana. Right from the start, our cultural and social environment was created in a very carefully thought out social programme. Throughout the week, we participated in several lectures at various universities and academies of law during the trip such as the College of Europe campus in Tirana. We listened to professors and other legal experts, therefore acquiring a more profound understanding of European Law and its connection with the country where we had the privilege of having the programme held. The other highlight of the program included meeting and talking with the Ambassador of the Netherlands to Albania. The most important feature of the whole experience is undoubtedly making new friends and contacts that last for years- there is something incredibly unique about meeting people from all walks of life, yet you share the same core principles and passion.

– Gabriela



WELS TRENTO

The Winter ELSA Law School in Trento was the first ELSA Law School I attended, and it was truly an unforgettable and unique experience. The academic programme on transnational and international criminal law and procedure was well-planned, diverse and delivered by experienced lecturers. This was complemented by the social and cultural programme, which introduced us to Italian culture and took us through the city and the mountains. The best part of the experience was the friendships we made, which will undoubtedly last for a lifetime!

– Emma

WELS TBILISI

Winter ELSA Law School Tbilisi, in Georgia held from 21 to 28 February 2026, was one of the most defining experiences of my university years. Although the late winter face of Georgia is beautiful, the real warmth was given by the hospitality of the local organizers and the immediate harmony between the participants.



From a professional perspective, the program set the bar high: the topic of International Migration Law and Refugee Law was not only presented on a theoretical level, but also gained insight into the challenges of modern refugee affairs by involving practitioners and civil society organizations. During the discussions during the workshops, I was confronted with how complex the application of law is when human destinies and international political interests are at odds.

In addition to the academic program, the community life was also unforgettable. Exploring the old town of Tbilisi, traditional Georgian dinners and singing together created bonds between us that go far beyond legal paragraphs. All of Europe I was able to exchange views with students from all over the world, which fundamentally transformed my perspective. This week proved that the power of ELSA lies not only in knowledge, but also in the lifelong friendships that we make during such an intensive week. I am grateful for the dedicated work of the Organizing Committee for creating such a professional and inspiring environment for us.

– Eszter Pongrácz

TESTIMONIALS FROM WELS PARTICIPANTS



WELS SPLIT

The WELS 2026 Split was one of the greatest ways to complete my academic journey and it marked my first real ELSA moment. The lectures were inspiring and we had the chance to talk with well known professors and renowned speakers such as red cross correspondent, a UNICEF chief, experts of criminology and NGOS specialists. This trip offered an opportunity for networking and meeting new people with the same interests and passion for the legal world. WELS provides a fertile place where valuable connections can be made to create new memories and make new friendships . Of course ,the experience would not be the same without the great social events by the organizing committee. The national drinks night was the highlight for almost everyone and it brought us closer, while experiencing new cultures and traditions. Overall, I recommend everyone to apply and take this opportunity to live this remarkable experience.

– Niki Kokkali

WELS ZAGREB

Participating in the WELS Zagreb on Business Law was an incredibly enriching experience, both academically and personally. Throughout the week, we explored key aspects of business law through engaging lectures by experienced professionals from diverse legal backgrounds. Beyond the academic programme, the social activities allowed us to discover the city of Zagreb and connect with participants from across Europe.

Sharing perspectives from different legal systems made every exchange particularly insightful. Thanks to the dedication and organisation of the Organizing Committee it allowed strong friendships to form in a very short time. Personally, I even had the chance to reunite with the group of friends I made there, which made the experience even more special and memorable.

– Livia



The success of the ELSA Law Schools relies not just on its execution, but on the strength of its foundations. The Mentorship Programme has proven to be the vital link in this chain, serving as a strategic space where the complexities of the project are translated into actionable knowledge. Rather than just a preparatory phase, it acts as a compass for national and local groups, guiding them through the often daunting transition into the specification stage.

From my perspective as an Assistant for Law Schools at ELSA International, this journey has been a profound learning curve. One of the most significant takeaways was the refinement of my communication and pedagogical skills. In the international network, clarity is everything. I realized that to empower others, I had to master the art of explaining technical requirements in a way that is not only understandable but also inspiring. I learned how to recognise that different levels of the network have different needs, requiring a tailored approach to how information is shared.

It is rewarding to see how a well-timed piece of advice or a shared experience can transform a group's mindset, moving them from hesitation to proactive preparation. This project does more than just share information, it cultivates the preparedness and mindset necessary to uphold the high standards of ELSA Law Schools.

This experience has not only broadened my professional horizons in terms of coordination and leadership but has also reinforced my belief in the power of mentorship as a tool for excellence.

I am immensely proud of the progress we have made together, and I am confident that the foundations we have built during this programme will lead to a more resilient and academically sound ELSA Law Schools Cycle.

Andreia Filipa
Assistant for ELSA Law Schools



The new model of the Law Schools Mentorship Programme was very well designed. Although there are still some aspects that will be improved later this year, this programme makes it possible to use the experience of Assistant for ELS to support local groups that have never organised a law school before.

In my particular case, it was truly rewarding to see that all the groups I supported during the mentorship programme will go on to organise their first SELS. I genuinely believe the programme is very useful in training people and helping mentees gain experience in Law Schools.

For me, Law Schools are truly ELSA's best project.

Pedro Moreira
Assistant for ELSA Law Schools



The Winter ELSA Law Schools Cycle 2025/2026 was filled with rewarding moments. As my first (complete) Cycle as Vice President in charge of Seminars and Conferences of the International Board of ELSA, I am very proud to say that we broke multiple records.

The largest number of WELS organised ever, the largest number of applications, motivated Organisers, and multiple memories and life-lasting memories created! ELSA Law Schools keeps being one of the most influential Flagship Projects of ELSA. Its growth and recognition are clear, and ELSA Law Schools keep changing the lives of both Participants and Organisers.

Moreover, nothing would be possible without the ELSA Law Schools Team. Andreia and Pedro, the Assistants for ELSA Law Schools, who, besides taking on the Mentorship Programme, greatly helped the team with any behind-the-scenes work needed; Adrienn, Gary, Gioia, Maria, Phoebe, and Stefania; the ELSA Law Schools Coach, who aid our Organisers to smoothly organise their events throughout all the organisational periods. And last, but definitely not least, to Adamantia, the Coordinator for ELSA Law Schools Coaching, who led the team and made sure everything ran smoothly. Thank you to all of you! I am very grateful for your work.

ELSA International will keep working hard on ELSA Law Schools, making sure that it keeps being one of the prominent projects of ELSA, bringing academic excellence and mixing it with the creation of long lasting memories.

We hope you enjoy the WELS Cycle 25/26 Final Report. Good reads!



Rodrigo Prelhaz

Vice President in charge of Seminars and Conferences
International Board of ELSA 2025/2026



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