



Learn about Right to Education
on the 7th annual
ELSA DAY

28TH NOVEMBER 2018

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The European Law Students' Association



ELSA DAY
"all different, all together"

ELSA PROVIDES AN OVERVIEW

**UN GLOBAL GOALS ON
QUALITY EDUCATION**

Click any text emphasised *in italics* to be lead to more information on what was emphasised.

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Learn about the Right to Education on the seventh annual ELSA Day.

FOREWORD

This document is purposed to **provide and overview** on the Right to education, slightly touching upon the sustainable development goal no. 4 about quality education and what projects drive the development. **You can click any text emphasised in *italics* to find more information it.**

The document was created within the ELSA Network on occasion of the 7th annual ELSA Day which promotes awareness about **the right to education**, with a starting point in *the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goal no. 4 about quality education, the Council of Europe Education Programme and the Council of Europe policyprogramme for 2018-2019 "Better Education for Better Democracies"*. Read more about the *work of the Council of Europe towards the 17 goals here*.

ELSA Day is an annual awareness project where the 44 National Groups and more than 300 Local Groups of ELSA stand together under the motto "***all different, all together***" to educate people about a specific human right. Thereby, ELSA Day widens ELSA's general purpose to contribute to education in law, foster mutual understanding and promote social responsibility amongst law students and young lawyers, by including the general population. You can find us on social media under **#ELSADay** and **#alldifferentaltogether**

THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL and CULTURAL RIGHTS

The right to education is based in article 13 of the *UN Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural rights*, where 173 states have signed on "the right of everyone to education". Four of these states, including the USA, have not yet made the document legally binding. Another 24 states have yet to sign.

The right to education is, among other things, directed to the full development of the human personality and a sense of human dignity. A bit more concretely, education shall enable all persons to participate effectively in a free society. Furthermore, education promotes understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations as well as among all racial, ethnic or religious groups.

Article 13 specifically determines that primary school shall be compulsory and available free to all. Secondary education shall be made generally available and accessible to all, while higher education shall be made equally accessible to all. Education systems must also not discriminate against specific groups, which entails that citizens with special needs shall be included.

THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION IN THE WORLD

To little surprise, the right to education is not equally protected throughout the world. This is adressed, together with other global issues, by minimum standard targets set for 2030 in the *UN Sustainable Development Goals*. The *4th goal* regards quality education specifically and is divided into 7 outcome targets illustrated on the next page.

The Council of Europe currently work on a strategy to equip all citizens with ***competences for democratic culture*** in the 50 states represented in there. These competences include democratic values and critical reflection.

The strategy implements a comprehensive reformation by setting an international reference framework of education in democratic society. The framework is an important step towards education for sustainable development and global citizenship, and it was launched at a conference in Copenhagen, Denmark in April 2018 under the Danish presidency in the Council of Europe.



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UN's SEVEN OUTPUT TARGETS TO REACH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL No. 4 ON QUALITY EDUCATION 2030

1
Universal primary and secondary education
is a target to ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education.

2
Early childhood development and universal pre-primary education
is a target to ensure that all girls and boys have access to the activities they need to be ready for primary education, for example kindergarten.

3
Equal access to technical, vocational and higher education
is a target to avoid discrimination and corruption, and to ensure that higher education is affordable.

7
Education for sustainable development and global citizenship
is the most complex and visionary target. It generally means that education shall promote sustainable development and peace by means that citizens are made capable of participating in the global society. This shall be done, among others, through appreciation of gender equality, different cultures and religions and common history.

4
Relevant skills for decent work
is a target to ensure that human skills can keep up with the development in our time in order to allow for employment, decent work and entrepreneurship. Focus is greatly on language capabilities and intercultural understanding.

5
Gender equality and inclusion
is a target that all levels of education shall in fact be available to all genders, ethnic groups and in particular to the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations.

6
Universal youth literacy
is a target that all youth can read letters and calculate numbers. Furthermore, the goal includes a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women.



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 **Read about concrete initiatives**



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THESE ARE SOME CONCRETE INITIATIVES TOWARDS QUALITY EDUCATION

COMMON HISTORY is the topic of the analysis project *teaching history in contemporary Europe*. A project which shall show how to put neutral and enlightened history education into practice and deal with the challenges of doing this in the 21st century. To do this, the project shall produce guidelines for law makers, curriculum composers and teachers.

INTERCULTURAL ENCOUNTERS may provide more reflection through the *autobiography for intercultural encounters* produced by the Council of Europe. This tool is intended to promote human reflection in meetings with people of different culture. Teachers can do a free course online which could be used before a study trip abroad.

DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION has been in focus since 2016. This project seeks to enable young people to participate in democratic society in manner which is safe, effective, reflected and responsible. Therefore, the project informs and encourages discussion and sharing of knowledge. Part of this has resulted in the 'Beat Bullying' video about bullying online and the podcast about being a parent for children in the era of the internet.



MOBILITY OF STUDENTS AND RESEARCHERS is an aim of *The Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region* which sets criteria for states to harmonise their education and recognise education of other states. Also mentionable, the Council of Europe's *ETINED-platform* helps states fight corruption.

INCLUSION OF PLURILINGUALS: The aim in outcome target 5 is also towards including in particular language diversities and multilingual citizens in the education systems. The *plurilingual education guide* helps law makers to achieve this, mainly by providing different approaches and analysis of prospects and challenges with using these, while it does not prejudice the political choices of the law makers. Furthermore, the Council of Europe has composed a toolkit for *integration of language migrants*, including adults.

IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES are especially vulnerable when it comes to access to education and relevant skills for decent work. Some of this is due to the fact that immigrants must rely on another country to recognise their education. The European cooperation on recognition of qualifications in national information centres (*ENIC*) shall ensure that all states in the European Union accept union citizens on the same criteria as their own citizens. The broader international network of the cooperation (*NARIC*) is a noteworthy initiative which promotes such recognition to eventually achieve the same mobility for citizens of third countries. A common issue for REFUGEES in particular is their loss of documents rendering them unable to document their qualifications. To address this, the Council of Europe has initiated a pilot project where refugees can be evaluated in order to achieve a somewhat flexible *European qualification passport*.

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