



### **ACADEMIC FREEDOM AS A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT: FORMS OF PROTECTION AND THE NEED FOR BALANCING**

Academic freedom, a constitutionally relevant fundamental right that has been recognised since 1997 also at international level, is today considered one of the most evident manifestations of the vitality of a democratic order. This contribution proposes to frame it in its threefold individual, university and political-institutional dimensions, examining the legislative and jurisprudential protection provided in the European legal space and the emerging need to balance it with other rights. This is to argue that if even one of the aforementioned dimensions is – deliberately or otherwise – neglected, the guarantee of the exercise of academic freedom may be compromised.