



Call for Papers:

**ACADEMIC FREEDOM IN TIMES OF DEMOCRATIC BACKSLIDING
AND GEOPOLITICAL SHIFTS**

Zagreb, November 6 and 7, 2026.

Society of University Teachers, Zagreb, Frankopanska 5A

The Faculty of Law of the University of Zagreb has the honour of inviting you to the scientific conference "Academic Freedom in Times of Democratic Backsliding and Geopolitical Shifts," - The conference is organised within the framework of the scientific project "Academic Freedoms in the Republic of Croatia: Effectiveness and Functionality of the Quality Assurance and Qualifications Framework Subsystems in the Implementation of Academic Freedoms." The project acronym is "AFreedomRH."

The conference aims is to initiate an interdisciplinary scientific dialogue on current controversies surrounding the definition, understanding, and realisation of academic freedoms. Recent European research on compliance with academic freedoms in countries belonging to the European Higher Education Area clearly indicates that achieving these freedoms presents numerous challenges. Some of the planned sub-themes of the conference include: **(1) Academic freedom as a European core value, (2) Institutional and individual autonomy under pressure, (3) Academic freedom in the age of artificial intelligence, (4) Academic freedom, populism, and culture wars. and (5) Academic freedom and geopolitical shifts.** Proposals addressing other topics related to academic freedom are also welcome.

Consequently, the scientific conference has a two objectives. Firstly, it aims to provide the broader scientific community with an opportunity to interpret the determinants of academic freedom from a variety of perspectives, including philosophical, legal, institutional, political science, sociological, historical, political, European. Secondly, aims to stimulate new insights into this important ideals of freedom in academia, science and society adapted to the complex circumstances of life and work in the 21st century.

We would like to invite you to participate in the conference. It would be our distinct honour if you would accept our invitation. Should you decide to participate, please send your application, including your full name, institutional affiliation, and presentation title, to kgrubisic@pravo.hr no later than **21 September 2026**. For any further inquiries, please contact us at the same email address.

On behalf of the project team, we sincerely hope you will accept our invitation and extend our warmest regards.

AFreedom Project Leader

Prof. Ksenija Grubišić, PhD