

Call for papers

SOCIAL PROTECTION AS A DEMOCRATIC PILLAR: EQUALITY, SUSTAINABILITY, MOBILITY AND DIGNITY

University of Coimbra Institute for Legal Research (UCILeR) – Democracy Research Area

1. Background

The research line “**Social Protection as a Democratic Pillar: from the European context to the national reality**” aims to promote research on the ways in which the European Union and Portugal have implemented social protection, understood as a key component of a genuine democratic state.

Within this framework, the collective work “*Social Protection as a Democratic Pillar: Equality, Sustainability, Mobility and Dignity*” will be published. The publication will be divided into **four volumes**, each associated with an international conference dedicated to the same topic:

- Social protection and equality
- Social protection and sustainability
- Social protection and mobility
- Social protection and dignity

This **call for papers** invites researchers, academics, doctoral and master’s students, as well as legal professionals with relevant expertise in the field, to submit scientific articles for publication in the **first volume**.

The best papers will have the opportunity to be presented at the **International Conference on the same topic**, which will take place in **Coimbra on 16 October 2026**.

2. Thematic Areas

The first volume of the publication will focus on “**Social Protection and Equality.**” Contributions addressing, in particular, the following topics are welcome:

- Social protection, equality and forms of discrimination (e.g. age, disability, religion, trade union membership, intersectional discrimination)
- Social protection and gender equality
- Social protection, equality and public policies
- Equality and social protection schemes
- Social protection, equality and forms of work
- Social protection and equality in the exercise of professional activity

- Equality in access to social benefits
- Social protection and equality in case law

3. Submission Guidelines and Timeline

Articles submitted for publication must be **original** and may not exceed **30 pages**.

Manuscripts should be submitted in **Word format (.docx)**, with **2.5 cm margins**, **Times New Roman font**, and **1.5 line spacing**.

Articles may be written in **Portuguese, Spanish or English**.

Publication is subject to **scientific peer review**.

The following deadlines apply:

15 April 2026 – Expression of interest in contributing to the publication, through the submission of:

- an **abstract** of the proposed article (up to **200 words**), and
- a **short biographical note** of the author(s) (up to **100 words**).

The Organising Committee will inform applicants **by 20 April** whether the proposed article falls within the scope of the publication.

20 August 2026 – Submission of the **preliminary version of the article**.

The Organising Committee will communicate the **acceptance of the article by 10 September**.

4. Scientific Committee

Luísa Andias Gonçalves – Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Coimbra

Marta Coimbra – Guest Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Coimbra

Mariana Geraldo – Guest Teaching Assistant, Faculty of Law, University of Coimbra

5. Contact

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