

Internazionalizzare gli atenei attraverso l'insegnamento in lingua inglese: una questione di proporzionalità

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Teaching in English to Internationalise (Italian) Universities: a Matter of Proportionality

Abstract: The paper analyses the issue of internationalisation of universities – and in particular the choice to offer courses and entire programmes in English – from a legal perspective and argues that universities should determine the degree of their internationalisation on a discretionary basis, though being guided by the principle of proportionality and reasonableness. Whilst courts can certainly control the lawfulness of policy decisions regarding university courses, they should avoid interfering with the autonomy of universities, which is guaranteed by statutory law and by the Constitution. In this respect, the judgment 42/2017 of the constitutional court strikes a fair balance between the protection of Italian cultural identity, the need to ensure equal opportunities to the access of students to university courses and the respect for policy choices that should be left to each university.

Keywords: Internationalisation, Autonomy of universities, Courses in English, Constitutional court.

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