Human Dignity in European Legal Culture – A Systematic Survey
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As a reaction to the barbaric events during World War II, human dignity (dignitas) found its way into international law. Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) states that “[a]ll human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.” Starting point for developing the concept on a national level was the codification of human dignity in article 1, paragraph 1 of the German Grundgesetz. Consequently, human dignity spread to other European states.

The present volume shall give a systematic overview of the legal concept and the meaning of human dignity for each European state and the European Union. The (1) constitution, (2) legislation, and (3) application of law (court rulings) will be scrutinized and, inter alia, the following questions shall be answered: what is the meaning of human dignity? What is the legal status of the respective human dignity norms? Are human dignity norms of a programmatic nature or do they establish an individual right which can be invoked before court? Is human dignity inviolable?

The contribution (10-20 pages) has to be submitted to the editors by 31 October 2014.