

SUMMARY

The elaboration of the doctoral thesis on the Institution of citizenship - a factor of stability and security in the European Union was born from the need to consolidate the concept of "citizenship" at national and European level, an aspect which has complex implications, which are related both to the cultural identity of each nation, as well as to security and safety at European level, the present thesis constituting the most complex tool of analysis in the field.

Thus, in order to highlight the general framework from which the subject emerges, I created the first chapter of the paper, entitled "European citizenship - an integrating element of Romanian citizenship". In order to create an overview of the issue, it begins with the definition of the concept of European citizenship, presenting the evolution at European level in relation to the succession of historical events that marked the establishment of the European Union. Subsequently, this chapter lays the foundations of the notion of Romanian citizenship, emphasizing the attributes, legal value and nuances of the concept of citizenship and nationality. Also in the first chapter I integrated the analysis of the historical evolution of the Romanian legislation in the matter. Thus, we will notice that starting from 1864 until now, the regulations on Romanian citizenship have undergone a series of changes generated by the historical context in which Romania was at a given time. Also, at the end of this chapter, the very important role that the institution of the People's Attorney plays in the cases concerning Romanian citizenship will be highlighted.

In the second chapter entitled "Institution of Romanian citizenship" we considered it useful to make an exhaustive analysis of the conditions and procedure for granting Romanian citizenship, as regulated by Law no. 21/1991 of the Romanian citizenship, normative act that over time underwent ample changes through the 8 emergency ordinances of the Government and the 11 laws adopted by the Parliament. Thus, as we will be able to observe, a series of conditions are instituted that foreigners or stateless persons must meet in order to obtain Romanian citizenship. Also, the attributions of the National Authority for Citizenship in the process of solving the requests for granting the Romanian citizenship will be pointed out, as well as the role of the president of this institution in approving the requests made in this respect. We will highlight among the conditions that must be met the proof of loyalty to the Romanian state, the lack of a criminal conviction that would make a possible applicant unworthy of the status of Romanian Citizen, as well as the importance of knowing the Romanian language, the provisions of the fundamental state law, the national anthem, and Romanian culture and civilization. In this chapter I also highlighted the important role played by the General Directorate of Passports in the process of regaining Romanian citizenship, this institution solving the requests made in this regard until 2002. Subsequently, the competence was transferred to the Ministry of Justice. At the end of the chapter, I considered it necessary

to make a diagnosis of the process of loss of Romanian citizenship, respectively the evolution of the legislative framework, as well as the presentation of the 5 unique cases in which Romanian citizenship was withdrawn due to harmful deeds committed against the Romanian state.

In the third chapter entitled "Relevant institutional and legal instruments in the field of citizenship" I presented the activities carried out by the General Directorate of Passports in the field of Romanian citizenship considering that this institution keeps records of travel documents and the legal status of Romanians citizens who left the country before 1989. We will note that the archive of the General Directorate of Passports was established in 1949, and the managed passport files are structured in archival funds that contain relevant information regarding the status of certain persons in connection to Romania. Also, we will not forget the particularly important role of providing the data on Romanian citizenship found in the National Register of Simple Passports, an aspect regulated by Government Ordinance no. 83/2001 on the establishment, organization and operation of community public passport services and community public services for driving licenses and vehicle registration, updated. Thus, the possibility for interested persons to request the provision of information on Romanian citizenship filed in the aforementioned archive will be analyzed, as well as the obligation of institutions with competence in issuing civil status documents, identity and travel documents, to request attestation of Romanian citizenship for persons who cannot prove their Romanian citizenship and who turn to the respective institutes in order to request the above-mentioned documents. We will see that, quite often, the issue of holding or not the quality of Romanian citizen has been the subject of disputes settled by the courts not only at national level but also at European level, by presenting at the end of the chapter some cases in the field of citizenship, taken from the case law of the Court of Justice of the European Union.

The fourth chapter, entitled "Comparative study on citizenship", begins with the presentation of legislative landmarks regarding the granting of Romanian citizenship, emphasizing that these laws consist of special legal and constitutional rules enshrining the *IUS sanguinis* principle, also found in the legislation of other European states. Regarding the granting of citizenship at the level of the member states of the European Union, the paper carries out a comparative study on this issue, detailing practices regarding citizenship in countries such as France, Germany, Spain and Italy, also including a graphic representation of the people who have obtained the citizenship of the European Union states. Another issue discussed in the chapter is the practices, in terms of granting citizenship, as well as the programs "Citizenship as an investment" or "Golden visa", which can be a vulnerability to security in Europe because, by focusing on meeting certain conditions such as paying sums of money or real estate investments, other important conditions can be neglected, thus creating security breaches. From the comparative study on the issue of withdrawal of citizenship we

will see that this measure is required in the case of persons who pose a threat to national security, taking the form of a punitive administrative measure that EU member states may order under Resolution no. 2178 (2014) of the Security Council of the United Nations. The end of the chapter brings forth an issue generated by the current epidemiological context, namely the validity of documents proving Romanian citizenship in the context of the pandemic caused by the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus, which generates a series of consequences both domestically and internationally, which make the Romanian state vulnerable.

The last chapter of the paper presents aspects encountered in national practice in the field of citizenship, constituting the applied part of the paper and complementing the theoretical aspects stated in the previous chapters. Thus, it contains two case studies, the first regarding the interpretation of the provisions of art. 9 of the Romanian Citizenship Law no. 21/1991, and the second marks the importance of establishing the legal status of a person in relation to the Romanian state in cases of real estate restitutions. Thus, the second study emphasizes, once again, the fact that citizenship exceeds the dimension of the individual-state connection, a dimension that is complemented by a practical applicability, generated by material interests in real estate claims clauses.

Finally, in order to strengthen the points mentioned above, I would like to emphasize that the notion of citizenship is not limited to the cultural identification of the individual with a certain state, but it can be approached *in extenso*, by defining European citizenship. Thus, the conclusions of the paper aim to draw our attention in order to develop and advance conditions on how to obtain citizenship in various states of the European Union, respectively the validity of travel documents in the current epidemiological context, issues which have implications for the European Union's internal security and external relations. Along with those mentioned above, due to the fact that the notion of citizenship is in a continuous dynamic, the law proposals bring to light legislative aspects that seek to put the legal framework in line with the needs of society in terms of citizenship.