Citizenship in the context of globalization

Msc. Ulvin Veizaj

Abstract

Citizenship is considered as a legal relationship in the basis of which is a social fact, a feeling and solidarity interest, combined with reciprocity of rights and obligations.[1] Citizenship is a legal expression for the fact that the person who posses that, attributed to him by the law or by an act, is more closely associated with the population of the state of his citizenship than the population of any other state.

At the moment obtaining the citizenship, it is also granted the possibility to exercise the right in international level, by the states, for the diplomatic protection of its citizens in cases when they are punished. This justifies and legitimizes the requirements of states for granting citizenship in terms of performance and behavior[2], imposing restrictions such as military service; payment of tax liabilities or exercise of jurisdiction.

Citizenship is considered a fundamental category for the understanding of liberal democracy. It is considered a strategic element to understand the organization and functioning of democratic institutions (Zolo, 1994, IX). Citizenship is considered an important element as, through the sociological legal approach, it helps us to link individual rights to the political environment. It also affects the analysis of the relationship between the state level of the rights protection and the international one on which it depends, in an increasingly global society, the possibility of the effective enjoyment of the rights and freedoms.

If we were to ask a simple question of who was considered a citizen, we would immediately create a circle of people who have relations with the state in terms of family background or territorial affiliation. This category of persons, considered as citizens, is easily distinguished by foreigners because they are subject to the legislation of another country, and consequently posses the rights and also must fulfill the obligations established in their own country. Thus, citizenship is a subjective status that implies membership in a political community, and results as the owner of a range of rights recognized and guaranteed by the same community.

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