

## ABSTRACT

As a pre-requisite for the Roman law to come into existence, a community of people had first to emerge; a community identifying itself *vis-à-vis* its surroundings. Legal norms that came into being in such community, rather simple legal norms at the time of their hypothetical origin, were gradually developed in line with the development of such community throughout the times. The outcome is an elaborated system of Roman law that communicates with us even today. The presented paper endeavours to shed some light at some profound aspects of the formation of the Roman nation on its road to the definition of the Roman citizenship. In the case of the Romans we cannot use simple definition features, such as the language (as the Latin language was shared by other peoples of the ancient Italy) or the religion (as the ancient polytheism intertwined various cultures of the given times) or a territory. The paper offers views into the combinations of the Roman culture with those other ancient cultures that shared numerous aspects with it and that had a formatting effect on it. It also addresses the role of the religion in the formatting process of the original Roman society. The result is an attempt for a definition of the Roman nation, *i.e.* the personal area serving the creation and development of the Roman law and a description of the interaction between a formal legal element (*civitas romana*) and a living social organism (*populus romanus*).