

Abstract

The objective of this thesis is to analyse the issues related to the legal status of family members of European Union citizens in light of European Union law, and to compare the rights of family members of EU citizens with the rights of the other third country nationals (further referred to as TCNs) and the EU citizens themselves.

The first chapter deals with the institute of EU citizenship and especially stresses the importance of the right of EU citizens and their family members to move and reside freely within the territory of Member States which is connected with the status of an EU citizen. The second chapter is related to the different definitions of family members in EU secondary legislation. The third chapter examines in detail specific rights (e.g.: the right of entry and residence to the territory of the host Member State, protection against expulsion) which are connected with the status of the family member of EU citizens on the one hand and the status of the TCNs on the other hand.

The thesis attempts to answer to the questions related to the legal status of family members and tries to suggest possible future adjustments of EU legislature.