

Although the possibility of exercising citizens' rights in the Constitution of the Republic of Poland is not conditioned by having a place of residence, being in a situation of homelessness may cause difficulties in exercising electoral rights. This problem seems to be confirmed by signals from the Polish Ombudsman, who reported in 2014 and 2018 some administrative difficulties concerning the registration of homeless people as voters. However, according to the hypothesis put forward in this project, homeless people may also face other barriers, restricting access to some of their civil rights, which can also be related to the social perception of their life situation.

In 2011, a Polish tabloid "Fakt", in an article published on a day of parliamentary elections, presented a "list of the most arrogant ways for electoral frauds". According to the authors' suggestion, "when homeless people or stinking beggars are stuck around polling stations, it is worth to keep an eye on them, in case someone offers to give them money in exchange for their ballots". Also a right-winged internet portal "Niezależna.pl" questioned intentions of a relatively large (according to the author of the article) number of homeless people, who wanted to vote in the polling station located in the Palace of Culture and Science in Warsaw, during the second turn of 2015 Presidential Elections. Even few of such examples show that social exclusion of people in a situation of homelessness may also cover the most basic rights of every citizen.

The project is aimed at a comprehensive diagnosis of the conditions for the exercising electoral and other civil rights by people in a situation of homelessness. In addition to the analysis of legal acts related to the issue, the aim of the study will also be identification and description of socio-economic factors, that may affect the possibility of civic participation of homeless people, as well as the consequences resulting from it.

The project will be conducted by the triangulation of research methods and techniques, such as (1) an analysis of existing legal acts (laws and ordinances) in terms of conditions for access to the exercising of electoral rights by people in a situation of homelessness; (2) a quantitative and qualitative analysis of questionnaire interviews ( auditorium survey) and individual in-depth interviews, conducted with people in a situation of homelessness; (3) qualitative analysis of individual expert interviews, conducted with specialists in the field of constitutional and electoral law as well as representatives of aid institutions for homeless people.

Civil and individual's rights can be recognised as supreme values of the Constitution of the Republic of Poland. Such statement can be legitimated by its preamble. The justification of the proposed research is based on constitutional values, as its subject revolves around the issue of possible limitation of the fundamental civil rights of citizens.

The preamble, the Constitution of the Republic of Poland defines the nation as all citizens of the Republic of Poland, regardless of any of their characteristics. According to article 32nd, all citizens have the right to equal treatment by public authorities, and discrimination of any person (and for any reason) in social, economic or political life is not allowed. (which is particularly important from the point of view of the raised issues). The results of the research may contribute to the reflection on the position of homeless people in society, and may also be an inspiration for specific activities in the field of legislation and civic education.