

**SMALL STATES IN EU DECISION-MAKING:  
PORTUGAL IN COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE**

*A project of the Robert Schuman Centre, European U. Institute, Florence  
Funded by the Fundação Francisco Manuel dos Santos, Lisbon*

Although every European Union member state is equal in law, they are unequal in resources and more than three-quarters are small countries. The median EU state has less than two per cent of the EU's population. Since the co-decision processes of the EU usually operate by consensus, the ability of countries to make their voice heard is as important as their votes. But to influence policies, small countries need to be informed and realistic in what they say.

Since May, 2011 a grant of €250,000 from the Fundação Francisco Manuel dos Santos, Lisbon, has supported a programme of research that is systematically examining the role of representatives of small countries in the European Union policy process. It is co-directed by Professor Richard Rose and Professor Alexander Trechsel and the Foundation has appointed a distinguished advisory committee from the Portuguese public policy community.

The research involves a combination of fieldwork in Lisbon and Brussels, supplemented by interviews in Vienna, Dublin and London. To date three reports have been published in English and Portuguese and discussed in public events in Lisbon and in London:

*Small States in the European Union*

*Portuguese in the European Parliament*

*Vertical and Horizontal Policymaking in the EU*

Two more reports will be submitted in January, 2014:

*Portuguese Civil Society and the European Union*

*The European Political Capital of Portuguese*

A sixth report will be presented at two major dissemination events in Portugal in May and September, 2014, when the project concludes.