

**SMALLER 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 population and resources and more than two-thirds are small countries. 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, timely and realistic in what they say. Thanks to support from the Fundação Francisco Manuel dos Santos, Lisbon, this project will systematically examine the role of representatives of small countries in the European Union policy process, with special reference to Portugal. In the next two years a series of reports will be published on how size matters. The reports will cover the role of small countries in the European Parliament; the relation between national governments and their Permanent Representatives in Brussels, the European Commission and the European Council; civil society representation; and Portuguese engagement in supranational posts in the Commission. Each topic will be the subject of a report at six-month intervals between autumn, 2011 and autumn, 2013. The project leaders are Professor Richard Rose and Professor Alexander Trechsel and the Dos Santos Foundation has appointed a distinguished advisory committee from the Portuguese public policy community.

Details from richard.rose@strath.ac.uk

4/07/12