

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

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Although every European Union member state is equal in law, they are unequal in resources: more than three-quarters are small countries in terms of population. 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, small states have a right to be consulted. However, to influence policies small countries need to be informed and realistic in what they say. 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 processes. 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. Reports are published in both English and Portuguese and discussed in public events in Lisbon, Brussels and London ([www.ffms.pt](http://www.ffms.pt)):

[\*Small States in the European Union\*](#)

*Portuguese in the European Parliament*

*Vertical and Horizontal Policymaking in the EU*

*Civil Society Participation in the EU*

[\*European Political Capital\*](#)

All six reports have been published as a single volume in Portuguese, Portugal nas Decisões Europeias.

See also:

\*[Portugal's Participation in EU Decision-Making, Brussels.](#)

\*[Small States in the European Union, Austrian Embassy, London.](#)

And the following Studies in Public Policy:

SPP 514. [The European Political Capital of Portuguese.](#) Richard Rose & Alexander Trechsel.

SPP 500. [How Size Matters: Portugal as an EU Member.](#) Richard Rose & Alexander Trechsel.