

The Challenges of Immigration in a Small European State

Republic of San Marino

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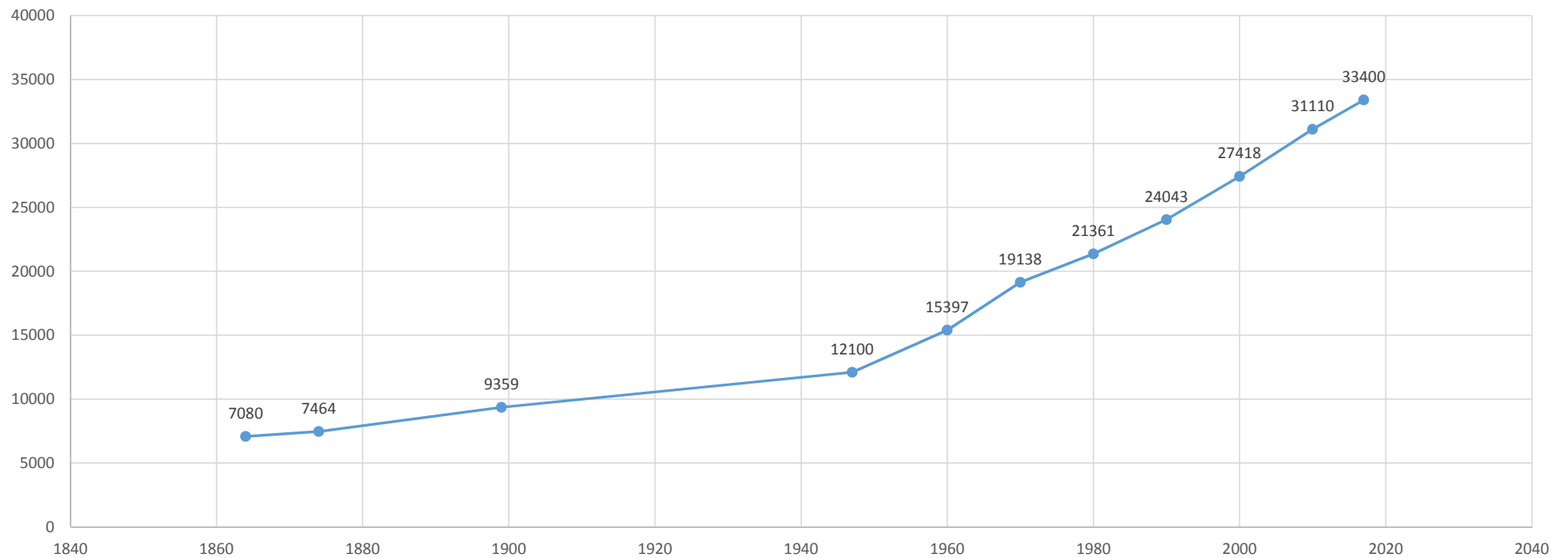
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Map



Population Trends

Republic of San Marino. Population: 1864-2017



Population Trends

In the years 1864-2017 the population of the Republic of San Marino increased from 7.080 to 33400 inhabitants. An expansive trend in which we can detect periods of greater slowdown or greater growth:

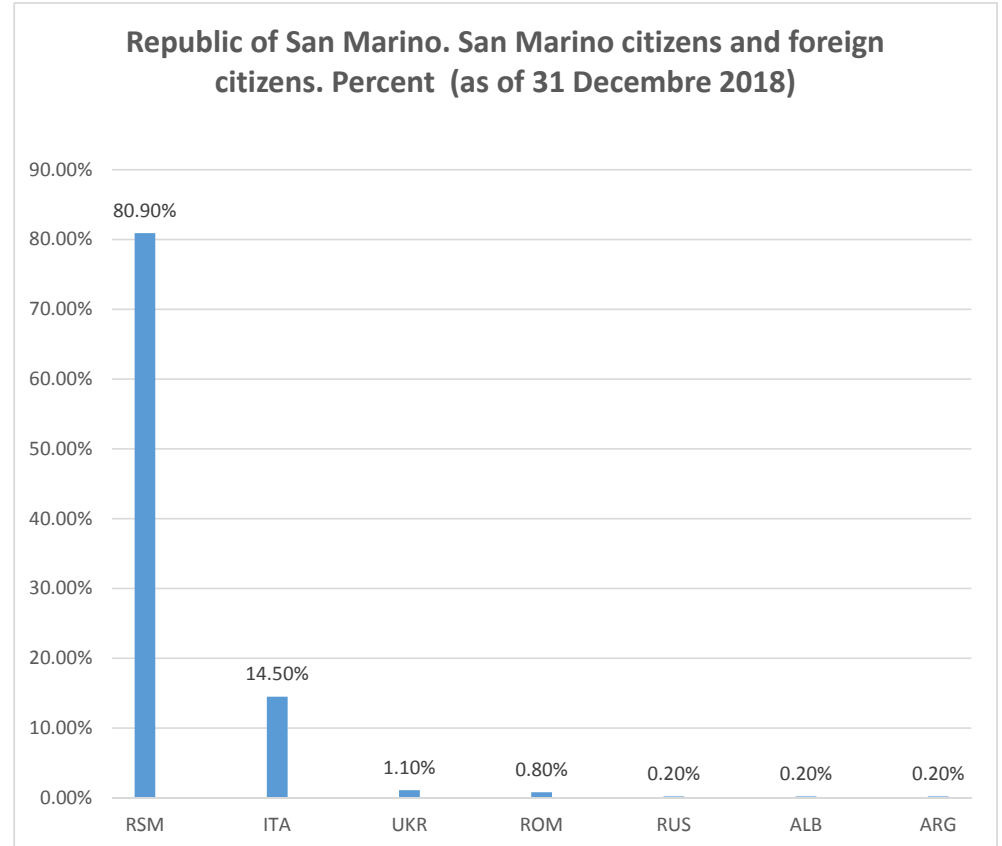
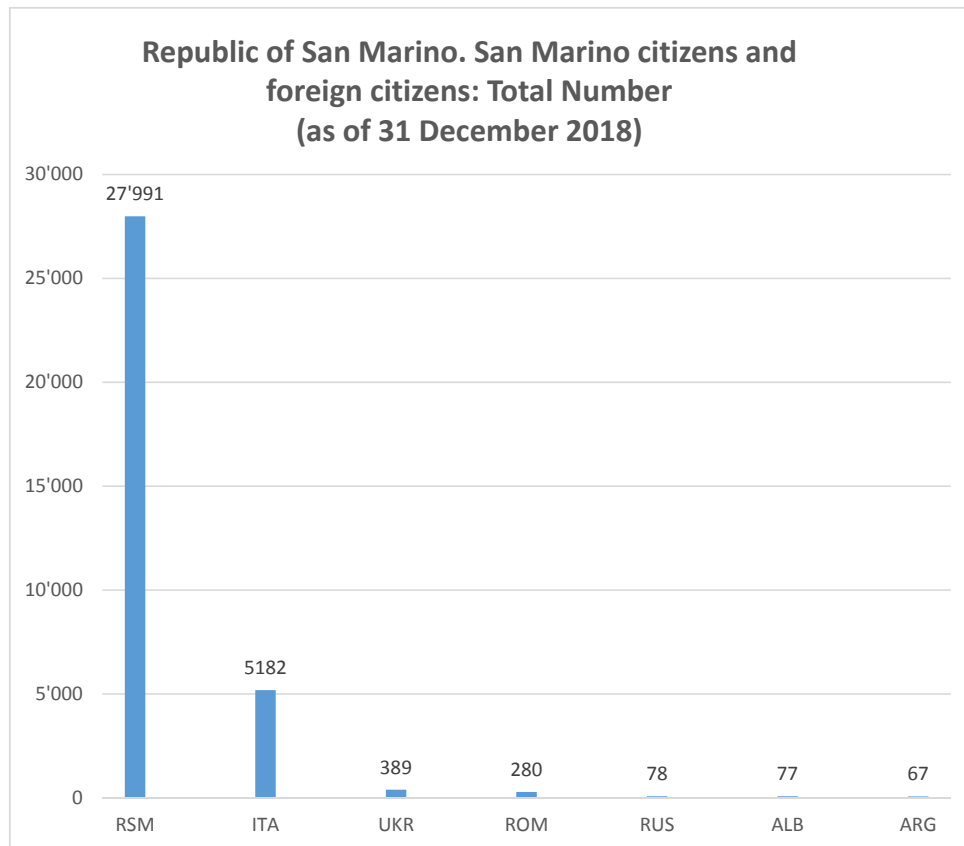
- in the second half of the XIX century the population clearly increased thanks to a significant improvement in the living conditions (progress in medicine, nutrition and hygienic conditions) which significantly reduced the mortality rate.
- Between the XIX and XX centuries the pace of growth contracted due to migration flows out of the Republic of San Marino and overseas, to America;
- In the period between the two world wars, the effects spread over time on the population (delayed civil registry cancellation) caused by the strong emigration abroad occurred in the previous twenty-five years, slowed down again the population growth.
- The population curve started to rise again decisively after the Second World War, starting from the 1960s, because of the outgoing migration flows progressively decreased coincident with the start of the economic development of the Republic of San Marino. After that, the inflows of foreign citizens moving to the Republic, above all Italians, increased. In recent years the upward trend of the curve seems to have eased due to the progressive reduction in birth rates.

Republic of San Marino. Population
(Residents, Foreign citizens, Guest Workers)
(as of 31 december 2018)

- Population: 34.590
- Residents: 33.419
- Guest Workers: 1.171
- Foreign citizens on the total population: 6.599

Fonte: Ufficio Statistica della Repubblica di San Marino

Population Dynamics



Types of Immigration

- **The Republic of San Marino is an enclave within the Italian territory. San Marino citizens and Italians share language and ethnic origins.** The 5182 Italians legally present in the San Marino territory constitute 79% of the foreign population that lives in the Republic of San Marino. 72% of these Italians come from the Italian provinces closest to the San Marino area. Concerning the incoming flow of Italian citizens, we are faced with an "osmotic" exchange of population between neighbouring territories which share a common economic-productive fabric. In addition to the Italian citizens who are in the Republic of San Marino because residents or holders of a residence permit must be added the Italian frontier workers who represent 90% of frontier workers (over 5000) employed in San Marino.

- **After the Italians**, the two most numerous communities of foreigners present in the Republic of San Marino are **Ukrainian and Romanian citizens**. Ukrainians represent 5.9% of the foreign population; Romanians 4.2%. These are mainly female individuals (84% in the case of Romanians, 94% in the case of Ukrainians) employed in the field of personal assistance (elderly population). Workers from Eastern Europe attracted by the possibility of reaching a level of income significantly higher than that available in their country of origin. In the case of Ukrainian citizens, their choice to emigrate has been also dictated by the effects of the armed conflict being fought in Ukraine.
- The community of **Russian citizens** follows at a great distance: 78 units. 87% of them are women, many of whom are employed in the tertiary sector: trade and tourism services that have benefited from the growing number of visitors from Russia and have made it necessary to employ operators with specific skills in the eastern Slavic languages.
- While in the case of Italian citizens we can speak of an immigration that may tend to take on a permanent character, in the case of the other national groups mentioned above, their stay in the Republic tends to be temporary, also as a result of a San Marino law that does not favour family reunification.

Challenges to Immigration (1)

- As we have seen, a large part of the incoming migration flows is made up of Italian citizens from the territory surrounding the Republic of San Marino. San Marino citizens and Italians share the same language, the same culture. The contribution of these workers, essential to the growth of the local economic system, has not provoked xenophobic reactions spread by San Marino citizens over the decades. Similarly, the female immigration from Ukraine and Romania occupied in one sector, that of assistance to the elderly, to which the San Marino workers tend to remain extraneous, did not generate generalised reactions of intolerance.
- **The situation has gradually changed in the last decade**, coinciding with the start of the crisis that hit the San Marino economic system (from 2008 to 2018 the unemployment rate rose from 3.02% to 8.01%). In "some sectors of the San Marino society", the "latent prejudice" against Italians "especially" with regard to frontier workers, has been clearly manifested.
- Impulses that, although marginal, have ended up promoting, on the occasion of the last political elections, lists with "rather evocative" names "No-migrants", "First work for San Marino citizens". Lists which have received little consent in terms of consensus but which "reflect a certain populist tendency in the political debate in the Republic".
- **Elements that should push us to adopt the needed measures to "encourage self-regulation by political parties, elected bodies and cultural associations in order to prevent their representatives from making use of offensive or hate speeches"**.

(Fonte: ECRI, Fifth report on San Marino (adopted on 6 December 2017 / published on 27 February 2018))

Challenges to Immigration (2)

- **San Marino's small state dimension positively influences the challenges inherent in immigration since it allows us to know, more easily than large states, the social reality, including immigration issues.** Decisions taken at parliamentary and governmental level can be applied in a short time to respond to current needs or problems. Furthermore, the dialogue between the different Institutions and the Institutions / Associations of foreigners present in San Marino is facilitated. These include:
 - COMITES (Committee of Italians Abroad), which is a representative body of the Italian resident community abroad; it is present in San Marino as in any other consular district where at least 3,000 Italians reside.
 - Associations of citizens who have another citizenship in addition to that of San Marino (Ex. Association San Marino - Usa; Association of Argentine Residents San Marino) Part of these citizens are San Marino emigrants (or descendants of emigrants) who had returned home.
 - Consulta of San Marino citizens residing abroad

Challenges to Immigration (2)

- Through the **initiative of popular legislation** (Law May 29, 2013 n.1) it is possible to submit legislative proposals to the Parliament's examination concerning the problems of foreign residents.
- **In December 2018 the San Marino Parliament began the discussion of two proposals for popular legislation, promoted by the COMITES San Marino and presented with the signatures of over 500 San Marino citizens** and citizens, concerning, among other topics, the elimination of the obligation of renouncing the citizenship of origin to obtain San Marino citizenship through naturalization, and the right to vote and be voted for foreign citizens residing in San Marino for at least 5 years for elections to the Giunte di Castello (administrative elections). This latest proposal for popular legislation also corresponds to a recommendation by ECRI (European Commission against Racism and Intolerance)

Responses to Immigration

The major challenges concern the protection of human rights, acceptance, integration, equality in the use of civil and political rights.

For instance, we illustrate some strategies implemented by the State, the Unions, NGOs and the local community.

State level:

- Signature of the Global compact for Migration (Marrakech, December 2018)
- Agenda approved by the Great and General Council to commit the State Congress to supporting, within international fora, the rights of refugees and victims of tragic political and economic conditions, intensifying relations with Italy and developing micro - projects for the reception of migrants and refugees (March 2018)
- Ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, of the Additional Protocol to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, in particular Women and Children and the Additional Protocol to the United Nations Convention United against transnational organized crime to combat the traffic of migrants by land, by sea and by air, signed in Palermo on December 14, 2000. (June 2010)

Responses to Immigration

- Participation in the project of the **Humanitarian Corridors** of the Community of Sant Egidio and reception of a family of refugees from Syria (June 2016)
- **Italian courses for foreigners and middle school students.**
- **Support lessons for non-native Italian children**
- Law 09/29/2017 n. 115 Changes and additions to the rules on support for economic development with which the hiring of a temporary worker is also envisaged for foreign workers. The same law, however, contains rules that do not adequately protect the foreign worker (for example, since companies that hire foreigners have an additional tax burden of 4.5%, sometimes to recover this disparity, workers could be hired at levels with lower salary than the actual duties performed).

Responses to Immigration

UNIRSM:

- Participation of the Research Center on Emigration (History Department) at the **DiMMi project Migrant stories for the collection of memories of contemporary migrants**.
- The DiMMi project aims to raise awareness and involve citizens on the issues of peace, memory and intercultural dialogue. The project includes a competition reserved for stories of citizens of foreign origin or background that live or have lived in Italy and in the Republic of San Marino. So far, over 220 testimonies have been collected that constitute a special fund dedicated to the memories of contemporary migrants.
- There are three specific objectives that DiMMi aims to achieve: to promote dialogue between citizens of different origins through the narration of their own life experience; promote and strengthen a collection and archiving fund for first and second generation immigrant journals; promote the construction of a collective memory that takes into account the different backgrounds of citizens and small towns.
- www.dimmidistoriemigranti.it

Responses to Immigration

UNIRSM:

- Collaboration of the University of the Republic of San Marino with the non-profit organization Arcisolidarietà di Cecina for a competition of ideas for the logotype brand of the emerging Sartoria dei migranti.
- Design of a tool to help shipwrecked people to have a secure foothold for boarding life rafts. (Project of student of the Degree course in industrial design, winner of the Compasso d'Oro 2018 award for Italian design)

Responses to Immigration

Trade unions:

- Attention to the respect of the rights of foreign workers

NGO:

- Caritas: home for migrants
- Diocese of San Marino-Montefeltro: availability of a Catholic place of worship for celebrations of Orthodox worship

Community of San Marino citizens residing abroad:

- Support for solidarity projects (eg education for Roma children)

Flashpoints

No Hate Walk, Sunday 13 May 2018

in collaboration with State Secretariat, University, Commission for youth policies, Commission for equal opportunities, NGOs.

The event was based on **the Council of Europe's campaign No hate speech youth campaign CoE** created to combat all forms of discrimination and to stop online hate speech. The initiative had a wide participation. During the March, in collaboration with the *Emigration Research Center* (UNIRSM), the welcoming of Italian refugees in San Marino during the Second World War and the long history of San Marino emigration were mentioned.

Flashpoints

**No hate speech youth campaign
Council of Europe**



**No hate Walk
San Marino 13 maggio 2018**



Conclusion: Prospects

- Over the centuries the history of the Republic of San Marino has been characterized by acceptance and protection of human rights.
- San Marino gave hospitality to Garibaldi and his soldiers during the Risorgimento, to Jews persecuted during the Holocaust, to thousands of Italian refugees who, during the Second World War, were fleeing bombing and violence from the war. Thousands of San Marino citizens, in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, emigrated abroad due to economic necessities. The Republic of San Marino, in order to be CONSISTENT with its own history, will have to adapt its national legislation to guarantee greater protection for citizens and foreign citizens in the Republic. The San Marino civil community will have to express, with concrete choices, an orientation towards acceptance and full inclusion / integration of foreign citizens and citizens, without any discrimination.

Conclusion: Prospects

The main guidelines should be the Recommendations set out in the ECRI Report (European Commission against Racism and Intolerance) in the Fifth Monitoring Cycle, adopted 6/12/2017 published 02/27/2018:

- improve existing national legislation to combat racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism, intolerance;
- promote the participation of foreign residents in political life, granting active and passive voting rights to local elections;
- further reduce disparities between San Marino workers and foreign workers;
- reduce the duration of residence for the acquisition of San Marino citizenship by naturalization and introduce greater flexibility with regard to dual citizenship