

Citizens' Participation

SAN MARINO

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Voting Rights

- Voting right at national level
 - San Marino nationals. Since the 2007 reform of the electoral law, San Marino nationals residing abroad may vote, but only in person and without public subsidy for travel expenses. Voters residing abroad are roughly one third.
 - 18+ years old
- Voting right at local level
 - San Marino nationals
 - Residence in the municipality
 - Foreign nationals who have been resident in San Marino for 10 years and who reside in the municipality.
 - 18+ years old

Election Right (I)

- National level
 - 60 members of the Parliament
 - Proportional election system with a single constituency
 - 5 years-term
 - Government nominated by Parliament and appointed by the Captains Regent
 - Two Captains Regent elected by the Parliament every 6 months

Election Right (II)

- Regional level
 - No regional level in place

Election Right (III)

- Local level

- Election of Mayor of the municipality (Giunte di Castello)
 - Majority vote
- Election of Municipal council
 - Proportional vote
 - Election of mayor and council on the same day
 - Number of council member varies from 5 to 7 members, depending on the number of inhabitants: the Council is composed of 7 members in municipalities with a population of 2500 inhabitants or more, 5 members in municipalities with less than 2500 inhabitants.

Election Right (IV)

- Others

- Judges: No popular election of judges until present
- Social: Every non governmental association executive board is virtually elected
- Sport: Every executive board of national federations is elected

Voter turnout in national elections

- Voter turnout in national elections (parliament, 1st chamber)
 - Since 1990:
 - 1993 80,30%
 - 1998 75,28%
 - 2001 73,80%
 - 2006 71,84%
 - 2008 68,48% (new electoral law)
 - 2012 63,85%
 - 2016 (new electoral law) 59,65% first round – 50,09% second round
 - 2019 55,73%

Participation by social demographics

- Participation at national elections by socdem – if available, e.g. in last elections?
 - No data available

Direct Democracy (I)

- Instruments of DD at national level
 - **Referendum:** The referendum is an instrument of direct democracy through which the electorate is directly consulted on specific issues.
 - The referendum can be **abrogative**, **propositional** or **confirmatory**.
I.e. September 26, 2021 San Marino will hold a propositional referendum for abortion rights.
 - **Popular legislative initiative:** the electoral body is granted the right to submit draft bills to the Parliament. Each bill must be signed by at least sixty signatures of electors.
 - **Istanze d'Arengo:** This institution provides that San Marino citizens of age may present requests of public interest directly to the Heads of State, for examination by the Parliament. The Arengo is convened every six months, on the first Sunday after the investiture of the Heads of State.

Direct Democracy (II)

- Instruments of DD at regional/local level
 - No instruments of direct democracy at local level until present
 - The Municipal Councils (Giunte di Castello) have the right to promote the referendum at national level

Practice of Direct Democracy

- 29 national referendum 1906 – 2019 (figure)
- 27 national referendum since 1996

High annual level of requests of public interest directly to the Heads of State, for examination by the Parliament:

- 42 istanze d'arengo in 2020
- 54 istanze d'arengo in 2019
- 42 istanze d'arengo in 2018

Vote Name	Date	Result
Introduction of a second ballot in parliamentary elections	June 2, 2019	Yes
Prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation	June 2, 2019	Yes
One single preferential vote in elections	May 15, 2016	Yes
Repeal of the quorum in referendums	May 15, 2016	Yes
Maximum wage of 100,000 euros for all employees of the state and state-owned enterprises	May 15, 2016	Yes
Repeal of the zoning plan for Rovereta (Polo del Lusso)	May 15, 2016	No
Repeal of the law on the practice of the medical profession	May 25, 2014	Yes
Repeal of the reform of the Pension Act	May 25, 2014	Yes
Inflation correction until collective labor contract settlements are concluded	October 20, 2013	No
Accession negotiations with the European Union	October 20, 2013	No
Revoking the lowering of the qualified majority necessary for selling public property	March 27, 2011	Yes
Single preference vote for elections	March 16, 2008	No
Abolition of contracts for project works	March 16, 2008	No
Inflation-linked salary as from 1 January of every new year	March 16, 2008	No
Abolition of contracts for temporary employment	March 16, 2008	No
Participation quorum of 40% for parliamentary plebiscites	July 3, 2005	No
Participation quorum of 40% for legislative initiatives	July 3, 2005	No
Election of candidates for the government, who are not members of parliament	July 3, 2005	No
Declaration of a maximum of two preference votes for elections	July 3, 2005	No
Reduction of preference votes from three to one	August 3, 2003	No
Law on citizenship	September 12, 1999	No
Prohibition of real estate firms as shareholding societies	October 26, 1997	Yes
Abolition of reimbursement of travel expenses for citizens living abroad by political parties	September 22, 1996	Yes
Abolition of reimbursement of travel expenses for citizens living abroad granted by the state	September 22, 1996	Yes
Electoral procedure for citizens living abroad	September 22, 1996	Yes
Reducing the maximum number of votes from six to three	September 22, 1996	Yes
Abolition of restitution of citizenship for widows who marry a foreigner	July 25, 1982	No
Current nomination of Councils for life	March 25, 1906	No
Election of Councils according to the population size of the municipality	March 25, 1906	Yes

Other forms of citizens' participation

- Consultations in the legal process
 - Government in many cases allows to comment on drafts of legal amendments before finalizing them and forwarding them to parliament
 - NGOs, stakeholders, unions, institutions, parties, municipalities etc. may be involved
- Ministries are in close contact to stakeholders
- Surveys are conducted if needed
- Demonstrations, sit-ins, manifestations, strikes are relatively common. In particular, unions are very active
- Public debate is a common method of drawing attention to concerns

Other forms of citizens' participation

- Private Associations, NGOs etc.
 - Great variety of associations and clubs: 34 sport federations, 45 culture, leisure, social affairs, ecology associations, professional.
 - Very lively association culture with high acceptance and accordingly to be taken seriously in politics.
 - Many political parties (9) compared to members of parliament (60)
 - Strong representation of workers by the unions
 - Strong representation of industrialists by their national association

Media (I)

- Main media in the country

- Print

- Daily newspapers “*L’Informazione*”, “*Serenissima*”, “*Repubblica.sm*” are still popular, but more so in the online format
 - Close interaction between leading parties and the three newspapers
 - Some other print media (weekly, monthly) with minor influence
 - Italian regional newspapers (Emilia-Romagna) often have sections about San Marino
 - Periodical publications by the most powerful unions, the national association of industry and the biggest environmental non-governmental organization (Associazione Micologica)

- Radio, TV

- San Marino RTV is the national public TV, founded in 1991, with a share capital 50% subscribed by ERAS (Ente per la Radiodiffusione Sammarinese) and Rai (public Italian broadcasting company).
 - Foreign TV programmes (Italian broadcasters or streaming companies) are mainly used
 - San Marino RTV is also a radio station, with one channel devoted to the Parliament sessions.
 - University of San Marino runs an on line radio station (www.usmaradio.org)

- Online

- Up-to-date online presence of most actors in economy, society, politics etc.
 - Online newspapers and web portals of San Marino RTV and radio San Marino.
 - Facebook groups devoted to San Marino local issues

Media (II)

- See Reporters without borders

- San Marino is not ranked in the 2021 World Press Freedom Index (figure) (<https://rsf.org/en/ranking>)

- Liberal media law. In 2021 Government is proposing articles supplementing the Law on Publishing.

- Financial support of media by the state

- To maintain and support diversity

- To support professional media work

- Focus on San Marino news and reports

- Financial restrictions and resource problems

- Close tie between politics and media

- Three newspapers still in interaction with leading parties

Ranking	Country
15	Estonia
16	Iceland
20	Luxembourg
23	Liechtenstein
26	Cyprus
39	Andorra
81	Malta
104	Montenegro
-	San Marino

Satisfaction with democracy in the country

- Survey data, graphs etc. about satisfaction with democracy and other related aspects
 - No data available
 - Surveys are not reliable
 - No public expressions of dissatisfaction with democracy and other related aspects
 - Democracy is part of the national identity; according to UNESCO, «San Marino is one of the world's oldest republics representing an important stage in the development of democratic models worldwide, and an exceptional testimony of the establishment of a representative democracy.

Conclusion: Lessons and prospects (1-2 slides)

- Pluralist political system with several key actors (two heads of State, parliament, government, unions, industrialists) and influential direct democratic instruments
- Consensual democracy based on coalition governments. Due to the electoral law, coalitions can not involve lack of transparency that leads to voters not always being able to tell what kind of government their chosen party might join
- Proportional electoral system have led to the establishment of relatively fragmented party system, with a strong association culture in civil society
- Low voter turnout for nationals residing abroad mainly due to 2007 reform of electoral law (nationals residing abroad may vote, but only in person and without public subsidy for travel expenses). Declining total voter turnout
- Good local printed and on-line media diversity, but just one state-owned television with limited financial and editorial autonomy. The San Marino Union of Journalists and Photoreporters is member of the European Federation of Journalists.