

Small States Social Policy

Republic of San Marino

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Social policy - Welfare/Well-being model

□ kind of welfare system in the country

- The nature of welfare policy in San Marino include:
 - Health
 - Disability
 - Unemployment
 - Poverty
 - Education
- The ISS (N.H.S. and Welfare) was established in 1955 by a government made up of Socialists and Communists but with a favourable vote of all the political forces present in Parliament (Great and General Council).
- Health and education were considered fundamental rights and as such free and provided directly by the state. Since then there have been changes but their fundamental structure remains intact and is one of the founding elements of San Marino's identity.
- The main model or reference was the N.H.S of the United Kingdom (The Beveridge Plan 1942).

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Social policy – social (re)distributions

- Approach mechanism to social protection is universal
- Social expenditure as a percentage of GDP is about 7.50 (7.69 in 2011, 7.52 in 2018);
- The social protection instruments are aimed at those who live permanently in the territory

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Social policy - Social protection beneficiaries

- ❑ Due to its small size (60km²) in San Marino, national, regional, and local levels coincide.
- ❑ There is a diversified system of aids according to the needs (e.g. disability, unemployment, poverty, elderly people.)
- ❑ The Socio-Health Department, one of the three departments of the ISS, includes territorial services: health, elderly people, children's, and mental health. Its activities are mainly in the territory, there are some day care centers and residential units.

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Social policy - Social protection beneficiaries

- There are also social volunteer associations that provide help to people with difficulties.
- There are also associations that advocate for the needs of people with diseases that have important negative effects on the quality of life (e.g. disabilities, chronic disabling diseases).

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Social policy – Most vulnerable groups

- ❑ One-person families are prevalent and represent about 31% of all families, followed by those with two members (about 29%). Belonging to this type of families involves a greater risk of poverty.
- ❑ In addition to single persons, divorce or separation also leads to an increased risk of poverty.

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Social policy – Most vulnerable groups

- ❑ Belonging to the category of the "new poor" or "Working Poor" are those who, despite having a job, have an insufficient income to guarantee economic autonomy and families who can count on only one income.
- ❑ The risk of poverty also increases with decreasing age: it is mainly young people who have a precarious job, low wages, part-time contracts.
- ❑ From 20 to 30 years old is the age group with the highest number of unemployed people.

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Social policy - Unemployment

- The unemployment rate in 2019 was 7.66% of these, 14% had been unemployed for more than 24 months.
- There are about twice as many unemployed women as men.
- There are several protective measures for working people with disabilities
- A 2015 law requires companies with 15 or more to have at least one disabled person hired indefinitely in order to be accepted as state suppliers
- In 2017, a law supporting economic development led to a decrease in the unemployment rate (8.7% in 2017/7.6% in 2019).
- In the coming months it will be possible to assess the negative consequences of the COVID19 pandemic

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Social policy – Child support

- ❑ Families with children are provided with different types of support, both as an economic contribution and in the form of services
- ❑ The Law on the right to study provides for free schools and textbooks up to 16 years old, then there are progressive reimbursements based on income
- ❑ It is important to point out that, thanks to a law of 20 March 2018, those working in schools, social and health services, law enforcement agencies, magistrates and lawyers can participate every year in training and specific courses on gender-based violence organized for each professional category.

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Social policy – Response to the COVID-19 pandemic

- ❑ In some situations being a small state may have advantages because it involves a "short chain" (shorter distance) between Services and Policy. Here two examples:
- ❑ After the recognition of the best practices to be followed in the treatment of people with disabilities in situations of resource scarcity, recommended by the San Marino Bioethics Committee at the European Disability Forum, the document was among the first two to be published on the WHO website. Elaborated by the San Marino Bioethics Committee, it was prepared after a request from the National Health Service and was issued within only 4 days from the request.
- ❑ Even though the hospital in San Marino lacked a ward for infectious diseases, within a few days, the structure was converted to cope with the dramatic increase in cases. For this reason, the Regional Director WHO Kluge praised the Republic of San Marino, reiterating how the principle of "agility in healthcare choices" is the cornerstone of the new European Work Programme.