

Small States Conflict Resolution (CR)

Republic of San Marino

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Small States & Conflict Resolution - Historical Background

Major internal conflict: 'Rovereta 1957'; nearly civil war, Italian siege. Cold War effect, US external pressure because only Communist Government in the Western bloc. Political/ideological issue.

External: no conflict resolution claims.

Internal: strong institutional framework and common fear of losing independence and sovereignty kept conflicts under control. Consociational structure of society serve as a limit for conflicts.

Small States & Conflict Resolution: Major current conflict & issues

1. Control of government in time of crisis and relative scarcity
 2. Allocation and distribution of economic resources
 3. Civil rights issues: gender, citizenship, labour
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- A. Internal division intertwined with external intrusion (regional, international)
 - B. Patriotism and common fear of losing independence and self-determination. Consociational structure.

Small States & CR: Defining the nature and resolution of conflict

1. Structural conflicts defined by a common perception of political and economic crisis caused by a new external context.
2. Official parties; internal factions; Unions; economic associations; civil associations. Increasing social pluralism and political fragmentation.
3. Common view on the nature of the conflicts i.e. political conflicts caused by relative scarcity and internal weakness. Different views about their resolution: individual responsibility vs collective responsibility; judicial solution vs political solution; external support vs self-sufficiency.
4. No lessons.

Small States & Conflict Resolution – institutional mechanisms within your country

- Judiciary authorities; national administrative authorities; social authorities (Unions, civic associations). Special role of heads of State.
- Tribunals composed by national and foreign judges, often with international expertise; multiple administrative authorities for any social and economic sector, with 6000 employees on 31000 population; relatively high percentage of citizens' participation in civic associations;
- San Marino has not specific non-institutionalized actors for CR. Institutionalized diffusion of power is the most important factor for CR.

Small States & Conflict Resolution– Institutions/Agencies

United Nations

- **International Court of Justice:** San Marino party to the Statute and entitled to appear before the Court since 2 March 1992 (but the jurisdiction of the ICJ not yet declared as compulsory)
- **UN Human Rights Committee:** International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and on Economic and Social Rights of 1966: In force for San Marino since 1985

Council of Europe

- **ECHR and European Court of Human Rights** (ECHR-acceptance jurisdiction of the Court since 22 March 1989: art. 33 Inter-State application and art. 34 Individual applications)
- **European Social Charter and Committee of Social Rights** (mechanism of collective complaints concerning violations of social rights): signed in 18 October 2001, but not yet ratified)

Statute of Rome and International Criminal Court: San Marino signed the Statute of Rome on 18 July 1998, ratified it on 13 May 1999 and entered into force on 1 July 2002

Small States & CR – Bilateral & multilateral relations

Communities of San Marino citizens abroad

- Non-party organisations, **spontaneously established** and based on the **principle of self-management** in accordance with democratic and republican ideals, having as aim the **gathering of San Marino citizens abroad into associations** (Law n. 76 of 1979)
- **At least 30 San Marino citizens** residing in a consular jurisdiction or in a State.
- **Legal recognition** by the SM Council of the Twelve granted if the Statute of the Community complies with the **SM and foreign State legal order** (Law n. 76 of 1979)
- **Specific Competent Office** (within the Directorate of Political and Diplomatic Affairs) to manage relations between Communities and Department of Foreign Affairs
- At the time **25 San Marino Communities**: Argentina (7), USA (2), Belgium (1), France (5) and Italy (10).

Main objectives of the Communities:

- carry out any activity aimed at maintaining **strong ties between the Republic and its emigrated citizens**
- promote any initiative intended for the **creation of ties of solidarity, mutual assistance among San Marino citizens abroad**
- facilitate **relations with the authorities of foreign States** and to promote friendly international relations,

Small States & CR- Societal beliefs & public opinion

Public opinion

There are no researches on what the public opinion believes about conflicts and their resolution. Public opinion finds a direct expression in the political arena. This condition is prompted by an institutionalised consociational framework which include several instruments of direct democracy, other than referendum, constantly used by the population (Istanza d'Arengo). A pure proportional electoral system guarantees the highest level of socio-political representation. The high number of MP's (1/500 citizens) offers a direct channel of expression in the political arena for the public opinion.

Media

TG EUROPA (since 18 March 2016): Television and Web Newscast produced weekly by the State television station of San Marino (San Marino RTV), with news concerning European and international politics to **raise awareness of public opinion**

Small States & CR: Challenges & Learning

Main challenges

- Maintain the diplomatic balance in international relations.
- Maintain friendly relations with Italy and EU
- Maintain social security/welfare top level and protection from economic threats.
- Intelligence infiltration by major non-western powers.
- Tackle organized crime infiltrations.

RSM experience in conflict resolution and (especially) prevention of conflicts

- United Nations Peacekeeping funds contributor.
- Mediator in multilateral institutional contexts (OSCE - Helsinki 1975; Council of Europe - Strasbourg 2006).
- Strong support of NGO's and Red Cross
- Supporting United Nations Security Council reform ('Uniting for Consensus')
- Supporting intercultural and interreligious dialogue