



European Commission United Nations Development Programme International IDEA

In collaboration with

**International Organization for Migration
Canadian International Development Agency
Organization of American States**

Joint Training on Effective Electoral Assistance

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Organized within



In collaboration with





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EU/EC Policy and Strategic Framework: Electoral Support, Criteria for Involvement in Electoral Assistance and Political Dialogue

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EU Legal Framework

EU Treaty article 6

“The Union is founded on the principles of liberty, democracy, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the rule of law, principles which are common to all the Member States.”

article 11

objective to “develop and consolidate democracy and the rule of law, and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms”

EC Treaty – (Title XX, Development Cooperation) article 177

“§2 - Community policy in this area shall contribute to the general objective of developing and consolidating democracy and the rule of law, and to that of respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms”



Why does the EU promote democracy?

- Development policy and democratization are compatible and complementary
- Democracy provides an enabling environment for advances in:

sustainable development

human well-being

long term political stability

conflict prevention

national and international security



Instrumental value of democracy



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How does the EU promote democracy?

- Political dialogue and diplomatic process and *démarches*
- Mainstreaming of democratic principles in all instruments
- Through PRSPs, based on participatory decision making, involving civil society, parliamentary oversight and independent control mechanisms
- Financial and technical cooperation programmes



Electoral support: Assistance + Observation



Election assistance may be defined as the technical or material support given to the electoral process.”

Election observation is the political complement to election assistance. (...). Technically speaking, they are different activities but essentially they should be considered and programmed in a complementary manner. »

COM(00)191

Assistance to electoral processes and observation are complementary activities.”

SEC(03)1472



Electoral Assistance - Criteria for involvement

COM(00)191, SEC (03)1972

- ☐ A request from the host government
- Complementarity – Complement national funds and in coordination with other donors. (Exception for post conflict)
- ☐ A general agreement of main political parties and the other stakeholders to an electoral assistance project
- ☐ Assessment of political impact – Minimum democratic space?
- ☐ Adequate time-frame for preparation
- ☐ Freedom of movement and access to actors and to information
- ✓ Agreement from national authorities to :
 - respect international/ regional standards on elections
 - invite EU Election Observation Mission



EC strategy for electoral assistance

Objectives:

- development of national capacity,
- long term sustainability after an election,
- integration of support in a wider democratic governance perspective

Principles:

- Support the electoral processes rather than the elections;
- Long term involvement, partnership with host government;
- Support to State and non State actors (including EMBs, NGOs, civic education, gender, ...)
- Synergies with other areas of democratic governance (parliaments, RoL,...);
- Promotion of mechanisms of self-regulation, including checks on all stages of the electoral process (media, political parties, domestic observers)
- Follow-up of EUEOM recommendations.



EC at the forefront of Electoral Assistance development

- ❑ Between the period 2000-2008 the EC provided more than 400M€ worldwide for electoral support activities

African countries where the largest recipients with more than 300 M€

DRC electoral process was supported over a three years period with 159 M€

- ❑ Leading role in the conceptualization of strategy for Effective Electoral Assistance and production of content



Electoral Assistance – lessons learnt

- Problems identified at the 2004 Conference “Election support – achievements and challenges”:
 - Requests for assistance received late and for short term interventions
 - Too much focus on supporting the electoral event
 - Temporary “ad hoc” institutions or massive deployment of international expertise without effective knowledge transfer, capacity building to ensure sustainability of the process.
 - Weak follow up of EUEOMs’ recommendations



Answer and new Operational Approach ?

A new implementation approach was developed, aiming for effectiveness and sustainability.

1 - Development tools and methodologies

Conceptualization of the Electoral Cycle approach;

Elaboration of the EC Methodological Guide on Electoral Assistance;

Establishment of the EC Thematic Network on electoral support;

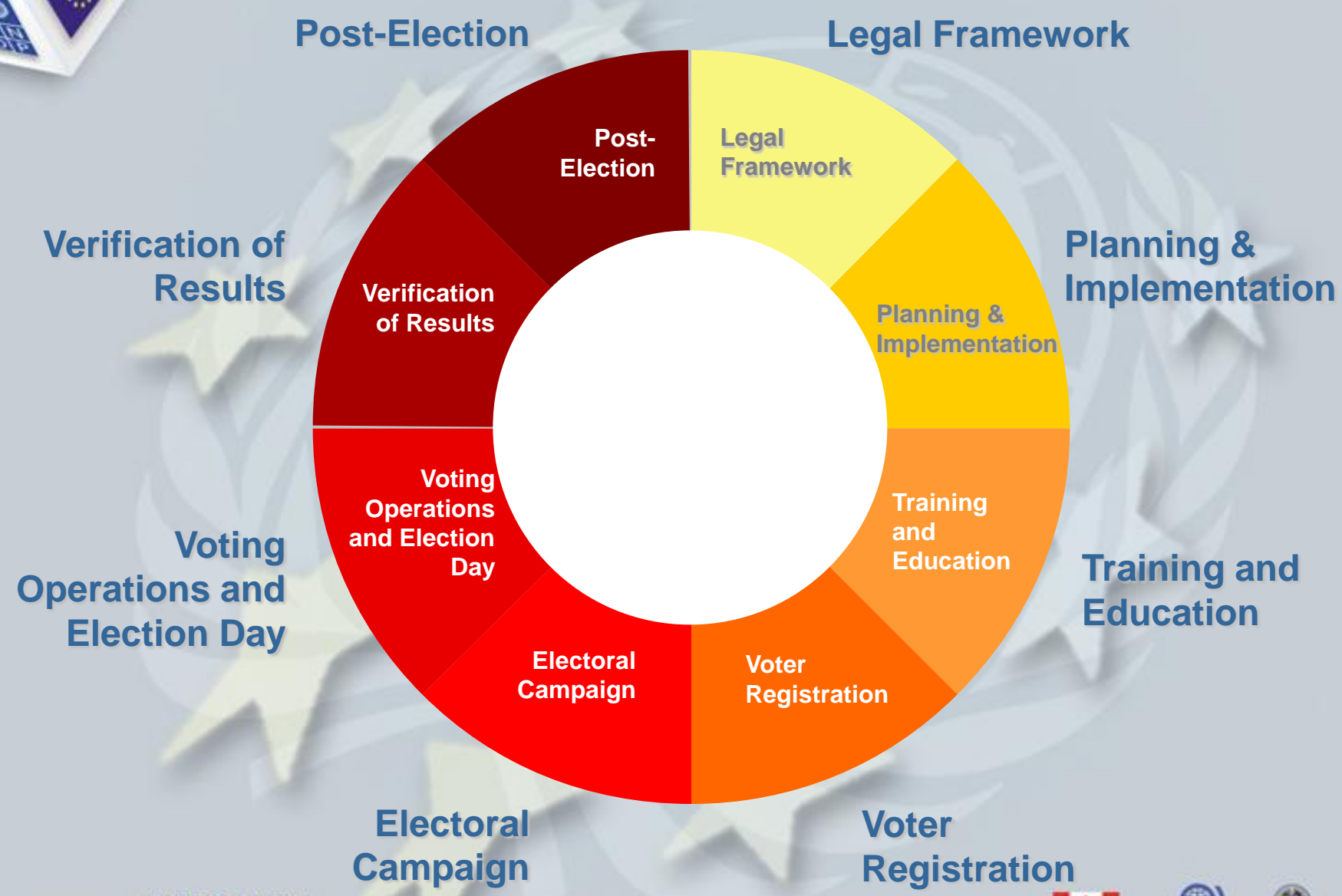
Training on effective Electoral Assistance;

Quality support to programmes and projects;

2 - Collaboration and coordination with other actors (UNDP, ACE, IDEA, EISA, Train4Dev)



- Electoral Cycle Approach
- Entry points for assistance in a long term perspective (Dem Gov)





EC Methodological Guide on Electoral assistance

Material has been drawn from cases studies, missions to various countries, daily work of Aidco/E/4, collaboration with strategic partners (UNDP, IDEA), global conferences on electoral assistance, etc.

✓ strategy, lessons learnt, electoral cycle approach

✓ *activities* in support of electoral cycles, benefits, risks and cross-cutting considerations.

✓ *EC procedures*,

✓ case studies, operational tools and sources of information.






EC Thematic Network on electoral support

Exchange information and explore synergies EO/EA

- ☐ **Strengthen capacity EUEOM to take account of EA (training curricula)**
- ☐ **EUEOM recommendations suggesting specific measures for post-electoral assistance**
- ☐ **Maximize synergies EIDHR intervention – support CSO, domestic observation, media, civic education, collaboration regional, organisations follow-up recommendations**



Coordination and collaboration with main actors (UNDP, ACE, IDEA, Train4Dev,...)



Joint website on EC/UNDP partnership
on electoral assistance
www.ec-undp-electoralassistance.org

EC/UNDP

Operational guidelines

- ☐ Improved communication
- ☐ Quality support for projects
(joint identification and
formulation, selection
experts, Steering
Committees,
procurement, back-up,...)
- ☐ Collaboration on
production of tools and
methodologies
- ☐ Collaboration with other
actors



Electoral Assistance - Main challenge remains:

- ❑ Implement the strategy for effective electoral assistance
 - focus on long term institutional strengthening and capacity development of EMB and civil society in a sustainable manner rather than focusing solely on training needs for procedures related to a given electoral event,
 - cover the whole electoral cycle in such way that will permit to engage in long term reforms (legal frameworks, boundary delimitations) and implement activities in a cost-effective manner (e.g., voter registration done within a comfortable time span)
 - ensure synergies with other activities in the area of democratic governance (support to parliaments, media, political parties, participation in political process, rule of law,...).



Important role of the European Parliament and MEPs

- ❑ In election observation, as Chief Observers of the mission, engaging discussions in Committee meetings, passing resolutions,...
- ❑ In promoting the implementation of the strategy for effective electoral assistance, by
 - Contributing to political dialogue with specific countries,
 - Keeping the follow-up of the EUEOM recommendations high on the political agenda
 - Engaging discussion and adopting resolutions (eg, recently adopted resolution on “Elections and electoral processes in ACP-EU countries”, ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly)