European Commission
United Nations Development Programme
International IDEA

In collaboration with
International Organization for Migration
Canadian International Development Agency
EISA

Joint Training on
Effective Electoral Assistance

Maputo, 23-27 June 2008

Presentation

- Brief Historical Background
- Definitions
- The UN and EU
- The EC and UNDP and IDEA Partnerships
- Training Needs, Sources and Material
- Training Content and Objectives
- Global Training Platform

Electoral Assistance in 1990s

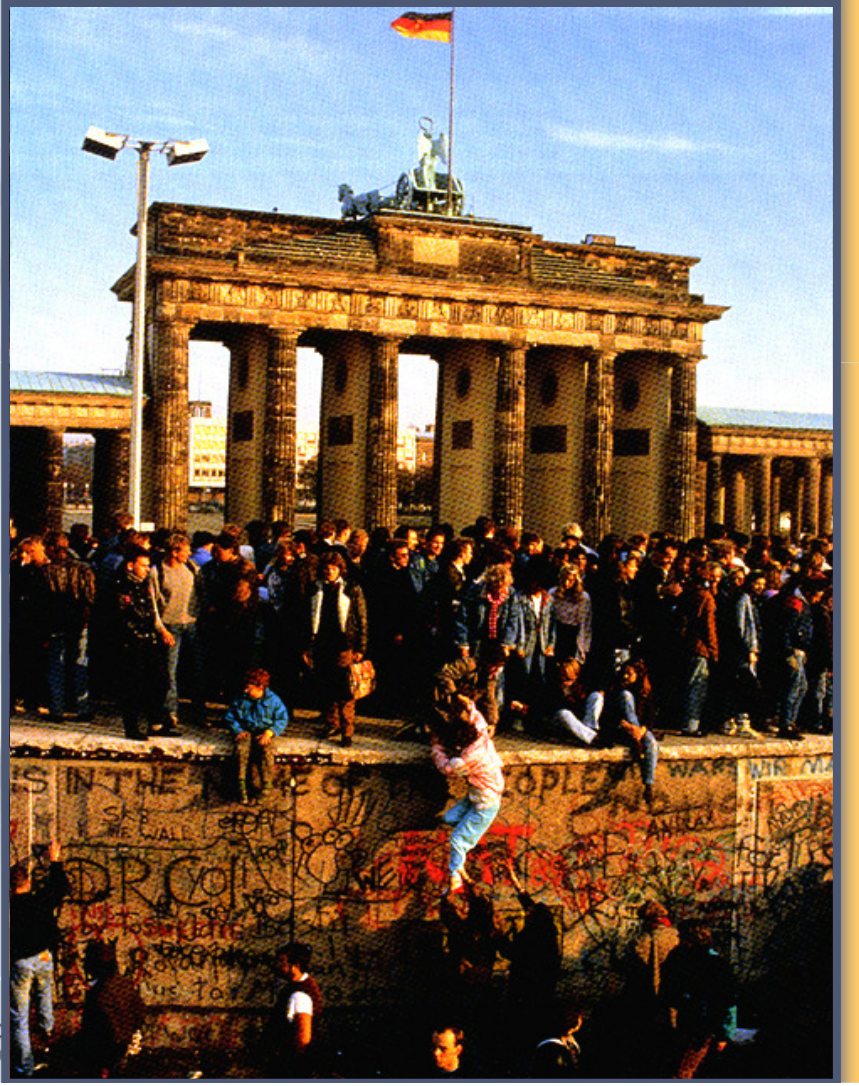
Moving from a scenario where elections were primarily an **internal matter** of states

EXTERNAL SCRUTINY

NO

EVALUATION

DEMOCRATISATION WAVE



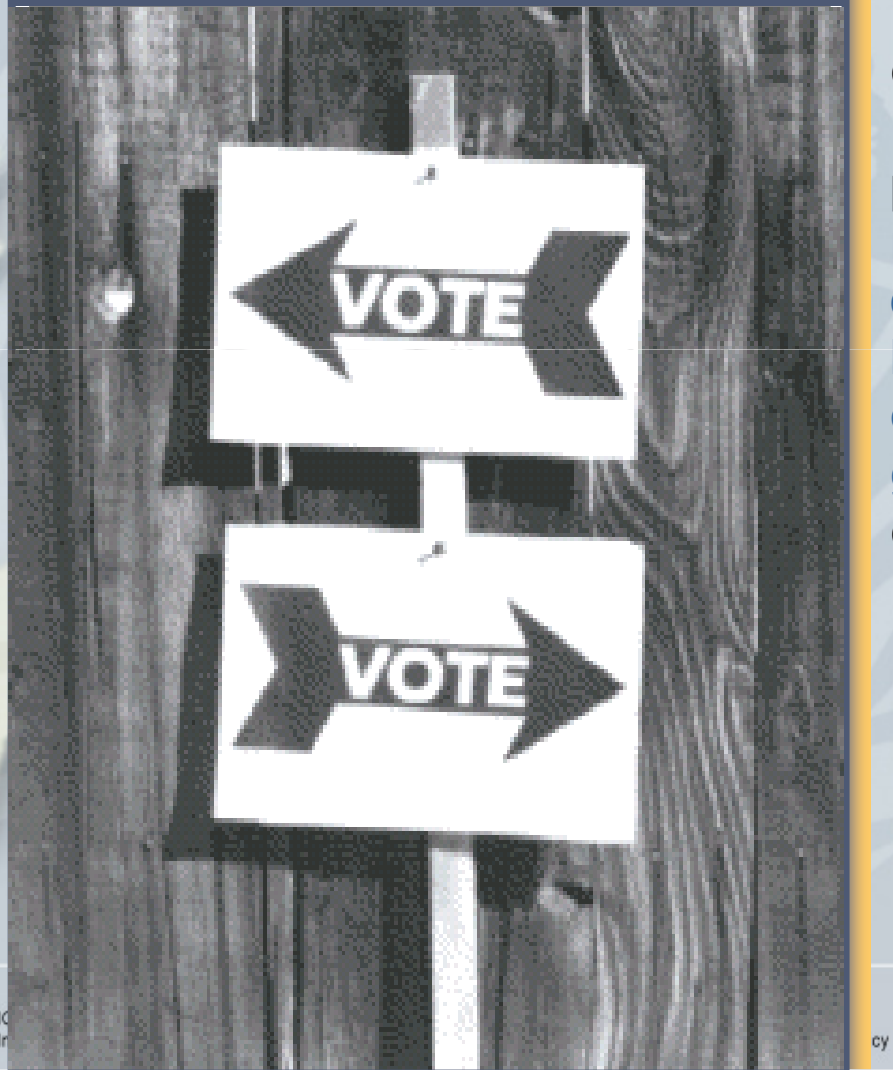
To a new one where a wide number of countries **reformed** their **electoral systems** and **processes**

In collaboration with:

Promoting Credible Elections and Democratic Governance in Africa

Electoral Assistance in 1990s

THE KNOWLEDGE GAP



some countries were largely **unprepared** to go through **major democratic transitions** that featured **crucial elections**

electoral practitioners had virtually no **access** to **comparative knowledge**, **best practices** and **lessons learned** in the field of elections

electoral institutions not always possessed the **necessary experience** and **knowledge** to **deliver** and **guarantee** credible elections

there was **no coherent electoral administration** methodology, the field lacked of **common standards**

Electoral Assistance in the New Millennium

electoral management bodies **confront** a whole set of **new challenges**:

creating **transparent** and **sustainable** electoral **systems** and **processes**

reversing situations of **professional stagnation**

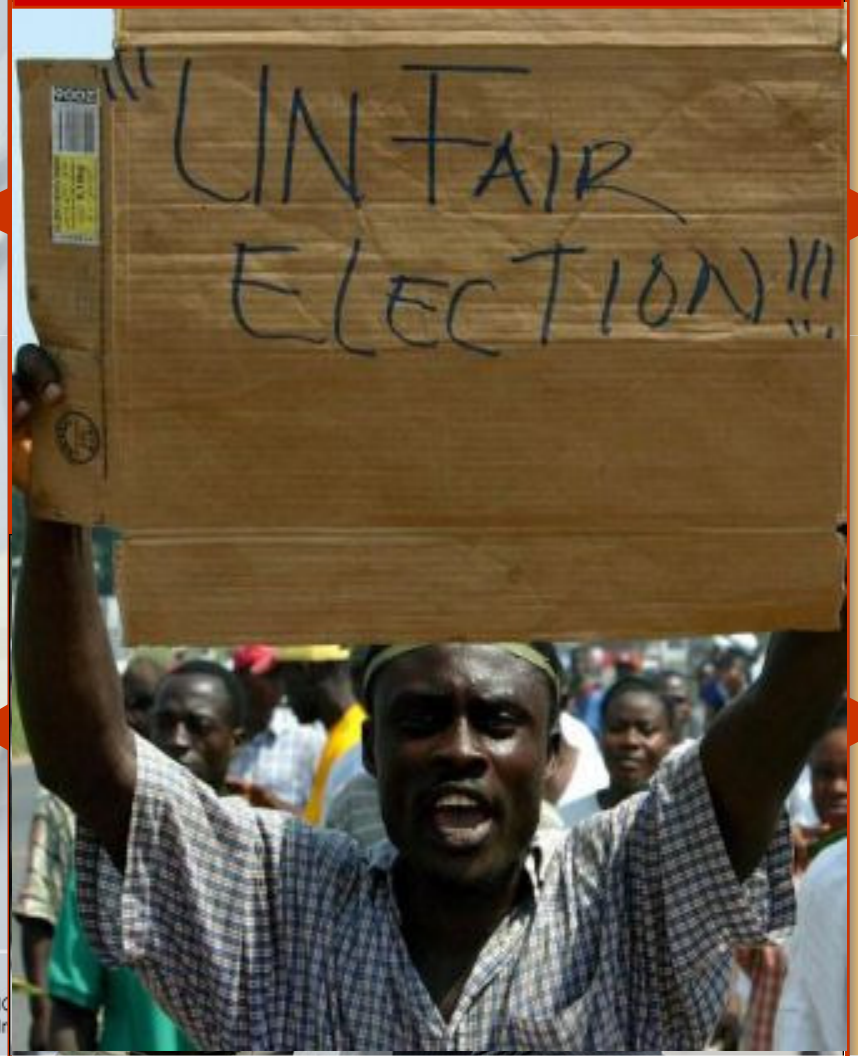
building the **trust** of the various ***stakeholders*** in the electoral process

addressing problems of **lack of retention** of their **institutional memory**

solving **political**, **financial** and **logistical** constraints undermining **their work** and the **credibility of the elections**

Electoral Assistance in the New Millennium

CREDIBILITY GAP



loss of credibility and **mistrust** in the electoral process

electoral **disputes**, electoral **violence** or **civil strife**

voters' apathy and **low turnout**

an **elected government** that lacks of the **required legitimacy**

The origins

- Election assistance activities have been part of the external relations' agenda of several established democracies since the end of World War II
- With the end of the Cold War the support for the establishment of functioning and transparent governance institutions was acknowledged as a priority for the creation of more stable, peaceful and economically sustainable democracies
- Apart from few exceptions related to the role covered by the OSCE in Eastern Europe, there can be singled out three main actors in the provision of election assistance: the UN, the EC and the US.
- The initial commitment from all of them was related to electoral observation or the provision of logistical support

The UN

- First involvement in electoral activities, with the Trusteeship Council. Observation or supervision of more than 30 plebiscites and referenda around the world

- Between the end of 1980s' and the early 1990s' the UN deployed major electoral missions of three kinds:

1) 1989 - UNTAG Namibia – Supervision and Control
2) 1993 – UNTAC Cambodia– Organization and conduct of elect
3) 1994 - ONUSAL El Salvador – Verification

- GA Resolution 46/137 "Enhancing the Principle of Periodic and Genuine Elections"

The EU

- First serious engagement were the first multiparty elections in Russia, 1993 and first multiracial elections in South Africa, 1994.
- "Ad hoc" support remained the rule until 2000. COM 191/200 was the watershed, financed trough EDF.
- Definition and distinction of complementary roles between assistance and observation
- New Approach from 2006 with the publication of the EC Methodological Guide
- Leading actor in the provision of electoral support

The US

- Part of the external relations' agenda of several established democracies since the end of World War II
- Reagan and Carter administration made democracy promotion pivotal for the US foreign policy (USAID, State Dep. NED)
- Assistance initially focused on observation and party assistance (NDI, IRI, CC)
- 1987 IFES was established as the International Foundation for Election Systems
- Characterised by an overall division of tasks between the various organizations

Definitions

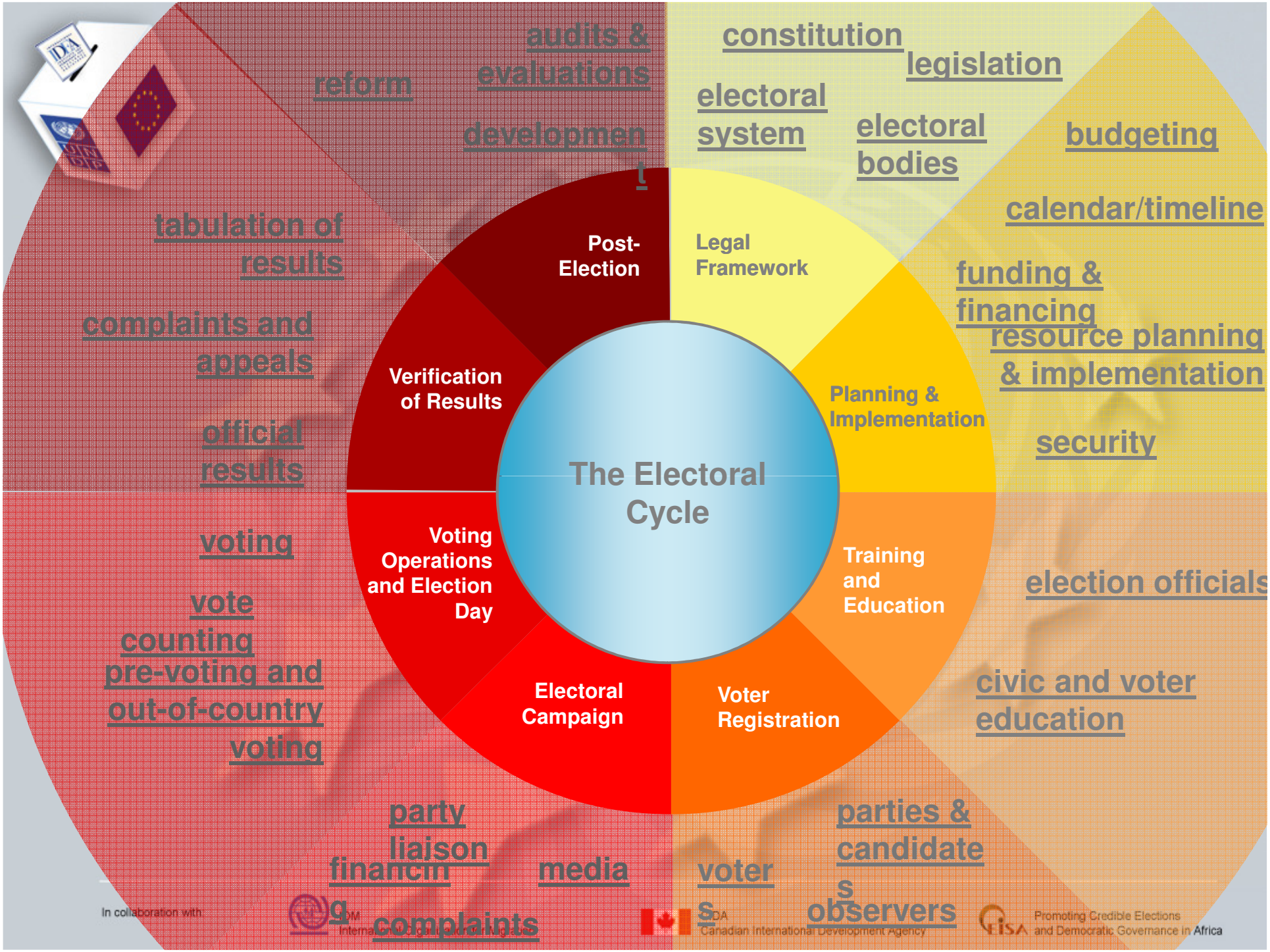
- What is Electoral Assistance?
- Why "*Effective* Electoral Assistance"?
- From Commitment to Implementation

Electoral Assistance

- **Electoral Assistance is the legal, technical and logistic support provided to electoral laws, processes and institutions**
- **By "Effective Electoral Assistance" we mean all the initiatives and activities that are intended to improve the quality and impact of electoral assistance to partner country electoral institutions**
- **Part of the wider democratic development of the partner country, in accordance with the five key principles of "ownership, alignment, harmonisation, managing for results, and mutual accountability" that inform the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness**
- **Management of all the complex set of interactions among the Government, Electoral Management Body (EMB), International Organizations, Political Parties, CSOs, Services Providers and Media**

Election Assistance VS Electoral Assistance

- Election assistance is the support for the single electoral event, whilst electoral assistance is the support for the whole process
- Post electoral and inter-election periods are as crucial as the build up to the elections themselves
- It requires regular inter-institutional contact and support activities before, during and after election periods
- It should be based on the lessons learned and inter-institutional memory aiming at improved electoral processes in beneficiary countries, taking stock of all the steps of the electoral cycle


The Electoral Cycle
Post-Election
Legal Framework
Planning & Implementation
Training and Education
Voter Registration
Electoral Campaign
Voting Operations and Election Day
Verification of Results
audits & evaluations
reform
development
constitution
legislation
electoral system
electoral bodies
budgeting
calendar/timeline
funding & financing
resource planning & implementation
security
election officials
civic and voter education
parties & candidates
observers
voters
media
party liaison
financing
complaints
voting
vote counting
pre-voting and out-of-country voting
tabulation of results
complaints and appeals
official results
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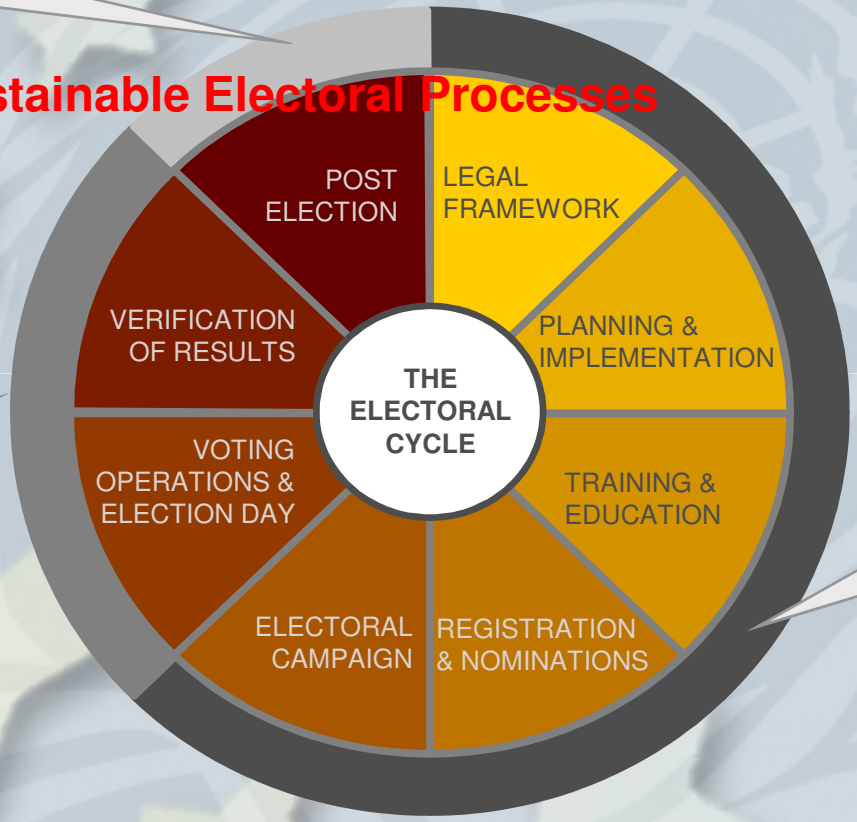
The electoral cycle

three main segments

post-election period (strategy)

Sustainable Electoral Processes



Electoral Period (operations)

Pre-electoral period (preparations)

The paradigm shift

- EC, UNDP and International IDEA at the forefront of a new approach in electoral assistance. Main triggers:
  - 2000 UNDP 10 years evaluation
  - Accrued EC-UNDP Collaboration on Electoral Assistance (2004, DRC)
  - Paris Declaration 2005
  - EC and IDEA joining forces in 2005 to analyse electoral assistance processes across the board and develop new training tools, first training for EC officials in 2005
- The Manila UNDP 2004, Brussels EC 2004 and 2006 Ottawa CIDA-IDEA Conferences: shift from event-driven support to process and demand-driven
- EC UNDP IDEA Conceptualization of the electoral cycle
- Establishment of EC-UNDP Joint Task Force
- EC-UNDP-IDEA Joint Training on Effective Electoral Assistace
- Global Training Platform on Electoral Assistance

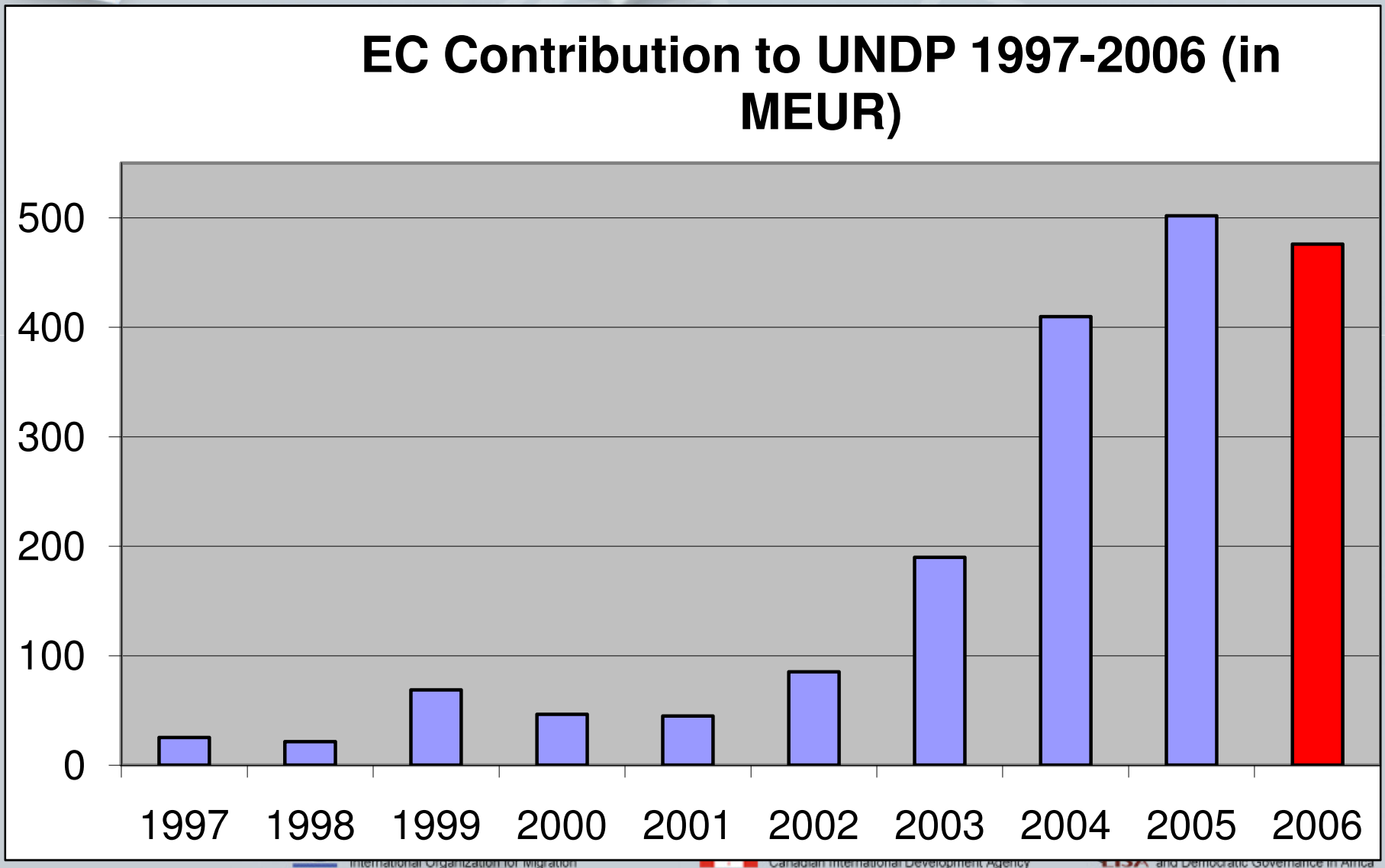
The UN and the EU

- **The EU and the UN are natural partners. They are united by the core values laid out in the 1945 Charter of the UN, and the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights.**
- **Member States and the EC are the largest contributors to the UN system. A total of 1.3 billion euros was approved by the EC to be channelled to the UN in 2006.**
- **2001 EC's communication: "Building an effective partnership with the UN", and 2003 EC's Communication: "EU-UN relations: The choice of multilateralism".**
- **To facilitate programmatic cooperation between the EC and the UN, an updated Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement (FAFA) was agreed in 2003.**

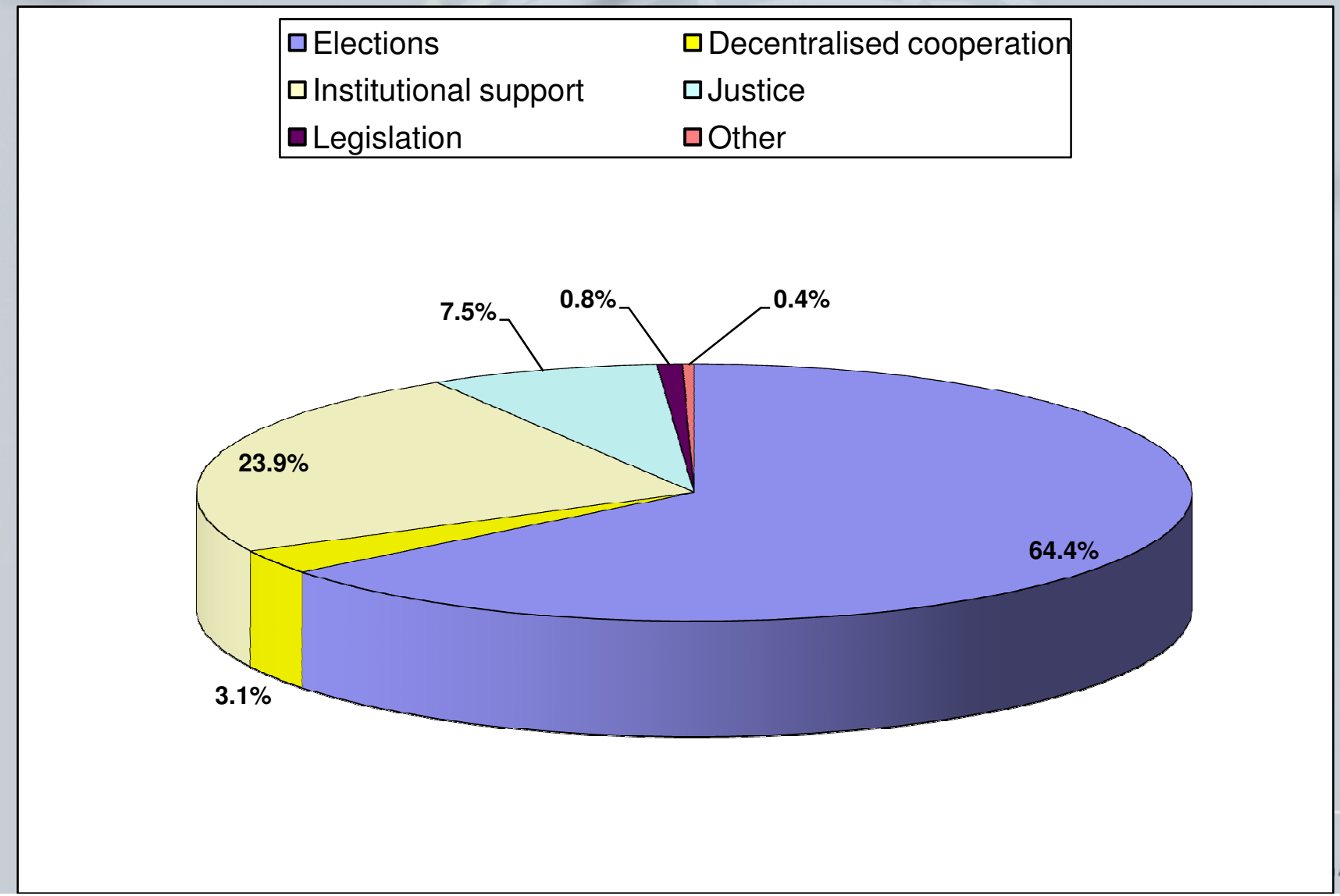
The UN and the EU

- The FAFA agreement provides a single shared legal, financial and administrative framework for all programmatic cooperation between the EC and the UN.
- FAFA has made cooperation more efficient, ensuring faster start-up of activities and ensuring administrative consistency across operations.
- In June 2004, the UNDP and the EC entered into a Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA) through the signature of a MoU to set out and better define the relational focus between the two institutions.
- The MoU focuses on governance (including elections, parliament and governance indicators), conflict prevention and post conflict reconstruction

Total Values EC-UNDP contracts

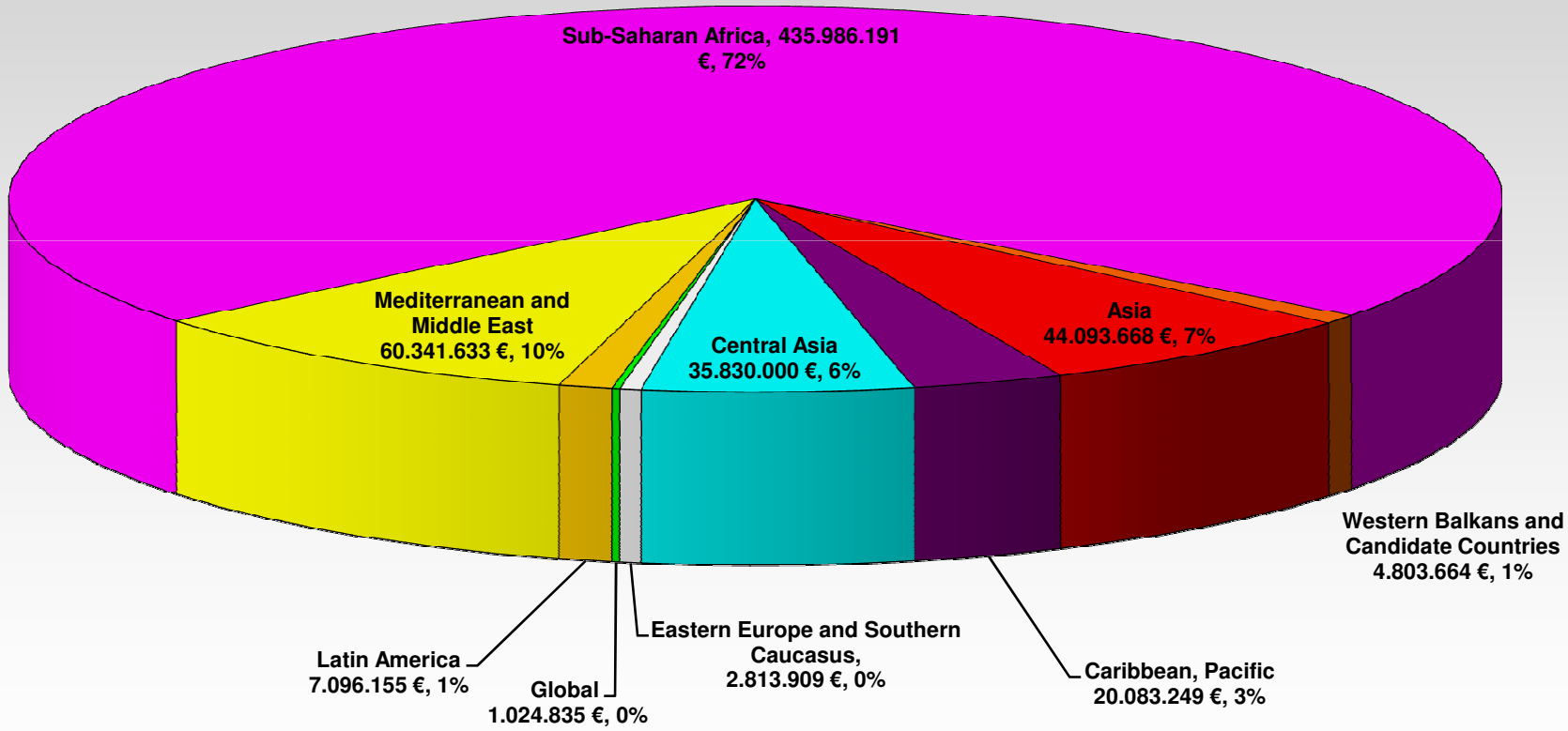


EC-UNDP Disaggregated Division for Democratic Governance 2006



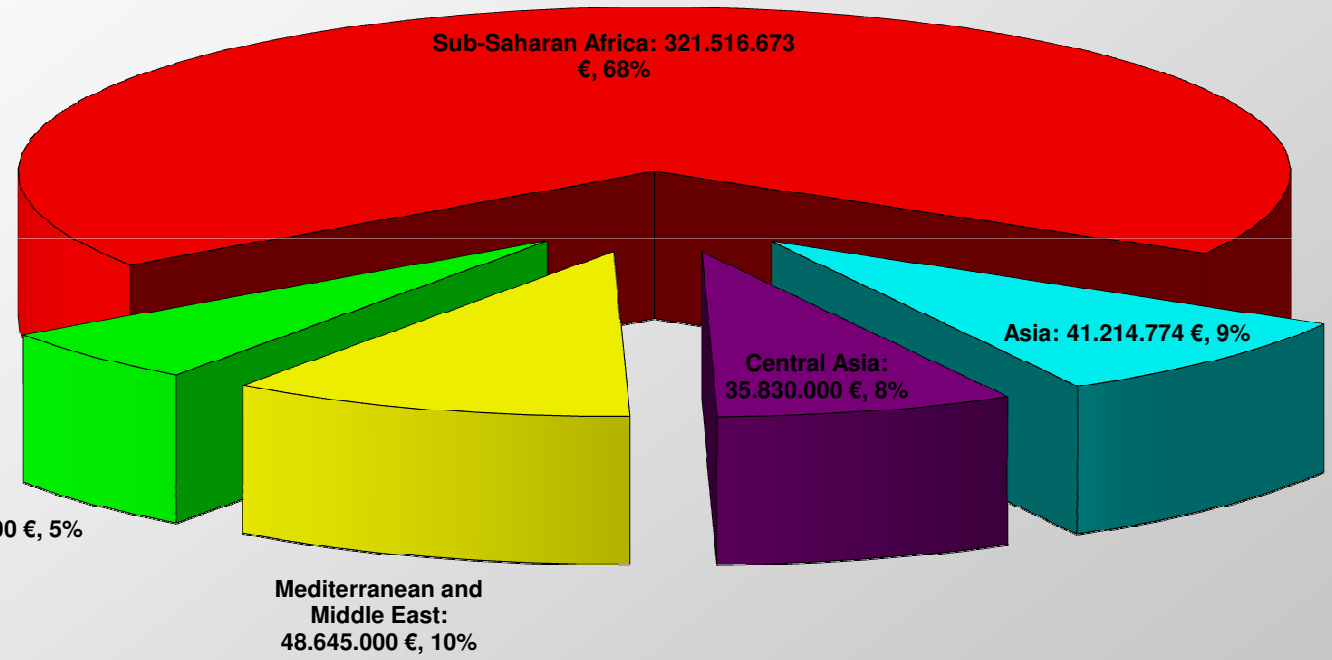
EC electoral assistance funds per region
1992-2007

Total: 612.073.304 €



Budget allocation EC-UNDP electoral assistance projects by region 1995-2007

Total: 473.105.447 €



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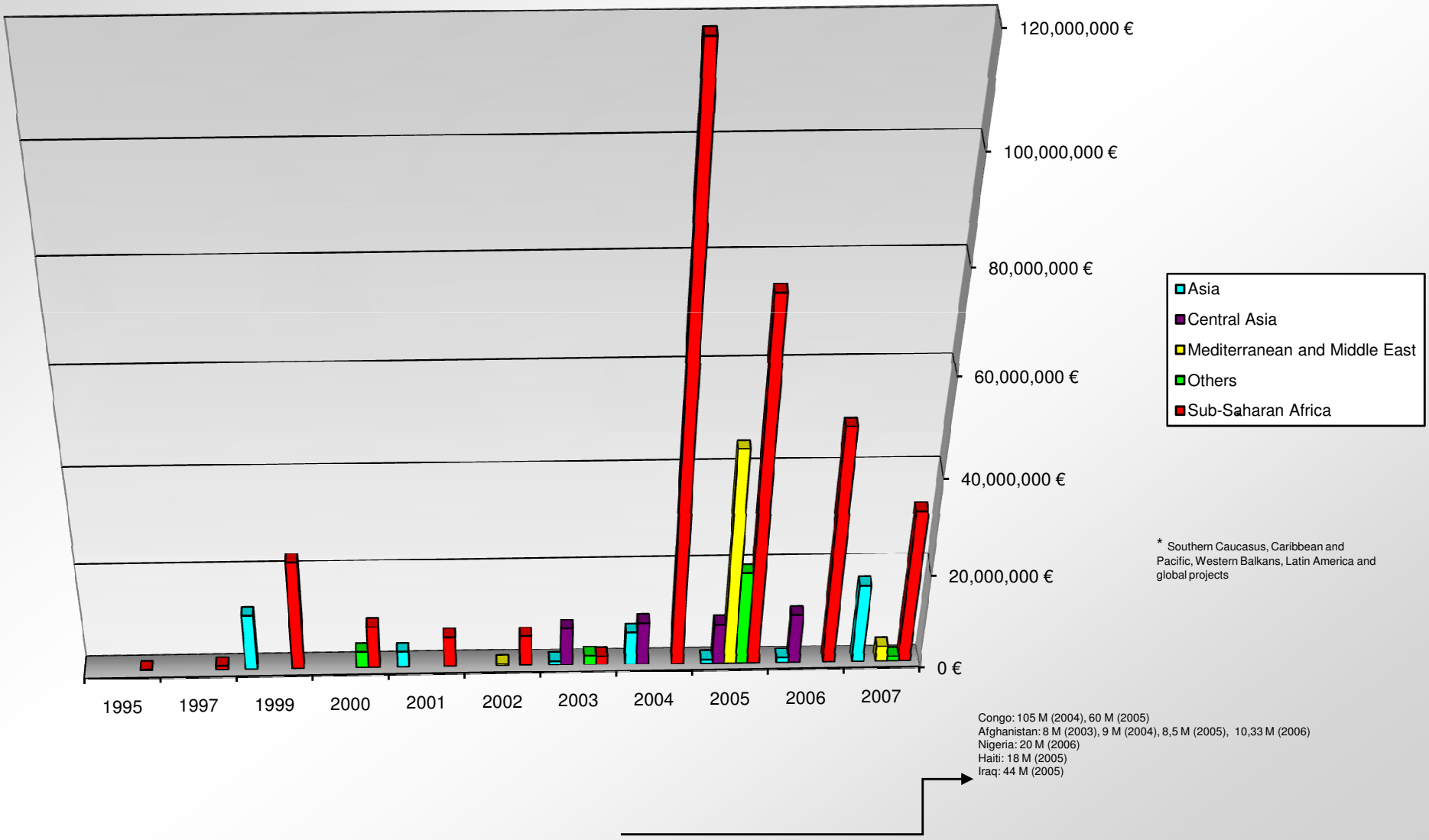
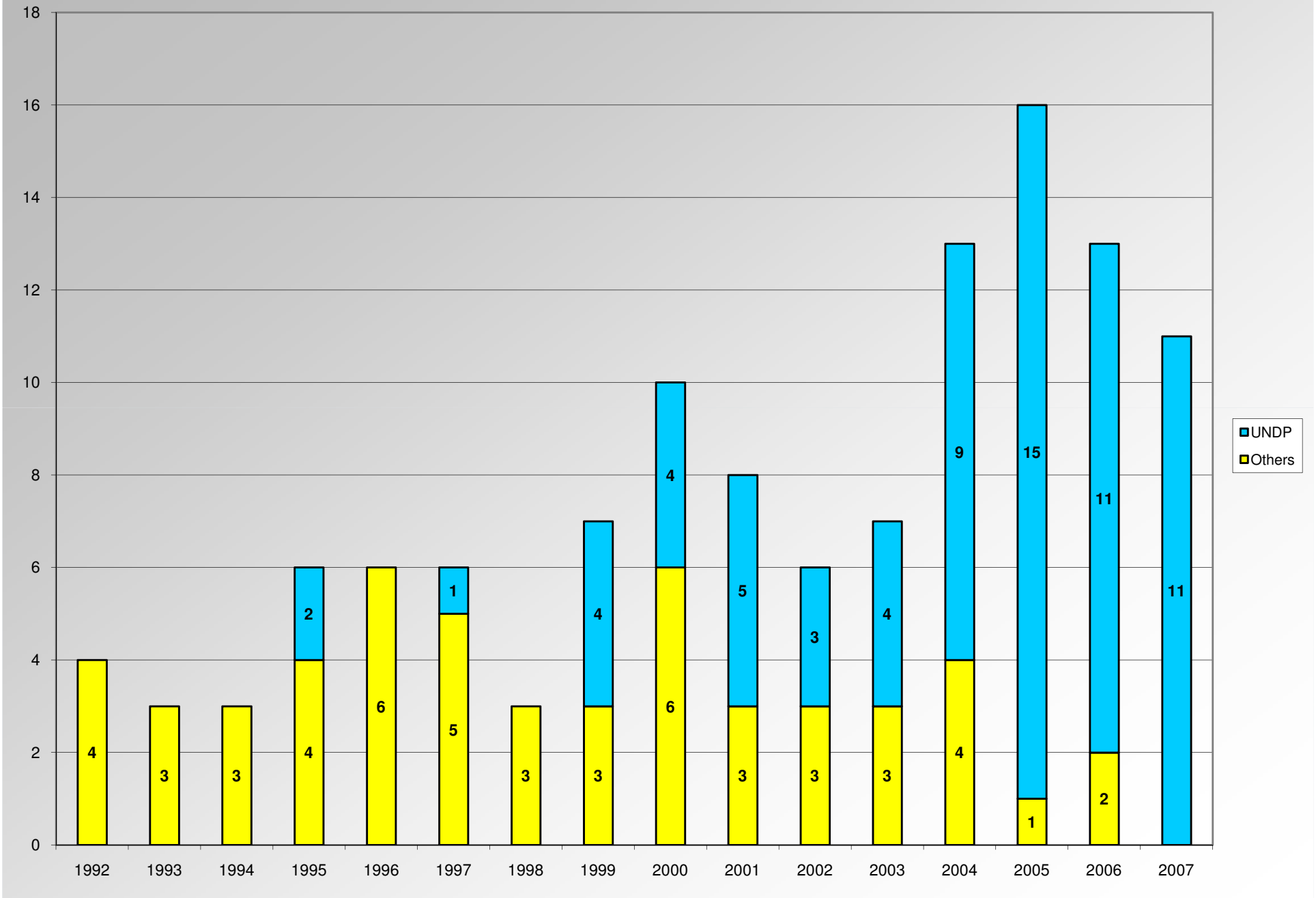
* Southern Caucasus, Caribbean and Pacific, Western Balkans, Latin America and global projects

EC funded electoral assistance projects implemented by UNDP per region 1995-2007



Number of EC funded electoral assistance projects per implementing partner
1992-2007
(Without advisory services and EIDHR projects implemented by CSO's)



UNDP Preferred EC Partner

- Facilitation role of the FAFA signed on 2003
- Joint and co-financed intervention of the community of donors is very appropriate to support electoral processes
- UN General Assembly resolution 46/137 of 1991 to indicate role of coordination of electoral assistance at country level between national and international actors
- Long Experience in Electoral Assistance, producing electoral assistance content,
- Provision of electoral experts via the Electoral Assistance Division of the UN Department of Political Affairs
- Pre financing deals once the Contribution Agreements are signed
- Lower Costs: 7% of General Management Services

EC - UNDP Partnership

- Challenges of the 2004 project in support of the DRC electoral processes
- Negotiated & Formalized at HQ level the "de facto" partnership the EC and UNDP had at field level
- EC - UNDP Operational Guidelines on the Implementation of Electoral Assistance Projects. Signed on 21 April 2006
- Agreement on a Joint Training Initiative
- Training Sessions in Brussels, Milan and Dar Es Salaam between 2006 and 2008
- Joint web site
- Joint EC UNDP Task Force

EC-UNDP Partnership
Areas of Collaboration

- Field Operations: Pool Funded Projects, Joint Identification Formulation Missions, Follow up of implementation, Joint selection of experts
- Production of Electoral Assistance Content
- Definition of a strategic operational approach
- Development of Tools and Methodology such as Guides, Joint Training and ACE

EC-UNDP Partnership with IDEA

- **IDEA offers the knowledge developed also in collaboration with all the other major actors in the field through the unique global knowledge tools on Electoral Assistance such as ACE and BRIDGE.**

- **The EC and UNDP, via rationalizing their field experiences and illustrating the best practices with the EC Methodological Guide and UNDP Implementation Guide offer the practical expertise from the implementation side.**

- **EC-UNDP-IDEA Collaboration via the ACE project: The Electoral Knowledge Network**

Training Needs

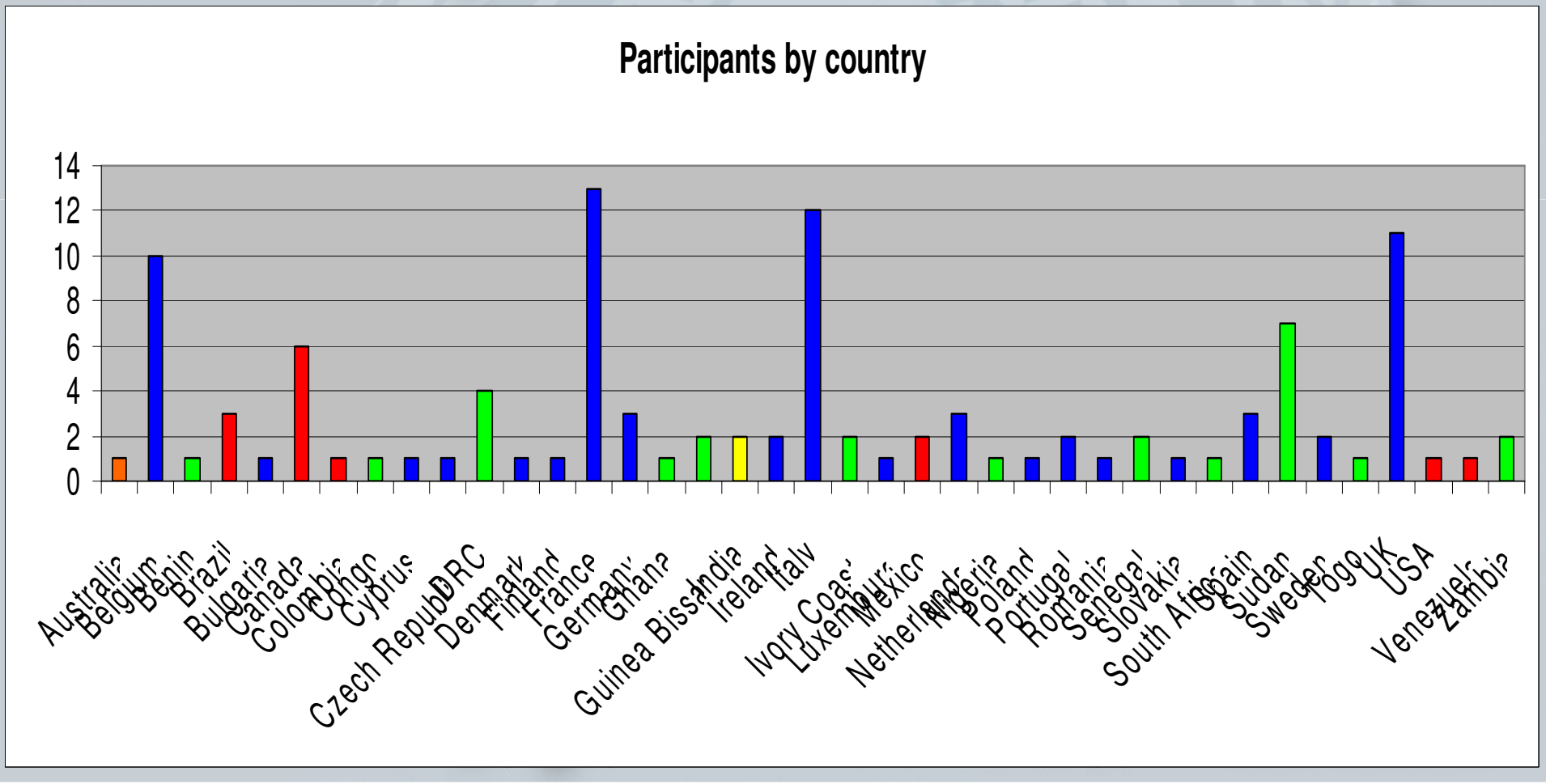
- Links between Elections and Democratic Governance
- Different Electoral Assistance Scenarios
- Short and Long Term Strategies
- Use of ICTs in Electoral Processes
- Problems and Solutions to implement with EC and UNDP Procedures
- Voter Registration Methodologies
- Cost of Registrations and Elections
- Procurement of Electoral Material and Services

Global Training Platform

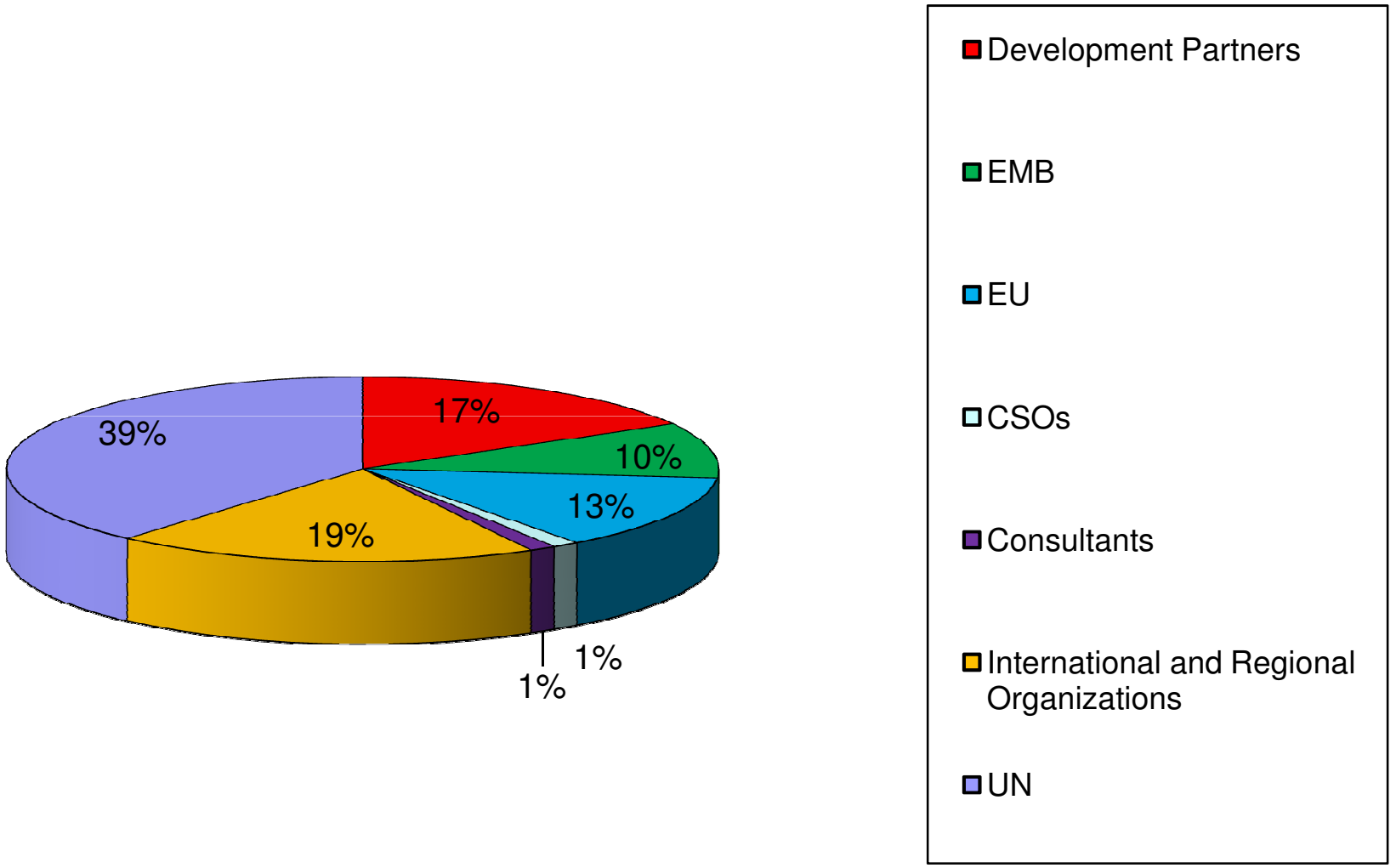
- Following the 5 Joint EC-UNDP-IDEA Training
- Establishment of a Sub-group on Effective Electoral Assistance at Train4DEV
- Open to EC-UNDP desk officers, other donors, regional associations, EMBs, nation al authorities and CSOs, experts
- EC, UNDP, IDEA, IOM, CID A…

3rd EC-UNDP-IDEA Training

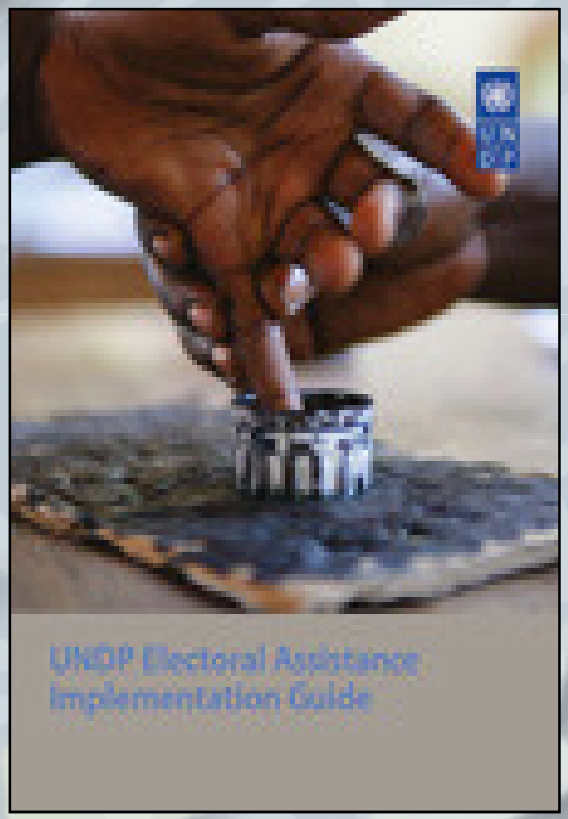
39 different nationalities

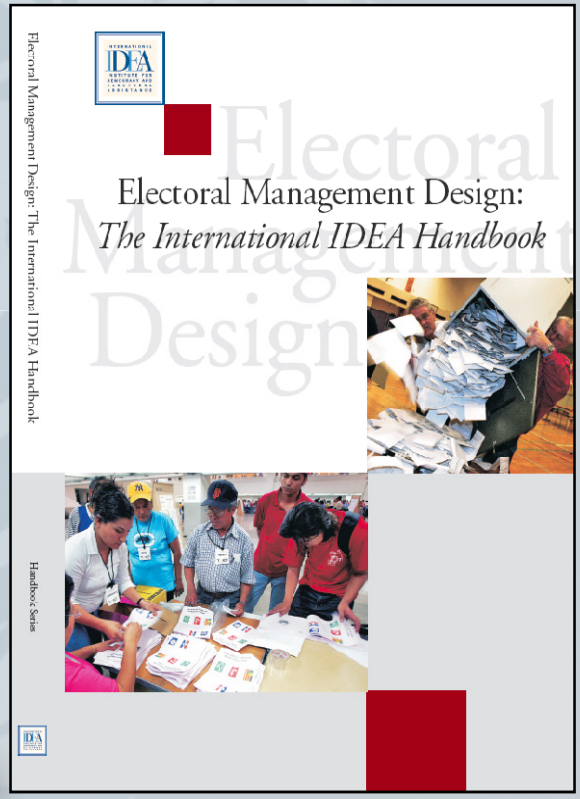


Participation by target institutions



Training Sources





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Partnership on Electoral Assistance

- HOME
- CONCEPTS
- THE PARTNERSHIP
- JOINT TASK FORCE
- PROJECTS
- ELECTORAL CYCLE APROACH
- TRAININGS & EVENTS
- GLOBAL TOOLS
- OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES
- HANDBOOKS & PUBLICATIONS
- LINKS
- PICTURES

The EC-UNDP partnership in electoral assistance is unique for its scope, for its achievements and ambitions. It builds on a history of sector experience, specific attention to the lessons learned in previous projects and a mutual understanding of each other's approaches, roles and capacities.

The partnership is proving to be of increasing value to electoral assistance operations to the beneficiary countries, as it allows to rationalize interventions in the area and leads to better and timelier formulation, implementation and monitoring of projects, and is in line with the concepts of enhanced donor coordination from the **March 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness**. The resulting projects are consequently more effective, sustainable and in harmony with overall EU and UN objectives.

The EC and UNDP have been collaborating in the field of electoral assistance since 1997 but it is since 2004, with the implementation of the project in support of the electoral processes in the Democratic Republic of Congo that the collaboration was strongly intensified, leading to the signature, in 2006, of the "**Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of Electoral Assistance Programmes and Projects**".

The EC-UNDP partnership in electoral assistance relies heavily on the strong cooperation between services at the level of headquarters for the quality support mechanisms available. These can include, through a **Joint Task Force**, formulation and monitoring missions, support for the selection of experts and procurement of election material, joint trainings, development of guidelines, gathering of lessons learned and participation to specialized electoral networks.

Download here the main two reference-tools for the formulation and implementation of Electoral Assistance Projects of the EC and UNDP.

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United Nations Development Programme

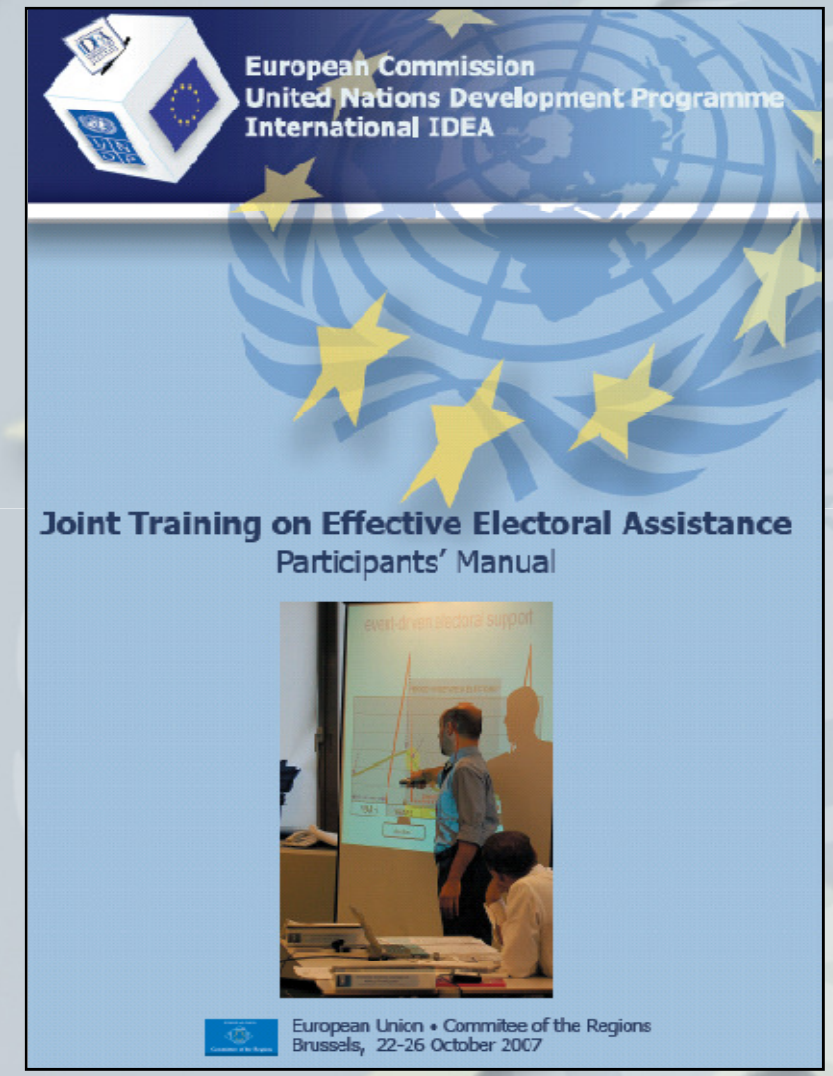
European Commission

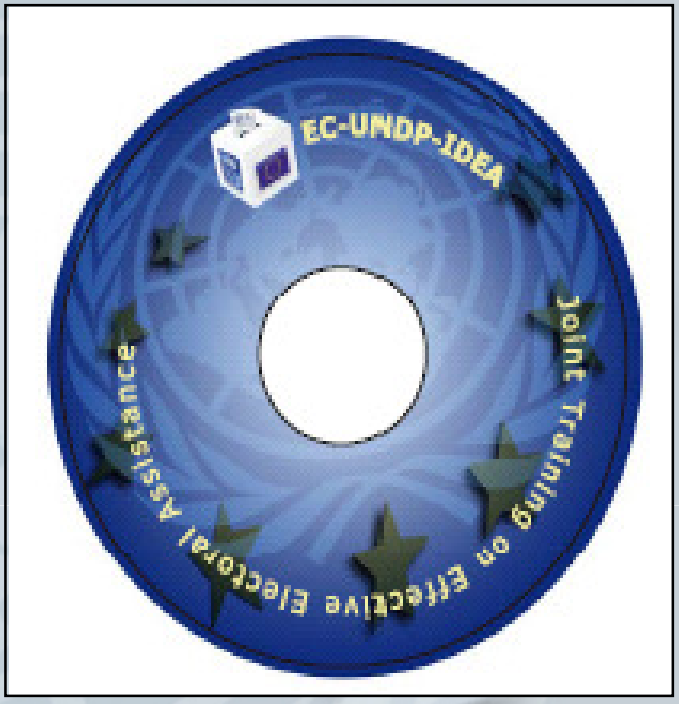
Electoral Assistance Division
Department of Political Affairs

EuropeAid

EU External Relations

Specific TrainingMaterial





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Objectives

- To introduce participants to the new EC-UNDP policy and strategic framework
- To share experiences
- To understand the electoral cycle approach
- To develop capacity to formulate and implement electoral assistance projects
- To provide in-depth knowledge of context, links with governance, long-term strategies, use of technology, solutions to implementing EC-UNDP procedures, cost of elections and procurement of materials

Content of Training

- **Day 1:** EC and UNDP Framework, Lessons Learned, Electoral Cycle and New Approach
- **Day 2:** Activities that can be implemented in support of the Electoral Cycles with examples taken by case studies
- **Day 3:** Issues related to EC-UNDP procedures for Programming, Identification, Formulation, Implementation and Evaluation.
- **Day 4:** Presentation of two Voter Registration Methodologies, Best Practice for Procurement and Analysis of Cost of Elections
- **Day 5:** Procurement of Electoral Material, Global Tools and Resources, Recapitulation, Evaluation and Recommendations