European Commission
United Nations Development Programme

Joint Task Force on Electoral Assistance

EC-UNDP Workshop on

Formulating and Implementing Electoral Assistance Projects in the Context of the EC UNDP Partnership

Introduction of the Workshop & Key Concepts

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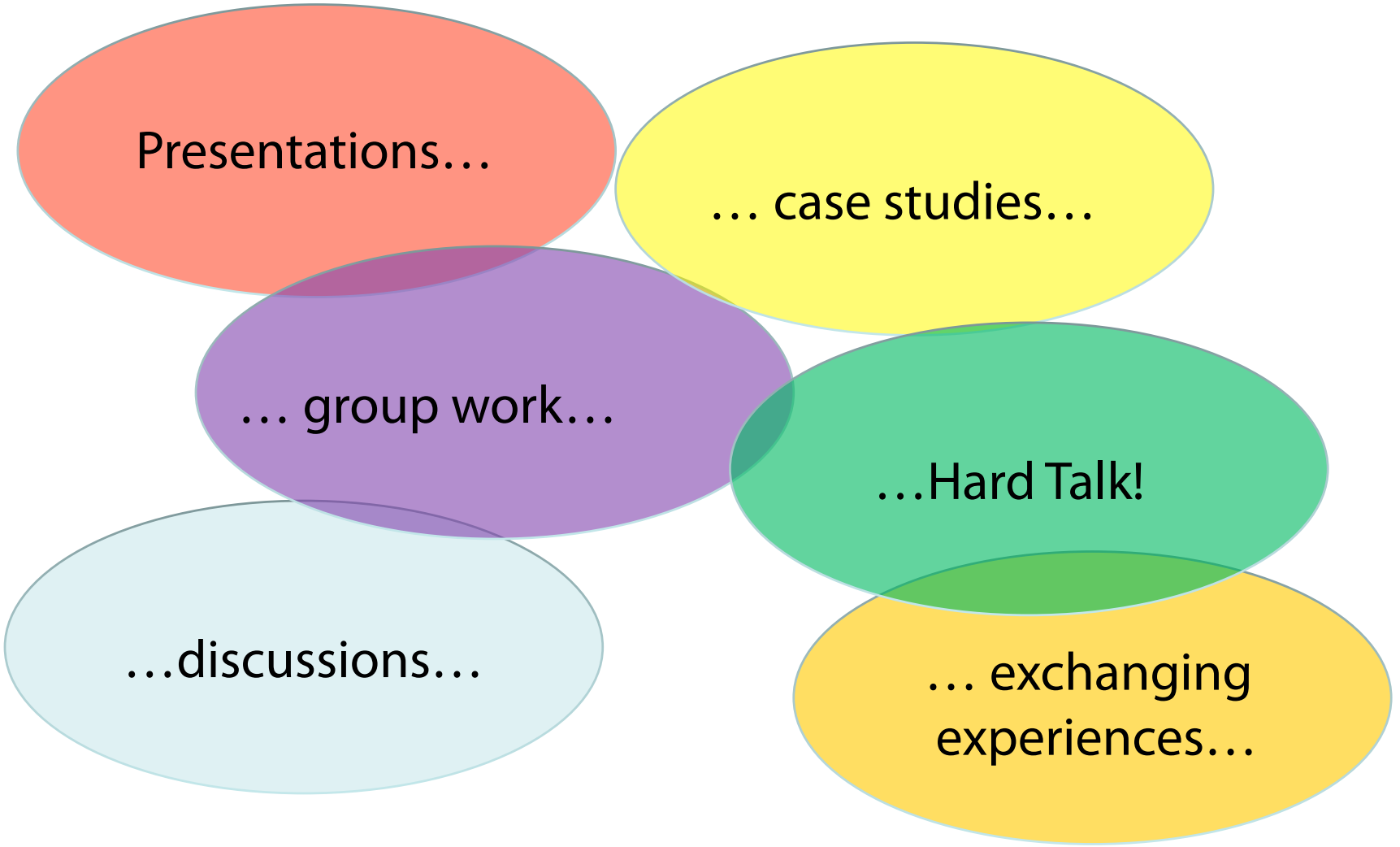
Learning Objectives

1	Become familiar with the EU/EC and UN/UNDP policy framework, strategies and activities in the field of EA
2	Looking into the way EC and UNDP work together at HQ and in the field
3	Discover best practices and lessons learned from up-to-date and hands-on cases from the electoral assistance world
4	Identify key challenges and opportunities in the implementation of EA projects within the framework of the EC-UNDP Partnership on Electoral Assistance
5	Tackle challenges during implementation: planning, budgeting, operational planning, reporting, visibility…
6	Dealing with cross-cutting issues: new technologies, gender mainstreaming, conflict prevention & mitigation

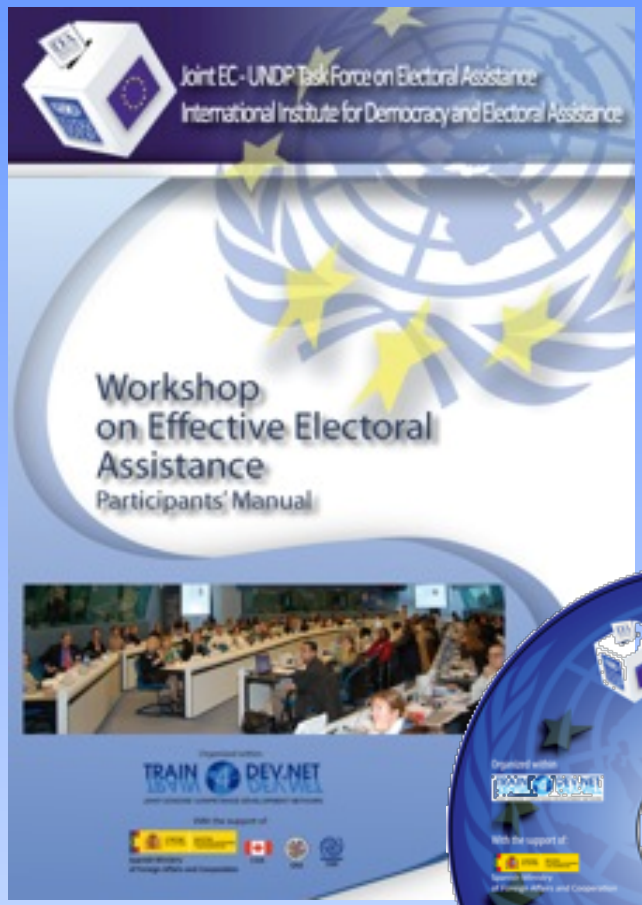
EC-UNDP joint ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES: how to identify and tackle the main challenges of working together on EA

- **This is where we chose to put the focus this time around, based on wide demand**
- **While the main concepts will be revisited, this training will build on knowledge most of the participants already have developed, and seek to go further**
- **The attempt here is to**
  - **Share all the knowledge available in this room**
  - **Exchange views and best practices**
  - **Increase our mutual understanding and work effectiveness**
- **Identifying the challenges, tackling them and working them out is one concrete way of making Electoral Assistance efforts more Effective**

Training Methodology



Specific Training Material



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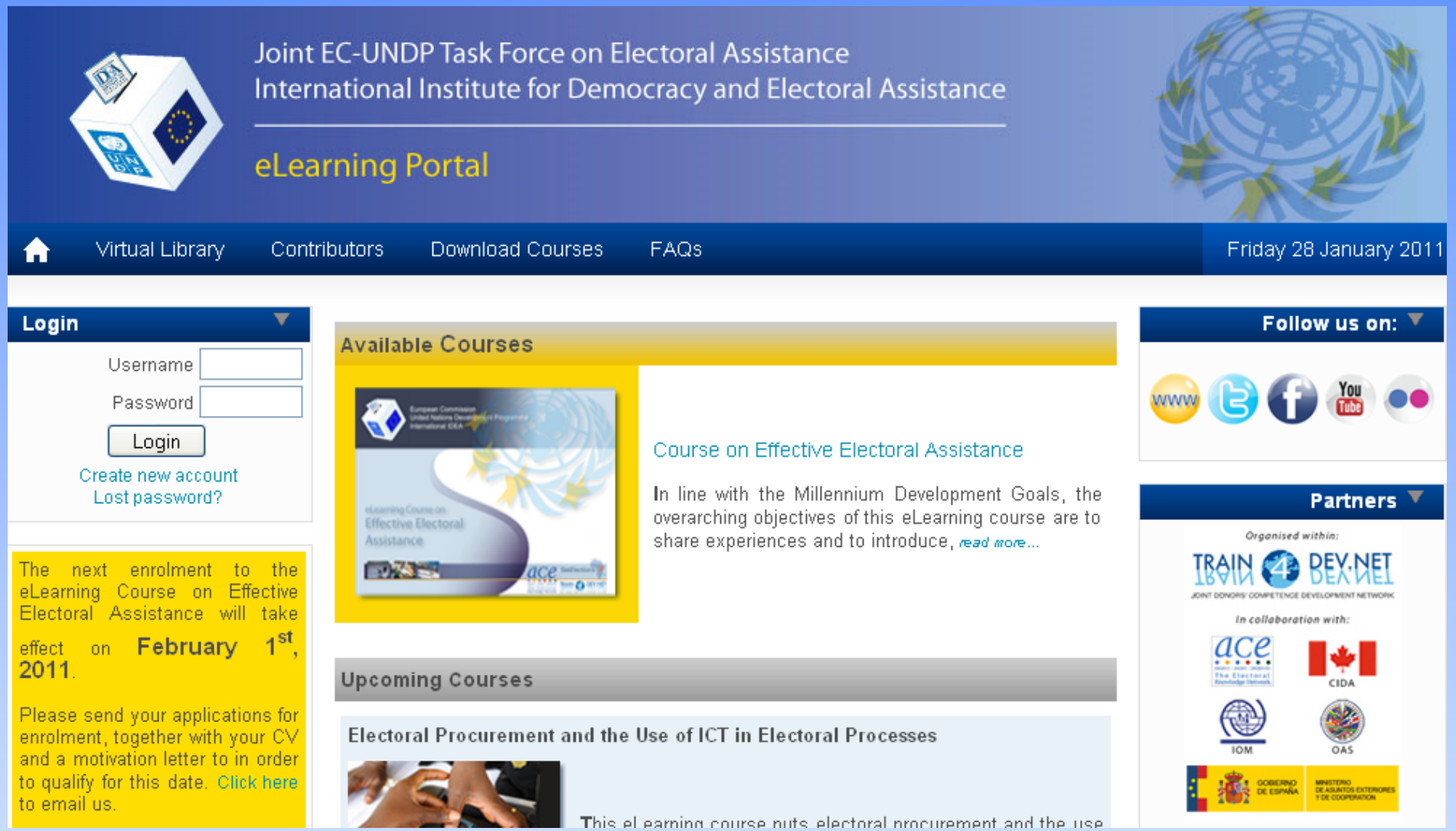
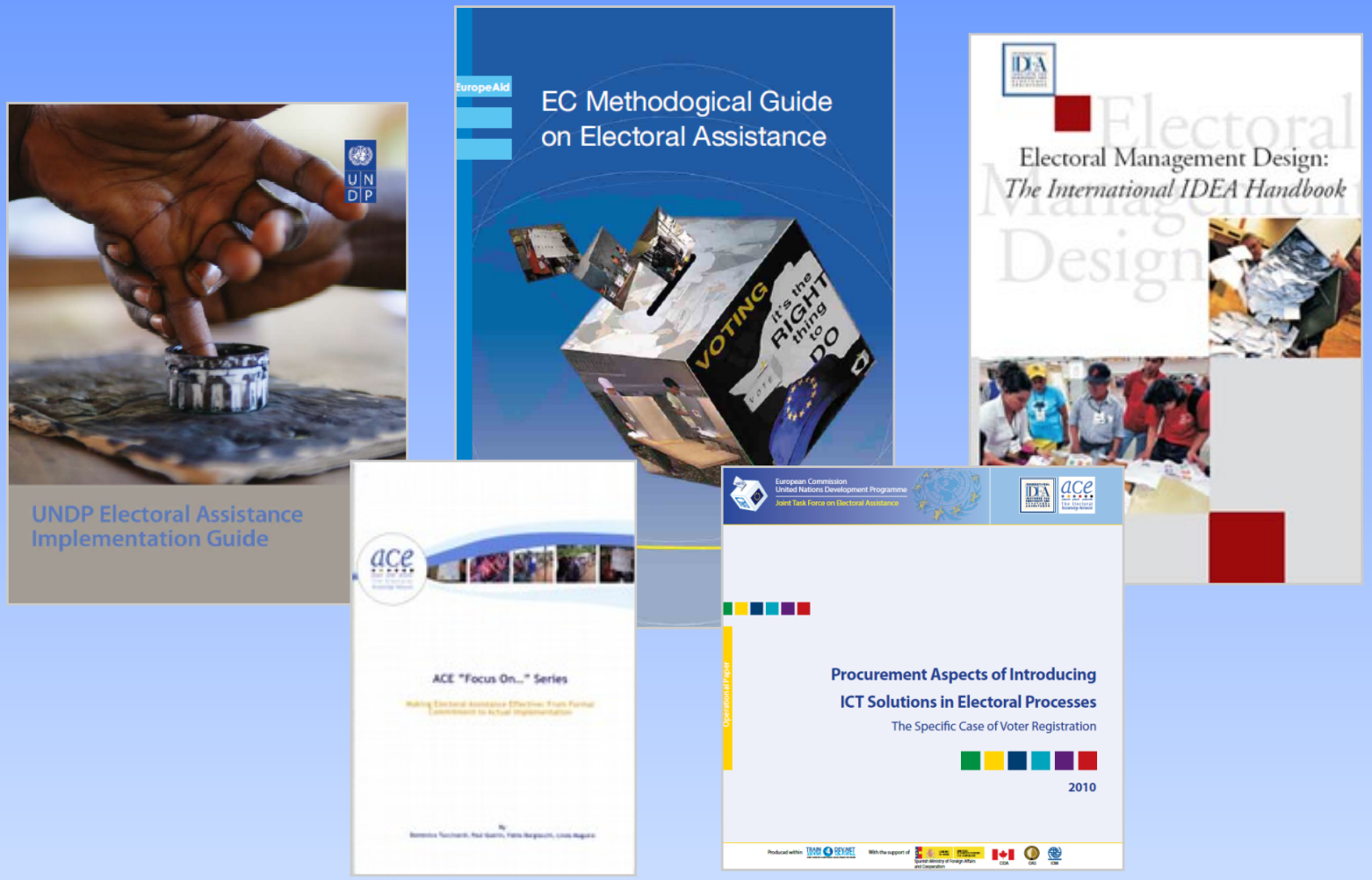
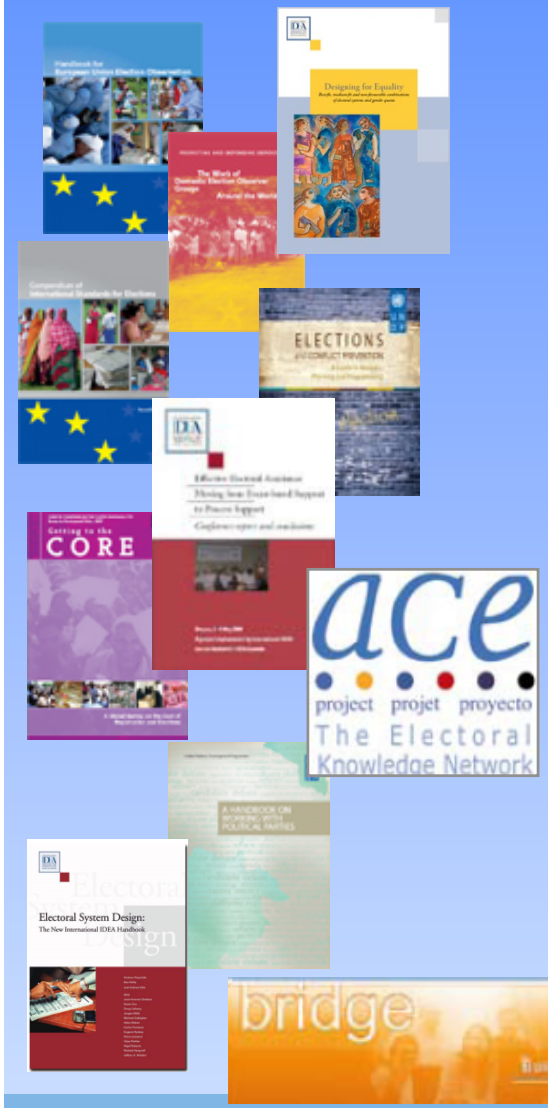


Main Resources

The training is built on FIVE main resources:



Additional Resources



- Handbook for EU Election Observation (2nd edition)
- A Handbook on Working With Political Parties (UNDP)
- Getting to the CORE: A Global Survey on the Cost of Registration and Elections
- Elections and Conflict Prevention: A Guide to Analysis, Planning, and Programming
- The Work of Domestic Election Observer Groups Around the World
- Compendium of International Standards for Elections
- Electoral System Design: The New International IDEA Handbook
- Designing for Equality (IDEA)
- Eff ective Electoral Assistance: Moving from Event-based Support to Process Support Conference report and conclusions

- BRIDGE
- ACE
- PALOP
- … other

Key Concepts

Sudan 2011

Haiti 2010

- Why Electoral Assistance
- Effective Electoral Assistance
- Electoral Cycle Approach
- OECD Conference on EA 2010

Elections: a Fundamental Element of Democratic Governance

In more countries than ever before there is a demand to strengthening democratic governance

electoral support is receiving increasing attention within democratic governance

a sharp increase worldwide in the number of elections of a pluralistic nature

only a few states in the world do not conduct elections

Elections: a Fundamental Element of Democratic Governance

Why Electoral Assistance?

CREDIBILITY GAP

electoral management bodies **confront** a new set of **challenges...**

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

reversing situations of **professional stagnation**

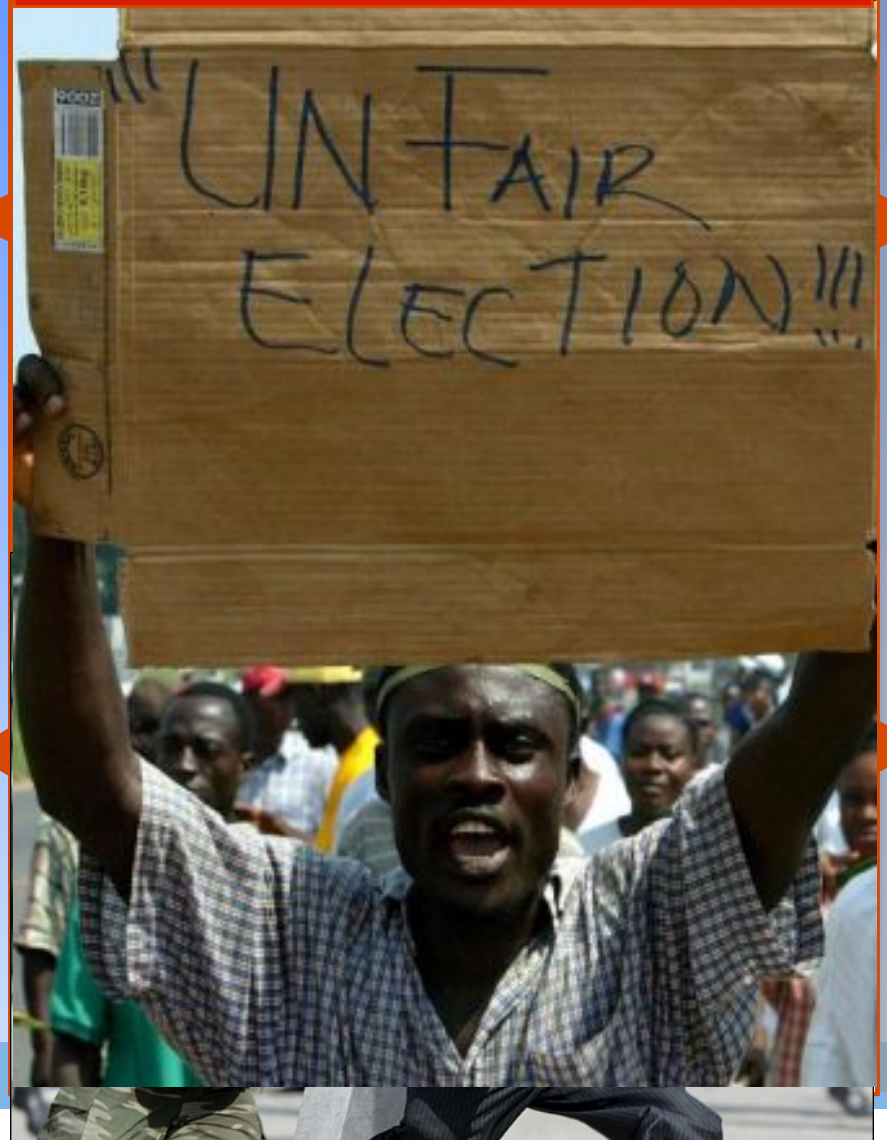
building the **trust** of the various **stakeholders** in the electoral process

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

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

Why Electoral Assistance?

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**

Definitions

- ✓ **Electoral Assistance = support (legal, technical, logistic, etc.) provided to electoral laws, processes and institutions.**
- ✓ **Effective Electoral Assistance = initiatives and activities to improve the quality and impact of electoral assistance to partner country electoral institutions and processes.**
- ✓ **EEA is part of the wider democratic development of the partner country, in accordance with the five key principles of ownership, alignment, harmonization, managing for results and mutual accountability that inform the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness.**
- ✓ **EEA implies the management of a complex set of interactions among Government, EMBs, International Organizations, Political Parties, CSOs, Services Providers and Media…the electoral cycle approach.**

Effective Electoral Assistance

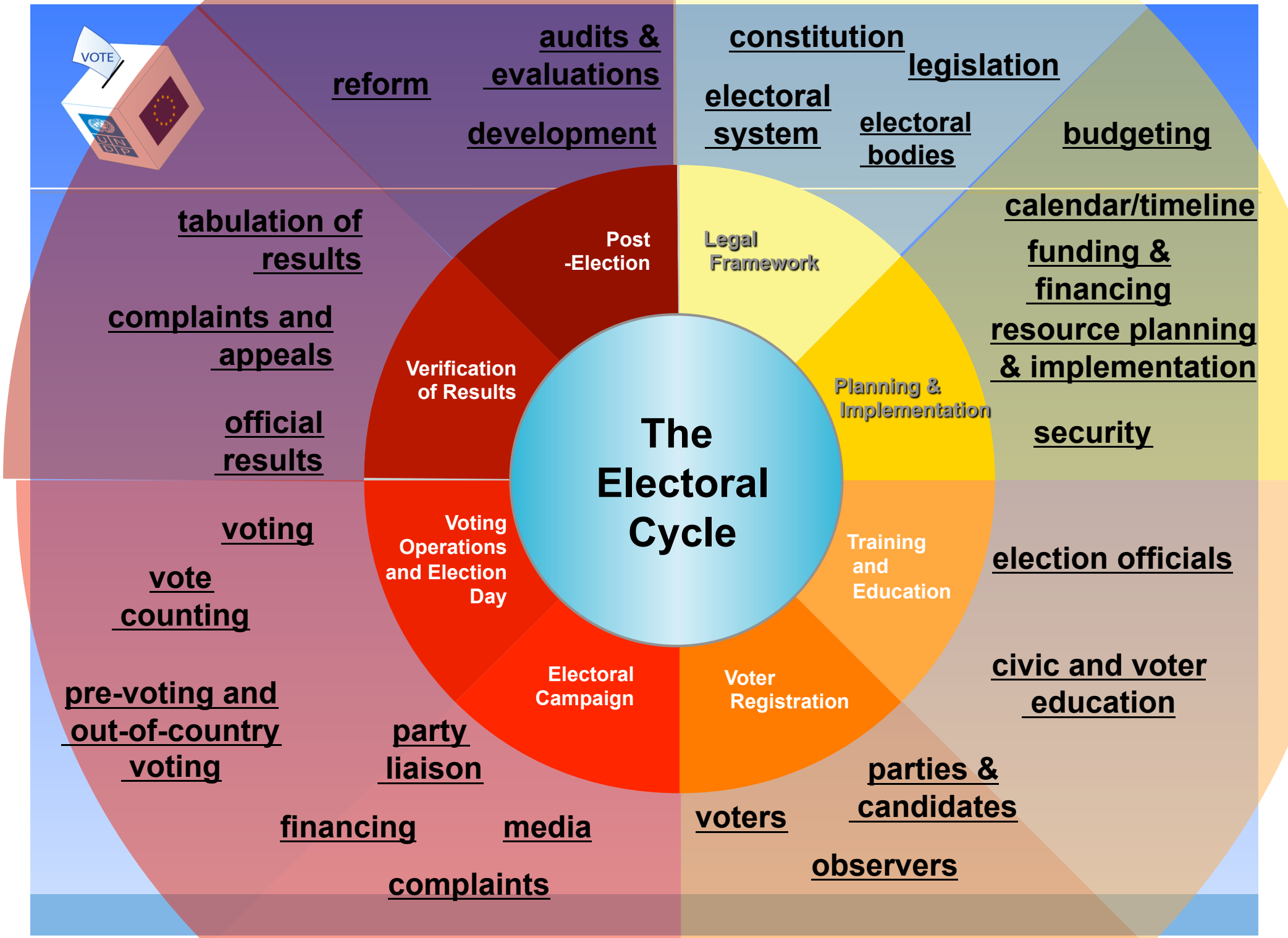
Election Support

vs

Electoral Support

Cote d'Ivoire 2010

Afghanistan 2009


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

Electoral Cycle Approach

Is…

- ✓ Focused on the long term
- ✓ About developing capacities
- ✓ A way to engage with a wide variety of stakeholders
- ✓ A way to promote more exchanges, networking and south-south cooperation

Electoral Cycle Approach

Is not…

- ✓ A replacement of elections or indication that election events are unimportant
- ✓ A means to provide quick support before an election
- ✓ An excuse to provide indefinite support to electoral processes

Round Table on International Electoral Support

The first Round Table on International Electoral Support was organized on 1st March 2010 hosted by the OECD-DAC Governance Network (GOVNET)

DAC NETWORK ON GOVERNANCE (GOVNET)

OECD

Round Table on International Electoral Support

1	Share experiences/understandings on the current state of implementation of best practices in electoral support
2	Discuss and develop strategic principles on best practices for electoral support
3	Discuss topical issues – thinking politically/realistically about elections in fragile states, holistic approaches, women participation etc.

Draft Principles

- ✓ **Take the local context seriously through careful, comprehensive assessments.**

- ✓ ***Be alert to electoral risk.*** **Elections assistance providers must respond to the recent rise in electoral and post-electoral violence in developing countries by giving greater attention to electoral risk and long-term causes of political violence that could ignite in election processes. These concerns should be reflected in the design and implementation of elections assistance interventions.**

- ✓ ***Don't misuse electoral aid and promote transparency.*** **Elections assistance should be employed based on the highest standards of impartiality and only to promote free and fair elections, not to advance other donor policy goals, such as burnishing the legitimacy of favored partner governments or building friendly relationships with governments. to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).**

- ✓ **Ground electoral assistance in complementary diplomatic policies. Elections assistance should be grounded in complementary diplomatic policies that seek to nurture or reinforce the commitment on the part of partner governments to follow accepted electoral norms.**

Draft Principles

- ✓ **Recognize the role of regional organizations.** Elections assistance providers should take full account of the valuable role that regional organizations can play both in election monitoring and election assistance and seek the greatest possible complementarity with such organizations.

- ✓ **Embrace a full concept of ownership.** Aid to strengthen an electoral process should be owned not only by the relevant partner government but by the broader political society in question. Elections assistance providers should embrace an interpretation of local ownership that takes account of this political imperative.

- ✓ **Build on donor coordination.** Elections assistance providers should build on the progress they have made in creating cooperative mechanisms for elections assistance by assessing the record of such mechanisms and seeking ways to broaden and deepen communication, cooperation, and coordination among all relevant aid providers, including around joint funding mechanisms

- ✓ **Be as comprehensive as possible.** Designing elections assistance to be comprehensive horizontally across the many domestic institutions and sectors that are involved in an electoral process will ensure better synergies and overall coherence. Elections assistance and observation should be well coordinated, as observation plays a key role in effective electoral support.

Draft Principles

- ✓ **Think and act across the electoral cycle. Elections assistance should be designed, planned, and implemented in a long-term fashion across the full length of electoral cycle and if possible across multiple cycles, avoiding the common tendency to focus primarily on activities relating to elections day. Donor support should encourage sustainability to ensure that local capacity is built as quickly as reasonably possible.**

- ✓ **Push for integration. Elections assistance should be actively integrated into the wider domain of democracy support, especially assistance for political party development, legislative strengthening, media assistance, and civic education programs.**

- ✓ **Emphasize citizens' understanding and engagement. Efforts to help citizens understand the utility and significance of elections as one part of a broader set of accountability mechanisms should be an integral element of elections assistance. Experience show that it is important to support consultative approaches to help election stakeholders to be jointly responsible and to build their confidence, and that of the wider public, in election management bodies and other institutions involved.**

Draft Principles

- ✓ **Add the local to the national.** Aid providers should complement their traditional focus on national elections with greater attention to strengthening local elections.

- ✓ **Make the connection with accountability.** Elections assistance providers should actively connect their activities with the wider set of donor programs supporting accountable governance at all levels.

- ✓ **Don't neglect gender.** Although progress has been made to widen and deepen the role of women in politics in many developing countries, elections assistance providers should do more to incorporate a full gender dimension in elections assistance, especially concerning candidate selection and voter participation.

- ✓ **Respond more consistently to flawed elections.** Donor governments committed to advancing free and fair elections should strive toward greater normative consistency in responding to flawed elections.

- ✓ **Keep learning about impact, and act on it.** Building on the important learning efforts undertaken in recent years, elections assistance providers should carry out deep-reaching evaluations of the impact of elections assistance in varied contexts and incorporate the learning from those evaluations into assistance practice.

Self-Presentation of Participants!