Thematic Workshop:

Elections, Violence & Conflict Prevention

EU Policy and Strategic Framework for Electoral Support & the new Agenda for Democracy

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Organized within: TRAIN4DEV.NET JOINT DONORS' COMPETENCE DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

With the support of: UNDP Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery; CIDA; IOM; OAS

Partners: International Crisis Group; Ajuntament de Barcelona; Barcelona International Peace Resource Center

EU legal framework

Consolidated Treaty on EU (art 21)

The **Union's action on the international scene shall be guided by the principles** which have inspired its own creation, development and enlargement, and **which it seeks to advance in the wider world: democracy, the rule of law**, the universality and indivisibility of human rights and fundamental freedoms, respect for human dignity, the principles of equality and solidarity, and respect for the principles of the United Nations Charter and international law.

Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU (preamble)

The Union (...) is based on the principles of **democracy** and the rule of law.

Why does the EU promote democracy?

- **Development policy and democratization are seen as complementary – ex. the EU Strategy for Africa adopted in 2005 identifies good and effective governance as a prerequisite for development**

- **Democracy provides an enabling environment for advances in:**
- **sustainable development**
- **long term political stability**
- **conflict prevention**
- **national, regional and international security**

The instrumental value of democracy

❑ THE CYCLE

EC Communication on election assistance and observation – COM (2000)191

- **Reviews the lessons to be learned from EU assistance and observation efforts between 1993 and 2000**
- **States the links between democracy, development and peace:**
  - **Promotion of genuine democracy and respect for human rights is the determining factor in building sustainable human development and lasting peace**
  - **Actions in support of democratisation and respect for human rights, including the right to participate in the establishment of governments through free and fair elections, can make a major contribution to peace, security and the prevention of conflicts.**

EC Communication on election assistance and observation – COM (2000)191

- **Defines assistance and observation and the extent of their complementarity:**
  - Election **assistance** is 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**

EC Communication on election assistance and observation – COM(2000)191

- **Suggests a strategy and methods for EU election assistance and observation in third countries:**
  - **Partnership between the EC and the host country**
  - **Flexible and case-by-case approach**
  - **Development of national capacity, including support to national Election Commissions and civil society organisations**
  - **Long term sustainability after an election and continuity of support**
  - **Promotion of pluralism of national actors, media and NGOs**
  - **Support to national observers**
  - **Importance of electoral registration and fair delimitation of electoral boundaries**

EC Communication on election assistance and observation – COM(2000)191

- **Sets the criteria for Election Assistance:**
  - **A request from the host government**
  - **A general agreement of main political parties and other stakeholders to an EU electoral assistance programme**
  - **Previous EU political monitoring or EU development programs in the host country**
  - **Adequate time-frame for preparation**
  - **Freedom of movement and access to national authorities**
  - **Access to information**
  - **Safety of the technical assistance team**

Lessons learned

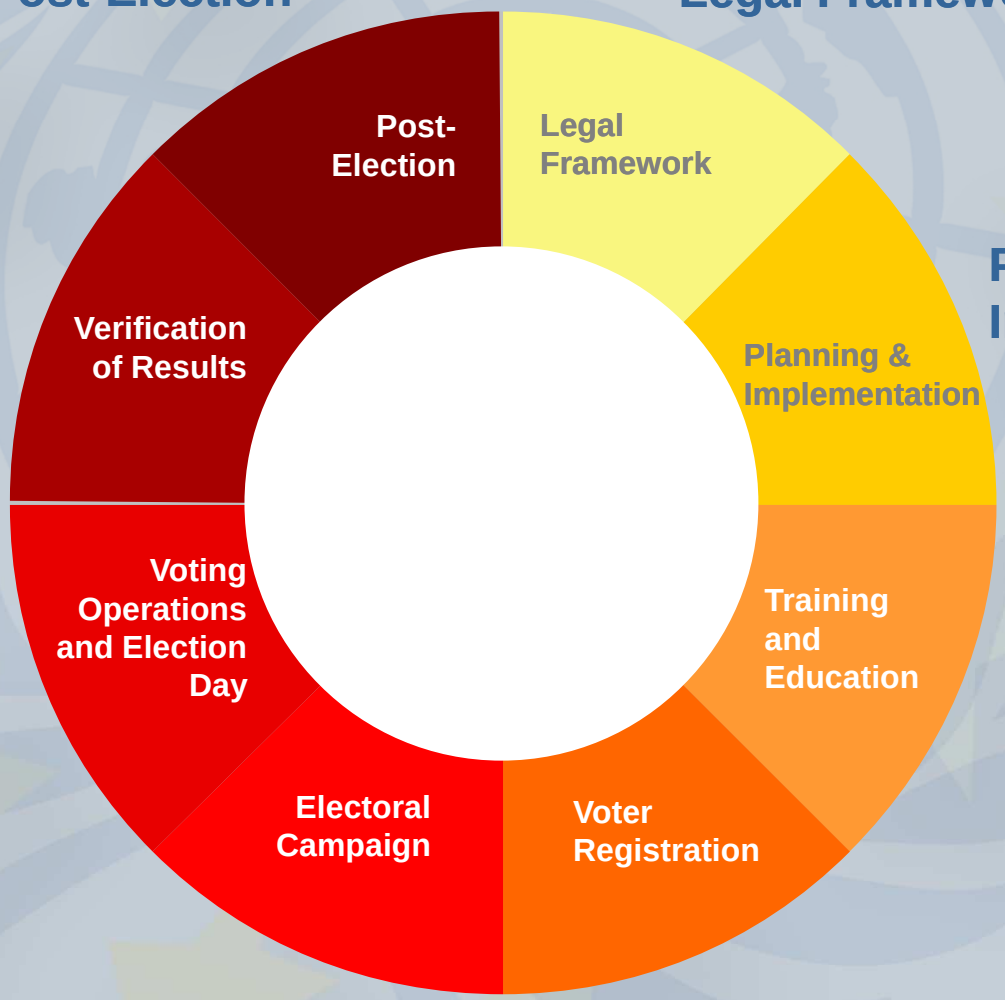
- Requests for assistance received late and for short-term interventions - late formulation of projects
- Too much focus on supporting the electoral event
- Temporary ad hoc institutions or massive deployment of international expertise without effective knowledge transfer, lack of capacity building to ensure sustainability of the process.
- Poor follow-up of EUEOM recommendations
- Absence of coherent methodology

New implementation approach
2006 - ongoing

Focus on effectiveness and sustainability

- **Development of tools and methodologies**
  - **Conceptualization of the Electoral Cycle approach**
  - **Elaboration of the EC Guide on Electoral Assistance**
  - **Training on effective Electoral Assistance**
- **Collaboration and coordination with other actors (UNDP, IDEA, EISA, ACE, Train4Dev)**
- **Quality support to programme and projects**

The Electoral Cycle



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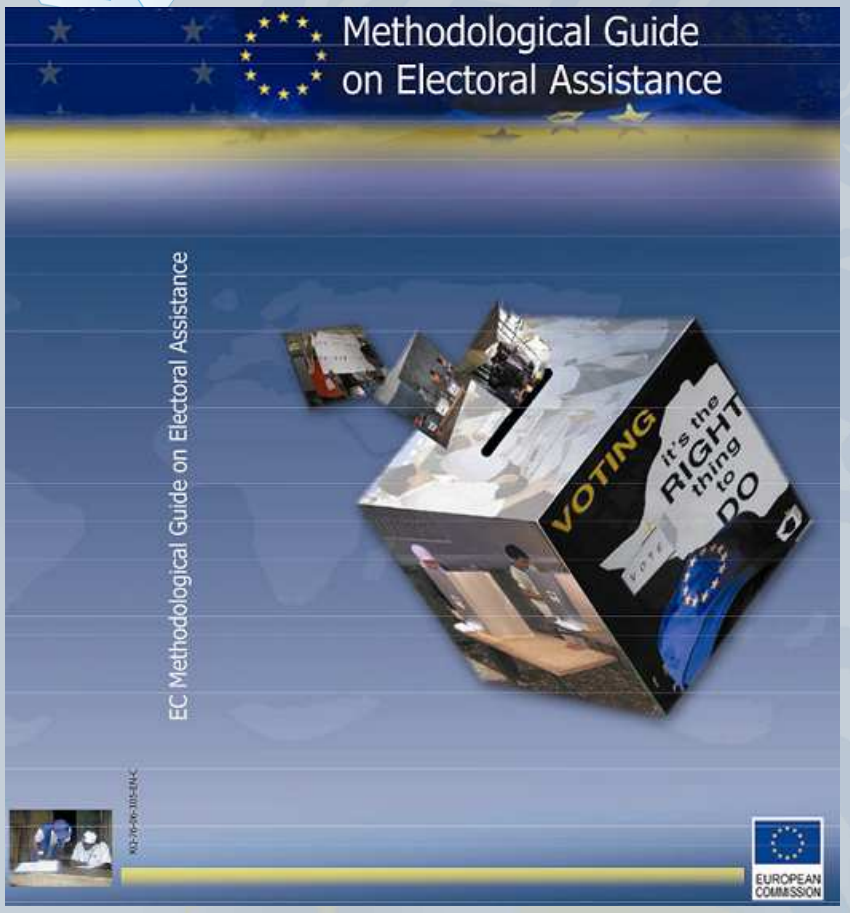
EC Methodological Guide on Electoral Assistance



- ✓ ***strategy, lessons learned, 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.***

Training on Effective Electoral Assistance

Joint eLearning course

Coordination with other actors
(UNDP, IDEA, IOM, OAS, CIDA,…)

EC/UNDP partnership on electoral assistance

www.ec-undp-electoralassistance.org

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Quality support to projects/programmes

- Establishment of the EC/UNDP Joint Task Force
- Sharing of information, increased communication
- Exchange of good practices
- Specific electoral expertise
- (Early) identification and formulation missions and ad hoc missions throughout implementation
- EUEOM recommendations as a starting point for electoral assistance interventions

EC at the forefront of Electoral Assistance

- **In the 2004-2009 timeframe the EC provided over 500M€ for electoral support activities worldwide**
  - **African countries where the largest recipients with more then 400 M€**
  - **DRC electoral process was supported over a three years period with 165 M€**
- **Leading role in the conceptualization of a strategy for Effective Electoral Assistance and the production of content**

Recent developments:
The EC-Council GS Joint Paper on Democracy Building in EU External Relations - 2009

- Describes and assesses the **different EU instruments and tools for democracy building in third countries**: from political dialogue and diplomatic initiatives to instruments of financial and technical cooperation.
- Recalls the **top-down approach** = democratic institution building, and the **bottom up approach** = support to non-state actors
- Stresses the synergies between support to democracy and support to other components of good governance and State building.
- Recommends that **the existing EU tools be used in a more coherent and coordinated fashion** to increase effectiveness.

Recent developments:
EU Agenda for Action on Democracy Support in EU External Relations - 2009

- **Aims at improving the coherence and effectiveness of of EU support to democracy**
- **Lists a set of values, norms and principles at the core of the Agenda**
- **Identifies areas where further action is to be taken:**
  - **a country-specific approach**
  - **dialogue and partnership**
  - **EU coherence and coordination**
  - **mainstreaming**
  - **international cooperation**
  - **Visibility**

The Council calls on the EU institutions to implement the Agenda and report back in 2010 on progress made.

Consolidating the link between democratisation and stabilisation

- **The Lisbon Treaty mentions post-conflict stabilisation among the tasks which the EU is set to perform in the implementation of the Common Security and Defence Policy.**
- **Electoral assistance and observation are increasingly delivered in post-conflict and fragile countries, as a contribution to stabilisation**

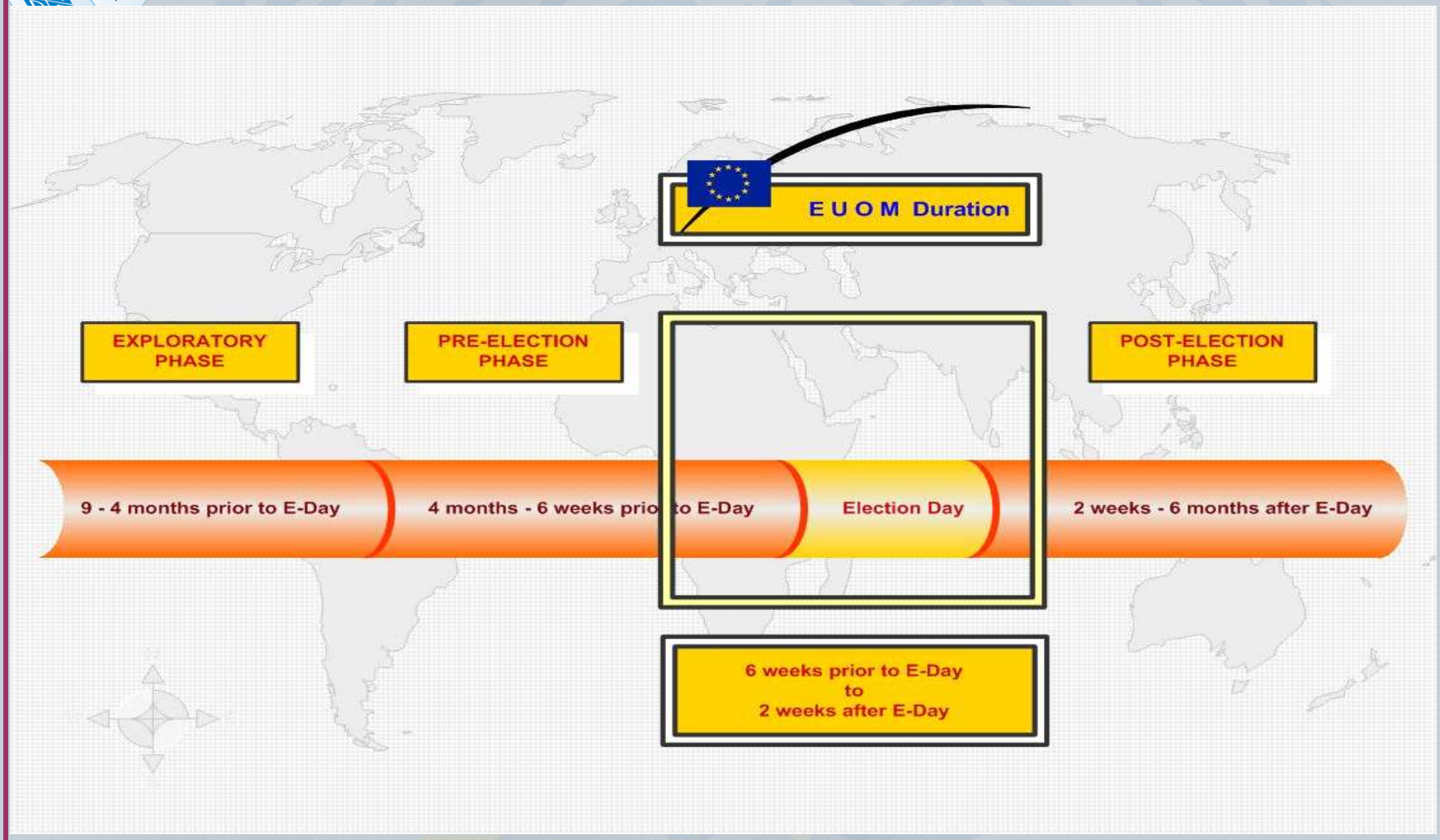
EU Election Observation

- Systematic collection of information on an electoral process by direct observation on the basis of established methodologies, often analyzing both qualitative and quantitative data.

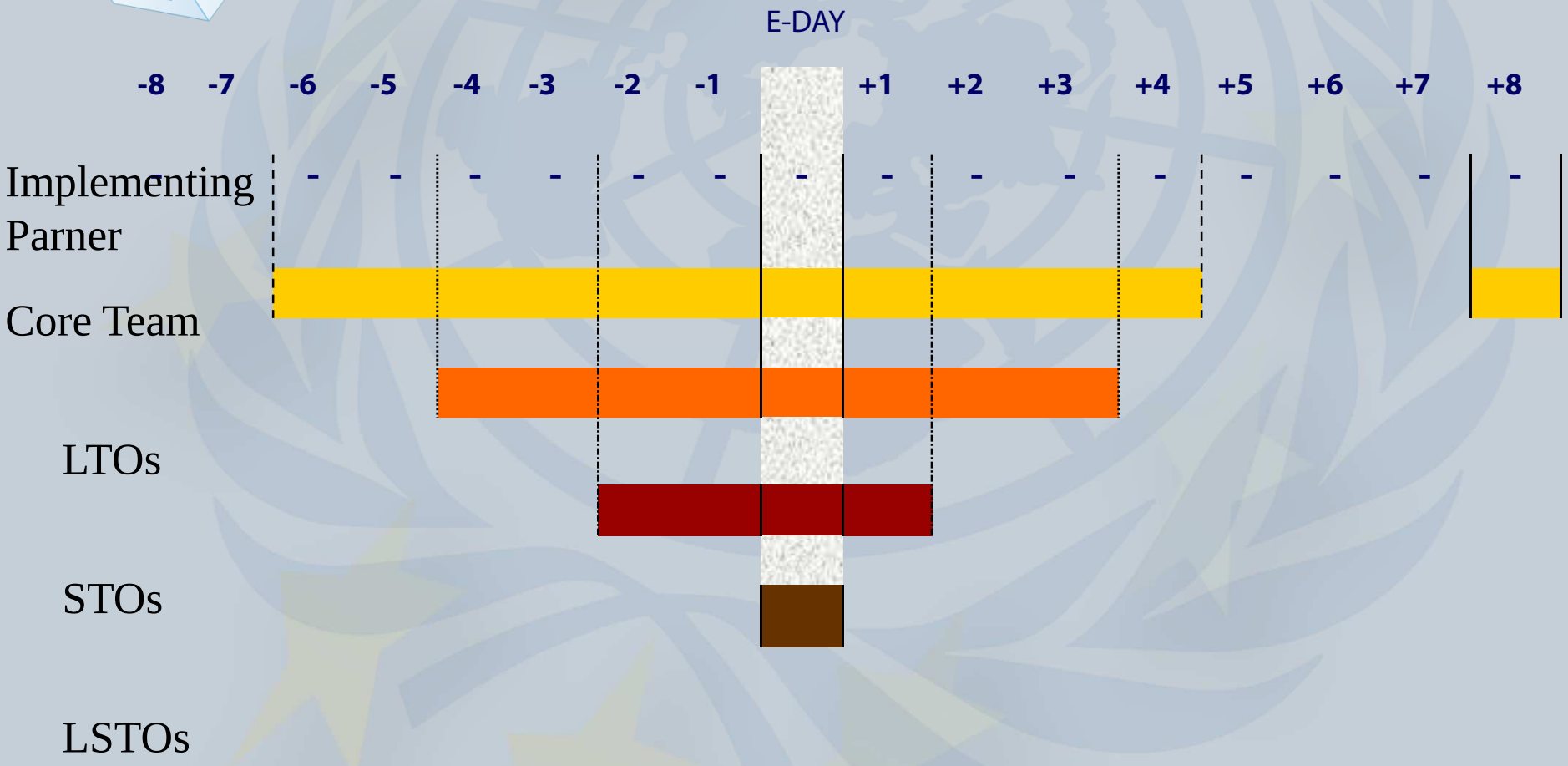
- Phases:

- **Programming**
- **Exploratory Mission**
- **Decision based on: advisability, faisability, usefulness**
- **Contracting I.P. / Selection**
- **Core Team deployment**
- **Observers (LTOs, STOs) deployment**
- **E-Day + Preliminary Statement**
- **Final Report 1-2 months later**

Election Timeline



Deployment Timing



EU Election Observation main findings

- **EUEOM conducts:**
- **An assessment of the legal framework for elections and its implementation in accordance with international standards**
- **An evaluation of the structures and performance of election management bodies based on the criteria which include independence, impartiality, transparency, effectiveness and professionalism**
- **The EUEOM Final Report includes an analytical overview of all aspects of the electoral process and recommendations to improve the process.**

Questions?