



Joint EC-UNDP Task Force on Electoral Assistance
International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance

Thematic Workshop on Elections, Violence and Conflict Prevention



Thematic Workshop on Elections, Violence and Conflict Prevention

2nd edition

EU Framework for Electoral Support

Teresa Polara, DEVCO, European Commission

Barcelona 20-24 June 2011



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.



What is the link between democracy and development?

Development policy and democracy support are nowadays seen as complementary – good and effective governance is considered 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



How does the EU promote democracy?

Instruments and tools for democracy building in third countries:

- ☐ **Political dialogue and diplomatic initiatives (for ACP countries, artt. 8 et 96 Cotonou Agreement)**
- ☐ **Instruments of financial and technical cooperation**
- ☐ **Mainstreaming of democratic principles in all interventions**
- ☐ **Participatory decision making process in drafting Poverty Reduction Strategies, ideally involving civil society, Parliament and independent control mechanisms**



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**



EU Electoral Support



**Electoral
Assistance**

**Election
Observation**



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 a 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



SEC(03)1472

Commission Staff Working Paper

Criteria for involvement

Complementarity – Complement national funds and in coordination with other donors and Members States. (Exception for post conflict elections)

Electoral assistance has to respect its ultimate objective – **improvement in the expression of popular will** through electoral process

Assistance has to be assessed for its impact as a **conflict prevention tool**

Assessment of **political impact** – Minimum democratic space?



A Country-driven Agenda

- ❑ **the EU signs a pluriannual CSP (Country Strategy Paper) with the partner Country and a NIP (National Indicative Programme)**
- ❑ **The international partners' community is plural in most partner countries**
- ❑ **Donors' agendas are meant to be Country-driven and tailored on the beneficiaries' needs and requirements**
- ❑ **This is ultimately what makes it possible to converge on the same electoral assistance platform – very often a UNDP managed project and basket fund.**
- ❑ **The donors' community can join efforts to implement the beneficiary requirements in the field of democratic governance – and help the partner Country meeting the international laws and standards it has abided to.**



The EU External cooperation - Financial Instruments

Since 2007

Geographical Instruments:

- ▶ European Development Fund (EDF) ACP countries.
- ▶ European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI)
- ▶ Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI). Asia, Latin America and Middle East countries
- ▶ Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA); Candidates Countries

Thematic Instrument:

- ▶ European Instrument for Democracy Human Rights (EIDHR). Centrally managed

Crisis response instruments:

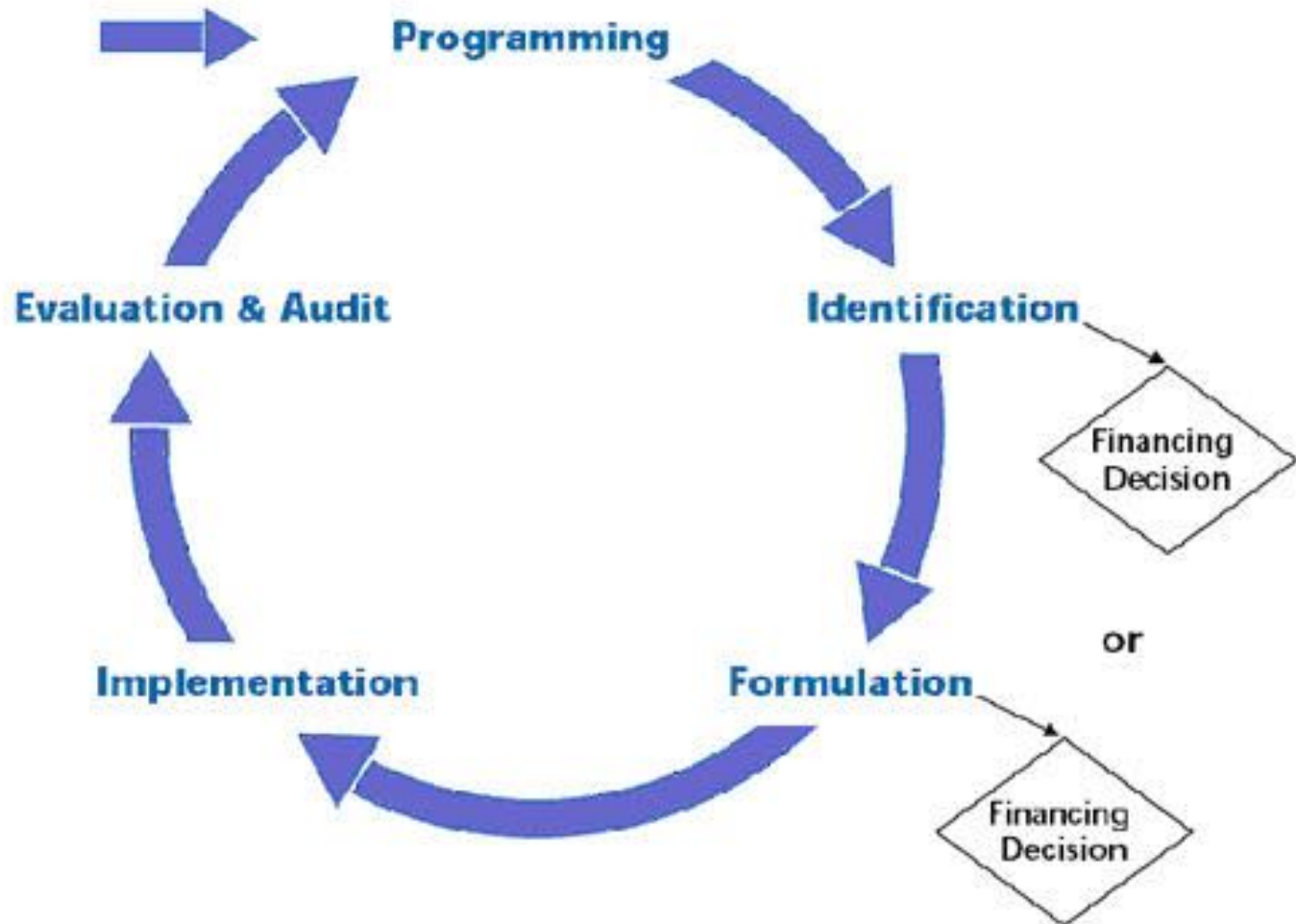
- ▶ Instrument for Stability

Before 2007

More than 30 different instruments for delivering external cooperation



EU Project Cycle Management





How the EU project cycle works in practice

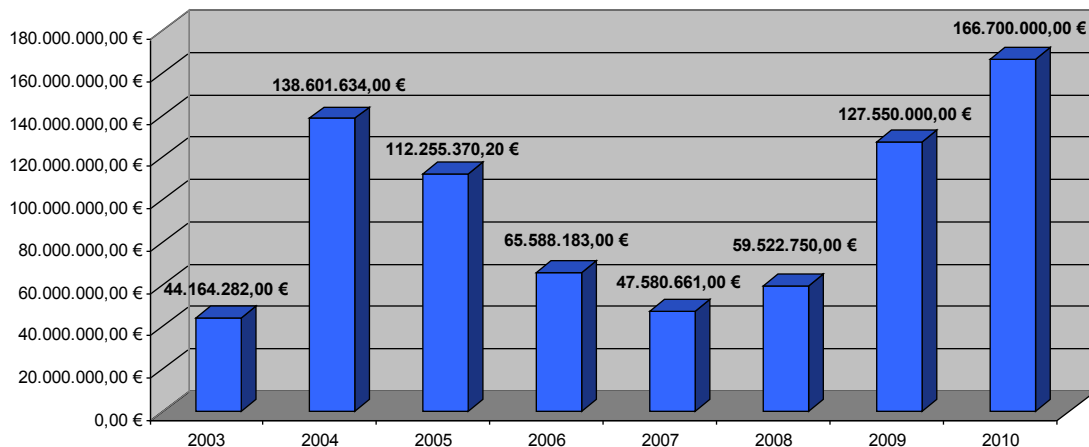
- ❑ **Global programming** and allocations per country – HQ
- ❑ **Programming at the country level** – done by EU Delegations and national authorities - signing of a pluriannual Country Strategy Paper (CSP) and of a National Indicative Plan (NIP)
- ❑ Project **Identification and Formulation** – done at the country level – EUD and beneficiaries define the EU project and agree on its objectives, expected results and activities to be carried out, implementation modalities – DEVCO to provide support
- ❑ Project **implementation** – done at the country level by an implementing partner – DEVCO to provide follow up



EU electoral assistance

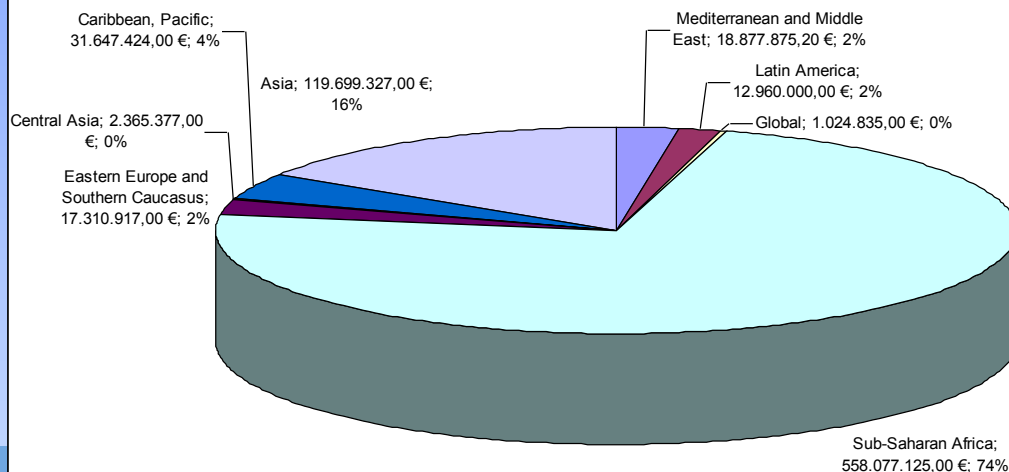
Figures

EU electoral assistance funds per year, 2003-2010



Between 2003 and 2010 the EU has provided over 700 M€ for electoral assistance activities worldwide

EU electoral assistance funds per region, 2003-2010



At the same time the EU has played a leading role in the conceptualization of a strategy for Effective Electoral Assistance and the production of content



New implementation approach 2006 - ongoing

Focus on effectiveness and sustainability

Attention to **follow up of EU EOM Recommendations**

Development of tools and methodologies

- Conceptualization of the Electoral Cycle approach
- Electoral Assistance vs Election Assistance
- Elaboration of the EC Guide on Electoral Assistance
- Training on effective Electoral Assistance

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

Increased Quality support to programme and projects, early identification and formulation missions



EC Methodological Guide on Electoral Assistance

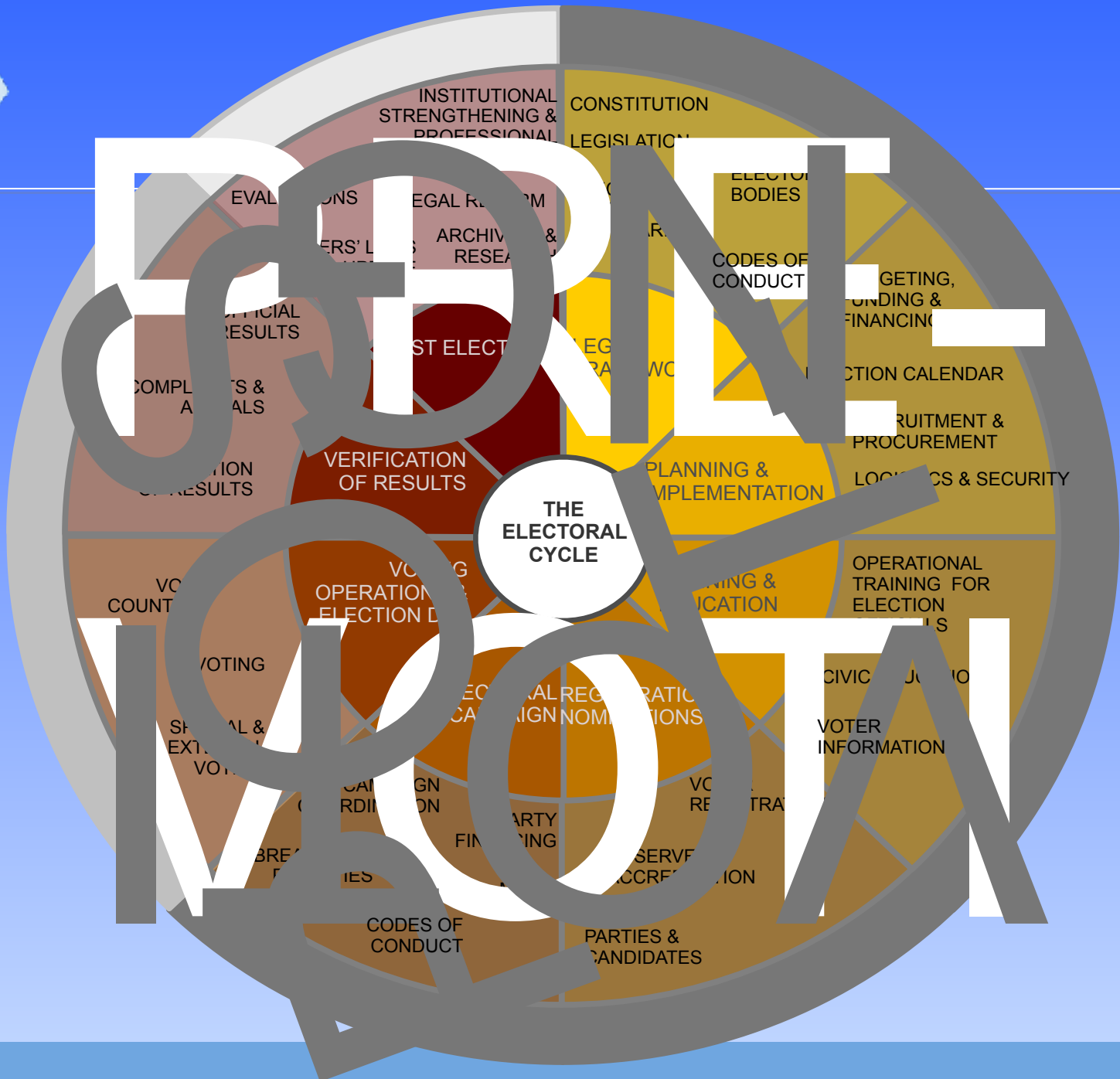


✓ ***strategy, lessons learned, electoral cycle approach***

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

✓ ***EC procedures***

✓ ***case studies, operational tools and sources of information***





The increasing synergies between Election observation and Electoral Assistance

- ❑ The EU EOM's recommendations are increasingly shaping future electoral reforms and later electoral assistance projects
- ❑ Recommendations are systematically **recalled in EA projects' formulation** and are the basis for many relevant activities foreseen in such projects
- ❑ Recommendations can serve as a **platform of discussion and political dialogue** for the international community with the national authorities
- ❑ Exploratory Missions which are sent to assess whether an EOM should be deployed, increasingly **take stock of previous and ongoing electoral assistance projects** provided in the Country



Electoral assistance and conflict prevention in the light of political economy analysis

- ❑ An increasing number of donor agencies are recognising the importance of **political economy analysis approach** in order to shape a meaningful and effective development practice.
- ❑ The political economy analysis approach challenges the assumption that large amounts of aid will necessarily have a transformative effect and highlights the potential for international aid to fail or even harm, if it does not take into full account the institutional and political context.
- ❑ Proposed interventions need to be tailored based on a thorough analysis of the social, economic and political context, including the role of the different players, so to identify the interests at stake, drivers of change, negative drivers and drivers of conflict.
- ❑ Proposed interventions should seek to offer “the best fit” to the local political economy context rather than seeking to impose “best practices” from the OECD context.



Questions?!

