



European Commission  
United Nations Development Programme  
**Joint Task Force on Electoral Assistance**



## **EU/EC Policy and Strategic Framework towards the Introduction/Use of ICTs in Electoral Processes**

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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**



## How does the EU promote democracy?

### Instruments and Actors

#### Political Instruments

Council  
Commission  
European Parliament

#### Assistance Instruments

Commission



# **EU support to electoral processes**

## **Policy framework**

- Communication on election assistance and observation, COM(00)191, April 2000**
- Council conclusions on election assistance and observation (99910/01)**
- Staff working paper on the implementation of the Communication on Election Assistance and Observation, SEC(03)1472, December 2003**



## The EC External assistance. The Financial Instruments :

### **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:**

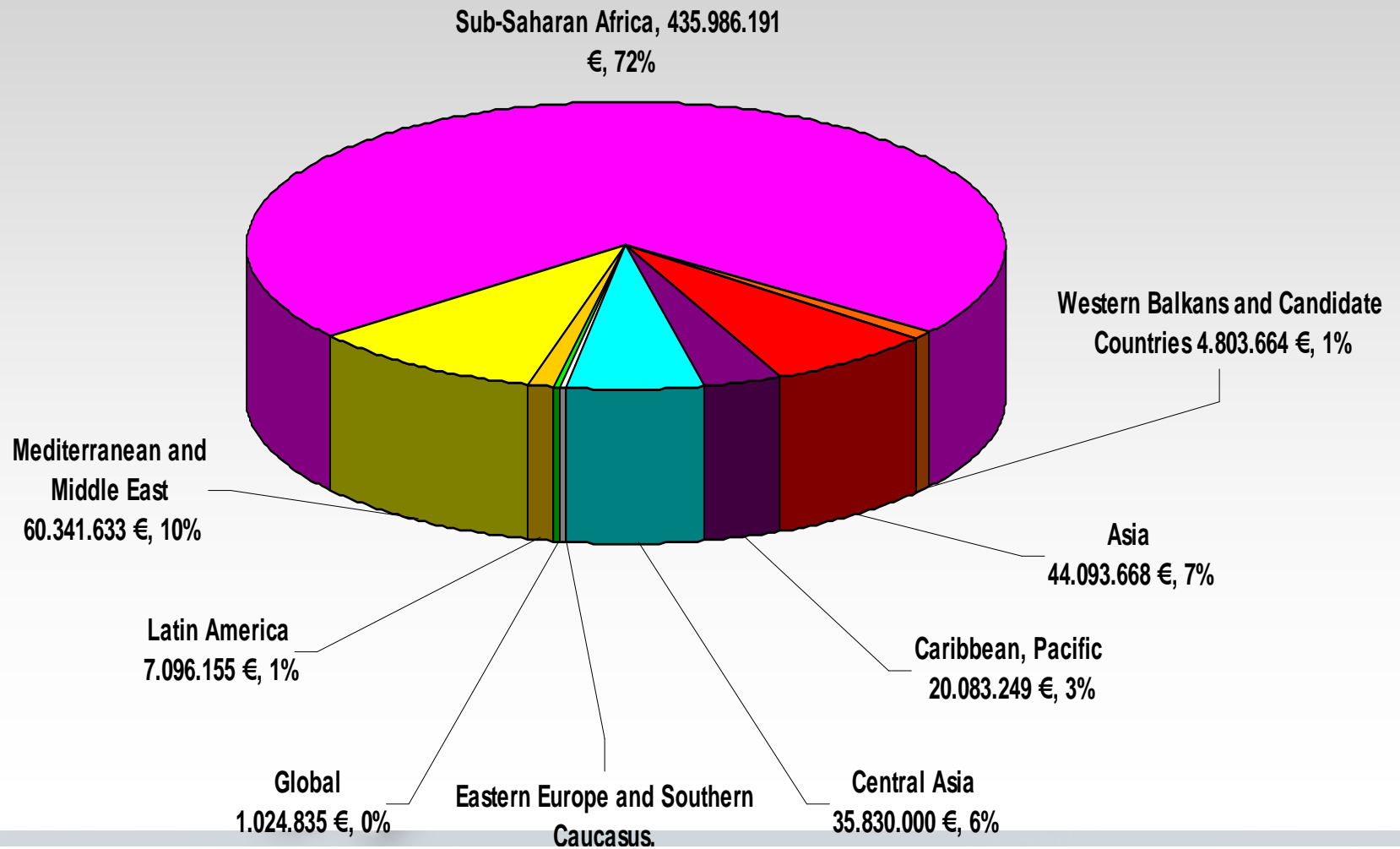
- ▶ European Instrument for Democracy Human Rights (EIDHR). Centrally managed

### **Crisis response instruments:**

- ▶ Instrument for Stability

# EC electoral assistance funds per region 1992-2007

Total: 612.073.304 €





## **EU challenges in the Introduction/Use of ICTs into Electoral Processes**

- The EC is receiving more and more requests from partners countries for supporting implementation of technology-based electoral assistance activities
- Such situation raises important issues of cost effectiveness, transparency and sustainability
- Absence of a coherent methodology to provide Guidance to EC Officials, EMBs, development partners and recipient government officials on options available regarding introduction/Use of ICTs in Electoral processes and in the governance sector at large
- There was a need to produce a comparative assessment, of the experiences of several ACPS EMBs and Ministries on the utilization of ICT into electoral processes to answer a series of questions





# How and When to use ICT technological innovation in Voter Registration?

- **When**
  - **Ad hoc voter list**
  - **Periodical voter list**
  - **Permanent voter list**
  - **Existence of reliable civil registry**
  - **Population Census**
- **Political and Economical context**
  - **Post Conflict**
  - **Transitional Democracy**
  - **Emerging Democracy**
  - **Stable Democracy**
  - **Financially dependent or Financially independent**



# Which are the best practices ?

- **Feasibility Study**
- **Peer review**
- **Phased introduction of ICT**
- **Need to make stakeholders understand the consequences of the introduction of ICT**
- **Technical specification tailored to the needs and the legal framework of the country**
- **Human Resources factors to be taken into account**
- **Cost Effectiveness and Sustainability**
- **Synergies among State Institution and with others EC Projects (case of Nigeria, Ivory Coast, Zambia and Benin)**



## Study on the use of ITC into electoral processes

- ❑ Focuses on civil/voter registration and transmission of electoral data
- ❑ Provides a comprehensive overview of concepts including:
  1. The lifecycle of voter registration projects,
  2. Integration of civil/voter registration projects,
  3. Cost estimation for voter registration projects
- ❑ Provides an overview of the issue of related procurement activities and seeks to elucidate that procurement has a much larger scope that is often acknowledged
- ❑ Most of the findings and case studies are based on the many joint EC-UNDP formulation missions.



# Lesson Learned and Way forward

- Needs to take into account political individual and civil Rights
  - Data Protection Legislation
  - Introduction of ICT in line with the country Constitution and the regional and international committeemen's
- Respect of a Country's sovereignty
  - Data procession not outsourced to private company or abroad
  - Capacity Development to ensure sustainability
- Biometric irreversible choice. Need to analyse long term consequences before adopting it



## Lesson Learned and Way forward

- Synergies with other State Institutions
  - Civil Registry (but the EMB shall remain responsible for generating the voters' lists).
  - Immigration/Emigration/ Police Services
  - ID passports, driving licence etc..
- Need to carry out appropriate Civic Education and sensitization activities.