European Commission
United Nations Development Programme
International IDEA

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Joint Training on
Effective Electoral Assistance

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EU Electoral Observation Missions Methodology and Implementation
Election Observation – four questions:

What is the history of EU EOMs?

What is the aim of EU EOMs?

What methodology is used on EU EOMs?

What is the future for EU EOMs?
History of EU Election Observation

1993 in the Russian Federation and 1994 in South Africa

Until 2000 ad-hoc, case by case approach


Since 2000, more then 60+ EU EOMs deployed to Africa, Asia, Central and South America
Aim of EU Election Observation

Genuine elections are an essential step for democracy,

Important element in the full enjoyment of a wide range of human rights

Important impact on the rule of law and the legitimacy of institutional frameworks
Aim of EU Election Observation

Specifically:

provide independent, neutral and professional assessment of the election process

enhance public confidence

deter fraud, irregularities and intimidation

contribute to conflict prevention and resolution

recommend possible improvements
Programming / Election priorities

From 8 to 14 EU EOMs per year;
From 13M€ in 2004 to more than €30M€+ in 2007
Election calendar; “priority” and “to be followed”
All geographical services consulted
Consultation of Policy Unit and Working Groups of the Council
Information of EP Election Coordination Group
Political decision of Commissioner Ferrero-Waldner
Exploratory Mission

Relex + Aidco + Desk + Experts + Delegation

Advisable? Useful? Feasible?

Minimum conditions
- franchise is generally universal
- political parties and candidates are able to take part in election
- freedom of expression and movement
- reasonable access to the media for all

Final decision by Commissioner Ferrero Waldner
Memorandum of Understanding

Negotiated by Delegation under instructions from Relex (election observation desk)

Memorandum of Understanding signed between EC Delegation and the Government and/or

Memorandum of Understanding signed between EC Delegation and election administration

(+ MOU with the UN where necessary)
EU observation methodology

Assessment of the election against international standards

2005 Declaration of International Principles for International Election Observation

Observe all aspect of the electoral process:
- legislative framework
- election administration
- campaign
- media coverage
- voting, counting and tabulation of results
- complaints and appeals
Preliminary Statement

usually issued within 48 hours after an election

most important document issued by the EOM

high visibility
Final Report

Issued approx. one to two months after

Comments on all aspects of the elections

Includes possible recommendations to improve the process

increasingly important document in terms of follow-up
EU EOM: Implementation cycle

- ~ 2 months HQ briefing
  - Deployment Core Team*
- ~ 6 weeks LTO briefing and deployment
- ~ 5 days General briefing
  - STO Deployment
  - E-day(s)
- ~ + 5 days Final debriefing in the country
  - ~ + 15 days or need to follow up appeals complaints
  - Closing of EU EOM
- Initial Debriefing
- EU EOM preliminary statement**
- Debriefing in Bxl EU EOM evaluation
- EOM Final Report + presentation in country
- Follow up

* during which:
  1. Circulation of regular reports from the Mission to the Commission, Council, EP
  2. Regular consultations between CO and Commission’s Services (Del + HQ) and EU M States

** The EU Presidency may also make a Declaration subsequent to the EOM’s statement
Core Team

Usually between six to ten team members

Deployed for around two months to assess the election process following standard methodology

Co-ordinates and manages the deployment of LTOs and STOs

Led by a Chief Observer, usually MEP, appointed by Commissioner for External Relations
Core Team Members

Chief Observer
Deputy Chief Observer
Legal Expert/Election Analyst
Country Expert
Media Expert/Press Officer
LTO Co-ordinator
Operations Expert
Security Expert

SERVICE PROVIDER
Long Term Observers (LTOs)

Proposed by Member States via EC Roster

Deployed for around six weeks in pairs throughout the country

Between 15-60 LTOs

Follow electoral process at regional level

Co-ordinate STOs
Short Term Observers (STOs)

Proposed by Member States via EC Roster

Deployed for around ten days over the election day period

Observe voting, counting and tabulation of results

Usually between 50-100 STOs

Can be joined by MEPs or locally recruited observers
Future Developments

Further development of methodology in areas such as women and national minority participation, electronic voting, etc…

Increased focus on follow-up

Mainstream EOM findings and recommendations at various levels including:
- EU declarations
- Political dialogue
- EIDHR programming
- Co-operation programmes

Greater involvement in post-conflict elections
Follow-up of EUEOM recommendations: Hurdles

- Negotiation with National Authorities and EMBs
- Involvement of Member States
- Interaction with other actors, especially UN
- Electoral Assistance Scenarios
- Changes of staff at Delegation, HQ, EMBs…
- Recommendations need to be drafted in such a way to be translated in activities
- EUEOM: Limited of knowledge of electoral assistance, development cooperation and Project Cycle Management mechanisms
- PIF, PF, FA, CA, QSG and ISC, EDF Committee…
Follow-up of EUEOM recommendations: solutions

- Mechanisms to institutionalize follow-up
- Better coordination between EC services
- Sierra Leone, Nigeria and DRC case
- Electoral Cycle Approach
- Methodological Guide on Electoral Assistance
- Training on Effective Electoral Assistance for implementing agencies and electoral consultants
- Synergies with NEEDS (training for observers)
- How to: indicated in the Methodological Guide and new manual of EUEOM