



*7th Workshop on Effective Electoral Assistance
Accra, 29 June -3 July 2009*

***EU/ EC Policy and Strategic
Framework for Electoral Support***

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EC Resources and Services – Who does What?

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EU Legal Framework

EU Treaty (art 6, 11)

“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.”

...objective to “develop and consolidate democracy and the rule of law, and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms”

EC Treaty – (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”

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Instrumental value of democracy

**Effective
policies**

**Sustainable
development
Poverty alleviation**

**Peace
Stability
Prosperity**

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EC democracy support

Democracy / democratic process

"...a process developing from within, involving all sections of society and a range of institutions that should ensure participation, representation, responsiveness and accountability"

Common Principles

- Locally driven process;**
- Long term intervention**
- Reform at different levels, with different actors and different sectors**

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EC democracy support

Financial and technical cooperation programmes:

Top down approach

Democratic institution building eg, capacity building for electoral commissions and parliaments, support to elections, electoral observation, reform and training of the judiciary, local government support, anti-corruption measures

Bottom-up approach

Civil society programmes eg, projects supporting CS to advocate, inform and educate on HR and democracy issues, to bring pressure to secure political change or to monitor the action of public institutions

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Elections and democracy

Crucial opportunity for political participation and representation eg, organization of the political process, political discourse, media

Important element in the full enjoyment of a wide range of human rights eg, freedom of expression, of assembly and association (Art.21 of the 1948 UN Declaration on HR)

Important impact on the rule of law, success relies on legitimacy of institutional frameworks, (election administration, judiciary,...)

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EC Communication on elections 2000

“Election assistance may be defined as 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.”

COM(00)191

“Assistance to electoral processes and observation are complementary activities.”

SEC(03)1472

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EC Communication on elections 2000

Strategy for electoral support:

- **partnership between the EC and the host country,**
- **development of national capacity,**
- **support to national election commissions and Civil Society Organisations**
- **long term sustainability after an election,**
- **promotion of pluralism,**
- **partnerships with NGOs and support to local observers,**
- **importance of electoral registration and fair delimitation of electoral boundaries.**

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EC Conference, 2004

“Electoral support, achievements and challenges”

Remarks on electoral assistance issues:

- ***“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, capacity building to ensure sustainability of the process.***
- ***Poor follow-up of EUEOM recommendations***
- ***Absence of coherent methodology, often limited knowledge on Electoral Assistance issues.”***

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New implementation approach

2006 - ongoing

Focus on effectiveness and sustainability

1 - Development tools and methodologies

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

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

3 - Quality support to programme and projects

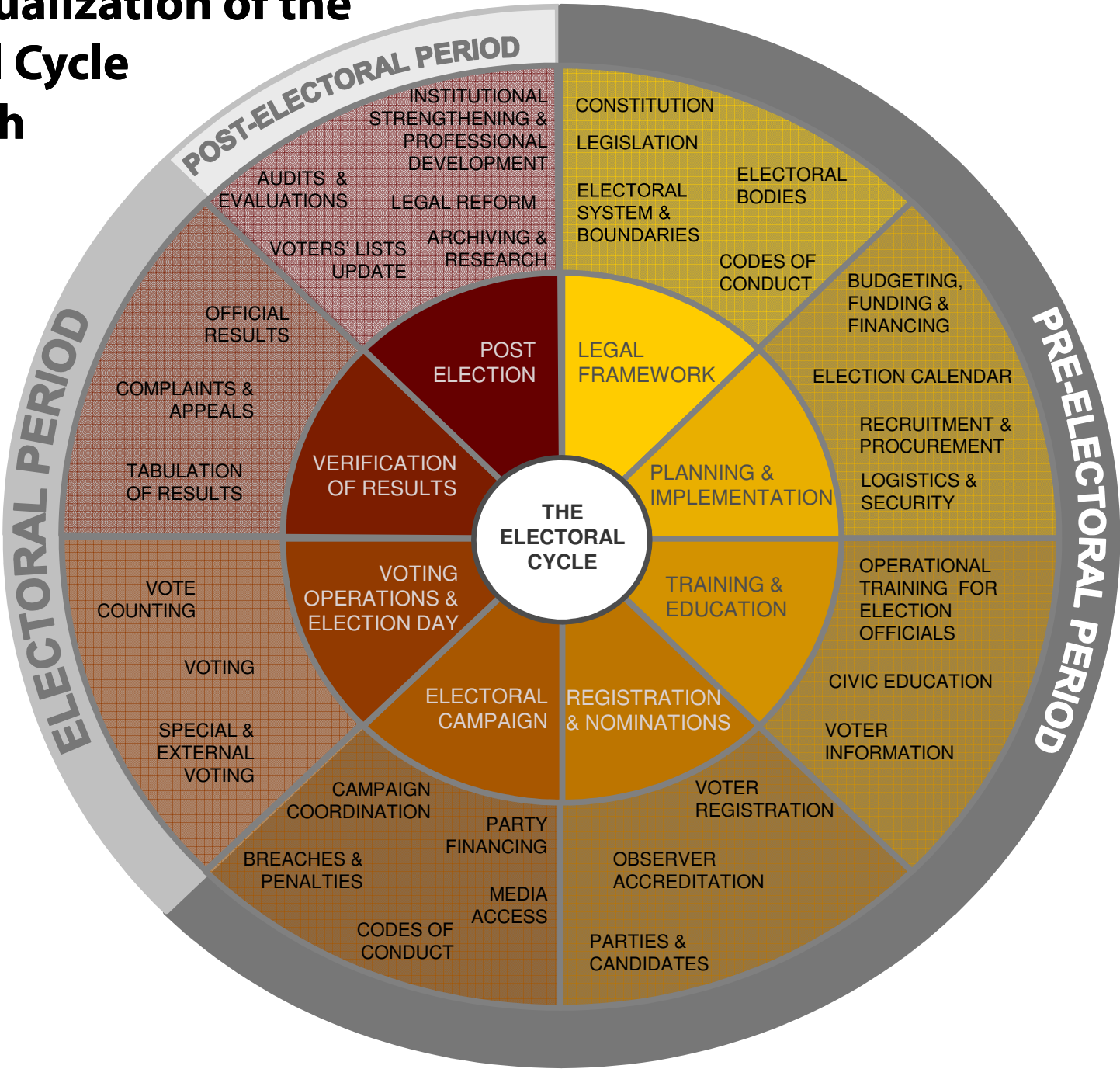
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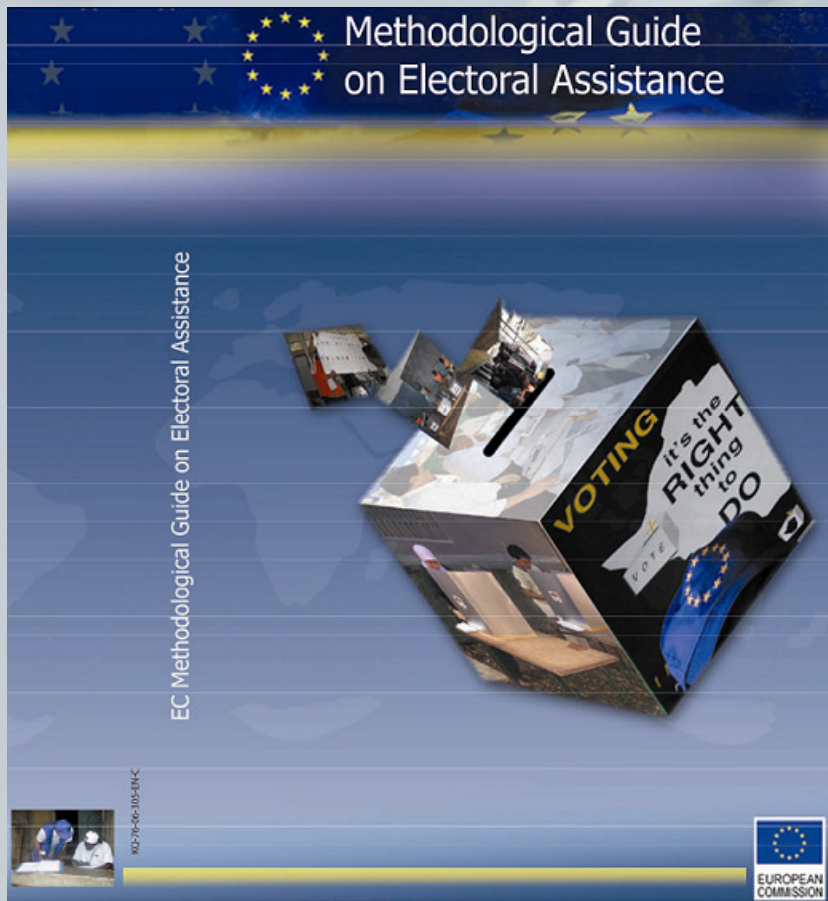


Conceptualization of the Electoral Cycle Approach





EC Methodological Guide on Electoral Assistance



- ✓ **strategy, lessons learnt, 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.**

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Training on Effective Electoral Assistance

Joint eLearning course

Adobe Flash Player 9

File View Control Help

Joint Training on Effective Electoral Assistance

About the Training

Welcome Course Information Background Learning Objectives

In line with the objectives of the **Millennium Development Goals**, this e-Learning course hopes to add to the recognition of elections as a **critical** channel in enhancing citizen participation in **political life**, and the achievement of the interlinked objectives of poverty alleviation and human development.

The Effective Electoral Assistance course **targets** EC and UNDP staff working at Headquarters and in the field, representatives of Electoral Management Bodies, staff from bilateral donor agencies and international/regional organizations, electoral experts, practitioners, academics and students.

We are looking forward to taking you through this eLearning journey in Effective Electoral Assistance where the core learning lies in improving your comprehension of the **management of the sensitive relationship** between the EU and UNDP services, Electoral Management Bodies, other electoral assistance provider, multilateral and bilateral agencies, political parties, media and service providers.

Instructions
Click on **About the e-Learning** in the top menu bar to continue.

Welcome to the eLearning course on **Effective Electoral Assistance**.

Elections lie at the **heart** of every democracy and are central to countries undergoing democratic transitions.

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

The screenshot shows the website for the European Commission United Nations Development Programme Partnership on Electoral Assistance. The header includes the program name and navigation links: HOME, SITE MAP, CONTACTS, SEARCH, WHAT'S NEW. A sidebar on the left lists menu items: HOME, CONCEPTS, THE PARTNERSHIP, JOINT TASK FORCE, PROJECTS, ELECTORAL CYCLE APPROACH, TRAININGS & EVENTS, GLOBAL TOOLS, OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES, HANDBOOKS & PUBLICATIONS, LINKS, and PICTURES. The main content area features three paragraphs of text describing the partnership's history and goals, including the March 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. A right-hand sidebar contains a download link for 'Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of Electoral Assistance Programmes and Projects' and logos for the Electoral Assistance Division, EuropeAid, and EU External Relations. A row of seven small images at the bottom shows various electoral assistance activities.

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 starting point for electoral assistance interventions;

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Main challenge remains 2009 and beyond

To implement the strategy for effective electoral assistance:

- cover the whole electoral cycle in such way that will permit to a) engage in long term reforms and implement activities in a cost-effective manner; b) respond to specific needs with short ad-hoc interventions

- ensure synergies with other activities in the area of democratic governance

- focus on long term institutional strengthening and capacity development of EMB and civil society in a sustainable manner rather than focusing solely on training needs for procedures related to a given electoral event,

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What next? 2009 and beyond

- **More tools and methodologies;**
 - **More collaboration and coordination;**
 - **More quality support to projects;**
- and also
- **More implementing modalities (eg, NEC Rwanda, EC procedures)**
 - **More partners (eg, African / regional organizations);**
 - **More ... than elections (long term support programmes linking elections, parliaments, RoL, civil society, media, ...)**

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