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

EU/ EC Policy and Strategic Framework for Electoral Support
Mário Rui Queiró, EuropeAid, EC

EC Resources and Services – Who does What?
Francesco Torcoli, EuropeAid, EC
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”
Instrumental value of democracy

- Sustainable development
- Poverty alleviation
- Effective policies
- Peace
- Stability
- Prosperity
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
**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
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,...)
“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
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.
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.”
New implementation approach  
2006 - ongoing

Focus on effectiveness and sustainability

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<th>1 - Development tools and methodologies</th>
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<td>- Conceptualization of the Electoral Cycle approach;</td>
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<td>- Elaboration of the EC Guide on Electoral Assistance;</td>
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<td>- Training on effective Electoral Assistance;</td>
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<th>2 - Collaboration and coordination with other actors</th>
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| 3 - Quality support to programme and projects |
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.
Joint eLearning course

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.

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

EC/UNDP partnership on electoral assistance
www.ec-undp-electoralassistance.org
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;
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,
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, …)