



European Commission United Nations Development Programme International IDEA

***Joint Training on
Effective Electoral Assistance***

DAY 1

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EC Policy and Strategic Framework: Electoral Support, Criteria for Involvement and Lessons Learned

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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**



Instrumental value of democracy

- THE CYCLE

**Effective
policies**

**Sustainable
development
Poverty alleviation**

**Peace
Stability
Prosperity**





How does the EU promote democracy?

- Political dialogue and diplomatic process and *démarches***
- Mainstreaming of democratic principles in all instruments**
- Through PRSPs, based on participatory decision making, involving civil society, parliamentary oversight and independent control mechanisms**
- Financial and technical cooperation programmes**



How does the EU promote democracy?

Financial and technical cooperation programmes

- **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

- **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



EU Electoral Support



Electoral Assistance

Election Observation



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**



Electoral support: Assistance + Observation

- **« Assistance to electoral processes and observation are complementary activities.» SEC(03)1472**
- **“ Election assistance may be defined as the technical or material support given to the electoral process. It may imply professional help to establish a legal framework for the elections” COM(00)191**
- **« Election observation is the political complement to election assistance. (...) In broad terms, election observation is part of election assistance. Technically speaking, they are different activities but essentially they should be considered and programmed in a complementary manner. »**
COM(00)191



EU/EC Electoral Support

Link between

Political Dialogue

→ **Election Observation**

→ **Electoral Assistance**

→ **Electoral Cycle Approach**

Examples Togo and Guinea



EU strategy for electoral support

- **partnership between the EU and the host country,**
- **development of national capacity,**
- **support to national election commissions and CSOs,**
- **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,**
- **promotion of mechanisms of self-regulation, including checks on all stages of the electoral process by representatives of all contesting political parties**



Criteria for involvement

COM(00)191

- A request from the host government**
- A general agreement of main political parties and the other stakeholders to an electoral assistance project**
- Previous EU political monitoring or EU development programs in the host country**
- Adequate time-frame for preparation**
- Freedom of movement and access to actors**
- Access to information**
- Safety of the technical assistance team**



Criteria for involvement

SEC(03)1972

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



The 2000 - 2006 EC Electoral Assistance

- ❑ **Between the period 2000-2006 the EC provided more than 358 M€ worldwide for electoral support activities**
 - African countries where the largest recipients with more than 281 M€
 - DRC electoral process was supported over a three years period with 159 M€
 - The process in Nigeria is supported with 20 M€.



Electoral Assistance – Problems identified

- **Late Programming and late Identification/Formulation**
- **EC Financial Procedures for Procurement**
- **Differences of Funding Sources and Institutional Set up**
- **Timely but isolated intervention**
- **Absence of coherent methodology**
- **Follow up of EUEOMs' Recommendations**

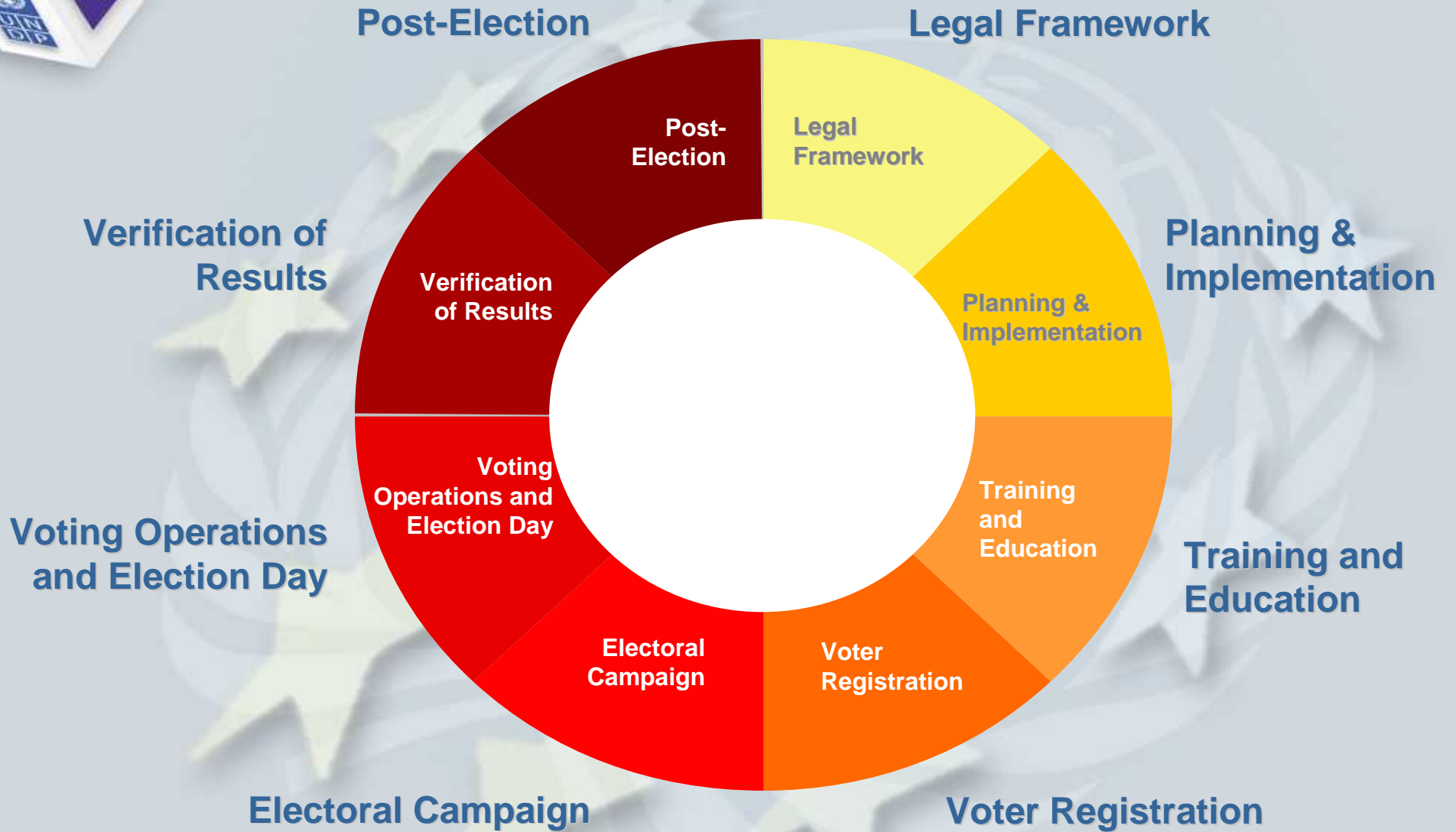


Answers and New Operational Approach

- Electoral Cycle Approach & Entry Points for Assistance in a Democratization/Good Governance long perspective**
- Early Programming + Ad Hoc Formulation Missions**
- Support to inter elections and post elections activities**
- Increased collaboration with Global/Regional Players in the field**
- Formalize & Negotiate new and De facto partnerships**
- EC Methodological Guidelines on Electoral Assistance**



The Electoral Cycle





EU Challenges

- **How to support democratisation in countries with very limited freedoms and hostility towards external intervention in support to civil society?**
- **Implement the strategy for effective electoral assistance**
- **Evaluation of Electoral Assistance**
- **National elections / local elections**
- **How to relate to “political society” and support political parties?**
- **Reinforce support to Parliaments.**
- **Reinforce support to media.**