European Commission
United Nations Development Programme
International IDEA

Thematic Seminar
Use of ICTs in Electoral Processes

Study on the use of ICT in electoral processes
Focus on Civil & Voter Registration and Data transmission

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Contents

- Background
  - Motivation
  - Scope
  - Methodology
  - Current status

- Preliminary findings
  - Use of ICT in electoral processes
  - Integration of Civil & Voter Registration
  - Costing Voter Registration
  - Auditing Voter Registration
  - Procurement of ICT

- Moving forward
Motivation

- The electoral cycle approach requires the review of how we design of electoral assistance projects to include long term issues
- ICT alters the way in which elections are conducted
- Provision of electoral assistance is increasingly involving the review, choice, introduction and use of adequate ICT solutions in different areas of the electoral process
- EC plays a major role in assisting beneficiary countries to introduce ICT in electoral processes
  - EC is concerned by cost effectiveness, transparency and sustainability for EMB
  - EC remains concerned by political and financial implications
Scope

- Identify general and specific trends through a comparative study
  - Comparative assessment of the experiences of selected countries
  - Comprehensive review of the use of ICT in civil/voter registration and transmission of electoral data
  - Suitable process in various electoral assistance scenarios
  - Practical hands-on guide on support to civil/voter registration and transmission of electoral data
- Auditing of civil and voter registration data
  - Auditing methodology & practice
  - Tools for auditing
- Knowledge dissemination
Methodology

- **Multistage study**
  1. Understanding the design and implementation of these projects
  2. Cost effectiveness (cost estimator), monitoring (indicators), and auditing
  3. Case studies and comparative analyses
  4. Knowledge dissemination

- **Action-research**
  - Hypotheses are formulated through literature survey analyses
  - They are tested on ongoing projects or projected onto previous projects
  - Results are analysed
  - Conclusive results are integrated into various models
  - Inconclusive results are dropped
Current Status

- Started in September 2008
- Through action-research, it contributed to several projects (Benin, Ivory-Coast, Guinea-Bissau, Zambia, etc.)
- Framework for performing comparative analyses is ready
- Auditing facet is complete
- Study continues under the GPECS
Use of ICT in electoral processes

- Well-known best practices remain not applied
  - Nature of EMB
  - Vendors specialising in ICT for electoral processes
  - Donor fatigue in post electoral periods
- National stakeholders have faith in ICT!
  - No proper feasibility study
  - Due diligence not performed
  - Rapid evolution of ICT not factored into the decision making process
- Togo remains the perfect illustration of these problems
Integration of civil & voter registration

- Extraction of the civil register
  - Disenfranchise a large portion of the electoral population
  - Requires a reliable civil register
  - Convergence between the registers

- Revamping a defunct civil register using the voters’ register
  - Three steps approach
  - Synchronisation of civil and voters’ registers
  - Implementation of continuous voter Registration
  - Adjunction of vital statistics
  - Phasing out of the voters’ register
Ad hoc/Periodic voter registration

- Periodic register
  - Recording of:
    - Existence of an individual
    - Dependents of an individual
    - Marital status of the individual
    - Residency (location)

Electoral cycle 0
- Setup of the electoral register

Permanent voter registration

- Permanent register
  - Capture of:
    - Existence of people who have reached electoral majority
    - Death or absence from the country in the context of compulsory registration

Electoral cycle 1
- Update procedure
- Permanent structure
- Coverage of the country
- Sustainability of the approach

Civil registration

- Civil register
  - Recording of vital statistics:
    - Births, adoption, legitimation, recognition
    - Deaths
    - Marriage, divorce, annulment, judicial separation

Electoral cycle 2
- Mutation to civil registration
- Simultaneity
- Continuous operation
Costing of Voter Registration

- Three entry points for cost estimation
  - Parametric costing
    - Costs are not comparable from one country to another
    - Driving factors are country specific
  - Analogous costing
    - Should not be used at resource mobilisation
- Implementation of sound and valid data collection of project performance statistics during the electoral cycle
Auditing Voter Registration
Costing of Voter Registration

- Three entry points for cost estimation
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Auditing Voter Registration

- Three entry points for auditing
- Auditing practice
  - Based on international standards
  - Control objectives in relation with electoral cycle approach
- Auditing metrics
- Sample size calculation for statistical tests based on formulae derived from electoral mathematics
Auditing Voter Registration

- Sensitisation
- Personal data
- Processing (Identification, Data capture, Data analysis, Reporting, Confirming status)
- Provisional voters' lists
- Revised voters' lists
- Final voters' lists
- Polling station
- Public display
- Data processing centre
- Voters' database
- Summary Changes
- Registration databases
- Reports
Procurement of ICT

- Procurement experts
- ICT experts
- Procurement should not be left to ICT experts but to a combined team of procurement experts + ICT experts
  - Planning
  - Management of the procurement chain
  - Implementation of measures to prevent integrity problems
Moving forward

- Consolidation of indicators
- Detailed case studies based on the proposed indicators
- Comparative analyses
- Practical hands-on guide
Thank you