



# ***European Commission United Nations Development Programme International IDEA***

*In collaboration with*

**International Organization for Migration  
Canadian International Development Agency  
Organization of American States**

## ***IOM and Electoral Support. Out of Country Voting and the case of Bosnia***

**Francesca Marzatico, International Organization for Migration**

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

***Brussels, 1-5 December 2008***

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# Presentation Plan

- IOM and **Migration Management**: why is IOM involved in Electoral Support?

- IOM's experience in Elections: OCV BOSNIA 1996



- IOM's engagement in Electoral Support: the **Election Support Unit** its scope and operational modalities



# *What is IOM?*

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***How did it begin?***



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# IOM is...

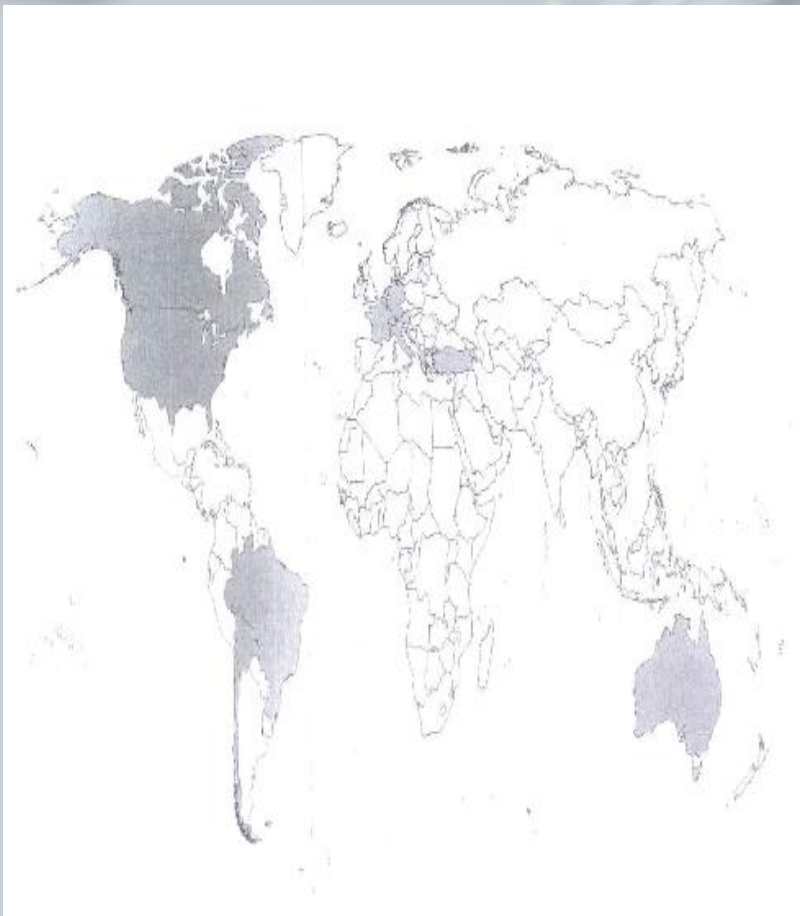


an international organization, founded at a conference in Brussels on **5 December 1951** to help resolve the problems of the huge numbers of people – “surplus population” – in Europe who were displaced or unemployed and needing to move following the war.





# *IOM's 16 Funding Members*



- Australia
- Austria
- Belgium
- Bolivia
- Brazil
- Canada
- Chile
- Federal Republic of Germany
- France
- Greece
- Italy
- Luxembourg
- The Netherlands
- Switzerland
- Turkey
- United States of America



## *Today IOM has...*

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- **125** Member States.
- **90** observers including **16** States and **74** global and regional IGOs and NGOs
- More than **420** offices at present in more than **120** States
- Approximately **5,600** operational staff at present, almost entirely in the field.
- More than **1,770** active projects
- Operational budget of approx **1.1 billion**



# What is IOM for?

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## Mission Statement

*“IOM is committed to the principle that **humane and orderly migration** benefits migrants and society”*

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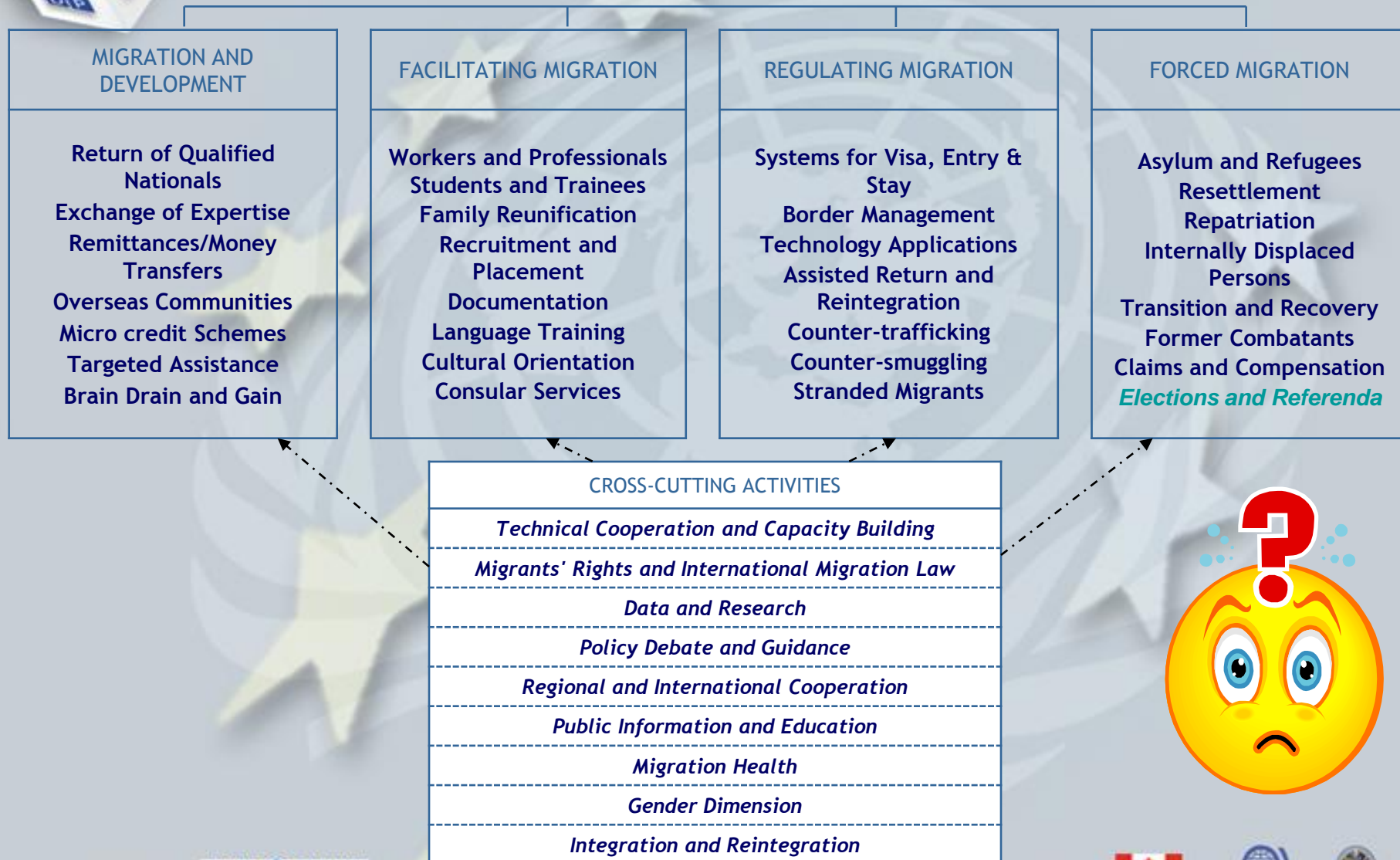


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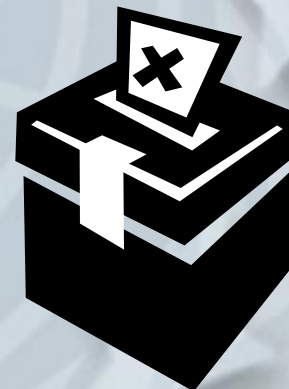
# What does IOM do?







# *Why is IOM involved in Electoral Support?*



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# Because...

*IOM believes that the promotion of **fair elections** and democratic institutions can play an important role in **enhancing migration management**, encouraging **popular participation** and engagement in a country's political future and social and economic development, **stabilizing communities** and reducing the potential for future large-scale population displacement and consequent instability.*





# ***Election Support Unit***

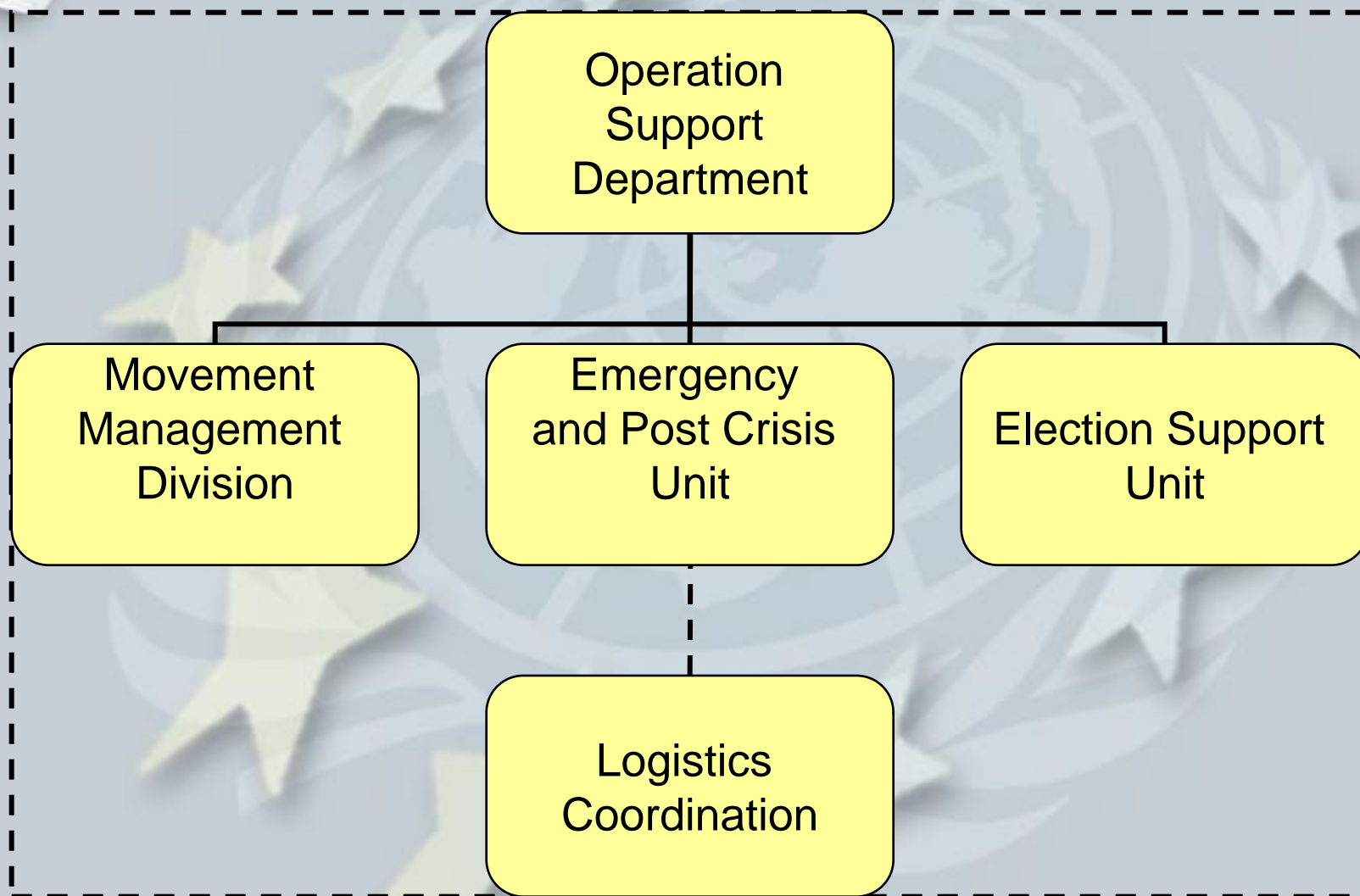
The **Election Support Unit (ESU)** is responsible for the planning, coordination and oversight of all election processes dealt by IOM.

The Unit provides support to Governments as part of their efforts to expand the access of migrant communities and vulnerable populations to democratic electoral process in their countries or territories of origin.





# ESU: Where?







# *Support to Electoral Process: How?*

**Support to European Observation Missions**

**Capacity Development for EU and Domestic Election Observers (NEEDS w/ International IDEA, Internews, EISA, Chapel)**

**Capacity Building and Technical Assistance**

**Enfranchisement of Displaced Population**

**Out of Country Voting**





# Support to EU Election Observation Missions

*Support for the human rights of migrants, and democratization in third countries*

- Since **2001**, IOM has been actively involved in supporting in **35** EU Election Observation Missions (EU EOMs) worldwide.
- Often implemented in regions with very sensitive security situations or consist of large-scale elections involving **complex logistical arrangements**.
- Close cooperation building on the EU priority to promote human rights and democratization in its relations with third countries.







# *Capacity Development and Technical Support*

Strengthening the countries ability to conduct external voting programs and strengthen ties with their Diaspora through their diplomatic and consular missions abroad.

**Capacity development** mechanisms and **technical support** include:

- Voter awareness and voter education campaign (normally targeting displaced electorates).
- Upgrading and standardizing information systems.
- Training/Support of Consular Officers.





# *Support to enfranchisement of displaced populations*

- **Two technical cooperation projects:**

2002-2007  
USAID funds

- **PEP - Participatory Elections:**

aims at identifying obligations, standards, and best practices concerning the political rights of displaced populations in post-conflict elections.

2004-2007

- **-PRESS - Political Rights and Enfranchisement System Strengthening:**

aims at further developing international, regional, and national capacity to enfranchise migrants and assist Election Management Bodies, and other international and national stakeholders.

- Assessment missions, studies, analyses on best practices for each country have been published with recommendations to national and international stakeholders.







# Out-of Country Voting

## *Providing access to voting to the Diaspora*

- Supports the **inclusion of migrant communities**, refugees or displaced populations, into democratic electoral processes in their countries/territories of origin.
- Allows them to **become active participants** in the electoral process and to **be represented** in the civil and political life at home.
- Encourages them to **maintain links with their home communities** while enabling them to participate in the creation of an environment to which they may return safely and resume productive socio-economic lives.
- **Empowers those otherwise disenfranchised** to elect preferred local and national representatives reducing the effects of ethnic conflicts.





# Out-of Country Voting

*BOSNIA 1996*

- OSCE organized elections
- Refugees Elections Steering Group (RESG)
- IOM “operational arm” of the RESG

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# Out-of Country Voting

## BOSNIA 1996

- IOM organized offices in
  - 17 sub offices in host Countries
  - 20 Coordination Offices
  - 21 IOM Missions worldwide involved
- 637,990 People Registered
- 394,174 Persons voted (62,5%)
- Votes received from 56 countries





# *Challenges of Electoral Support*

**Security Constraints**

**Complex Logistical Arrangements**

**Lack of institutional memory**

**Bureaucracy of host countries**

**High turn over of professional staff**

**Tight deadlines and short timeframe  
between preparedness and  
implementation**

**Lack of adequate infrastructure**







# ESU: Why?

**Consolidate institutional memory**

**Policy Guidance/harmonization  
and coordination**

**Standardized response and best  
practices**

**Coordination with different  
partners for sustainability of  
results**

**Proactive vs. Reactive approach**



