



European Commission United Nations Development Programme

Partnership on Electoral Assistance



[SITE MAP](#) [CONTACTS](#) [SEARCH](#) [WHAT'S NEW](#)

[HOME](#)

- › [HOME](#)
- › [CONCEPTS](#)
- › [THE PARTNERSHIP](#)
- › [JOINT TASK FORCE](#)
- › [PROJECTS](#)
- › [ELECTORAL CYCLE APPROACH](#)
- › [TRAININGS & EVENTS](#)
- › [GLOBAL TOOLS](#)
- › [OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES](#)
- › [HANDBOOKS & PUBLICATIONS](#)
- › [LINKS](#)
- › [PICTURES](#)

The EC-UNDP partnership in electoral assistance is unique for its scope, for its achievements and ambitions. It builds on a history of sector experience, specific attention to the lessons learned in previous projects and a mutual understanding of each other's approaches, roles and capacities.

The partnership is proving to be of increasing value to electoral assistance operations to the beneficiary countries, as it allows to rationalize interventions in the area and leads to better and timelier formulation, implementation and monitoring of projects, and is in line with the concepts of enhanced donor coordination from the **March 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness**. The resulting projects are consequently more effective, sustainable and in harmony with overall EU and UN objectives.

The EC and UNDP have been collaborating in the field of electoral assistance since 1997 but it is since 2004, with the implementation of the project in support of the electoral processes in the Democratic Republic of Congo that the collaboration was strongly intensified, leading to the signature, in 2006, of the "**Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of Electoral Assistance Programmes and Projects**".

The EC-UNDP partnership in electoral assistance relies heavily on the strong cooperation between services at the level of headquarters for the quality support mechanisms available. These can include, through a **Joint Task Force**, formulation and monitoring missions, support for the selection of experts and procurement of election material, joint trainings, development of guidelines, gathering of lessons learned and participation to specialized electoral networks.



Download here the main two reference-tools for the formulation and implementation of Electoral Assistance Projects of the EC and UNDP.





EC/UNDP partnership

Operational Guidelines on El. Assistance

A marriage?

- **2 partners**
- **Written consentment**
- **Trust**
- **Commitment, common project**

- **Not based on love...**
- **Not an exclusive relation...**



EC/UNDP partnership

Operational Guidelines on El. Assistance

A business deal?

- **2 parties**
- **Written agreement**
- **Aiming for improved effectiveness**
- **Financing issues involved**

- **Not comfortable with this terminology**
EC – banker /UNDP – service provider ...



EC/UNDP partnership

Operational Guidelines on El. Assistance

A strategic alliance?

“Formal relationship formed between 2 or more parties, to pursue a set of agreed upon goals, while remaining independent organisations. The alliance is a collaboration or a cooperation which aims for a synergy.”



EC/UNDP partnership

Operational Guidelines on El. Assistance

Why now?

- **Ongoing *de facto* relationship on the ground**
- **Paris Declaration on Aid effectiveness**
- **Conjunction of institutional aspects – good understanding between services**
- **Shared strategy on electoral assistance**



EC/UNDP partnership

Operational Guidelines on El. Assistance

Aim

- **To clarify, tighten up and improve EC collaboration on electoral assistance ...**
- **... better and more timely planning, formulation and implementation of activities ...**
- **... promote the effectiveness of EA initiatives**

NB – EC/UNDP partnership not imposed.

Op.Guidelines are to be used when EC and UNDP choose to work together in EA



Definitions of Effective Electoral Assistance

- ❑ Electoral Assistance is the Legal, technical and logistic support provided to electoral laws, processes and institutions.
- ❑ By “Effective Electoral Assistance” we mean all the initiatives and activities that are intended to improve the quality and impact of electoral assistance to partner country electoral institutions
- ❑ Part of the wider democratic development of the partner country, in accordance with the five key principles of “ownership, alignment, harmonisation, managing for results, and mutual accountability” that inform the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness.
- ❑ **Management of all the complex set of interactions among Government, EMBs, International Organizations, Political Parties, CSOs, Services Providers and Media**



EC/UNDP partnership

Operational Guidelines on El. Assistance

A strategic alliance:

- **Faithful to the spirit of the Paris Declaration:**
- **Not Exclusive...**
- **Focus on better delivering to requesting States**



UNDP preferred EC partner in the last five years

"Pool fund management through UNDP has enabled the EC over the last five years, to provide a very significant contribution to the conduct of democratic elections and democratic development in general".

"However, the great majority of these contributions were formulated and agreed upon in great rush and directed to support events and not processes".

"The time constraints that have typically characterized the EC-UNDP cooperation in electoral assistance to date sometimes caused misunderstanding at the field implementation level, generally related to limited visibility of the EC contribution or to a lack of political say of the EC in the decision-making process of electoral activities".

"The different language and definition is used by the two organizations in the respective project proposals has often been the source of such incomprehension".



Before the Operational Guidelines...

- ☐ **Mandate for the drafting of the EC Methodological Guidelines...**
- ☐ **20 months of review of our collaborations on Electoral Assistance**
- ☐ **DRC main source of lessons learned**
- ☐ **4 joint formulation missions**
- ☐ **12 joint projects**
- ☐ **Accelerated and cost effective procurement services for electoral supplies based on Medium Term Agreements via IAPSO**
- ☐ **Support and Participation to global knowledge tools and global initiative**
- ☐ **17 DRAFTS**



EC – UNDP Operational Guidelines Signed on 21.04.2006 in Brussels

Joint Formulation Missions

UNDP Project Document and EC Financial Proposal

UNDP Pre-financing and EC retroactivity clause

EC Participation in the steering of the Projects

Selection of Experts

Agreed Performance Indicators

Agreed Reporting Requirements

Procurement of Specific Election Material

**Collaboration on Production of Electoral Assistance
Content**

Collaboration on Training and Practice Meetings



2 years and more later...



- ☐ Five joint trainings, ACE, global training platform
- ☐ More than 20 joint formulation missions and projects
- ☐ Two follow-up missions
- ☐ 1st year review being finalized
- ☐ Further concentration on the articles of the operational guidelines
- ☐ Same issues to be confronted
- ☐ Different Nature, Different Mandate, Different Way of Working
- ☐ Attitude of Beneficiary Country
- ☐ Nature of Electoral Assistance
- ☐ 2007 and 2008 Reviews