THEMATIC WORKSHOP

Information Technology and Elections Management
Informed Decisions for Sustainable Outcomes

Result Management – Theories and Typologies
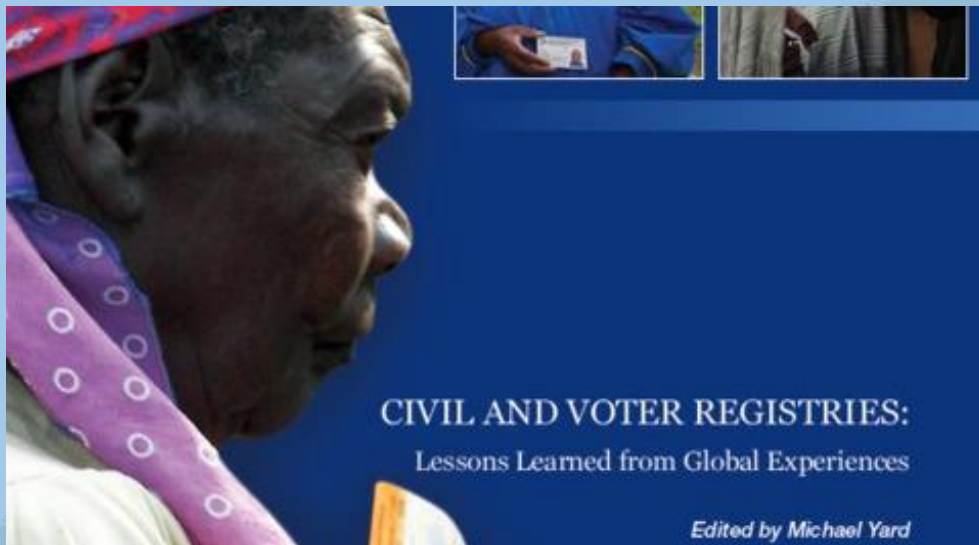Michael Yard, International Foundation for Electoral Systems

European Commission
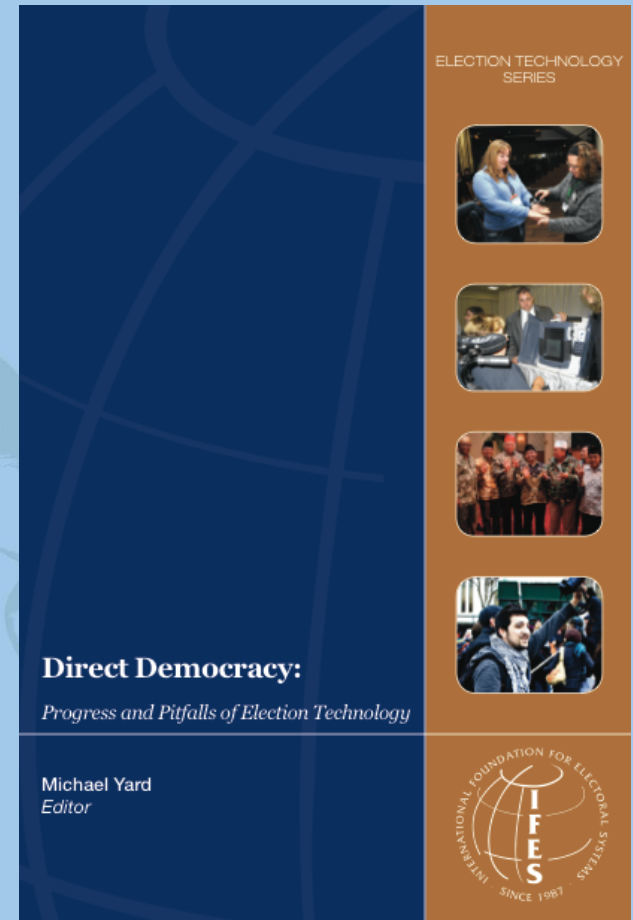Development and Cooperation DG
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5 - 9 March 2012, Mombasa, Kenya

CIVIL AND VOTER REGISTRIES:
Lessons Learned from Global Experiences

Edited by Michael Yard

ELECTION TECHNOLOGY SERIES

Direct Democracy:

Progress and Pitfalls of Election Technology

Michael Yard
Editor

http://www.ifes.org

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ЖИРИНОВСКИЙ Владимир Вольфович	ЗЮГАНОВ Геннадий Андреевич	МИРОНОВ Сергей Михайлович	ПРОХОРОВ Михаил Дмитриевич	ПУТИН Владимир Владимирович
4 409 278	12 166 215	2 723 774	5 536 536	45 109 640

107 percent turnout?
Another side to Russia's vote

"Sounding somewhat exasperated, the Council of Europe representative urged Russia 'to just have a fair election', saying, 'It's not that difficult.'"

Hierarchy of Election Cheating

Inaccurate voter register

Vote buying and intimidation

Ballot-box stuffing

Altering the count at the Polling Station

Altering the count during the tabulation

The purpose of Elections

Ballots, not bullets → Mandate to govern → Will of the people → Human Right
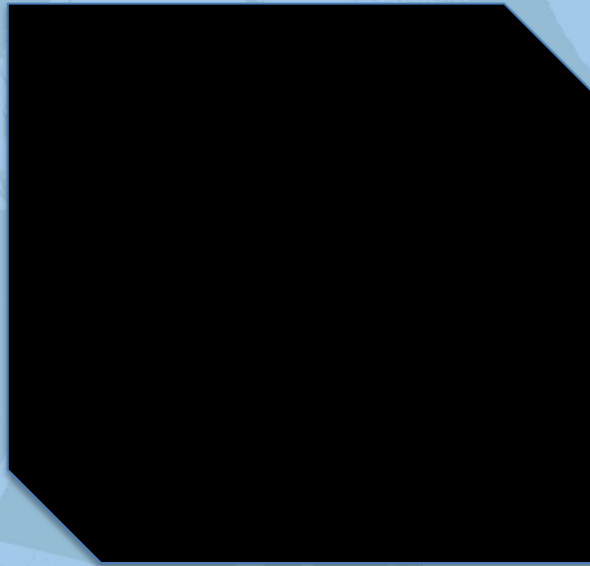
Back to Fundamentals

- A banking example:

Date	Payee	Amount
1/1/12	Amazon Books	93.27
1/2/12	Apple Computer	??????
1/3/12	Nairobi Java House	14.12
1/4/12	Godiva Chocolate	??????
1/5/12	????????	1,290.39
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	1,397.78

Banking example 2

$5,323

TRUST ME

$2,096

Auditable Banking

Minimum requirements

- **Definitive list of deposits, payees, and transactions**

- **Paper trail with dates and times**

- **Someone who is accountable for every transaction**

- **Procedure for quickly resolving noted discrepancies**

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Back to Fundamentals

- An election example:

Polling Station	Candidate	Votes
10001	Yes	203
10001	No	??????
10002	Yes	942
10002	No	??????
??????	Yes	1,290
?????	No	468
Total	Yes	2,435
Total	No	3,642

Auditable Results

Minimum requirements

- **Definitive list of polling stations, vote counts, accounting of all ballots**
- **Paper trail with dates and times**
- **Someone who is accountable for every transaction**
- **Procedure for quickly resolving noted discrepancies**

Appropriate Technology

- Origin of the concept:
  - <u>Small is Beautiful: Economics as if People Mattered</u>, by E.F. Schumacher

- Two types of technology
  - Techne
  - Politike Techne

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"Shall I distribute political understanding (politike techne) the way the arts were distributed--that is, on the principle that one trained doctor suffices for many laymen, and so with the other experts? Shall I distribute justice and respect for their fellows in this way, or to all alike?"

"To all," said Zeus. "Let all have their share. There could never be cities if only a few shared in these virtues, as in the arts."

-- Plato, "Protagoras"

Techne

- Trust a few experts
- Centralized control

Politike Techne

- Trust many eyeballs
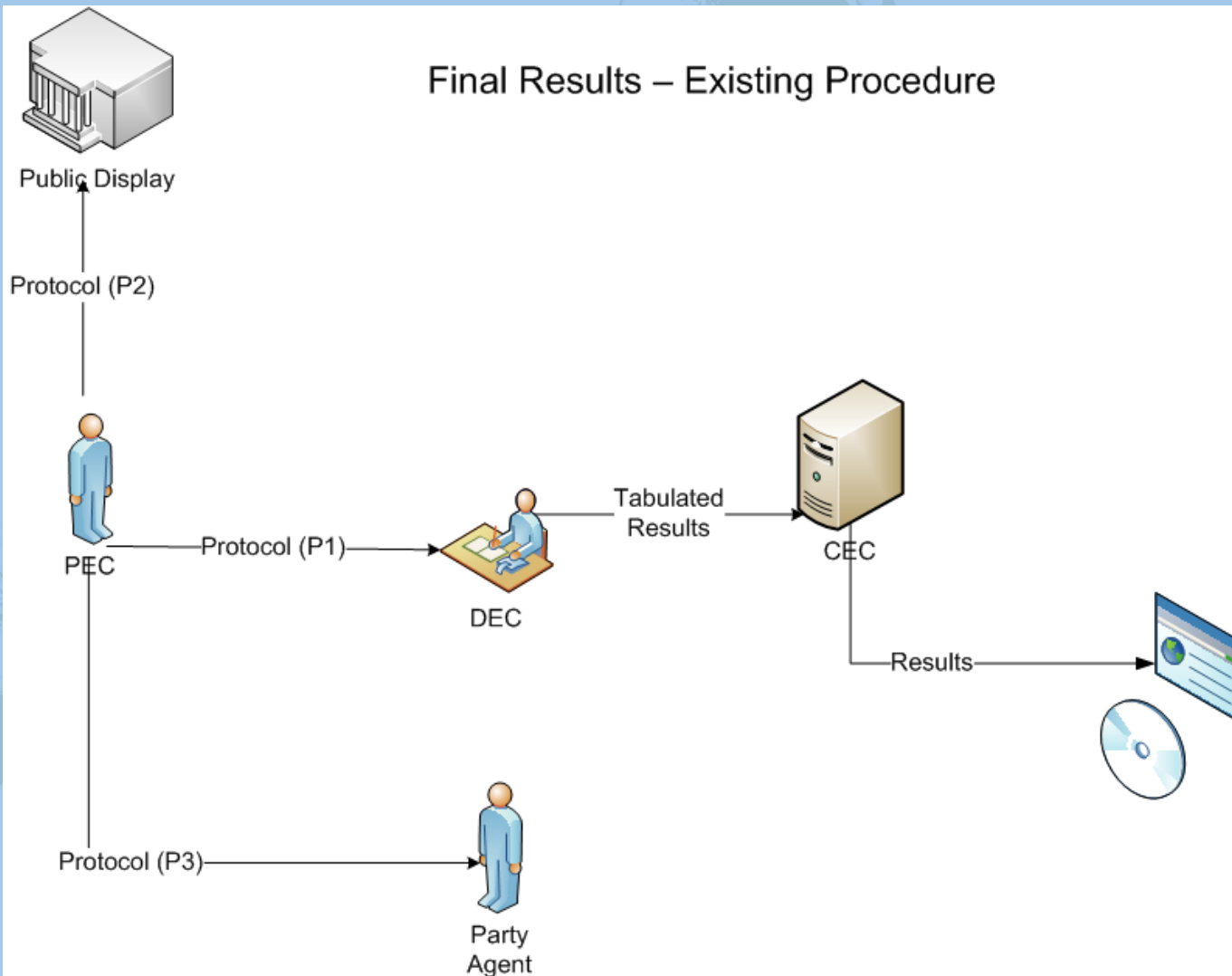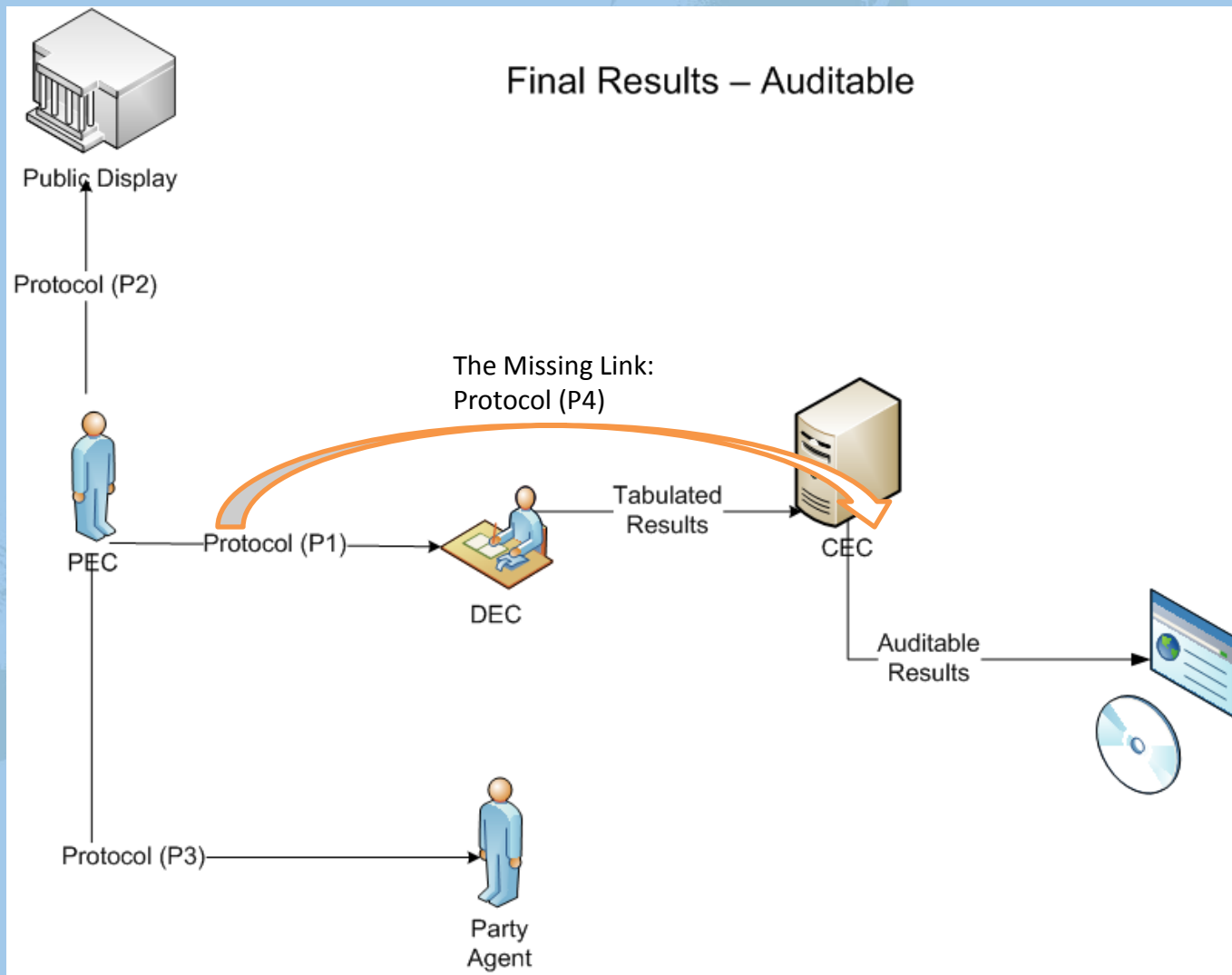- Control in hands of the many

Basic Questions

- How will we transmit data?

- Partial or Final?

- Provisional or Official?

- Are the results auditable?

Final Results – Existing Procedure

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Validation of Results

- Minimal: ballot accounting

- Improved – set red flags for investigation
  - 100% turnout – or much higher than ave. turnout
  - 100% votes for 1 candidate
  - All votes divisible by 100 or even by 10
  - Benford Analysis (see Walter Mebane, 2nd digits)

Conclusion

Basic Principles

- Respect for equality of all voters
- Allow for broad scrutiny (many eyeballs)
- Definitive list of polling stations, vote counts, accounting of all ballots
- Paper trail with dates and times
- Multiple transmission paths to ensure auditability
- Someone who is accountable for every transaction
- Procedure for quickly resolving noted discrepancies