

Joint EC-UNDP Thematic Workshop on Sustainability in Electoral Administration:

Adequate Resourcing for Credible
Elections

EU Framework for Electoral Assistance

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Why does the EU promote democracy?

Development policy and democracy are nowadays seen as complementary – especially since 2006, good and effective governance is considered as a prerequisite for development

Democracy provides an enabling environment for advances in:

- sustainable development
- long term political stability
- conflict prevention
- national, regional and international security

EU legal framework

Consolidated Treaty on EU (art 21)

The **Union's action on the international scene shall be guided by the principles** which have inspired its own creation, development and enlargement, and **which it seeks to advance in the wider world: democracy, the rule of law**, the universality and indivisibility of human rights and fundamental freedoms, respect for human dignity, the principles of equality and solidarity, and respect for the principles of the United Nations Charter and international law.

Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU (preamble)

The Union (...) is based on the principles of **democracy** and the rule of law.

The Agenda for Change

- Conceived in 2011, in the wake of the wave of uprisings in the Middle East and Northern Africa
- A strategy to make the existing development frame more effective and responsive.
- The EU should continue to support democracy, free and fair elections, the functioning of institutions, media freedom and access to internet, protection of minorities, the rule of law and judicial systems in partner countries.
- Tailored and flexible approach

How does the EU promote democracy?

Instruments and tools for democracy support in third countries:

- Political dialogue and diplomatic initiatives (for ACP countries, artt. 8 et 96 Cotonou Agreement)
- Instruments of financial and technical cooperation
- Mainstreaming of democratic principles in all interventions
- Participatory decision making process in drafting Poverty Reduction Strategies, ideally involving civil society, Parliament and independent control mechanisms

EU principles on election support

Assistance and observation are complementary:

- Election **assistance** is the technical or material support given to an electoral process
- Election **observation** is the political complement to election assistance
- They are different activities but they should be considered and **programmed in a complementary manner**

The increasing synergies between Election observation and Electoral Assistance

- ❑ The EU EOM's recommendations are increasingly shaping future electoral reforms and later electoral assistance projects
- ❑ Recommendations are systematically **recalled in EA projects' formulation** and are the basis for many relevant activities foreseen in such projects
- ❑ Recommendations can serve as a **platform of discussion** for the international community with the national authorities

EU principles on electoral assistance

Strategy and methods for EU electoral assistance in third countries:

- Partnership between the EC and the host country
- **Ownership** - Development of national capacity, competence transfer, adequate skills, avoid dependence on external support – adequate skills, adequate time frame for the introduction of ICT
- **Sustainability** - Long term sustainability after an election – search for sustainable, long term solutions – high level initial investment to be matched by gradually diminishing costs
- Adequate time frame for preparation
- Flexible and a case-by-case approach
- Promotion of pluralism of national actors, media and NGOs
- Support to national observers
- Importance of electoral registration and fair delimitation of electoral boundaries

Criteria for EU Electoral Assistance:

Complementarity – Complement national funds and coordination with other international partners and EU Members States (exception for post conflict elections)

Electoral assistance 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?

A Country-driven Agenda

- International partners' agendas are meant to be Country-driven and tailored on the beneficiaries' needs and requirements
- The EU signs a CSP (Country Strategy Paper) with the partner Country, which identifies priorities and areas of intervention and covers a period of several years
- Within the frame of the CPS, an Electoral Assistance programme is based on a Financial Contribution signed with the NAO
- Important for the international partners to coordinate, or join efforts.

The EU External cooperation - Financial Instruments

Since 2007

Geographical Instruments:

- ▶ European Development Fund (EDF) ACP countries.
- ▶ European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI)
- ▶ Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI). Asia, Latin America and Middle East countries
- ▶ Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA); Candidates Countries

Thematic Instrument:

- ▶ European Instrument for Democracy Human Rights (EIDHR).

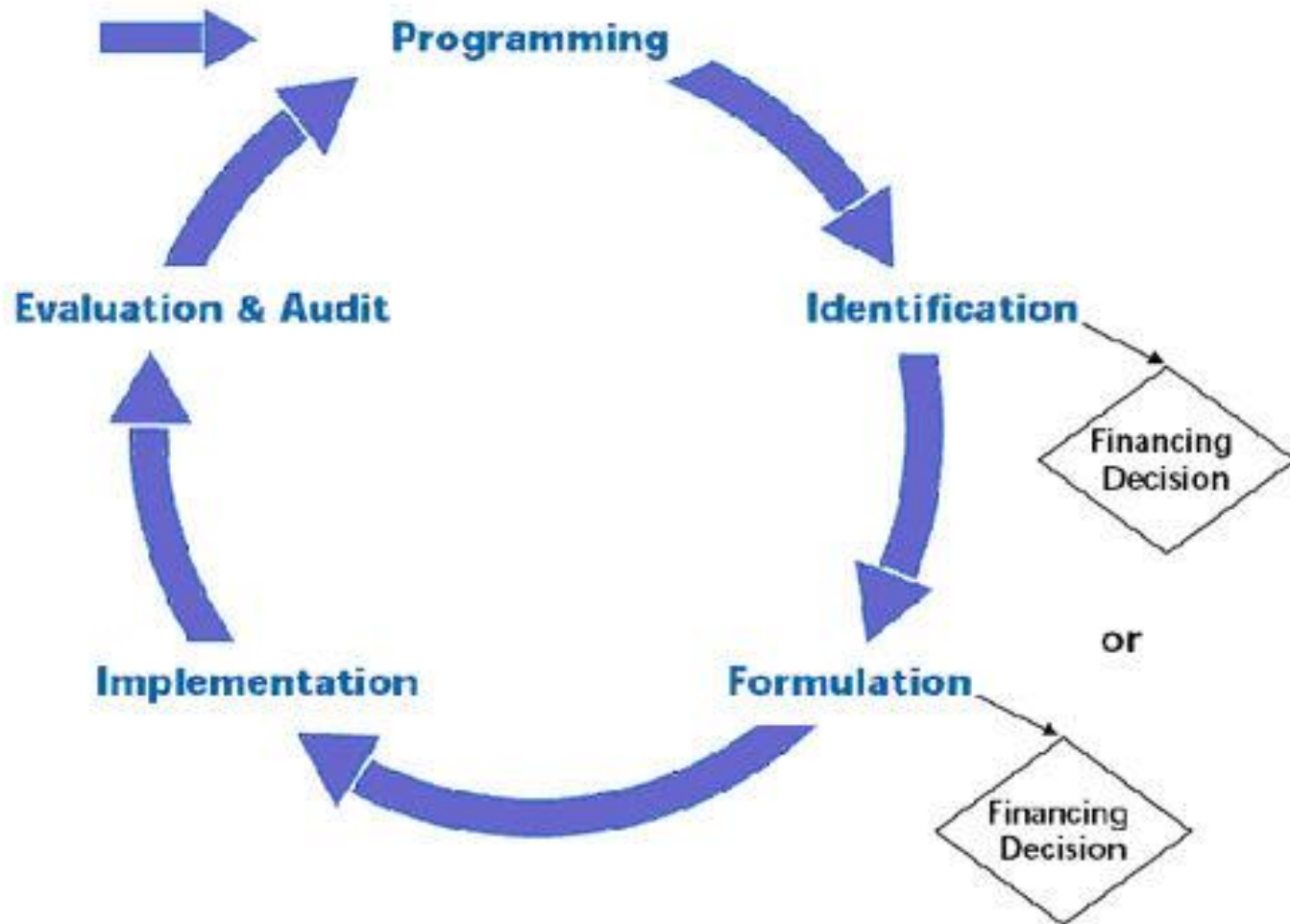
Crisis response instruments:

- ▶ Instrument for Stability

Before 2007

More than 30 different instruments for delivering external cooperation

EU Project Cycle Management



The role for the EU Delegations over the implementation of an EA programme

- ❑ The EUD is pursuing **political dialogue** at the country level with the national institutions, and possibly involving non governmental actors
- ❑ **Staff at the EUD are following** on both the project implementation and the electoral process
- ❑ Follow up is provided mainly through **participation in the project mechanisms**, such as Steering Committeess and technical Committees – in some cases a daily follow up is required
- ❑ EUD staff are normally associated to **working groups** on legal reform and various stakeholders forums
- ❑ Whenever requested by the EMBs, the EUD provides **electoral experts**, in complementary with the basket-fund experts and other agencies'

New implementation approach

2006 - ongoing

Focus on effectiveness and sustainability

Attention to follow up of EU EOM Recommendations

Development of tools and methodologies

- Conceptualization of the Electoral Cycle approach
- Electoral Assistance vs Election Assistance
- Elaboration of the EC Guide on Electoral Assistance
- Training on effective Electoral Assistance

Collaboration and coordination with other actors (UNDP, IDEA, EISA, IFES, NDI, ACE)

Increased Quality support to programme and projects, early identification and formulation missions

EC Methodological Guide on Electoral Assistance



- ✓ **strategy, lessons learned, electoral cycle approach**
- ✓ **activities in support of electoral cycles, benefits, risks and cross-cutting considerations**
- ✓ **EC procedures**
- ✓ **case studies, operational tools and sources of information**



EU ongoing Electoral Assistance

The EU is currently providing EA, in different ways and shapes and mainly together with UNDP, to a number of partner countries including for example:

Bangladesh
Cape Vert
Ghana
Guinea Bissau
Kenya
Liberia
Madagascar
Mali
Nepal
Tanzania
Togo

Thank you

