



European Commission
United Nations Development Programme
Joint Task Force on Electoral Assistance



The EC and UNDP Partnership on Electoral Assistance and the Joint Task Force

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Presentation

The UN and EU

Paradigm Shift

The EC and UNDP Operational Guidelines

30 months later...

Joint EC UNDP Task Force

Training Content and Objectives

Global Training Platform

Contractual Arrangement and Best Practices



The UN and the EU

- ❑ The EU and the UN are natural partners. They are united by the core values laid out in the 1945 Charter of the UN, and the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- ❑ Member States and the EC are the largest contributors to the UN system. A total of 1.3 billion euros was approved by the EC to be channelled to the UN in 2006.
- ❑ 2001 EC's communication: "Building an effective partnership with the UN", and 2003 EC's Communication: "EU-UN relations: The choice of multilateralism".
- ❑ To facilitate programmatic cooperation between the EC and the UN, an updated [Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement \(FAFA\)](#) was agreed in 2003.



The UN and the EU

- The FAFA agreement provides a single shared legal, financial and administrative framework for all programmatic cooperation between the EC and the UN.**
- FAFA has made cooperation more efficient, ensuring faster start-up of activities and ensuring administrative consistency across operations.**
- In June 2004, the UNDP and the EC entered into a Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA) through the signature of a MoU to set out and better define the relational focus between the two institutions.**
- The MoU focuses on governance (including elections, parliament and governance indicators), conflict prevention and post conflict reconstruction**



The EU

- First serious engagement were the first multiparty elections in Russia, 1993 and first multiracial elections in South Africa, 1994.**
- “Ad hoc” support remained the rule until 2000. COM 191/200 was the watershed, financed through EDF.**
- Definition and distinction of complementary roles between assistance and observation**
- New Approach from 2006 with the publication of the EC Methodological Guide**
- Leading actor in the provision of electoral support**



The paradigm shift

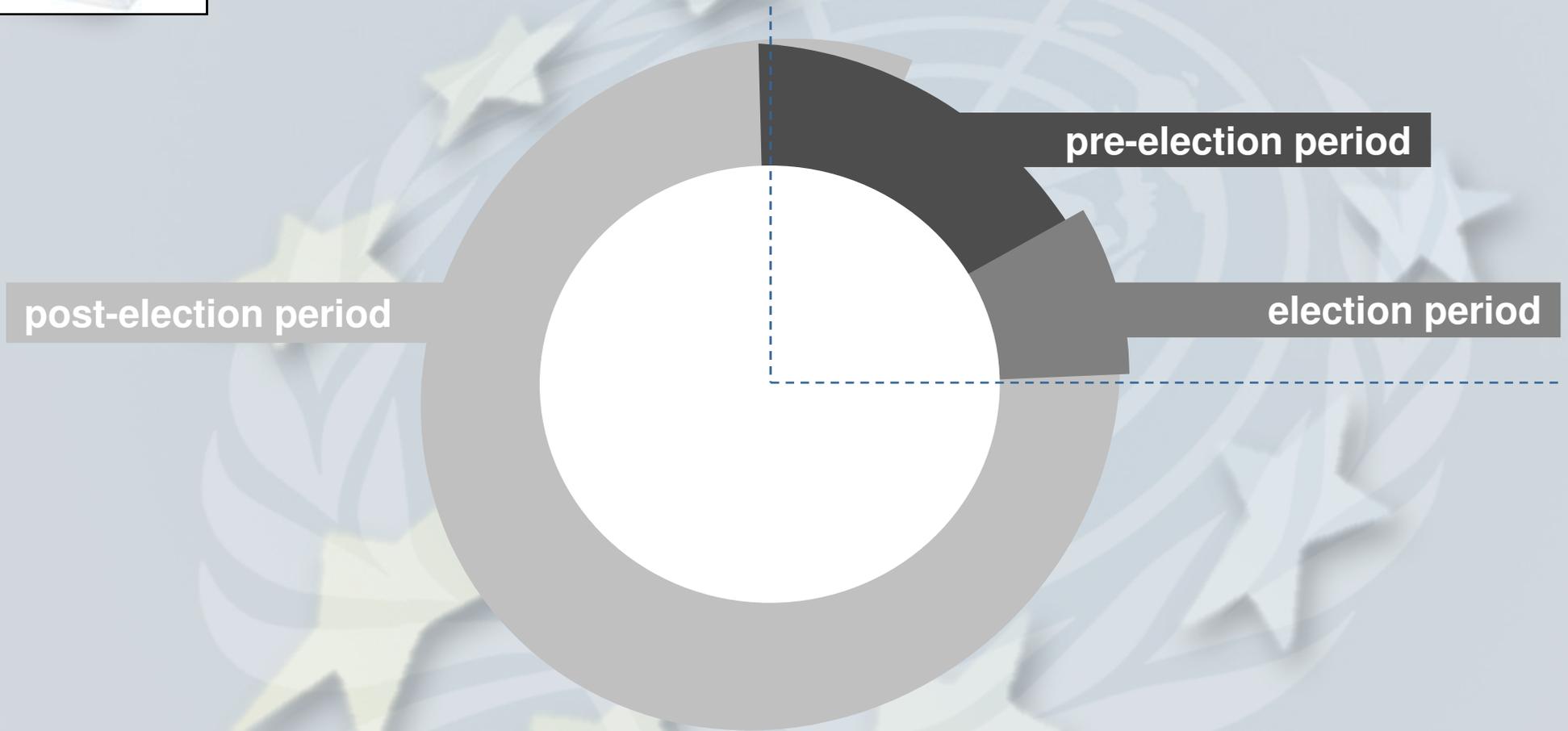
- ❑ **EC, UNDP and International IDEA at the forefront of a new approach in electoral assistance. Main triggers:**
 - ❑ **2000 UNDP 10 years evaluation**
 - ❑ **Accrued EC-UNDP Collaboration on Electoral Assistance (2004, DRC)**
 - ❑ **Paris Declaration 2005**
 - ❑ **EC and IDEA joining forces in 2005 to analyse electoral assistance processes across the board and develop new training tools, first training for EC officials in 2005**

- ❑ **The Manila UNDP 2004, Brussels EC 2004 and 2006 Ottawa CIDA-IDEA Conferences: shift from event-driven support to process and demand-driven**
- ❑ **EC UNDP IDEA Conceptualization of the electoral cycle**
- ❑ **Establishment of EC-UNDP Joint Task Force**
- ❑ **EC-UNDP-IDEA Joint Training on Effective Electoral Assistance**
- ❑ **Global Training Platform on Electoral Assistance**



inter-election period

sustainable electoral support



electoral calendar

3, 4 or 5 years

pre-election period

period in-between elections

pre-election period

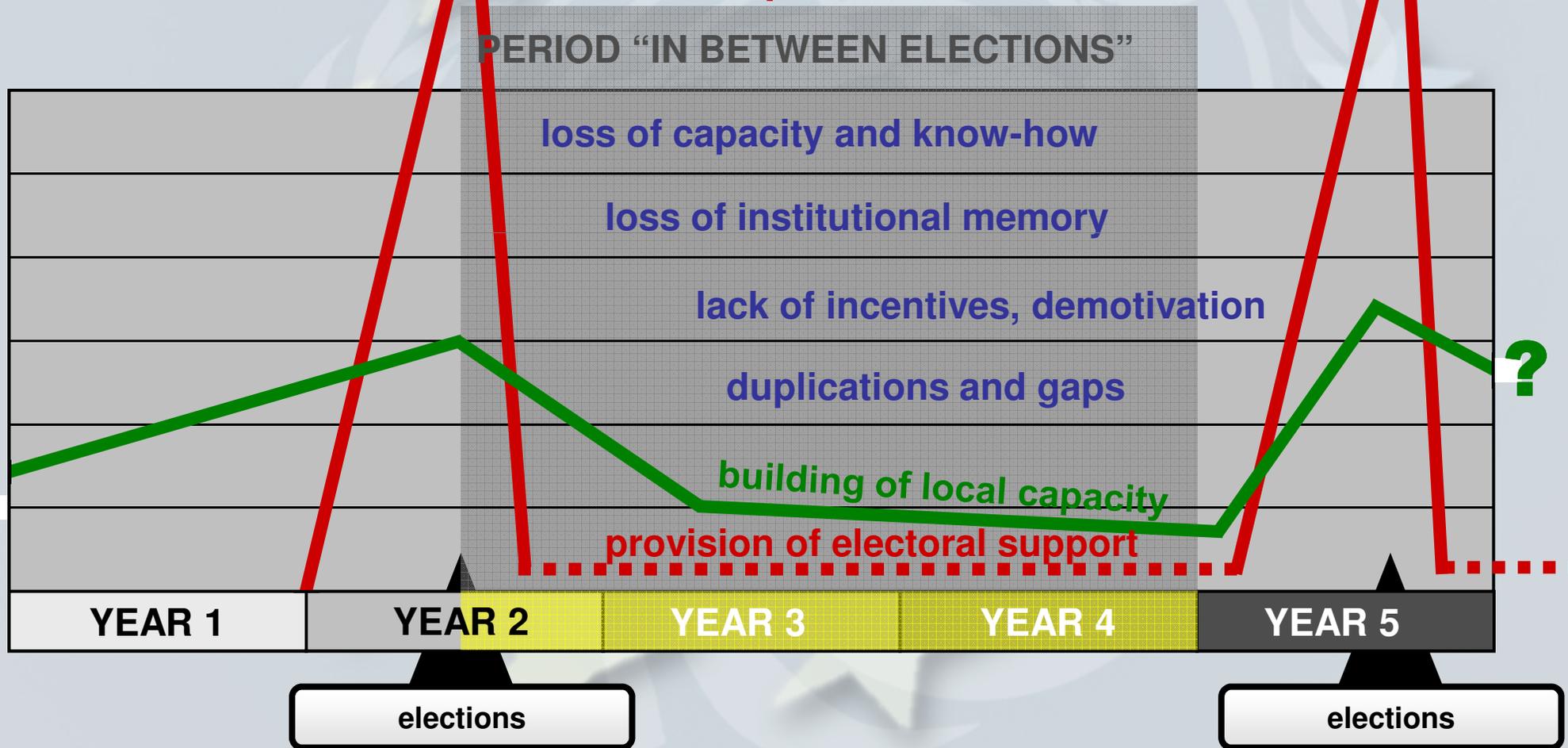
electoral event

electoral event



event-driven electoral support

what could the consequences be if no follow-up assistance is provided during the post-election period?





EC-UNDP Partnership with IDEA

- IDEA offers the knowledge developed also in collaboration with all the other major actors in the field through the unique global knowledge tools on Electoral Assistance such as ACE and BRIDGE.**
- The EC and UNDP, via rationalizing their field experiences and illustrating the best practices with the EC Methodological Guide and UNDP Implementation Guide offer the practical expertise from the implementation side.**
- EC-UNDP-IDEA Collaboration via the ACE project: The Electoral Knowledge Network**



Definitions of Effective Electoral Assistance

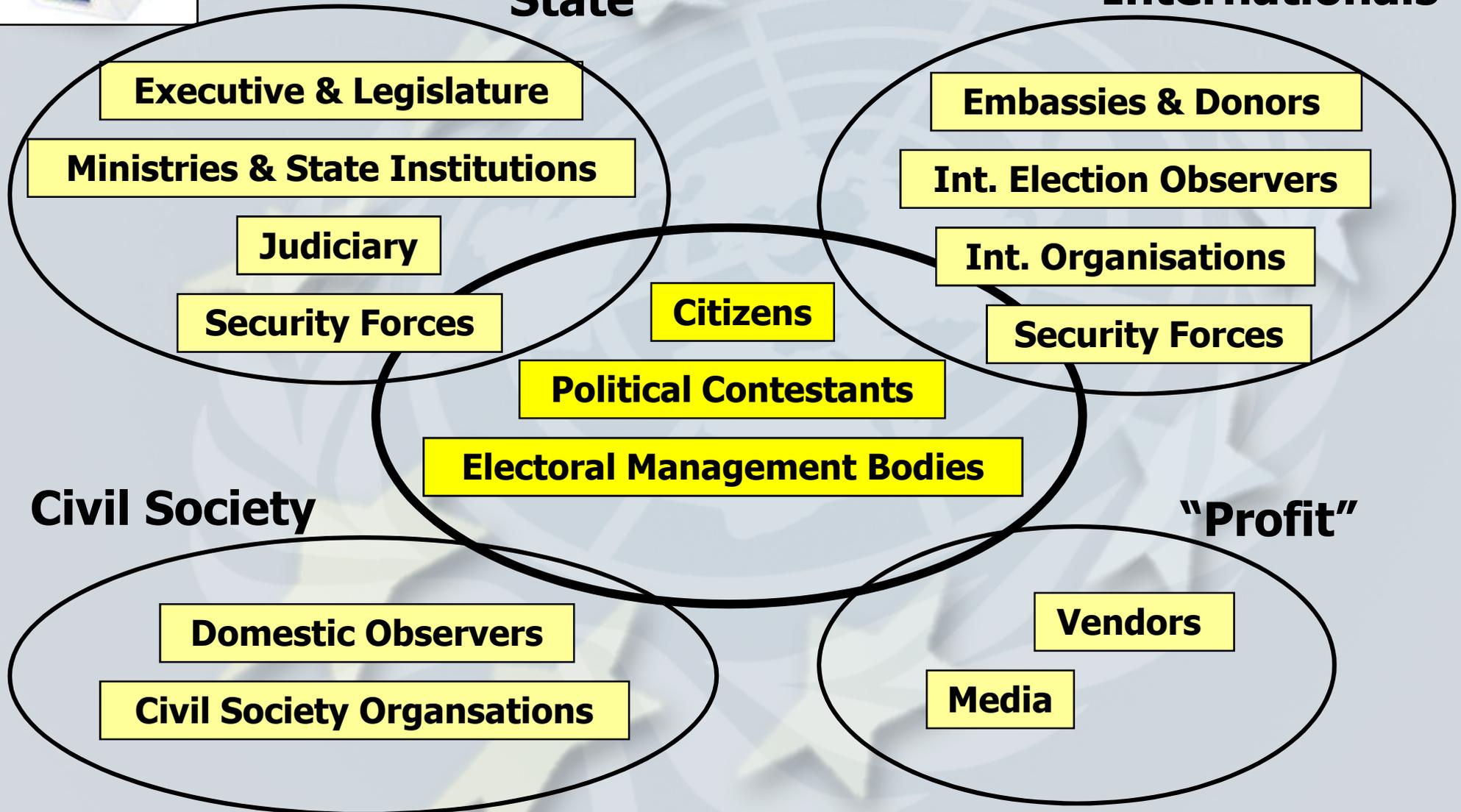
- ❑ Electoral Assistance is the Legal, technical and logistic support provided to electoral laws, processes and institutions.
- ❑ By “Effective Electoral Assistance” we mean all the initiatives and activities that are intended to improve the quality and impact of electoral assistance to partner country 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**



Recipients and Stakeholders

State

Internationals





EC - UNDP Partnership



- ❑ **Challenges of the 2004 project in support of the DRC electoral processes**
- ❑ **Negotiated & Formalized at HQ level the “de facto” partnership the EC and UNDP had at field level**
- ❑ **EC - UNDP Operational Guidelines on the Implementation of Electoral Assistance Projects. Signed on 21 April 2006**
- ❑ **Agreement on a Joint Training Initiative**



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**



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



30 months later...



- Five joint trainings, ACE, global training platform**
- More than 15 joint formulation missions and projects**
- Two follow-up missions**
- 1st review of the Op. Guidelines 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**



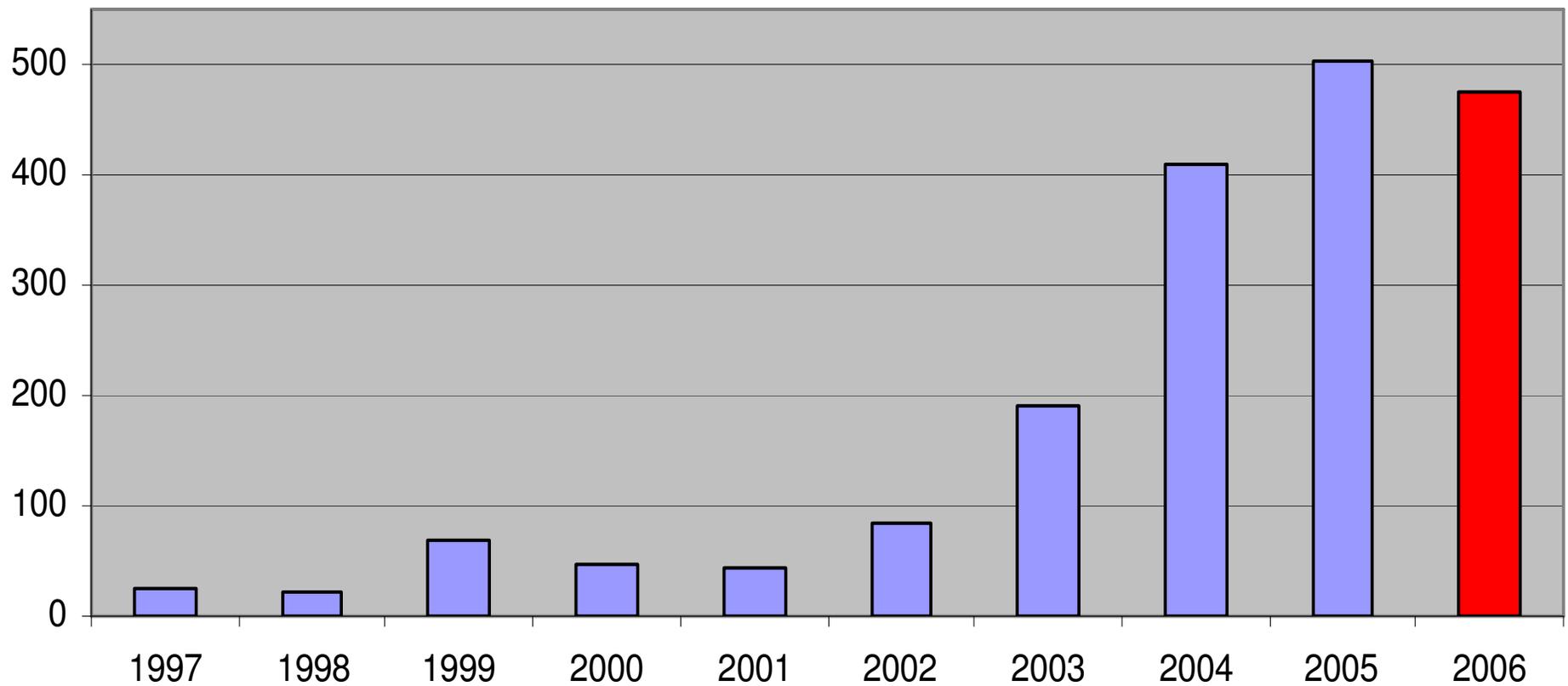
Joint Task Force

- Decision to strengthen the quality support mechanisms available at HQ levels**
- Aim at increasing the overall efficiency and adherence to the projects at the common EU/UN approaches of the electoral cycle jointly developed. See report of the SG**
- Coordinated from Brussels within the premises of the UN/UNDP Brussels Office**
- EC-UNDP Staff and advisors from Brussels, New York and Copenhagen and Mexico City**
- Focus on Identification, Formulation, implementation support and monitoring of all the EC-UNDP projects whenever demanded from EC Delegations and/or UNDP Country Offices**
- Pool of Part Time Expert**
- Lessons learned feed in to joint training and ACE**



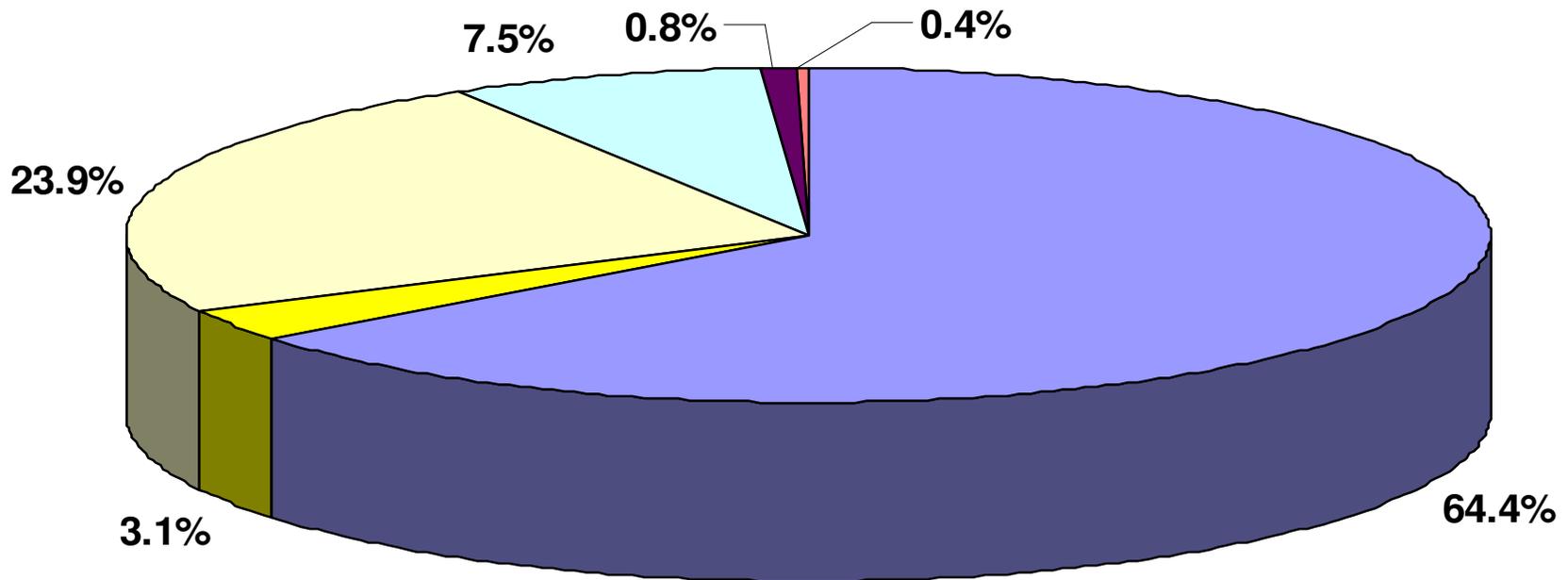
Total Values EC-UNDP contracts

EC Contribution to UNDP 1997-2006 (in MEUR)



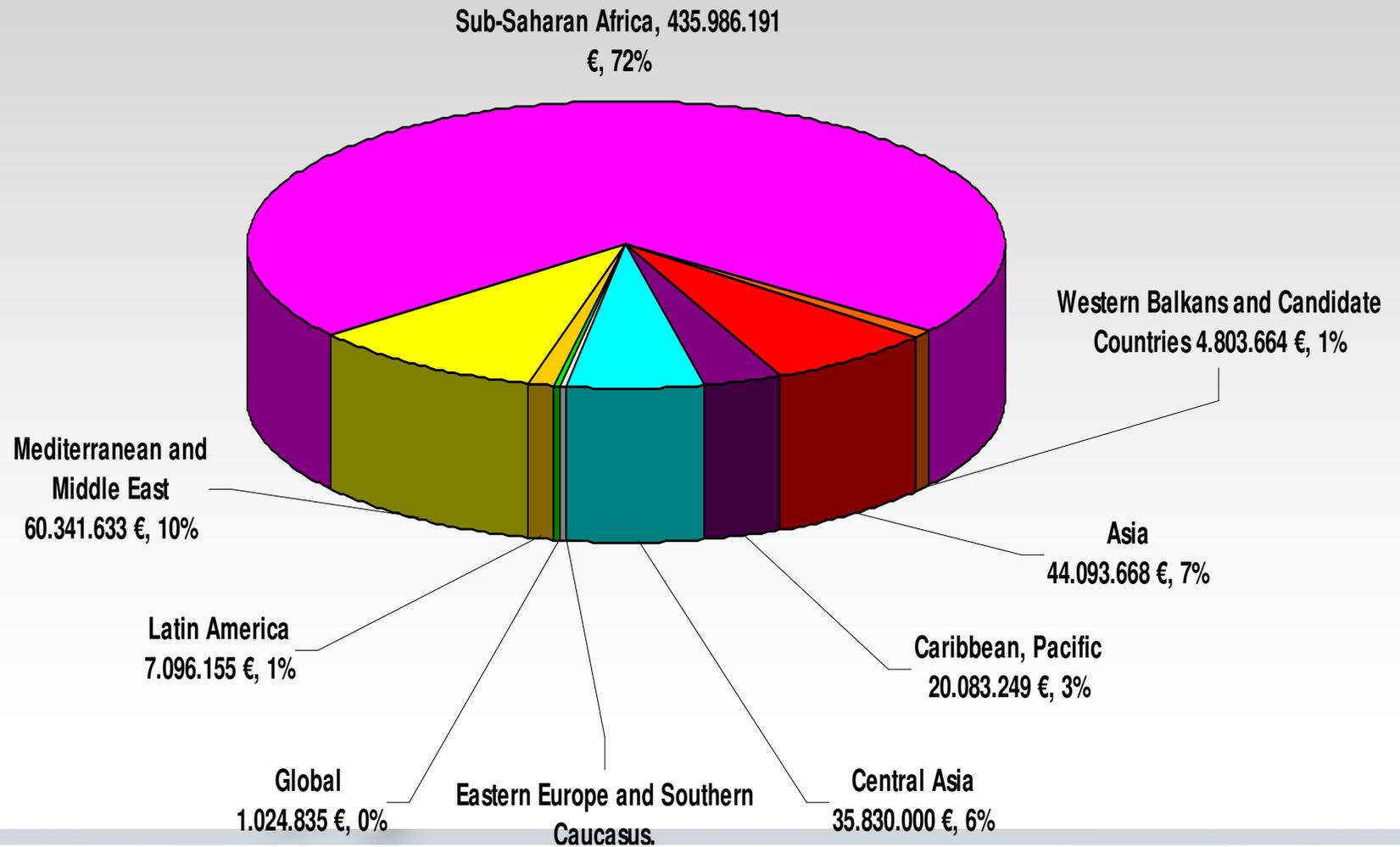


EC-UNDP Disaggregated Division for Democratic Governance 2006



EC electoral assistance funds per region 1992-2007

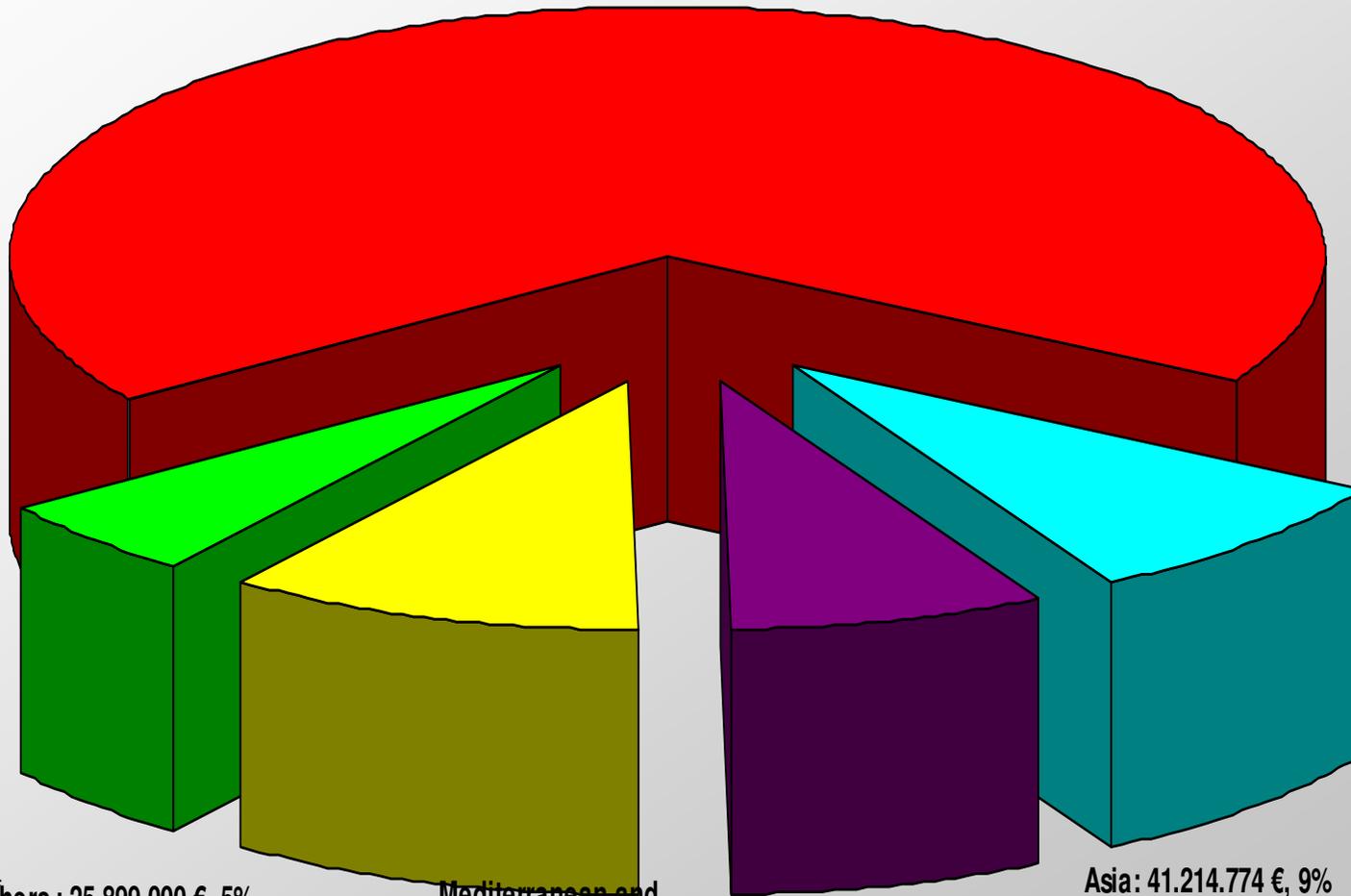
Total: 612.073.304 €



Budget allocation EC-UNDP electoral assistance projects by region 1995-2007

Total: 473.105.447 €

Sub-Saharan Africa: 321.516.673
€, 68%



Others : 25.899.000 €, 5%

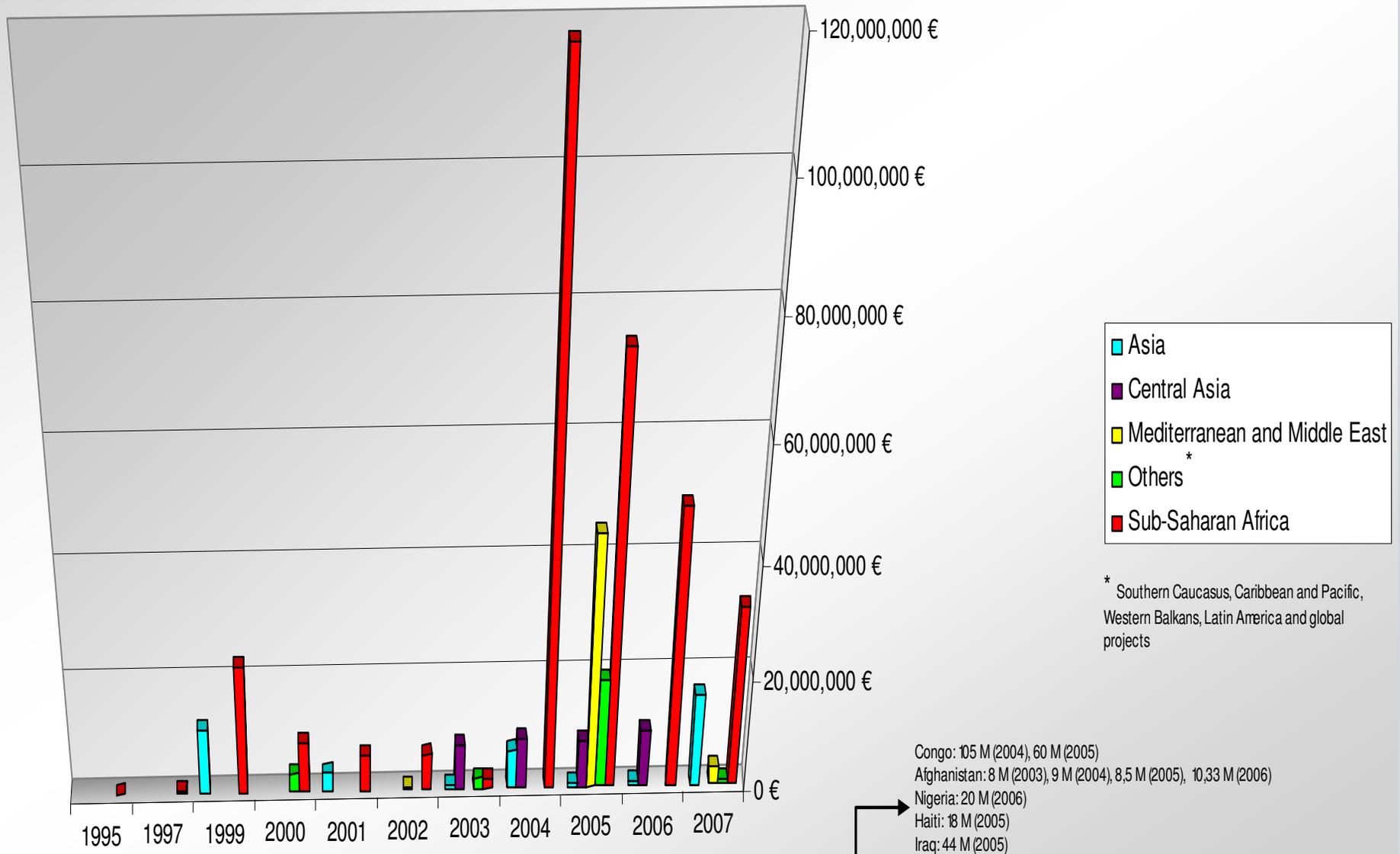
Mediterranean and
Middle East:
48.645.000 €, 10%

Central Asia: 35.830.000 €, 8%

Asia: 41.214.774 €, 9%

* Southern Caucasus, Caribbean and
Pacific, Western Balkans, Latin

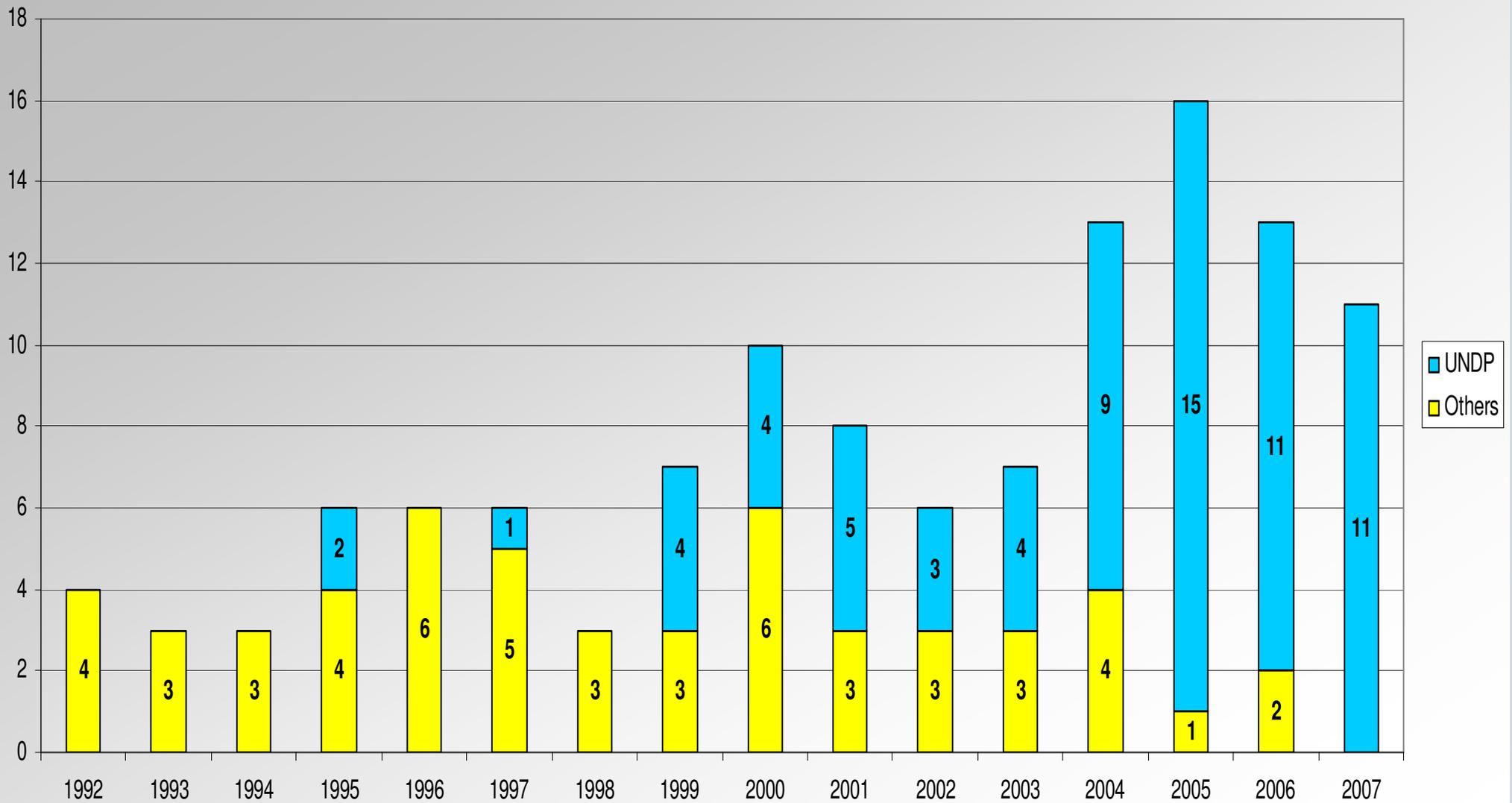
EC funded electoral assistance projects implemented by UNDP per region 1995-2007



Number of EC funded electoral assistance projects per implementing partner

1992-2007

(Without advisory services and EIDHR projects implemented by CSO's)





UNDP Preferred EC Partner

- Facilitation role of the FAFA signed on 2003
- Joint and co-financed intervention of the community of donors is very appropriate to support electoral processes
- UN General Assembly resolution 46/137 of 1991 to indicate role of coordination of electoral assistance at country level between national and international actors
- Long Experience in Electoral Assistance, producing electoral assistance content,
- Provision of electoral experts via the Electoral Assistance Division of the UN Department of Political Affairs
- Pre financing deals once the Contribution Agreements are signed
- Lower Costs: 7% of General Management Services
- BUT....**



Training Needs

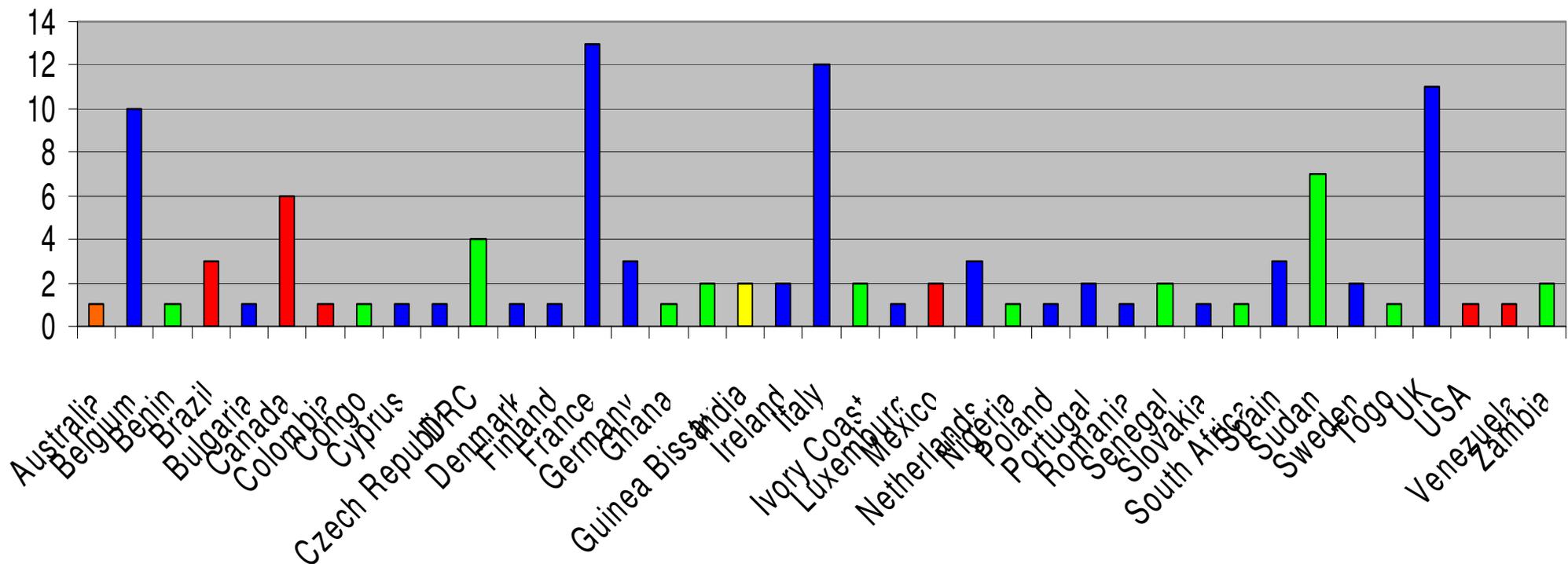
- Links between Elections and Democratic Governance**
- Different Electoral Assistance Scenarios**
- Short and Long Term Strategies**
- Use of ICTs in Electoral Processes**
- Problems and Solutions to implement with EC and UNDP Procedures**
- Voter Registration Methodologies**
- Cost of Registrations and Elections**
- Procurement of Electoral Material and Services**



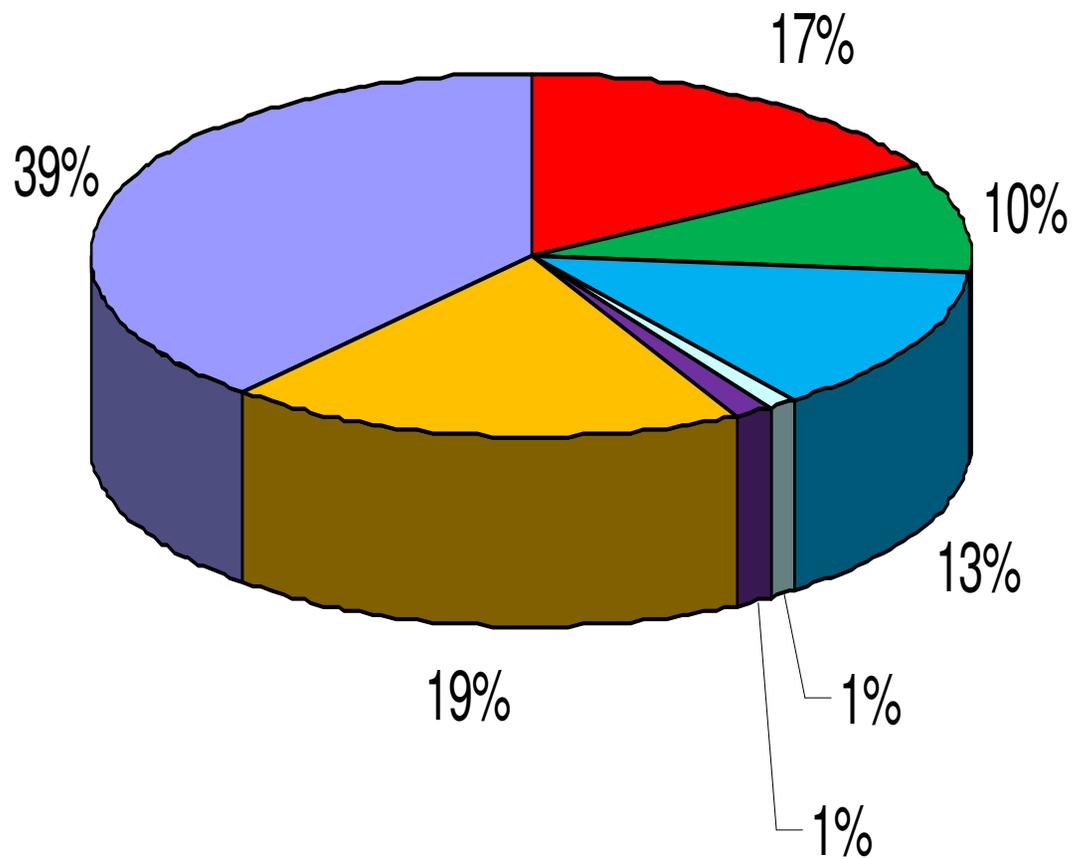
EC-UNDP-IDEA Training

different nationalities

Participants by country



Participation by target institutions



Global Training Platform

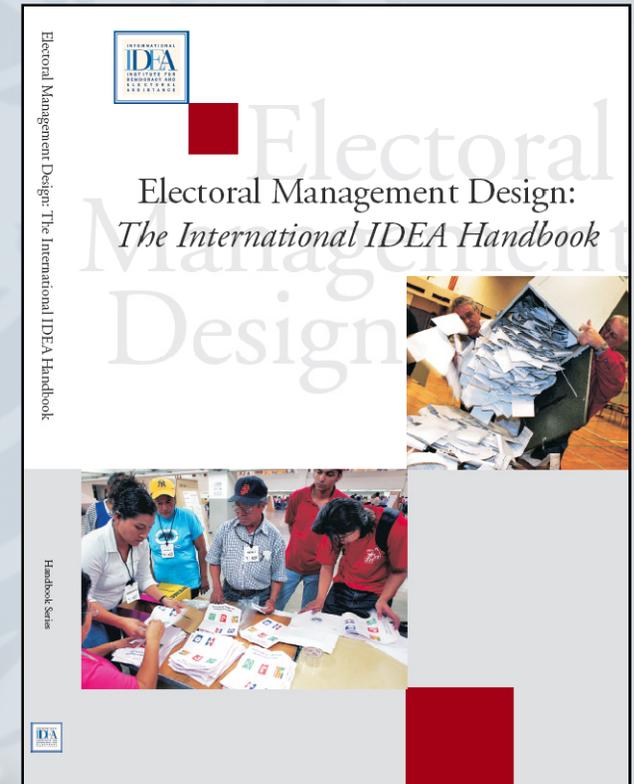
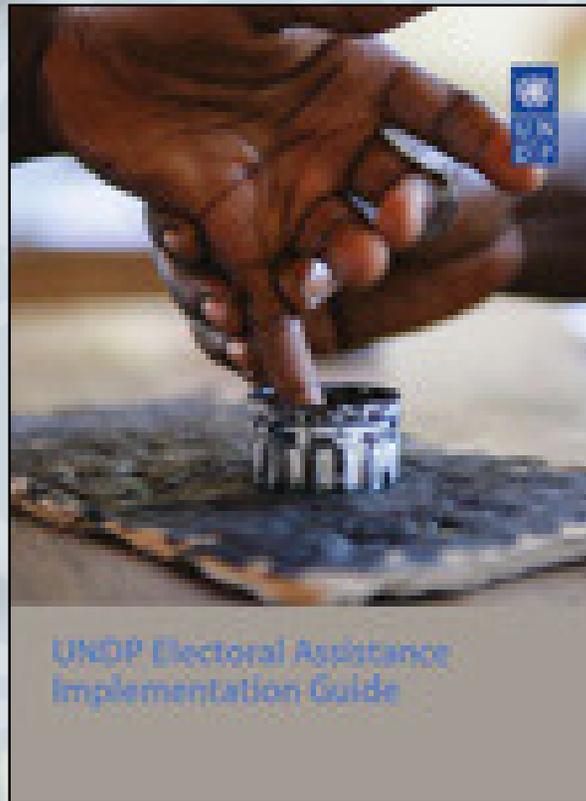


- ❑ Following the 5 Joint EC-UNDP-IDEA Training Open to EC-UNDP desk officers, other donors, regional associations, EMBs, national authorities and CSOs, experts...
- ❑ Establishment of a Sub-group on Effective Electoral Assistance at Train4DEV, 24 donors and organisations
- ❑ EC, UNDP, IDEA, IOM, CIDA, OAS...
- ❑ Study on ICTs and impacts on civil voter registration and data transmission
- ❑ SatElections, pilot project on affordable satellite communications for data transmissions
- ❑ Electoral Procurement Practitioner' Network via ACE
- ❑ Focus on ...Electoral Procurement





Training Sources





www.ec-undp-electoralassistance.org



European Commission United Nations Development Programme Partnership on Electoral Assistance



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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.





Project Documentation and Budget

- Must be conversant and have the same activities agreed with the National Authorities**
- A budget need to be agreed jointly between EC, other donors, UNDP and local authorities**



Others Important Points

- **UNDP Financial and Technical Input for Preparatory Activities**
- EC participation in the steering and monitoring of the projects and Visibility issue**
- Procurement of Specific Electoral Material**



EC UNDP Partnership

- The Annex 1 of the Contribution Agreement must reflect the PRODOC**
- Implementation is dictated by the Contribution Agreement and by the possible MOU, if we are in a multi-donor situation.**
- The FAFA is reflected in Annex 2 (General Conditions) but any special arrangements which go outside the FAFA can be mentioned in the Special Conditions.**



Key issues to be aware of when implementing EC funds:

- EC can not earmark funds and generally facilitate implementation modalities**
- Exchange losses are our problem, not the EC's**
- Procurement or expenditure not foreseen in the original budget will not be reimbursed.**
- If there is a valid reason for changing procurement items in terms of type or quantity then an addendum must be requested prior to expenditure**



Key issues to be aware of when implementing EC funds:

- Respecting the reporting deadlines of the contract are essential when working with the EC. The financial report must follow the format of the original budget, not Atlas.**



Key issues to be aware of when implementing EC funds:

The EC attaches great importance to **Technical and Steering Committees**. In this way it retains some control and visibility over the project. The EC is not just a bank but a donor partner with substantive inputs to provide



MOUs

- Allow to concretise the responsibilities of the different protagonists involved: Government, local EMB, UNDP and the development partners.**
- UNDP needs to ensure that all signatories accept the content. The content is largely based on the Operational Guidelines and we now have several precedents.**



Key issues to be aware of when implementing EC funds:

- The EC attaches great importance to **VISIBILITY**. There is more pressure on EC than on any other donor to show what it is doing with EU tax payers' money.
- See the EC-UN Visibility Action Plan which provide guidance on this matter.



EC Agreements

Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement (FAFA)

The Framework Agreement signed in April 2003 removes the technical obstacles of competing financial and administrative procedures of both organizations in the area of funding for development and humanitarian assistance programmes

Some of the key areas covered:

- Administrative Overheads
- Procurement rules
- Fees and per diem scales
- Monitoring and Evaluation modalities



Putting together an EC Contract





Programme Management Unit

- Although PMU is still under the CO authority, it is important to have a specific Unit dealing with such a complex assignment.**
- The PMU is usually found inside the local ECB so as to be able to better follow up on the development of the electoral assistance assignment.**
- The presence of the PMU inside the EMB also allows for the capacity building element to the electoral assistance**



Securing External Expertise

- Hiring the right expertise in the shortest time possible is one of the main keys to success.**
- UNDP often makes the mistake of working too sequentially leading to time compression issues.**
- The consultative element of passing CVs through EAD is now resolved.**



MOUs

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