



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

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

**Domenico Tuccinardi**

**Overview of Voter Registration Methodologies**

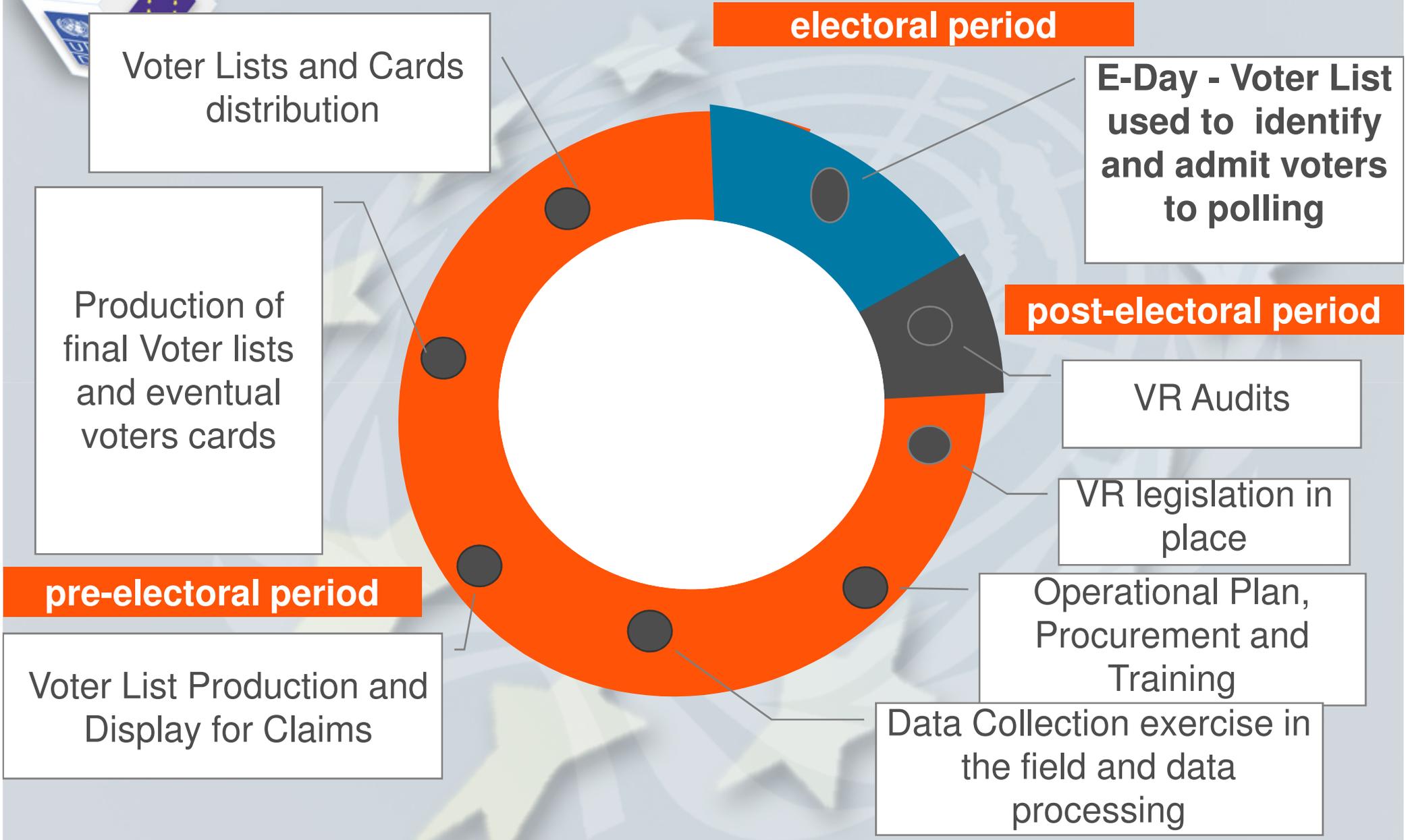
**Maputo, 23-27 June 2008**



## VR: a cornerstone of credible elections

- Always the most controversial aspect of an electoral process
- An accurate and accepted voter registry is pivotal to a credible electoral process
- For most countries it is the largest, most complex, costly and time consuming component of the electoral process
- Crucial display and test of the EMBs operational capacity and credibility

# VR Process





# VR Systems

Three conceptual systems:

1. Stand-alone "ad hoc" / periodic voter registration (active)
2. Stand-alone continuous / permanent voter registration (active)
3. Civil registration-based voter register (passive)



# VR Methodologies

## Three levels of technological methodologies:

- **Low-Tech**
    - Data on paper - locally based - Timor 1996, OCV Afghanistan 2004
  - **Medium-Tech**
    - Paper into database - centrally based - West-Bank/Gaza 2004
  - **High-Tech**
    - Direct to computer - centrally based - DRC 2006
- > Endless variations of VR methodology**



# Low - Tech Approaches





# Mid Tech Approach

**Optical Mark  
Recognition (OMR)  
First used in large  
scale  
Electoral Assistance  
Mission  
Bosnia and  
Herzegovina 1997**

**OSCE** BOSNA I HERCEGOVINA  
PRIVREMENA IZBORNA KOMISIJA (PIK)  
PRIVREMENO IZBORNO POVJERENSTVO (PIP)  
OBRAZAC ZA REGISTRACIJU BIRAČA IZVAN ZEMLJE

**Prezime** **Ime**

**Adresni matični broj** **Datum/mjesec/god**

**Opština u kojoj živi** **Opština u kojoj se bira**

**Spol** **Strana** **Kategorija stranke** **Brojka općine** **Centar za registraciju**

**Ime i prezime predloženika** **Opština u kojoj živi** **Opština u kojoj se bira**

**UPUTE**  
Donesite ovako: **NEBOLITE UPOTREBLJIVATI CRVENU TINTU!**

**OSCE** BOSNA I HERCEGOVINA PIP  
REGISTRACIJA BIRAČA  
0001403999

# Mid Tech Approach



Pencil

Official

Registration Forms

Completed OMR Forms



Photograph



Photo die cutter



Photo-fix



Fingerprint pad

Fingerprint



Voter's card

Batch Header Form (one per day)

Transport to data centre



Envelopes

# Hi-Tech Approach





# The Future ?

## Digital Camera

The digital camera is embedded onto the unit's Official Panel and may be used to capture a voter's digital photograph during registration.

## Local Capture of Information

The application contained can capture data manually inserted in the Vanguard. This data can be, voters information, as well as Voting results.

## Transmission of Data

The kit is capable of transmitting all data and results from distributed locations to a central site.

## Color Touch-screen

A touch-sensitive, full-color LCD screen displays easy-to-use controls for PenCom officials to use to incorporate or edit data

## Signature Pad

The signature capture device may be used to capture a user's signature in electronic format during registration or authentication



## Printer

The attached printer can be used to print a voter registration card

## Fingerprint Reader

The main fingerprint capture device may be used to capture a fingerprint in digital form during registration or authentication.



# TA to Voter Registration

- Increasing demand for high-tech VR systems
- Feasibility studies and design, global as well as local
- Pilot projects
- Procurement of new technology
- Operational planning & procedures
- Training and voter education
- Implementation



# Type and Timing of TA

- Support to EMB to design and introduce a new model or system of voter registration**
- To begin at the end of the previous electoral cycle**
- In any event not later than 18 months before elections.**



# Type and Timing of TA

- Support to EMB to conduct a specific voter registration process which requires the introduction of a new technology or system upgrades**
- Assistance to provided between two years and one year before the elections**
- In any case, not later than one year**



# Type and Timing of TA

- Simple procurement of voter registration material**
- Between one year and six months before the elections**
- technical support to groups observing voter registration (between 1 year and six months before elections).**



# Sustainability Issues

- Technology might reduce costs and improve sustainability**
- It opens up risks for donors and assistance providers to become hostages of the vendors**
- Cost-effectiveness depends on the re-usability of the hardware for other elections administrative purposes**
- Technological changes are not accompanied by adequate training and voter education efforts**



# The Future of Voter Registration

- Western countries have moved to computerized and permanent voter registration systems
- Increasing demand from EU partner countries to use EC Development Funds for digital voter registration
- Lack of adequate feasibility studies. Possible synergies with civil registration are not explored before planning
- Open debate between models: independent voter registration versus the civil registration based voters register