

Lessons from
supporting elections
in fragile contexts.

**A European
Response to
Electoral Cycle
Support.**



**European Development Days
Tour & Taxis - Avenue du Port 86C, 1000 Brussels - Belgium
STAND 51**



The European Centre for Electoral Support (ECES) together with the European Partnership for Democracy (EPD) and its 13 members from 11 EU Member States will present their lessons learned from having supported various electoral and democratic processes in fragile contexts over the last 5 years in all parts of the world.

EPD is the most important network of European civil and political society organisations working on democracy assistance. It operates at the EU level, advocating for a stronger presence of democracy support on the EU's agenda. EPD members have implemented activities in 190 ongoing projects in 128 countries. There are 1200 people at present working for the members of the different members of EPD, including the 49 Regional offices.

In this context, the joint experiences of EPD members provide the needed knowledge and expertise to implement a robust European response to electoral support activities. From this collective experience a specific and distinct European model to electoral and democracy support has emerged: "A European Response to Electoral Cycle Support" <https://www.eudevdays.eu/sessions/european-response-electoral-cycle-support>

It represents essentially a strategic approach to electoral support in third countries, aiming, together with previous programmes implemented by ECES and EPD members individually, at promoting peace and stability by working around political and electoral cycles with all electoral stakeholders.

Peaceful elections are indeed a key corner stone of a healthy democracy whereas violent and flawed elections often result in democratic decline. Transparent, credible, sustainable and fair elections are thus one of the preconditions for democracy and development.

Having delivered democracy and electoral support worldwide, ECES and the EPD network will showcase some of the most notable lessons learned from the field using reports, audio-visual material, presentations and discussions. Through the presentation of lessons learned, ECES and EPD thus contribute to a broader understanding of democracy and electoral processes and will demonstrate how many fields, seemingly diverse from the electoral, are actually interconnected.

In particular, the following lessons learned will be presented:

- **European Centre for Electoral Support's (ECES)** lessons learned from:
 - Providing multidimensional and multifaceted support to the Burkina Faso electoral process during the historical transitional phase;
 - Implementing the regional project PEV-SADC – Preventing Electoral Violence in the Southern Africa Development Community – and supporting key national and regional players in preventing electoral violence: South Africa, Lesotho and Mozambique cases study;
 - Supporting mediation and political dialogue during the crisis in the aftermath of the challenging election in Zanzibar in 2015.
- **European Association for Local Democracy's (ALDA)** lessons learned from implementing projects in support of local democracy and citizens' participation in Eastern Partnership countries, MED area and Balkans;
- **Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy's (NIMD)** lessons learned from supporting political parties and interparty dialogue;
- **Association of European Parliamentarians with Africa's (AWEPA)** lessons learned from implementing parliamentary support in Benin;
- **Osservatorio di Pavia's** lessons learned from implementing media monitoring in Burkina Faso, Madagascar and Benin;
- **People In Need's (PIN)** lessons learned from creating a space for the participation of Myanmar's civil society in policy dialogue and organising the PIN Human Rights Film Festival.

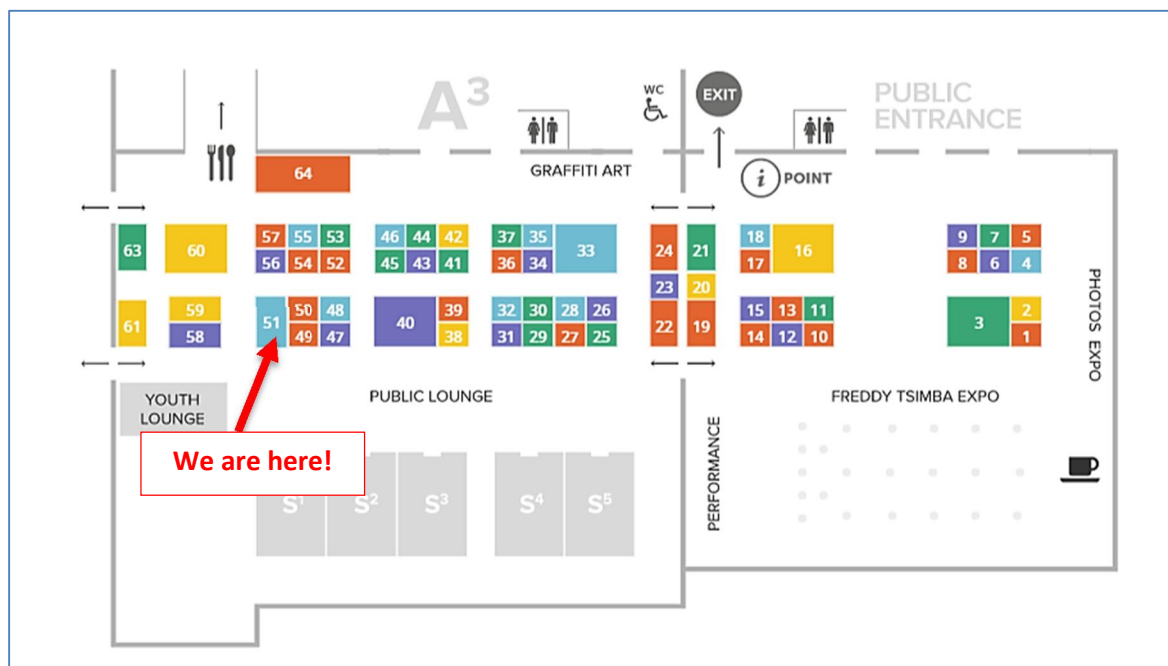
During the event, ECES and EPD will also present the following creative audio-visual material developed within the context of their projects:

- **The Union of the Comoros:** *Microtrottoir*, voters perception of the electoral process- Video developed within the EU funded project PACTE-Comoros I – Project in support of Credibility and Transparency of Electoral Process in the Union of Comoros;
- **Sudan:** Electoral training activities and the results achieved as part of the EU project implemented by ECES and IOM in Sudan;
- **Madagascar:** Original audio-visual documentary on the diversity of popular expectations with regard to governance in Madagascar, produced within the context of the EU funded project INCIPALS- Citizen Initiative for Consolidation Peace, Leadership and Stability in Madagascar;
- **Tunisia:** Evaluation of the EU funded Civil Society Support Programme – PASC aimed at strengthening the capacities of the many associations that have emerged in Tunisia since the 2011 Revolution;
- **LEAD:** Introduction to Leadership and Conflict Management Skills for Electoral Stakeholders Training.

After having presented the lessons learned from supporting various electoral and democratic processes in fragile contexts, ECES and EPD will describe in detail the “**European Response to Electoral Cycle Support**”, a joint strategy and inclusive for assisting the implementation of democratic efforts throughout the electoral process.

Here below the EDD Village Map to find ECES and EPD stand and the agenda of the two-day event.

EDD Village @ Tour & Taxis, Brussels, Belgium



DAY 1 - 15th JUNE 2016

TIME	ORGANISATION	TITLE OF THE SESSION	DESCRIPTION
From 11.00 to 13.00	Official Opening Ceremony		
From 13.45 to 14.30	European Association for Local Democracy (ALDA)	Lessons learned from the field: case study from Eastern Partnership countries, MED area and Balkans	Local democracy, citizens' participation and the support to local stakeholders as an essential element of democratic systems and societies, in the wider frame of supporting electoral processes
From 14.45 to 15.30	Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD)	Lessons learned from the field: NIMD implementing political parties support	Supporting political parties and interparty dialogue
From 15.45 to 16.15	Association of European Parliamentarians with Africa (AWEPA)	Lessons learned from the field: case study from Benin	AWEPA video on Benin
From 16.15 to 16.45	Osservatorio di Pavia	Media monitoring: rationale and objectives. Lessons learned from implementing media monitoring in Burkina Faso, Madagascar and Benin	Media Monitoring: a tool for strengthening the institutional communication of EMBs and assessing the media coverage of electoral processes.
From 16.45 to 17.30	ECES	Lessons learned from the field: case study from Burkina Faso	Multidimensional and multifaceted support to the electoral processes in Burkina Faso during the historical transitional phase
From 18.00 to 19.30	ECES & EPD	<p style="text-align: center;">Implementing SDG 16 in relation to the opportunities and challenges to the security and development nexus*</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Link of the event: https://www.eudevdays.eu/sessions/implementing-sustainable-development-goal-16-peaceful-and-inclusive-societies</p>	<p>ECES and EPD will be represented in the high level panel chaired by High Representative and Vice-president of the European Commission, Federica Mogherini. The panel will be on "Implementing SDG 16 in relation with the opportunities and challenges to the security and development nexus". Thjjs Berman will represent ECES and EPD bringing his experiences as a former member of the European Parliament and several times Chief Observer of EU Election Observation missions. During his mandate at the European Parliament Mr Berman was member of the Development Committee, member of the Sub-Committee for Human Rights and Rapporteur of the legal framework for the Instrument for Cooperation and Development and of the multiannual budget for the Cooperation and Development Policy. Mr Berman is currently the Team Leader of the EU funded project in support of the Electoral Commission in Central African Republic, implemented by ECES. Other speakers: Roch Marc Christian Kaboré, President of Burkina Faso; Faustin-Archange Touadéra, President Central African Republic; Marouane Bakit, Young Leader - Inclusive & Peaceful Societies Morocco / Libya. Moderator: Bénédicte Paviot UK Correspondent France 24.</p> <p>** <u>The high level conference will take place at Auditorium 3</u></p>

DAY 2 - 16th JUNE 2016

TIME	ORGANISATION	TITLE OF THE SESSION	DESCRIPTION
From 10.00 to 10.45	ECES & EPD	Innovative tools for capacity building and awareness raising: Examples from the Comoros and Madagascar	The Comoros: (Microtrottoir: voters perception of the electoral process) Madagascar: Documentary on the diversity of popular expectations with regard to governance in Madagascar.
From 10.45 to 11.30	ECES	Lessons learned from the field: Implementing the regional project PEV-SADC, Case study from South Africa, Lesotho and Mozambique	Supporting national and regional key players in preventing electoral violence. Mapping out the frequency and the geographic spread of election related violence, discussing the key factors for preventing election related violence and presenting relevant early warning mechanisms.
From 11.30 to 12.00	PIN	Lessons learned from the field: Case study from Myanmar and the Human Rights film Festival	Creating a space for the participation of Myanmar's civil society in policy dialogue and the PIN Human Rights Film Festival.
From 12.00 to 12.45	ECES	Lessons learned from the field: Case study from Zanzibar on the aftermath of the 2015 challenging election	Supporting democracy and preventing electoral violence in Zanzibar through mediation, political dialogue and by supporting community level conflict mitigation and resolution processes on the aftermath of the 2015 political crisis.
From 14.30 to 15.15	NIMD	Lessons learned from the field: NIMD implementing political parties support	Supporting political parties and interparty dialogue
From 15.15 to 16.00	ECES & EPD	Introduction to the LEAD Training and examples from Sudan and Tunisia	LEAD: Introduction to Leadership and Conflict Management Skills for Electoral Stakeholders Training Sudan: Supporting democratisation by strengthening the National Election Commission in the post-electoral period and encouraging inclusive political participation. Tunisia: Video Evaluation of the Civil Society Support Programme – PASC aims at strengthening the capacities of the many associations that have emerged in Tunisia since the 2011 Revolution.
From 16 to 16.45	ECES	European Response to Electoral Cycle Support	After having presented lessons learned from the field, ECES will present the European Response to Electoral Cycle Support as a strategic and inclusive approach to electoral support in third countries.
From 17 to 18.30	Official Closing Panel: from Commitment to Action		