

FOR ELECTORAL SUPPORT



# FACTSHEET





www.eces.eu

## **ABOUT US**

ECES is a not for profit private foundation established in September 2010 and headquartered in Brussels, Belgium, with a global remit. ECES promotes sustainable democratic development through the provision of advisory services, operational support and management of large projects in the electoral and democracy assistance field.



ECES works with all electoral stakeholders, including electoral management bodies, civil society organisations involved in voter education and election observation, political parties, parliaments, media, security forces, religious groups and legal institutions confronted with electoral disputes resolution.

**ECES** has crafted and copyrighted its strategy called "A **European Response to Electoral Cycle Support - EURECS**". This is an innovative and alternative delivery mechanism to implement electoral and democracy assistance activities that are consistent with European values and EU policies. It targets the implementation of the recommendations of EU election observation missions and is built to help prevent, mitigate and manage electoral related conflicts. EURECS is implemented via

specific methodologies and tools developed and copyrighted also by ECES.

ECES boasts a wealth of experience and expertise in electoral support projects stemming from nearly all regions across the globe. During its 10 years of work delivering electoral and democracy support, ECES has implemented activities in more than 50 countries mainly, but not exclusively, in Africa and the Middle East. In addition to that, the founders and personnel of ECES have acquired extensive field experience and, taken together, ECES can count on a specialised knowledge bank from its well-established network around the world in roughly 100 countries.

ECES employs a diverse team of highly skilled international, regional and national electoral experts collaborating on its projects, **having thus far contracted more than 2000 individuals**, **representing over 60 different nationalities**.



ECES Team during European Development Days 2019





The EU and EU Member States are ECES' largest donors (Germany being second to the EU), but ECES has been funded by and collaborated with more than 20 donors.



Sustainability and local ownership of all ECES activities are essential. Capacity enhancing workshops covering all aspects of the electoral cycle are offered by ECES, notably the training programme on LEAD (Leadership and Conflict Management Skills for Electoral Stakeholders), EEA (Effective Electoral Assistance), BRIDGE (Building Resources in Democracy Governance and Elections) training of polling officers and other kind of curriculuma has so far reached over 115,000 persons.

As part of the on-going development of advisory services and operational support for all electoral stakeholders, ECES seeks to continuously facilitate exchanges of experience and explore new strategic partnerships with other international and regional organisations and networks in the democracy and electoral fields. ECES' current network of funding, strategic and implementing partners amounts to over 100 diverse organisations and institutions worldwide.



ECES is part of a consortium led by the **College** of Europe to implement the ERMES (European **Response on Mediation Support**) project to provide a tool for the EU to advance its objectives and role in the field of mediation and dialogue. The project is

implemented under the supervision of the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments of the European Commission and in close consultation with the Mediation Support Team of the European External Action Services which ensures the political steer. The ERMES project office is located within ECES headquarters' premises in Brussels.

ECES was also part of the consortium that implemented the "**EU** funded Election Observation and Democracy Support - EODS" endeavour, a capacity building project for EU Election Observation personnel. Started in February 2017 until 2021, EODS had three main areas of support:



- strengthening the EU Election Observation Mission methodology
- training election observation specialists on EU methodology election principles
- sharing this methodology with regional organisations and networks



In 2020, ECES drafted and copyrighted Innov-Elections, its own response to the global COVID-19 pandemic, in order to **continue delivering electoral assistance activities remotely**, using the comparative experience of ECES experts and partners in the field while further

enhancing the contextualisation of the training programmes to the local realities affected by

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the COVID-19 crisis. Officially launched on 15 December 2020 as part of the announcement by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of its "Partnership with Africa" policy document, the Innov-Elections project was developed in collaboration with the Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies of Pisa (SSSA) and implemented with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR).

Innov-Elections is built around the following three main areas:

- 1. Optimise the COVID-19 confinement by enhancing the potential of electoral stakeholders;
- 2. Boost youth and women's roles and participation in the management of elections;
- 3. Enhance electoral stakeholders' leadership, conflict and quality management capacities.

As a testament of our commitment to quality and high standards, in 2020 ECES projects in Ethiopia were selected **among the best 10 projects** at the Paris Peace Forum 2020, a world renown event on issues of global governance and multilateralism that acts as a convening power to bring together all committed actors and as an incubator to help advance concrete solutions for better global governance.



The selection was made out of an overall of **850 proposals** coming from states, international organisations, NGOs, foundations, among others. With this selection, ECES will receive a 12-month customised support from the Paris Peace Forum, through monthly workshops, targeted advice and follow-up in policy and advocacy, communication, partnerships, and much more.

Throughout 2021, ECES will receive the support of Senior Advisers and Mentors **Stefano Manservisi**, former Director General of the European Commission's Directorates General for International Cooperation and Migration/Home Affairs as well as Senior French diplomat and former Under Secretary General for the UN Peacekeeping Department, former Director of the international Crisis Group Jean Marie Guehenno to scale up our EURECS approach.

ECES projects were selected in the Scale Up Initiative of the PPF for:

- Quality of project
- · Importance and relevance of the project to current global governance issues
- Feasibility of the project or its potential for progress
- Level of actual support
- Diversity of origin and of organisation

On the Scale-Up Initiative, the Paris Peace Forum stated: "These projects present the highest potential of development while tackling crucial global governance issues at the same time." "These most promising governance projects demonstrate that it is still possible to improve the collective response to global challenges in a deteriorated international environment."

ECES is also a member of FAIB (the Federation of European and International Association

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**established in Belgium)** and is part of the EU Transparency Register.

In July 2020, ECES received the official ISO accreditation for its yearlong efforts in implementing the ISO Standard 9001:2015 for

the improvement of its Quality Management System (QMS).

Being **ISO 9001 certified** means that ECES has successfully implemented a system of continual improvement in all its processes, centred on continually meeting the needs and expectations of donors and beneficiaries. The application of quality management principles to ECES procedures also ensures the accountability and transparency of activities by clearly defining steps taken and responsibilities.



Through certification, ECES is able to demonstrate that its organisation and operations comply with some of the most comprehensive external and international standards and displays our commitment to quality in all of our activities, ranging from strategic planning to operations to the review and identification of improvement opportunities. By following well determined processes, we aim to increase effectiveness, minimise errors and ensure consistency between our different projects – and that these are implemented in the best way possible.



In May 2020, ECES officially received the **TRACE** certification, a heavily benchmarked and comprehensive due diligence review, analysis and approval process. Obtaining the TRACE certification means that ECES has been thoroughly vetted, trained and certified by TRACE, the world's leading anti-bribery standard setting organisation.

The TRACE certification review process is based on internationally accepted standards and requires candidates to complete global anti-bribery training, adopt a code of conduct and update due diligence information annually. Reports include daily screening of names against international sanctions and enforcement lists.

This certification reinforces ECES' status as an organisation of excellence and a reliable partner for companies and organisations around the world. It further demonstrates ECES' commitment to commercial and financial transparency, allowing us to serve as a valued business partner to multinational organisations and companies.



Obtaining both certifications seeks to consolidate ECES' organisational structure based on continual improvement, as well as ensuring and further demonstrating that ECES and its comply with some of the most comprehensive external and international standards.

## **OUR HISTORY**



Former President of ECES and Co-Founder, Late Abbot Apollinaire Muholongu Malu Malu

ECES was established in September 2010 and launched in December of the same year when **Abbot Apollinaire Mulhongo Malu Malu, the first President of ECES management board**, was invited by the European Commission to attend the European Development Days.

During this occasion, the creation of ECES was announced. Malumalu explained that a number of senior electoral experts and practitioners identified the need to establish a European based not for profit organisation specialised in providing electoral support consistent with European values and EU policies. This organisation would work in favour of beneficiary countries

partner of the EU and ensure ownership, cost effectiveness and visibility of the cooperation between the EU, its Member States and the beneficiary country.

ECES emerged as an idea of a European organisation specialising in electoral support to be at the service of the EU and EU Member States long before being officially founded in 2010. **The idea and initiative came from Fabio Bargiacchi back in 1997**, when he participated in an OSCE mission in Bosnia. There, he realised that USAID had its own organisation dedicated to implementing electoral assistance via an established cooperative agreement since 1995, known as the CEPPS (Consortium for Elections and Political Process Strengthening) . The EU, however, did not have such an organisation but was instead funding the OSCE and the United Nations.

Fabio Bargiacchi co-opted to this cause the late Abbot Malu Malu as well as all other members of the board, who shared similar ideas about the need to establish a European Centre for Electoral Support embodying the views and values of the EU and EU Member States as donors. Both men also sought to integrate the views of the beneficiaries' countries in terms of visibility, steering of projects, flexibility and cost effectiveness to dedicate more funds to activities instead of administration and human resources costs.



ECES Co-Founder and Executive Director, Fabio Bargiacchi

In July 2011, Fabio Bargiacchi was entrusted by the members of ECES management board to lead the organisation 's management unit as its Executive Director. The same year, Monica Frassoni was appointed as Vice President of ECES of which she later took over the Presidency when Abbot Malu Malu resigned due to commitments in his home country, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and to health reasons that unfortunately costed his life a few years later. In her function of Vice President and President, Monica, plays a fundamental role in enhancing the political visibility of ECES with donors and beneficiaries and in reinforcing ECES strategic engagement within EU Institutions at the highest level.

As one of EU's top influencer and top 100 Global Thinker Monica brought over 30 years'

## **OUR HISTORY**

experience in European and foreign affairs, **proactively contributing in the establishment** and successees of ECES also via her regular activity as speaker and lecturer in important academic fora and large public events, focusing on democracy and participation of civil society (notably women and youth, in decision-making at all levels) and also on sustainable energy and energy savings, green transformation of the global economy and society to fight exclusion and climate change.



ECES President, Monica Frassoni

As a former Member of the European Parliament (for two mandates) and later as Co-chair of the European Green Party, **Monica's passion** in support of human rights, women political engagement and democracies constantly reinforced ECES growth and visibility. Bringing on board her past experience as Chief Observer in two EU Electoral Observation Mission (EOMs) Bolivia and Venezuela, Monica advises and assists in all ECES activities, notably in terms of follow-up of the implementation of the recommendations of EU Election Observation Missions in to electoral assistance activities.

Monica Frassoni bring to ECES also her experience as member of the board of trustees of "Friends of Europe" (a leading think tank that works to promote a more inclusive, sustainable and forward-looking Europe) and of the "Foundation ceci n'est pas une crise", created in 2013 in Belgium to respond to the challenges of cultural and identity populism.

ECES embarked on its first real large endeavor at the beginning of February 2012 by delivering face-to-face and distance training to the ten electoral management bodies of the ECCAS (Economic Community of Central African States). ECES was also awarded a project to support the local elections in post-revolution Libya in two stages that entailed an operational phase and a dialogue process phase, focusing on reconciliation of the war-torn country.

Ten years down the line, ECES is now a well-established organisation that is proud of its roots and the course it has taken. It has overcome many challenges and boasts numerous milestone achievements. Our quest to deliver electoral assistance worldwide while promoting European values through a European distinct delivery mechanism is constantly growing.

As such, ECES is committed to continuing contributing to democratic and electoral processes around the world and, together with the United Nations Development Programme and International IDEA, nowadays stands among the three most important partners of the EU for the implementation of EU electoral support.

In September 2020 ECES welcomed in its team **Joëlle Milquet, a former Belgium Deputy Prime Minister, former Minister of Defense**, and Special Adviser to President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker for the compensation of victims of crime.

Appointed by ECES Board to coordinate the Strategic & Advisory Committee, **Joëlle is bringing 30 years of political** 



ECES President of Strategic and Advisory Committee, Joëlle Milquet

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experience to support the implementation of ECES Strategic Planning 2020-2023 and the Management Board and Management Unit of ECES. The Strategic & Advisory Committee gathers senior international professionals to provide guidance and support to ECES strategies and further expand its scope and to the existing projects.

In January 2021, five new members were appointed, namely:

- **Filiberto Sebregondi**, a former senior EU official who also served as EU Ambassador in Ghana, Togo and Tanzania, who has assume the role of Vice President of the Committee.
- **Piero Scarpellini**, an Italian national, who is currently Special Attorney for International Affairs at the Pragmata Institute for International Development in the Republic of San Marino who will assume the role of Secretary of the Committee;
- **Erastus J.O. Mwencha**, Chair of the ACBF Executive Board, the Kenyan national was previously Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission where he was actively involved in the development of Africa's long-term vision of Agenda 2063.
- **Samar Al Haj Hasan**, a former Jordanian politician, who is currently a member of the national advisory team to combat political violence against women and member of the regional advisory team for women equality mechanisms and women empowerment.
- **Didier de Jaeger**, Belgian entrepreneur with over 25 years of experience in strategic and digital communication, Didier De Jaeger is currently CEO and Director of Altavia Europe, a communications agency specialising in retail with a presence in all European countries, Asia, Africa and North America.
- **Maria Elena Valenciano Martinez-Orozco**, former MEP, Spanish politician of the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party, Elena Valenciano is part of the Party of European Socialists.

"Our strengths lie in the deep knowledge of electoral matters coupled with extensive comparative experiences in project management but also and foremost in the passion and commitment we put in our work to support electoral processes worldwide. We are convinced that this is our call and we feel a profound fulfilment to give our contribution to the work that the international community is doing in terms of democratisation via partnerships with the EU and its Member States, peer exchanges and south-south collaboration." **Fabio Bargiacchi** 

"My dream is that elections become a celebration of democracy everywhere and especially in Africa, where often they are a drama. At the end of each election organized in a credible, transparent and cost-effective manner, all parties and candidates should accept the results and the choice of the electorate. Those who lose the elections should play their watchdog role over the Government and prepare to challenge the majority for the next elections following the rules of democracy rather than through violence."

Abbot Apollinaire Malu Malu



### VISION

To be the reference European organisation to implement electoral support projects in line with the values and policies of the European Union and its Member states in the context of their development cooperation with their partner countries. ECES strives to support the partner countries of the EU and of its Member States to organise their electoral processes in a credible and transparent manner as the best contribution to prevent electoral conflicts and to promote stability toward inclusiveness and fair societies.

### MISSION

We are a not for profit foundation that works de facto as an association of electoral and EU project management experts implementing electoral support activities via copyrighted tools and methodologies resumed in our strategy called "A European Response to Electoral Cycle Support - EURECS".

### **QUALITY POLICY**

We are fully committed to the continuous improvement in the quality of ECES and our activities in implementing our EURECS copyrighted strategy. All the personnel working at ECES are aware of their crucial contribution to the achievement of our objectives through compliance with the necessary process, service, legal and regulatory requirements, always taking into consideration the needs of our donors and beneficiaries. We will continue to aim for the highest standards of professionalism in our operations and will work to ensure the satisfaction of our personnel, partners, donors and beneficiaries worldwide.

# **OUR STRATEGY**



#### **European Response to Electoral Cycle Support (EURECS)**

EURECS is an innovative strategy that encompasses a practical implementation approach to electoral support and is based on the belief that electoral assistance should expand in two dimensions: time and space. This strategy has a long-term approach to elections based on support throughout all stages of the electoral cycle to move from ambition to reality. This is a broader and more integrated approach to stimulate ownership among political and electoral players and create opportunities for concrete results. EURECS is implemented via specific methodologies and tools developed and copyrighted by ECES such as:

#### **INNOV-ELECTIONS**

Innov-Elections is the tool drafted and copyrighted by ECES in response to the global coronavirus pandemic, in order to continue delivering electoral assistance activities based on the comparative experience of ECES experts and partners in the field, further enhancing the contextualisation of the training programmes to the local realities affected by the COVID-19 crisis. Officially launched on 15 December 2020 as part of the announcement by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of its "Partnership with Africa" policy document, the Innov-Elections project was developed in collaboration with the Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies of Pisa (SSSA) and implemented with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR).

#### **Prevention of Election Violence (PEV)**

This approach includes a series of activities aimed at operationalising a conflict prevention mechanism by setting up an early warning and rapid response tool based on a capacity-building programme for the actors involved in preventing/reducing tensions.

### Innovative Leadership and Conflict Management Skills for Electoral Stakeholders (LEAD)

This training aims to strengthen the leadership capacities of electoral stakeholders as well as to improve their conflict management skills to mitigate the escalation of electoral violence and conflict throughout the electoral cycle.

#### **Electoral Political Economy Analyses (EPEA)**

This methodology uses the political economy analysis approach to study the interaction of political and economic processes in society, distribution of power and wealth between different groups and individuals, as well as processes that create, sustain and transform those relationships over time.

#### **Electoral Security Threat Assessment (ESTA)**

This methodology is a constant security mapping activity that seeks to monitor lurking localised conflicts or external threats from border areas and more. It aims to engage on non-committal terms with the "supply side" of the security sector to ensure the security of the country.

## **OUR STRATEGY**

#### **Standards Operation Procedures (SOP)**

ECES' SOP is an integrated document that provides detailed step-by-step guidance on the implementation of EURECS following each phase of the electoral cycle. It provides an ample description of both processes and procedures to be followed to implement EURECS in line with international standards and regulations.

#### **Communication and Visibility Guidelines**

These guidelines cover everything from audience understanding to social media analytics, going through taking better pictures, writing better words, banner and logo design as well as copyrights and search engine optimisation.



ECES Team in front of ECES office in Jordan (EU-JDID Project)

# **OUR ACHIEVMENTS**



## WHAT WE DO

ECES is specialised in effective handling of the very complex and delicate set of interactions among the electoral management bodies, multilateral and bilateral development agencies, governments, CSOs, political parties, and providers of electoral material and services by implementing the following set of activities:

**Management of basket funds (EU and other donors)**: through the adoption of transparent management procedures in line with "best practices" of the sector, ECES is able to maximise the coherence and the complementarity of external contributions to the electoral processes in view to avoid duplication of efforts.

**Political dialogue**: strengthening and consolidating electoral stakeholders' commitments and adherence to common and shared democratic values.

**Crisis management/mediation process with key electoral stakeholders including political leaders**: support various local forums, such as a panel of influential persons; including nationals and senior mediation and conflict management experts who can advise and support the panel.

Link existing peace-building projects to early warning mechanisms: this activity seeks to tap into already ongoing local initiatives along these lines that need strengthened coordination to enhance effectiveness.

**Religious networks and association mapping and inter- and intra-faith dialogue, with potential to counteract extremism and radicalisation**: inter-and intra-faith dialogue has the potential to deal effectively with political and electoral challenges and contribute to the progress of democratisation and peaceful conduct of elections in ways that will give meaning and direction to followers of different faiths, anchored in religious guidance.

**Confidence-building dialogue initiatives (regional, national and community level)**: such activities can contribute to strengthening and consolidating a wide range of electoral stakeholders' commitments and adherence to common and shared democratic values.

Advisory support: provision of specific, high quality, flexible and customisable electoral expertise in view to develop appropriate and effective answers to the needs of national authorities and electoral stakeholders;

**Innov-Elections**: hybrid approach to training delivery through a flexible menu of training curricula, coupled with remote solutions to mitigate the challenges imposed by the coronavirus pandemic;

**Logistics and operational support**: evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of the logistic and operational electoral chain is a require for improvement in terms of effectiveness, timing, cost, sustainability, while providing support to logistic operations (inventory, electoral kit, deployment and storage of electoral material, etc.).

# WHAT WE DO

**Media monitoring and institutional communication**: media monitoring, which consists of observing media contents using quantitative and qualitative analysis in the long run, is essential to evaluate the media coverage of the electoral process, pluralism and citizens' perception of the Electoral Management Bodies (EMB) and the electoral process.

**Procurement of electoral material**: development of acquisition plans on behalf of donors and in full compliance with the procedures and technical specifications, which allows to identify the needs that develop the most appropriate management methodology and chronogram taking into account the challenges related to the electoral calendar;

Support EMBs to enhance their capacity to manage donors' funds including reporting and procedures and expending evaluation: fully in accordance with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Busan Partnership, ECES, while ensuring the transparency and traceability of funds' usage, support beneficiaries to become fully autonomous in managing financial contributions.

**Development of innovative information and communication technologies (ICTs), userfriendly solutions and applications adapted to electoral support**: technology can be a strategic asset for supporting electoral assistance related activities.

**Implementation of civic-voter education campaigns**: ECES designs and implements civic and voter education activities for different electoral stakeholders, particularly for electoral management bodies and CSOs. This is done using innovative tools, such as production of videos and using media monitoring and social network and implementing nation wide mobile cinema campaigns.

**Design and securitisation of ballot paper**: several studies demonstrated that the order of candidates, typography and layout such as the presence of logos and photos are not neutral ballot paper's elements. In order to ensure a fair and equal treatment to all candidates, a digital processing of candidates and political parties logos allow standardising the presentation in line with common rules (background, colours, and templates).

**Transmission of election results**: support the design and implementation of transparent, effective and credible results transmission systems, which can contribute to the facilitation of acceptance of results while reducing the risk of accidents and violence;

**Production of visibility plan**: ECES for each and every single project produces visibility plan according to the rules and regulations of each donor, which is submitted to approval before it is implemented. This includes design and publishing of dedicated websites and social network activities.

# OUR REACH



Afghanistan Algeria Angola Austria Belgium Benin Bolivia Bosnia Botswana Brazil **Burkina Faso** Burundi Cameroon Canada Cape Verde **Central African Republic** Chad Colombia Comoros Congo-Brazzaville Dem. Rep. of Congo Dominican Rep Ecuador

Ethiopia Fiji France Gabon Georgia Ghana Guinea-Bissau Guinea-Conakry Haiti India Indonesia Italy Ivory Coast Jordan Kenya Kosovo Laos Lebanon Lesotho Liberia Libya Luxembourg Macedonia

Madagascar Malawi Mali Mauritania Mauritius Mexico Moldova Mozambique Namibia Netherlands Niger Nigeria Pakistan Peru Portugal Rwanda Sao Tome & Principe Saudi Arabia Senegal Sierra Leone SouthAfrica South Korea Spain

South Sudan Sri Lanka Sudan Suriname Swaziland Sweden Switzerland Tajikistan Tanzania Timor Leste Thailand Togo Tunisia Uganda United Kingdom **United States** Venezuela Vietnam West Bank/Gaza Zambia Zanzibar Zimbabwe

# **BOARD MEMBERS**



**Monica Frassoni** 

PRESIDENT

#### **José Manuel Pinto-Teixeira**







### **Fabio Bargiacchi** CO-FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

#### **José Lambiza** HEAD OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION





#### **Eva Palmans**

HEAD OF PROGRAMMES AND RESOURCE MOBILISATION

### **Lino Francescon**







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MFMBFR

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### **STRATEGIC AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE**



#### **Joelle Milquet**

PRESIDENT OF STRATEGIC AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### Filiberto Ceriani Sebregondi

VICE PRESIDENT





#### **Piero Scarpellini**

SECRETARY

#### **Erastus Mwencha**

MEMBER





### **Elena Valenciano**

MEMBER

### Samar Haj Hassan







**Didier De Jaeger** MFMBFR





#### EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR ELECTORAL SUPPORT

Avenue Louise 222, 6th floor, 1050 Brussels, Belgium Phone: +32 (0) 2 325 55 58 – Fax : +32 (0) 2 502 6630

> Email : info@eces.eu Website: www.eces.eu







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