



EUROPEAN CENTRE  
FOR ELECTORAL SUPPORT



# FACTSHEET

[www.eces.eu](http://www.eces.eu)



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# 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 13 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 founder 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*



# ABOUT US



The EU and EU Member States are ECES' largest donors (followed by Germany France and Italy), but ECES has been funded by and collaborated with more than **35 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 curriculum has so far reached over **797,000 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 for 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 Service** which ensures the political steer. The ERMES project office is located within ECES headquarters' premises in Brussels.

In this context ECES is also a member of the **European Peacebuilding Liaison Office network**, the **biggest and leading civil society European platform**, of **with more than 50 independent organisations and think tanks from 17 European countries**, committed to peacebuilding and the prevention of conflict.



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 May 2021, ECES signed a MoU with the **African Union Commission's Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security (AUC-PAPS)**. Following exchanges between ECES and the AU-PAPS, the **"Pro-Electoral Integrity: Project in Support to Electoral Integrity in Africa"** project was conceived and designed to provide technical support to a broad range of electoral stakeholders on the African continent with the overall objective of contributing to the conduct of credible, and inclusive elections in African Union Member States fostering the prevention of electoral conflicts and promotion of electoral integrity.

"Pro-Electoral Integrity ", currently in its second phase of implementation, is **funded by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation** and via the AUC-PAPS aims at contributing to peace and security through the development of a common culture of resilience and shared values around integrity in electoral processes, by strengthening the capacities of African EMBs



in conducting their own credible and inclusive elections. The project has overall objective of supporting the AUC-PAPS to mainly build the resilience of Electoral Management Bodies (EMBs) and networks of EMBs to contribute to the challenges of electoral contexts to effectively organize elections in accordance with national and international norms and standards of democratic elections.

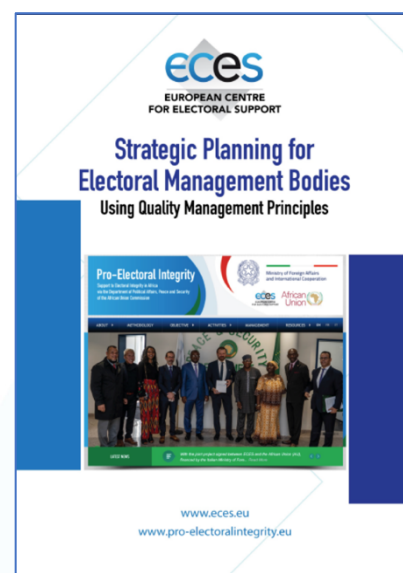


## Copyrights

Introducing a suite of innovative applications, ECES has aimed to enhance electoral processes globally, with each system addressing specific challenges. The **Strategic Planning for Electoral Management Bodies** is the latest copyright. Drawing on ECES's 13 years of experience to boost the internal efficiency of Election Management Bodies (EMBs) worldwide, it tailors' strategies to the specific electoral and legal framework of each country. This strategic planning guide fosters resilience in EMBs, navigating changing contexts and efficiently managing upcoming elections, **emphasizing stakeholder participation and trust-building.**

Efficient logistical planning is a key pillar for hosting transparent electoral process. The **Polling Station Allocation System (GIS)** is a tool that optimizes resource allocation by **mapping precise polling station details**, including road networks, distances to police stations, and registered voters. The system is crucial for electoral commissions, providing a comprehensive view of logistical information on a map.

The "**Poll Workers Management System (PWMS)**" application, efficiently manages poll worker profiles, ensuring electoral commissions can **track expertise, education, and experience**. By securely storing essential documents and facilitating payment verification, PWMS contributes to the smooth and credible functioning of the electoral process.



# ABOUT US

The "**Electoral Results Aggregator**" is another collaborative effort tailored for EMBs and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). This system processes **real-time updates of election results**, with components such as a scheduler engine and a Results File Downloader for data extraction. The user-friendly Angular 9 web application enhances accessibility, making it an all-encompassing solution for secure, authorized access to services.

In response to the evolving challenges in elections, the "**Unified Social Media Monitoring and Early Warning System**" efficiently monitors social media and on-the-ground incidents, providing **early warnings for violence and hate speech**. This comprehensive tool, developed collaboratively, ensures sustainability, contributing to a peaceful environment and conflict prevention. This tool responds to ECES awareness of the power and potential of the Communication and Information Tools (CIT), as does the "**Voter List Digitalisation System**" an application, developed to **converts paper-based voter registration information into a digital database**. This customizable system helps electoral commissions efficiently manage data, prevent fraud, and promote transparency, contributing to a free, fair, and credible electoral process.



**Peace mediation in electoral processes.** The methodology on electoral mediation fills an important gap by offering concrete guidance when attempting to mediate – or support peace mediation efforts in electoral processes or crises, that arise or escalate due to flawed elections. **The focus of electoral mediation goes beyond preventing electoral violence** and concentrates in unlocking the potential of mediation and dialogue as a tool that hold great value all-around the electoral process. Peace mediation in electoral processes should be embedded in each phase of the electoral cycle as a preventative measure, installing or reviving an infrastructure of dialogue across and amongst stakeholders at all tracks.

In 2021, ECES has copyrighted its own database: **The Roster Database for Electoral Assistance Experts**. The Roster and the related application, include 1500 specialized CVs of Project Directors, Project Coordinators, Finance and Operations Managers, Accountants, result of the 25 years of knowledge, experience and professional networks of the ECES' founder in different institutions and international organisations.



Just one year before, 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 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:

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

ECES' other copyrights:

- The Electoral Translator;

# ABOUT US

- The Leadership and Quality Management Skills for Electoral Administrators Methodology (LEAD-Q);
- The Electoral Security Threat Assessment (ESTA) Methodology;
- ECES Communication and Visibility (C&V) Guidelines;
- The integrated Standard Operating Procedures (SOP);
- The Preventing Election-Related Conflict and Potential Violence (PEV) Methodology;
- The Electoral Political Economy Analyses (EPEA) Methodology;
- The Leadership and Conflict Management Skills for Electoral Stakeholders (LEAD) course;
- The strategy “A European Response to Electoral Cycle Support”- EURECS.



ECES, with our partner Democracy Essentials, has developed, among several other electoral related applications, the **Global Election Management System (GEMS)**. This platform was built to mainly assist senior officials of electoral management bodies in achieving the ultimate goal of making real time informed decisions in electoral operations by calculating the risks associated with those decisions.

The platform includes different dashboards and systems to support Electoral Management Bodies in their work:

- **GEMS Dashboard** to elevate the EMB data analysis and decision-making capabilities;
- **Warehouse Management System** a comprehensive web-based application designed to streamline the oversight of warehouse activities;
- **GEMS RFID** facilitates effective inventory control and continuous monitoring of their movements;
- **Geo Location Management System** it ensures the punctual and precise transportation of materials from the warehouse to their assigned destinations;
- **GEMS Helpdesk** streamlines effectiveness of assistance offered during Election Day;
- **GEMS Files** is an exceptionally secure document management platform;
- **Poll Workers Management System** streamlines the task of generating staff assignments.





# ABOUT US

## Paris Peace Forum



As a testament of our commitment to quality and high standards, ECES projects in Ethiopia were selected in 2020 **among the best 10 projects** at the **Paris Peace Forum (PPF) 2020**, a world-renowned 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 has received 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 received the support of Senior Advisers and Mentors **Stefano Manservigi**, 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 Guéhenno** 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."*

With the support of the Forum, under the mentorship of Stefano Manservigi and Jean-Marie Guéhenno, we were able to:

- Expand the implementation of our approach;
- Increase the impact of our outreach and external communication;
- Update and fine-tune our EURECS Strategy, with 2nd edition to be released at the forum;
- Conceive new innovative tools for the implementation of electoral assistance activities including a copyrighted methodology for **"Peace mediation in electoral processes"**.

ECES presented the new updated EURECS strategy at the 4th edition of the Paris Peace Forum (11 to 13th November 2021).

# ABOUT US

## International certifications for financial and quality managements

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)**, and it has been renewed annually since then with a re-certification audit successfully completed in September 2023.



Being **ISO 9001 certified** means that ECES successfully implements 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.

ECES is also officially **certified by Tcertification**, this certification also known as TRACE is a heavily benchmarked and comprehensive due diligence review, analysis and approval process. The certification has been renewed on a yearly basis since July 2021. Obtaining the Tcertification means that **ECES has been thoroughly vetted, trained and certified by Tcertification, the world's leading anti-bribery standard setting organisation.**



The Tcertification 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 institutions, 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 operations comply with some of the most comprehensive external and international standards.

# OUR HISTORY



*Former President of ECES and  
Co-Founder, Late Abbot Apollinaire  
Muhlongu 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. Malu Malu 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.**

The concept behind of the European Centre for Electoral Support (ECES) as a specialized European entity dedicated to providing electoral assistance, designed to serve the European Union and its member states, was conceived long before its official establishment. **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 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 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 which regrettably led to his passing 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.



*ECES President,  
Monica Frassoni*

As one of **EU's top influencer** and **top 100 Global Thinkers**, Monica brought over 30 years' experience in European and foreign affairs, **proactively contributing in the establishment and successes of ECES** also via her regular activity as speaker and lecturer in important academic fora and large public events. These have focused 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.

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's political engagement and democracies constantly reinforced ECES growth and visibility. Bringing on**



# OUR HISTORY

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 into electoral assistance activities**.

Monica Frassoni also brings to ECES 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 “Fondation 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 endeavour 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.

Twelve 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 to contribute to democratic and electoral processes around the world. Together with the United Nations Development Programme and International IDEA, it nowadays stands among the three most important partners of the EU for the implementation of EU electoral support.



*ECES President of Strategic and Advisory Committee, Joëlle Milquet*

In September 2020 ECES welcomed in its team **Joëlle Milquet, a former Belgium Deputy Prime Minister, former Minister of the Interior**, 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 brings 30 years of political experience to support the implementation of ECES Strategic Plan 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 additional members were appointed, namely:

- **Filiberto Sebgondi**, a former senior EU official who also served as EU Ambassador in Ghana, Togo and Tanzania, as Vice President of the Committee.
- **Piero Scarpellini**, an Italian national, who he was General Director of Pragmata Institute and founder and member of the Steering Committee at the Tèresys Foundation 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, 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.

# OUR HISTORY

- **Didier de Jaeger**, Belgian entrepreneur with over 25 years of experience in strategic and digital communication, he 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.

*“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**

# OUR GOALS

## VISION

To be the reference European not for profit foundation to implement electoral support projects in line with policies of the European Union and its Member states in the context of the electoral processes of 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 private not for profit foundation that has the goal to facilitate electoral cooperation between the EU, EU member states and partner countries of the EU and EU Member States requesting electoral and democracy support, 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 copyrighted strategy “A European Response to Electoral Cycle Approach”. We ensure that our activities meet the highest standards by adhering to the ISO 9001 principles for quality management and the TCertification guidelines for financial transparency and ethical practices.

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, regulatory requirements always taking in to consideration the needs of our donors and beneficiaries.

We will continue to target 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.

### 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.

# OUR STRATEGY

## **The “Leadership and Quality Management Skills for Electoral Administrators” (LEAD-Q)**

This original methodology prescribes a set of rules, routines and procedures developed to address common weaknesses within electoral administrations targeting a quality management in their electoral processes. If these rules, routines and procedures are applied, it will inevitably lead to greater internal effective performance and increased transparency.

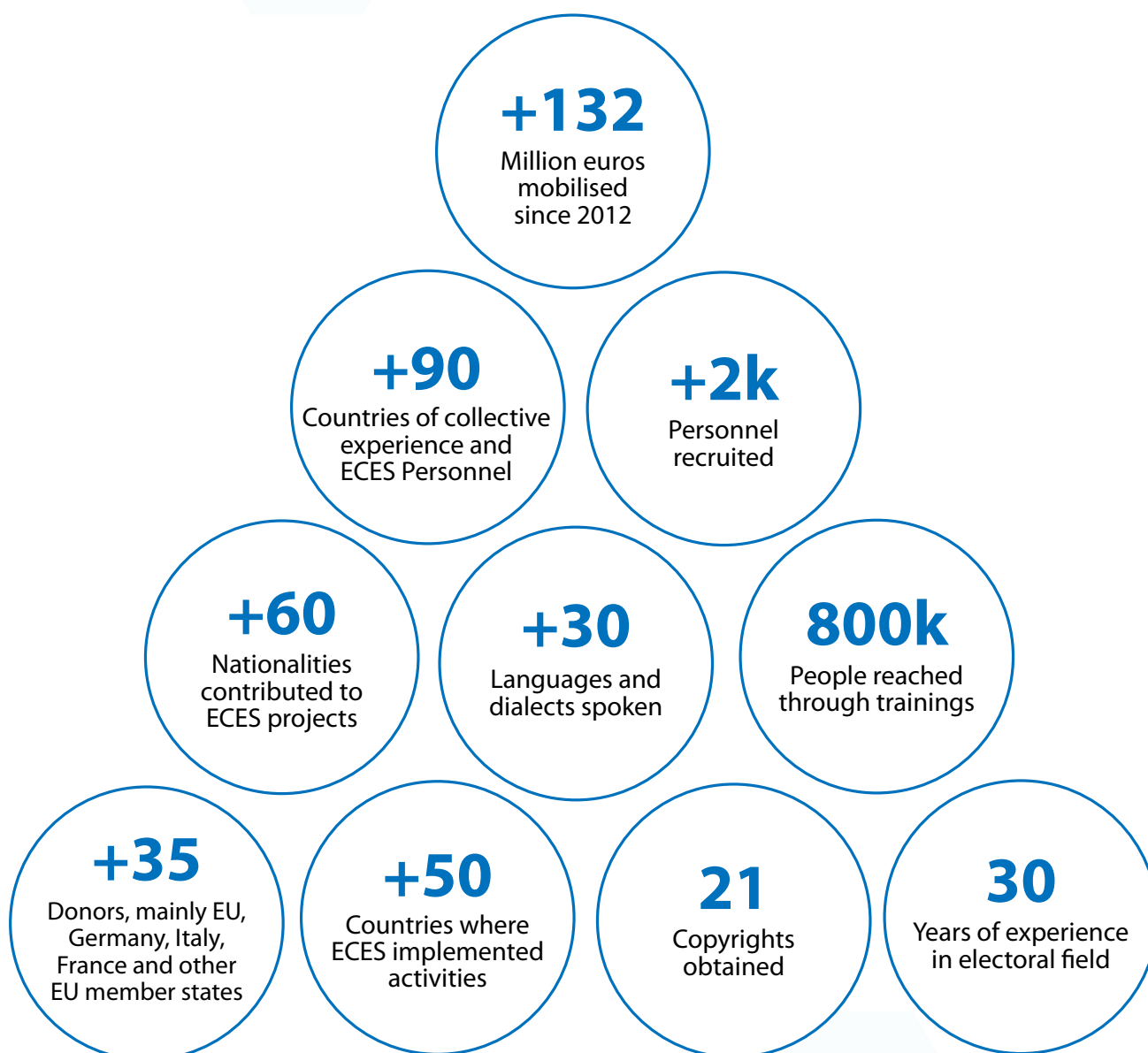
## **Peace Mediation In Electoral Processes**

The methodology is based on concrete cases of peace mediation in electoral processes to draw lessons of common risks and windows of opportunities for conflict settlement around the electoral cycle. It thereby fills an important gap by offering concrete guidance when attempting to mediate – or support peace mediation efforts in electoral processes or crises that arise or escalate due to flawed elections.



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

# OUR ACHIEVEMENT





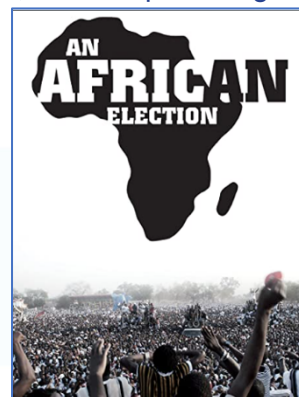
# WHAT WE DO

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 for Electoral Stakeholders:** 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.).
- **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;

# WHAT WE DO

- **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), user-friendly 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.
- **Production of documentaries and civic education materials:** ECES has developed a strong partnership with the Director and Actor Jarreth Merz and his media company "Urban republic" that has resulted in several audiovisual pieces and two documentaries "An African Election" and "Kenya's Democratic Journey". "An African Election" offered a nuanced perspective on Ghana's 2008 presidential elections, exploring the complex political dynamics, and emphasizing the dedication and humanity of those navigating the challenges of a burgeoning democracy. Our collaboration extended to the implementation of the Political Safaris, a mobile-cinema democracy, and voter education outreach initiative across several African countries. This comprehensive approach, combining documentary filmmaking and outreach projects, underscores our dedication to promoting a culture of peace, leadership, and informed citizenry in the region. The last joint effort with "Urban Republic" was the documentary "Kenya's Democratic Journey", a piece focused on the country's 2022 General Elections. Supporting the goals of the Pro Peace Kenya Project, this audio-visual work served as valuable resource for supporting democratic and peaceful principles in Kenya's future electoral processes in Kenya and beyond.



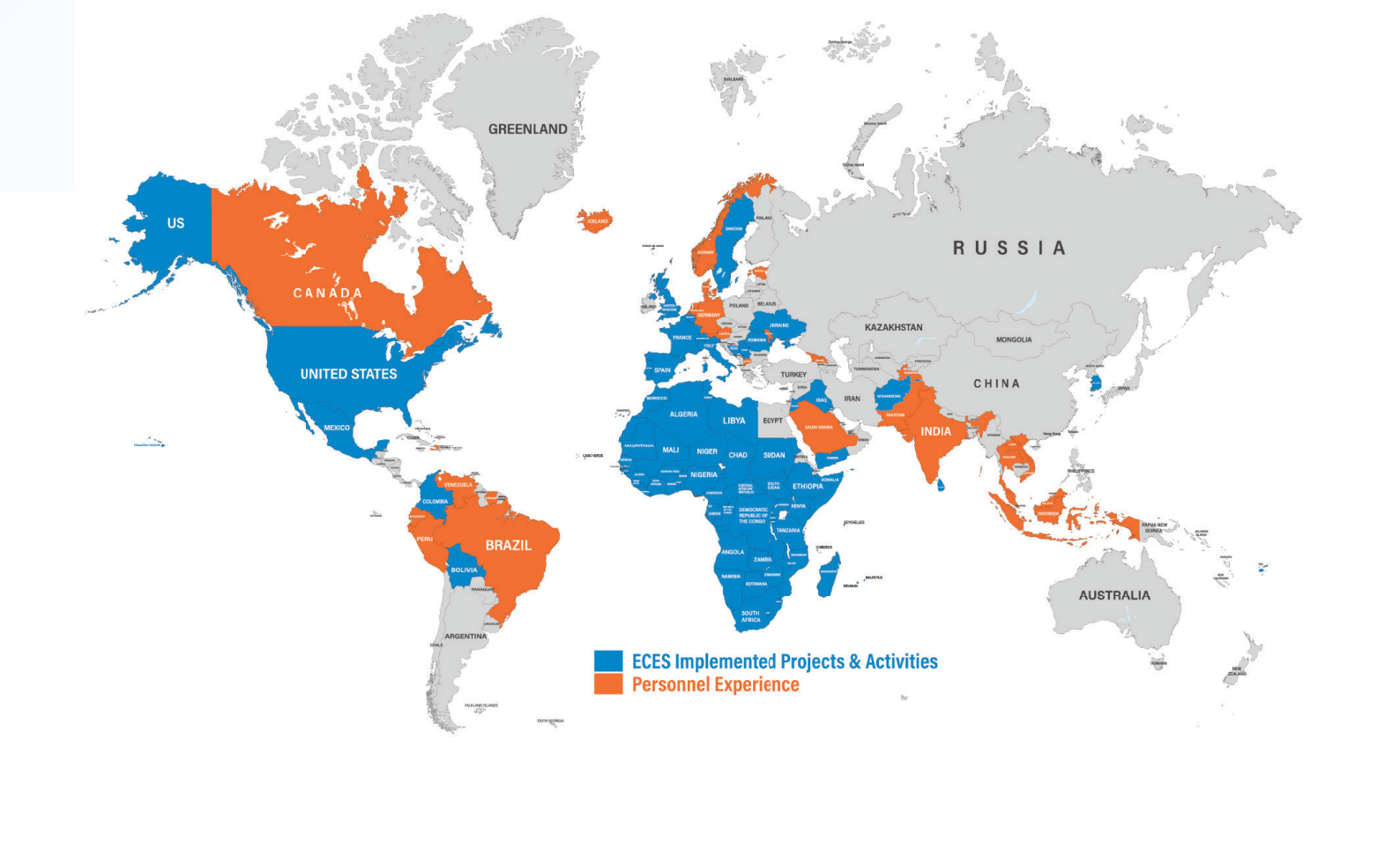
# WHAT WE DO



- Productions of songs for peace and civil education campaign:** ECES has developed various peace and civil rights education campaigns for the youth population using songs produced by major local artists. Music and art have always been a vehicle for social transformation as such, the artist becomes the driver, it is with this view that ECES produced two songs. In the framework of the Pro Peace Kenya project ECES produced the song "Only Love/Upendo Wa Kenya". The song was produced ahead of the August 2022 presidential by ECES and the National Cohesion and Integration Commission of Kenya (NCIC). The song was used to promote peace and inclusion among youth to avoid electoral related violence. In 2019, ECES produced a powerful song in the framework of the EU Funded Programme "Support to Democratic Governance in Nigeria". The song "NOT FOR SALE" saw the participation of Nigerian major artists and advocated of change, to not sell their votes because the power to change the nation for the better is in every one of us as. The song also encouraged a non-violent electoral process by everyone as they come out to exercise their civic responsibility. This song was produced for the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) within its partnership with the ECES and support from the European Union.



## OUR REACH



**ECES and its personnel have implemented projects and activities in the following countries:**

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; Ecuador; Ethiopia; Fiji; France; Gabon; Ghana; Georgia; Guinea-Bissau; Guinea-Conakry; Haiti; India; Indonesia; Italy; Ivory Coast; Jordan; Kenya; Kosovo; Laos; 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; South Africa; 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



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