



# FACTSHEET

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# Table of contents

<b>About us</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Our vision, mission &amp; quality policy</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Our history</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Our strategy</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>What we do</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Track record &amp; reach</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Partnerships &amp; certifications</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Highlights &amp; awards</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Management board</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Strategic advisory committee</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Bios' board members</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Bios' strategic &amp; advisory committee</b>	<b>32</b>



# ABOUT US

**ECES is an independent, non-partisan, neutral and not-for-profit foundation headquartered in Brussels with a global remit.** ECES was established at the end of 2010 at the initiative of Fabio Bargiacchi, till today serving as its Executive Director. ECES has implemented activities already in more than 50 countries, mainly, but not only, in Africa, the Middle East and Latin America, and primarily with funding from the EU and its Member States.

ECES promotes **electoral and democratic strengthening** through the provision of advisory services, operational support via innovative project and financial management methodologies. In our activities we mainstream capacity and leadership development using peer exchanges and comparative experiences to promote dialogue and the prevention and mitigation of electoral conflicts.

ECES has crafted and copyrighted its strategy called "**A European Response to Electoral Cycle Support - EURECS**", which is implemented via other specific methodologies and tools for a total of 22 copyrights. EURECS is an innovative delivery mechanism for electoral and democracy assistance, aligned with EU global policies, that supports democratic values and good governance while facilitating cooperation on electoral matters between the EU, its Member States, and partner countries.

ECES has obtained the **Tcertification (TRACE)** and **ISO 9001** certifications for our financial transparency and for our quality management system. We implement our activities via a truly international, multicultural and multilingual personnel. **With a team of professionals from over 60 nationalities and proficiency in more than 30 languages, we reflect the diversity of the electoral stakeholders we partner with worldwide.**

**Combining deep local insight with an innovative spirit, we deliver stronger electoral assistance and build lasting partnerships—enabled by our ability to work across many languages and cultures.**

Since 2024, ECES has been a member of the **Team Europe Democracy (TED) Initiative**, which brings together the **EU and 14 EU Member States** to strengthen coordination among EU institutions, Member States, think tanks, academia and civil society in support of democracy and human rights worldwide. TED focuses on three priorities—accountability and rule of law; political and civic participation; media and digital—and fosters joint, evidence-based action by EU Delegations and Member States. ECES is also a proud member of the **European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO)**, the leading European civil-society platform for peacebuilding, uniting 50 independent organisations and think tanks from 17 countries. Together with the College of Europe as lead partner and others, ECES implemented the EU's **ERMES project (European Resource for Mediation Support)**, a strategic instrument for the EU's role in mediation and dialogue.



*ECES Team during European Development Days 2019*

# OUR VISION, MISSION & QUALITY POLICY

## 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 inclusive 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** set out 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 Support**”. 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 into 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 HISTORY



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.

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

The concept behind the European Centre for Electoral Support 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 policies 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.**



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.



As one of **EU's top influencers** and top **100 Global Thinkers**, Monica brought over 30 years' experience in European and foreign affairs, **proactively contributing to 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 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**

**board her experience as Chief Observer in two EU Electoral Observation Mission (EOMs) Bolivia and Venezuela, Monica advises and assists in all ECES 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.

Alongside its President, ECES also relies on the experience and strategic guidance of its **Vice President, José Manuel Pinto Teixeira.**

José Manuel Pinto Teixeira serves as Vice President of ECES. A senior European diplomat with extensive experience within the European Union institutions, he has held several high-level positions in the European External Action Service and the European Commission, including serving as **EU Ambassador and Head of Delegation in Ukraine, Belarus, Macedonia, Mozambique and Cabo Verde.** Over the course of his distinguished diplomatic career, he has been directly involved in shaping and implementing the European Union’s external relations policies, particularly in areas related to governance, democracy, political dialogue, development cooperation and international partnerships.



During his years of service within the European institutions, José Manuel Pinto Teixeira **contributed to strengthening the EU’s engagement with partner countries and regional organisations, promoting democratic governance, institutional cooperation and political dialogue as key pillars of the European Union’s external action.** His experience in managing complex political contexts and coordinating with governments, international organisations and civil society actors provides valuable strategic insight for ECES’ activities in the field of electoral and democratic support.

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.

ECES is now a well-established organisation, proud of its roots and the path it has taken. Having overcome significant challenges and achieved key milestones, we continue to expand our mission to deliver electoral assistance worldwide—through a distinct European delivery mechanism aligned with EU and global policies and dedicated to strengthening democratic governance, accountability, and the rule of law.

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.



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. In 2024, Joëlle Milquet was appointed President of the board of directors of the **RTBF**, the Belgian public broadcaster for the French-speaking Community of Belgium.

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.

The work of the Strategic & Advisory Committee is further reinforced by the contribution of its **Vice President, Filiberto Ceriani Sebregondi.**

Filiberto Ceriani Sebregondi serves as Vice President of the Strategic & Advisory Committee of



ECES. A senior expert in international development and European external cooperation, he has held several high-level management positions within the European Commission, including being **EU Ambassador and Head of Delegation in Tanzania, Ghana and Togo.**

Over the course of his long career within the European institutions, Filiberto Ceriani Sebregondi contributed to the design, management and oversight of major EU cooperation initiatives, particularly in the fields of governance, institutional capacity building, infrastructure development and international partnerships. His work has been closely linked to the evolution of the European Union's external cooperation instruments and policies, including the transition towards the Global Gateway strategy and the strengthening of partnerships with African, Mediterranean and other partner countries. His experience contributes to reinforcing ECES' capacity to operate effectively within the European cooperation architecture while expanding the organisation's strategic outreach and impact.

In January 2021, four additional members were appointed, namely:

- **Piero Scarpellini**, is the current Ambassador to the African Union and Ethiopia for the Republic of San Marino;
- **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 Haj al 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, 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.

The **Management Board** of the European Centre for Electoral Support (ECES) oversees the organisation's strategic direction and governance, ensuring that its mission to promote credible, transparent, and peaceful electoral processes worldwide is effectively pursued. The Board brings together distinguished professionals from diplomacy, international cooperation, academia, and the private sector, reflecting ECES' multidisciplinary approach and global partnerships.

- **Fabio Bargiacchi** is the Founder and Executive Director RVRD. With nearly 30 years of experience in electoral assistance and international cooperation, he has worked with the OSCE, the United Nations and the European Union, including as UNDP Coordinator of the EU–UN Joint Task Force on Electoral Assistance in Brussels (2004–2010). He has transformed ECES from a start-up initiative in 2010 into one of the leading organisations globally in electoral assistance, democracy support, political dialogue and mediation, implementing programmes in over 50 countries—primarily in Africa, the Middle East and Latin America—and mobilising more than €155 million in support of electoral processes.

He is the architect of the EURECS strategy (A European Response to Electoral Cycle Support) and a portfolio of 22 copyrighted methodologies and tools, including LEAD, LEAD-Q and LEAD-AI, which integrate leadership development, conflict prevention and digital innovation across the electoral cycle.

Bargiacchi is recognised for his ability to bridge policy and operations, positioning ECES as a trusted partner of the EU, its Member States, the African Union and networks of Electoral Management Bodies. Having lived, worked and travelled across more than 120 countries, he brings a truly global perspective to his work. He is fluent in Italian, French, English and Portuguese, and has a good command of Spanish.

- **Monica Frassoni** is a former Member of the European Parliament and a prominent advocate for democracy, sustainability, and citizen participation in Europe. She co-chaired the European Green Party and brings to ECES extensive experience in governance, institutional reform, and political dialogue.
- **José Manuel Pinto-Teixeira** is a former Ambassador and senior official of the European Union with over three decades of experience in EU development cooperation, including leadership roles in West Africa and the Caribbean. His expertise strengthens ECES' strategic vision and partnership with European and African institutions.
- **Eva Palmans** is a governance and election expert with over 25 years of experience in democracy assistance, electoral processes, and conflict prevention. As ECES Senior Advisor for Programmes, she provides strategic guidance on the design and implementation of electoral support initiatives worldwide.
- **José Lambiza** is a seasoned professional in financial management and institutional development, with extensive experience in the private sector and development cooperation. As Treasurer, he ensures ECES' financial sustainability and compliance with international standards and donor regulations.
- **Lino Francescon** is an international cooperation specialist with a background in project design, monitoring, and evaluation. His long-standing experience with European-funded initiatives contributes to ECES' results-oriented management and transparency frameworks.
- **Paulo Marques** is a communication and public affairs expert with a strong track record in strategic partnerships and visibility management for EU-funded projects. He supports ECES in advancing innovative communication approaches that enhance outreach and stakeholder engagement.

# OUR HISTORY

*“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 Mal**



# OUR STRATEGY



ECES has crafted and copyrighted its strategy called “**A European Response to Electoral Cycle Support - EURECS**” in October 2016. 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:

## **Standards Operating 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.

## **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.

## **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.

# OUR STRATEGY

## 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.

## 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.



## 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).



# OUR STRATEGY

## 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.



## Leadership and Artificial Intelligence Skills for Electoral Stakeholders (LEAD AI)

The training is an innovative extension of ECES' LEAD programme that integrates artificial intelligence tools into leadership, analysis, and decision-making training for electoral stakeholders. The programme explores the ethical and strategic use of AI to enhance electoral process management, counter disinformation, and strengthen institutional communication. Through practical modules and simulations, participants learn to apply AI solutions for data analysis, media monitoring, and strategic planning. LEAD-AI promotes a responsible and human-centred approach aligned with principles of transparency, accountability, and digital rights protection.

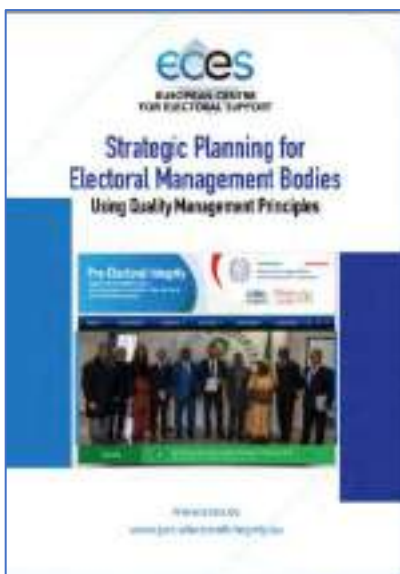


# OUR STRATEGY

Introducing a suite of innovative applications, ECES has aimed to enhance electoral processes globally, with each system addressing specific challenges.

ECES carries out its activities via innovative copyrighted methodologies and tools in relation to our advisory services, project and financial management. These are implemented following the quality management and financial transparency principles of the ISO 9001 and Tcertification that we have obtained and renewed every year.

In this context, we have started to copyright the concept of ECES per se as not-for-profit, independent, non-partisan foundation established with the main purpose of facilitating the electoral cooperation between the EU, EU Member States and their partner countries when it comes to electoral assistance projects.



We have continued with our specific project approach called the “**European Response to Electoral Cycle Support, EURECS**” which in turn is implemented using 22 others copyrights among ICTs applications, tools and methodologies. In total, we do have at present 22 copyrights which are a testimony to the leading-edge work of ECES across the globe, and to our commitment to continuous improvement to further contribute to democratic and electoral processes worldwide.

Drawing on ECES's experience to boost the internal efficiency of Election Management Bodies (EMBs) worldwide, the **Strategic Planning for Electoral Management Bodies** 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 processes. 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.

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.

# OUR STRATEGY

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 **convert 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 expert 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**.

# OUR STRATEGY

ECES' other copyrights:

- The Electoral Translator;
- 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.



**LEAD AI (Leadership and Artificial Intelligence Skills for Electoral Stakeholders)** is the latest evolution of ECES' long-standing commitment to capacity building and conflict prevention through leadership development. Building on the copyrighted LEAD methodology (Leadership and Conflict Management Skills for Electoral Stakeholders), LEAD AI

introduces an innovative dimension by merging leadership, communication, and mediation training with an in-depth exploration of artificial intelligence (AI) and its responsible application throughout the electoral cycle. The programme equips participants with both strategic and technical competencies to navigate the rapidly changing digital and political environments shaping contemporary elections.

Designed for a broad range of actors—including members of Electoral Management Bodies (EMBs), Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), judicial and security institutions, media regulators, and technology providers—LEAD AI provides a unique blend of conceptual learning and practical exercises, including simulations, case studies, and applied AI demonstrations. The course addresses the opportunities and risks associated with AI, such as algorithmic bias, misinformation, data protection, and digital sovereignty, while emphasising the principles of ethics, transparency, and human rights.

Through this innovative approach, LEAD AI empowers electoral stakeholders to act as proactive leaders and guardians of electoral integrity in an increasingly digitalised world. By fostering informed and ethical decision-making, the programme contributes to building more resilient, inclusive, and trusted electoral processes—ensuring that emerging technologies serve democracy rather than undermine it.



# OUR STRATEGY



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;
- **Geolocation 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.



# WHAT WE DO

ECES specialises in managing complex, sensitive interactions among electoral management bodies (EMBs), multilateral and bilateral development partners, governments, civil society organisations (CSOs), political parties and suppliers of electoral materials and services, through the following 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 can 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.



# WHAT WE DO



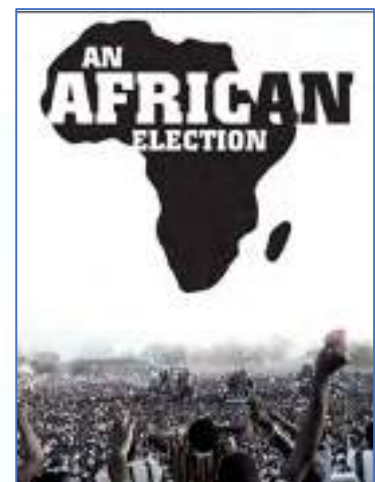
- **Confidence-building dialogue initiatives (regional, national and community level):** such activities can contribute to strengthening and consolidating a wide range of electoral stakeholders' commitments and adherence to common and shared democratic values.
- **Advisory support for Electoral Stakeholders:**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

# WHAT WE DO

- **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



# WHAT WE DO

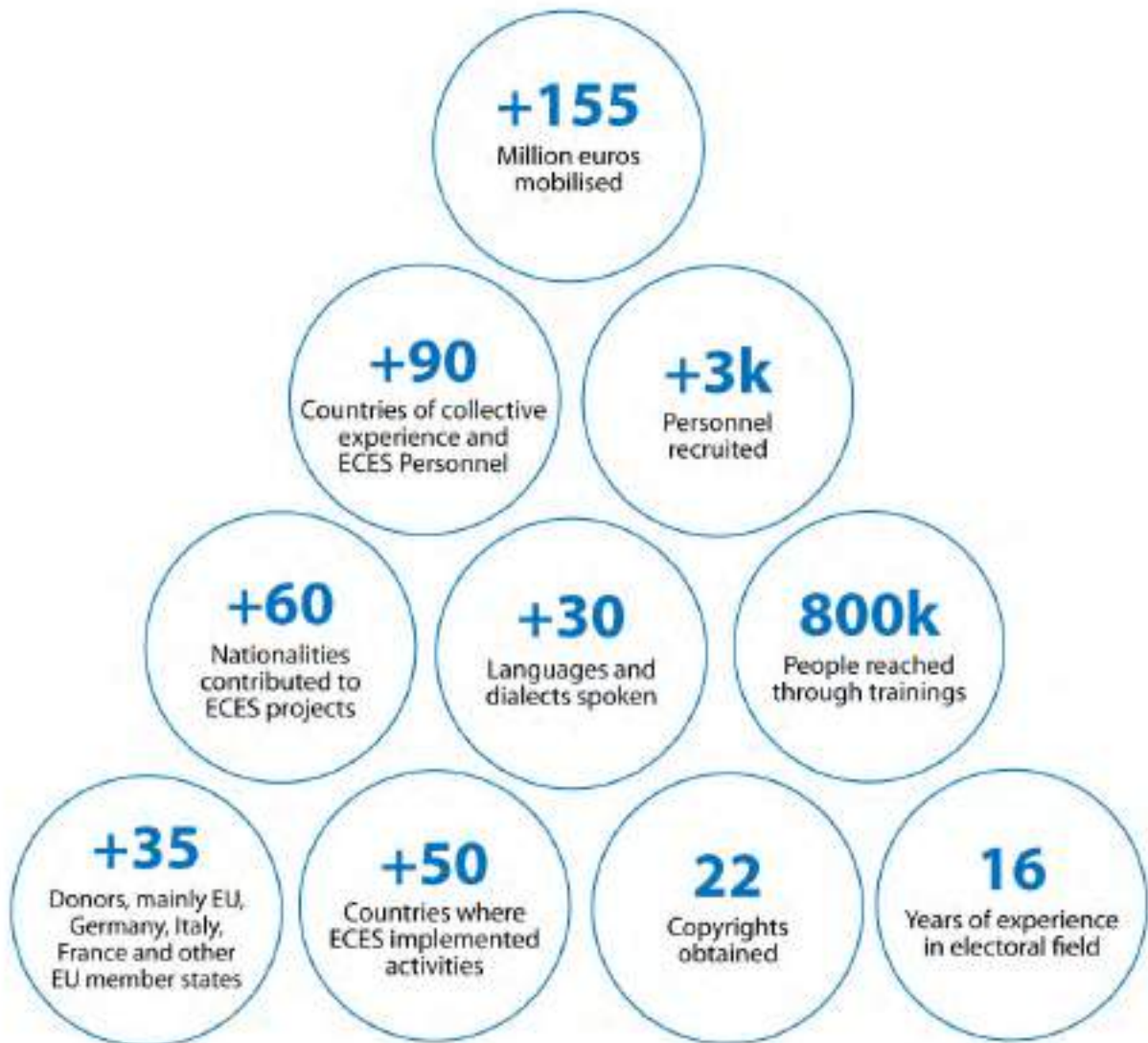
with “Urban Republic” was the documentary “Kenya’s Democratic Journey”, a piece focused on the country’s 2022 General Elections. Supporting the goals of the Pro Peace Kenya Project, this audio-visual work served as valuable resource for supporting democratic and peaceful principles in Kenya’s future electoral processes in Kenya and beyond.



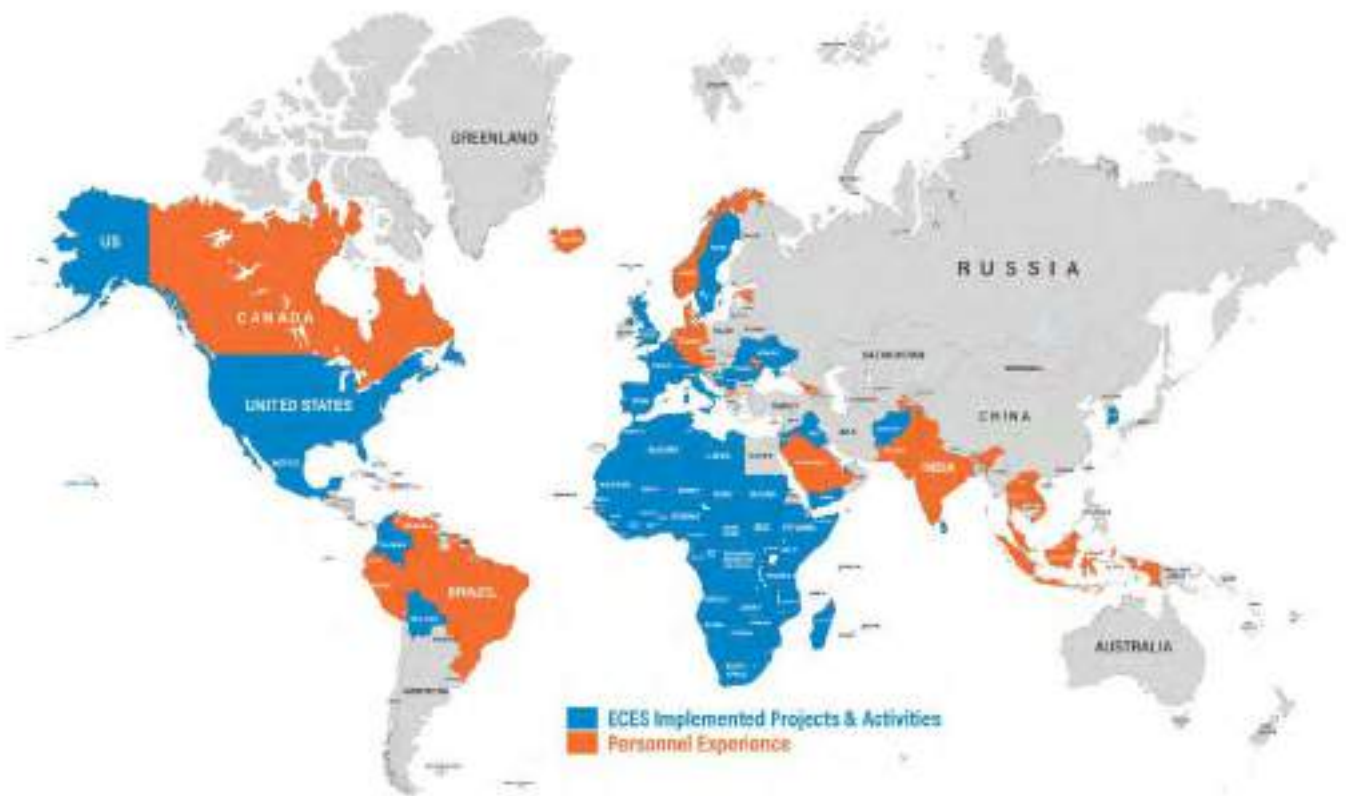
- **Productions of songs for peace and civil education campaign:** ECES has developed various peace and civil rights education campaigns for the youth population using songs produced by major local artists. Music and art have always been a vehicle for social transformation as such, the artist becomes 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.



# TRACK RECORD & REACH



# TRACK RECORD & 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; Ukraine; United Kingdom; United States; Venezuela; Vietnam; West Bank/Gaza; Zambia; Zanzibar; Zimbabwe

# PARTNERSHIPS & CERTIFICATIONS



The EU and EU Member States are ECES' largest donors (followed by Germany, Italy, France and others), 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 was 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 was 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 was located within ECES headquarters' premises in Brussels.

Since 2024, ECES is an active member of the **Team Europe Democracy (TED)**. The TED is a flagship initiative of the European Union that brings together EU institutions, Member States, and implementing partners to enhance the coherence, coordination, and collective impact of European democracy support worldwide.



TED aims to strengthen the EU's strategic and operational approach to promoting democratic governance, the rule of law, human rights, and inclusive political participation, ensuring that democracy assistance is more effective, visible, and aligned with local contexts and needs. The initiative currently includes the participation of **Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia, Spain, and Sweden**, with **Switzerland** taking part as an observer. Through this collaborative framework, the EU and its partners act as a unified actor, leveraging collective expertise and resources to promote resilient and participatory democracies across all regions.

As an active implementing partner within the TED framework, ECES contributes its extensive operational experience and technical know-how in electoral processes, conflict prevention, and institutional strengthening. ECES plays a key role in fostering peer-learning, joint programming, and innovative approaches to democracy support, building on lessons learned from its work with electoral management bodies and regional networks in Africa and beyond. By engaging within TED, ECES helps shape the European response to emerging democratic challenges, ensuring that electoral assistance contributes to long-term peace, resilience, and sustainable democratic governance.

# PARTNERSHIPS & CERTIFICATIONS

ECES is also a member of the **European Peacebuilding Liaison Office network (EPLO)**, 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 and 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.



# PARTNERSHIPS & CERTIFICATIONS



In July 2020, ECES received the official ISO accreditation for its 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.

# HIGHLIGHTS & AWARDS

## 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 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 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 Manservisi 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).

# HIGHLIGHTS & AWARDS



ECES is particularly proud to have received two prestigious recognitions from major African electoral networks: the **Association of African Electoral Authorities (AAEA)**, representing 45 Electoral Management Bodies (EMBs), and the Electoral **Commissions Forum of the Southern African Development Community (ECF-SADC)**, representing 15 EMBs. These acknowledgements highlight the long-standing collaboration between ECES and electoral institutions across the continent, as well as the organisation's sustained contribution to strengthening democratic practices.

The first award was presented to ECES Founder and Executive Director, Fabio Bargiacchi, during the closing ceremony of the 8th Continental Forum of Electoral Management Bodies, held in Cotonou, Benin. The distinction was conferred by the President of the Electoral Commission of Benin, Mr. Sacca Lafia, acting on behalf of all AAEA member states. A second recognition was later awarded by ECF-SADC, presented by H.E. Cardinal Mgr. Stephen Brislin, Archbishop of Cape Town, during the 25th Annual General Conference of the Forum. Both honours praised ECES for being “a combatant alongside all the African EMBs to contribute to their democratic and electoral processes” and for “providing innovative capacity development programmes over the years”, reaffirming ECES' continued commitment to inclusive, professional and credible electoral support.

# MANAGEMENT BOARD



**Fabio Bargiacchi**  
ECES Founder & Executive Director



**Monica Frassoni**  
ECES President



**Jose Manuel Pinto Teixeira**  
ECES Vice-President



**Jose Lambiza**  
Board Member & Treasurer



**Eva Palmans**  
Senior Advisor Programme & Board Member



**Lino Francescon**  
Board Member



**Paulo Marques**  
Board Member

# STRATEGIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE



**Joelle Milquet**

President of the Strategic & Advisory Committee



**Filiberto Ceriani Sebregondi**

Vice-President of the Strategic & Advisory Committee



**Pierro Scarpellini**

Secretary



**Erastus Mwencha**

Member



**Samar Haj Hassan**

Member



**Didier De Jaeger**

Member

# BIOS' BOARD MEMBERS

## **Fabio Bargiacchi – Founder & Executive Director**

Fabio Bargiacchi is the Founder and Executive Director RVRD. With nearly 30 years of experience in electoral assistance and international cooperation, he has worked with the OSCE, the United Nations and the European Union, including as UNDP Coordinator of the EU–UN Joint Task Force on Electoral Assistance in Brussels (2004–2010). He has transformed ECES from a start-up initiative in 2010 into one of the leading organisations globally in electoral assistance, democracy support, political dialogue and mediation, implementing programmes in over 50 countries—primarily in Africa, the Middle East and Latin America—and mobilising more than €155 million in support of electoral processes. He is the architect of the EURECS strategy (A European Response to Electoral Cycle Support) and a portfolio of 22 copyrighted methodologies and tools, including LEAD, LEAD-Q and LEAD-AI, which integrate leadership development, conflict prevention and digital innovation across the electoral cycle. Bargiacchi is recognised for his ability to bridge policy and operations, positioning ECES as a trusted partner of the EU, its Member States, the African Union and networks of Electoral Management Bodies. Having lived, worked and travelled across more than 120 countries, he brings a truly global perspective to his work. He is fluent in Italian, French, English and Portuguese, and has a good command of Spanish.

## **Monica Frassoni – President**

Monica Frassoni is the President of the ECES Board and brings a long-standing career in European politics, civic participation and institutional reform. Born in Veracruz (Mexico) and raised in Italy, she holds a degree in Political Science from the University of Florence. She has been active in the European Federalist Movement since the 1980s, later serving as Secretary-General of the European Young Federalists. From 1999 to 2009 she was a Member of the European Parliament, first elected in Belgium (ECOLO) and later in Italy. Between 2002 and 2009 she served as Co-President of the Greens/EFA Group in the European Parliament, becoming a prominent voice for democratic governance, human rights, environmental sustainability and youth participation. As President of ECES, Frassoni brings a strategic political vision that strengthens the organisation's European identity and international positioning. She supports ECES in advancing democratic values, inclusive participation and institutional resilience in partner countries, helping ensure that electoral support translates into long-term democratic development.

## **José Manuel Pinto-Teixeira – Vice President & Board Member**

José Manuel Pinto-Teixeira serves as Vice President of the ECES Board. A Portuguese national, he has held several high-level diplomatic and institutional positions within the European Union, including Head of Delegation in countries such as Mozambique, Ukraine, Belarus and Cabo Verde. Throughout his career, he has developed extensive expertise in external relations, development cooperation and political dialogue with partner governments. His experience in complex and fragile contexts allows him to support ECES in aligning electoral assistance with broader EU cooperation frameworks and diplomatic priorities. Within ECES, Pinto-Teixeira contributes to strengthening institutional partnerships and ensuring that programmes reflect both EU policies and the needs of partner countries. His strategic role reinforces ECES' credibility as a European actor engaged in promoting peaceful, transparent and inclusive elections worldwide.

# BIOS' BOARD MEMBERS

## **Eva Palmans – Senior Advisor Programme & Board Member**

Eva Palmans is Senior Advisor for Programmes and a member of the ECES Board. She brings more than 25 years of experience in electoral assistance, democratic governance and conflict-sensitive institutional support across multiple regions. She has led and supported major capacity-building initiatives for Election Management Bodies and stakeholders, with a strong focus on sustainability, knowledge transfer and national ownership. She plays a key role in the development of ECES training methodologies, including the LEAD programme. In her position, Palmans ensures that ECES projects meet international standards, respond to local priorities and reinforce institutional capacity in partner countries. Her work strengthens the quality, coherence and impact of ECES interventions across the full electoral cycle.

## **José Lambiza – Treasurer & Board Member**

José Lambiza is Treasurer and Board Member of ECES, where he oversees financial governance, transparency and compliance with donor regulations and international standards. He brings professional experience in financial management within development cooperation settings, including budgeting, audit processes, reporting systems and risk control. His work ensures that ECES maintains strong accountability mechanisms and efficient resource allocation. As Treasurer, Lambiza supports ECES in guaranteeing long-term financial sustainability and trust among donors and partners, ensuring that resources are used effectively to support democratic governance and electoral integrity.

## **Lino Francescon – Board Member**

Lino Francescon is a Board Member of ECES with extensive experience in international cooperation, project design, monitoring and evaluation. His background includes the management of EU-funded programmes and results-based planning systems. He supports ECES in turning strategic objectives into concrete, measurable actions. His guidance strengthens the organisation's internal systems for performance evaluation, reporting and accountability. By promoting evidence-based management and transparency, Francescon helps ensure that ECES interventions deliver tangible impact and comply with the standards required by donors and institutional partners.

## **Paulo Marques – Board Member**

Paulo Marques serves as an ECES Board Member and specialises in strategic communication, public affairs and institutional visibility. He has worked extensively on outreach strategies, branding and stakeholder engagement within international development contexts. His experience reinforces ECES' efforts to communicate results, promote transparency and showcase the impact of its programmes. He contributes to developing innovative communication approaches that help position ECES as a trusted and recognised actor in electoral support. Marques supports ECES in strengthening partnerships and expanding its network, ensuring that communication becomes a tool for advocacy, credibility and engagement with beneficiaries, donors and policymakers.

# BIOS' STRATEGIC & ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## **Joëlle Milquet – President of the Strategic & Advisory Committee**

Joëlle Milquet is the President of the ECES Strategic and Advisory Committee. She holds a degree in Law from the Catholic University of Louvain and a postgraduate degree in European Law from the University of Amsterdam. She has held several high-level government positions in Belgium, including Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of the Interior, Minister of Employment and Equal Opportunities, and Minister of Education and Culture. Her political career reflects long-standing commitment to democratic governance, social inclusion, gender equality and public security. In ECES, Milquet provides strategic guidance, advising on political context, institutional engagement and preventive approaches to electoral conflict. Her leadership strengthens ECES' governance and its engagement with governments, international institutions and civil society.

## **Filiberto Sebregondi – Vice President of the Strategic & Advisory Committee**

Filiberto Sebregondi is Vice President of the ECES Strategic and Advisory Committee. A former senior EU official and Ambassador of the European Union to Ghana, Togo and Tanzania, he brings long-term diplomatic experience and deep knowledge of African political systems. Throughout his career, he has worked on external relations, development cooperation and multilateral diplomacy. This expertise helps ECES build strong partnerships with continental and regional institutions. Within ECES, Sebregondi contributes to strategic guidance, ensuring that programmes align with EU principles, respond to partner needs and reinforce the credibility and impact of electoral support activities.

## **Piero Scarpellini – Secretary of the Strategic & Advisory Committee**

Piero Scarpellini serves as Secretary of the ECES Strategic and Advisory Committee. He is currently ambassador of San Marino to the African Union and Ethiopia, furthermore he is the founder and Board member of the Tèresys Foundation in the Republic of San Marino. He has extensive experience in institutional development, governance systems and international cooperation. His background enables him to support organisational structures and ensure coordination between the Committee, the Board and ECES management. Scarpellini oversees the Committee's internal processes, ensuring that its recommendations are operationalised and monitored. His role helps ensure the coherence and effectiveness of ECES' long-term strategic direction.

## **Erastus J.O. Mwencha – Member of the Strategic & Advisory Committee**

Erastus J.O. Mwencha is a member of the ECES Strategic and Advisory Committee and currently Chair of the Executive Board of the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF). He previously served as Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC). He played a key role in the development of the African Union's Agenda 2063, contributing to continental strategies for governance, regional integration and institutional strengthening. His knowledge of African electoral systems and public institutions is a valuable asset for ECES. Within ECES, Mwencha supports strategy development focused on resilience of EMBs, regional cooperation and long-term sustainability. His contribution reinforces the African perspective within ECES programmes and partnerships.

# BIOS' STRATEGIC & ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## **Samar Al Haj Hassan – Member of the Strategic & Advisory Committee**

Samar Al Haj Hassan is a member of the ECES Strategic and Advisory Committee and a well-known advocate for women's political participation and gender equality. A former Jordanian politician, she serves on the national advisory team against political violence targeting women. She also works with regional mechanisms on gender equality and women's empowerment. Her expertise supports ECES in integrating gender-sensitive approaches into electoral assistance and in promoting inclusive participation. Within ECES, Al Haj Hassan ensures that support to electoral stakeholders reflects equality, protection and empowerment, contributing to more inclusive democratic processes in partner countries.

## **Didier de Jaeger – Member of the Strategic & Advisory Committee**

Didier de Jaeger is a member of the ECES Strategic and Advisory Committee and a Belgian entrepreneur with over 25 years of experience in strategic and digital communication. He is currently CEO and Director of Altavia Europe, a major international communication agency. He has built his career across Europe, Africa, Asia and North America, working on branding, marketing and public messaging in complex and competitive environments. His international experience strengthens ECES' communication and visibility strategies. De Jaeger contributes to reinforcing ECES' brand identity, outreach and impact communication. His role helps ensure that the organisation's achievements and values are clearly articulated to partners, donors and beneficiaries.





**M** TECHNOLOGIE

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**A talk with former Italian prime minister  
Romano Prodi**

**BRUSSELS** shifts:

ECES EN COLLABORATION AVEC ZHENERODE PRÉSENTE UNE CONFÉRENCE AVEC L'ANCIEN PREMIER MINISTRE ITALIEN

Actualités

Le samedi 11 octobre, la Maison d'Europe de Bruxelles des représentants de la coalition... [Lire plus](#)



**Europe's Strategic Future with José Manuel Barroso**

11.45 – 13.00  
Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2025

**BRUSSELS**

**José Manuel Barroso**

**Moderator  
Fabio Bongiacchi**

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**M** TECHNOLOGIE

DANS LE CADRE DES ACTIVITÉS ORGANISÉES POUR CÉLÉBRER LE 15<sup>E</sup> ANNIVERSAIRE DE L'ECES, NOUS ORGANISONS UNE CONFÉRENCE DE HAUT NIVEAU À THE REKODE (BRUSSELLES) AVEC JOSÉ MANUEL DURÃO BARROSO

Actualités

Dans le cadre des activités organisées pour célébrer le 15<sup>e</sup> anniversaire de l'ECES, nous organisons une... [Lire plus](#)



**ECES**  
EUROPEAN CENTRE  
FOR ELECTORAL SUPPORT

**16**  
YEARS  
2010 - 2026

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