



PROSES

Project in Support of Enhanced Sustainability
and Electoral Integrity in Afghanistan

PROGRAMME OUTLINE AUGUST 2018

This project is fully funded by the European Union



European Union

1. Programme background

The European Union funded Project in Support of Enhanced Sustainability and Electoral Integrity in Afghanistan (PROSES) was crafted as a response to the identified needs in the EU Exceptional Assistance Measure on Support to electoral institutions in Afghanistan. The European Centre for Electoral Support is implementing this project on behalf of the EU that will last for 18 months for 3.5 million EURO from the Instrument contribution to Peace and Stability.

The activities will be implemented in support of the upcoming Afghan electoral cycle including the Parliamentary and District elections set for October 2018 and Presidential and Provincial elections set for April 2019. The project will address the persisting vulnerabilities of electoral integrity inherited from previous electoral cycles

2. Objective and activities

The overall objective of the programme is to foster more credible elections in Afghanistan, marked by reduced vulnerabilities to electoral integrity:

- Electoral integrity vulnerabilities proactively identified and reduced through administrative planning and action;
- Increased capacity of electoral stakeholders to apply evidence-based and effective leadership approaches to the conduct of elections and to the adjudication of election disputes;
- Measures contributing to the accountability and inclusivity of political and electoral processes through the broad participation of relevant electoral stakeholders with specific emphasis on women.

The main expected outputs/results include:

Expected Result (1): Increased capacities amongst electoral stakeholders in identifying and combatting threats to electoral integrity

Activities (indicative):

- Conduct an extensive Electoral Political Economy Analysis (EPEA) with policy recommendations;
- Intensive specific trainings for under-represented electoral stakeholders in capacitation schemes, especially political parties, but also media and domestic observers;
- Advisory support to electoral stakeholders to design and implement an electoral integrity plan;
- Capacity building for political parties on electoral fraud: identify vulnerabilities and counter-act them by working together with other political parties and electoral stakeholders;
- Advocacy and advisory support to political parties on integrity strategies;
- Map existing political parties coordinating structures in terms of successes and challenges, especially around monitoring ethical breaches of political parties and adhering to democratic principles;
- Pilot these structures embedded in the framework of the Leadership and Conflict Management Skills for electoral stakeholders (LEAD) workshops, to establish a PPLC

at regional level;

- Support the organization of meetings of coordinating structures:

Expected Result (2): Strengthened leadership and election dispute resolution capacities amongst key stakeholders at central and provincial level

Activities (indicative):

- Mapping of key stakeholders' potential and constraints;
- Customisation and translation of the LEAD curriculum in readiness to roll-out a tailored capacity building scheme in Kabul and in the provinces;
- Leadership and Conflict Management Skills for electoral stakeholders (LEAD) training of trainers, central, creating a multi-stakeholder forum;
- Leadership and Conflict Management Skills for electoral stakeholders (LEAD) cascade training programme, provincial. Trainers trained supports the provincial cascade to promote multi-stakeholder forums, by and for various stakeholder groups;
- Electoral Dispute Resolution and electoral justice intensive workshops;
- Advisory support/coaching for the Electoral Complaints Commission (ECC) on Election Dispute Resolution (EDR)/electoral justice to enhance the integrity.

Expected Result (3): Targeted support to domestic observer platforms, political parties and media and increased representation and participation of women in the electoral process.

Activities (indicative):

- Advisory support to Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) specialised in domestic election observation;
- Training of trainers and cascade for domestic observers;
- Training of political party agents on election operation and observation in Kabul and 8 provinces;
- Media advisory support and on-the-job training;
- Media and media house owners workshop to foster electoral integrity;
- Electoral trainings for selected media houses and journalists;
- Multi-stakeholder workshop on tackling the main obstacle for women's electoral participation and representation;
- Training and advisory support to female candidates, offered to all major political parties;
- Radio sensitisation campaign to increase awareness of the benefits of women's participation in electoral processes;

- Workshop and development of guidelines on how to prevent electoral violence against women.

3. Methodology

All activities of this project feed into a comprehensive integrity strategy based on the analysis of integrity vulnerabilities from previous electoral processes. The Project will focus on building multiple integrity strategies that are Afghan-led and Afghan-owned to ensure the sustainability of the Project outcomes as well as maximisation of multiplying effects. While tangible impact of many integrity actions will take time, the strategy intends to lay the foundations, through multiple actions and milestones, to produce changes in the mid-term and long-term by identifying agents for change and meaningful actions. Costly technical anti-fraud measures had very limited impact in the past, thus the need to bring about innovative, targeted political strategies involving as much as stakeholders as possible.

4. Implementing strategy

The overarching implementation strategy will be in line with the values of the European Response to Electoral Cycle Support (EURECS)¹ crafted by ECES. The EURECS is an innovative delivery mechanism to implement electoral and democracy assistance activities that are consistent with European values and EU policies and targets the implementations of the recommendations of EU election observation missions. EURECS adopts an inclusive approach towards a wide range of electoral stakeholders in order to ensure comprehensive and sustainable actions and it is built to help prevent, mitigate and manage electoral related conflicts.



5. Project Management

ECES envisages a two-pronged management structure of the project, with twinning between Kabul and Brussels. A Project Management Unit (PMU) will be established in Kabul, under supervision of the Brussels office as any other ECES projects. The PMU will be responsible for implementation of project activities in liaison and following indications of the EU delegation in Kabul. The PMU will be managed by an internationally recruited Project Director and a Finance-Administration Manager plus short and long term electoral experts hired according to activities and budget. ECES has identified several Afghan long term experts with robust insight and experience working in the Afghan electoral process. The ratio between national/international experts for the project will be established based on provisions in the contract signed. In addition, international expertise will be mobilized to ensure sound financial and administrative procedures in line with EU rules and regulations, with short- to mid-term support on content. This background will allow a quick start and ease engagement with international and national electoral stakeholders from the onset.

¹ <http://www.eces.eu/en/posts/eurecs>

6. Communication and Visibility

Activities will be planned and implemented in accordance with the EU's visibility guidelines. A visibility plan will be produced as part of the project inception report. The visibility plan will raise awareness about the achievements and impacts attained with EU-funding of project activities. The plan will tentatively include amongst others the following visibility items, including a website that will soon be available at www.democracy-support.eu/afghanistan



- Online: activity updates and quarterly feature stories will be published on the dedicated website;
- Events: Event materials – banners and posters serving as a backdrop for key seminars and other materials will incorporate appropriate visibility features;
- Training materials: All publications (Handbook, research papers and case studies etc.) as well as training materials distributed in the context of the Project will include appropriate reference to the Project and funding sources;
- Audio-visual materials (if produced in the margins of the sensitization campaign): used for websites and social media;
- Press releases: Press releases on training activities;
- Photos: Photos showing the progress of the project will be used in the communication materials and made available to the donor and relevant coordination partners i.e. EU Delegation.

The logo for ECES features the letters 'e', 'c', and 'e' in a blue, lowercase, sans-serif font, followed by 's' in a black, lowercase, sans-serif font. The letters are set against a light blue diamond-shaped background that is part of a larger grid pattern of thin, light blue lines.

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