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ECES

EUROPEAN CENTRE
FOR ELECTORAL SUPPORT

ETHIOPIA PROJECTS RESUME 2019 - 2022



With the contribution of:



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OF DENMARK
Danida

ECES in Ethiopia – A holistic approach to Electoral assistance



The European Centre for Electoral Support has been implementing several Electoral Assistance activities in Ethiopia, these projects were involved in various aspects of the electoral process.

Namely:

- **The European Response to Electoral Cycle Support in Ethiopia (EURECS Ethiopia)** project aimed to contribute to increased transparency and credibility on the electoral process and to instill a higher degree of public trust in the National Electoral Board of Ethiopia (NEBE);
- **Prevention, Mitigation and Management of Election-related Conflicts and Potential Violence (PEV Ethiopia)** project aimed to prevent, mitigate and manage conflicts that may arise during the electoral cycle by assisting non-state actors (NSA) in addressing root causes of political and election-related violence and conflict;
- **EURECS PLUS** aimed to support NEBE in procurement and awareness raising of COVID 19 related issues for an effective electoral management and leadership in Ethiopia over the 2020-2025 electoral cycle.
- **ECES Sub-Granting Scheme** to CECOIE aimed to support CECOIE to train and deploy domestic election observers as well as Voter Education support during the 2021 & 2022 elections.

This unique multi-dimensional approach in Ethiopia has allowed ECES to cover all elements of the electoral cycle while partnering with multiple stakeholders. This has allowed for an effective execution that will have a long-lasting impact beyond the project's lifespan.



Contract signing ceremony between Head of Cooperation of the EUD in Ethiopia, Erick Habers and ECES Executive Director, Fabio Bargiacchi

INTRODUCTION

ECES Projects in Ethiopia:

EURECS
PEV
EURECS+
ECES Sub-Granting Scheme to CECOIE

Mainly funded by:

The European Union
KfW on behalf of the German government

With the contribution of:

Denmark
Ireland

Duration:

2019 – 2022

Partners:

GoInnovation
Forum of Federations

Project activities are implemented in close collaboration with the National Electoral Board of Ethiopia - NEBE and the Coalition of Ethiopian Civil Society Organizations for Elections - CECOIE.



ECES Ethiopia Team group picture

INTRODUCTION

ECES is an independent, non-partisan and not for profit Foundation headquartered in Brussels with a global remit. ECES was established at the end of 2010 and has implemented activities already in more than 50 countries, mainly, but not only, in Africa and the Middle East, primarily with funding from the EU and EU Member states.

ECES promotes electoral and democratic strengthening through the provision of advisory services, operational support and management of large projects mainstreaming capacity and leadership development via peer exchanges and comparative experiences, dialogue and the prevention and mitigation of electoral conflicts.

ECES has obtained the TRACE certification for its financial management transparency and the ISO 9001 certification for its Quality Management System. ECES has crafted and copyrighted its strategy called "A European Response to Electoral Cycle Support - EURECS", which is implemented via specific methodologies and tools also copyrighted by ECES. EURECS is an innovative delivery mechanism to implement electoral and democracy assistance activities that are consistent primarily with European values and EU policies targeting the facilitation of the cooperation on electoral matters between the EU, the EU member states and their partner countries.

ECES together with the College of Europe, Interpeace, Mediateur, Fondation Hirondelle and the Institute of Research and Education on Negotiation (ESSEC) is implementing on behalf of the EU the ERMES project, the European Resource for Mediation Support. ECES is providing the key expertise and the office for the project that is a strategic tool for the EU role in mediation and dialogue. In this context ECES is also a member of the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office network, the biggest and leading civil society European platform of 40 independent organisations and think tanks from 16 European countries committed to peacebuilding and the prevention of conflict.

ECES activities in Ethiopia, composed of the above four interventions related to the overall context of the general elections 2020; are funded by the following:

- **European Response to Electoral Cycle Support in Ethiopia (EURECS Ethiopia)** 16.55M EURO, funded under European Development Fund (EDF) and by KFW on behalf of the German government and implemented by ECES;
- **Prevention, mitigation and management of election-related conflicts and potential violence (PEV-Ethiopia)** 3.6M EURO, funded under IcSP-FPI and implemented by the European Centre for Electoral Support (ECES);

And additional funds were given under:

- **European Response to Electoral Cycle Support in Ethiopia Plus (EURECS PLUS Ethiopia)** 4 M EURO, funded under European Development Fund (EDF) and by KFW on behalf of the German government.
- **ECES Sub-Granting Scheme** to CECO, 1M EURO, funded by Danish Embassy in Addis Ababa and Irish Embassy in Addis Ababa.

The screenshot shows the ECES website with the following content:

- Logo: ECES EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR ELECTORAL SUPPORT
- Navigation: WHO WE ARE, WHAT WE DO, WORK WITH US, RESOURCES, LATEST NEWS
- Main heading: ECES Mobilisation of Resources 2012 - 2022
- Section: ECES MOBILISATION OF RESOURCES 2012-2022
- Latest News: A blue button with the text "We are always happy to welcome the work of general staff and members in order to contribute to the mobilisation of resources." and a "Read more" link.
- Text: ECES is an independent, non-partisan and not for profit Foundation headquartered in Brussels with a global remit. ECES was established at the end of 2010 and has implemented activities already in more than 50 countries, mainly, but not only, in Africa and the Middle East, primarily with funding from the EU and EU Member states.
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www.eces.eu

TRAININGS & CAPACITY BUILDING



Capacity building through production and dissemination of baseline reports/researches; trainings, workshops, dialogue sessions and advisory services has been at the core of ECES interventions in Ethiopia. Engaging a wide variety of stakeholders including NEBE, CSOs, women and youth groups, students and instructors of higher institutions, Inter-Religious Council representatives, religious leaders, traditional leaders and media representatives.

1 LEAD Training

The training programme in Leadership and Conflict Management Skills for Electoral Stakeholders (LEAD) is part of ECES' strategy to strengthen the credibility of electoral processes through the professionalization of key actors. This strategy is based on the assumption that trained electoral stakeholders will put LEAD principles into practice, thus contributing to prevent electoral conflicts.

This training programme equips participants with the necessary tools to better understand and manage the challenges, uncertainties, complexities and ambiguities that are inherent to electoral processes. In Ethiopia ECES has delivered LEAD ToT and cascade trainings to civil society organisations (CSOs), Inter-religious Council, Students and instructors from higher institutions, Federal police representatives, marginalised groups; and youth led CSOs.

2 Customised private LEAD coaching

In consultation with CECOIE specific needs related to leadership and election skills were identified which allowed the project to tailor LEAD Essentials. Accordingly, senior CSO leaders and representatives of marginalized groups were brought together in four groups. This approach built common language and allowed the civil society members to work through their unique challenges.

3 Media Training

This activity targets journalists, independent media and media house owners; students of Journalism and Communication at Addis Ababa University. In addition to the trainings delivered, a Media and Elections Guide was developed and produced in May-June 2021 as part of the capacity building activities for journalists and media personnel. The guide was approved by NEBE and offered a set of key election related information to the media and other stakeholders. It was distributed to 98 media representatives who participated at the media trainings organised by ECES together with NEBE in June 2021. In this activity, a total of eight workshops were delivered to 237 participants focusing on conflict-sensitive reporting on electoral matters and against hate speeches; and fake news.

CAPACITY BUILDING

1072 participants trained with Leadership and Conflict Management Skills for Electoral Stakeholders – LEAD; as well as **123 CSO leaders** trained with customised LEAD.

Under the PEV project, a **Media and Elections Guide** was developed and produced in **May-June 2021, with 550 copies delivered** for use in media trainings and NEBE's media accreditation centre.

ECES – Led media workshops engaged a total of **237 media practitioners**.



ECES Gender & Inclusion Expert facilitating training

Tailored Training to NEBE Personnel **4**

As part of its continued capacity development intervention, ECES delivered:

- Four rounds of tailored training to newly recruited NEBE staff. The training was focused on election administration, legal framework, voter registration, candidate registration, results management dispute resolution and so on.
- Up on NEBE's request, ECES in collaboration with IFES, trained **34 participants** in January 2020 mostly from local expertise group with the intention to support NEBE in creating a pool of trainers to be deployed as needed. Many of the trained experts have been recruited as Master Trainers in the delivery of poll workers training for the general elections held in June and September 2021.



Master of Electoral Policy and Administration (MEPA) **5**

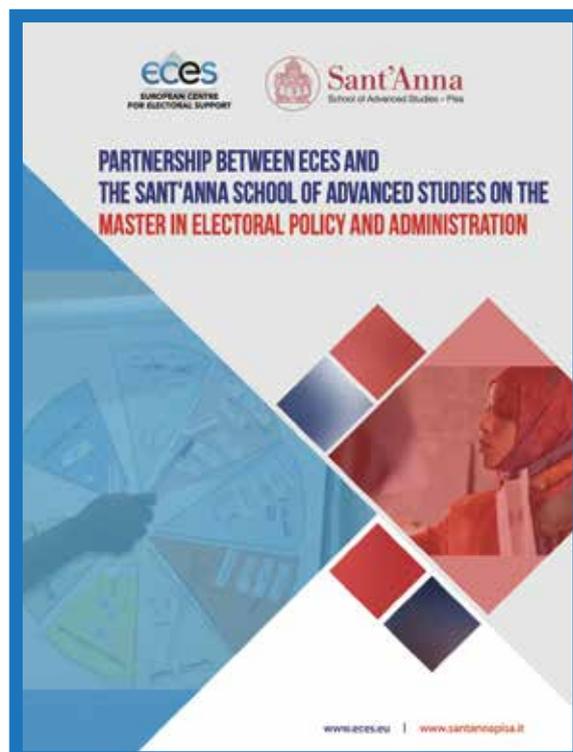
MEPA was delivered both to NEBE and CECOIE since August 2020 in collaboration with Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna (SSSA) - **Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies**.

Once the electoral operations were suspended in March 2020, ECES took the opportunity to deliver MEPA to **29 NEBE HQ and Regional officer personnel**.

ECES also enrolled 86 CECOIE members to take three modules each through the PEV project. 16 CECOIE secretariat staff and CECOIE members later joined for full MEPA program. The added value of this intervention both in the election operations and in sustainably building local capacity has been highly appreciated by the participants.



LEAD Training Participant Group Picture, Kombolcha



6 Training to Election Administration officials

ECES has supported NEBE in organizing and leading cascade trainings for constituency and polling staff who have been recruited to administer both the June and September 2021 Elections.

This intervention includes designing of comprehensive training plan, development, translation to local languages and printing of training manuals and guidelines; recruitment and training of **220 Master trainers** and more than **5000 field trainers**; implementation of top tier training, support implementation of poll workers training in 674 training centres, support configuration of **50,000 tablets dispatched to polling stations**, procurement of 500 USB flash disks and 20 power extension cables for the training of ICT experts.

A total of more than **180,000 election administration officials** were trained which has contributed to the effectiveness and transparency of the 6th general election.

7 Organisation of Dialogue sessions

Dialogue sessions brought together different groups of traditional leaders, religious leaders, women and youth. These forums were used to enhance peace messaging and raise awareness on the different groups in the prevention of electoral conflict and potential violence.

The workshops were crucial to establishing networks and the traditional and religious leaders reported that previously they had only assembled in post-conflict scenarios to negotiate a response to community challenges. The dialogue session workshops were their first peace-time multi-stakeholder gathering with a focus on capacity building and learning which is highly appreciated by participants.

8 Support to electoral dispute settlement and framework of the legal dispute resolution (EDR)

In collaboration with IFES, ECES assisted NEBE in the process of establishing an enhanced working partnership with the Federal Supreme Court of Ethiopia. In this context, the ECES legal team has been serving as a component of the bigger working team composed of representatives from NEBE, the Federal Supreme Court, and IFES. The team was able to develop a memorandum of understanding to be signed between NEBE and the Federal Supreme Court. Within this, the parties agreed to work together in dealing with election related disputes in a prompt and impartial manner by setting special election benches and rules of procedures.

ECES also closely worked with IFES by providing inputs and comments on the draft documents produced by IFES on the normative, procedural, institutional adjudicatory settings, and jurisdictional matters of election disputes as provided under the electoral, political parties registration and code of conduct proclamation No. 1162(2019). This helped organize the training for the judiciary on the electoral law and the EDR mechanisms.

ECES organised **14 dialogue sessions in Addis Ababa and different regions with a total 510 participants.**

ECES was also tasked by NEBE to assist the implementation of the ballot lottery process, as part of the **electoral dispute resolution mechanism (EDR)**

NEBE staff was trained on this EDR mechanism in order to smoothly and efficiently implement the ballot lottery.



CIVIC & VOTER EDUCATION

ECES identified **six CECO**E member organisations accredited by NEBE to undertake CVE activities. The member organisations were selected through an evaluation following an open call for application. The CSOs that implemented **CVE Public Outreach Strategy (POS)** on behalf of ECES are BEGDAN, Center of Concern, Ethiopian Woman's Federation, Green Art, SID-Ethiopia and Redeem. These organisations were able to reach an estimated beneficiary of **500,000** mainly through mass media.



ECES has funded the broadcasting of **1260 TV and radio spots for the June 2021 election and 542 spots for Harari and Somali election campaign in September 2021.**



ECES supported the dissemination of all Public Service Announcement (PSA) as a National Campaign with a total reach of **32.7 million people.**

6

CIVIC & VOTER EDUCATION



ECES assisted the Civic and Voter Education efforts of NEBE and CECO'E to guarantee that citizens are informed of their rights, the electoral system, and how and where they will vote.

CECO'E's Civic and voter education

1

CECO'E's Election Strategic Plan (2020-2022) was developed with a comprehensive coverage of strategic approaches on CSOs engagement in civic and voter education, election monitoring and observation, advocacy and stakeholders' engagement, and that of research and capacity building activities.

In a workshop organised by NEBE and supported by the EURECS project to hold consultation on directives, CSOs representatives from all over Ethiopia were one of the larger groups of stakeholders present. The consultative workshops were organized to collect feedback, recommendations, and further inputs to improve and validate the Draft Directive on **Voter Education Licensing and Code of Conduct**. During the two sessions held in January and February, 2020, CSOs got the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the substantial content of the Draft Directives, the formality and institutional eligibility criteria that CSOs have to comply with in order for them to get accredited and engage in civic and voter education as well as in election observation missions.

Complementary activities which have direct importance to CSOs engaging on CVE were also undertaken by ECES under EURECS in collaboration with other partners. These include preparation of a strategy for voter education which was approved by NEBE in March 2020, consultation workshops between NEBE and CSOs accredited to do CVE; and activities related to the content, production and distribution of CVE materials.

Activities to reach the public through CVE was aligned to the new electoral calendar whereby the election took place in June 2021.

A lesson learning workshop was organised by ECES and CECO'E for future learning as a second phase of the activity has been implemented through the Basket Fund by engaging few of the CSOs from the first phase adding new ones.

NEBE's Civic & Voter Education

2

ECES, in close collaboration with UNDP, drafted a Voter Education and Public Outreach Strategy (POS). The POS is aimed at increasing voter participation during the electoral process as well as to inform and sensitize voters on different issues. The main activities of the POS included disseminating NEBE's CVE Manual among local stakeholders, establishing a Call Centre, production of TV/Radio Spots and Press advertisements, spread VE messages through social media; and recording Interviews and Mini-documentaries.

In addition to increasing voter turnout, these activities helped NEBE create its new image in the eyes of the public and build its own identity. ECES took the role of funding paid airtime in order to ensure wide coverage of NEBE CVE messages.

KEEPING TRACK OF THE ELECTORAL PROCESS AND NEBE'S IMAGE



Media monitoring is an instrument that informs members of the National Electoral Board of Ethiopia (NEBE) on the media coverage and public debate around the electoral process.

The media monitoring initiatives also aided NEBE's long-term institutional communication strategy, allowing the organization to respond quickly to critical situations. Monitoring the media evaluates **1)** the quality of coverage of the technical aspects of the electoral process, as well as the performance of the NEBE and its representatives; **2)** the mentions of 'NEBE' across the web and identifying the topics that attracted social media users, disaggregated by necessary demographics, as well as the sentiment in which NEBE was mentioned; **3)** the use of social media networks (Facebook and Twitter) by political parties at the national and regional levels; **4)** the narratives of conflict culture among online audiences.

The **Media Monitoring Unit (MMU)** established by the Media Monitoring Expert within the context of the EURECS project is composed of 1 supervisor, 1 ICT Assistant, and 8 media monitors. The Monitors were extensively trained through a curriculum based on a media monitoring methodology developed by ECES. The MMU reports are drafted in English/Amharic and are based on media reports in the five different languages (Amharic, Afan Oromo, Somali, Tigrigna and Afar). The reports have been used by NEBE to assess public opinion about the institution, address issues that need immediate action and take lessons for future improvement.

1 Monitoring Electronic Media, Printed Press, and Social Media

The MMU monitors **26 radio stations, 21 television channels, 5 print outlets**, and activities on social media in at least three languages with dedicated software. During campaign periods, the Media Monitors produce daily and weekly reports on print and online media, as well as a qualitative analysis of the media. The goal of these reports, as well as their additional value, is to meet NEBE's information needs and to guide its institutional communication.

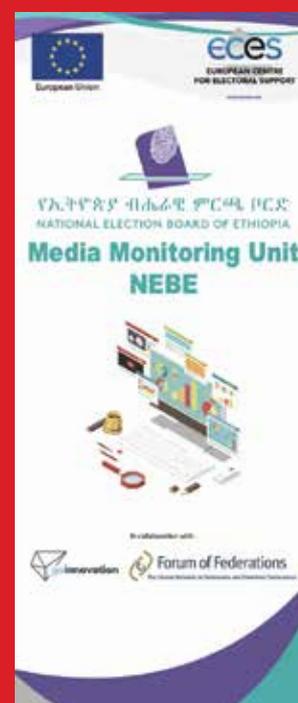
Social media plays a critical role in ensuring that information about events surrounding an election cycle is disseminated promptly. Because of their importance, NEBE urged that the MMU begin monitoring election-related content on social media.

MONITORING

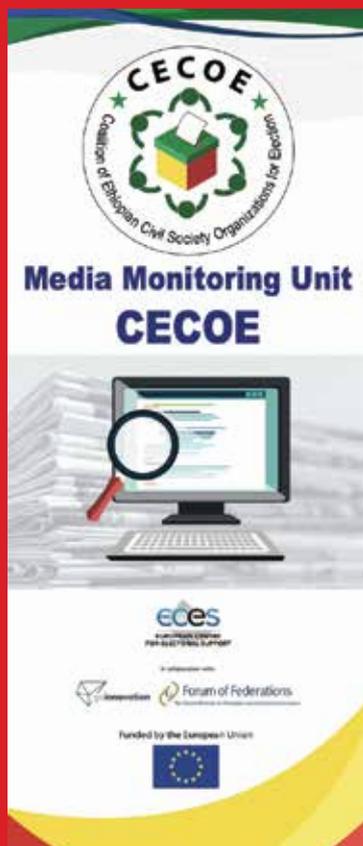
ECES established a team of **10 Media Monitors for the National Electoral Board of Ethiopia**.

Based on a curriculum developed on ECES' Media Monitoring Methodology, ECES conducted a series of comprehensive trainings for media monitors.

26 radio stations, 21 television channels, 5 print outlets, and Key actors on social media monitored in the **Amharic, Afan Oromo, Somali, Tigrigna and Afar Languages**.



ECES Media Monitoring Training for the NEBE MMU



With the country's growing number of social media users, information broadcast through these networks is frequently reported by traditional media channels. The social media monitoring centred around a select sample of Facebook pages and groups, as well as Twitter accounts and useful hashtags; in order to track the debates surrounding the electoral process, Facebook pages and Twitter accounts of political parties, candidates, national and international media, opinion leaders, and civil society organizations are closely monitored. The sample also includes Facebook groups dedicated to discussing the country's social and political situation.

The Coalition of Ethiopian Civil Society Organizations for Elections MMU

2

Establishing the CECO MMU

ECES supported the establishment of a Media Monitoring Unit for CECO through the procurement of necessary equipment, including monitoring software, as well as the recruitment of one supervisor and nine media monitors, the use of space in the HUB Hotel next to ECES offices to ensure close technical support, particularly during the first phase of the monitoring.

A full media mapping of the print, radio, and television media landscapes was undertaken and communicated with the partners in order to create a media selection to be monitored. The MMU has been essential in monitoring the media coverage of key electoral stakeholders during various stages of election operations since its inception in March 2021. A daily press review and weekly media overview reports were generated and distributed to relevant stakeholders.

Furthermore, reports were released on a variety of topics, including political party debates throughout the campaign, media coverage of NEBE's operations and political parties' social media activity. These reports have been useful in monitoring the electoral process, and CECO has used them as input for its role in election observation and the establishment of the **Election Situation Room**.



CECOE Media Monitoring Unit located in ECES office, Addis Ababa

3 Early Warning and Rapid Response

Efforts were made to map existing electoral conflict early warning systems. The findings revealed that there are a variety of programs by both government and non-governmental organizations, but the majority of them are focused on conflict resolution not particularly related to elections. The government's early warning system focuses primarily on early warning mechanisms to mitigate the effects of natural disasters.

The most relevant effort is **PACT's Conflict Early Warning and Rapid Response system (CEWRR)** which is found to be at its early stage piloting with more than **70 indicators in 3 regions**. Based on this reality, the EWS, and context analysis, was recommended for CECOE to implement the activity.

The support also includes an automated system of data capturing, regular exchange, production real time data on electoral conflicts for NEBE and other stakeholders.

4 Election Situation room (ESR)

An Election Situation Room was set up as part of an early warning and rapid response mechanism for an immediate resolution of diverging views with risk for conflict escalation in real space and time.

ECES assisted CECOE in setting up an ESR for the **Sidama Referendum** in November 2019 as a pilot initiative, including training and technical support.

The training and technical assistance covered topics such as:

- how to structure the ESR (the core group and data officers);
- how to collect information from the field;
- the frequency of data officer debriefings;
- how to organize and analyse collected data;
- how to prepare a press release for broadcast and print media;
- how to prepare and release preliminary and final observation reports.

The ESR was set up in South Star Hotel, Hawassa composed of 6 reporting officers who collected data four times during the day from eight observer teams allowing CECOE's core team to get an accurate picture during the process. The situation room served as a centre where all information is coordinated, collated, and analysed. It was also a centre for preparation of reports and external communication affairs including issuing of public press releases. This created a hub for CECOE to interact with key stakeholders like NEBE, media and the public and provided regular updates on the Referendum.

During the election, from **June 11 to June 25 2021**, ECES supported the establishment of an Election Situation room and training/coaching CECOE, at the Golden Tulip Hotel; where technical, financial, and administrative support to the CECOE-led ESR was provided.

The **Early Warning System (EWS)** was formed with **24 regional focal points** providing incident updates and a combined report being provided to the NEBE.

ECES supported CECOE in setting up 3 Election Situation Rooms for:

- The Sidama Referendum,
- With joint technical and financial support from **ECES and NDI, CECOE ran and managed an Election Situation Room** both for the June and September 2021 elections.



CECOE Election Situation Room

Five baseline reports produced and disseminated

A key achievement of the PEV project has been the establishment of the **Coalition of Ethiopian Civil Societies Organisation for Election – CECOE with more than 175 member organizations.**

200 members trained through workshops organised to capacitate the established Coalition.



Coalition building workshop for the establishment of CECOE

OPERATIONAL SUPPORT AND PROCUREMENT OF ELECTORAL MATERIAL

Within the context of the operational support to the NEBE and CECOE, ECES contributed to four major activities:

Production and Dissemination of base-line data 1

Production pertaining to establishing a number of baseline data that the project identified as either partially or completely missing around electoral conflicts. A number of baseline reports and updates detailed below were produced and used as input for guiding project implementation for PEV, EURECS; and EUD's wider Democratic Package and other projects.

- Electoral Political Economy Analyses (EPEA) capturing drivers and sources of electoral conflicts and violence triggers for the 6th general election (Baseline and three updates);
- Electoral Security Threat Assessment (ESTA) stakeholder mapping of activities with the potential to monitor localized conflicts or external threats from border areas and more (Baseline and two updates);
- NSA-led mapping of entry points for structured engagements with youth movements and the potential to capitalize on the structures for early warning and pro-peace messaging –Research study;
- Qualitative study on women's political participation and representation including a case study on the important role of women's leadership in formal and informal Structures;
- Policy Recommendation on inclusion in the electoral process by groups facing discrimination and marginalisation

Establishing and capacitating an NSA-Coalition 2

Advocacy entails a set of coordinated strategic activities that aim to bring about a desired and lasting political change and is most effective when adapted to the specific context in focus. It helps accord importance to critical issues of electoral conflict prevention and inclusivity in electoral processes that might not be figured as a national priority due to parallel ongoing processes.

Building coalitions with advocacy partners is a key strategy for Non-state Actors to enhance the reach of the advocacy effort; enable greater efficiency and effectiveness by combining resources and skills; leverage the comparative advantage of each member; and reduce duplication. Coalitions can be multi-stakeholder in nature or reflect the views of a single stakeholder group. From the perspective of the government, coalitions provide an opportunity to engage with a coordinated 'CSO voice', rather than dealing with multiple and diverse CSO's.

Recognising the need for efficient and effective coordination of CSOs and the strategic importance of forming a network for electoral support, the EUD has supported the formation of a coalition of Ethiopian CSOs for electoral support. Following extensive deliberation with NEBE and within themselves, CSOs agreed to establish Coalition of Ethiopian Civil Society Organisations for Election (CECOE) in May 2019. ECES has provided coalition building advisory and coaching support; and continued technical backstopping to CECOE following its creation.

3 Operational support

ECES experts provided constant support to the activities coordinated by the NEBE Director of logistics from the beginning of the project, and most particularly during the sensitive phases of the electoral operations implementation.

The contributions of the project's experts focused on the logistics and security especially the identification of storage sites, the recruitment and training of warehouse personnel, improving warehouse operational procedures, operational advice, training the security personnel and consulting, Support to the legal department of NEBE via advisory services,... etc

4 Election Security Task Force

- Training of Master Trainers delivered by ECES, Ethiopian Police University and NEBE to **55 Senior Police Officers**
- The Master Trainers delivered the Training of Trainers - ToT to a total of **550 police officers in all Regional Capitals.**
- To Support the training, ECES delivered a range of printed materials including **20,000 copies of Election Security Directive; 150,000 copies of Code of Conduct Aide-Memoire; and 150,000 copies of the Rules of Engagement Pocket Card.**

Grievance Hearing Committee

A training of 37 master trainers for grievance hearing committees was conducted

Training of Master Trainers delivered by ECES, Ethiopian Police University and NEBE to 55 Senior Police Officers.



Federal police workshop, Addis Ababa

A few statistics regarding procurements and Operational Support

- Fully furnished the NEBE HQ offices
- ECES procured **22 vehicles** for the National Electoral Board of Ethiopia
- ECES developed a GIS system to import 1,353,046 nationwide building coordinates and a matching algorithm for the NEBE field data.
- **1,375,000 PPE Masks and 200,000 hand sanitizers** were delivered to NEBE
- ECES provided **747 trucks across 11 regions** comprising 647 constituent locations for the transportation of voting material
- ECES set up an agreement with Ethiopian Air Cargo to provide aircraft as per the NEBE volume and weight requirements and **7 aircrafts** were used to transport voting and training materials to the various airports/airstrips.

On behalf of the donors of the ECES-Ethiopia project and in close collaboration with the National Electoral Board of Ethiopia (NEBE) and the Coalition of Ethiopian Civil Society Organizations for Elections (CECEO), ECES organised the procurement of electoral material and equipment in accordance with EU procedures.

The efficient organization of tenders by ECES, combined with the adoption of broader technical specifications, created a large competition space, resulting in competitive offers being made. This in turn provided significant cost reductions, particularly in:

1. The supply of ICT Equipment for the media monitoring Unit for CECOE
2. The Supply and installation of ICT equipment for Early warning System for CECOE
3. The Supply and installation of ICT equipment for Situation room for CECOE
4. The Supply delivery and warranty services for the office furniture to NEBE Headquarter in Addis Ababa.
5. The Supply of ICT Equipment for the media monitoring Unit for NEBE
6. The Supply and delivery of booklet version of proclamation 11:62:2019 in Addis Ababa for NEBE
7. The Supply and maintenance of 22 four-wheel drive vehicles in Addis Ababa -Ethiopia for NEBE
8. The Media placement for NEBE,
9. The Supply and delivery of accreditation equipment for NEBE
10. The Supply and deliver COVID 19 Personal Protective Equipment - PPE (Sanitizers, facemask etc) for NEBE
11. The Supply and installation of an access control improvement system to the NEBE facility
12. The Printing of booklets, pocket cards
13. The rental of transport vehicles for the NEBE Network.



Vehicle handover ceremony for NEBE

6 Mainstreaming gender and Social Inclusion concerns within the NEBE policies and programs

- The fundamental normative framework and procedural rules concerning gender issues have been incorporated and reflected in all training manuals and materials; these manuals and guidelines have been used to deliver trainings to Election administration officials recruited for 674 Constituencies and over 49,000 polling stations. Gender concerns were mainstreamed in electoral operations as a result of these trainings.
- ECES created a platform for NEBE and Association of Persons with Disabilities in order for the Association to deploy its members to assess and audit the accessibility and convenience of polling stations for PWDs in selected 700 polling stations in Addis Ababa.

7 Support for publishing and disseminating technical tools of the electoral process

- ECES supported NEBE in translating, printing, and disseminating the Electoral Proclamation in NEBE's four working languages: Afan Oromo, Somali, Afar, and Tigrigna.
- ECES supported the translation of 18 directives into the four languages that tackled the risk of language barriers that might impact understanding and enforcement of the legal provisions

8 Securing the NEBE Headquarter

- Installation of CCTV for NEBE HQ
- Installation of an Arch Metal Detector &
- An X-Ray Machine

9 Facilitation of NEBE's Dialogue

- ECES supported NEBE in organizing a Workshop with 85 representatives of CSOs accredited to conduct CVE for the 6th National Elections.
- ECES supported NEBE in hosting a consultation workshop to get input from stakeholders such as political parties, civil society organizations, and the judiciary on various election-related directives.

ECES supported the translation of **18 directives** into the four working languages of NEBE:

- . Afan Oromo
- . Somali
- . Afar
- . Tigrigna

ECES supported NEBE in organizing a Workshop with 85 representatives of CSOs accredited to conduct CVE for the 6th National Elections.





The professionalization of national election observation is an important aspect of the electoral process. The need to enhance local observers' capacities stems from the persisting financial challenges in the period between elections when there is a risk that the observer platform would go dormant.

Due to prior knowledge and outreach potential, domestic observers can verify the voter roll, observe the complaint process, document instances of intimidation and human rights abuses, and monitor the media more efficiently than international observers. In addition, domestic observers remain in the country after international observers are gone and continue working on improving the electoral process.

Election report writing, international standards in election matters, candidate registration observation, and political campaign financing observation were among the trainings offered to CECOE members.



CECOE Data Center

ELECTION DAY AND RESULTS ANNOUNCEMENT



The operational assistance provided during the two rounds of elections was instrumental in ensuring effectiveness and transparency of the process.

1 ECES Support to NEBE on E-Day

In both rounds of the elections held in June and September 2021, ECES supported NEBE in the operational task of activities to ensure the verification of the election results. The operational assistance provided during the two rounds of elections was instrumental in ensuring effectiveness and transparency of the process.

2 E-Day, Tabulation and results Announcement Procedures; and Referendum

- **357 Constituency Officers and 32,762 Poll Workers** were recruited and trained to administer the election in **165 Constituencies**.
- Field Trainers Training on E-Day and Referendum as well as the Constituency Officers Training on Tabulation of results took place in five training centers – Harar, Jigjiga, Mizan Teferi, Arba-Minch and Hossana.
- Poll Workers trainings on E-Day and Referendum were delivered in **153 towns across Harari, Somali and SNNP** regions in three rounds. To this end, **27 Lead Trainers**, and **446 Field Trainers** were deployed to cascade the training.
- While sharing the financial and organizational responsibility of the training with IFES in Harari and SNNP; ECES exclusively covered the cost of the entire cascade training on E-Day, Tabulation and Results Announcement Procedures in Somali Regional State. Moreover, a total of **78 Master Trainers** were deployed to Somali Region in order to assist and supervise the election process and tabulation.
- **50 NEBE Operations** and Call Center Staff also took part in the training in order for them to get acquainted with the technical and procedural aspects of the election so that they could assist election officers deployed in the field.

ELECTION DAY

A few Statistics on the Support for NEBE on Election Days in June and September

- ECES reserved a situation room, media briefing and conference rooms, complaints handling room, as well as results intake, verification, auditing, and approval centre.
- **23 Master Trainers were assigned to the 23 Constituencies** in Addis Ababa to lead the results tabulation and announcement processes both for the HoPR and Regional Council Seats
- **4 Master Trainers were assigned at the NEBE Hotline Call Centre** to provide technical and operational guidance for election officers working at polling station and constituency levels in all the 440 constituencies where elections took place on June 21
- **For the June and September election days, 40 Master Trainers and 30 Master Trainers were assigned respectively** to assist NEBE's results intake, verification, audit, and approval activities at the verification center



E-DAY at CEEOE Situation Room, Golden Tulip, Addis Ababa



Financial Management 1



Donor - Implementing Partners Group Pictures

ECES activities in Ethiopia, composed of the four interventions related to the overall context of the general elections 2020; are funded by the following:

- European Response to Electoral Cycle Support in Ethiopia (EURECS Ethiopia) (**16.55M EURO**, funded under European Development Fund (EDF) and by KFW on behalf of the German government and implemented by ECES);
- Prevention, mitigation and management of election-related conflicts and potential violence (PEV-Ethiopia) (**3.6M EURO**, funded under IcSP-FPI and implemented by ECES);

And additional funds were given under:

- European Response to Electoral Cycle Support in Ethiopia Plus (EURECS PLUS Ethiopia) (**4 M EURO**, funded by under European Development Fund (EDF) and by KFW on behalf of the German government)
- ECES Sub-Granting Scheme to CECOIE (**1M EURO**, funded by Danish Embassy in Addis Ababa and Irish Embassy in Addis Ababa).

Financial Audits (June 2019 - April 2022) 2



ECES Office finance department

The timely, transparent, and reliable disclosure of ECES' financial management is a cornerstone of our project implementation globally.

- **ECES Sub-Granting Scheme to CECOIE**
Audit in process (June 2021 to Dec 2021) amount that is under Audit **310,718 Euro**
- **Prevention, mitigation and management of election-related conflicts and potential violence (PEV-Ethiopia)**
Audit Completed (June 2019 to 30 May 2020) – Amount Audited: **1,365,292.7 Euro**
Audit Completed (June 2020 to Dec 2020) - Amount Audited: **392,769.06 Euro**
Audit in process (Jan 21 to Dec 21) - Amount under Audit: **1,561,886.43 Euro**
- **European Response to Electoral Cycle Support in Ethiopia (EURECS)**
Audit Completed (Oct 2019 to Sept 2020) – Amount Audited: **1,940,178.65 Euro**
Audit Completed (Jan 21 to Sept 21) – Amount Audited: **5,790,571.42 Euro**
- **EURECS PLUS**
Audit to be launched – Amount to be added: **2,184,234.82 Euro**

In addition to these EURECS was audited by the Court of Auditors of the European Union. As happened for its projects in Nigeria and South Africa. The audit and its positive feedback confirmed the commitment of ECES and our accurate financial management work.



EUROPEAN
COURT
OF AUDITORS

3 Financial Management Structure

To respect the best practices of financial management, ECES has built a strong financial management structure, mainstreaming EU rules and regulations and the project management's experiences of ECES financial experts. Furthermore, almost the entire **ECES' Management Unit at HQ** level as well as heads of ECES' projects in the field have been trained on ISO 9001:2015 and TS17582 which is applied to electoral management bodies.

Thanks to this training, ECES personnel became certified LEAD assessors. Such certification allows ECES personnel to perform election audits using ISO standards, thus contributing to transparent and credible electoral processes. ECES' management unit is therefore committed to the ISO quality management procedures.

All ECES operational and financial procedures are detailed in a **Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)** manual, both at the HQ and project level.

The manual provides the following details:

- the financial organization at HQ and project level, the divisions of tasks and role,
- the different procedures for finances and Programmes,
- the reporting methodology,
- the instructions for visibility... It also provides in annexes all useful document templates, necessary for a coherent and uniform project management.

For transparent financial management, ECES always open a specific project's bank account in Brussels (in EUR) and a local bank account at country level (in local currency). Moreover, ECES relies on an efficient software system specifically designed for its own use, and on its fiduciary PME Conseils.

Indeed, ECES has developed a quality financial management strategy through its long-standing collaboration with PME-Conseils, which is certified ISO 9001 company, specialised in accounting, business management and taxation, set up in 1987. **PME-Conseils** provides ECES with:

- Financial-cost accounting adapted to the supervision of projects, and adapted to the needs of the reports that have to be drawn up;
- Financial accounting in accordance with the applicable rules for non-profit associations;
- Budgetary and financial reports according to the requirements of each sponsor;
- Financial audits by the subsidizing authorities
- Declaration and management of taxation and VAT with relevant authorities.



ECES Activity in Ethiopia are implemented through Four interventions, with a total of **25.15 M EURO** funded by:

- **The European Union and Member States;**
- **Germany;**
- **Denmark &**
- **Ireland**

PME-Conseils, an ISO 9001-certified organization and a long-time ECES partner in financial management at the project and headquarters levels, helps to ensure a high-quality financial overview of ECES' activities in Ethiopia.

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PME-Conseils contributes to the successful financial and accounting management of projects by providing the necessary specialized assistance and guidance, as well as financial and cost accounting specifically tailored to project supervision. PME-Conseils also ensures that the budgetary and financial reports prepared as part of the project are in line with donor requirements.



Finance & Admin SOP Training, Addis Ababa

As per the software aspects, ECES relies on both an expenditure follow-up system and an accounting system.

The expenditure follow-up system has been specifically designed for ECES by its IT expert in order to best address its needs at HQ and field offices level. This online system is accessible by ECES financial departments both from HQ and field level.

Furthermore, in collaboration with **PME-Conseils**, ECES developed a software for centralising projects' financial and accounting management at HQ level. For all ECES' projects, such tool allows to control all type of expenses as well as the availability of fund on each budget line through a detailed validation system that includes, from the expression of need to the effective payment, multiple checks.

The expenditure follow-up system an internal tracking system where for each expense all the supporting documents are scanned and stored in the software (including the related authorizations' vouchers, invoices, receipts, payments and transfer details). Such system allows a constant monitoring and supervision. Each project budget is uploaded in the system with detailed budgetary lines and financial commitments (future expenditure). Each real expenditure is therefore affected to the relevant financial commitment under the specific contractual budget line, thus resulting in a clear tracking of expenditures. Therefore, ECES knows on real time the level of spending for each budget line and its level of financial commitments. Additionally, this system allows to track for every transaction the time they are programmed and incurred through the different steps of verification and approval.

Lastly, ECES transparent and efficient financial management system is regularly verified through external expenditure verifications and audits.

ECES considers projects' verification of expenses and external audits as occasions to further improve the implementation of activities in line with an effective financial management.

Verification of expenses are carried out mostly following the indications of the donors if they have a preferred audit company that they would like ECES to use for a specific country or a specific project. Otherwise ECES collaborates with the most known audit companies at global level like **KPMG, PWC, Deloitte, Moore Steven and Ernst & Young.**

The purposes of the project audit are to certify:

- The adequacy of administrative and financial procedures applied by the project with donor's
- The assignment of each expense to the relevant budget lines and the eligibility of all expenses incurred in the project, by checking all the needed justifications.

VISIBILITY

Communication and visibility of the EU is a legal obligation for all external actions funded by the EU. ECES has also developed and copyrighted its own communication and visibility guideline that will serve as a base for all project visibility actions. Similarly, this programme shall contain communication and visibility measures, which shall follow and be adapted to the EU and ECES communication and visibility plans and be based on a specific Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action to be elaborated at the start of implementation and supported with the budget indicated in the section above.

In terms of legal obligations on communication and visibility, the measures shall be implemented by the Commission, the partner country, contractors, grant beneficiaries and/or entrusted entities. Appropriate contractual obligations shall be included in, respectively, the financing agreement, procurement and grant contracts, and delegation agreements. The Communication and Visibility Manual for European Union External Action shall be used to establish the Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action and the appropriate contractual obligations.



The poster for EURECS-ETHIOPIA features the European Union flag and ECES logo at the top. The central graphic shows a stylized map of Ethiopia within a circular frame. Below the title, it lists the partners: goinnovation and Forum of Federations. Two circular inset photos show a woman in a purple headscarf writing and a man speaking into a microphone. The bottom of the poster includes the text 'This project is fully funded by the EU' and the EU flag.

The poster for PEV-ETHIOPIA features the European Union flag and ECES logo at the top. The background is a close-up of a woman in a red headscarf looking to the side. A graphic of a ballot box is overlaid on the image. The title 'PEV-ETHIOPIA' is prominently displayed, followed by the subtitle 'Prevention, Mitigation and Management of Electoral Conflicts and Potential Violence in Ethiopia'. The bottom of the poster includes the text 'This project is fully funded by the EU' and the EU flag.

ECES Ethiopia

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