



# **DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS ASSISTANCE**

**Election Observation Development Programme (1300383)**

**FUNDED THROUGH  
EXTRABUDGETARY CONTRIBUTIONS**

Warsaw, September 2012

# **Election Observation Development Programme (1300383)**

Current budget: EUR 1,706,400<sup>1</sup>

## **1. Background**

ODIHR's election observation methodology is widely recognized and respected for its systematic, comprehensive and verifiable approach. It has inspired other international and domestic organizations involved in election observation. Over the years, the methodology has been enhanced to take more detailed account of new emerging issues. ODIHR methodology is constantly being refined and adjusted to meet new challenges so that it continues to deliver accurate and complete assessments. Focused development of election observation methodology can enhance its overall effectiveness. In line with MC Decision 19/2006, this programme aims to "further strengthen the observation methodology." It complements OSCE/ODIHR's election observation and assessment activities and provides continually improved guidance for implementing them.

## **2. Approach**

The programme's objectives are to enhance OSCE/ODIHR's election observation and to further refine ODIHR's election observation methodology. The expected result is strengthened capacity and effectiveness of OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Missions (EOMs) and Election Assessment Missions (EAMs).

### *2.1. Planned activities for 2012-2013 (funds permitting)*

#### ODIHR Election Observer Handbooks

ODIHR will prepare and finalize handbooks to provide comprehensive guidance to OSCE/ODIHR observers on diverse topics (monitoring the use of new voting technologies in elections; revised edition of *Guidelines for Reviewing a Legal Framework for Elections*; revised guidelines/handbook for monitoring the participation of national minorities in elections; and observing campaign finance) through a consultative process and expert peer review.

#### Domestic Observer Networking

ODIHR will facilitate the participation of domestic non-partisan observers in diverse OSCE forums. This provides opportunities for them to discuss issues of common interest, and share experiences and good practice in the field of election observation. ODIHR's methodology also benefits from this opportunity to get direct feedback from practitioners in the field.

### *2.2 Indicators of achievement (examples)*

- Observer handbooks are published and used in the field by OSCE long-term and short-term observers and others;
- Domestic observers have used the forum provided to keep ODIHR informed of local developments, strengthen their own relationships, build up synergies and exchange experience.

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<sup>1</sup> For the period 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2013.

### 2.3 *Strategy/methodology*

Past experience from EOMs and previous achievements of this programme have been fed into its design. They continue to directly complement and inform project activities. ODIHR handbooks for election observers are used in all ODIHR EOMs and are posted on ODIHR's website to make them accessible to other international organizations and domestic observer groups involved in election observation.<sup>2</sup> Selected handbooks will be translated into other OSCE languages, e.g. Russian, to allow the continued participation and empowerment of interested persons throughout the OSCE area.

The programme is envisaged to benefit all OSCE participating States, both state authorities and civil society alike, in that it will contribute to better and more effective implementation of the OSCE/ODIHR's election observation mandate through a continuously refined and updated methodology.

### 2.4 *Assumptions and risks*

It is assumed that effective election observation and the willingness to discuss new developments and methodologies remain key political priorities for OSCE participating States and relevant partners. Domestic non-partisan observer organizations must have a demonstrated non-partisan and professional approach to effectively network and advocate for their rights. The continued availability of qualified international and national experts willing to work for the OSCE is key for developing this programme.

### 2.5 *Quality factors*

Based on its refined methodology and enhanced capacity the OSCE/ODIHR's EOM and EAM final reports provide implementable recommendations for OSCE participating States. Besides possible follow up and advice to participating States by ODIHR, OSCE field operations can offer further assistance to host countries in conformity with their own specific mandates. ODIHR can continue to play a leading role in the refinement of election observation methodology, including new voting technologies. This primarily benefits OSCE participating States, but other countries or organizations involved in election monitoring beyond the OSCE region may also profit from the knowledge gained (e.g. OSCE Partners for Co-operation).

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<sup>2</sup> All elections related handbooks can be found at: <http://www.osce.org/odihr/elections/75352>.