

Global Europe Results Framework Indicator Methodology Note

1. Indicator name
GERF 2.27: Number of electoral processes and democratic cycles supported, observed and followed by means of Election Observation Missions
2. Technical details
<p><i>Please use the information provided in OPSYS or the SWD.</i></p> <p><u>Results Dashboard code(s)</u>: 78156.</p> <p><u>Unit of measure</u>: Number of (#).</p> <p><u>Type of indicator</u>: Quantitative (not Qualitative) – Numeric (not Percentage); Actual ex-post (not estimated or ex-ante); Cumulative (not annual); Direct (not indirect); Stock (not flow).</p> <p><u>Disaggregation(s)</u>: None.</p> <p><u>Level(s) of measurement</u>: Specific Objective – Outcome; Direct Output; Output.</p> <p><u>DAC sector code(s)</u> 15110 – Public sector policy and administrative management; 15111 – Public finance management; 15112 – Decentralisation and support to subnational government; 15113 - Anti-corruption organisations and institutions; 15114 - Domestic revenue mobilisation; 15125 - Public Procurement; 15130 - Legal and judicial development; 15142 - Macroeconomic policy; 15150 - Democratic participation and civil society; 15151 - Elections; 15152 - Legislatures and political parties; 15153 - Media and free flow of information; 15160 - Human rights; 15170 - Women's rights organisations and movements, and government institutions; 15180 - Ending violence against women and girls; 15190 - Facilitation of orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility.</p> <p><u>Main associated SDG</u>: 16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decisionmaking at all levels.</p> <p><u>Other associated SDGs</u>: 16.3 rule of law and justice; 16.6 accountable institutions; 16.10 protect fundamental freedoms; 17.9 capacity building.</p> <p><u>Associated GERF Level 1 indicator</u>: 1.21 World Bank Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI) Voice and Accountability Score.</p> <p><u>Associated GERF Level 3 indicators</u>:</p> <p>3.3 Amount and share of EU-funded external assistance contributing to strengthening investment climate</p> <p>3.8 Amount and share of EU-funded external assistance directed towards fragile states</p> <p>3.13 Number and share of EU- external interventions promoting gender equality and women's empowerment</p> <p>3.14 Number and share of EU-funded external interventions promoting disability inclusion</p> <p>3.16 Amount and share of EU-funded external assistance qualifying as ODA</p>

3. Policy context and Rationale
<p>The European Union’s commitment to democracy is articulated in Article 21 TEU and, as such, is a key component of its foreign policy. It is also part of the European Commission’s communication: the new European Consensus on Development (2017). As underpinned by the EU Global Strategy, supporting democracy, human rights and the rule of law externally is also in the EU’s strategic interest and contributes to the EU’s Common Foreign and Security Policy. As a result, the EU developed a comprehensive policy and operational approach to democracy and human rights in external relations, embodied by the 2020 Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy, including the development of the role of EU election observation.</p>
4. Logframe inclusion
<p>If an intervention generates the result measured by this indicator, then it must be reported in OPSYS. Corporate targets have been set for the indicators used to monitor the Strategic Plan and the Multiannual Financial Framework (see Section 9). Progress towards these targets is reported annually in the Annual Activity Plan (for the Strategic Plan) and the Programme Performance Statements (for the Multiannual Financial Framework). These values are calculated by aggregating the results reported in OPSYS. These reports ultimately contribute to the Annual Management Performance Report submitted by the European Commission to the Council and Parliament during the annual budgetary discharge procedure. If targets are not met, explanations must be provided. Therefore, it is crucial that all results are recorded in OPSYS.</p> <p>There are two ways of doing this:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Include the indicator directly in the logframe (recommended approach); 2. Match the indicator to the closest logframe indicator (only if the indicator was not originally included in the logframe and modification is not possible). <p>Why? The matching functionality in OPSYS only accommodates reporting current values and does not yet support encoding baselines and targets. This is a significant drawback because targets are a valuable piece of information, especially at the beginning of a Multiannual Financial Framework. Indeed, results take time to materialise as they are the last step in the chain, appearing only after programming, commitments, contracting, and spending have occurred. Targets allow to see what results are expected long before they materialise, which is reassuring to the different stakeholders concerned with accountability. Therefore, include all corporate indicators directly in the logframe whenever possible, and reserve the matching functionality only for cases when this is not feasible.</p>
5. Values to report
<p>The following values must be determined in line with the definitions provided in Section 6.</p> <p>Baseline value: the value measured for the indicator in the baseline year. The baseline value is the value against which progress will be assessed. For GERF indicators, this value is usually zero. This is because the results being measured must be directly attributable to EU support; prior to the start of implementation, the specific intervention has not yet occurred and</p>

therefore cannot have generated a result. A non-zero baseline may only occur if the intervention is following up on work achieved by another intervention financed by the same instrument.

Current value:

- **For logframe indicators:** the most recent value for the indicator at the time of reporting. The current value includes the baseline value which is reported separately for logframe indicators in OPSYS.
- **For matched indicators:** the most recent value for the results achieved at the time of reporting since the start of implementation of the intervention. This value is obtained by taking the most recent value for the indicator at the time of reporting and subtracting off the baseline value which is not reported separately for matched indicators in OPSYS.

Current values will be collected at least once a year and reported cumulatively throughout the implementation period.

Final target value: the expected value for the indicator in the target year.

Intermediate target values (milestones). A tool has been developed in OPSYS to generate intermediate targets automatically¹.

- **For outputs:** the intermediate targets are generated using a linear interpolation between the baseline and target values because it is assumed that outputs materialise sooner and more progressively over implementation (than outcomes).
- **For outcomes:** the expected progression over the course of implementation will vary across interventions. During the creation of a logframe, the expected outcome profile must be selected (OPSYS offers four options²) and this selection triggers the generation of intermediate targets for all 30 June and 31 December dates between the baseline and target dates for all output and outcome quantitative indicators. All automatically generated intermediate targets values and dates can be subsequently modified by the Operational Manager or the Implementing Partner with the approval

¹ This has been done in the context of the Primary Intervention Questionnaire (PIQ) for the EAMR. Three new KPIs provide an overall assessment of ongoing interventions (current performance and future performance) and completed interventions (final performance). Scores will be calculated for all INTPA and NEAR interventions participating in the annual results data collection exercise.

- *KPI 10* reflects the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of ongoing interventions. The information on relevance is provided by the Operational Manager's response to a question in a survey. The information on efficiency and effectiveness is provided either by the logframe data, if sufficient data is available, or the response to a question in a survey, if not.
- *KPI 11* reflects expectations regarding the most probable levels of relevance, efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability that can be achieved by ongoing interventions in the future. In this case, all the information is provided by the Operational Manager's responses to questions in a survey.
- *KPI 12* reflects the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of completed interventions. The information on relevance is provided by the Operational Manager's response to a question in a survey. The information on efficiency and effectiveness is provided by the logframe data if sufficient data is available, or the response to a question in a survey, if not.

² a. *steady progress*: The outcomes are achieved continuously throughout implementation; b. *accelerating progress*: The outcomes are achieved towards the end of implementation; c. *no progress until end*: The outcomes are mostly achieved at the end of implementation; d. *none of the above*.

of the Operational Manager.
6. Calculation of values
<p><i>Specify all assumptions made, list definitions for all technical terms, provide any relevant guidance on (double) counting, and include checklist for quality control.</i></p> <p>The value for this indicator is calculated by counting the number of electoral processes and democratic cycles supported, observed and followed by means of Election Observation Missions, using the technical definitions and counting guidance provided below. Please double check your calculations using the quality control checklist below.</p> <p><u>Technical definitions</u></p> <p><i>Electoral processes</i> encompass the procedures and mechanisms by which individuals are elected to public office or selected for other decision-making roles within a community, organisation or governing body. These processes typically include activities such as voter registration, candidate nomination, campaigning, voter education, ballot casting, vote counting and the declaration of election results. These processes include elections at all levels of government (national and local) and for all institutions or positions, including presidential elections, local government elections, regional elections, referendums and initiatives.</p> <p><i>Democratic cycles</i> refer to the recurring patterns or stages within a democratic system's lifecycle, characterised by shifts in political dynamics, public sentiment and governance practices. These cycles often encompass phases such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Election and transition</u>: this phase involves the selection of leaders through free and fair elections, marking the beginning of a new political term or administration. - <u>Policy formation and implementation</u>: following elections, elected officials develop and enact policies based on their campaign promises and governing priorities, seeking to address societal needs and challenges. - <u>Public engagement and feedback</u>: citizens engage with the political process through activities such as voting, advocacy and participation in public discourse, providing feedback to elected representatives and shaping the direction of governance. - <u>Accountability and oversight</u>: institutions and mechanisms, such as independent media, opposition parties and civil society organisations, play a crucial role in holding government officials accountable for their actions and decisions. - <u>Evaluation and reflection</u>: periodic assessments of government performance and policy outcomes occur, often through opinion polls, performance evaluations and electoral results, prompting reflection and potential adjustments in governance strategies. - <u>Renewal or change</u>: based on evaluation and public sentiment, democratic systems may undergo renewal or change, such as through electoral turnover, policy reforms or shifts in political power, initiating a new cycle of governance. <p>An <i>Election Observation Mission (EOM)</i> is a group of experts and observers deployed to assess the integrity, transparency and fairness of elections. These missions are conducted in accordance with international principles for democratic elections and aim to support democracy, human rights and the rule of law. Both the Organization for Security and Co-</p>

operation (OSCE) and the EU carry out EOMs, but this indicator only considers EOMs carried out by the EU. For further information, see: <https://www.eods.eu/eom-reports/>.

Counting guidance

1. If the intervention relates to election assistance that is not international election observation, then please report results under GERF 2.26 *Number of countries supported by the EU to conduct elections and/or improve their electoral process*.
2. Even though a single EOM could theoretically support more than one electoral process or democratic cycle, in practise this is usually not the case, so it will be assumed that the number of electoral processes or democratic cycles supported corresponds to the number of EOMs carried out.
3. The unit of measurement is the number of electoral processes and democratic cycles supported (see previous point), not the number of countries.

Quality control checklist

1. Does the intervention provide election assistance that is not provided through an EU EOM? If so, please use GERF 2.26 *Number of countries supported by the EU to conduct elections and/or improve their electoral process*.
2. Has the indicator been included directly in the logframe? Reserve the OPSYS matching functionality only for cases when this is not feasible.
3. If the indicator has been included directly in the logframe, does the current value *include* the baseline value? If the indicator has been matched to a logframe indicator, does the current value *exclude* the baseline value?
4. Have you counted the number of EU EOMs? It is assumed that one EOM supports one electoral process or democratic cycle.
5. Is the GERF value a whole number? The number of EOMs cannot be a decimal number.
6. Has double counting been avoided? EOMs can only be counted once.
7. Have the EU EOMs been listed in the comments field? This facilitates quality control of double counting between national and regional interventions.
8. Have all calculations been recorded in the calculation method field? Have all relevant explanations been reported in the comment field?

7. Examples of calculations

In Nigeria, the EU provided support for the general election, as well as local elections in 30 Nigerian states and the Federal Capital Territory. Some state elections were held on the same date as the general election, whereas others were held on different dates. The EU provided both election assistance through the EDF and the NDICI-funded SDGN program (Supporting Democratic Governance in Nigeria) and election observation through a fully-fledged EU EOM. In this case, the total number of electoral processes and democratic cycles supported, observed and followed by means of an EOM was one.

8. Data sources and issues

Please use the data source categories specified in OPSYS.

EU intervention monitoring and reporting systems: *Progress and final reports for the EU-funded intervention; ROM reviews; Baseline and endline surveys conducted and budgeted by the EU-funded intervention.*

Include any issues relating to the availability and quality of the data.

9. Reporting process & Corporate reporting

The data collected on this indicator will be reported in OPSYS by the Implementing Partner. The values encoded in OPSYS will be verified, possibly modified and ultimately validated by the Operational Manager. Once a year the results reported will be frozen for corporate reporting. The methodological services in HQ that are responsible for GERF corporate reporting will perform quality control on the frozen data and aggregate as needed to meet the different corporate reporting requirements.

Please replace ○ with ● for the relevant items below.

This indicator is used for corporate reporting in the following contexts:

- *NDICI via the Annual Report*
- *NDICI via the 2021-27 Programme Performance Statements*
- *INTPA Strategic Plan 2020-24 via the Annual Activity Report*
- *INTPA Strategic Plan 2025-29 via the Annual Activity Report*
- *NEAR Strategic Plan 2020-24 via the Annual Activity Report*
- *ENEST Strategic Plan 2025-29 via the Annual Activity Report*
- *MENA Strategic Plan 2025-29 via the Annual Activity Report*
- *FPI Strategic Plan 2020-24 via the Annual Activity Report*
- *FPI Strategic Plan 2025-29 via the Annual Activity Report*

This indicator has been included in the following other Results Measurement Frameworks:

- *EFSD+*
- *GAP III*
- *IPA III*
- *TEI-MORE*

10. Baseline alignment & Annualisation

Corporate reports most often cover different timeframes. Only rarely does the 7-year Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) start in the same year as the 5-year Strategic Plans. Because the MFF drives the funding for these interventions, it serves as the primary baseline for data collection. To report against other cycles with different start dates, results must first be annualised and then re-cumulated starting from the required baseline year.

The annualisation method depends on the type of indicator, which can be found in Section 2:

- **Flow Indicators** (discrete achievements): These measure "one-off" events or new beneficiaries reached within a specific timeframe (e.g., Number of people trained). To find the annual result, we calculate the variation (the difference between the cumulative total at the end of the year and the beginning of the year).

<p><i>Example: If a project reached 500 total people by 2024 and 800 by 2025, the 2025 annual result is 300 (the new results generated that year).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stock Indicators (continuous support): These measure an ongoing state or sustained support (e.g., Number of countries supported). To find the annual result, we take the total cumulative value at the end of the year, as this represents the full extent of the EU's active footprint. <p><i>Example: If the EU supports 10 countries in 2024 and continues supporting those same 10 in 2025, the 2025 annual result remains 10 (the total "stock" of support active that year).</i></p> <p>In this case, the result is often achieved at the onset of the intervention and remains ongoing throughout implementation. When re-baselining for a new corporate cycle, these results are maintained rather than recalculated as variations. The annual value is the total number of entities under active support at the end of the reporting year, regardless of whether that support commenced before or after the new baseline year.</p>
11. Other uses
<p>GERF 2.27 can be found in the following groups of EU predefined indicators available in OPSYS, along with other related indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Democracy <p>For more information, see: Core indicators for design and monitoring of EU-funded interventions Capacity4dev (europa.eu)</p>
12. Other issues