



program "Slidstvo.info" now has a growing audience, estimated at over 9.5 million. In 2015-2016, the project produced 149 investigative reports on socially important topics, leading to greater government transparency and accountability. Its reporting led to the resignations of eight people in senior leadership positions after the public learned of their alleged corruption.

## ELECTORAL PROCESSES AND POLITICAL PARTY SYSTEMS

Free and fair elections are at the heart of a representative democracy. Canada supports electoral processes and institutions, as well as civic education and engagement throughout the electoral cycle. Canada also supports election observation missions by deploying Canadian election observers and by assisting domestic election observer groups in partner countries. This helps deter electoral fraud in real-time. Recommendations issued by election observation missions help the long term development of free and fair elections.

In 2015-2016, Canada provided \$5.1 million for multinational and domestic election observation missions and deployed 302 Canadian and international election observers to observe elections in Haiti, Guatemala, Guyana, Kyrgyzstan, Sri Lanka, Suriname and Ukraine. Canada's partners included the Organization of American States, the Organization for Security and Co-Operation in Europe, Canada's Civil Response Force, the Forum of Federations, and Canadian Election Observation Missions. Canada helped improve citizen participation and monitoring of Tanzania's 2015 national elections process by supporting a consortium of local civil society organizations in their use of social media platforms.

## EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT CANADA'S (ESDC) LABOUR PROGRAM

ESDC's Labour Program negotiates and administers Canada's trade-related labour agreements (TRLAs). TRLAs include commitments to protect internationally recognized labour rights and principles and to enforce domestic labour laws. By protecting workers' basic rights and improving working conditions and standards of living in partner countries, these agreements ensure fair competition for Canadian industry in a globalized economy.

ESDC also provides technical assistance through capacity-building projects that support the modernization of labour policy and administration in developing countries. These projects foster better enforcement of national labour laws and greater respect for internationally recognized labour rights, which are an integral part of human rights, and help developing countries meet their obligations under TRLAs. This helps developing countries achieve sustainable economic growth while advancing democracy.

Through its technical assistance program, ESDC seeks to strengthen the institutions of democratic governance; promote economic growth while respecting workers' rights; and improve the quality of working conditions in partner countries.

Projects supported in 2015-2016 included the following:

- The Université de Montréal's "Labour Mediator and Arbitrator Capacity Building in China Project" is strengthening respect for international labour principles, including freedom of association and collective bargaining. The project has also promoted good governance through capacity building for Chinese mediators and arbitrators, and fostered workplace democracy by encouraging the participation of workplace partners in labour dispute resolution and prevention processes.
- The Better Work program of the International Labour Organization, in Vietnam aims to strengthen social dialogue in the garment sector, particularly among government and employer and employee organizations to increase the capacity of garment factories to meet core international labour standards. An example of such standards is freedom of association and collective bargaining.
- The Fundación para la Paz y la Democracia is working to bring the capacity of occupational health and safety auditors in Honduras in line with international practices, and to enhance Honduran employers' ability to comply with occupational health and safety standards.