

Did 'Civic Driven Change' fall off the Paris agenda?

Wednesday 1 December 2010, 10:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Progress Hotel, 9 Rue du Progrès, Brussels, Belgium

Recent debate and research on social change processes has highlighted the importance of 'Civic Driven Change' (CDC). Citizens across the globe are organising themselves and striving for change for the wellbeing of all. The type of 'change' they are pursuing is based on a quality of citizenship which is 'civic'. This refers to people's motivation and ability to use their capacities, skills and imagination to change society from a political rather than a technical perspective. Civic Driven Change in itself is not new, but provides a new lens for looking at change processes. What does this lens imply for organisations that promote social change, e.g. in the development sector? What does this lens imply for development policy? How should it be viewed differently? What should you do differently?

Context and Broederlijk Delen, in collaboration with Cordaid, HIVOS, ISS, Social Evaluator and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, invite you to a seminar where you can share views and experiences on citizen-led change processes and reflect on the interface with established policy frameworks. The seminar will focus on whether Civic Driven Change processes indeed fell off the Paris agenda? This seminar is part of a process organised within the framework of the Development Policy Review Framework (DPRN) and provides an excellent opportunity for Dutch participants to engage with Belgian and international colleagues, and vice versa.

Two speakers will kick off the theme of the day, both of whom come from South Africa. An engaging and passionate speaker, Dr Alan Fowler (whose posts include that of professor at the Institute of Social Studies) is well-known for his provocative stance and his continual challenging of development practitioners to perfect their practice. He was one of the initiators of the CDC think tank which produced the book 'Civic Driven Change; Citizen's Imagination in Action' in 2009. Dr Alan Fowler will introduce us to the key components of CDC thinking (history, state of the art, and implications for policy). From that we will move on to an outspoken practical example from South Africa brought to us by Dr Gavin Andersson. What if hundreds of volunteers all over South Africa began working together to try to make a better life? What difference could they make? Could they ensure that children do not go hungry? Could they reduce violent crime that causes so much pain and damage in our lives? Could they make their communities look better, work better and feel better? Dr Gavin Andersson – a prominent actor in civil society strengthening in South Africa – will tell us about this extraordinary new development project that is proof that, with a little help and support, ordinary people in poorer communities across the country can make real changes in the life of their communities and will link this to development policy.

With these inputs fresh in mind, and following an informal lunch, participants will be challenged to reflect, in working groups, on their own practice and engage in explorations and discussions with co-participants. Short inputs will be provided by, among others, Jean Bossuyt (ECDPM), Pieter Bierma (Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Pol de Greve and Jef de

Molder (Broederlijk Delen). The discussions will focus on the interaction between civic driven change processes and established policy frameworks of international cooperation, such as:

- Which policy developments in the Netherlands and Belgium are conducive to 'Civic Driven Change' in the South?
- What kind of interface exists between CDC type processes that are intrinsically complex, unpredictable and nonlinear, and policy frameworks that demand linear planning, effectiveness and accountability?
- What kind of interface exists between CDC type processes that are often driven by change agents outside of the development sector and policy frameworks that are intended to set the agenda for change?

The day will conclude with a lively and participatory plenary session which will focus on the day's inspiring examples, challenging dilemmas and core insights, while linking back to the core questions: what does the CDC lens have to offer and what are its implications for development policy?

We look forward to seeing you in Brussels on 1 December 2010.

Registration

For registration (max. 70 participants), please click [here](#) or visit our website www.civicdrivenchange.org. The venue is Progress Hotel, 9 Rue du Progrès, Brussels; all presentations and discussions will be held in English.



The 'Civic Driven Change and policy' seminar is being organised by Context International cooperation, the Institute of Social Studies (ISS), Hivos, Broederlijk Delen, social e-valuator, Cordaid and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs as part of the DPRN process 'Civic Driven Change: implications for policymakers and practitioners' (<http://cdc.global-connections.nl/>). The aim of the Development Policy Review Network (DPRN) is to stimulate informed debate and discussion of issues related to the formulation and implementation of development policies and to create opportunities to promote open exchange and dialogue between scientists, policymakers, development practitioners and the business sector in the Netherlands and Flanders. For more information see www.DPRN.nl and www.global-connections.nl.