



## **Seminar: Assessing Development from the Bottom-up: End Users' Perceptions of Change**

- Date: 3 June 2013, (2pm-5pm)
- Place: Pieter de la Court building, Faculty of Social Sciences University of Leiden, Room SB45, Wassenaarseweg 52, Leiden (a 7-minute walk from Leiden CS).
- Organising agencies: ICCO, Woord en Daad, Prisma, ASC, KIT & UvA

### **Framing of the seminar:**

In the wake of the development (in) effectiveness debate voices were raised in favour of measuring the impact of development assistance more professionally.

Impact evaluations were brought forth as a means to open up the black box of development effectiveness, by addressing the why question or the raisons behind the generally perceived ineffectiveness of development assistance. Numerous new impact evaluations techniques were developed, ranging from rigid randomized control trials to more participatory approaches pioneered by Freire (1921-1997) and Chambers. At present, the importance of measuring development progress is receiving renewed attention within the post-2015 debates.

When zooming in on the Netherlands the strict division between “randomistas” and defenders of qualitative, participatory methods is slowly being bridged, which should be applauded as “either-or” discussions rarely result in progressive solutions.

Participatory Assessment of Development (PADev) can be seen as an outcome of this debate. It seeks to answer the why question from a beneficiary perspective. It combines participatory techniques with robust data entry templates, capturing extensive information in a comprehensible manner, making semi-quantitative analysis possible, without neglecting the reasons behind the local assessments.

Initiated by three collaborating Dutch development NGOs (ICCO –and-partners, Woord en Daad, and Prisma), the University of Amsterdam (later African Studies Centre and Koninklijk Instituut voor de Tropen), the University for Development Studies in Tamale, Northern Ghana and Expertise pour le Développement au Sahel (later renamed Etudes Action Conseils (EAC)) in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, PAdDev has evolved over a period of 5 years (2008-2013) into a holistic impact evaluation approach.

During 4 rounds of field visits and extensive research, conducted by various master students, the approach has been fine-tuned and has proven to yield valuable information for NGOs, governments, businesses, and other agencies linked to ‘development and change’ in the area. The toppled perspective PAdDev adopts, combined with its historical point of view, results in a wealth of information, which can be relevant and useful for a wide array of actors. In addition it is a useful tool for identifying niches, gaps and “saturated sectors” as well as areas for cooperation and harmonization.

This seminar wants to delve into the wealth of local assessments collected over the past 5 years, focusing on the utilization of the findings for various development actors.

## Core questions:

- What have we learned by listening to local people over a period of 5 years?
- For whom is this information valuable and what should be done to increase utilization and learning for multiple actors on different levels?
- Is PADev a suitable tool for joint evaluations?
- How can the business sector use PADev findings to increase return on investment?
- Is PADev a tool for measuring inclusive development, inclusively?
- What is the impact of PADev beyond the 'development industry'? Is there process use on a local level and how has knowledge been shared during and after PADev workshops? Is the local knowledge owned locally? And how can we increase local ownership?
- What are the benefits and threats of total transparency? How can the PADev website be used for the good?
- Can PADev findings be used as inputs for Community Action Plans?
- What can be learned from the PADev findings for the post-2015 global development framework?
- ...

## The seminar consists of:

**An afternoon session** encompassing a broad audience of evaluation experts, development practitioners, the private sector and government agencies.

This session will focus on the use of PADev and its results, by multiple actors on various levels within the development industry. Several cases will be discussed focusing on the utilization of PADev, sometimes in combination with other evaluation tools, for assessing inclusive development. In addition, we will look into the usefulness of PADev findings for a wide range of actors, as well as, what the collected data could imply for a post-2015 global development framework which seeks to incorporate local perceptions.

A detailed programme will be shared with you within due time.

You are kindly invited to join us during the afternoon session.  
Please indicate your presence by emailing to [z.vlaminck@ascleiden.nl](mailto:z.vlaminck@ascleiden.nl).

More information about **PADev** can be found on [www.padev.nl](http://www.padev.nl).

Looking forward to seeing you in Leiden on 3 June.

Kind regards,

The PADev Team