

IDS Training



DLGN Learning Retreat: Civic engagement and socially inclusive local governance

Tuesday 2 – Friday 5 September, 2014

In collaboration with the Democratisation, Decentralisation and Local Governance Network (DLGN), Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC)

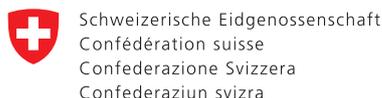
Introduction

This Learning Retreat will explore current thinking, practice and lessons learned in supporting meaningful civic engagement in local governance and policy processes, and in enabling socially inclusive local governance in developing countries. Strategies for enhancing civil society and active citizen participation will be examined, using power analysis to identify opportunities for working with new and informal civic and political actors.

Who is it for

The Learning Retreat is designed for experienced programme and donor staff, policy-makers, practitioners, civil society actors and public servants working in contexts of decentralised local governance, service provision, and civic participation. Members of the Democratisation, Decentralisation and Local Governance Network (DLGN) of the Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development (SDC) and others working on similar issues in the context of developing countries are encouraged to enrol. It has been designed for DLGN members, but is open to other participants.

Participants should be proficient in English and able to follow and take an active part in discussions.



Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC



Democratization, Decentralization and Local Governance Network





Objectives of the Learning Retreat

Participants will gain exposure to current issues, debates, case studies, strategies and methods related to strengthening civic engagement and social inclusion in local governance. Particular emphasis will be given to introducing and applying skills of context analysis, power and actor analysis, and strategy development, linking concepts and practices.

The Retreat combines interactive presentations and seminars in the mornings, facilitated by experienced IDS resource people, with the structured sharing and analysis of participants' experiences in the afternoons. Readings and resource materials will be provided. Tools for analysis and strategy development will be introduced and applied to examples and cases.

IDS is accredited by the British Accreditation Council for Independent Further and Higher Education as a Short Course Provider.

Content

- Promoting civic engagement in local governance and service delivery: concepts, examples, good practices and lessons learned from experience
- Beyond the usual suspects: working with informal and unfunded civic and political actors, taking a broader view of what constitutes civil and political society, and citizenship.
- What can power analysis tell us about social inclusion, citizen voice, accountability and government responsiveness? Concepts, methods and examples.
- Inclusive local governance in fragile and post-conflict settings; supporting citizen participation in reconstruction programmes.

Facilitators and Resource People (TBC)

- **John Gaventa** is a political sociologist, educator and civil society practitioner with extensive experience of research, training and organizational leadership across the globe. As an academic researcher, he has worked extensively on areas of international development, citizen participation and action, participatory methods of research and learning; power and empowerment; participatory governance and accountability; global citizenship and social movements, and grassroots organisation. Dr Gaventa currently holds a joint appointment between the Institute of Development Studies, and the Coady International Institute in Canada, where he is Director. The Coady Institute is recognised around the

world for building the leadership capacity of citizens and their organizations to effect social, economic and political change in their countries, and to hold duty bearers accountable for the decisions they make. Dr. Gaventa has also served as a leader of civil society organizations, including director of the Highlander Center in the United States, and chair of Oxfam Great Britain. A former Rhodes Scholar and MacArthur Prize Fellow, in 2011 he also received the Tisch Civic Engagement Research Prize for his distinguished scholarship on civic learning, citizen participation and engaged research. He holds a DPhil. degree from Oxford University.

- **Jethro Pettit** is a Research Fellow in Politics and Society, and Director of Teaching and Learning at the Institute of Development Studies. His interests are in processes of citizen engagement in local governance, and the roles of civil society, social movements and civic leadership in achieving equitable and sustainable development. He works with organisations and leaders to develop context-appropriate methods of power analysis and capacities for critical, reflective and experiential learning via workshops, evaluations and learning projects.
- **Anuradha Joshi** is a Research Fellow and Team Leader at the Institute of Development Studies. She is a social scientist with a focus on policy processes and extensive experience in institutional analysis of development. She has worked on issues related to poverty, low-income housing, public services and environmental policy. Currently she focuses on collective action, social accountability and service delivery - mobilising 'demand' in basic services and in the scaling-up of innovative service delivery approaches. She is also interested in taxation of the informal sector. Anuradha has experience of consulting for bilateral and multilateral agencies in development and managing large, multi-country research projects.
- **Alex Shankland** is Research Fellow at the Institute of Development Studies. He is a social scientist with over two decades' experience of working in Brazil, Peru, Angola and Mozambique as a researcher, NGO manager and social development consultant. He has researched, taught and published extensively on rights, participation and policy, particularly in the health sector, and his doctoral thesis was on representation and health policy in the Brazilian Amazon.
- **Marjoke Oosterom** is a postdoctoral research fellow in the Governance Team with a background in political science and development studies. She is interested in how citizens can collaborate with, negotiate or challenge the political institutions in their lives, and hold them to account. Much of her work concentrates on democratic governance and citizen participation in (post)conflict settings, where the context is unfavourable to citizen action and the space for civil society is limited.

Dates

The Learning Retreat will run over 4 full days from Tuesday 2 to Friday 5 September 2014.

Costs

For members of the DLGN, the ongoing SDC DLGN – IDS Governance partnership will cover the costs of Retreat facilitation. Lunches during the four days and one evening dinner will also be provided.

The Learning Retreat is also open for participants from outside of DLGN. The costs for non-DLGN participants is £1,000.

All participants will need to cover travel costs, accommodation and any other expenses.

Local Information and Accommodation

The workshop will be held at the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), at Sussex University. IDS is located just outside Brighton on the edge of the South Downs National Park.

Participants will need to book their own accommodation. We have reserved rooms at the Jury's Inn Hotel in Brighton. However, to guarantee a room, the participants will need to book this directly with the hotel by 18 July 2014.



Jury's Inn is centrally located and only a 10 minute train ride away from IDS.

For more information on Brighton see www.visitbrighton.com/ or <http://tourism.brighton.co.uk/>

Travel and Visa arrangements

Participants are responsible for making their own travel arrangements. The nearest international airport is London Gatwick (about 30 minutes by train from Brighton). London Heathrow is about 2.5 hours by coach.

Participants are also responsible for their own visa arrangements (if applicable), although IDS can provide a supporting letter if needed.

Booking

Places at the Learning Retreat are limited. To book your place please visit the events website www.ids.ac.uk/si2014 to download the booking form. Please email the completed form to Susanne Schirmer on S.Schirmer@ids.ac.uk by 30 June 2014, mid-day.

The booking procedure is a 2 step (for DLGN members) or 3 step (for non-DLGN members) process:

- Step 1: deadline for applications is Monday 30 June 2014, mid-day
- Step 2: We will get back to you to confirm your place on the Learning Retreat in the week of 7 July. Successful applicants that are not part of the DLGN network will receive an invoice.
- Step 3 (for non DLGN members only): Once we have received the fees applicants will receive confirmation of a place on course and a letter to support their visa application (if required). Places on the Retreat are not guaranteed until fees have been received.