INVITATION CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT AND NETWORKS

Kickoff meeting: 20 January 2009

Meetings in groups: 3 March, 2 and 3 April, 15 May
Presentation of results: 25 June

Learning about networks
Networking, it sounds so attractive. Various organisations work together in a network, they learn from each other, coordinate, take action together, and as organiser you are able to stimulate, support and strengthen this. Success is guaranteed.

Reality turns out to be more unruly. Perhaps you are soon doing the donkey work, whereas participating organisations respond slowly despite the fact that you would so much like to see ownership. Or you have to invest that much time in cooperation that you feel you are not achieving sufficient results.

During the collective learning trajectory on Networks and Capacity development we will look at these issues and investigate what it takes to work effectively with networks. We will provide a theoretical basis with which participants can reflect on their own practice. You will work in groups of kindred spirits: practitioners who work with similar networks and who face the same questions.

For who?
This collective learning is for everyone (from PSO member organizations) who is interested in making networks effective and who has actual (or had recently) responsibility as participant, facilitator or advisor of a network with southern participants.

Content
This collective learning trajectory is divided into five meetings.

The first meeting is a kick off meeting with all participants and provides theoretical background to several types of networks and how they contribute to capacity development.
We will discuss questions like:

- How do you develop organizational capacity in networks?
- How do networks learn?
- How to map different types of networks?.

In the second till fourth meeting groups per type of network will work with different models on questions about managing networks like:

- When does a network function well?
- What keeps a network alive?
- What capacity development is needed for the sustainability of the network?
- When do organizations own the network?
- How to stimulate good communications flow?
- What is the development impact of a network?

And question about the roles in Networks like:

- What roles do different organisations have in a network?
- How to deal with multiple roles as donor, advisor, facilitator, auditor etc.?
- Who has a leading role within an network and what are acceptable exit strategies?
- Ownership and identity.

The fifth meeting concludes the collective learning trajectory with a synthesis of the work of the three groups. Results and learned lessons will be presented and compared. This meeting will be open to all member organizations of PSO

Further information
In the meetings you will be presented with a small amount of theory. You will work with cases from practical experiences with networks . The focus will be on how theory and new insights can be applied. Between the meetings you will spend about 8 hours for reflecting on your own network experience, speaking with colleagues, preparing input for the next meeting etc.
Participation is free of charge for PSO member organizations.

Dates
Kickoff meeting
Tuesday 20 January 2009
Meetings in groups according to type of network
Tuesday 3 March 2009
Thursday 2 (from 16.00) and Friday 3 (till 16.00) April 2009 (this is with overnight accommodation, arranged as part of the course)
Friday 15 May 2009
Presentation of results
Thursday 25 June 2009

Interested?
Please email Koen Faber faber@pso.nl or Arja Aarnoudse aarnoudse@pso.nl .
Subscribe on aanmelding@pso.nl before 14th December 2008. After your subscription we will contact you for intake.