

Amplifying the voice of communities

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The power issue

- In partnerships for development Northern/international CSOs have more power than Southern/national CSOs and CBOs. This is a problem because:
 - It is unfair and causes friction
 - Makes CSO partnerships less effective
 - Southern CSOs limited in developing their own capacities and strategies
 - **(Important in the context of this webinar) Southern CSOs are forced to listen more to actors in the North than to communities**

Why we developed the Power awareness tool

- In the last 20-30 years no change in power relations despite widespread consensus that power imbalance is a problem
- One of the factors why this is the case: Power is elusive and abstract
- Hypothesis:
 - If we make power less abstract, and more tangible/visible
 - Then, it becomes easier to discuss and change power relations
- Conclusion: We need a tool to make power visible

The Power awareness tool

- Basic principle of the PAT: If you want to have a meaningful dialogue between partners about power you must address the question *who is taking which important decisions in the partnership?*

The Power awareness tool

The Power awareness tool is:

- Simple to use
 - No need to hire external facilitators
 - Not too time consuming
 - No complex or new terminology
- Encourages reflection
- Is applicable to existing and newly emerging partnerships

Why we started the Partos CoP Shift-the-Power



- The Power awareness tool for change within partnerships
- Also change needed at higher systemic levels
- Therefore, we started the Partos Community of Practice Shift-the-Power

The Partos CoP Shift-the-Power



samen werkt.

With the Partos CoP Shift-the-Power we aim to:

- Make a contribution to the global StP movement
- Change the system, with a focus on the sub-system of partnerships built around the Dutch policy framework for Strengthening Civil Society

The Partos CoP Shift-the-Power



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The process

