About the author

Elsbet Lodenstein (1976) holds a master’s degree in Development Studies. Her first encounter with citizen participation initiatives in sub-Saharan Africa was in 2000 when she conducted fieldwork in Senegal on the involvement of citizens in natural resource management. Her thesis on this topic was awarded the Speckmann prize for best master thesis in the field of Anthropology and Development Studies of Leiden University. In Senegal, Elsbet first experienced working and living abroad, and she developed an interest in advisory work in Africa. Between 2002 and 2007 she worked as an advisor with the Netherlands Development Organization (SNV) in West Africa, focusing on the implementation of a local governance and devolution programme (Mali) and the strengthening of citizen participation in the district health system (Ghana). Since 2007 she has worked as governance and gender advisor at the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT) in Amsterdam. She assists governments, funding agencies, NGOs, CSOs and women’s rights organizations in policy review, programme design, monitoring and evaluation, learning and knowledge management, gender analysis and mainstreaming, and research capacity building.