

# Knowledge for Change (K4C): a global project to train the next generations of community-based researchers

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*Living Knowledge Network  
Budapest, Hungary  
May 30, 2018*



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Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



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UNESCO Chair in Community Based  
Research and Social Responsibility  
in Higher Education

# Content

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- ◉ Sharing of experineces – global map
- ◉ Knowledge for Change (K4C)
- ◉ Experiences with Italian Hub
- ◉ K4C Mentor Training Program (MTP)

# Sharing of experiences

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**what kind of training in CBR have you received?**

**what kind of training in CBR have you provided?**

# The UNESCO Chair in CBR-SR

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**Objective:** to work with other global networks to support capacity building in the fields CBR and SR in higher education through South-South and North-South-South partnerships.



**Project IDRC (2013-15):** *Mainstreaming Community-University Research Partnerships*

**Project SSHRC (2014-16):** *Building the Next Generation of Community-based Researchers (“The Next Gen project”)*

# Lessons & Key Findings

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Most respondents have not had any **formal training** in CBR.

- CBR capabilities are acquired mostly through self-directed learning and on-the-job (workplace) training, and workshops (1 to 10 days duration) and university courses (theory-based).

There is a **high demand for training and learning** about doing CBR, but formal, structured training opportunities have been scarce.

- Collaborative training efforts are still missing. Need of university involvement beyond individual thesis researches and short-term projects to long term engagement.
- Importance of **long-term relationships** between communities and HEIs or CSOs

**Content** of training: Focus on specific methods/data collection techniques.

- Ethics, mutuality, partnership, cross-cultural communication, group facilitation are critical for practitioners of CBR but rarely included in any formal training.

Over 50% of the survey respondents consider that the most effective training approaches for building capacities in CBR are participating in **community actions** [field practice] and/or performing **art-based activities** (e.g., music, theatre, storytelling).

- Almost 40% of students enrolled in HEIs have never taken community actions or performed art-based activities as part of their training in CBR.

# The Knowledge for Change (K4C) Consortium

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- K4C is a global initiative of the UNESCO Chair, under the joint leadership of UVic and PRIA, and its HEIs and CSOs partners.
- Purpose: **1)** to train of a new generation of community workers and students in the theory and practice of CBR; **2)** to create an international communication network on knowledge democracy, justice and equity as a contribution to local, national and global challenges such as the UN SDGs.

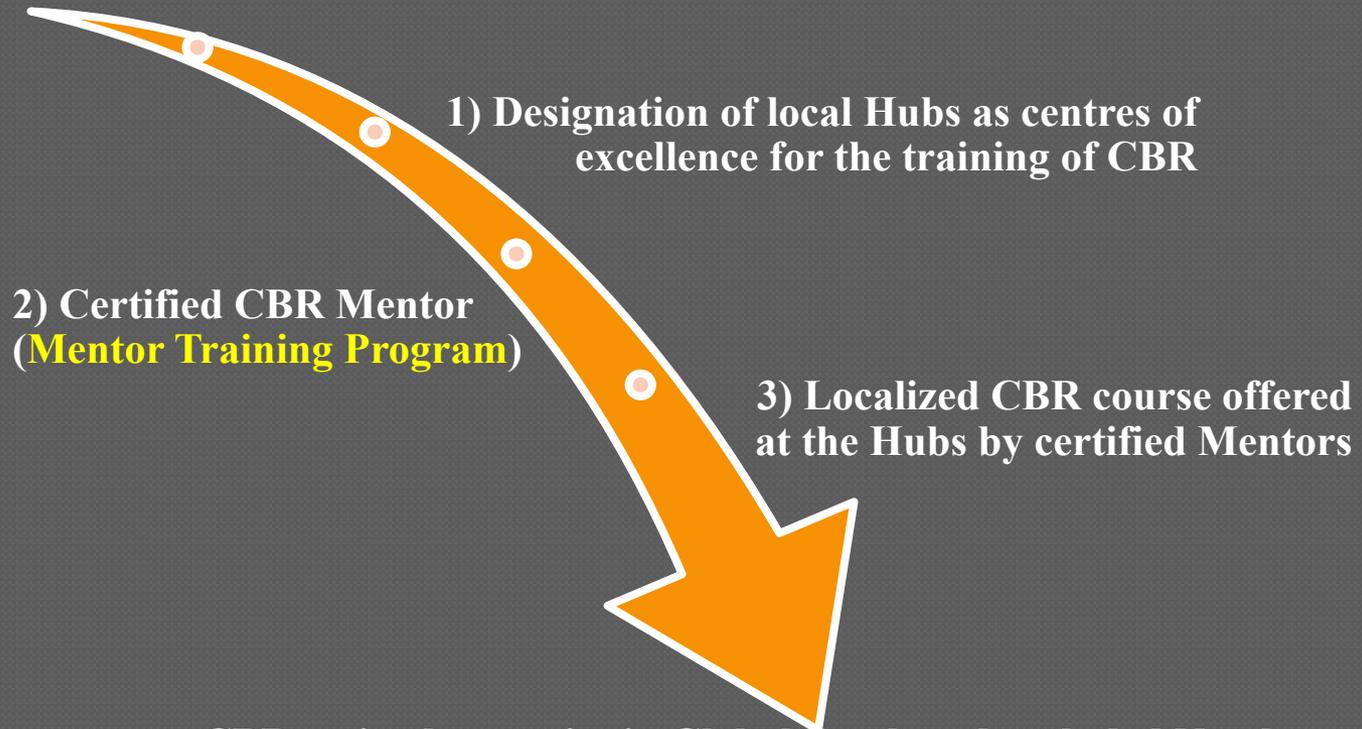


Creation of **local training hubs** in India, Indonesia, Italy, South Africa, Colombia and Cuba (2018), and Canada, UK, Brazil and Spain (2019)

# K4C Mentor Training Program

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K4C Co-Directors (UNESCO Chair in CBR)



CBR trained expertise in Global South and excluded North to promote social transformation and community change in line with the UN SDGs

# K4C Mentor Training Program

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- The MTP is a **21-week non-credit course** consisting primarily of 3 components: **online** learning activities, a two-week **face-to-face** learning component, and a **field work** component to be carried out locally under the guidance of a local supervisor.
- The MTP is designed for experienced civil society and community based participatory researchers in higher education institutions.
- The UNESCO Chair will provide a certificate to the mentors, on the successful completion of the course requirements. This will be the only valid global certification for CBR mentors that currently exists.

# K4C Mentor Training Program (Goals)

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1. Build a common vocabulary for CBR.
2. Understand the theory and practice of CBR.
3. Understand the personal and social skills critical for working in CBR.
4. Development of strong skills in working with communities and students, and teaching CBR.
5. Prepare case studies in local/national languages as future training materials for local training based on a field experience.
6. Use research findings to find/build local solutions linked to the UN SDGs
7. Discover new sources of text, audio, video resources, that may be useful for the hub and the local community.
8. Share experiences with others around the world who are engaged in training for CBR as well.

# K4C-MTP Challenges

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- To overcome English-language domination of CBR training materials, and their cost.
- To establish standards and credentials to assure quality and consistency for training in CBR.
- Hubs sustainability and Integration of local courses into institutional incentives and priorities
- Global and local/regional impact assessment of CBR projects

# Knowledge products

## KNOWLEDGE AND ENGAGEMENT

Building Capacity for the Next Generation of  
Community Based Researchers



Edited by  
**Rajesh Tandon, Budd Hall,  
Walter Lepore and Wafa Singh**

<http://bit.ly/KnowledgeandEngagement>

Training the Next Generation  
of Community Based Researchers



*A Guide for Trainers*

Rajesh Tandon, Budd Hall, Walter Lepore and Wafa Singh

<http://bit.ly/ManualNextGen>

# Sharing of experiences

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**What are other training opportunities exist?**

**What opportunities for collaborations?**