

# KNOWLEDGE FOR CHANGE (K4C) CONSORTIUM

## A UNESCO Chair in Community Based Research & Social Responsibility in Higher Education Initiative

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### Background information

The Knowledge for Change (K4C) Consortium is an initiative of the UNESCO Chair in Community-Based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education, under the joint directions of Dr. Budd Hall (University of Victoria, Canada) and Dr. Rajesh Tandon (PRIA, India). A variety of local training hubs have been created under the K4C Consortium to design and conduct educational programs in order to develop research capacities for the co-creation of knowledge through collective action by practitioners, community-based researchers, community groups and academics. Each local hub is made up of at least a higher education institution (HEI) and a civil society organization (CSO) collaborating on strengthening individual research capacities and professional skills using a variety of teaching methods. Following a cascade training model, the K4C Consortium has developed a 21-week Mentor Training Program (MTP) based on online learning activities, a two-week face-to-face learning workshop, and a field work component to be carried out locally under the guidance of a local supervisor. The mentors trained under the supervision of the UNESCO Co-Chairs will be given a certificate under the joint seal of the UNESCO Chair CBR-SR, PRIA International Academy (PIA) and the University of Victoria (UVic). Upon successful completion of the MTP, the certified mentors are expected to play a key role in the development of the local hub, including the creation of teaching curriculum and pedagogy, and the development of research capacities in the local/regional hubs. The Mentor Training Program will be offered four times over 2018/19 to build capacities for 100 mentors in the next 2 year.

### The local hubs – Institutional Requirements

1. Each hub is required to be a formal partnership between, at least, a higher education institution (HEI) and a civil society organization (CSO). A non-binding **Memorandum of Understanding** between parties (or other formal collaboration agreement) that specifies shared goals, anticipated outcomes, methodology, and governance structure of the local hub is required. The hub will be led by a coordinator, who will have overall responsibility for the development of the training partnership, and supported by field work supervisors who will guide the future hub mentors throughout the K4C MTP.
2. The hub will focus on the development of local courses on the co-construction of knowledge and its application to the solution of community issues linked to the UN SDGs (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>). The hub needs to **identify at least two SDGs** the participating organizations are interested to work on, suggest **research themes** linked to local contextual issues, and develop a **training program for local community-based researchers** within and outside the academia adapting the K4C-MTP curriculum and pedagogy to



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the local context.

3. The selection of **hub coordinators and supervisors** will be done in consultation between the Parties and the UNESCO Chair in CBR-SR. The local supervisor is expected to have: (1) exhaustive field experience in pursuing community-based projects; (2) prior experience in the field of supervising CBR projects; (3) commitment towards CBR initiatives and/or community-based pedagogies; (4) established potential to guide the MTP mentors in addressing community issues linked to the UN SDGs.
4. Each hub will select and financially support between **3 and 5 mentors** to participate in the MTP. The selection of mentors will be done in consultation between the Parties and the UNESCO Chair in CBR-SR. At present the MTP fee is US\$2500 dollars for the 21-week on-line course, including accommodation and meals during the two-week face-to-face workshop. Other costs related to the face-to-face interaction (i.e., flight tickets to the location where the workshop will be held) will be paid by the mentor and/or the sponsoring hub.
5. The selected mentors will commit to: (1) Undergo the MTP spanning 21 weeks. (2) Attend the face-to-face component of the MTP. (3) Undertake supervised field research in association with the communities. (4) Collate contextually relevant teaching resources in local languages that can be used as learning materials by future cohorts. (5) Design a teaching program in CBR for trainees in their host university.
6. A local hub cannot implement the K4C curriculum and pedagogy without a minimum number of its mentors taking the MTP and being certified by the UNESCO Chair CBR-SR.
7. The organizations interested in developing a local training hub are required to submit a **letter of application** to the UNESCO Chair in CBR-SR, which addresses the following:
  - a. Name of the proposed hub.
  - b. Names and description of the proposed community and academic hub partners.
  - c. Names of the persons responsible for each partner organization.
  - d. History of work in CBR by both organizations.
  - e. Focus of training for the proposed hub (make reference to the UN SDGs).
  - f. Agreement to cover the fees of 3-5 mentors in the MTP (at present US\$2500).
  - g. Time table showing when the local training program could be running following completion of the MTP.
  - h. Ideas on the catchment area envisioned for participants, and recruiting and marketing strategies.
  - i. Proposed location of the local CBR training program within the academic and institutional structures of the hub partner organizations, and level of the research training course (undergraduate, post-graduate, external community workshops, etc.).
  - j. Hub financial sustainability plan (5-year time frame).