THE KNOWLEDGE FOR CHANGE (K4C) GLOBAL CONSORTIUM

An initiative of the UNESCO Chair in Community-based Research and
Social Responsibility in Higher Education

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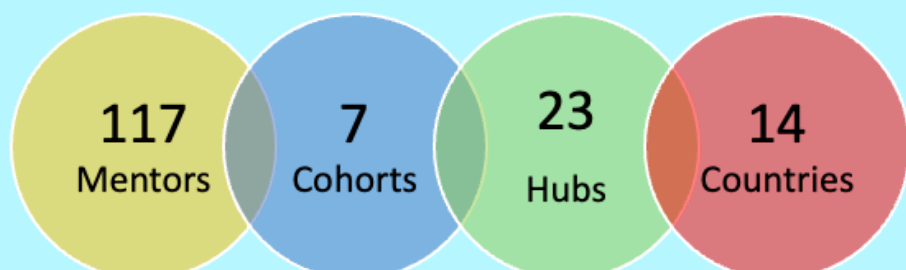
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The Knowledge for Change (K4C) Global Consortium is an initiative of the UNESCO Chair in Community-based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education, under the joint directions of Dr. Budd Hall (University of Victoria, Canada) and Dr. Rajesh Tandon (PRIA, India). A variety of local training hubs have been created under the K4C Consortium to design and conduct educational programmes 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 organisation (CSO) collaborating on strengthening individual research capacities and professional skills using a variety of teaching methods.

Following a cascade training model, the K4C Global Consortium has developed a 21-week Mentor Training Programme (MTP) based on online learning activities, a two-week face- to-face learning residency, and a field study 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-SRHE, 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 MTP will be offered through UVic Continuing Studies. Currently under K4C, there are 23 Hubs across 14 countries.

117 Mentors **7** Cohorts **23** Hubs **14** Countries

INSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR LOCAL K4C HUBS

1. Each hub is required to be a formal partnership between, at least, a higher education institution (HEI) and a civil society organisation (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 study supervisors who will guide the future hub mentors throughout the K4C-MTP.

2. The hub will focus on the development of the local courses on the co-construction of knowledge and its application to the solution of the community issues linked to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs). The hub must identify at least two UN SDGs that the participating organisations are interested to work on, suggest research themes linked to local contextual issues, and develop a training programme for local community-based researchers within and outside the academia adapting the K4C-MTP curriculum and pedagogy to the local context.

3. The selection of hub coordinators and supervisors will be done in consultation between the Parties and the UNESCO Chair CBR-SRHE. The local supervisor is expected to have: (1) some field experience in pursuing community-based projects; (2) prior experience in the field of supervising CBPR projects; (3) commitment towards CBPR initiatives and/or community-based pedagogies; (4) linked to the UN SDGs.

4. Presently the MTP includes free accommodation and meals during the face-to-face learning residency. Other costs (i.e., flight tickets to the location where the learning residency 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 programme in CBPR for trainees in their host university.

6. Upon completion and certification of the MTP, certified mentors must get their local K4C curriculum and pedagogy hub design of training in CBPR reviewed and approved by the UNESCO Chair.