

# K4C Members' Meet

GIRONA, SPAIN

26-28 JUNE, 2024

AT THE 10TH LIVING KNOWLEDGE CONFERENCE



PICTURE FROM K4C MEMBERS MEETING. JUNE 26 (2024). 1800-2000 HRS. HALL A3, UNIVERSITAT DE GIRONA

## INTRODUCTION

The 10th Edition of the Living Knowledge Conference (LKC) unfolded at the Universitat de Girona from June 26 to June 28, 2024. This conference, a vibrant congregation of the "Living Knowledge" network, brought together Science Shops and similar organizations dedicated to fostering public engagement and involving Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Research & Innovation (R&I).

The goal of these conferences is to facilitate cooperation between civil society and academic institutions, promoting participatory projects, staff exchanges, and influencing international research and innovation policies.

Since 2006, the UNESCO Chair has been a pivotal collaborator with the Living Knowledge Network (LKN), championing global exchanges in community-based participatory research (CBPR) and engaged scholarship.

Spearheaded by Drs. Tandon and Hall, this collaboration influenced the creation of the Global Alliance for Community-Engaged Research (GACER), which has evolved into our UNESCO Chair.

This year, K4C Global Consortium members attended the conference, not only as presenters and moderators but also to deliberate on the network's future.

*Ruchika*

Ruchika Rai, Coordinator, K4C Global Consortium, UNESCO Chair in Community-based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education

## K4C REGIONS IN ATTENDANCE

### ASIA REGION

### AFRICA REGION

### EUROPE REGION

### LATIN AMERICA

### NORTH AMERICA

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**ATTENDEES**

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**ASIA REGION**

**UNIMAS Qadim K4C Hub, Sarawak, Malaysia**

Representatives: Dr. Ahmad Syafiq bin Ahmad Nasir (Hub Member); Prof. Dr. Mohd. Affendy bin Arip (Hub Member)

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**AFRICA REGION**

**Gulu K4C Hub and Regional Training Centre, Gulu, Uganda**

Representative: Dr. Lamwaka Alice Veronica (Hub Mentor)

**South Africa (North) K4C Hub, Potchefstroom and Bloemfontein, South Africa**

Representatives: Prof. Dr. Lesley Wood (Hub Coordinator)

**Prospective Hub**

**Nelson Mandela University, South Africa**

Representative: Dr. Bruce Damons

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**EUROPE REGION**

**Brescia K4C Hub, Brescia, Italy**

Representative: Dr. Giovanna Grossi (Hub Coordinator)

**Catalan K4C Hub, Barcelona, Spain**

Representative: Dr. Anne-Sophie Gresle (Hub Mentor)

**UL Engage K4C Hub and Regional Training Centre, Limerick, Ireland**

Representatives: Dr. Maura Adshead (Hub Coordinator); Dr. Niamh O'Sullivan (Hub Mentor); Ms. Eileen Hoffler (Hub Mentor)

**Sassari K4C Hub, Sassari, Italy**

Representatives: Dr. Andrea Vargiu (Hub Coordinator); Dr. Valentina Ghibellini (Hub Mentor); Dr. Marta Congiu (Hub Mentor); Dr. Stefania Frongia (Hub Mentor); Dr. Giulia Nurchi (Hub Mentor)

**Prospective Hub**

**University of the Basque Country, Spain**

Representative: Dr. Zesar Martinez

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**LATIN AMERICA REGION**

**Colombia IAPaZ K4C Hub and Regional Training Centre, Ibaguè, Colombia**

Representative: Prof. Dr. Irma Flores (Hub Coordinator)

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**ATTENDEES**

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**NORTH AMERICA REGION**

**Salish Sea K4C Hub, Victoria, Canada**

Representative: Dr. Walter Lepore (Hub Coordinator)

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**UNESCO Chair Team**

Prof. Dr. Budd Hall, Co-Chair, UNESCO Chair in Community Based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education

Ms. Ruchika Rai, Coordinator, Knowledge for Change Global Consortium

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Pictures (left and right) from the K4C Members' Meet, June 26th 2024

## Highlights from the K4C Members' Meeting - June 26th, 2024

Dr. Rajesh Tandon, Co-Chair of the UNESCO Chair in Community-Based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education (CBRSRHE), virtually addressed K4C members from New Delhi, India, announcing the inauguration of the African Regional Training Centre at Gulu University K4C Hub in Uganda, coinciding with the first African Mentor Training Program (MTP) Residency.

He highlighted the increasing demand for participatory methodology, particularly from

health and education sectors, urging K4C Hubs to prepare for diverse collaboration requests.

The Catalan K4C Hub, newly integrated into the K4C Global Consortium, operates from the Barcelona Institute for Global Health (IS GLOBAL) in Spain. With their mentors having completed the MTP in January 2024, they are now poised to offer CBPR training to healthcare professionals and public health researchers.



Picture from L4C session by (left to right) Walter Lepore, Irma Flores, Budd Hall and Lesley Wood

The Brescia Hub in Italy is continuing its innovative summer school project focused on Environmental Sustainability, primarily targeting MA/PhD students. This year, the second edition of the summer school was hosted by the Sassari Hub.

The Sassari Hub proposed enhancing collaboration between hubs and suggested formalizing the consortium with a document similar to a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to solidify direct cooperation among hubs.



Pictures from L4C session presented by Irma Flores, Andrea Vargiu, Vallentina Ghibellini and Walter Lepore

The Salish Sea Hub in Victoria, Canada, with Dr. Crystal Tremblay as the Academic Lead had a new coordinator, Carmen Smith. The Salish Sea Hub has accepted the leadership to create a North American K4C Centre.

It was reported that this responsibility has the support of the UVic President, but still lacks financial backing. Dr. Lepore emphasized maintaining strong support mechanisms at the consortium's centre while pursuing regionalization.

# HIGHLIGHTS...



Left picture : (from left to right) Ruchika Rai, Walter Lepore, Alice Lamwaka, Irma Flores; Right picture: (from left to right) Andrea Vargiu, Lesley Wood, Budd Hall



Irma Flores and Budd Hall walking towards the Universitat de Girona to attend the 10th LKC

The Colombia IAPaZ Hub in Ibague is continuing the CBPR Capacity Building Course in cooperation with the UNESCO Chair.

With the second cohort of mentors having commenced their training in February. They are also editing two books that showcase fieldwork from the first and second cohorts, with the first book's draft expected by

They developed a partnership with "Dance Studio," a youth group focusing on arts and culture, exploring decolonizing knowledge through theatre productions and discussions on the role of religion in colonization.

Their first African MTP cohort has mentors from two new universities, the African Women's University in Uganda and the Central



Budd Hall and Mohd. Syafik pose during the standing tea break at the LKC conference



LKC session by Mohd. Affendy



View of Girona city from the Universitat de Girona

August and the second book's case studies by early next year. Furthermore, they are planning the Transforming Higher Education Conference in October 2025.

The Gulu K4C Hub in Uganda has engaged in significant community activities such as the Wango Community Engagement Speaker Series by the Fire, supported by a Talloires Network grant. University of Technology in South Africa. Alois Porokwa, the Maasai Director of a Maasai NGO in Tanzania is also a mentor.



PICTURE FROM THE FINAL CEREMONY OF LKC. A SONG AND DANCE ON THE JOURNEY OF WATER, PERFORMED BY THE SANISH SEA COMMUNITY FROM VICTORIA, CANADA

## REGIONAL INITIATIVES

The Mizan Hub and Asia Regional Training Centre is prepared to deliver its first Mentor Training Program (MTP) in July 2024.

This includes a 21-week online training program via the USIM MOOC platform and a two-week face-to-face residency in Kuala Lumpur in October.

The Europe Regional Training Centre at the UL Engage K4C Hub in Limerick is diligently working to establish the MTP in Europe despite financial constraints.

They have identified EU Erasmus mobility funding to support the MTP and increase the potential for new K4C Hubs in Europe.

The first MTP is set to start in January 2025, focusing on "Civil Engagement as a Transformative Mechanism for Addressing Socio-Economic Inequalities."

The Latin America Regional Training Centre at the Colombia IAPaZ K4C Hub is preparing to launch its course in October or November, with the first cohort starting in January 2025. Recruitment efforts for prospective mentors and hubs are ongoing across Latin America.

K4C members presented at various sessions during the Living Knowledge Conference, covering a range of topics such as community engagement, socio-environmental resilience, and innovative educational approaches.

These sessions included discussions on power dynamics in community-university research partnerships, sustainable socioeconomic development ecosystems, and empowering students through storytelling and digital inclusion.

In summary, the 10th Edition of the Living Knowledge Conference was a pivotal event for the K4C Global Consortium.

It fostered collaboration and discussions on the future of community-based participatory research and engaged scholarship.



K4C members enjoying a tapas dinner after the LKC