



**5th Living Knowledge Conference  
May 10-12, 2012 Bonn - Germany**

**Learning from University-Community Partnership:  
UK Research Findings**

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**Taking Part?** is the ESRC research cluster for active citizenship and community empowerment.

- It is a partnership between researchers from:
  - The **University of Lincoln, Goldsmiths University of London and Manchester Metropolitan University** funded by the Economic & Social Research Centre (ESRC) in partnership with The Office for the Third Sector and the Barrow Cadbury Trust.

•Supported by **TAKE PART NETWORK**

[www.takepart.org](http://www.takepart.org)

**take  
part**  
research

**The ESRC Taking Part?  
Research Cluster**



*Active Citizenship  
Learning*

*Community-based  
learning*


*University  
& Community  
Partnerships*



**take  
part**

TAKE PART Research

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A yellow hexagon with the text "Active citizenship learning" inside.

*Active citizenship  
learning*

Citizens' participation has a great potential in democratic societies but there is a risk that it can be hijacked by minorities. Those with resources, power and knowledge to shape discourses and practices can do it to their advantage, increasing power inequalities at the expenses of the weakest

**Active Citizenship Learning helps overcoming these inequalities.**

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•It is not sufficient in civil society to say 'organise yourselves and go out to work'. The associations, groups, organizations of CS require assistance to protect the interests of the weakest

**Active Citizenship Learning can make Civil Society Self-Organisation more democratic and egalitarian.**



Civil Society Organisation

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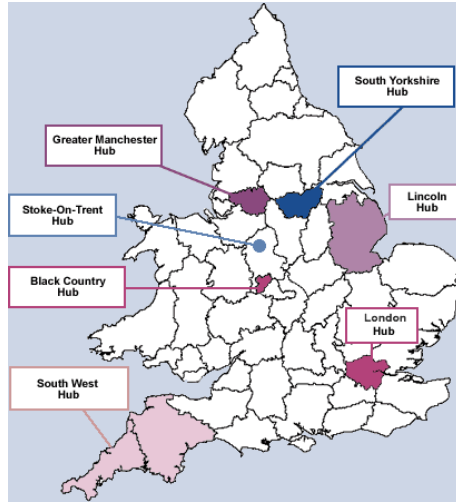
UNIVERSITY OF  
LINCOLN

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  - Paper will be in the July issue of Voluntary Sector Review
  - Cluster findings on Community Research for Community Development – Book to be published by Palgrave Macmillan,

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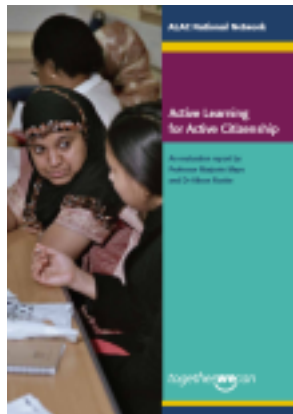
## TAKE PART UK

Product of National consultation (2003) (7 hubs created)

- Leading to the formation of the National Network.

-TAKE PART NATIONAL LEARNING FRAMEWORK

2006 AND 2011



Active Citizenship National Learning Programme



Part of :

White Paper Strong &  
Prosperous Communities  
(2006)

White Paper Real  
People, Real Power  
(2008)



TAKE PART 2006-2011



# Take Part

1. Builds upon previous lessons from best practice in the voluntary and community sector
  2. Facilitates civil and civic participation, and enables people to come together in collective action over shared interests
  3. Starts from the issues and concerns of individuals, groups, organisation and communities
  4. Provides spaces for experiential learning through courses, workshops, conversations, mentoring and other forms of learning and engagement
  5. Encourages citizens to press for change by influencing and shaping social policy and practices
  6. Expands opportunities for participation, in partnership with third sector, public and private bodies
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- Cluster findings on Community Research for Community Development –

- Book to be published by Palgrave Macmillan,

*University  
& Community  
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**take  
part**

University and Community Learning Partnership

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GABY' PRESENTATION ON 3 APRIL 2012

**Just in case you need this**

**take  
part**  
research



- as individual citizens
- As collective individuals



- In people: personal development
- In community organizations: focus and skills
- In agencies: 'learning to involve'
- In policy-makers: understanding what works
- Volunteers
- Community Leaders
- Critical and engaged citizens
- Participating (democratic) citizens



# Active Citizenship Learning

