5th Living Knowledge Conference
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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
Active Citizenship Learning

Community-based learning

University & Community Partnerships

TAKE PART Research
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.**
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.
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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,
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 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
• Cluster findings on Community Research for Community Development –

• Book to be published by Palgrave Macmillan,
GABY’ PRESENTATION ON 3 APRIL 2012
Just in case you need this
Active Citizenship – Civil Society

Social Networks
- breaking isolation
- finding common causes
- connecting groups and networks
- social capital

Social Action
- individual participation
- social participation
- Public participation
- civic participation
- from volunteers to activists

Cooperative
- realising value of collective action
- strengthening collective action
- working with other organisations
  - working across sectors

Social Justice
- raising awareness
- understanding how power works
  - human rights
- collective rights and power to act

Equality & Diversity
- awareness of rights and principles
- ability to challenge discrimination
- understanding tensions and changes
- understanding official processes

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CIVIL SOCIETY
Active Citizenship Learning

TAKE PART

Voice

Active Citizen

Change

Social Action

Community Development

* as individual citizens
* as collective individuals

* Volunteers
* Community Leaders
* Critical and engaged citizens
* Participating (democratic) citizens

* In people: personal development
* In community organizations: focus and skills
* In agencies: ‘learning to involve’
* In policy-makers: understanding what works

Active Citizenship Learning