



# What is a CoPart™?

The CoPart™ concept was developed by University Lecturer Józefa Fawcett (2005) and stands for Community of Partnership, its philosophy being influenced by three well known disciplines:

- **Communities of Practice (CoP)**
- **Business Networking**
- **Organisation(al) Development (OD)**

The CoPart™ was designed to instill and promote a blend of interdependence, independence and value to participants (Partners) and stakeholders alike.

## The three influences in more detail:

**Communities of Practice** - incorporating Knowledge Management principles, Networking, Complexity, Chaos Theory and Open Space Technology from Internationally renowned authors such as Etienne Wenger, Verna Allee, George Pór, Dave Snowden, Karl-Erik Sveiby, Nonaka and Takeuchi and their thinking around valuing intangibles, storytelling, tacit knowledge and knowledge cities.

**Business Networking** - like established profit making outfits BNI, LinkedIn, BRE, BraveBrains, Ryze, Orkut, Ecademy etc.. However, the CoPart™ has chosen to have no trading or profit-making company at the centre.

**Organisation(al) Development** - building upon over 50-years of thinking around Organisational Transformation, Motivation and Change from theorists such as Warren Bennis and Chris Argyris and their principles of knowledge-sharing, double-loop learning and group dynamics.



From this simple beginning **4XP** was created.

The key principles are that we work...

...in **Open Space**: Not merely a network of business people or social entrepreneurs, but an identity defined by the virtual space within which we live, work and contribute.

...as **part of a Partnership**: A collective of local independent business professionals each individually providing products, services, information, advice and guidance (IAG) to the local economy within an OD framework.

...to **Zero-Sum Economic Principles**: Building upon what we have within the partnership, supporting each others' development and sharing knowledge in a self-organising and self-sustaining way

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Professionals Supporting Local  
Business

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