



Rural Economy &
Land Use:



The International Context

THE UNIVERSITY *of York*

**Prof Dave Raffaelli, Dr Piran White,
Dr Linzi Seivwright, Prof Charles Perrings**

P=NP?



Main Aims of RELU:

■ Science

To deliver integrative, interdisciplinary research that will advance understanding of the social, economic, environmental and technological challenges faced by rural areas.

■ Capacity Building

To enhance and expand capabilities for integrative, interdisciplinary research on rural issues.

■ Knowledge Transfer

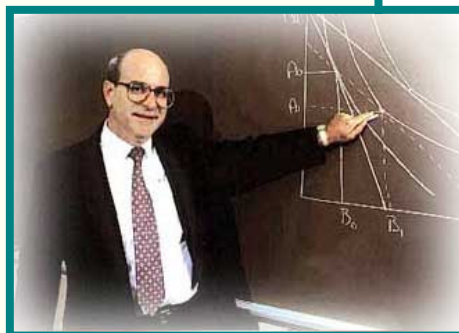
To enhance the impact of research on rural policy and practice by involving stakeholders in all stages of RELU.



RELU: The International Context



Science:
Multidisciplinary?
Interdisciplinary?
Transdisciplinary?



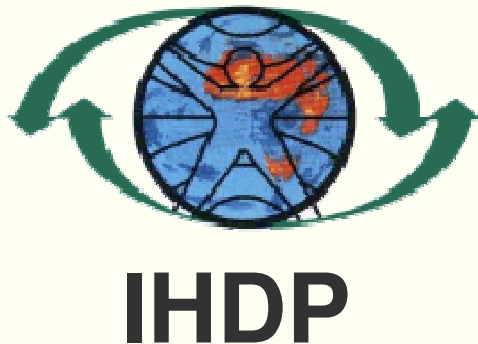


RELU: The International Context



Background to Project

The need to pursue a RELU-like agenda has been recognised by many international bodies such as:



Reasons to review activities of programmes and initiatives:

- 1. Identifying good practice from existing programmes will benefit areas within the RELU programme.**
- 2. Identifying the tools, techniques and approaches for effective interdisciplinary research within existing initiatives will save time and money.**
- 3. Identifying other relevant non-UK programmes will allow UK science to be located within the broader international context.**
- 4. Bringing relevant non-UK programmes to the attention of the RELU community will promote international collaboration and enhance funding base for RELU.**

Four Main Aims of this project

Project Aim 1:

- **Identify those non-UK programmes and initiatives which share or include the aims and objectives of RELU**

Will be achieved by:

- **A Strategic Review of Non-UK Initiatives**

Project Aim 2:

- **Within initiatives, identify best practice with respect to mechanisms that**
 - **Facilitate integration**
 - **Build capacity**
 - **Transfer knowledge across disciplines**

Will be achieved by:

- **Development of questionnaire/interview**
- **Pilot trial of questionnaire/interview**
- **Large scale questionnaire/interview process**

Project Aim 3:

- **Identify science programmes and outputs which are relevant to RELU**

Will be achieved by:

- **Defining clear search, exclusion & inclusion criteria**
- **Creating system of scoring programmes based on criteria match**



Project Aim 4:

- **Publicise these initiatives within the UK science community to encourage collaboration and to bring RELU to the attention of international programmes with similar aims**

Will be achieved by:

- **Publication and dissemination of review findings via:**

**The UK DIVERSITAS web site
Academic papers
Published report
RELU website and newsletter**

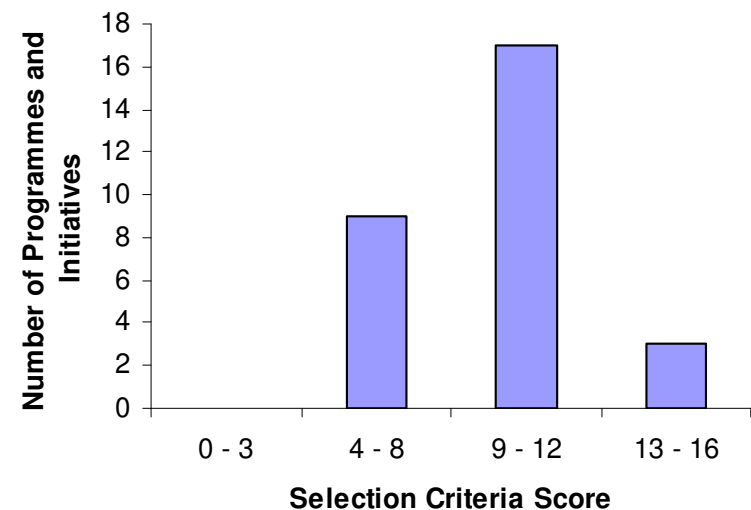
Contribution to the overall aims of RELU:

- **Providing guidance and information to RELU scientists on similar research elsewhere**
- **Informing RELU programme managers about developments outwith RELU**
- **Identifying areas where new science partnerships might develop**
- **Informing those with responsibilities and interests in the future of the UK rural sector, including government agencies, stakeholders and policy makers**

Project Progress so far: Review of Initiatives

- **Key RELU representatives contacted to unambiguously establish the aims and objectives of RELU**
- **Web-based searches conducted using combinations of relevant search words e.g. "Interdisciplinary", "Research", "Rural", "Sustainability", "Initiatives", "Programme".**
- **Possible relevant programmes and initiatives scored according to list of selection criteria.**

15 Centres, 29 Programmes & Initiatives and 5 Networks identified to date



Project Progress so far: Questionnaire

A questionnaire is currently being developed and piloted to identify best practice in Interdisciplinary Research

The questionnaire will seek to gather information about the following aspects of Interdisciplinary Research:

Leadership, Teambuilding, Interpersonal Relationships, Interdisciplinary Relationships, Resources, Communication, Knowledge Transfer, Stakeholder Involvement.

The questionnaire will be sent to key individuals from the most relevant programmes and initiatives identified from the review process.



RELU: The International Context



Other related RELU projects:

Making Interdisciplinarity Work (Sandra Bell, Mariella Marzano & Dave Carss)

Project aims: To address key issues surrounding the processes of interdisciplinarity including project management and organisation, the potential of integrating datasets and dissemination of results.

Developing Tools for Interdisciplinary Research (Elizabeth Oughton, Louise Bracken, Katy Bennet, Jane Wheelock, Tim Burt)

Project aim: To develop a practical framework for interdisciplinary discourse between science and non-science based stakeholders.

A Review of Recent and Current French Initiatives (Henry Buller)

Project aims: To assess the aims, the objectives, the nature of the research undertaken and the construction of interdisciplinarity within French rural economy and land use initiatives.



RELU: The International Context



Acknowledgements:

For Funding:



RELU



**Research
Councils UK**

For Advice & Helpful Discussions:

Professor Philip Lowe, Dr Les Firbank,
Mr John Mills, Dr Mariella Marzano,
Dr Liz Oughton & Dr Louise Bracken.