



People and the Rural Environment: Scoping the Research Agenda

Professor Philip Lowe
Programme Director

Rural Economy
and
Land Use
Programme





Introduction to RELU

- Collaborative venture between ESRC, BBSRC and NERC, as well as Defra and SEERAD
- Budget of £20 million to fund basic and strategic research
- Aims to conduct integrative, interdisciplinary research to advance understanding of the social, economic, environmental and technological challenges faced by rural areas





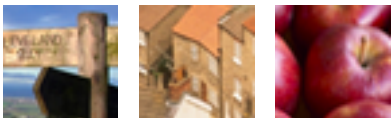
Challenges/Demands

Social Challenges

- Restoring trust in food chains
- Tackling animal disease in a socially acceptable manner
- Sustaining agriculture in a liberalised economy
- Promoting robust rural economies
- Mitigating threats from climate change and invasive species
- Reducing stress on water catchments

RELU is responding to two fundamental demands

- For joined-up science
- For socially accountable science





Joined-up Science

“Root and branch” interdisciplinarity

Major challenges cut across disciplinary boundaries

Sustainable development calls for integrated perspectives, drawing upon understandings of social and natural processes. Holistic solutions should creatively combine adaptations in socio-technical, ecological and biological systems.





Socially Accountable Science

The RELU programme is committed to...

“enhancing the impact of research on rural policy and practice by engaging stakeholders in all stages of RELU”

...through continuous engagement with a wide range of public, private and voluntary organisations and representative figures.

“We are all stakeholders in science”

(Food Ethics Council)





The Shape of RELU

Four themes

- Integration of Land and Water Use
- Environmental Basis of Rural Development
- Economic and Social Interactions with the Rural Environment
- Sustainable Food Chains

People and
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Three Calls

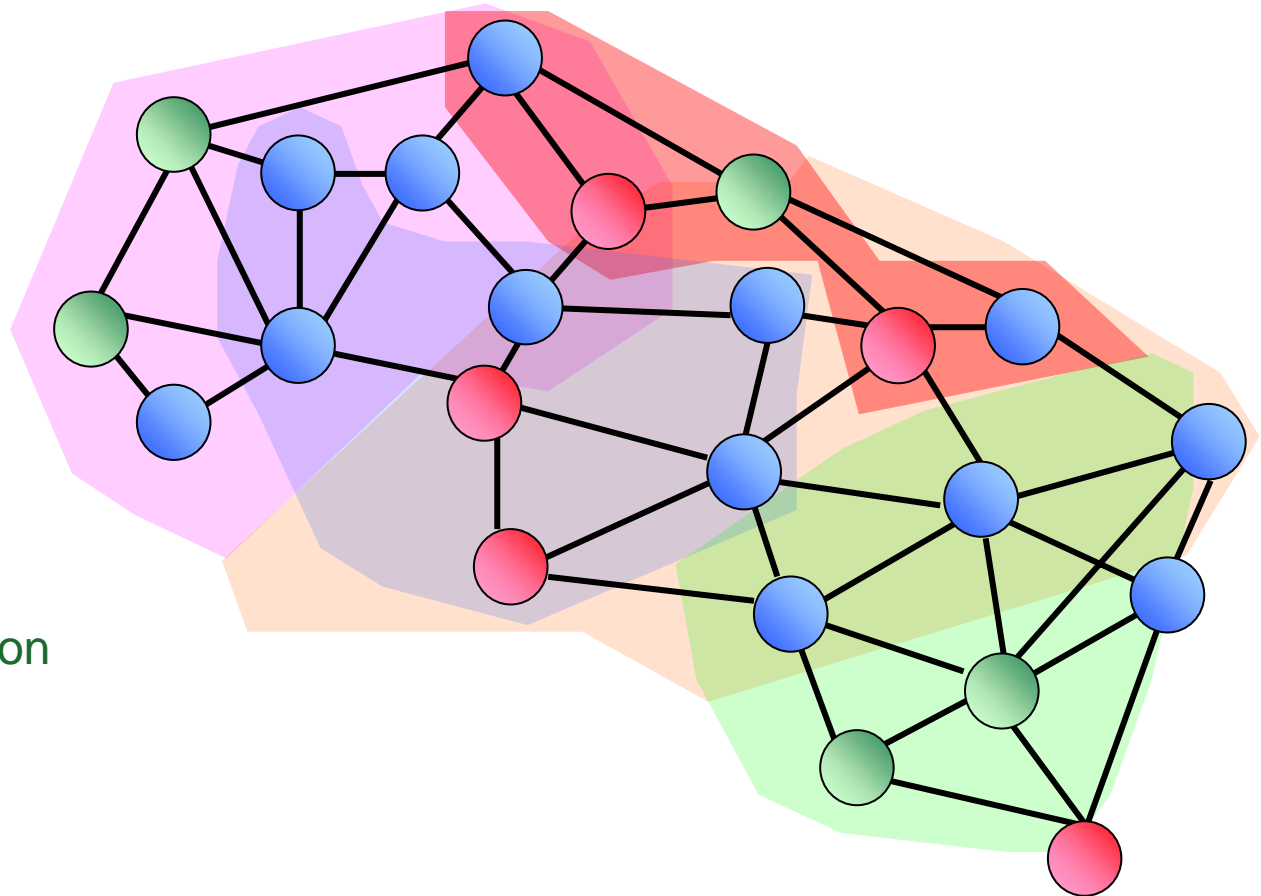
- 1st Call: Completed
35 projects (with 27 scoping studies, capacity building and development activities on People and the Rural Environment), 200 scientists, 30 disciplines
- 2nd Call: In progress
Larger projects on People and the Rural Environment
- 3rd Call: June/July 2005





People and the Rural Environment

-  Catchments
-  Rural Development
-  Sustainable Agriculture
-  Landscape
-  Data integration





Timetable

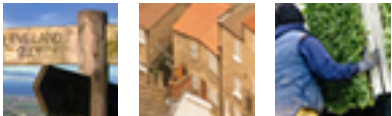
Introduction

- the LUPG perspective

Parallel sessions

- presentation (20min)
- 2 discussants (2-3min each)
- discussion (10min)

Round up discussion





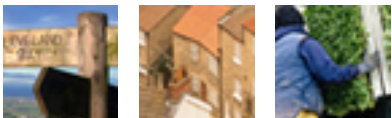
Session Topics

Parallel Session 1A / 2A

- Integrated perspectives on sustainable catchment management
- Managing stressed environments
- Simulation modelling and its role in land use decision making
- User engagement in research and knowledge transfer

Parallel Session 1B / 2B

- Scale effects in the management of biodiversity and landscapes
- Integrating spatial data on rural economy and land use
- Landscapes as a focus for integrating human and environmental processes
- Implications of interdisciplinarity in RELU





Purpose of the workshop

Reporting progress to LUPG

- As LUPG are key stakeholders and potential users of RELU research

Seeking LUPG feedback on

- Significance and value of RELU research
- Future direction of RELU research

Using today to

- Feedback to researchers
- Provide an element of peer review

