

The Nexus Network Overview

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www.thenexusnetwork.org

HOME

ABOUT ▾

EVENTS

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RESOURCES

PROJECTS

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WELCOME TO THE NEXUS NETWORK

Funded by the ESRC, the Nexus Network brings together researchers, policy makers, business leaders and civil society to develop collaborative projects and improve decision making on food, energy, water and the environment.



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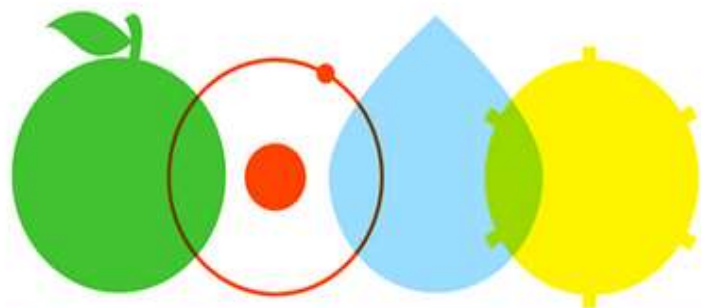


Previous Blog home Next

Navigating the nexus of food, energy, water and the environment

The UK's Economic and Social Research Council is launching a £1.8m network to join up research, policy and practice on environmental challenges

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THE NEXUS NETWORK

new connections in food, energy, water and the environment
An ESRC investment



Posted by
 James Wilsdon and Rose Cairns
 Monday 9 June 2014
 13.30 BST
 theguardian.com
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The Nexus Network, a £1.8m initiative by the UK's Economic and Social Research Council, which is being launched today.

The UK government's passion for fracking was again on display in last week's Queen's Speech, with proposed changes in the trespass law to allow shale gas firms to drill under people's homes without permission. Ministers continue to insist that fracking can deliver improved energy

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Previous Blog home Next

A nexus approach to global challenges

Resource challenges are highly interconnected. Can the idea of a food-energy-water 'nexus' become more than another buzzword, and help us to identify solutions?

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Women struggle to get water from a well in famine-hit Deeplo, Sindh province, Pakistan, March 2014. Photograph: Rehan Khan/EPA

The dramatic spike in resource use over the last two decades, particularly in the emerging economies of Brazil, Russia, India and China, has exacerbated the threat of resource scarcity. And the world's failure to curb emissions of greenhouse gases means that the impacts of climate change will be felt strongly across food, water and energy –

Posted by
 Michael Bradshaw,
 Declan Conway, Hayley Leck
 Friday 13 June 2014
 18.25 BST
 theguardian.com
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What is the Nexus?



- In the past five years, there has been a surge of interest in the idea of the ‘nexus’, as a way of thinking about the interdependencies, tensions and trade-offs between food, water and energy security, in the broader context of environmental change.
- These systems are inextricably linked, and integrated approaches are required, which move beyond sectoral, policy and disciplinary silos.

WATER SECURITY

THE WATER-FOOD-ENERGY-CLIMATE NEXUS





[Home](#)

[What's the
NEXUS?](#)

[NEXUS
Initiatives](#)

[NEXUS
in Practice](#)

[NEXUS
Knowledge](#)

[NEXUS
News](#)

[NEXUS
Calendar](#)

[NEXUS SEARCH](#)

▷ NEXUS Calendar ▷ Berlin2013: "Realizing the Water, Energy and Food Security Nexus"

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[Archive 2014](#)

[Archive 2013](#)

[Archive 2012](#)

[Archive 2011](#)



28-29 Nov 13

POLICY FORUM

Berlin2013: "Realizing the Water, Energy and Food Security Nexus"

On 28-29 November 2013, the Berlin2013 Policy Forum "Realizing the Water, Energy and Food Security Nexus", hosted by BMZ in coordination with BMU and organized by GIZ, represents a major building block in a series of Nexus Dialogues which emanated from the Bonn2011

Related Resources



**national planning
commission**
Department:
The Presidency
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

PRESENTATION

Let's look long term: What Difference will Nexus Thinking have made in 2050?

The nexus approach works best with clear strategic goals. Implementation works best when all stakeholders work together and decisions are based on information and strives to learn from past mistakes. This presentation by Mike Muller,



What's the Nexus?	Conference 2014	Sponsorship / Contact	Declaration	Plenary Sessions	Presentations	Photos
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[Home](#)

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About the Nexus

It is increasingly clear: There is no place in an interlinked world for isolated solutions aimed at just one sector. If the world is going to reduce hunger and eradicate poverty, achieving security for water, energy and food is critical. This challenge is becoming even more critical with the impacts of climate change, and water will be the medium by which we will address much of the nexus.

Other Water-Related Links



2014 Water and Health Conference

2014 Water Microbiology Conference

Nexus 2014: Water, Food, Climate and Energy Conference

The Water Institute at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and collaborators hosted the *Nexus 2014: Water, Food, Climate and Energy Conference* on March 5-8, 2014 to examine the thoughts and actions related to a nexus approach. The co-Directors of the Conference are Jamie Bartram, Director of The Water Institute, and Felix Dodds, Associate Fellow at the Tellus Institute, with support from an International Advisory Committee. The Conference brought together scientists and practitioners working in government, civil society and business, and other stakeholders to focus on the questions of how and why the nexus approach is, and can be, used on international and local levels.

Nexus Declaration

One of the primary goals of the *Nexus 2014: Water, Food, Climate and Energy Conference* was to provide input to the UN Sustainable Development Goals process. To do so a group of experts prepared a draft of the Nexus Declaration which was available for public comment. The final version of the declaration which incorporates public feedback is now available [online](#) and was delivered to the UN Secretary General on March 26.

Program Available

The Conference program is now available. For a detailed a description

Nexus News

[Videos Online](#)

[Online Coverage of the Nexus](#)

[Participant List Available](#)



Nexus Nodes

Tweets from a list by UNC Nexus Conference
Twitter feeds relating to the 2014 Nexus Conference



@FightPoverty

Innovation as the key to aid job creation and curb youth unemployment
snipbfp.org/1f76Pun

Retweeted by UN Development

Expand

**Quality Creativity Flexibility**

nature climate change

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NATURE CLIMATE CHANGE | COMMENTARY



Making sustainable beer

Andy Wales*Nature Climate Change* **4**, 316–318 (2014) | doi:10.1038/nclimate2220

Published online: 25 April 2014



PDF



Citation



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Article metrics

As global population continues to grow, managing the relationships between water, food and energy is becoming increasingly critical. Businesses need to react to the challenge and be mindful of the important role they play in implementing solutions.

Water and food security are highly intertwined issues and they ultimately depend on the sustainable use of natural resources. Looking ahead, sustainability is a big challenge as the population continues to grow; as does the demand for better living standards. Added to the equation, climate change is enhancing business and societal risks through its impacts on natural resources and the costs of emissions mitigation targets. Both effects call for integrated adaptation and mitigation solutions – such as better water management and lower energy use

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Feedbacks on Climate in the Earth System

08 December 2014 — 09 December 2014

London, United Kingdom

Cafe Scientifique: How does the Biodiversity of Tropical Forests Affect our Planet?

What is the Nexus Network?



Funding the Nexus Network to better coordinate UK research efforts in this area.

- £1.8 million over three years.

Funding and guidance

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About us

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[Guidance for applicants](#)

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You are here: ► [Home](#) ► [Funding and guidance](#) ► [Funding opportunities](#) ► Establishment of 'Social Science of the Nexus' Network Plus

Establishment of 'Social Science of the Nexus' Network Plus

Town meeting and invitation to submit an Expression of Interest

The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) has recently undertaken a consultation exercise to identify the social science research priorities that emerge from a holistic assessment of the interrelated challenges of energy, environment and food security. This exercise has identified an interconnected set of social science challenges - the Social Science of the Nexus - from which ESRC, working with a range of partners, will be taking forward a programme of research and capacity-building.

The first of these activities is designed to forge links between research activities addressing the challenges of the Social Science of the Nexus. ESRC wants to establish a Network Plus (NW+) to build connected 'nexus thinking' capacity and leadership for the social sciences in identifying and addressing the challenges of the Energy-Environment-Food Nexus. The call is for a single Network Plus (NW+) to last for 36 months that will bring together researchers from across the Nexus funded to the level of up to £1.875 million (100 per cent FEC) over 36 months.

What is a Network Plus?

A Network Plus plays a strategic role in ensuring that research is both of excellent academic quality AND is aligned with user needs. It plays a key role in reaching out to potential users, interacting with them and providing them with access to research, ensuring research addresses questions that are relevant to them, and uses the concepts and language that users understand and can apply. This is intended to be very different to the traditional process of dissemination which occurs after the research has finished. Instead, with a Network Plus, the research communities' engagement with research users is at its highest before the main body of research begins, and research users often play an active role in research design and its co-production. A Network Plus has a further strategic contribution in

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- [Professor Anand Menon appointed Research co-ordinator for 'The UK in a Changing Europe'](#)
- [ADRN Board appointments - applications close 9 March](#)

Vision & objectives



Vision: to achieve a step-change improvement in the provision of strategic research around food-energy-water-environment interdependencies that can improve policymaker, business and users decision-making.

Objectives:

- Build and sustain a network of social scientists, natural scientists and users from business, government and civil society
- Focus on the strategic needs of users, and shape an interdisciplinary research portfolio that targets opportunities, gaps and mismatches
- Engage proactively with business and align research with business needs & outcomes
- Support the social science research community to develop and share new data, conceptual frameworks, methodologies, skills and practices
- Provide a UK interface for international initiatives with nexus dimensions, e.g. Future Earth
- Synthesise the outcomes of network activities to inform ESRC policies and strategies

The core team

**James
Wilsdon (PI)**



**Fiona
Marshall**



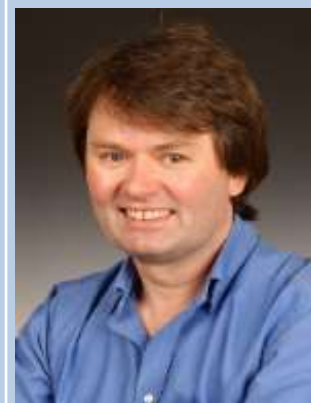
Andy Stirling



Lyla Mehta



Ian Bateman



Jake Reynolds



The ESRC Nexus Network

Research & Partnership Activities

Professor Ian Bateman, Nexus Network Economics Lead
CSERGE, University of East Anglia

www.thenexusnetwork.org

Activities



The Nexus Network was launched on 9 June 2014



- **Call for think pieces** (up to £5K) deadline 4 July 2014
- **First annual conference** on *'What works at the nexus? New connections in food, energy, water and environment'* 27 November 2014 in London.

www.thenexusnetwork.org

Strategic links



- The Nexus Network has begun a process of identification and coordination of research priorities linking environment, food, water, biodiversity, energy and climate with concerns regarding resilience, consumption, behaviour, sustainable prosperity, etc.
- Building on close links with a variety of Research Council initiatives, key government departments and business partners



Links with Defra



- Nexus issues cut across Defra's evidence priorities
- 'Making the most of our evidence: a strategy for Defra and its network' (June 2014)
 - Growing the rural economy
 - Improving the environment
 - Safeguarding animal health
 - Safeguarding plant health

Links with Welsh Government



The image displays three overlapping screenshots of the Welsh Government website (Llywodraeth Cymru / Welsh Government). The top screenshot shows the 'Environment and countryside' page, featuring a search bar, navigation menu, and a sidebar with 'TOPIC HIGHLIGHTS' for 'Water Strategy for Wales'. The middle screenshot shows the 'Business and economy' page, also with a search bar, navigation menu, and a sidebar with 'TOPIC HIGHLIGHTS' for 'How much energy from wind'. The bottom screenshot shows the 'Energy and Environment sector' page, which includes a search bar, navigation menu, a sidebar with a list of sectors (Business and economy, Sectors, Advanced Materials and Manufacturing sector, Construction sector, Creative Industries sector, Energy and Environment sector, Financial and Professional Services sector, Food and Farming sector, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector), and a main content area with the heading 'Energy and Environment sector' and a paragraph stating: 'The Energy and Environment sector has been identified as one of importance for Wales. It is also recognised as having an important enabling role across the wider economy'. A green circular logo with a stylized sun or flower is visible in the bottom right corner of the bottom screenshot.

Links with Scottish Government



The image displays three overlapping screenshots of the Scottish Government website (Riaghaltas na h-Alba). The top screenshot shows the 'Environment' section, highlighting the government's commitment to protecting the environment and reducing local waste. The middle screenshot shows the 'Business, Industry & Energy' section, focusing on long-term sustainable economic growth and business support. The bottom screenshot shows the 'Food and Drink' section, emphasizing the food and drink industry's contribution to Scotland's economy and health.

The Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

Environment

The Scottish Government is working to protect the environment and protecting it for present and future generations.

Action is being taken to reduce the local authority's carbon footprint, moving towards a zero-waste Scotland.

Business, Industry & Energy

The Government aims to ensure long-term sustainable economic growth. There are a range of policies in place aimed at helping businesses to grow and create jobs.

This should create a better environment for business, with high skill levels, helping to create a more competitive economy.

Food and Drink

The food and drink industry is a major contributor to Scotland's economy with one in five people in manufacturing working in the sector.

As well as the economy, food impacts on many other aspects of Scottish life including our health and environment.

Sign up to our [news alerts](#) to get all the latest info on Scottish food and drink!

First Workshop: Environmental value and valuation at the nexus



28th Nov 2014, Defra, London

Speakers:

- **Ulrike Hotopp**, Defra Chief Economist
- **Gemma Harper**, Defra Chief Social Scientist
- **Peter Simpson**, Anglian Water Executive Director
- **Plus:** Leading researchers

Invited participants



Department
of Health



Public Health
England



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION



Committee on
Climate Change



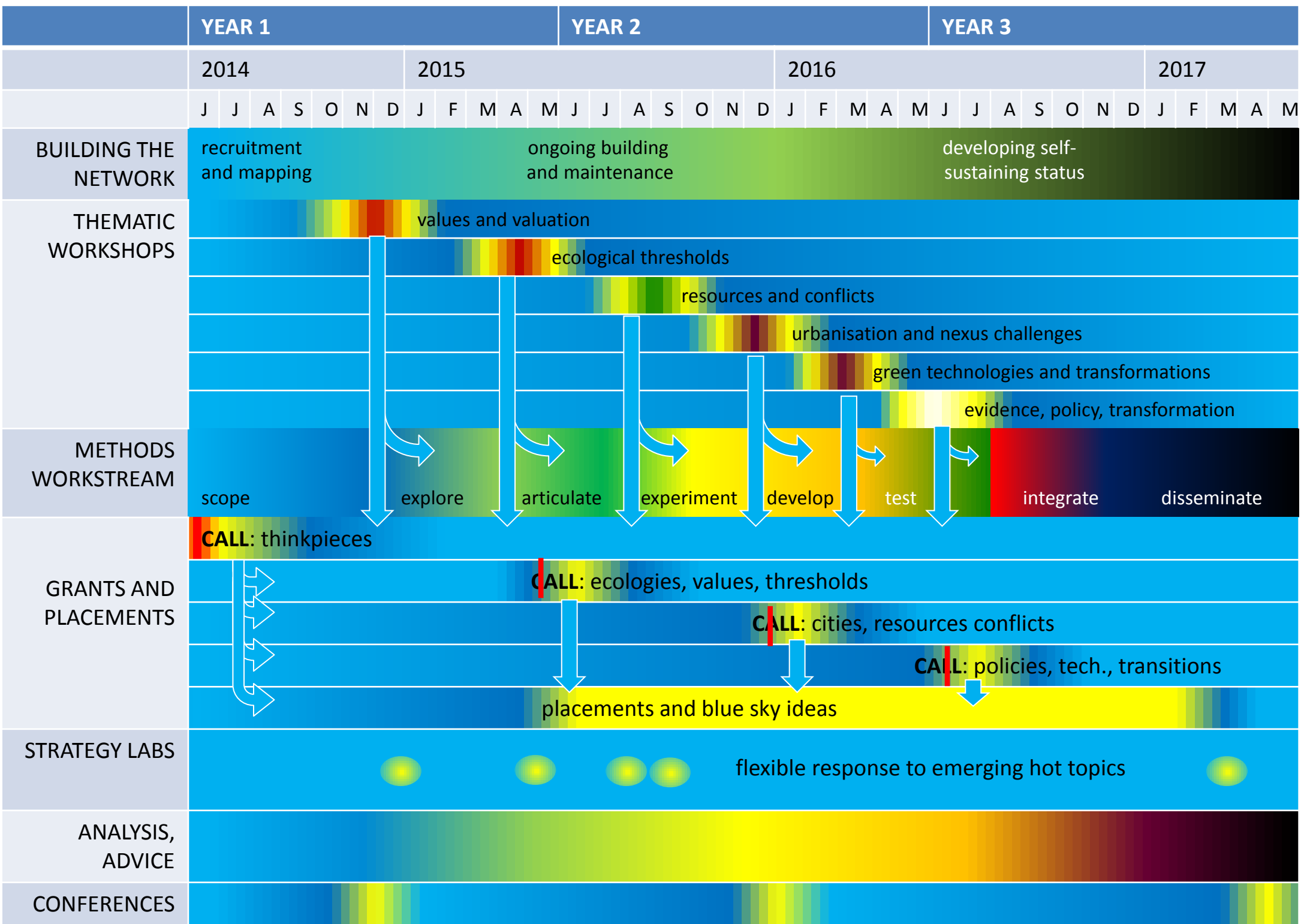
Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Second Workshop: Natural Bridge - exploring business-led action at the nexus

15 & 16 April 2015

- Exploring the business risks related to land use, food, water, energy and the environment through a mix of interactive sessions to inspire business led action underpinned by research.



Contacts



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