



Economic
and Social
Research Council

Network Plus Applicant Webinar

20 July 2023

Welcome

We will be recording this webinar so that it can be made available for those wishing to access it later.

Please use the Q&A function to raise questions.

Please 'like' the questions you are most interested in.

Agenda

1 Introduction to the Network Plus model

2 Lessons learned from running a Network Plus – Professor Helen Fisher

3 Presentations outlining each Network

- Behavioural science for security and defence
- Dementia
- Polarities and regions
- Resilient UK coastal communities
- Modelling UK supply chains as complex systems for resilience (BBSRC)

4 Q & A

Responding to questions submitted in advance of and during the webinar



Network Plus Funding Opportunities

- In June ESRC and UKRI launched six Network Plus opportunities.



Resilient UK costal communities and seas



Dementia



Polarities and regions



Behavioural science for security and defence



Modelling UK supply chains and complex systems



Policy Talent Accelerator

What is a Network Plus?



What will these Networks do?



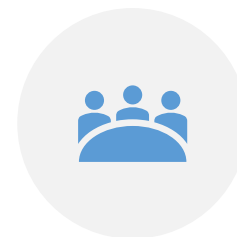
Increase connectivity
and coordination



Generate new insights



Build new capability



Inform policy and
practice



Engage and establish
links

Network Core Team

The core team should include people from different relevant disciplines, with a range skills and expertise, at different career stages, who all collectively offer:



leadership



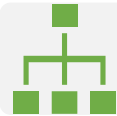
expertise beyond the core disciplines and beyond academia



engage and collaborate



articulate a clear vision



deliver complex projects



incorporate specialist expertise



bring together diverse expertise

The Flexible Fund

Your Network will develop and run open funding opportunities for small projects or activities in the areas relating to the Network.

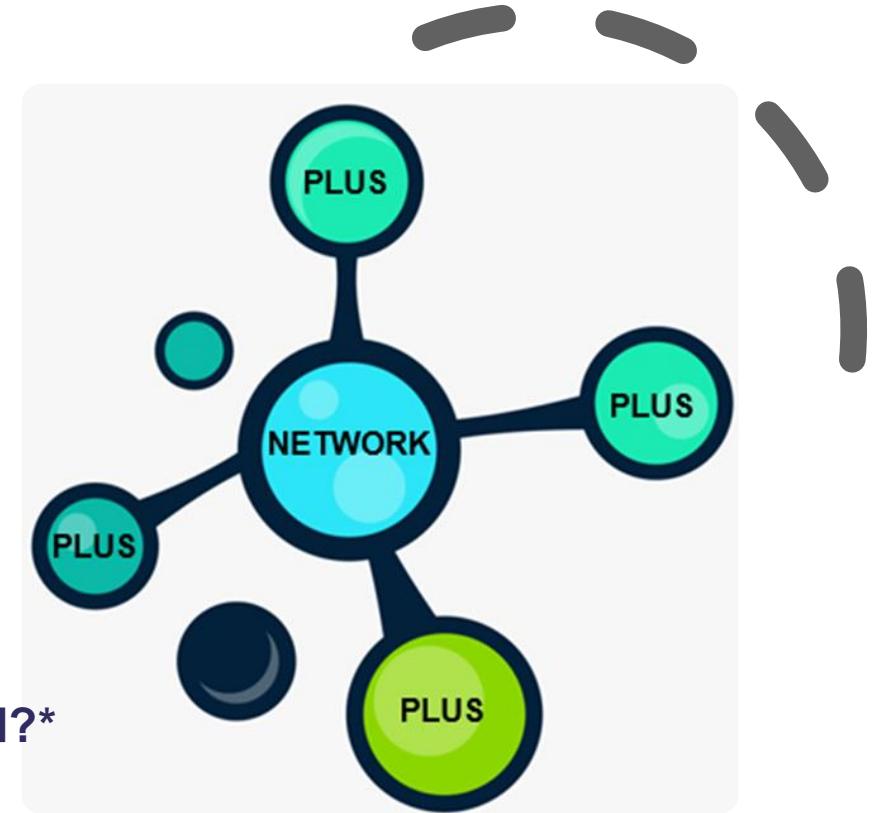
The flexible fund should be used to support activities involving those outside of the Network's core team.

Applicants should outline and justify the objectives of the flexible fund and how it will be operationalised, governed and distributed through a competitive process.

What activities can the flexible pot fund?*

- Workshops
- Events
- Small projects; such as research, scoping, knowledge exchange, evidence synthesis, capacity building,
- Secondments
- Horizon scanning

*may vary by opportunity



Lessons Learned

A clear, well-defined focus

Sufficient administrative, financial services and host university support

Consider funding scale and process

Expectation and arrangements for full economic costing of Network activities need to be clear across all parties

Plan and cost for engagement, impact, dissemination and knowledge exchange activities

Long-term plans for the legacy and sustainability of the Network need to be considered early on

How to apply and assessment overview

This opportunity is being run on the UKRI Transforming Funding Service.

You may wish to note that:

- UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) is introducing **new role types** for opportunities being run on the new UKRI Funding Service from 22 May 2023.
- For this opportunity applicants are asked to use The Résumé for Research and Innovation (R4RI).

Please direct all queries to:

- Email: support@funding-service.ukri.org
- Phone: 01793 547490



**Experiences and lessons learned from running a Network
Plus award
Professor Helen Fisher**

Behavioural science for security and defence

- Funded as part of the UKRI 'Building a Secure and Resilient World' strategic theme
- Award range from £3M - £3,560,000 (100% FEC). UKRI will fund 80% FEC.
- Looking to fund one network lasting 36 months

The Network will:

- Improve understanding of human behaviours in uncertain and high-risk scenarios by exploiting new forms of data and methods
- Harness understanding of population-level variation in resilience and vulnerabilities and the factors that affect this, improving predictions and prevention of future threats
- Advance theory-based analytics, modelling and predictive algorithms for predicting threats, shocks, large-scale instabilities, the behaviour of hostile actors and the radicalisation of vulnerable groups
- Facilitate new opportunities for managing risk, informing decision making in conflict situations, countering emerging technological threats and increasing resilience to securities
- Inform evidence-based decision making by policymakers, government departments and other national security organisations and stakeholders

Dementia

- Co-funded with **NIHR** and **Alzheimer's Society**
- Total of £5.25m available; awards ranging from £1.25 million - £1.75 million
- Looking to fund up to 3 networks lasting between 48 and 60 months

Overarching aims of Dementia N+

- Fund a portfolio of activity which generates new insights and improves the lives of those affected by dementia through tackling inequalities, preventing illness, and enhancing experiences at work
- Build new capability and extend existing UK dementia research community via capacity building, bringing in researchers new to dementia field and actively engage a wide range of research organisations. We particularly welcome proposals that involve groups from across the UK
- Grants will have a strongly collaborative ethos, actively engage a wide range of research organisations. It is **essential** people with lived experience are involved across the lifecycle of proposed projects from development of early ideas, providing advice to co-creation and involvement in the research, to collaborating on later stage outputs. We are particularly interested in proposals targeting lived experience of under-researched groups

Polarities and regions

- ❖ Funding available: £5 million at 100% fEC for one award under this theme
- ❖ Co-funders involved: AHRC, EPSRC, NERC
- ❖ Duration: 48 months (start date 1st April 2024)

<https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/polarities-and-regions-network-plus/>

In light of the importance and influence of Russia and China to and in contemporary global affairs, this Network Plus will investigate 'Individual powers':

- national priorities, capacities, politics, and social and cultural dynamics;
- relations with each other and with states in their regional neighbourhoods;
- implications for wider geopolitical stability, security and prosperity.

Polarities and regions

Objectives:

- generate new insights on individual powers in these geographic regions through synthesis of evidence and analysis; identification and prioritisation of themes, research gaps and emerging research challenges; conducting some original research in prioritised themes
- build new capability in language based area studies and in other relevant disciplines, linking existing and establishing new transdisciplinary and interdisciplinary partnerships, bringing together new approaches and developing conceptual, methodological, theoretical and leadership skills
- enable a coherent and connected research and evidence landscape focused on dynamics in eastern Europe and Eurasia, and in east and Pacific Asia, across disciplines, stakeholders and sectors, identifying needs through relationship building, co-creation, and sustained engagement

- inform policy, practice and understanding through recognition of stakeholder needs at all stages of the development of these insights, capabilities and connections

Resilient UK coastal communities

- Interdisciplinary funding opportunity supported by ESRC, AHRC, Defra, NERC and UKRI
- Funded as part of the UKRI 'Creating Opportunities and Improving Outcomes' strategic theme
- Award range from £1.8M - £2M (100% FEC). We will fund 80% FEC.
- Looking to fund one network, which must start on 1 April 2024, lasting up to 54 months

The objectives of the resilient UK coastal communities programme (Network Plus and [research projects](#)) are to:

- apply a place-based approach that will transform our understanding of climatic, environmental, health, economic, social, and cultural factors affecting UK coastal communities and seas
- develop the resilient management of UK coastal seas, coastal communities, and the natural capital these areas depend on and support, by delivering the evidence base, tools and practical solutions
- inform policy and enable transformative decision making in collaboration with local communities
- build capacity and capability for transdisciplinary research and the mobilisation of research evidence within UK coastal communities and seas

Resilient UK coastal communities

The successful Network Plus will deliver an agenda that:

- engages and networks with other UKRI activities, and stakeholders in academia, industry, government and third sector in the UK, connecting and coordinating across a diverse range of disciplines and backgrounds
- assesses and determines what the UK needs in terms of research, research infrastructure and skills to develop capability in management and understanding of coastal communities and seas to improve resilience
- provides thought leadership and a clear vision to transform our understanding of factors affecting coastal communities and seas, to build resilience and improve management.
- develops and runs open opportunities for small projects or activities in the areas of transdisciplinary research that will complement the delivery of other projects funded by the resilient UK coastal communities and seas programme

The successful Network Plus must fit the remit of all three of the research council funding partners

Applications should include clearly defined, realistic short-term outcomes that can be achieved within the first year of the network

The Network Plus will be expected to establish and maintain appropriate links with relevant investments, to achieve its aims of increasing collaborative working across disciplines, and connecting the research landscape

Modelling UK supply chains as complex systems for resilience

£ Funding available: £6,250,000 (UKRI will fund 80% FEC)

🕒 Duration of award: 4 years from April 1 2024 to March 31 2028

● Number of networks to be funded: 1

📄 UKRI Strategic Theme – “Building a secure and resilient world”

➔ Sub theme: Increase the resilience of supply chains to a wide variety of potentially interacting shocks

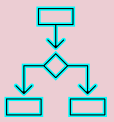
Modelling UK supply chains as complex



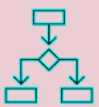
To establish an interdisciplinary Network Plus that will harness the power of data and scenario modelling to identify cascading risks, associated impacts and trade offs, and inform and test targeted interventions, to strengthen supply chain resilience.



Focus on using a systems approach to *map potential risks* and *identify interventions* to strengthen the resilience of 3 key supply chains: food, critical minerals, and fashion.



Key outputs – new data driven models; new knowledge on cascading risks, impacts and trade offs in supply chains; new knowledge on interventions to increase resilience; new collaborations and partnerships; synthesis reports and policy and practice notes



Key essentials – at least 3 disciplines; systems approach and cascading risks; UK supply chains; business, third sector and government stakeholders; team with capacity for data-led and conceptual modelling.



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Q&A

We will create and publish an FAQ document which will include responses to questions submitted in advance of and raised during the webinar.

If you have more questions, please email them to support@funding-service.ukri.org and include the name of the Network Plus your question relates to in the subject line.



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Thank you



ESRC: Economic and Social Research Council



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