

# UKRN & the UKRN Open Research Programme

Etienne Roesch

[e.b.roesch@reading.ac.uk](mailto:e.b.roesch@reading.ac.uk)

## **University of Reading**

Associate Professor, School of Psychology  
Institutional Lead for Open & Reproducible research (CORRI)

Slides: [osf.io/nczkj](https://osf.io/nczkj)

## **UK Reproducibility Network**

Steering group & Workstream lead for the UKRN Research England programme





UKRN (est. 2018) is a national grassroots consortium of researchers and institutions taking a stance in support of robust research in the UK



- 69 Local Network Leads (volunteer local contacts and community managers)
- 25 Institutional Leads (formal appointments by Institutions)
  - 9 members on Advisory Board
  - 50+ stakeholders organisations (full, and affiliates)

Together, we

- Provide training and training material
- Support local initiatives, tools and platforms
- Engage with national and international stakeholders

# Open Research in the UK



- Open scientific knowledge
- Open science infrastructures
- Open dialogue with other knowledge systems
- Open engagement of societal actors



 **UK Research and Development Roadmap**  
HM Government

**Minimising bureaucracy in the public funding system**

Crucially **we must embrace the potential of open research practices**. First, we will require that research outputs funded by the UK government are freely available to the taxpayer who funds research. Such open publication will also ensure that UK research is cited and built on all over the world. We will mandate open publication and **strongly incentivise open data sharing** where appropriate, so that **reproducibility is enabled, and knowledge is shared** and spread collaboratively. Second, we will ensure that **more modern research outputs** are recognised and rewarded. For example, we will ensure that **digital software and datasets** are properly recognised as research outputs, so that we can minimise efforts spent translating digital outputs into more traditional formats. Third, we will consider the case for new infrastructure to enable more effective sharing of knowledge between researchers and with industry to accelerate open innovation where possible.

**UKRI Strategy 2022-2027 | Objective 1**

## Championing open research

Open research improves research efficiency, quality and integrity through collaborative, transparent and reproducible research practices. UKRI's priorities include open

### THE CONCORDAT TO SUPPORT RESEARCH INTEGRITY

Concordat on Open Research Data



## DORA



WORLD CONFERENCES ON RESEARCH INTEGRITY

Hong Kong Principles 3

Future of scholarly publishing, FAIR data, the European Open Science Cloud, education and skills, rewards and incentives, next-generation metrics, research integrity, and citizen science.

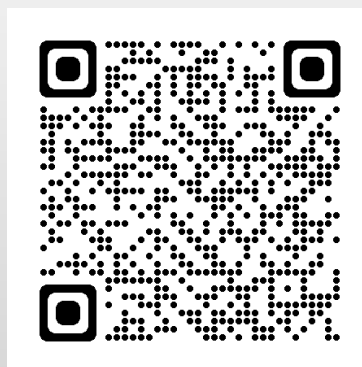
03/2023

slides: [ost.10/nc11j](https://doi.org/10.1017/nc11j) | [e.b.roesch@reading.ac.uk](mailto:e.b.roesch@reading.ac.uk)

# Obviously, that means different things to different people *(Research fields, disciplines, methods...)*



The screenshot shows the UK RN website header with the logo and navigation links: About, Community, and Resources. Below the header is a teal banner with the text "Open Research across Disciplines" and a subtitle "How the principles of open research can be applied to your discipline".



|  |   |   |   |  |                                  |
|--|---|---|---|--|----------------------------------|
| Archaeology and Classics                                   | Architecture, Built Environment and Planning  | Art and Design                              | Artificial Intelligence                                   | Biological Sciences                        | Business and Management Studies  |
| Chemistry  | Computational Modelling                       | Computer Science                            | Cultural and Media Studies                                | Economics                                  | Education                        |
| Engineering  | Environmental Sciences, Ecology and Geography | Health Sciences and Medicine                | History   | Law  | Leisure, Hospitality and Tourism |
| Library and Information Science (including Open Education) | Mathematics and Statistics                    | Modern Language, Literature and Linguistics | Music, Drama and Performing Arts, Film and Screen Studies | Philosophy, Theology and Religious Studies | Physics                          |

# Challenges: report from the trenches



- Training and managing a (local) community costs time that is often not recognized/valued but must be resourced appropriately
- Discrepancy between words and action (e.g. DORA)
- The system itself favours competition over collaboration
- "The needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few."

# Roles and potential roles in moving toward more transparent and rigorous research?

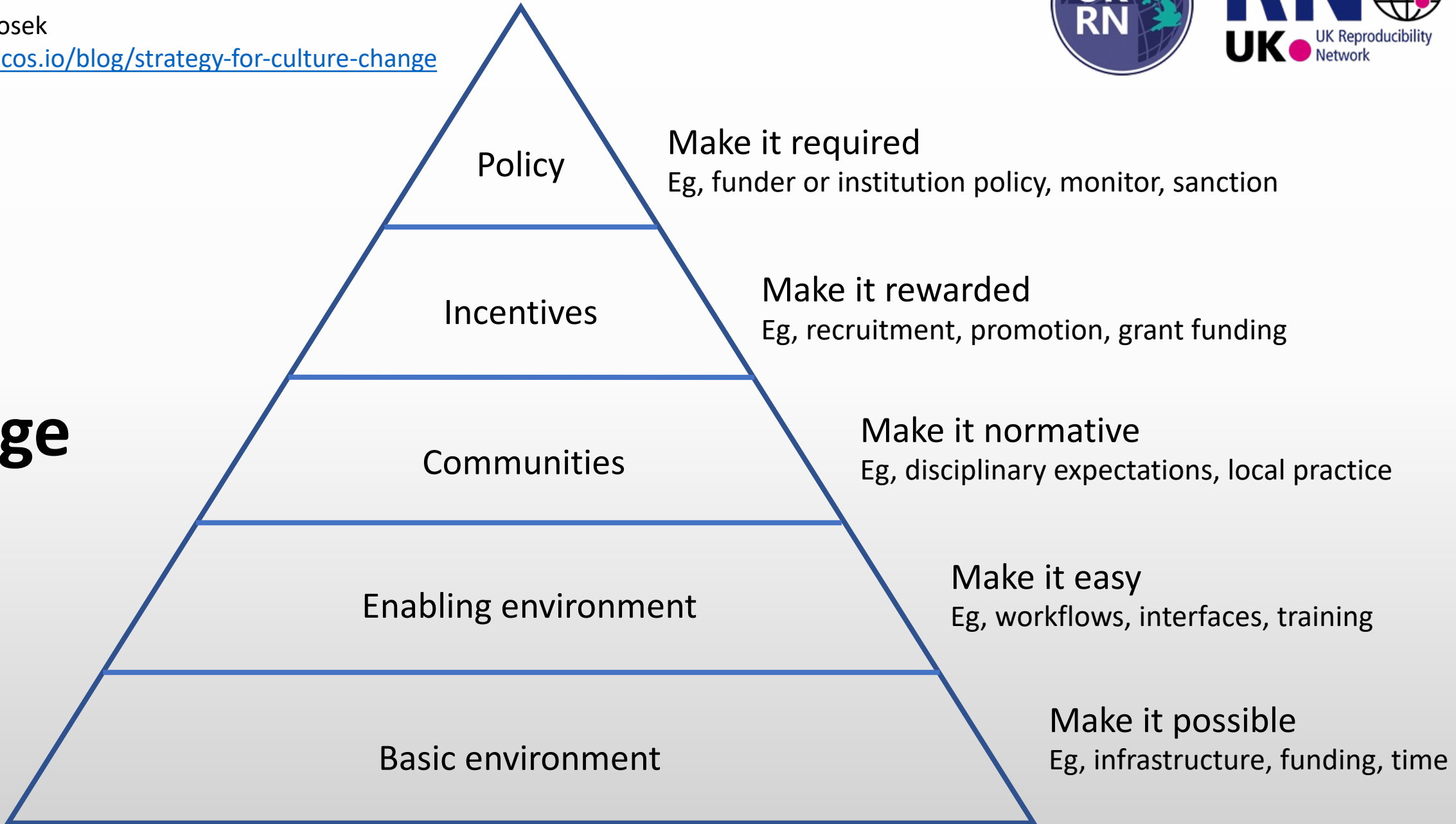
The picture will be different between research fields, settings, etc.

After Brian Nosek

<https://www.cos.io/blog/strategy-for-culture-change>



# Change



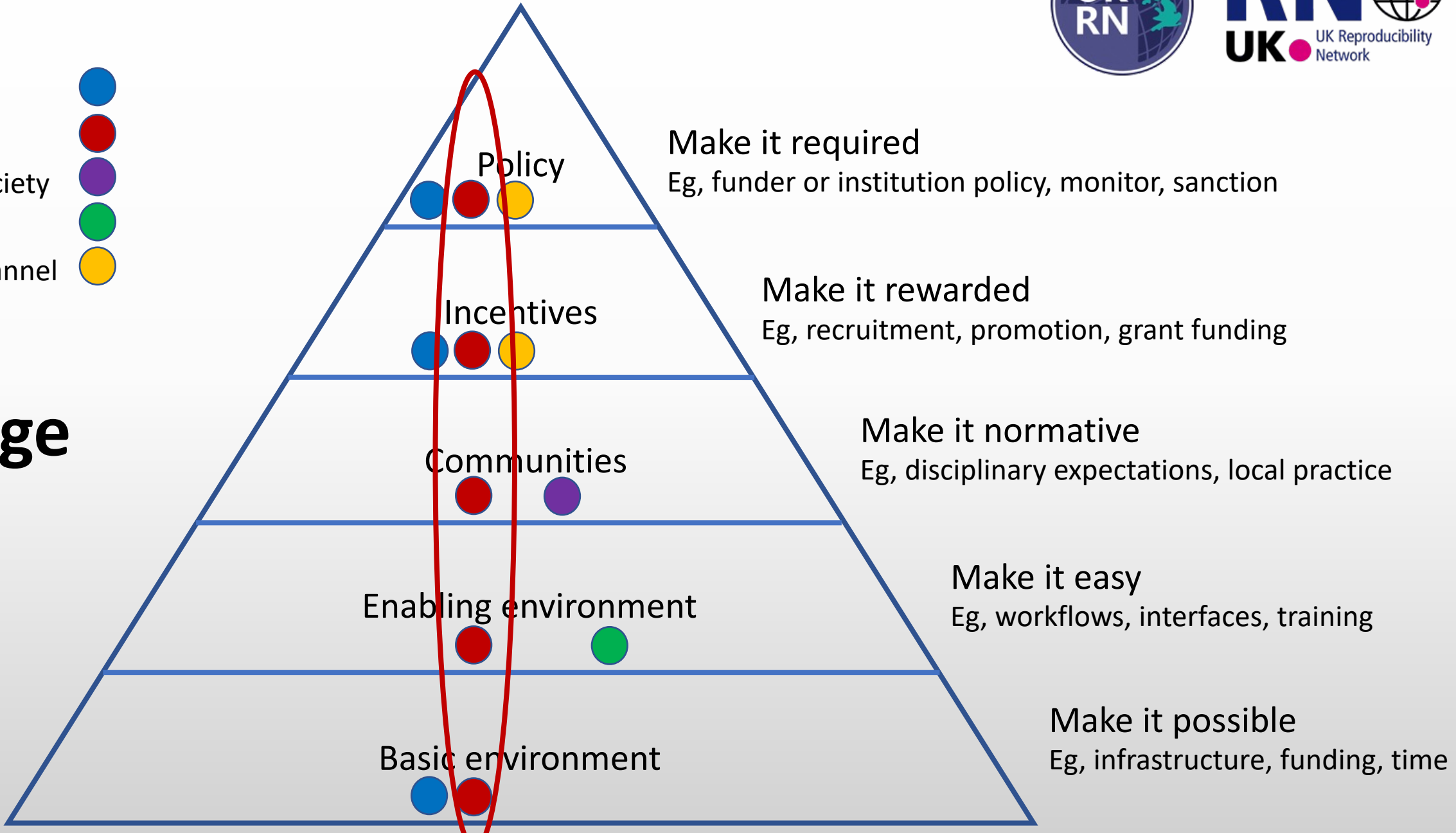
# Roles and potential roles in moving toward more transparent and rigorous research?

The picture will be different between research fields, settings, etc.



- Funder (blue circle)
- Institution (red circle)
- Scholarly society (purple circle)
- Publisher (green circle)
- Journal / channel (yellow circle)

## Change

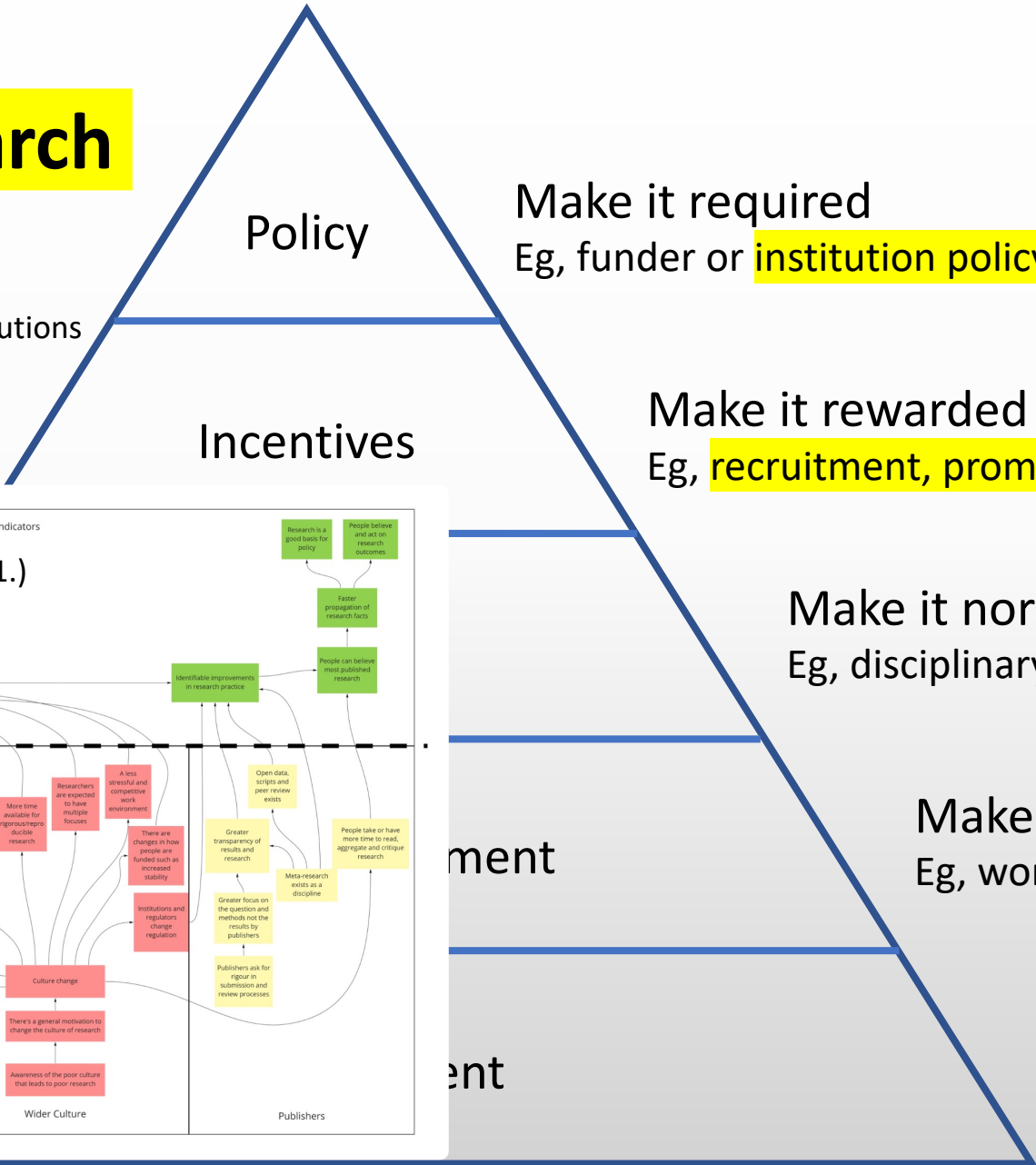


Roles and potential roles in moving toward more transparent and rigorous research?  
 The picture will be different between research fields, settings, etc.



# UKRN Open Research Programme

Research England. 2021-26, £8.5M, 15 institutions



Policy

Make it required  
 Eg, funder or **institution policy**, **monitor**, sanction

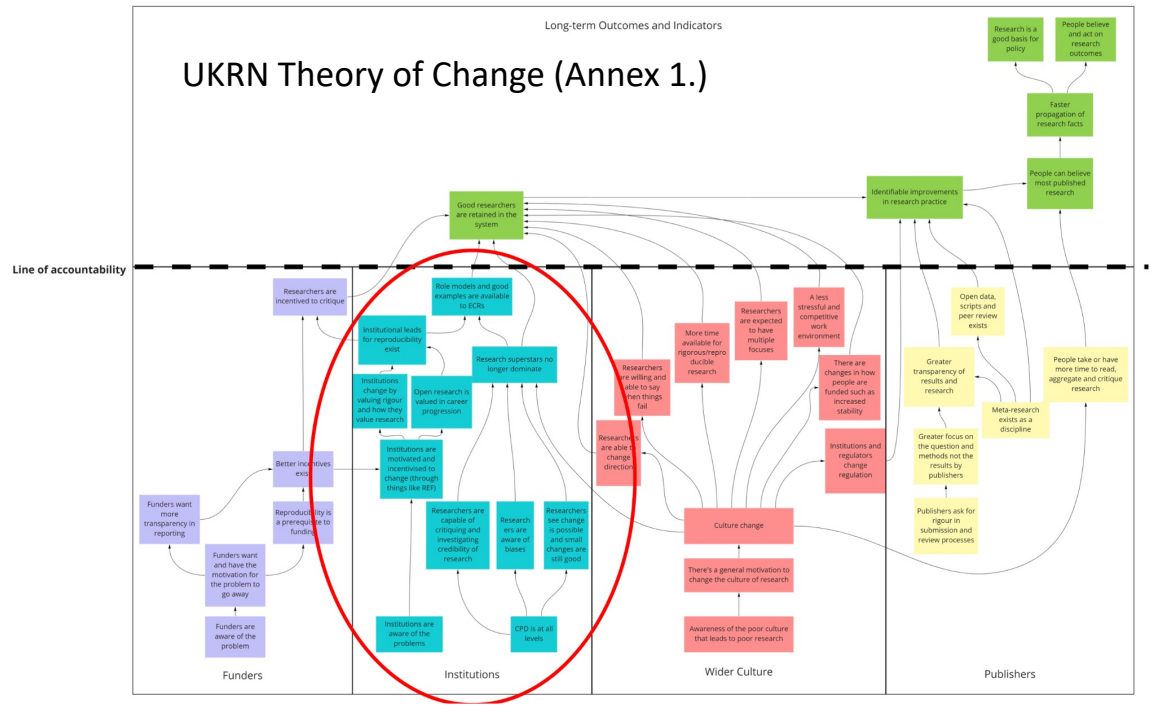
Incentives

Make it rewarded  
 Eg, **recruitment**, **promotion**, grant funding

Make it normative  
 Eg, disciplinary expectations, **local practice**

Make it easy  
 Eg, workflows, interfaces, **training**

Make it possible  
 Eg, infrastructure, funding, time





# Open Research Programme: Partners



“to accelerate the uptake of high-quality open research practices”

## Institutions (so far)



## Publishing industry



## UK-based centres of expertise



## International centres of expertise



## Funded by



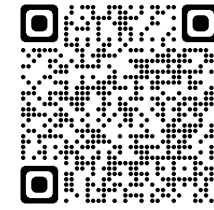
# Open Research Programme: Blueprint



“to accelerate the uptake of high-quality open research practices”

| # | By 2026, the programme will have developed the following capabilities:  |
|---|---|
| 1 | Larger and more representative <b>UKRN communities</b> of researchers and of institutions, that actively support open research  |
| 2 | A curated collection of FAIR and open <b>training resources</b> that support FAIR, open and transparent research practices  |
| 3 | A <b>cohort of trainers</b> , able to use their skills and open training resources creatively and well to support open research practices   |
| 4 | A curated collection of FAIR and, where possible, open <b>materials describing institutional policy, procedure and practice</b> that promotes FAIR, open and transparent research practices |
| 5 | Established, rigorous and practical <b>methods</b> by which to evidence the nature and extent of uptake of FAIR, open and transparent research practices                                    |
| 6 | An evolving corpus of <b>evidence</b> , at aggregate and institutional levels, on the nature and extent of uptake of FAIR, open and transparent research practices                          |
| 7 | <b>Enhanced capability nationally</b> to support FAIR, open and transparent research practices  |
| 8 | A long term <b>sustainability model</b> for UKRN  |

# Open Research Programme: Overview



“to accelerate the uptake of high-quality open research practices”

2021

2026



Figure 2.2: Example of a linear Theory of Change (based on Mayne 2017<sup>15</sup>)

