

Sustainability and resilience of buildings,  
settlements and the natural environment:

Research, practice and support for social  
innovation



23<sup>rd</sup> April 2015

## Why this conference?

- Knowledge exchange
  - Research-practice-beneficiaries
  - Interdisciplinary
  - Inter-institutional
- Increasing research impact
- Identifying research gaps

## Spotlight on social innovation

Social innovation:

- problem-solving and social change
- achieved through the activism of social groups, organisations, communities and individuals
- new forms of engagement
- sustainable living and resilience.

The outputs: innovative products, services and/or activities for sustainable living and resilience.



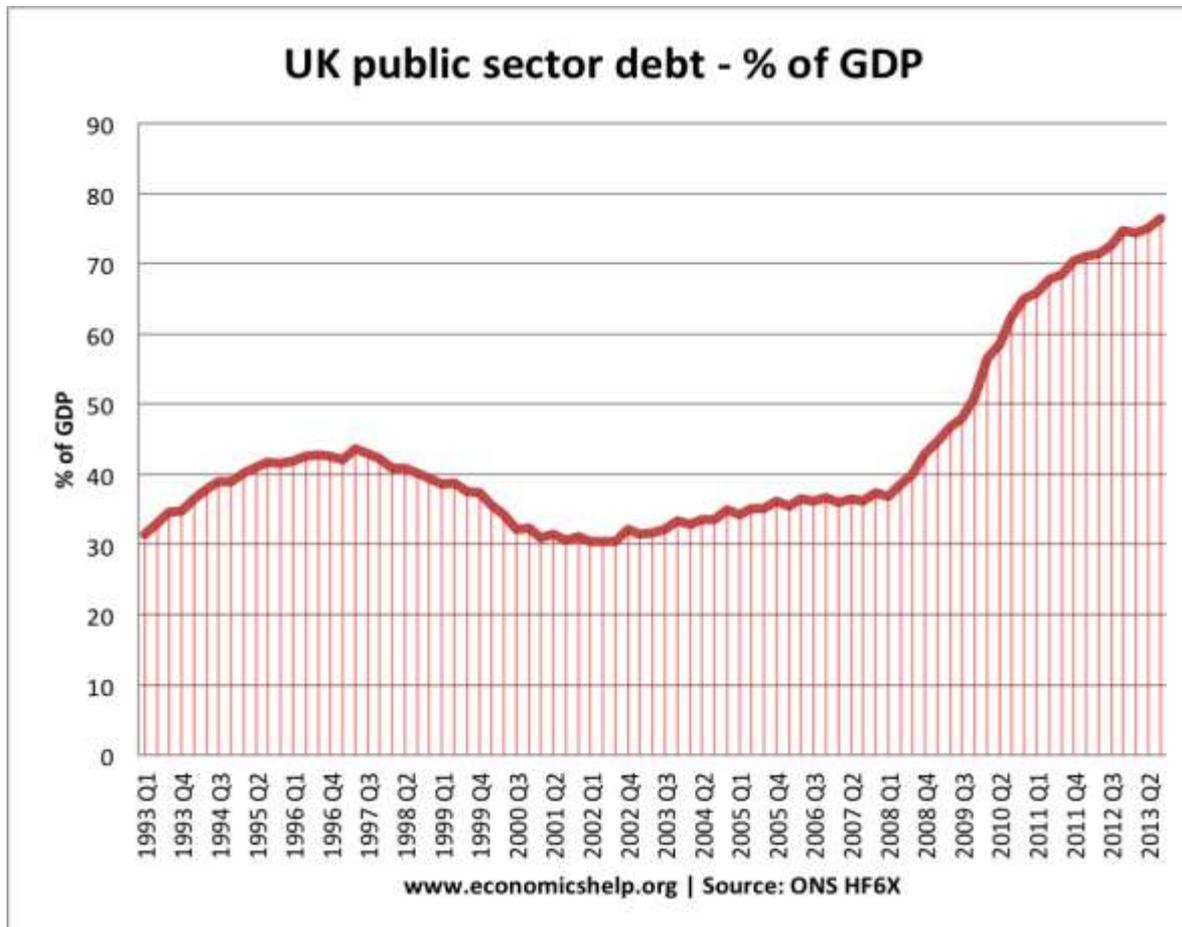
## Why is social innovation relevant to sustainability and resilience?

- Fast in addressing problems or opportunities in a changing context
- Mobilises collective knowledge, skills and voluntary activities
- Develops self-reliance of communities and individuals



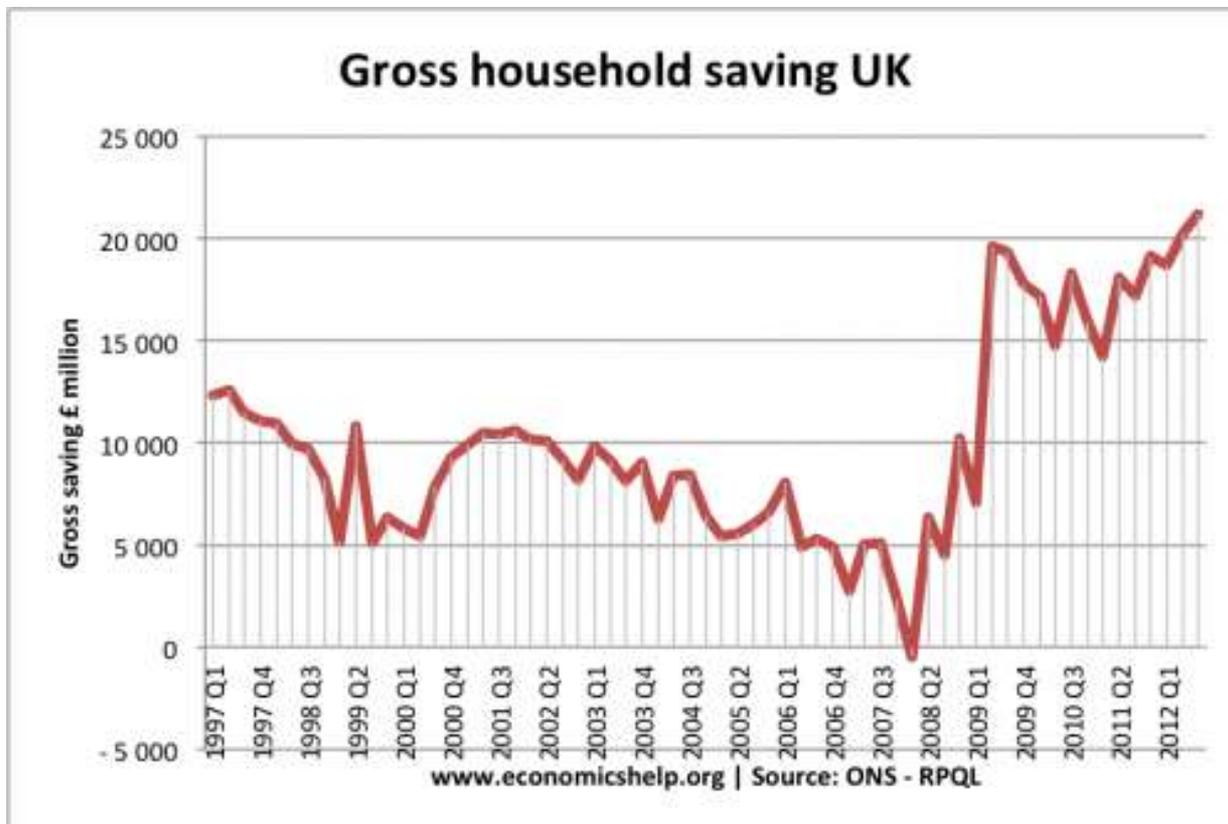
**Could increase impact of research, policies and practice through engagement with receptive groups or individuals.**

## Changing economic context



The UK national debt has increased from 30% of GDP in 2002 to 80% of GDP in 2014.

## Personal/social adaptive response



From 2007 to 2012, there was a sharp rise in private sector saving: from less than £1M to over £20B

## Information and tools to build resilience

Individuals and community groups can act faster than political and governance structures if they have access to information and decision-making tools needed for personal and community actions to increase resilience against external threats.



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graph LR; A[DATA] --> B[INFORMATION]; B --> C[DECISION-MAKING TOOLS]
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**DATA**

**INFORMATION**

**DECISION-MAKING TOOLS**