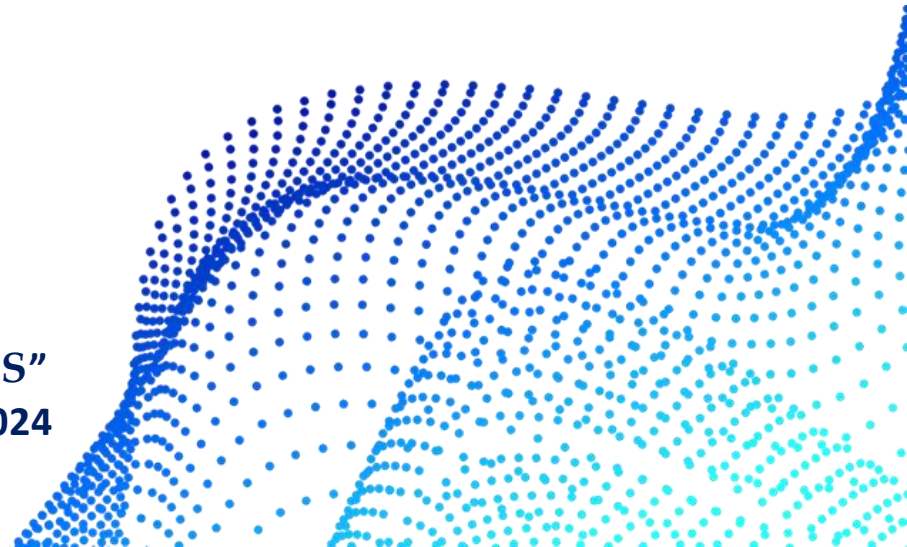




# The Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA): first outcomes of a global initiative for a systemic change of research assessment

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“RESEARCH EVALUATION: STATE OF THE ART AND FUTURE SCENARIOS”  
Universitas Mercatorum, Coffee House of Palazzo Colonna Rome, Italy , 09-05-2024



# AGREEMENT ON REFORMING RESEARCH ASSESSMENT

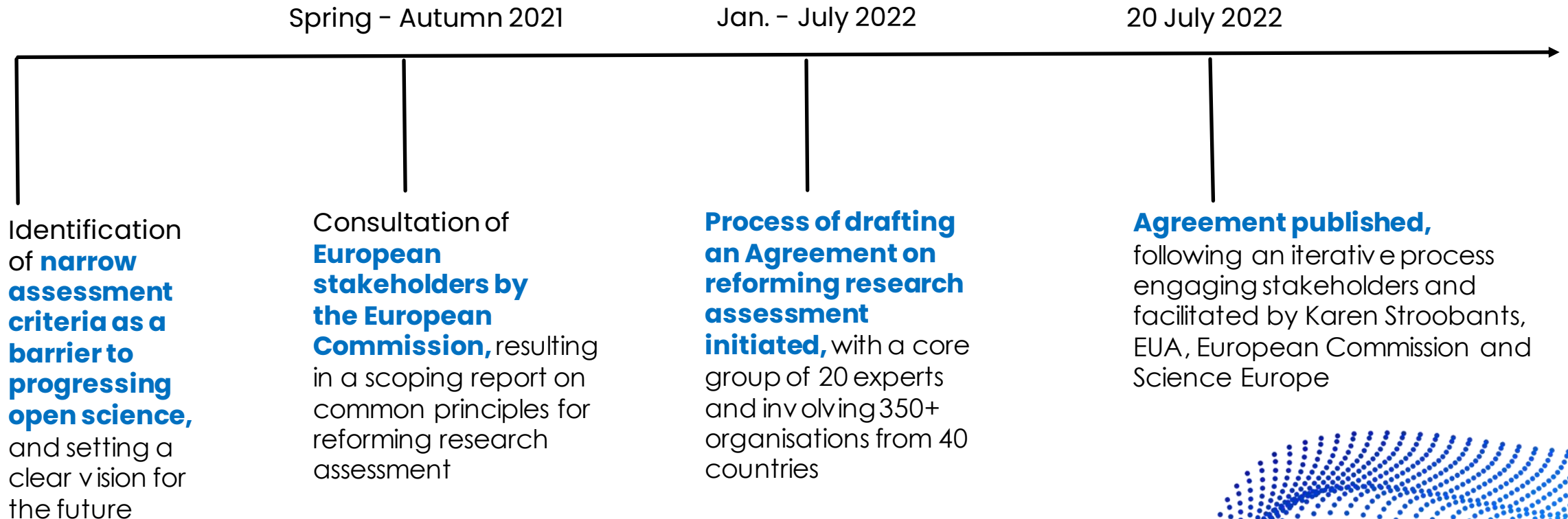


<https://coara.eu/agreement/>

# NEED FOR ASSESSMENT REFORM

- There is broad agreement from the research community on the **urgent need to reform existing ways of assessing research**.
- Assessment processes relying predominantly on journal- and publication-based metrics **can be a hurdle to the recognition of diverse contributions and may negatively affect the quality and impact of research**. They also contribute to an unhealthy research culture and an unaffordable publication system.
- Building on progress made so far (DORA, Leiden Manifesto, Hong Kong Principles), the Agreement **establishes a common direction for research assessment reform**, while respecting organisations' autonomy. It is based on **shared principles, 10 commitments**, and a **timeframe** (1 & 5 years) for reforms.
- Agreement published on 20 July 2022.

# AGREEMENT DRAFTING PROCESS



# 10 OVERARCHING PRINCIPLES

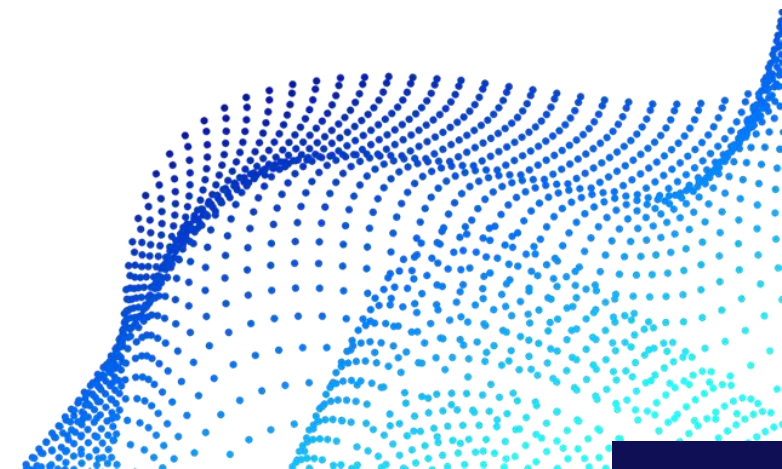


- 1. Comply with ethics and integrity rules and practices.**
- 2. Safeguard freedom of scientific research.**
- 3. Respect autonomy of research organisations.**
- 4. Ensure independence and transparency of the data, infrastructure and criteria.**
- 5. Focus research assessment criteria on quality.**
- 6. Recognise contributions that advance knowledge and potential impact.**
- 7. Recognise diversity of research activities, practices, and outputs.**
- 8. Respect variety of scientific disciplines, research types and career stages.**
- 9. Acknowledge and valorise diversity in research roles and careers.**
- 10. Ensure gender equality, equal opportunities and inclusiveness.**

# 4 CORE COMMITMENTS (WHAT)



1. **Recognise the diversity of contributions** to, and careers in, research, in accordance with the needs and the nature of the research.
2. **Base research assessment primarily on qualitative evaluation for which peer-review is central**, supported by responsible use of quantitative indicators.
3. **Abandon the inappropriate uses in research assessment of journal- and publication-based metrics**, in particular the inappropriate uses of journal impact factor (JIF) and *h*-index.
4. **Avoid the use of rankings of research organisations** in research assessment.



# 6 SUPPORTING COMMITMENTS (HOW)

5. **Commit resources** to reforming research assessment as is needed to achieve the organisational changes committed to.
6. **Review and develop** research assessment criteria, tools and processes.
7. **Raise awareness** of research assessment reform and provide transparent communication, guidance, and training on assessment criteria and processes as well as their use.
8. **Exchange** practices and experiences **to enable mutual learning** within and beyond the Coalition.
9. **Communicate progress** made on adherence to the Principles and implementation of the Commitments.
10. **Evaluate** practices, criteria and tools **based on solid evidence** and the state-of-the-art in research on research, and **make data openly available** for evidence gathering and research.



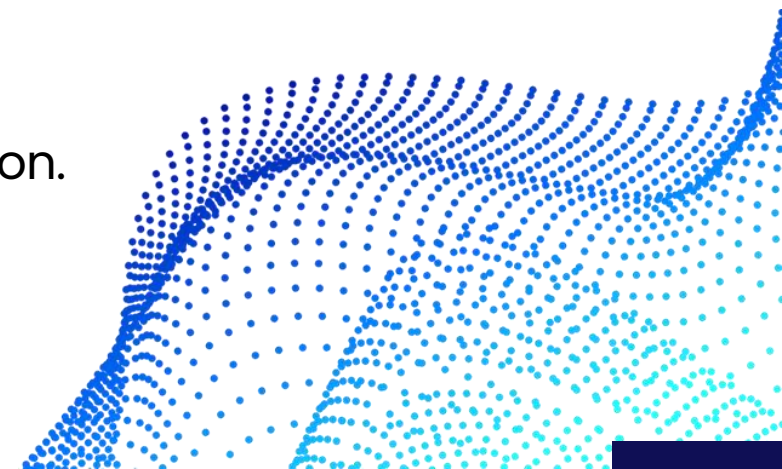
# TIMEFRAME

Agreement includes touch-base points in years 1 and 5 after signature to communicate progress, based on **self-assessment**.

- **By year 1** signatories share how their organisation **has started the process of reviewing or developing criteria, tools and processes**.
- **By year 5** signatories have regularly **demonstrated progress towards reviewing, developing and evaluating criteria, tools and processes** that fulfil the core commitments.



The Agreement is **only the starting point!**  
Changes to be developed and implemented by the Coalition.





# WHO CAN SIGN THE AGREEMENT?



The Agreement is open for signature to **organisations from across the world:**

- Universities, and their associations;
- Research centres, research infrastructures, and their associations;
- Academies, learned societies, and their associations, and associations of researchers;
- Public or private research funding organisations and their associations;
- National/regional authorities or agencies that implement some form of research assessment and their associations;
- Other relevant non-for-profit organisations involved with research assessment, and associations.

*Organisations without legal personality can also sign and join the Coalition.*

**>700 validated signatories** as of April 2024

**COALITION FOR  
ADVANCING RESEARCH  
ASSESSMENT  
(CoARA)**



<https://coara.eu/coalition>

# VISION & MISSION

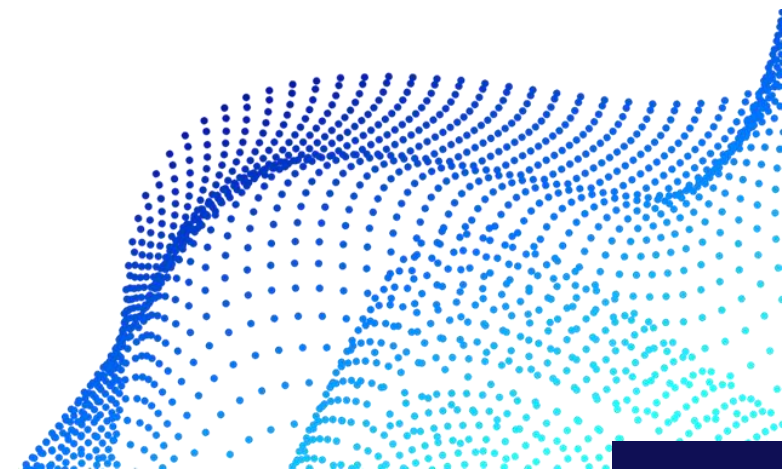
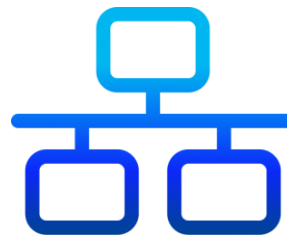
- **Vision:** In line with the Agreement, CoARA's vision is that the **assessment of research, researchers and research organisations** recognises the diverse outputs, practices and activities that maximize the quality and impact of research.
- **Mission:** **Enable systemic reform of research assessment** on the basis of common principles and commitments within an agreed timeframe, as set in the Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment. Through exchange of information and mutual learning between all those willing to improve research assessment practices.
- To effectively facilitate the achievement of this goal, member organisations of the CoARA **subscribe to the Guiding Principles** that underlie and steer the conduct and evolution of the initiative.

# CORE PRINCIPLES

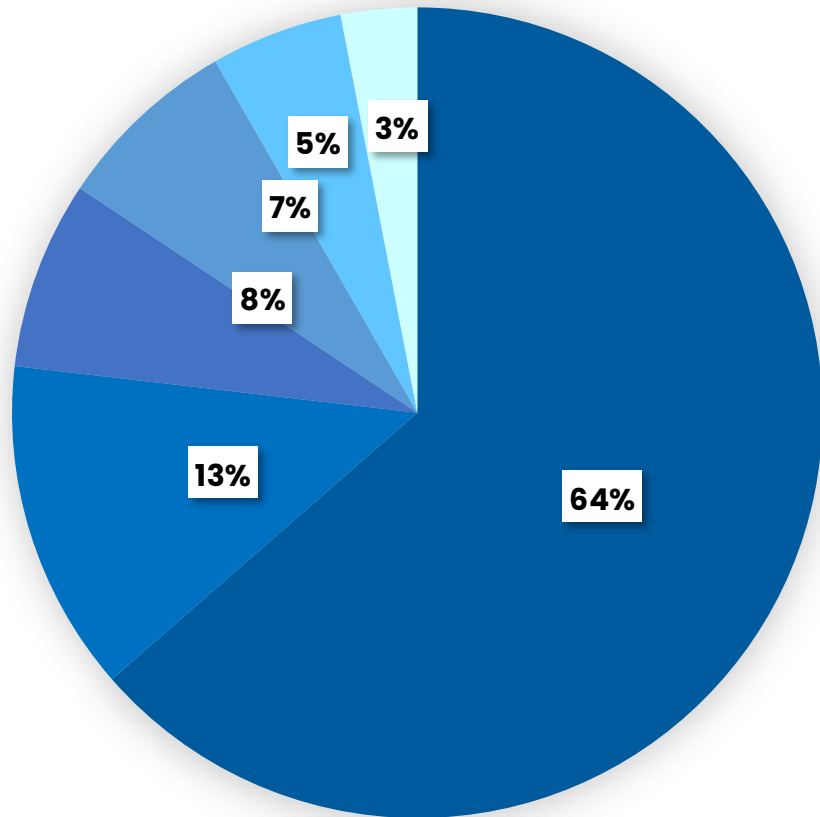
- **Openness** – to signatories of agreement; globally; accessible outputs
- **Responsibility** – general assembly responsible for rules and procedures of operation
- **Collaboration and mutual support** – supportive environment; mutual learning and collaboration; also with other initiatives
- **Inspiration** – inspire organisations inside and outside the Coalition
- **Commitment and autonomy** – supports implementation; respect autonomy
- **Voluntary and community-driven** – volunteer members; driving force
- **Dialogue** – in research and academic communities and beyond; representation
- **Inclusiveness** – global; different levels of progress
- **Trust** – self-assessment shared publicly
- **Funding** – voluntary in-kind; potential contributions from members
- **Non-profit** – no commercial activities; open and re-usable outputs

# CoARA GOVERNING BODIES

- **General Assembly of Members – All Members.** Represents all members of the Coalition. The highest-level decision-making body, meets annually.
  - The **Constitutive Assembly**, the first meeting of the General Assembly of members of the Coalition, took place on 1 December 2022.
- **Steering Board – Elected.** Responsible for the overall oversight, success, strategy, business plan and sustainability of the Coalition.
  - The first elections for the Steering Board were held at the Constitutive Assembly.



# CoARA MEMBERSHIP BY TYPE OF ORGANISATION



In descending order of total share:

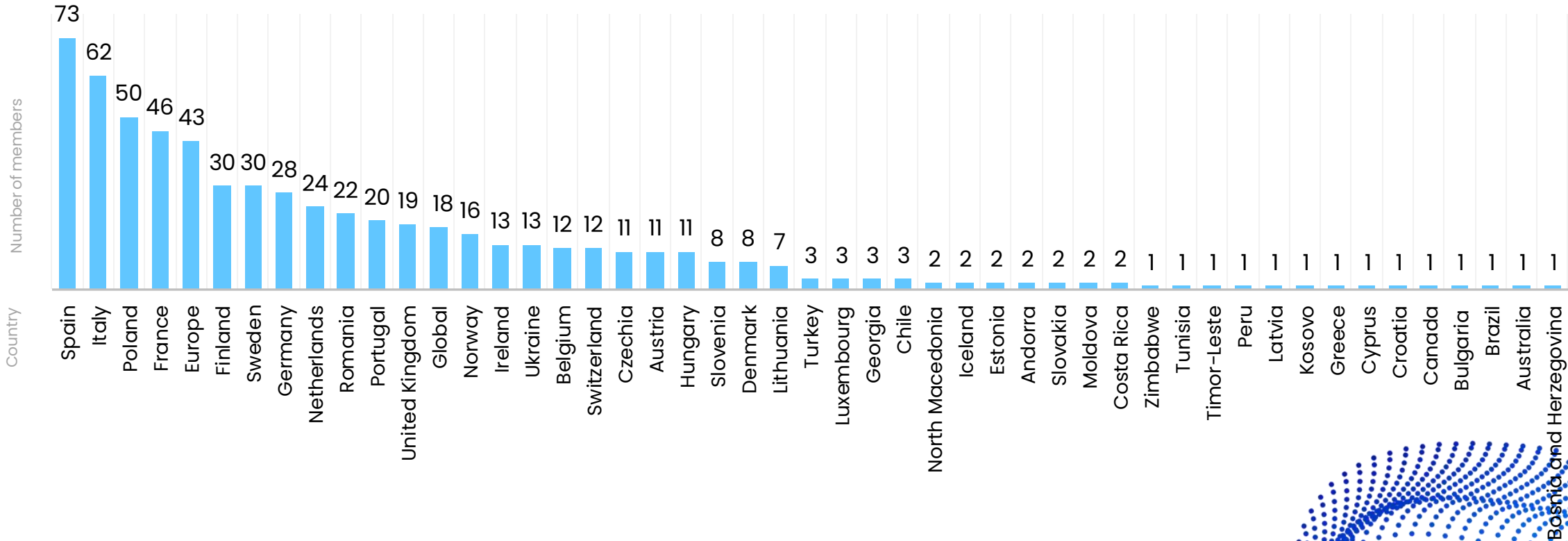
- Universities and their associations
- Research centres, research infrastructures, and their associations
- Academies, learned societies, and their associations, and associations of researchers
- Public or private research funding organisations and their associations
- Other relevant non-for-profit organisations involved with research assessment, and their associations
- National/regional authorities or agencies that implement some form of research assessment and their associations

**627 member organisations**

**715 signatories**

[04 April 2024]

# CoARA MEMBERSHIP BY COUNTRY



**Membership total:**  
627

**# of countries\*:**  
47

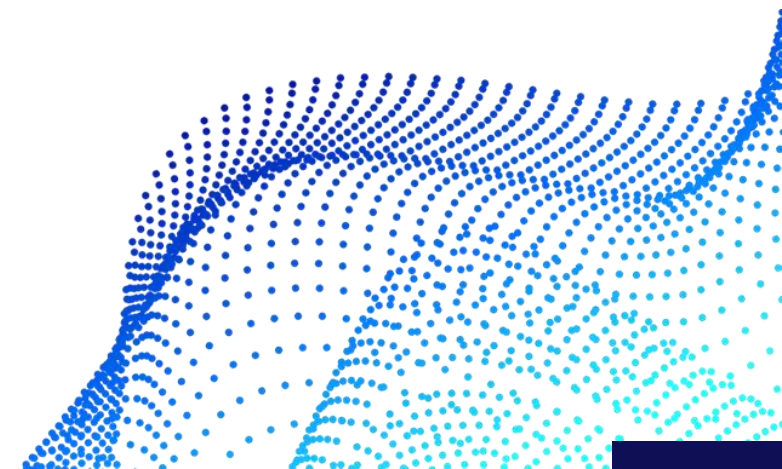
(4 April 2024)

\*excl. pan-European and global organisations

# SECRETARIAT



- **Secretariat supports** the administrative, logistical, and other activities of the Coalition.
- The Coalition's constitutive assembly on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022, appointed **the European Science Foundation (ESF – SC)** as secretariat of CoARA.
- Additional in-kind support has been provided in the initial phases by the European Commission, Science Europe, University of the Netherlands (UNL) and the Young European Research Universities Network (YERUN).
- Contact: [secretariat@coara.eu](mailto:secretariat@coara.eu)





# WORKING GROUPS

- Members are to be invited to submit and/or participate in thematic Working Groups.
- Working Groups aim to **exchange** knowledge, **learn** mutually, **discuss and develop** outputs to advance research assessment and **help** implement members' commitments.
- They operate as '**communities of practice**', providing mutual learning and collaboration. Working Groups are identified and proposed **bottom-up** by members
  - Three types: **Interest**, **Discipline**, and **Institution** Communities.
- The procedures and criteria for working groups are developed by the Steering Board.
- **First call for WG launched in March 2023 and a second one in September 2023.**

# WORKING GROUPS

<https://coara.eu/coalition/working-groups/>

- **Supporting the alignment of research assessment systems with CoARA in biomedical disciplines through administrative reforms and governance**
- **Towards Transformations: Transdisciplinarity, Applied/Practice-Based Research, and Impacts**
- **Improving practices in the assessment of research proposals**
- **Reforming Academic Career Assessment**
- **Ethics and Research Integrity Policy in Responsible Research Assessment for Data and Artificial Intelligence**
- **Recognizing and Rewarding Peer Review**

# WORKING GROUPS

- **Multilingualism and language biases in research assessment**
- **Responsible metrics and indicators**
- **Towards Transformations: Transdisciplinarity, Applied/Practice-Based**
- **Evaluating Social Sciences and Humanities research globally**
- **Experiments in Assessment – Idea generation, co-creation, and piloting**
- **Towards an Inclusive Evaluation of Research**
- **Early-and-mid-Career Researchers – Assessment and Research Culture**

# NATIONAL CHAPTERS



- Members are also invited to form/participate in **National Chapters** (NCs).
- National Chapters will contribute to CoARA work by facilitating the **exchange of knowledge, mutual learning** and **discussions** on CoARA-relevant issues specific to different types of organisations of a **given country or group of countries**.
- National Chapters proposed at the initiative of CoARA members.
  - Participation from members is voluntary.
  - Any CoARA member from the given country can participate in call for National Chapter.
- **First call for NCs launched 28 March 2023**, announcement sent to Coalition members.
  - No limit on the number of National Chapters that can be approved.
    - No more than one National Chapter approved per country/group.

# NATIONAL CHAPTERS

<https://coara.eu/coalition/national-chapters/>

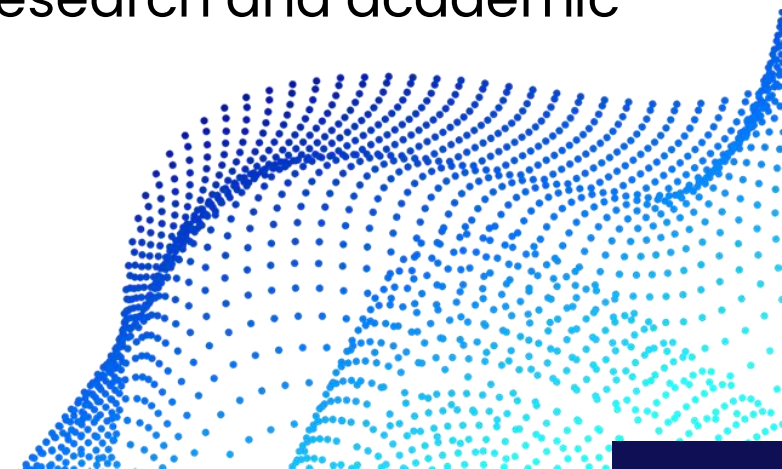
- Cyprus
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Hungary
- Ireland
- **Italy**
- Norway
- Poland
- Portugal
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Ukraine
- United Kingdom



# WHY JOIN THE COALITION?

The Coalition:

- **Enables systemic reform by empowering organisations** in their process of research assessment reform.
- Allows building a **critical mass of stakeholders** to interact with national and regional authorities, incl. ERA Forum, to tackle any legal or administrative barriers that limit the implementation of changes to research assessment by research organisations.
- Seeks to **avoid potential contradictions** between different research assessment practices and frameworks, for the benefit of the broader research and academic community, and especially young researchers.



# BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP



- **Support the reform** of research assessment
- **Exchange knowledge**, test and pilot ideas, find support from peers, and work together to advance reforming research assessment through **participation in working groups**
- **Initiate and benefit** from communities of practice on subjects of your choice
- Help members less advanced in the reform, or at an early stage in this process, to **identify and learn** from successful ideas and practices in organisations that are further advanced
- **Give a platform** those with more advanced assessment practices to share their expertise
- Support the development of a **coherent assessment ecosystem** and **keep improving evaluation methods**

# MEMBERSHIP PROCESS



- Organisations **first sign the Agreement** through an authorised representative and can explicitly express interest to become a member.
- Expression of interest to join CoARA can also be made after signature by request to the Secretariat by authorised representative.
- Membership requests are subject to **approval by the Steering Board**.
- All member organisations will be invited to **participate in Working Groups**, attend **General Assembly meetings** according to when they signed the Agreement, as well as other **events and activities**. Their logo will be displayed on CoARA's website.
- Members may leave the Coalition **at any time**.



# Next General Assembly 12<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2024

## JOIN AND ENGAGE

Useful links:

- [CoARA website](https://coara.eu)  
<https://coara.eu>
- [The governance documents](#)
- [The Agreement full text](#)
- [Sign the Agreement](#)
- [CoARA News](#)
- [FAQ](#)

## Follow us!

 /  @CoARAssessment

 **Coalition for Advancing  
Research Assessment**

## A question?

Contact us at  
[secretariat@coara.eu](mailto:secretariat@coara.eu)



### CoARA Boost factsheet:

<b>Duration</b>	36 months
<b>Resource volume</b>	5.000.000 EUR
<b>Funded under</b>	HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ERA-01 (enhancing the European Research & Innovation system)
<b>Coordinated by</b>	European Science Foundation (host of the CoARA secretariat)

### Project Partners:

- Agenzia Nazionale di Valutazione del Sistema Universitario e della Ricerca (ANVUR)
- All European Academies (ALLEA)
- Careers Research and Advisory Centre (CRAC)
- Centre National de la Recherche Centre (CNRS)
- European Science Foundation (ESF)
- Hungarian Research Network (HUN-REN HQ)
- Marie Curie Alumni Association (MCAA)
- Science Europe
- Young European Research Universities Network (YERUN)

## Expected Outcomes and Scope

Embedded within the operational structure of the coalition, the CoARA Boost project has a pivotal role in advancing CoARA's mission in the worldwide reform of assessment of research, researchers, and research organisations with the intent to recognise diverse outputs, practices and activities that will maximise the overall quality and impact of research. The initiative provides critical means to bolster CoARA's ramp-up and is opening new pathways for research assessment models and policies.