



# CoARA

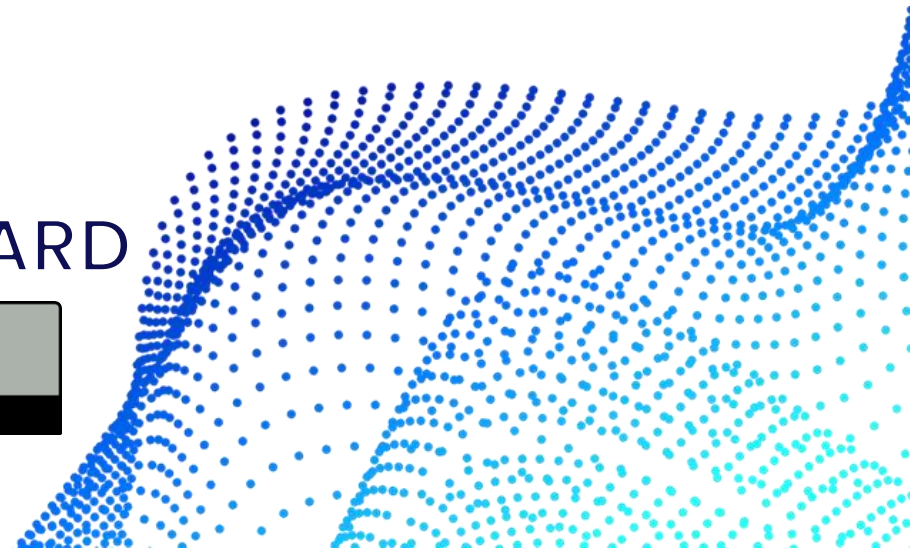
# THE COALITION FOR ADVANCING RESEARCH ASSESSMENT

14 NOVEMBER 2024

LIDIA BORRELL-DAMIAN, STEERING BOARD



Funded by  
the European Union



# IF YOU COULD CHANGE JUST ONE ASPECT OF PRESENT-DAY ACADEMIA, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

*„I think for me it would be changing the emphasis on the credit for the work being done. **It might be a daydream: getting credit for all the wonderful things that you're being asked to do that are above and beyond just publishing an article or a book.** And it would help enrich disciplines and enrich the public value of the humanities and build up a better perception of what Humanities bring to society more largely.”*

PhD candidate in Digital Humanities,  
Ireland. Context:  
[10.5281/zenodo.4922537](https://zenodo.org/record/4922537)

# AN 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.**



# Agreement, setting a common direction



# Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment



**Spring- Autumn 2021**

Scoping report and EU-wide multi-stakeholder consultation on research assessment by the European Commission

**Jan-July 2022** drafting the Agreement

**20 July 2022**

Publication of the Agreement

# 4 CORE COMMITMENTS



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

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.



# CoARA: from agreement to action





# Implementing the Agreement through CoARA



**Spring- Autumn 2021**  
Scoping report and EU-wide multi-stakeholder consultation on research assessment by the European Commission

**Jan-July 2022** drafting the Agreement

**20 July 2022**

Publication of the Agreement

**1 December 2022**

Constitution of CoARA

**Early 2024:**

- ✓ A coalition of more than 600 members
- ✓ 13 Working Groups operational
- ✓ 15 National Chapters
- ✓ Policy impact (ERC, REF etc.)
- ✓ CoARA Boost project up and running

# CoARA

Coalition for Advancing  
Research Assessment

Be part of the Coalition: [click here](#) to sign the Agreement and to choose to become a member



SIGNATORY

Optional  
membership  
+



MEMBER

## ENDORSE PUBLICLY

Publicly signal the need and your willingness to reform the current ways of research assessment



## ACHIEVE CHANGE

Realise change in your organisation by implementing the [10 CoARA commitments](#) through an action plan developed within your organisation



As a signatory you can level up to membership any time. There are no membership fees.

## JOIN THE COMMUNITIES

Benefit from communities of practice; propose and join [Working Groups](#) and [National Chapters](#)



## HAVE A VOICE

Shape CoARA's strategy by [participating in governance and decision-making](#)



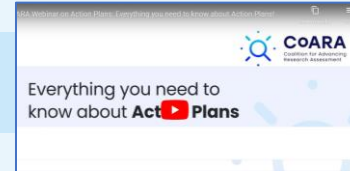
## NETWORK AND LEARN

Interact and share best practices with the CoARA network of members



# CoARA COMMUNITIES

## Members committing through action plans



- ✓ Established corpus
- ✓ Webinar and other support mechanisms
- ✓ National level discourse

## Active Working Groups



- ✓ Consultations, events
- ✓ First outputs
- ✓ Regular updates via the website and newsletter

## Growing number of National Chapters



- ✓ Established corpus
- ✓ Webinar and other support mechanisms
- ✓ National level discourse

## Cascade Funding



- ✓ Grants to implement the ARRA
- ✓ 80+ applications received for the first round

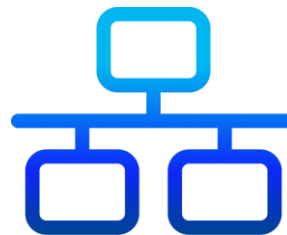
## CoARA Events



- ✓ Online, hybrid
- ✓ Call for hosting events for CoARA members

# CoARA GOVERNING BODIES

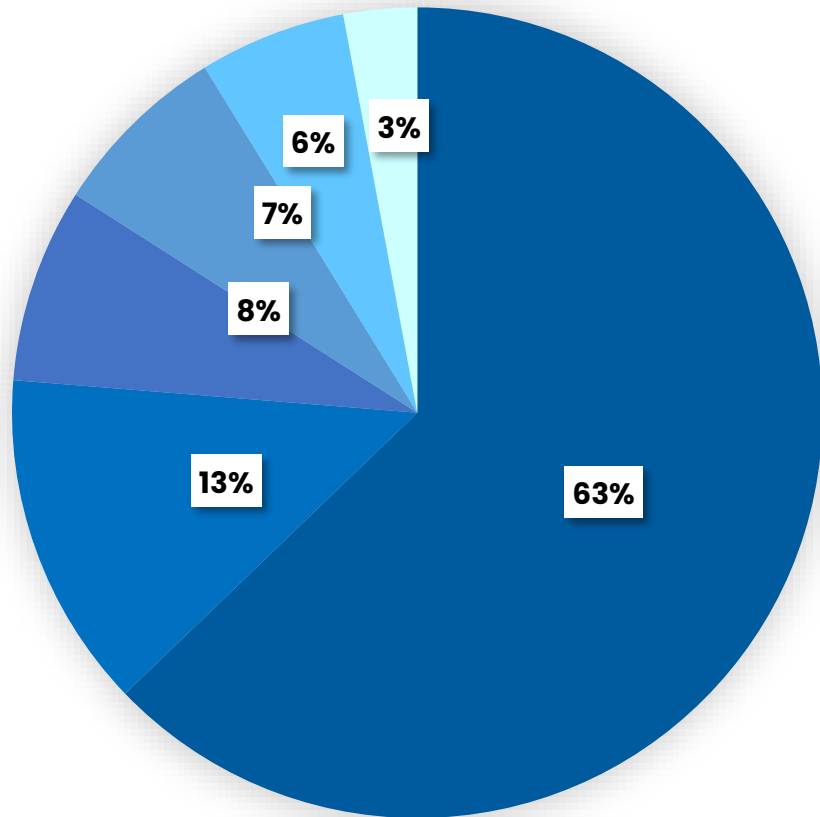
- **General Assembly of Members – All Members.** Represents all members of the Coalition. The highest-level decision-making body.
- **Steering Board – Elected.** Responsible for the overall oversight, success, strategy, business plan and sustainability of the Coalition.
- **CoARA Secretariat** – ensures smooth operation of CoARA, nurtures communities around CoARA, coordinates the CoARA Boost project.



# CoARA membership



# 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

**683 member organisations**  
**778 signatories**

[09 September 2024]

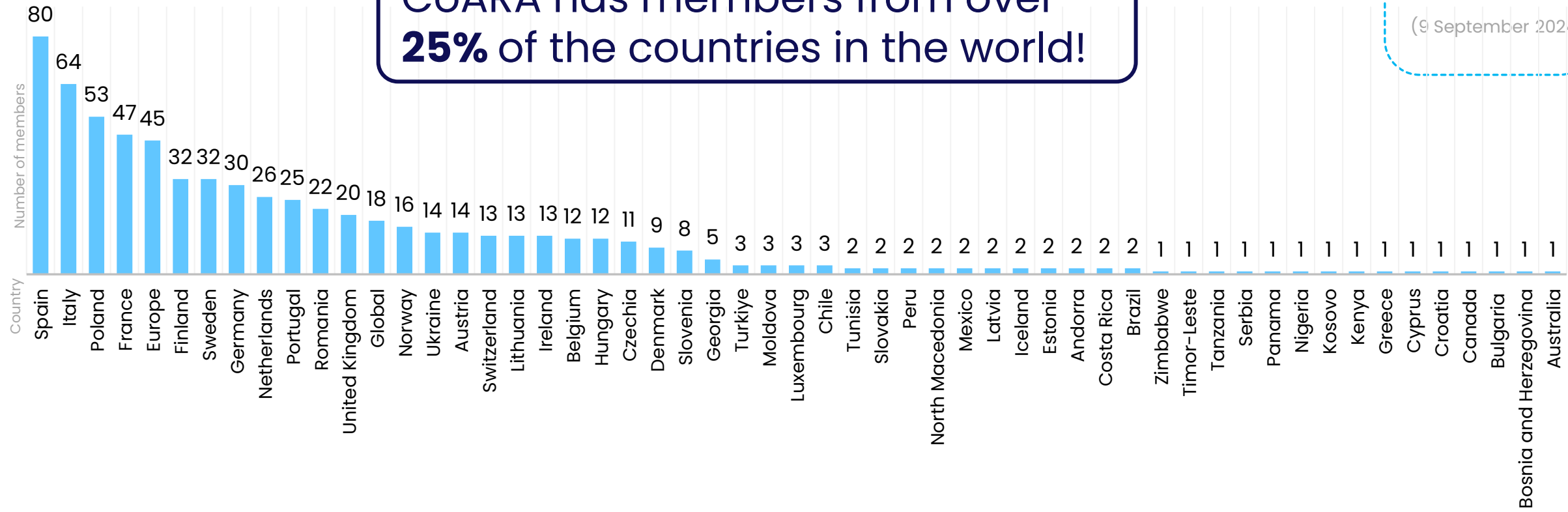
# CoARA MEMBERSHIP BY COUNTRY

CoARA has members from over **25%** of the countries in the world!

Membership total:  
**683**

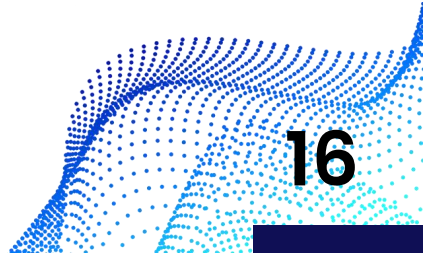
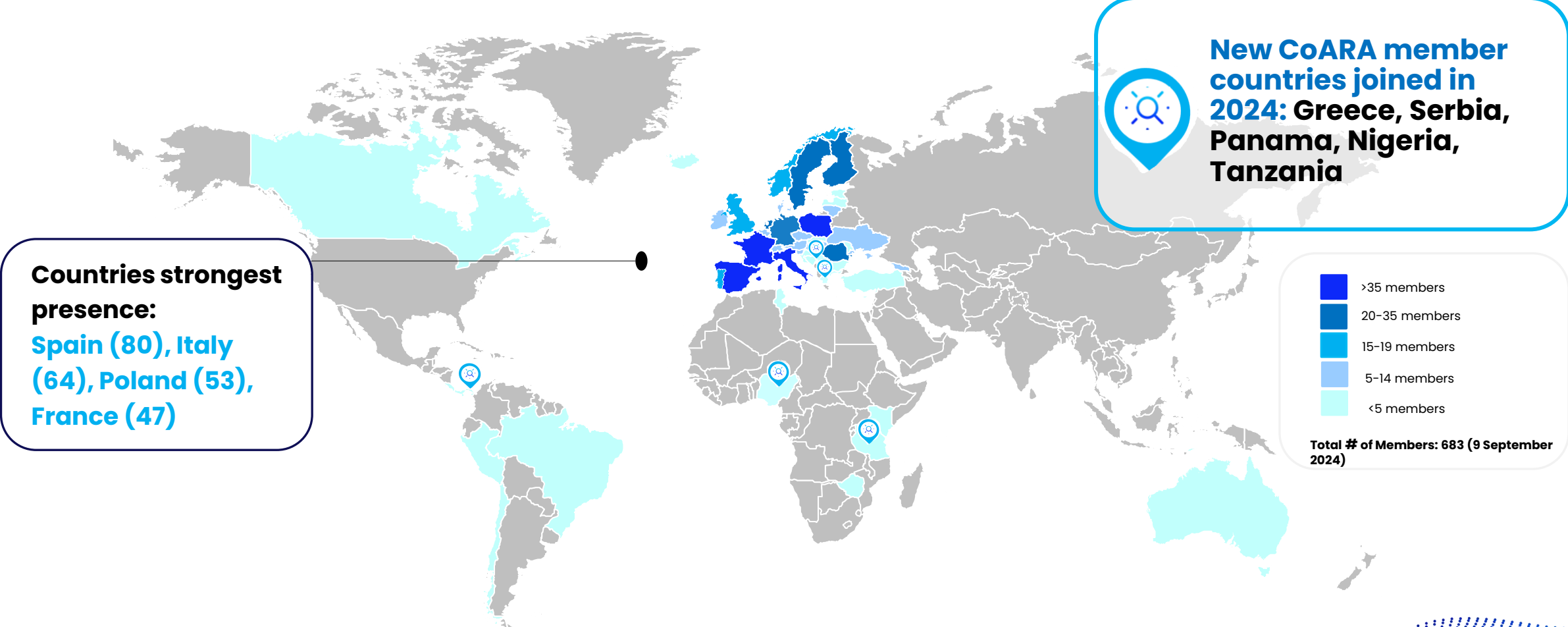
# of countries\*:  
**55**

(9 September 2024)



\*excl. pan-European and global organisations

# Global Expansion of CoARA Membership





# From Agreement to Action



Marta Agostinho  
EU-LIFE Executive Director

“ Developing a CoARA action plan is a considerable challenge, filled with strategic decision-making, so it is vital that organizations openly share their strategies and outcomes, not just to foster a culture of openness but to aid others in their journeys. ”



Michal Petr @Michal\_Petr\_MU · Dec 4, 2023

I am happy to share that we have recently published the Masaryk University **Action Plan for CoARA**. [zenodo.org/communities/co...](https://zenodo.org/communities/co...) Responsible assessment is our important institutional value. Time for communication, analysis, collaboration and transparency.



Pastora Martínez Samper @pastorams · Apr 5

Replying to @pastorams and @UOCuniversitat

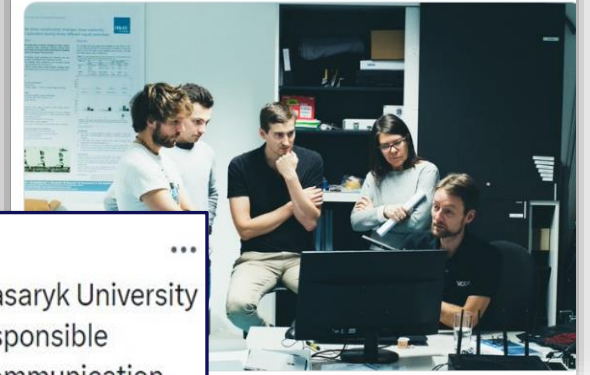
Many thanks to the UOC community involved in the writing, discussion and improvement of our 1st **action plan** linked to [#CoARA](#), specially to our Rector [@afitob](#) our vicerectors for Research X.Vilajosana and for Academic Policy [@mjmartarguelles](#) and the newly created [#CoARA](#) Committee

FH St. Pölten – University of Applied Sciences  
@fh\_stpoelten · Follow

Aktionsplan zur Qualität in der Forschung

Wir haben einen Aktionsplan erstellt, um die Qualität unserer Forschung zu stärken.

Der Plan ist Teil des Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment (ARRA) der [@CoARAssessment](#), bei der wir Mitglied sind.



CoARA Action Plan -webinaari järjestettiin 12.3.2024. Webinaarin tarkoituksena oli tukea organisaatioita CoARAN edellyttämän toimintasuunnitelman laatimisessa sekä jakaa tietoa ja hyviä käytäntöjä.

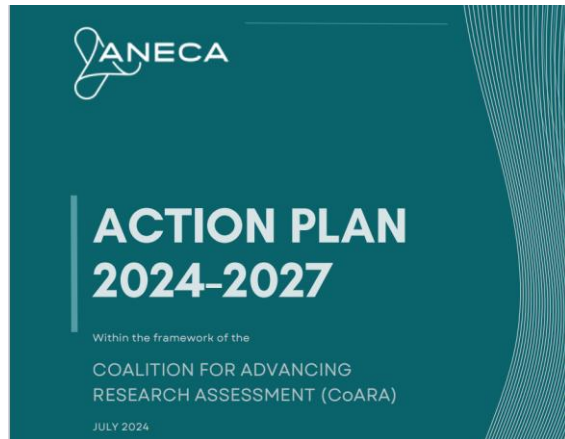
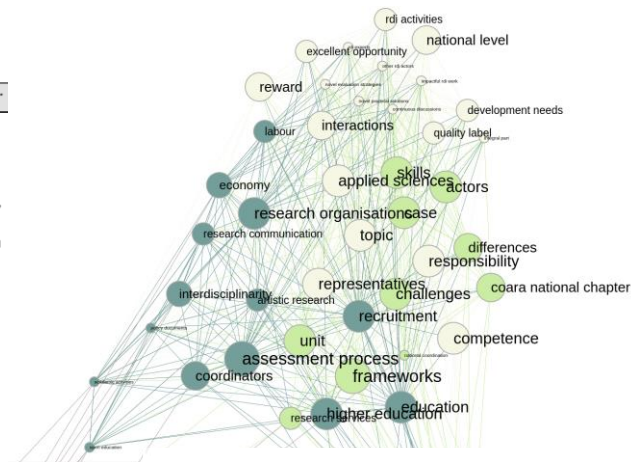
Webinaarissa Oulun yliopisto, Laurea-ammattikorkeakoulu ja Metropolia-ammattikorkeakoulu esittelivät toimintasuunnitelmansa (Action Plan). Webinaarin alussa kuultiin myös lyhyt alustus tutkimuksen arvioinnin uudistamista edistävästä eurooppalaisesta yhteistyöstä CoARasta (Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment) sekä Suomen kansallisen osaston toiminnasta.

Tilaisuuden esitykset löytyvät alta.

# Towards value-driven assessment practices – in CoARA action plans

UNIRI YUFE Yerun

MIDTERM ACTIONS (UP TO THE END OF 2027)	RELATED CoARA COMMITMENTS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBILITY
Monitor, review and update the activities described in the 2024 plan pertaining to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the UNIRI non-discrimination, gender equality, Open Science, AI, outreach and other RRA-related plans and policies;</li> <li>- the ECRs-related activities of the UNIRI Doctoral School, University Library, Career Counselling Office and SOCR;</li> <li>- the UNIRI Guidelines for the additional (institutional) criteria for the selection of ... staff at the University of Rijeka and its constituents;</li> <li>- HR54R and especially the OTM-R practices and the new Charter for Researchers;</li> <li>- UNIRI participation in the CoARA WGs on ...</li> </ul>	All	Continuously throughout 2025	UNIRI management (especially Rector, Vice-rector for Strategic Projects and Head of UNIRI R&I Centre) and Senate, with involvement of UNIRI University Council, the ...



- Each level of the complex system are targeted
- Analysis of action plans: full-text corpus as open research data made available as open research data
- In the meantime: [https://zenodo.org/communities/coara\\_action\\_plans/records?q=&l=list&p=1&s=10&sort=newest](https://zenodo.org/communities/coara_action_plans/records?q=&l=list&p=1&s=10&sort=newest)

# CoARA working groups and national chapters



# Overview of the CoARA Working Groups



Reforming Academic Career Assessment



Multilingualism and Language Biases in Research Assessment



Towards Open Infrastructure for Responsible Research Assessment



Recognizing and Rewarding Peer Review



Global Framework for Research Evaluation in the Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH)



Experiments in Assessment – Idea Generation, Co-Creation, and Piloting



Responsible Metrics and Indicators



Improving Practices in the Assessment of Research Proposals



Towards Transformation, Transdisciplinarity, Applied/Practice-Based Research, and Impacts



1<sup>st</sup> WGs Co-Chair meeting  
17 November 2023



Ethics and Research Integrity Policy in Responsible Research Assessment for Data and Artificial Intelligence



Early- and Mid-Career Researchers (EMCRs)  
– Assessment and Research Culture



TIER – Towards an Inclusive Evaluation of Research



Supporting the Alignment of Research Assessment Systems with CoARA in Biomedical Disciplines Through Administrative Reforms and Governance



# Working Group Highlights

**Reforming Academic Career Assessment: current insights and future directions**  
25 JUN 2024 | WORKSHOP  
ONLINE  
[Register now](#)

**Experiments in Assessments - CoARA WG**

CoARA is the Coalition on Advancing Research Assessment. CoARA's vision is that the assessment of research, researchers and research organisations recognises the diverse outputs, practices and activities that maximise the quality and impact of research.

Our CoARA Working Group is focused on collecting and implementing experiments in research assessment – new ways to measure and recognize quality and excellence. The results from the survey will be bundled in a catalogue consisting of the experimental ideas. This catalogue may be published, presented, and shared online.

You are welcome to complete this form as many times as you like.

**@EULIFEnews @EULIFE\_news · Nov 8, 2023**

We are thrilled to announce that the **#CoARA Working Group** on 'Supporting the alignment of **#ResearchAssessment** systems with **CoARA** in biomedical disciplines through administrative reforms & **#governance**' had its kick-off meeting last Friday and is now working on its action plan!

**CoARA**  
Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment

**SATELLITE EVENT**  
**CoARA Working Group on multilingualism and language bias in research assessment**  
Thursday 14 March 2024, 13:00-17:00  
**Open to all! Join us online!**



**Officially Launched: CoARA Working Group:**  
Ethics and Research Integrity Policy in Responsible Research Assessment for Data and Artificial Intelligence (ERIP)

Watch the Launch Meeting!

[#ReformingRA](#)

<https://coara.eu/> [#ReformingRA](#)

**Working Group on Ethics and Research Integrity Policy in Responsible Research Assessment for Data and Artificial Intelligence (ERIP)**

**You are invited! Join the Virtual Session:**  
**Developing a Global Approach for Science Policy with Local Impact on the Development of Digital Tools in Research Assessment**  
May 10 2024 (Friday)  
12:30-14:00 (UTC) / 14:30-16:00 (CEST)

Organised by: **CoARA WG ERIP, European Commission, ALLEA, United Nations Interagency Task Team on Science, Technology and Innovation for SDG**

**OpenCitations @opencitations · Aug 1, 2023**

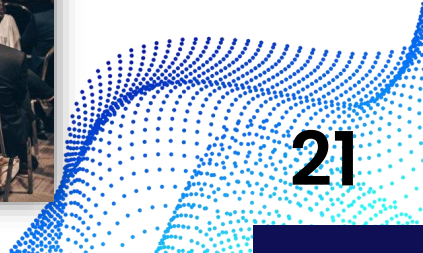
In the next months, the **@CoARAAssessment Working Group Towards Open Infrastructures for Responsible Research Assessment #0i4ARRA** will start its activities, focusing on having open infras for making **#researchassessment** more transparent and responsible:

[opencitations.hypotheses.org](https://opencitations.hypotheses.org)  
OpenCitations is part of the CoARA Working Group Tr Last March, the Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA) launched its call for members...

**8th WCRI 2024**  
Athens | Greece

**CoARA ERIP SIDE-EVENT**

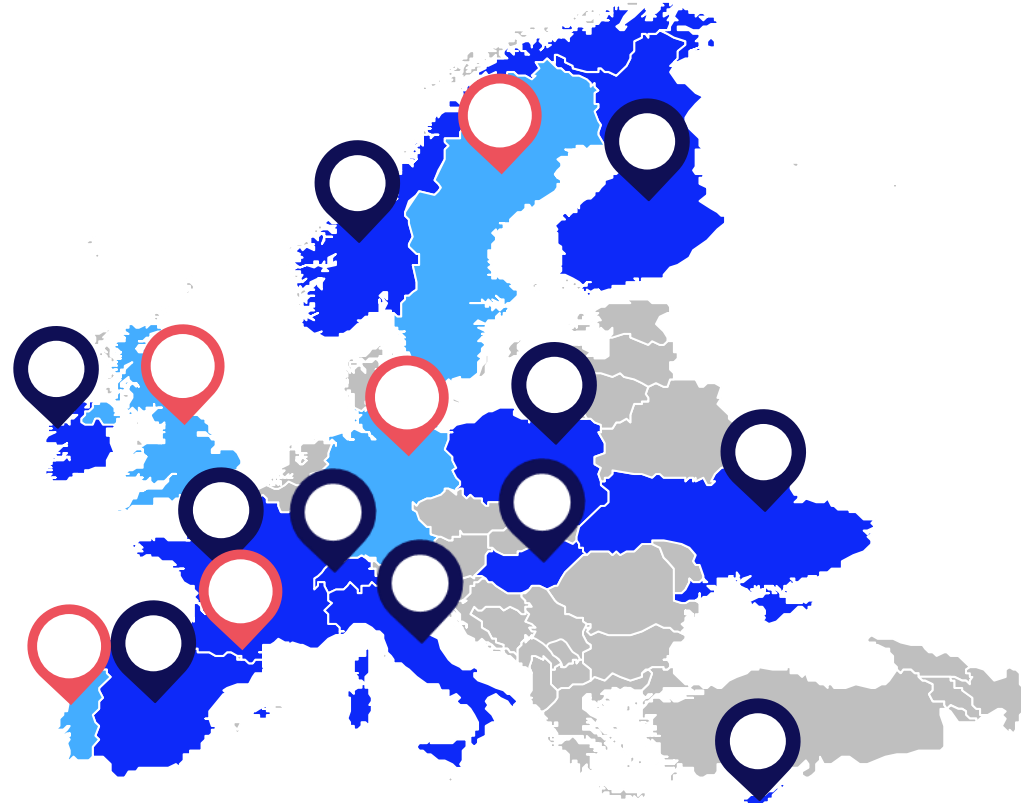
18:30-19:30  
Monday 3 June  
[#WCRI2024](#)



# 16 National Chapters

2023

- Cyprus
- Finland
- France
- Hungary
- Ireland
- Italy
- Norway
- Poland
- Spain
- Switzerland
- Ukraine



2024

## 5 New NCs:

- Andorra
- Germany
- Portugal
- Sweden
- United Kingdom

**No cut-off date**



-> monthly  
submission review

# CoARA supporting local change



# Cascade Funding: To facilitate institutional change

- More than half of the overall budget of the CoARA Boost project is redistributed
- Carry out concrete, tangible changes in research assessment in relevant institutions
- Implement the [ARRA](#) commitments
- Exchange, pilot, and implement new practices, processes and tools
- Diverse starting points



The poster features the CoARA logo (a magnifying glass with a sunburst) and the text 'CoARA Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment' in the top left. In the top right is the 'CoARA Boost' logo. The main text reads 'Open Call for Cascade Funding' in large bold letters, followed by 'Catalysing Reform in Research Assessment!'. A blue circular badge on the right says 'Apply by 26 June!'. At the bottom left, it says 'Find out more: [coara.eu/first-call-cascade-funding/](https://coara.eu/first-call-cascade-funding/)'. At the bottom right is the 'Funded by the European Union' logo. The background has a decorative pattern of blue dots forming a wave-like shape.



# Cascade Funding: 3 Types of Projects

**Diverse starting points to the reform are welcome**

**Teaming Calls**  
Knowledge exchange,  
exploring the adaptability  
of good practices

**Institutional Change Calls**  
Implementing and paving the way  
for lasting institutional change

**Institutional Pilot Calls**  
Piloting innovations

**Next call opens  
in December  
2024 – stay  
tuned!**

# CoARA's impact



# Early Impact on European and National Policies

- Mitigating the weight of prestige-based indicators
- Rethinking balance between career history and future potential
- Supporting a greater diversity of career paths.

The European Research Council has changed how it evaluates applicants. Here's why

29 Feb 2024 | News



**REF 2029**  
Research Excellence Framework

# Early Impact on Scholarly Discourse: Towards a Multilingual Coalition

## 1. A Fiatal Kutatók Akadémiájának javaslatai a magyarországi fiatal kutatók helyzetének javítására

Proposals of the Hungarian Young Academy for the Improvement of the Status of Hungarian Young Researchers  
Wilhelm Imola1, Dékány Éva2, Hatvani István Gábor3, Fröhlich Georgina4, Micskei Zoltán5, Pach Péter Pál5, Toldy Andrea6, Solymosi Katalin7, Szentgáli-Tóth Boldizsár8, Lengyel Balázs9

Hem / Arkiv / Nr 14 (2023): Sluttrapport från rektorsuppdraget Öppen vetenskap vid Malmö universitet / R

## Sluttrapport från rektorsuppdraget Öppen vetenskap vid Malmö universitet

en lägesbeskrivning utifrån Unescos rekommendation

JOURNAL ARTICLE

Practicing responsible research assessment: Qualitative study of faculty hiring, promotion, and tenure assessments in the United States

Alexander Rushforth, Sarah De Rijcke

Nuevamente sobre el impacto negativo de los rankings universitarios en la gestión de los sistemas de educación superior universitaria.

OPEN ACCESS  
DISKUSSIONSFORUM

Empfehlungen zur Bewertung wissenschaftlicher Leistungen bei Berufungsverfahren in der Psychologie

Anne Gärtner, Daniel Leising, and Felix D. Schönbrodt

ПРО РЕЗУЛЬТАТИ ДОСЛІДЖЕННЯ «ПІДВИЩЕННЯ ДОСЛІДНИЦЬКОЇ СПРОМОЖНОСТІ УНІВЕРСИТЕТІВ УКРАЇНИ В УМОВАХ ВІЙНИ ТА ПОВОЄННОГО ВІДНОВЛЕННЯ У КОНТЕКСТІ ІМПЛЕМЕНТАЦІЇ КОНЦЕПЦІЇ «ВІДКРИТА НАУКА»

MARTA GMUREK\*, ANNA KLOS\*\*, JACEK L. KOLANOWSKI\*\*\*

Inicjatywa „Doskonałość naukowa nie ma płci” – od świadomości do transformacji

- In the research community, a decentralised, increasingly global, and rich discourse has been emerging around CoARA (and ARRA).

## #InAllLanguages

- Find more in a curated Zotero library:  
[Research Assessment Reform | Zotero](#)



# How can you get involved in the reform?



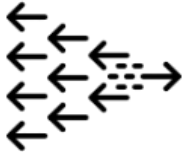
# BE PART OF THE SOLUTION



- Join the conversation – ***join a CoARA WG or other activity***



- Share your insights and opinions – *participate in research on research / funder and institutional surveys, workshops and focus groups*



- Change expectations – *help shape what success means*



- Become an ambassador for change – ***raise awareness of CoARA***



- Consider broad criteria in research(er) assessment – *be a responsible assessor*

# Stay updated on CoARA's progress

- Zenodo Community
- <https://coara.org/news/>

- Newsletter for CoARA Members



## #ReformingRA

- @CoARAssessment
- @CoARAssessment
- Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment



## Advocacy Materials

<https://coara.org>

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