CoARA

THE COALITION FOR ADVANCING RESEARCH ASSESSMENT

14 NOVEMBER 2024

LIDIA BORRELL-DAMIAN, STEERING BOARD

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CoARA Boost

CC BY

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

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**.

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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

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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.

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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.

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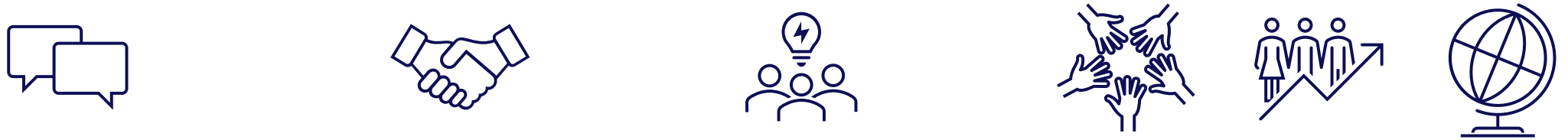
CoARA: from agreement to action

Implementing the Agreement through CoARA



Spring- Autumn 2021
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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

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Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment

Be part of the Coalition: click here to sign the Agreement and to choose to become a member

SIGNATORY

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

Optional membership +

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

MEMBER

JOIN THE COMMUNITIES

Benefit from communities of practice; propose and join Working Groups and National Chapters

HAVE A VOICE

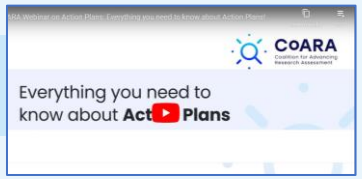
Shape CoARA's strategy by participating in governance and decision-making

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

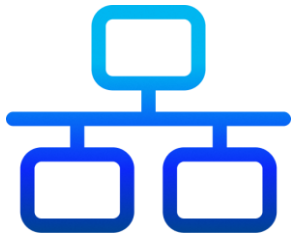
- ✓ Grants to implement the ARRA
- ✓ 80+ applications received for the first round

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.



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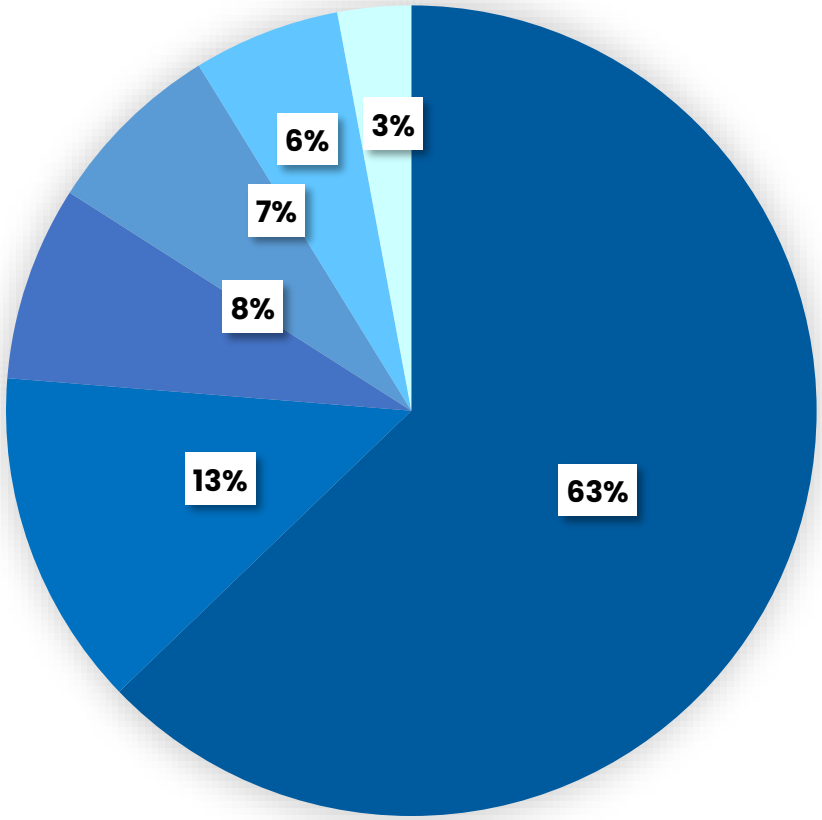
CoARA membership

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]

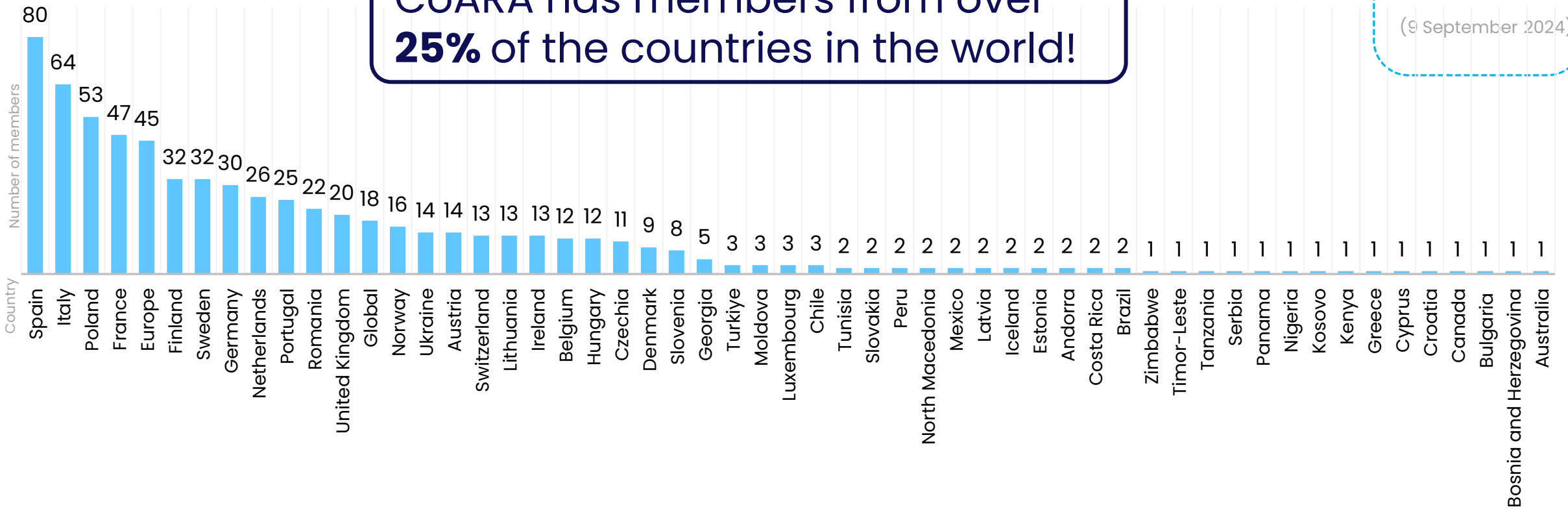
CoARA MEMBERSHIP BY COUNTRY

Membership total:
683

# of countries*:
55

(9 September 2024)

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



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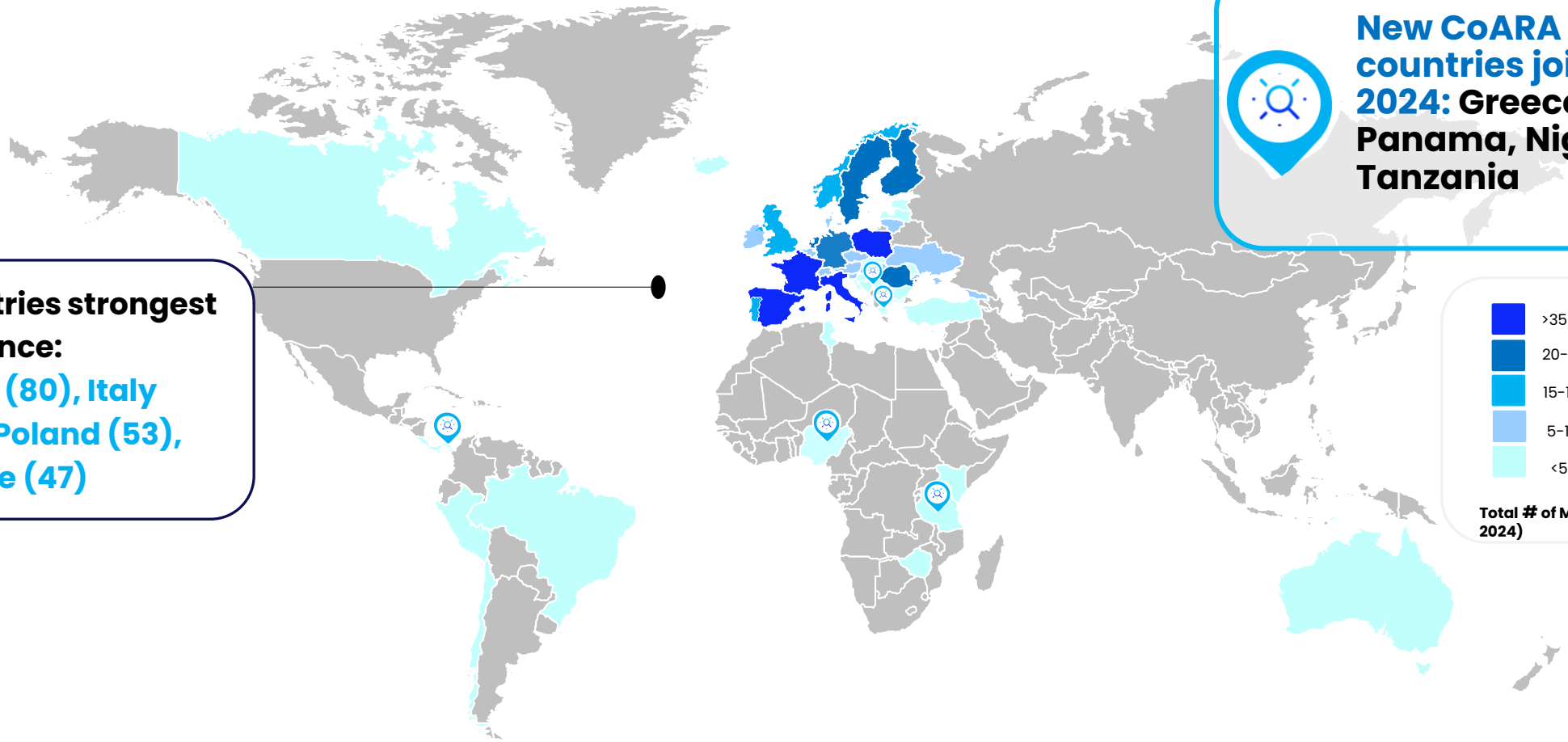
*excl. pan-European and global organisations

Global Expansion of CoARA Membership

New CoARA member countries joined in 2024: Greece, Serbia, Panama, Nigeria, Tanzania

Countries strongest presence:
Spain (80), Italy (64), Poland (53), France (47)



Total # of Members: 683 (9 September 2024)

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From Agreement to Action

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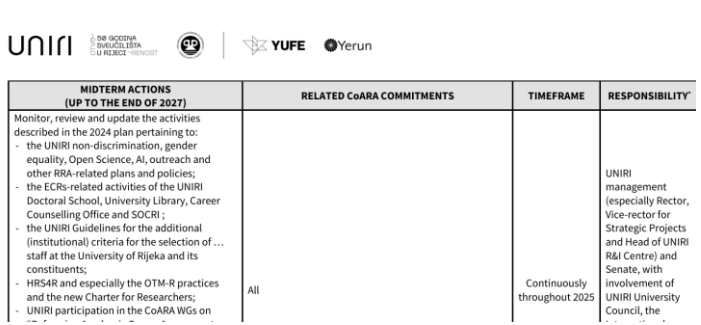
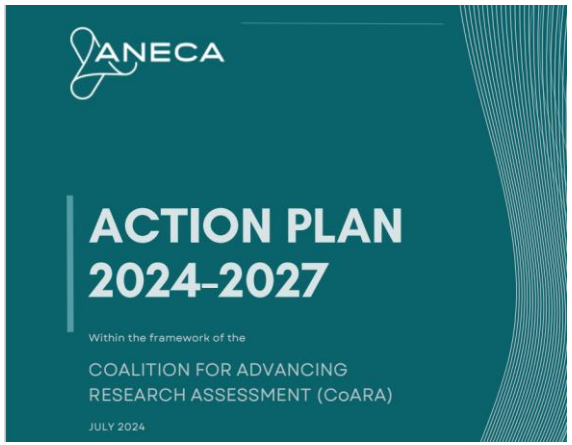
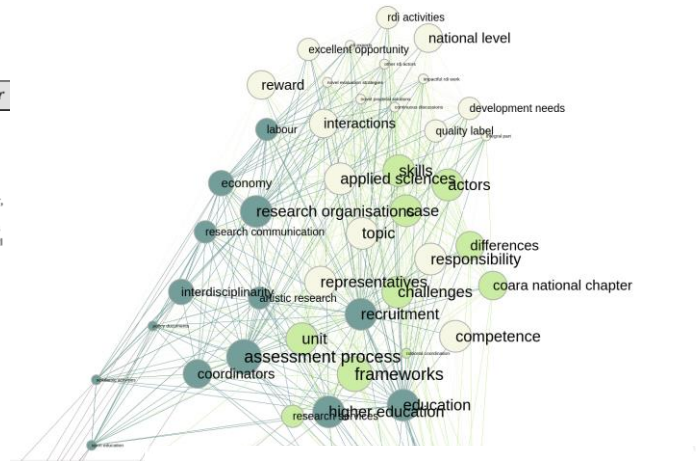
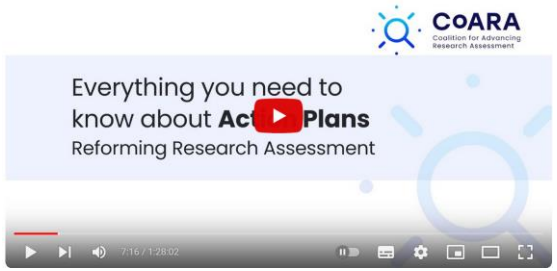
Towards value-driven assessment practices – in CoARA action plans



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: - the UNIRI non-discrimination, gender equality, Open Science, AI, outreach and other RRA-related plans and policies; - the ECRs-related activities of the UNIRI Doctoral School, University Library, Career Counselling Office and SOCRI ; - the UNIRI Guidelines for the additional (institutional) criteria for the selection of … staff at the University of Rijeka and its constituents; - HRS4R and especially the OTM-R practices and the new Charter for Researchers; - UNIRI participation in the CoARA WGs on	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**

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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
- 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

1st WGs Co-Chair meeting
17 November 2023

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Working Group Highlights

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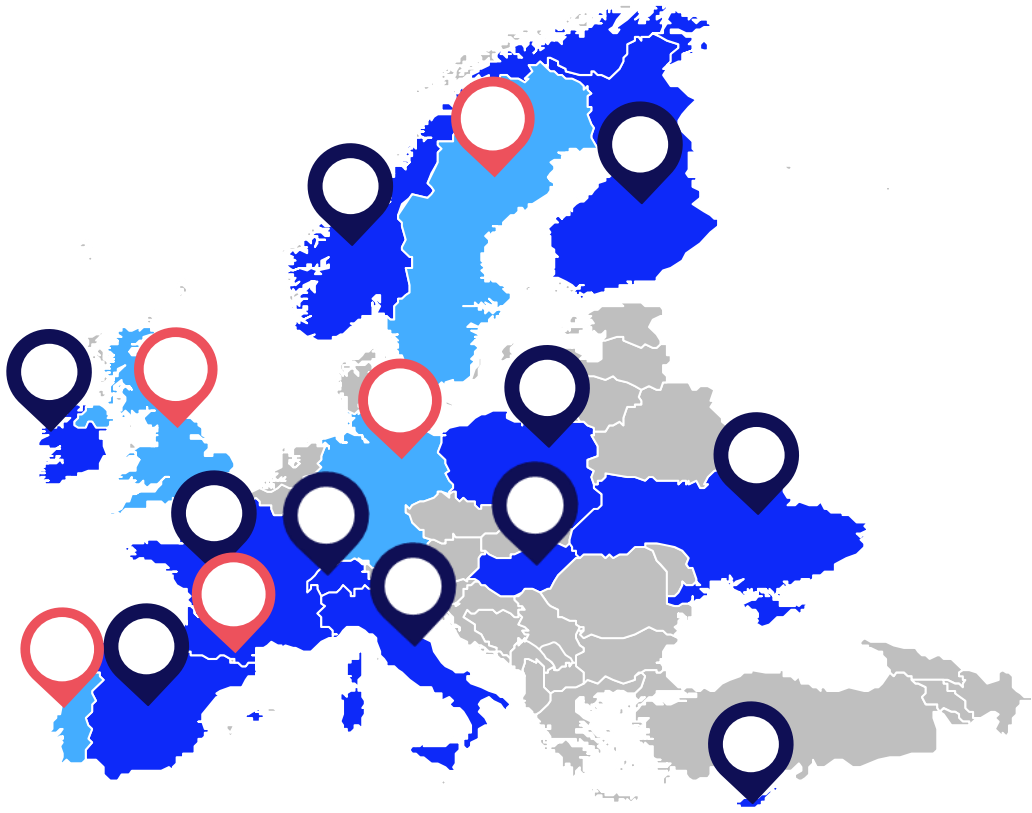
16 National Chapters

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

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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

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Cascade Funding: 3 Types of Projects

Diverse starting points to the reform are welcome

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

Teaming Calls
Knowledge exchange, exploring the adaptability of good practices

Institutional Pilot Calls
Piloting innovations

Next call opens in December 2024 – stay tuned!

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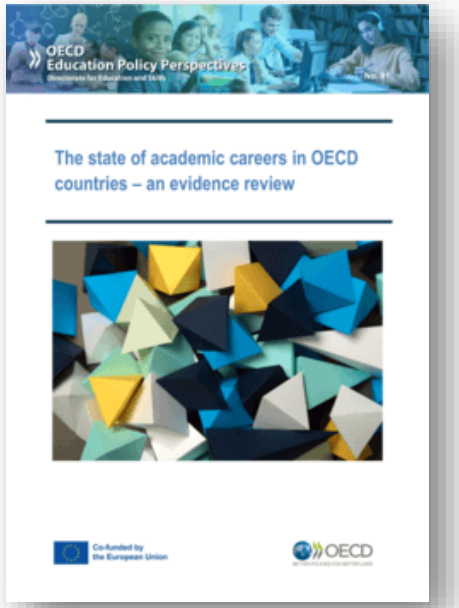
CoARA's impact

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

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Early Impact on Scholarly Discourse:
Towards a Multilingual Coalition

- 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]

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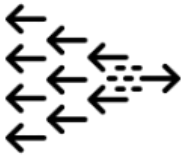
How can you get involved in the reform?

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*

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Stroobants K. (2021) https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-021-01208-3

Stay updated on CoARA's progress

- **Zenodo Community**
- **https://coara.org/news/**

#ReformingRA

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

- **Newsletter for CoARA Members**

Advocacy Materials

https://coara.org

Contact us: secretariat@coara.org

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