



**WEBINAR**

**Information Session**

# **Open Call for Cascade Funding**

June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 14:00 – 15:00 CEST



**CoARA**

Coalition for Advancing  
Research Assessment



Funded by  
the European Union




# Enabling systemic change in research assessment – from agreement to action



- **Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment:** a **common direction** and principles for reforming the assessment of research, researchers and research organisations.
- **Action-orientated:** signatories commit to **implement changes** in their organisations within an agreed time frame.

# CoARA Boost

## Boost Project Overview

Duration	36 months (Start: Oct. 2023)
Funding volume	5 million EUR  <b>thereof 2.75M EUR for cascade funding</b>   <b>Funded by the European Union</b>
More information	<a href="https://coara.org/coalition/coara-boost-project/">https://coara.org/coalition/coara-boost-project/</a>



## CoARA Boost consortium partners:



# **Purpose & Overview**

## **CoARA Boost Call for Cascade Funding**

# Cascade Funding at a glance

## Targeted Applicants

- Legal entities interested in reforming research assessment practices in their institutions.
- Based within the ERA.
- Being a signatory of the ARRA or a member of CoARA is **no** requirement.

## Potential maximum of funded projects

- At least 50 (in total two calls combined).
- 20-25 projects in the first round.

## Funding per project

Between €30,000 to €60,000 (lump sum, depending on the type of project).

## Total funding



- **1st call – 26<sup>th</sup> April 2024**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> call – December 2024.
- Each call will stay open for **60 days**.
- Duration of projects: **12 months**.

# Timeline 1<sup>st</sup> Call Cascade Funding



# Now open! Call for Cascade Funding

- Carry out concrete, tangible changes in research assessment in relevant institutions
- Implement the [ARRA](#) commitments
- Exchange, pilot, and implement new practices, processes and tools
- Activities must demonstrate a commitment to systemic change
- Diverse starting points

**... to facilitate institutional change.**



The poster features the CoARA logo (a stylized sun icon) and the CoARA Boost logo (a stylized wing icon) at the top. 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, it says "Find out more: [coara.eu/first-call-cascade-funding/](https://coara.eu/first-call-cascade-funding/)" and includes the European Union flag with the text "Funded by the European Union". The background has a blue and white dotted pattern.

**CoARA**  
Coalition for Advancing  
Research Assessment

**CoARA  
Boost**

**Open Call for  
Cascade Funding**

Catalysing Reform  
in Research Assessment!

Apply by  
26 June!

Find out more: [coara.eu/first-call-cascade-funding/](https://coara.eu/first-call-cascade-funding/)

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# 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





# Types of Projects



## Teaming Projects

- Transfer and adaptation of experience and practices from a more advanced/experienced organisation to one or more less experienced ones. Benefit from existing knowledge and enhance capacity building
- up to 40 k€



## Institutional Pilot Projects

- These provide the means to test and try new assessment approaches, procedures, and frameworks in the context of a well-defined and well-specified initiative (e.g., a pilot competitive call in a university)
- up to 30 k€



## Institutional Change Projects

- Provide the means to accelerate change in procedures and processes in an organisation
- up to 60 k€

# Teaming Projects



## Objectives:

- To facilitate the transfer and adaptation of experience and practices from a more advanced/experienced organisation to one or more less experienced ones.
- Max. 3 institutions, each claims budget.

## Examples:

- Testing the feasibility of solutions that work in another institutional context
- Enhancing capacity-building or open infrastructural components of responsible research assessment.
- Organisation of demonstration sessions, seminars, training as well as short visits.

# Institutional Pilot Projects



## Objectives:

- To experiment with and evaluate new assessment approaches, procedures, frameworks, and tools in the context of a clearly defined initiative.
- Building on Working Groups' and National Chapters' outputs is beneficial.

## Examples:

- Piloting the SCOPE framework
- Check the ARRA Appendix 4 toolbox for inspiration
- Piloting all kinds of example activities listed under institutional change projects
- Check the call text for a full (yet non-comprehensive) list

# Institutional Change Projects



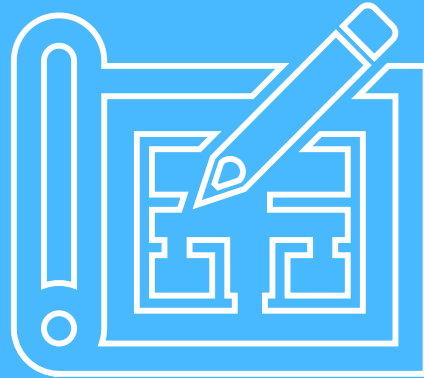
## Objectives:

- For organisations who have already defined their reform strategy and steps.
- To accelerate change in procedures and processes in an organisation. These projects should enable a review of internal assessment processes within the awarded organisation to align them more closely with the Agreement's commitments.

## Examples:

- Adoption of qualitative KPIs, adoption of open infrastructure, bringing more diversity to the assessment of research outputs and academic activities, balancing quantitative and qualitative criteria, training, implementing practical ways of recognising diverse research contributions, core narrative CV with different disciplinary expectations, crediting societal impact, moving away from rankings and impact factor, integration of Open Science, research data sharing simplifying research evaluation systems.

# Evaluation



# Evaluation Criteria

**Alignment with  
the vision of ARRA.**

- Are the mission, impact, work plan, and planned outputs of the project carefully and specifically aligned with the vision as specified in the Agreement?

# Evaluation Criteria

**Expected impact  
and sustainability of  
the reform process,  
how it leads to  
institutional  
change.**

- For teaming projects: the rationale behind forming the team is well defined, clearly maps into the proposed impact and is key to tangible institutional change. Knowledge transfer mechanisms and mutual benefits are guaranteed.
- For pilot projects: the new assessment approaches are suitable, feasible, and fit well into the organisation's overall research assessment strategy.
- For institutional change projects: the proposed work plan and outputs provide the means to accelerate tangible and sustainable change in an organisation's procedures and processes.



# Evaluation Criteria

**Feasibility and quality of the proposed work plan and outcomes /deliverables within the indicated timeframe and Resources.**

- Does the proposal come with a clear and specific vision that, regardless of the granularity, scope and type of the work, is very likely to contribute solidly to the systemic change of research assessment within the institution? Is the proposed budget assigned to each deliverable realistic, and are there safeguards for the implementation plan and respect? Is there a solid added value of the project over and beyond what is currently being done within the community, including CoARA Working Groups?
- Does the mission and proposed impact of the project translate well into the work plan and the Use of Resources? Does the work plan seem feasible within the proposed time frame and budget? Does the work plan come with clear and achievable milestones and deliverables and relevant Use of Resources presented in the Project budget?
- Are there mechanisms in place to engage those who are affected by the envisaged reform process (e.g., researchers at all career stages)?

# Evaluators and Evaluation Workflow

## Formal eligibility check

- By the Secretariat – By end of June 2024

Step 1

## Pre-assessment

- By two Reviewers and available for all topical panel members – 2 months

Step 2

## Review panels

- By the topical Panels – Review panels meetings in September 2024

Step 3

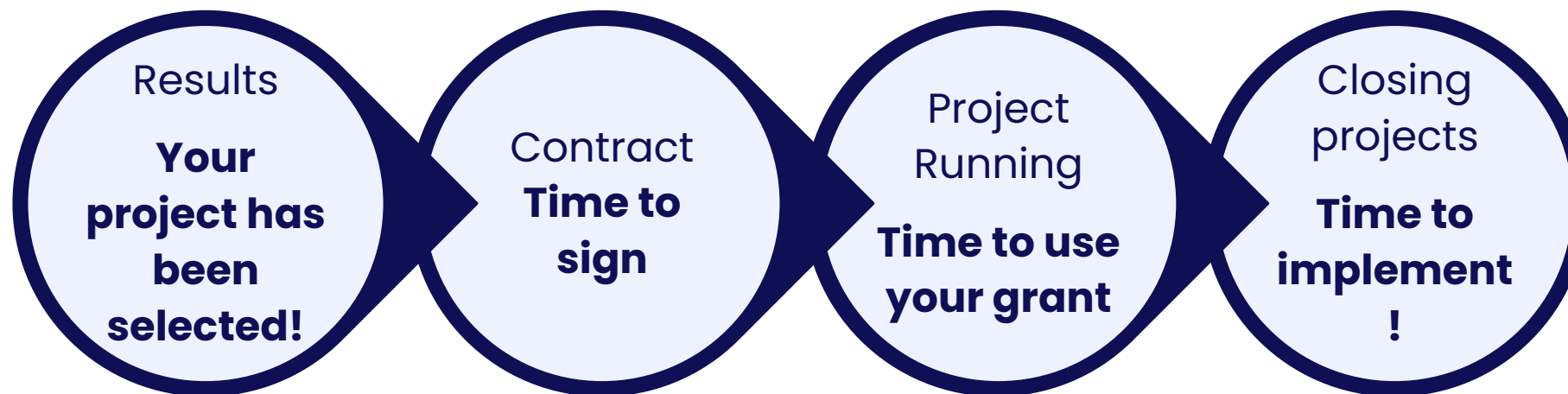
## Panel Chair Meeting

- Normalisation by the topical Panels' Chair – final selection decision October 2024

Step 4

**Consensus Reports to applicants by end of October 2024**

# Grant Management: Timeline

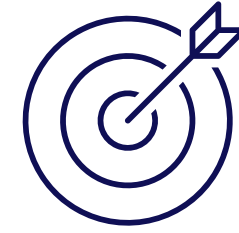


- **Announcement by end of October 2024**
- Dissemination of selected projects on the CoARA Website
- Sub-Grant Agreement signature
- Financial information to validate
- **First payment (70%) D+30 of Agreement Signature**
- Project duration approx. 12 months
- Month 6: First Knowledge Exchanges
- Month 11: Second Knowledge Exchange event
- Month 12 Final report
- Final report to be approved by the Secretariat
- **Final stage payment (30%) D+30 after final report approval**
- Projects Dissemination of the results and Lessons learnt

# Practical considerations before submitting your application



# Keep your focus on the goal



- Start planning your application considering the **institutional change** you wish to achieve.
- Is it mature, **realistic** and **scalable**? Well-documented? Lessons learnt can be integrated into the longer-term strategy of the organisation?
- At the end of the project, your **success will be assessed against your work plan.**



# Relationship to CoARA Working Groups and National Chapters

- Building upon collaboration with Working Groups and National Chapters is advantageous.
- However, the project must be situated and anchored within the context of a specific institution.
- The call does not aim to include generic topical networking events or workshops as part of the target outcomes.

# Subgrant Agreement

- **Subgrant Agreement template** (art 4.1, 5.3 and 5.4 will be adapted to each type of project)
- Please ensure that your organisation has the capacity to sign the Subgrant Agreement if your project is selected successfully.
- For Teaming Projects, a budget must be assigned to each co-applicant of the project. All co-applicants will sign the Sub-Grant Agreement.

## Article 5.2 :

Project Duration	MONTH 1	MONTH 6	MONTH 11	MONTH 12
OUTPUT	Prefinancing	First Knowledge Exchange Event	Second Knowledge Exchange Event	Final Report
12 MONTH-PROJECTS	70%	Participation Mandatory*	Participation Mandatory*	30%

*\*Participation is mandatory to achieve Month 6 and Month 11 KPIs unless in case of force majeure. Force majeure will only be accepted upon written approval by the CoARA Secretariat.*



# Budget

- **Funding by the EU**, following Horizon Europe eligible costs.
- **Subcontracting is strictly prohibited** for core/essential tasks.
- **'Use of Resources'** file to be completed as part of the Evaluation: [Annex-4\\_Use-of-Resources.docx \(live.com\)](#).

- Payment schedule depends on the type of project as mentioned in the CoARA Boost Cascade Funding First Call:

Types of projects	Maximum grant amount	Maximum project duration
Teaming projects	40 k€	1 year
Institutional pilot projects	30 k€	1 year
Institutional change projects	60 k€	1 year

*Payment transfers will be made in Euros only on accounts accepting Euros.*

# Call for Cascade Funding: Guidance

[coara.org/first-call-cascade-funding/](https://coara.org/first-call-cascade-funding/)

**Webpage**

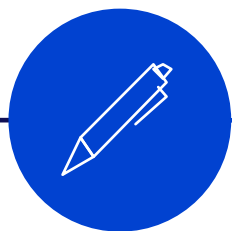


**Evaluation  
Guidelines**  
([.pdf](#))

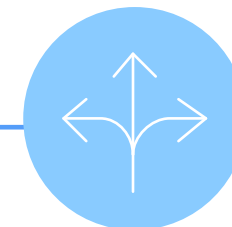
**Call Text**  
([.pdf](#))



**Application  
Template**  
([.docx](#))



**Guidelines for  
Applicants ([.pdf](#))**  
**FAQ ([.pdf](#))**



# Support

- Documentation of this webinar will be shared on the [CoARA Website](#)

## Contact us:

- For **questions regarding the call**,
  - contact the CoARA Secretariat at [funding@coara.org](mailto:funding@coara.org)
- For **technical questions regarding the submission platform** (SmartSimple, operated by ESF),
  - contact ESF at [esf-panel@esf.org](mailto:esf-panel@esf.org)



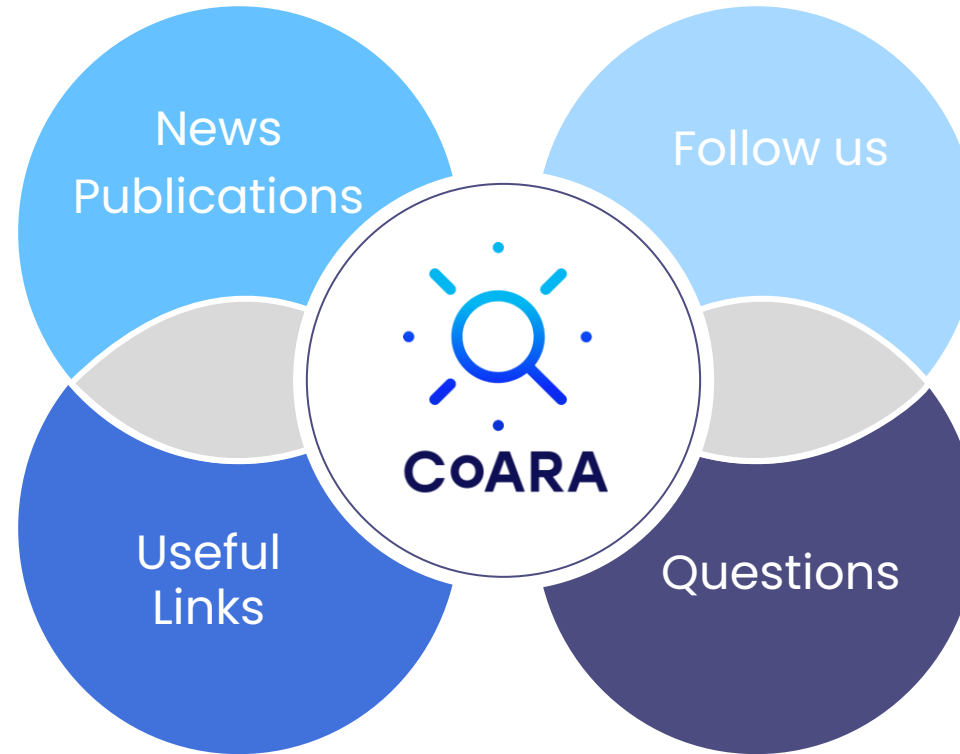
**Annex**

# Resources

- **Call accessible at:** [First Call for Cascade Funding – CoARA](#)
- **FAQ:** [Annex-1\\_-Frequently-Asked-Questions.pdf \(coara.eu\)](#)
- **Detailed Guidelines for Applicants:** [3.CoARA-Boost\\_Cascade-funding\\_Guidelines-for-Applicants.pdf](#)
- **Evaluation Guidelines:** [2.CoARA-Boost\\_Cascade-funding\\_Evaluation-guidelines.pdf](#)
- **Evaluation Criteria:** [Annex-3\\_Evaluation-Criteria-and-Scoring-Sheet.pdf \(coara.eu\)](#)
- **Sub-Grant Agreement:** [5.-Template-Sub-Grant-Agreement.pdf \(coara.eu\)](#)

# Join and engage with CoARA

- <https://coara.org/news/>
- [Zenodo Community](#)
- Newsletter for CoARA Members – sign up: <https://coara.org/sign-up-for-the-coara-members-newsletter/>
- [The governance documents](#)
- [The Agreement full text](#)
- [Sign the Agreement](#)
- [Difference between Signatory and Membership](#)
- [FAQ](#)
- [Show your Support for CoARA!](#)
- [Advocacy Materials](#)



## #ReformingRA

- [@CoARAssessment](#)
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## • Contact us:

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