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Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment

CoARA Action Plan

2024-2027



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Background

IRIE is a university institute for educational research and innovation in the fields of education and training. It was created in 2015, through Executive Agreement 11458, of 28 July, in the context of the transformation of the UIB's Institute of Education Sciences (ICE) into a research institute.

The Institute for Educational Research and Innovation (IRIE) is since April 19th 2024 member of the Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment ([CoARA](#)). Part of the commitment to CoARA is the development of a four-year institutional action plan to fulfill the [Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment](#).

This document describes the action plan that the IRIE undertakes to carry out between 2024 and 2027, which was approved by the Executive Board on May 22, following a process of internal consultation and participation. For this, the recommendations provided in [Support for CoARA signatories in the preparation of action plans](#) were taken into account when preparing this action plan.

Research Assessment at the IRIE

IRIE is governed by Regulatory Agreement 13022, dated March 08, 2019, which approves and makes public its regulations, which, in article 6, establish as purposes:

1. IRIE will be dedicated to quality scientific research in the field of education and training, will provide development services (knowledge transfer) and will also carry out postgraduate teaching activities, postgraduate courses and specific training courses. One of the main objectives is to promote mechanisms to improve educational quality and excellence.
2. To fulfill the intended purposes, IRIE will carry out the following activities:
 - a) To promote, organize and coordinate, education research in the Institute's fields, especially related to the needs and problems of the education and training system, to improve its knowledge and improve the quality of practice in schools and other entities and institutions that carry out educational and training functions.
 - b) Plan, organize, and develop doctoral and postgraduate programs and studies in any of the areas that affect the education and training of teachers.



- c) To promote the scientific, technical, social and cultural development of all those sectors and elements that form part of the field of education.
- d) To provide technical advice to the Government of the Balearic Islands (GOIB), the Ministry with specific competences in education and professionals from all sectors related to education and training in organizational, methodological and curricular innovation, and in all matters related to the lines of research of the IRIE groups.
- e) Collaborate with the statements of the UIB and with the faculties and schools, departments and other institutes of the University, as well as with the public or private entities with which the provision of services in matters of education and training of teachers is arranged.
- f) Acknowledging and promoting the research conducted by the research groups of the institute within the scientific community and the education system, and in all sectors linked to education and training (both formal and informal).
- g) Provide resources and support to the research groups of IRIE to develop research in the field of education.
- h) Establish contracts as provided for in Article 83 of the LOU, subject to the University's provisions regarding the transfer of research results and the destination of the goods and resources obtained.
- i) Relate and coordinate research activity with that of similar entities, state and foreign, and participate in research projects and joint activity programs.
- j) To promote the attraction of public and private resources, to obtain complementary financial funds to the possible contributions of the institutions that participate in the operation and the tasks of the Institute.
- k) Any other activity whose fundamental purpose is to comply with the founding purposes of the IRIE, its regulations and the UIB Statutes.

The IRIE is focused on four research areas with a total of 13 research groups:

1. School didactics and organization, an area comprising three consolidated research groups: Education and Citizenship; Educational Technology Group; and Inclusive School and Diversity Research Group.
2. Specific didactics comprising six consolidated research groups: 4MAC-Tourist Education and Research; Science, Technology and Society. Didactics of Science; Research into Culture, Society, Communication and Contemporary Thought; Languages, Literature and Learning Research Group; Sociolinguistic Research Group of the Balearic Islands; and Physical Activity and Sport Sciences Research Group.



3. Social, Development and Educational Psychology, comprising two consolidated research groups: Research into Development, Education and Language; and Gender Studies.
4. Theory and History of Education, an area comprising two consolidated research groups: the Social and Educational Training and Research Group; and the History of Education Research Group.

In addition to the consolidated research groups spread over these four areas, the IRIE has also a series of associate research groups (new groups being consolidated and reporting to consolidated groups) and individual researchers. The IRIE offers a Research Advice Service (SAR) to all these groups.

In turn, the IRIE places particular emphasis on knowledge-transfer and direct work with educational institutions, and associations or bodies linked to the field of education in the Balearic Islands. It offers both centers and teachers a series of training activities aimed at continuous innovation within the framework of the education system.

Action Plan 2024-2027

The initial proposition for enhancing research evaluation within the IRIE, outlined in the Action Plan 2024-2027, seeks to advance and bolster high-quality and impactful research, aligning with the pledges made in CoARA.

CoARA commitments	Timeline	Action lines	Actions	Assessment method
1. Recognize the diversity of contributions to, and careers in, research in accordance with the needs and nature of the research	2024-2027	Already a principle applied by the IRIE	Being a commitment that cuts across the agreements outlined by CoARA, it does not have a specific line of action; rather, it will be an axis applicable to all developed points, emphasizing the value of research from diversity and multidisciplinary point of view.	By tracking research progress, stimulate the participation of diverse researchers to enrich the outcomes.
2. Base research assessment primarily on qualitative evaluation for which peer review is central, supported by responsible use of quantitative indicators	2024-2027	Already a principle applied by the IRIE	Currently, it is already a principle applied by the IRIE in the promotion and support of researchers.	Appropriate use of quantitative and qualitative methodologies.
3. Abandon inappropriate uses in research assessment of journal – and publication – based metrics, in particular inappropriate uses of Journal Impact Factor (JIF) and h-index	2024-2027	Scientific rigor refers to the strict adherence to methodological principles.	Base all scientific principles of research on rigor and penalize inappropriate uses in research evaluation.	Follow the principles of the scientific method in evaluation.



4. Avoid the use of rankings of research organizations in research assessment	2024-2027	Already a principle applied by the IRIE		Base the evaluation on a scientific classification according to the criterion of the evaluator with a proven track record.
5. Commit resources to reforming research assessment as is needed to achieve the organizational changes committed to	2024-2027	Preparation, execution, and oversight of the IRIE's CoARA Action Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Action Plan Implementation - Annual monitoring - Yearly funding allocated for executing the initiatives outlined in the CoARA Action Plan 2024-2027. 	Elaboration of an annual monitoring report based on CoARA principles.
6. Review and develop research assessment, tools, and processes	2024-2027	Review and develop the calls projects in accordance with the CoARA principles.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Internal calls for research projects (education innovative projects) - Research accelerator for internal calls - Internal calls for predoctoral and postdoctoral candidates 	Annual review of the published call and an overall analysis of its results from CoARA perspective.
7. Raise awareness of research assessment reform and provide transparent communication, guidance, and training on assessment criteria and processes as well as their use	2024-2027	Internal communication strategy with research groups to disseminate the CoARA commitments and the Action Plan 2024-2027.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Disseminate the CoARA principles and discuss their internal application at the IRIE research groups - Implementation of internal communication actions based on specific strategies for communicating the CoARA commitments. 	Meetings, seminars and webinars to promote academic debate. Internal & external communication actions.
8. Exchange practices and experiences to enable mutual learning within and beyond the Coalition	2024-2027	Engagement and dialogue channels with CoARA for effective communication and continuous feedback.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participation in CoARA's General Assembly - Participation in CoARA's Spanish Chapter 	Annual summary of the participation and activities.



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			- Participation in other CoARA working groups	
9. Communicate progress made on adherence to the principles and implementation of the Commitments	2024-2027	Engagement and dialogue channels with CoARA for effective communication and continuous feedback.	- Participation in CoARA's General Assembly - Participation in CoARA's Spanish Chapter - Participation in other CoARA working groups	Annual summary of the participation and activities.
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	2024-2027	Tracking and assessment of successful case studies or novel evaluation suggestions.	Publication of results.	Annual review by the Executive Board.