L'Action Plan della Commissione Europea

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CoARA Italia training seminar

25 Settembre 2024

Need for reform of research assessment

- To reflect **evolving research processes**
  - ✓ Digital transition; Iterative and recursive; Collaborative and open

- To reflect **increasing demands on research**
  - ✓ Societal, environmental, economic challenges; Diversity of outputs

- To move away from **inappropriate uses** of journal- and publication-based metrics
  - ✓ Rewards quantity and publication venue rather than quality; does not reward sharing, collaboration and outputs other than publications

- To further support the **quality of research**
  and the **attractiveness of research environments**
  - ✓ Requires a system and cultural change, involving institutions, funders and researchers

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Current rewards system
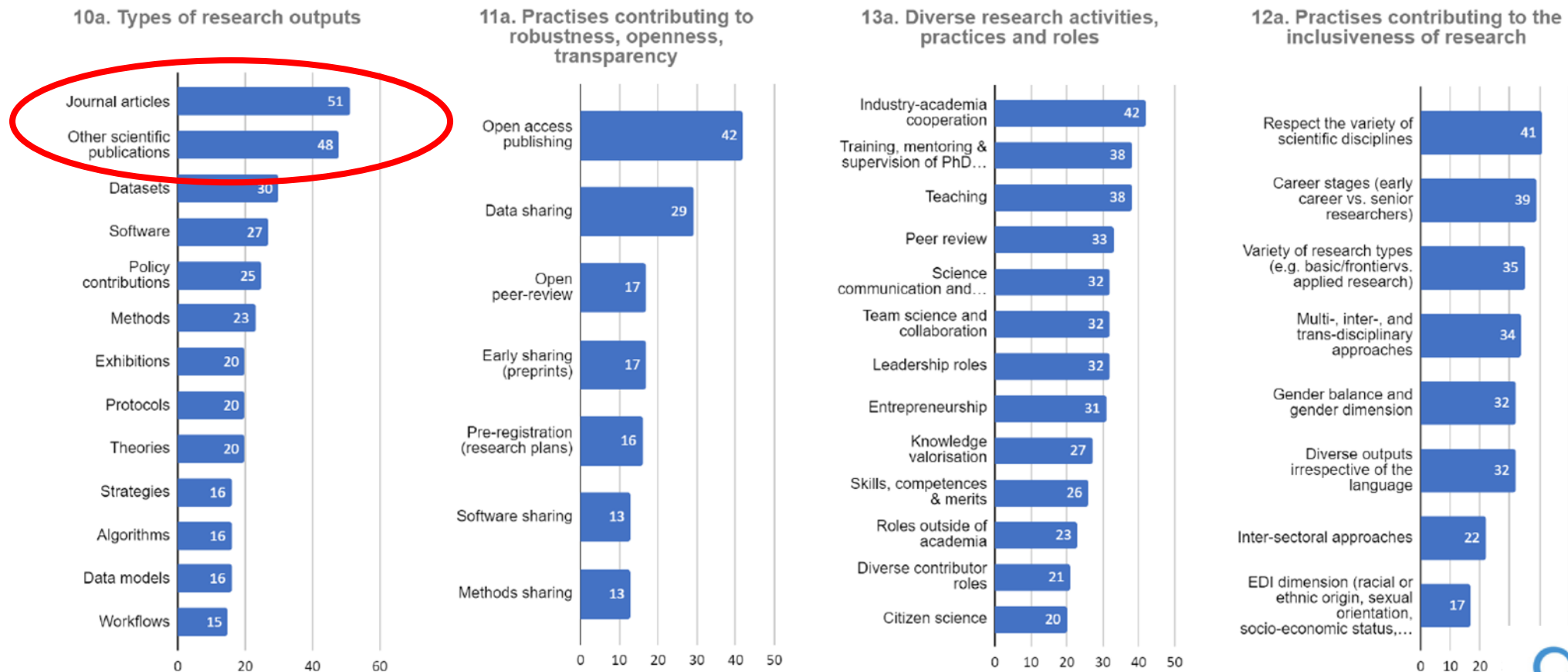
Which types of academic work matter most for research careers?
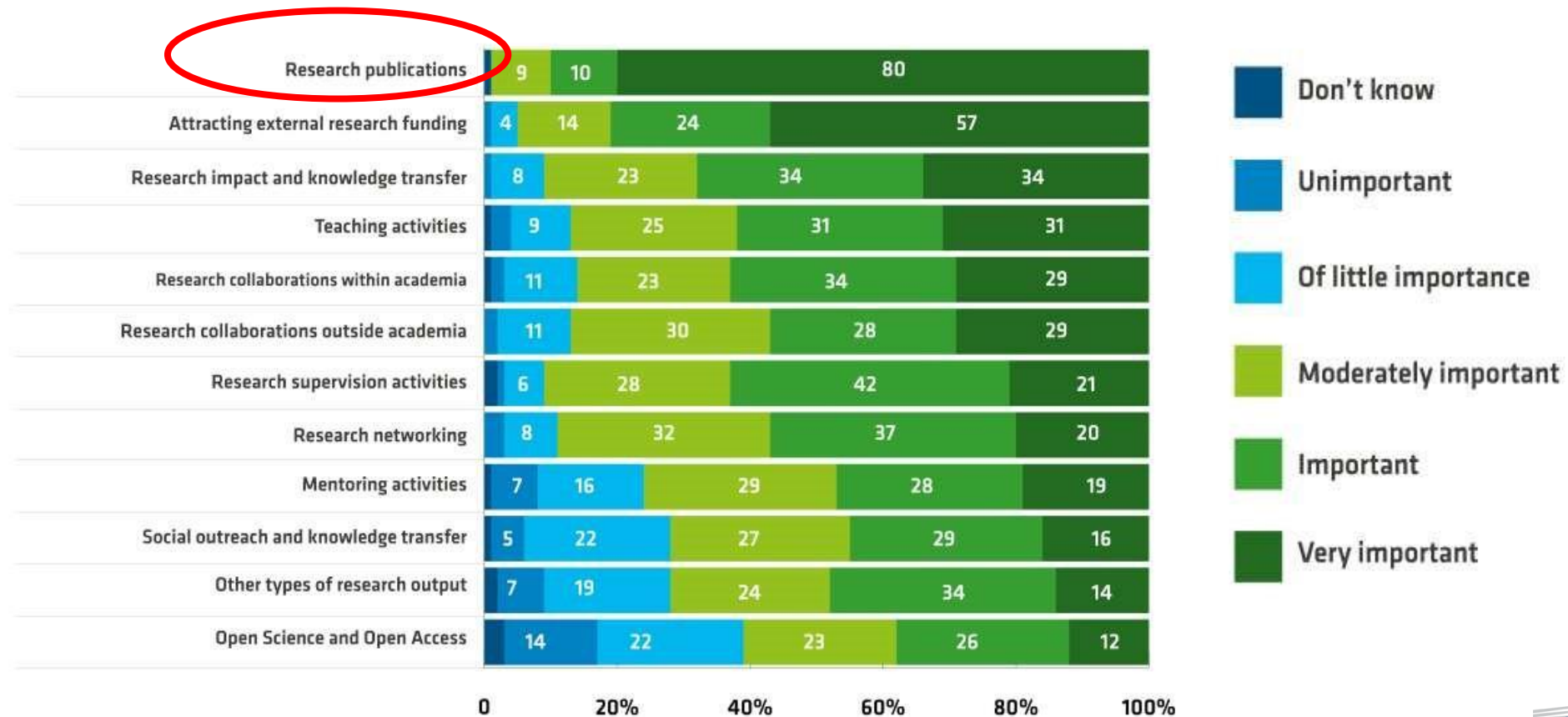
Recognising diversity in research remains a challenge

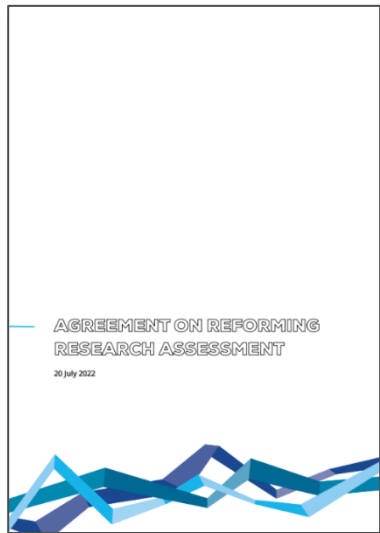Respondents: 54 organisations from 19 European countries
What outputs and practices "are taken into account in research assessment at your institution at the moment?"
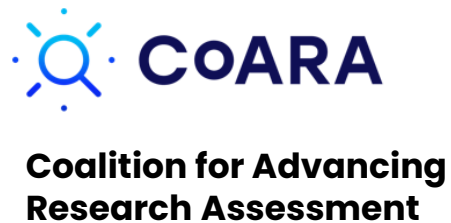

Source: GraspOS Landscape survey, 2023

Initiative for reforming research assessment

Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment
July 2022

Coalition Constitutive Assembly
December 2022

Ongoing

- **Action Plans** by the signatories of the Agreement

- **Implementing** commitments by the signatories

- Work of **13 CoARA Working Groups**

- Work of **16 National Chapters**

AGREEMENT ON REFORMING RESEARCH ASSESSMENT

20 July 2022

CoARA
Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment

Action Plan by the Commission to implement the ten commitments of the Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment (ARRA)

April – 2024

778 signatories (20 September 2024)

683 members of CoARA (20 September 2024)
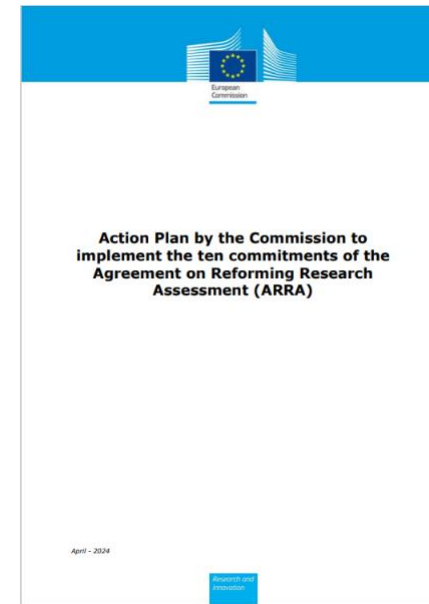
101 Action Plans (20 September 2024)

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Commitment 1 of the Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment (ARRA):
Recognise the diversity of contributions to, and careers in, research in accordance with the needs and the nature of the research

The Commission already:

- Integrated the recognition of a more diverse set of research contributions and careers as part of the **award criteria** & in the **application and reporting forms** of Horizon Europe

- Made mandatory the adoption of a **Gender Equality Plan** in Horizon Europe

- Set up the **Open Research Europe** publishing platform for EU funding beneficiaries

The Commission will:

- Identify improvements to the **information requested from applicants** and to the **reporting forms and Key Impact Pathways** (R&I Framework Programme)

- Continue developing Open Research Europe into an open-source infrastructure and service supported by additional funders

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Commitment 2 *of the Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment (ARRA):*
Base research assessment primarily on qualitative evaluation for which peer-review is central,
supported by responsible use of quantitative indicators

The Commission already:

- Put in place a **robust peer-review of research proposals**, based on **well-defined criteria** (Horizon Europe)
- Has processes in place to ensure a **balanced composition of peer-reviewers** (experience, knowledge and disciplines, geographical diversity, gender)

The Commission will:

- Identify improvements to the **selection of peer-reviewers** (R&I Framework Programme)
- Consider piloting innovative assessment processes of research proposals

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Commitment 3 *of the Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment (ARRA):*
Abandon inappropriate uses in research assessment of journal- and publication-based metrics, in particular inappropriate uses of Journal Impact Factor (JIF) and h-index

The Commission already:

- Endorsed the **San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA)**
- **Moved away from asking and taking into account JIF** in the assessment of past achievements, and instructed reviewers accordingly (Horizon Europe)
- Set up **Open Research Europe** , where each article has a dedicated page of **article-level metrics**

The Commission will:

- Identify improvements to the Key Impact Pathways to **ensure indicators are used responsibly and are not based on JIF and h-index** (R&I Framework Programme)

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Commitment 4 *of the Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment (ARRA):*
Avoid the use of rankings of research organisations in research assessment

The Commission does not make use of rankings of research organisations in the assessment of research proposals under the R&I Framework Programme

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Commitment 5 of the Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment (ARRA):
Commit resources to reforming research assessment as is needed to achieve the organisational changes committed to

The Commission already:

- Contributed in-kind to **facilitate the preparation of the Agreement and of the CoARA coalition**
- Contributed in-kind to the **extended CoARA secretariat** during the first 9 months of operation of the coalition (December 2022 – September 2023)

The Commission will:

- Continue **contributing in-kind to the functioning of CoARA** (as observer to the Steering Board, and participant in Working Groups)
- Dedicate in-kind resources for the **internal work needed to review and develop improved research assessment criteria, tools and processes** in the R&I Framework Programme
- **Support financially the operation of CoARA** (CoARA Boost project)
- **Support institutional changes** via Horizon Europe
- **Consider supporting further projects** as necessary

The Commission Action Plan

__Commitment 6__ of the Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment (ARRA):
Review and develop research assessment criteria, tools and processes

The Commission will review the criteria, tools and processes for FP10 (starting in 2028) and ensure that these are in line with the principles and commitments of the ARRA.

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Commitment 7 of the Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment (ARRA):
Raise awareness of research assessment reform and provide transparent communication,
guidance, and training on assessment criteria and processes as well as their use

The Commission already:

- **Widely communicated about the award criteria under Horizon Europe, and its novelties** (e.g. Open Science)
- **Provided guidance to applicants and peer-reviewers**

The Commission will:

- Identify improvements in the **guidance and training provided to peer-reviewers** (R&I Framework Programme)

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Commitment 8 of the Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment (ARRA):
Exchange practices and experiences to enable mutual learning within and beyond the Coalition

The Commission already:

- Co-chairs a **CoARA WG on "Improving practices in the assessment of research proposals"**

- Initiated a **Multilateral Dialogue on Values and Principles for Research and Innovation (R&I)** with the aim to work towards a common understanding of principles and values that underpin international R&I cooperation

- Co-chaired a **sub-Working Group of the G7 Open Science Working Group, focused on Research assessment** and broader issues of incentives for open science

- Joined the **Global Research Council Working Group on Responsible Research Assessment**

The Commission will:

- Continue to contribute to ongoing initiatives in which it is involved (see left column)

- Work with the **European Open Science Cloud** on the provision of data, indicators and infrastructural elements underlying research assessment

- Work with the Public Engagement/Citizen Science community to promote and recognize **Citizen Science**

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Commitment 9 *of the Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment (ARRA): Communicate progress made on adherence to the principles and implementation of the Commitments*

The Commission will report on the progress made with this Action Plan within the timeline established in the ARRA.

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*Commitment 10 of the Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment (ARRA):
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*

The Commission already:

- Initiated the **funding of projects that contribute to research assessment reforms (PathOS, OPUS, GraspOS, SciLake)**

The Commission will:

- **Map the projects already funded** through Horizon Europe, that contribute to the reform of research assessment
- **Identify the main contributions and recommendations from these projects** for research assessment reforms and CoARA work
- **Identify potential new research and innovation actions needed**

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CoARA Working Group on the assessment of research proposals

- **Improve practices in the assessment of research proposals**, ultimately supporting higher quality and more impactful projects
  - ✓ In line with the principles and commitments of the Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment
  - ✓ While respecting the autonomy of each member

- **Lines of work**
  - ✓ **Criteria** for the selection of research projects and **innovative procedures** (WP1)
  - ✓ Selection of and guidance to **reviewers** on responsible research assessment practices (WP2)
  - ✓ **Information requested** from applicants (WP3)
  - ✓ Cross-cutting activities: **Bibliographic analysis** and horizon scanning (WP0); **Dissemination of results** (WP4)

- **Co-chaired** by the European Commission, the German Research Foundation (DFG) and Knowledge Foundation Sweden (KKS)

Membership

(20 September 2024)

Universities

Academies, learned societies, associations of researchers

Research centres

HUN-REN
Hungarian Research Network

National agencies

Others

Observers

Public or private funders and their associations

Ongoing activities

Focus	Main deliverables
0. Bibliographic analysis and horizon scanning to collect evidence and information relevant for the WG work (M1-M22)	
1. Criteria for the selection of research projects and innovative approaches to review processes	• **Report on how quality is understood and operationalised** by RFOs (M1-M6) • **Good/best practices paper** on individual questions related to **criteria**, as well as potential recommendations (M3-M22) • **Good/best practices paper** on individual questions related to **evaluation processes**, as well as potential recommendations (M10-M22) • **List of innovative procedures** that would be of interest for piloting (M10-M22)
2. Selection and guidance to reviewers on responsible research assessment practices	• **Good/best practices report** on **reviewer selection and panel composition**, as well as potential recommendations (M3-M16) • **Good/best practices paper** on **reviewer guidance**, as well as potential recommendations • **Good/best practices paper** on **recognition of peer review**, as well as potential recommendations • **Collection of guidance resources/toolbox**
3. Information requested from applicants	• **Good/best practices report** on **structure of information requested, incl. forms of CVs,** as well as potential recommendations (M16-M22)
4. Preparation of reports, endorsement of deliverables by the group, and dissemination of results (M06-M24)	

Thank you

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