



COALITION FOR ADVANCING RESEARCH ASSESSMENT

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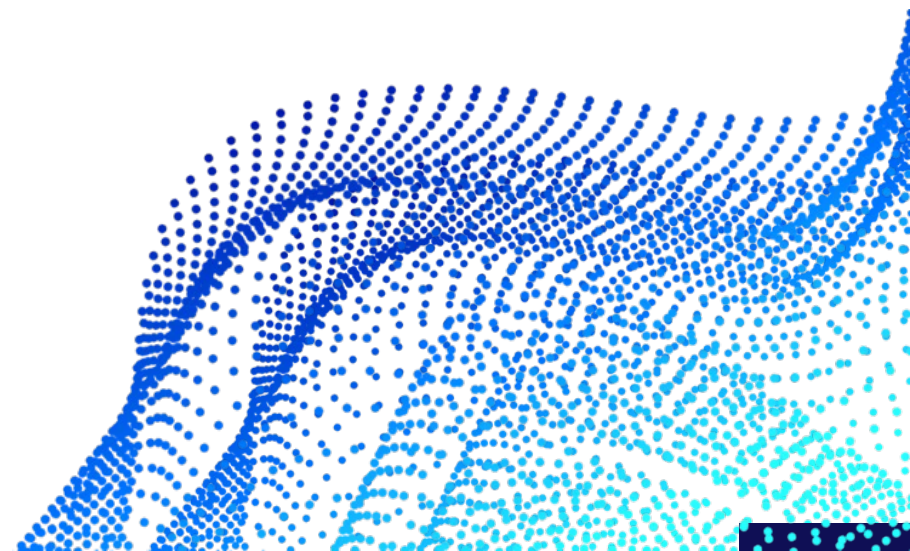
Steering Board member, CoARA

Executive Committee, GYA

MSCA fellow, University College Cork, Institute for Protein Design, UW

25.09.2023

Madrid, Spain



MY BACKGROUND

Honduras:

- Conservation biology
- Diagnostics, Public health
- Start-ups: Labs, clinic, research

Ireland:

- PhD: bacteria and cancer
- Diagnostics start-up
- Young Academy, Ambassador
- International science outreach

Spain:

- MBA

USA:

- Research – Institute for Protein Design

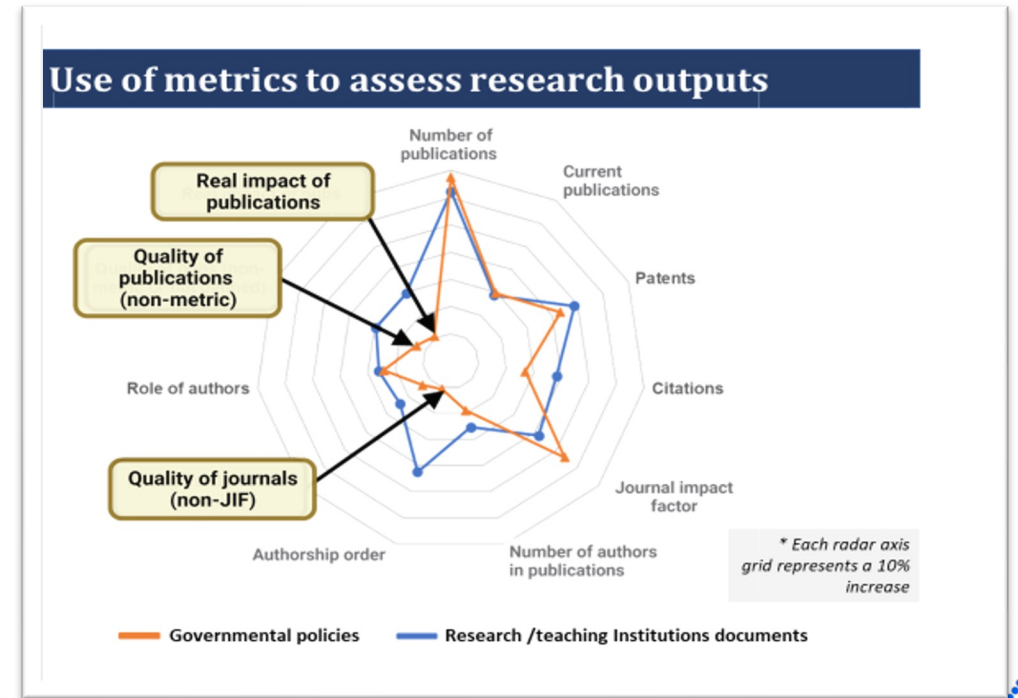
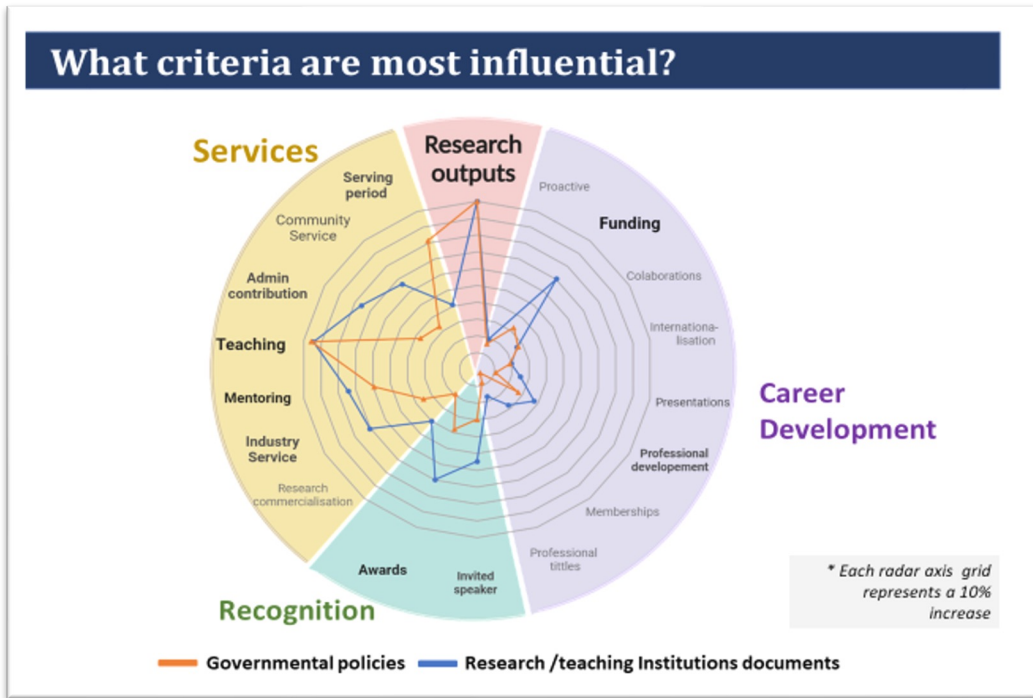
Global:

- CoARA, GYA, iGEM, Talloires: science education & outreach, science policy





Impact of Research Assessment practices worldwide



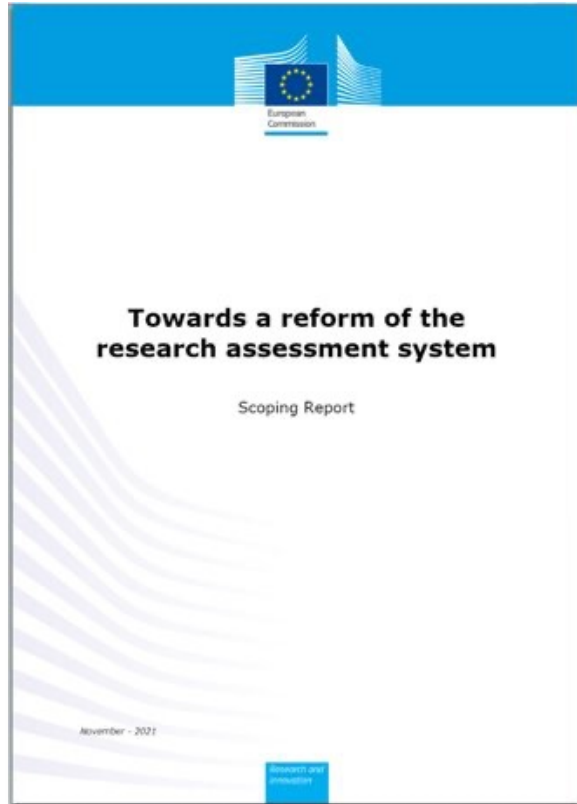
A global assessment of academic promotion criteria: What really counts?

<https://www.researchsquare.com/article/rs-3011208/v1>

NEED FOR REFORM OF RESEARCH ASSESSMENT

- To adapt to the **evolving needs on research**
 - ✓ Societal, environmental, economic challenges; Diversity of outputs
- To reflect **evolving research processes**
 - ✓ Digital transition; Iterative and recursive; Collaborative and open
- To move away from **inappropriate uses** of metrics
 - ✓ Rewards quantity and publication venue rather than quality;
 - ✓ Does not reward sharing, collaboration and other outputs
- ✓ To further support the **quality of research** and the **attractiveness of research environments**

STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS

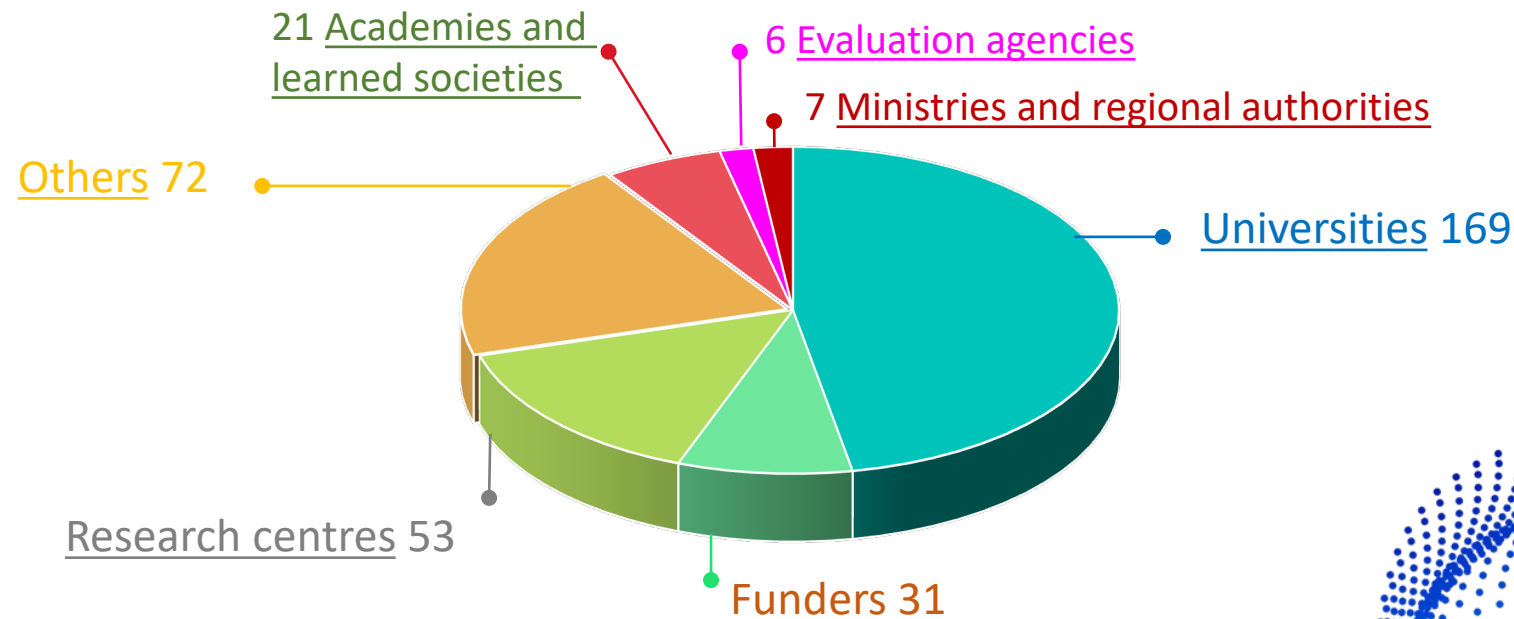


- **In Dec 2020** – moved forward to work with stakeholders in a mayor consultation to stakeholders (academic institutions, funding bodies and other)
- **Summary of consultations** with stakeholders throughout 2021
- **Scoping report** in November 2021

<https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2777/707440>

PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS

- **359 organisations from 40 countries** expressed their support to the principles in the scoping report and to help drafting an Agreement bringing together a Coalition





THE AGREEMENT ON REFORMING RESEARCH ASSESSMENT

Scoping report

Agreement on principles and way forward
November 2021



Agreement

Commits signatories to act on the basis on commonly agreed principles and commitments, within an agreed timeframe
July 2022

Coalition

Facilitates exchange of information and mutual learning
December 2022

- **Objectives, principles and actions** that could be agreed between organisations responsible for the assessment of research, researchers, research units and research institutions
- It establishes a **way forward** for implementation, while respecting organisations' autonomy.
- It is based on shared **principles, 10 commitments, and a timeframe** (Yr 1, Yr 5)



AGREEMENT ON REFORMING RESEARCH ASSESSMENT



<https://coara.eu/agreement/>



10 OVERARCHING PRINCIPLES



1. Comply with **ethics and integrity** rules and practices.
2. Safeguard freedom of scientific research.
3. Respect **autonomy** of research organisations.
4. Ensure independence and transparency of the data, infrastructure and criteria.
5. Focus research assessment **criteria on quality**.
6. Recognise contributions that advance knowledge and potential impact.
7. Recognise **diversity of research activities, practices, and outputs**.
8. Respect variety of scientific disciplines, research types and career stages.
9. Acknowledge and valorise **diversity in research roles and careers**.
10. Ensure gender equality, equal opportunities and inclusiveness.

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.



COALITION FOR ADVANCING RESEARCH ASSESSMENT (CoARA)



<https://coara.eu/coalition>

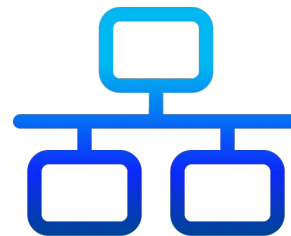
THE COALITION IN A NUTSHELL



- **The Coalition offers a space for its members to learn from others' experiences**, to advance the process of research assessment reform.
- **Signatory organisations**, having subscribed to the Guiding Principles and Code of Conduct, are invited to become members of the coalition.
- Coalition members are invited to be involved in: **Working Groups** and **National Communities**, as well as other Coalition activities.

COALITION BODIES

- **General Assembly of Members – All Members.** Represents all members of the Coalition. The highest-level decision-making body, meets annually.
- **Steering Board – Elected.** Responsible for the overall oversight, success, strategy, business plan and sustainability of the Coalition.
- **Working Groups – Voluntary participation.** To exchange knowledge, learn mutually, discuss and investigate any topic to advance research assessment and help implement the Members' commitments.
- **Coalition Secretariat – Supports** the administrative, logistical, and other activities of the Coalition.

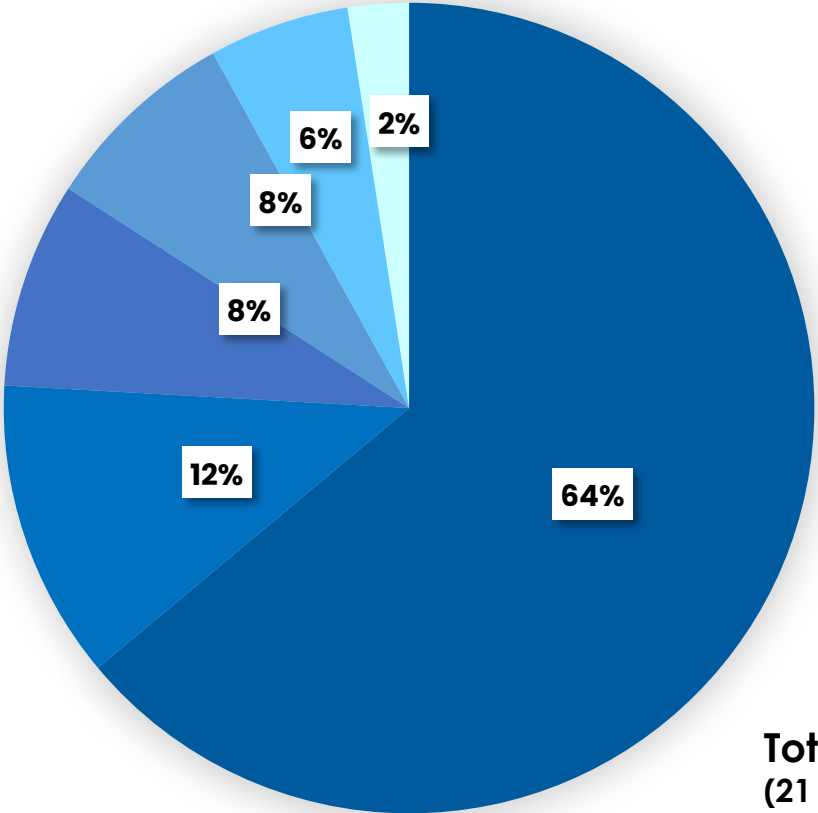


LAUNCH OF THE COALITION

The **Constitutive Assembly**, first General Assembly of CoARA, took place on **1 December 2022**. with **> 300 member organisations**

- Formally adopting CoARA's governance documents, rules of procedure and code of conduct.
- Elected the Coalition's Steering Board.
- Approving the preliminary workplan and budget
- European Science Foundation (ESF)–Science Connect was formally appointed as the CoARA Secretariat.

CoARA MEMBERSHIP BY TYPE OF ORGANISATION



Tot: 538
(21 Sept 23)

In descending order of total share:

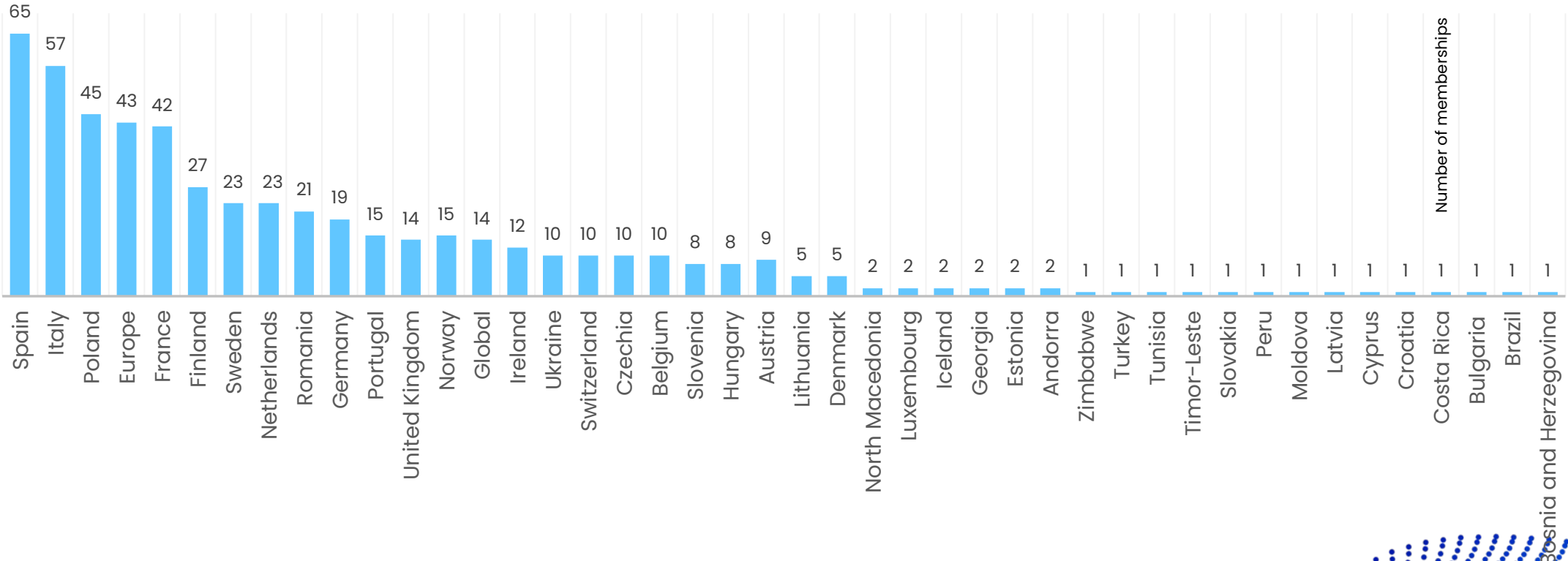
- Universities and their associations
- Research centres, research infrastructures, and their associations
- Academies, learned societies, and their associations, and associations of researchers
- Public or private research funding organisations and their associations
- Other relevant non-for-profit organisations involved with research assessment, and their associations
- National/regional authorities or agencies that implement some form of research assessment and their associations

538 member organisations

619 signatories

as of 21 September 2023

CoARA MEMBERSHIP BY COUNTRY



Tot: 537
(11 Sept 23)

WORKING GROUPS

- WGs operate as '**communities of practice**', providing mutual learning and collaboration are central to CoARA mission:
 - **Exchange** knowledge, **learn** mutually, **discuss and develop** outputs to advance research assessment and **help** implement members' commitments.
- Working Groups are identified and proposed **bottom-up** by members
 - Three types: **Interest**, **Discipline**, and **Institution** Communities.
- 10 Working Groups were launched during the 1st call launched in March 2023.
- **Second call for WG Launched: Sept 1, 2023.**

WORKING GROUPS



2023 Call 2nd round deadlines published



Eols to be submitted via online form



Opportunity to present Eols to larger CoARA community



Last day to submit full CoARA working group proposal: 09.11.



Results 2nd cut-off 2023 call submissions to be communicated (email to PoCs who submitted + website release of successful WGs)



Detailed feedback to be provided to all submissions

NATIONAL CHAPTERS



- National Chapters will contribute to CoARA work by facilitating the **exchange of knowledge**, **mutual learning** and **discussions** on CoARA-relevant issues specific to different types of organisations of a **given country or region**.
- National Chapters proposed at the initiative of CoARA members.
 - Participation from members is voluntary.
 - Any CoARA member from the given country can participate in call for National Chapter.
- No limit on the number of National Chapters that can be approved. However, no more than one National Chapter approved per country/group.
- 5 national chapters have been launched (**Spain**, Italy, Norway, Poland, Ukraine) and 2 more on the way.

**No cut-off date
(monthly process)**

JOIN AND ENGAGE!

Useful links:

- **CoARA website**
<https://coara.eu>
- **The governance documents**
- **The Agreement full text**
- **Sign the Agreement**
- **CoARA News**
- **FAQ**

Follow us!

 **@CoARAssessment**

 **Coalition for Advancing
Research Assessment**

A question?

Contact us at
secretariat@coara.eu

CoARA

Coalition for Advancing
Research Assessment

Be part of the coalition, [click here](#) to sign the agreement and if you wish become a CoARA member



MEMBER



SIGNATORY

Option to
level up

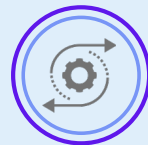
ENDORSE PUBLICLY

Publicly signal the need and willingness to reform the research assessment ecosystem



ACHIEVE CHANGE

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



JOIN COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE

Benefit from communities of practice on subjects of your choice. Propose and join [working groups](#), [national chapters](#)



HAVE YOUR SAY

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



LEVERAGE ON A NETWORK

Interact and share best practices with the CoARA network of members

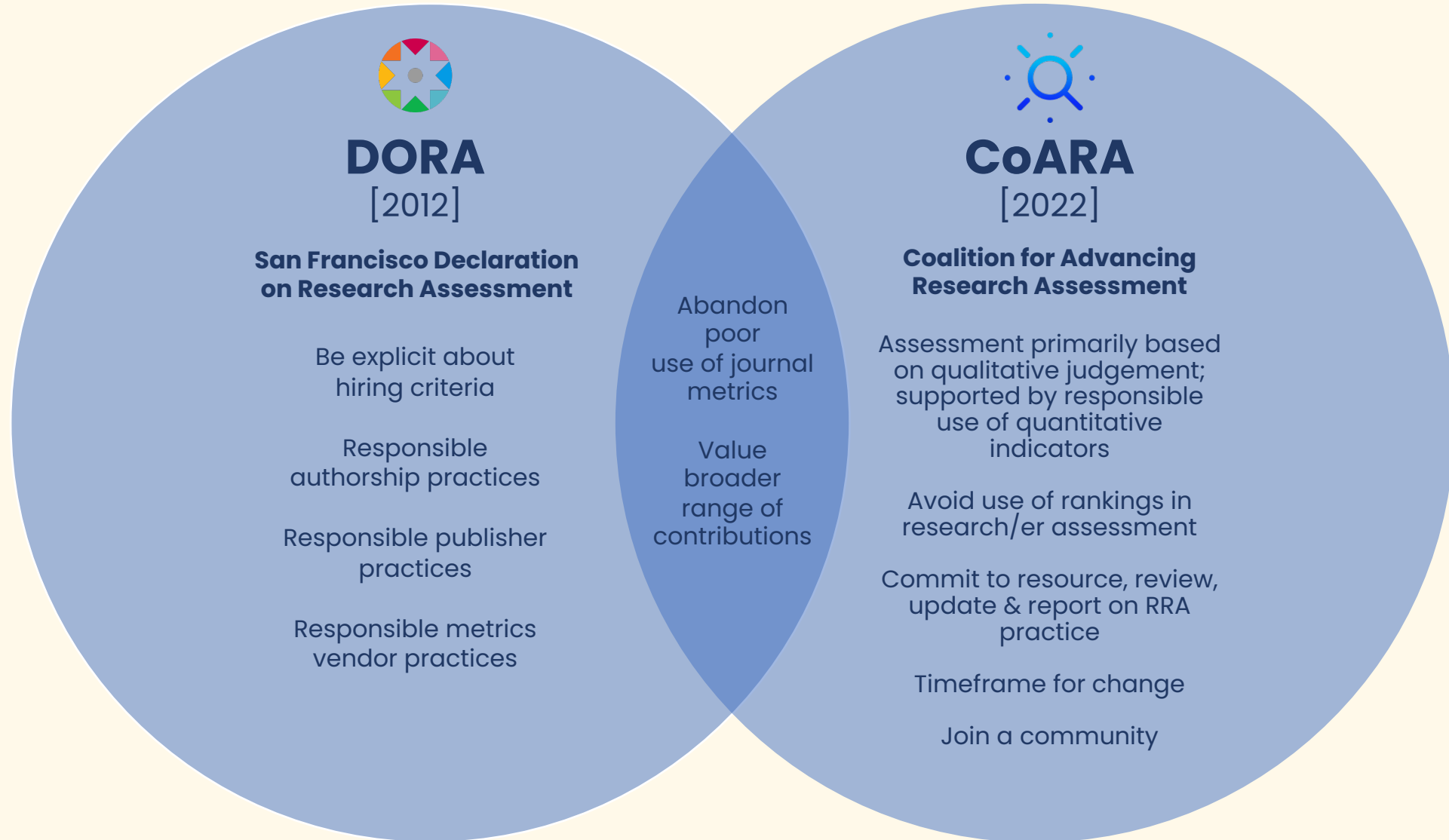


As a signatory you can level up to membership any time (there are no membership fees)

Two initiatives to change the state of research assessment that:

- Proactively engage with the global scholarly community
- Create awareness to develop tools to advance assessment

Good reasons to sign both DORA and CoARA:



| Title | Lead (Proposer) |
|--|---|
| Supporting the alignment of research assessment systems with CoARA in biomedical disciplines through administrative reforms and governance | Miriam Kip Charité Universitaetsmedizin Berlin |
| Towards Open Infrastructures for Responsible Research Assessment | Natalia Manola OpenAIRE |
| Improving practices in the assessment of research proposals | Michael Arentoft European Commission |
| Reforming Academic Career Assessment (ACA) | Rita Morais European University Association (EUA) |
| Early-and-mid-Career Researchers (EMCRs) – Assessment and Research Culture | Sebastian Dahle Eurodoc |
| Experiments in Assessment – Idea generation, co-creation, and piloting | Sean Sapcariu Luxembourg National Research Fund |
| Recognizing and Rewarding Peer Review | Johan Rooryck cOAlition S |
| Multilingualism and language biases in research assessment | Janne Pölönen Federation of Finnish Learned Societies |
| Responsible metrics and indicators | Katarzyna Nawrot; Felix Schönbrodt Poznan University of Economics and Business; German Psychological Society |
| Towards Transformations: Transdisciplinarity, Applied/Practice-Based Research, and Impacts | Marc Wolfram; Raimund Bleischwitz; Thomas Brunotte; Martin Jaekel Leibniz Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Development; Leibniz Association; Hochschullehrerbund Bundesvereinigung; Zurich University of Applied Sciences |