

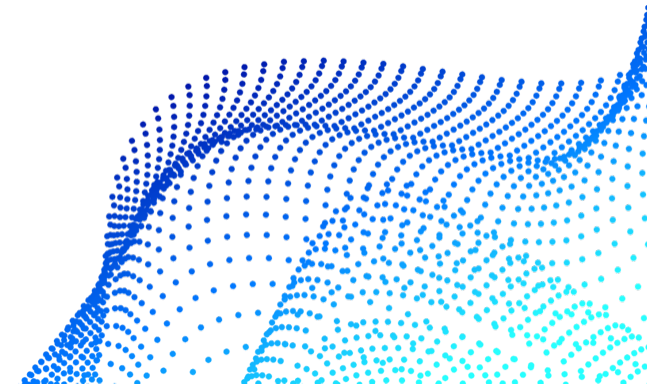


# CoARA

## A SHARED DIRECTION TOWARDS RECOGNISING DIVERSE RESEARCH OUTPUTS, PRACTICES AND ACTIVITIES

An overview of CoARA: vision, progress, state of the art

Erzsebet Toth-Czifra, CoARA  
Programme Manager



# 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](https://zenodo.org/doi/10.5281/zenodo.4922537)



# AN URGENT NEED TO REFORM EXISTING WAYS OF ASSESSING RESEARCH

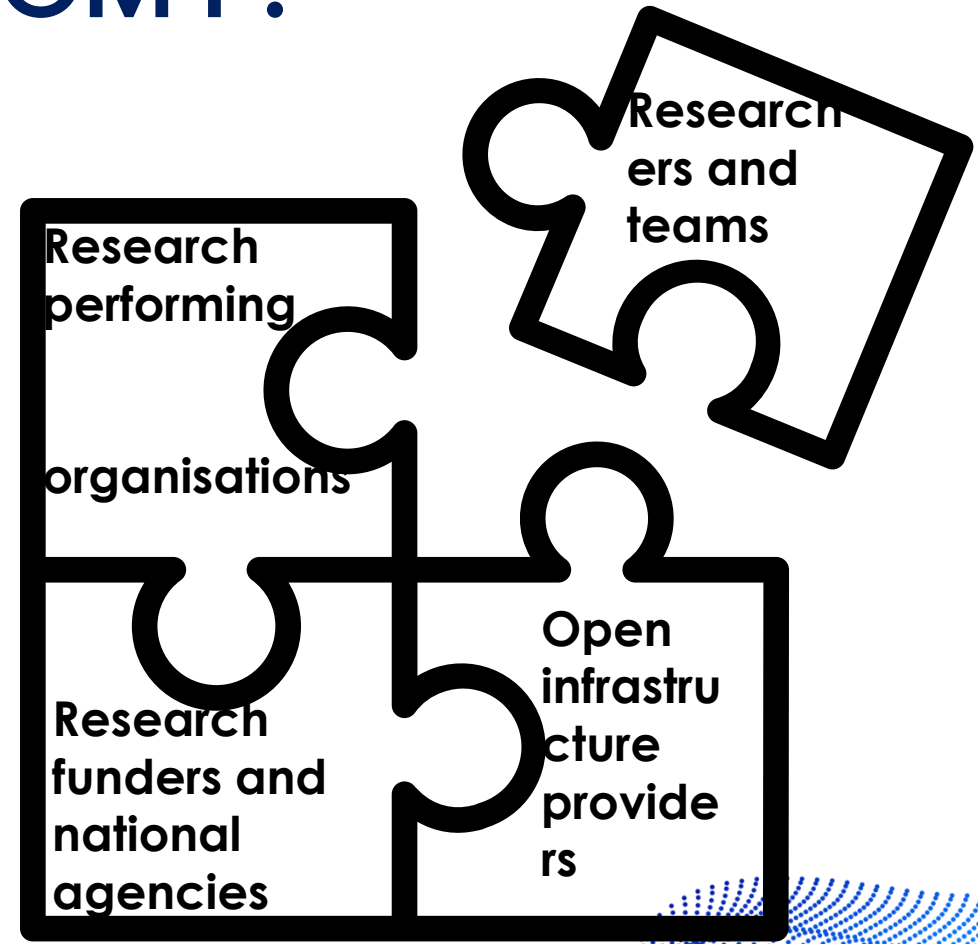
Assessment processes relying predominantly on journal- and publication-based metrics can be a hurdle to the recognition of diverse contributions and may negatively affect the quality and impact of research.

They also contribute to an unhealthy research culture and an unaffordable publication system.



# HOW TO BREAK THE VICIOUS CIRCLE OF PRESTIGE ECONOMY?

- Through a set of urgent and harmonized actions and call for a new social contract
- Synchronised action from key actor groups is essential to harmonise efforts and enable a truly systemic change



# What is CoARA?



# A SHARED DIRECTION TO THE REFORM OF 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



**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

# A SHARED DIRECTION TO THE REFORM OF RESEARCH ASSESSMENT

- Building on progress made so far (DORA, Leiden Manifesto, Hong Kong Principles), the Agreement establishes a **common direction for research assessment reform**, while respecting organisations' autonomy. It is based on **shared principles, 10 commitments, and a timeframe** (1 & 5 years) for reforms.
- The Agreement was **published on 20 July 2022**
- [The Agreement full text - CoARA](#)



# 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.



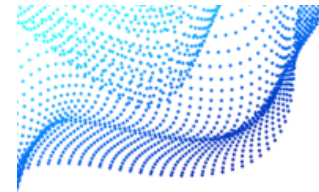
# 6 SUPPORTING COMMITMENTS

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.

# FROM AGREEMENT TO ACTION



<https://coara.eu/news/guidelines-for-action-plan-preparations-published/>



## Action Plan Guidelines

## SUPPORT FOR CoARA SIGNATORIES IN THE PREPARATION OF ACTION PLANS

This document is a resource to support signatories of the Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment and members of the Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA) in preparing an action plan towards achieving the commitments they have signed up to.

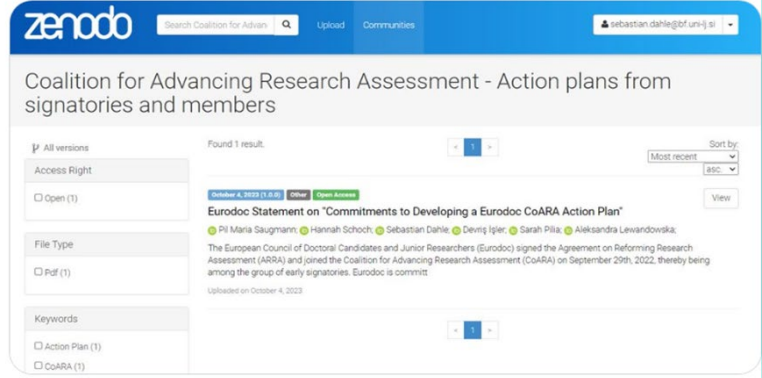


[https://zenodo.org/communities/coara\\_action\\_plans/](https://zenodo.org/communities/coara_action_plans/)



**Eurodoc** @Eurodoc · Oct 12, 2023

The first **#ActionPlan** for advancing **#ResearchAssessment** has been made available in the **@CoARAssessment #Community** on **@ZENODO\_ORG** - check it out here: [surl.li/mbtse](https://surl.li/mbtse)



**Pastora Martínez Samper** @pastorams · Apr 5

Proud and happy to share with you that the **@CoARAssessment action plan** has been recently approved at **@UOCuniversitat**

The English version is available at **@ZENODO\_ORG** and the Catalan and Spanish ones in our institutional repository



**@EULIFEnews** @EULIFE\_news · Nov 8, 2023

We are thrilled to announce that the **#CoARA** Working Group on 'Supporting the alignment of **#ResearchAssessment** systems with **CoARA** in biomedical disciplines through administrative reforms & **#governance**' had its kick-off meeting last Friday and is now working on its **action plan!**



**Janne Pölönen** · 1st

Secretary General for Publication Forum at Federation of Finnish Learned S...  
1w ·

Suomen kansallinen CoARA osasto järjesti 12. maaliskuuta CoARA Action Plan -webinaarin, jonka tarkoitus oli tukea suomalaisia organisaatioita CoARAn edellyttämän toimintasuunnitelman laatimisessa sekä jakaa tietoa ja l...see more

[See translation](#)



**CoARA Action Plan -webinaarin antia**

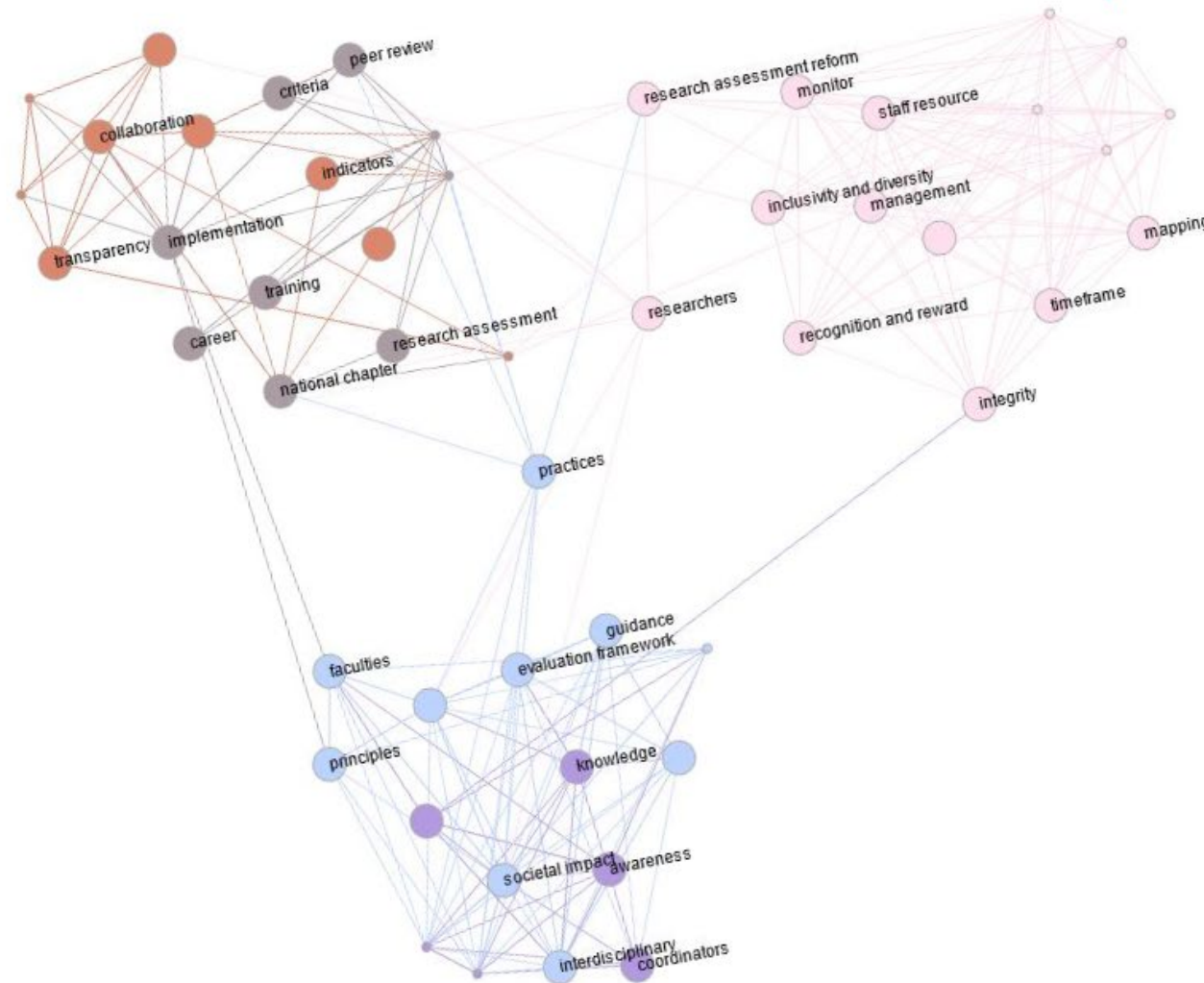
vastuullinentiede.fi · 1 min read



**Michal Petr** @Michal\_Petr\_MU · Dec 4, 2023

I am happy to share that we have recently published the Masaryk University **Action Plan for CoARA**. [zenodo.org/communities/co...](https://zenodo.org/communities/co...) Responsible assessment is our important institutional value. Time for communication, analysis, collaboration and transparency.

# FROM AGREEMENT TO ACTION



For more information on the analysis of action plans, see: El Khouri, L. (2024, May 13). Reflections on the first wave of Action Plans, CoARA Webinar on Action Plans. Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.11186530>

# CoARA

Coalition for Advancing  
Research Assessment

Be part of the Coalition: [click here](#) to sign the Agreement and to choose to become a member



SIGNATORY

Optional  
membership  
+



MEMBER

## 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



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

## 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 good practices with the CoARA network of members



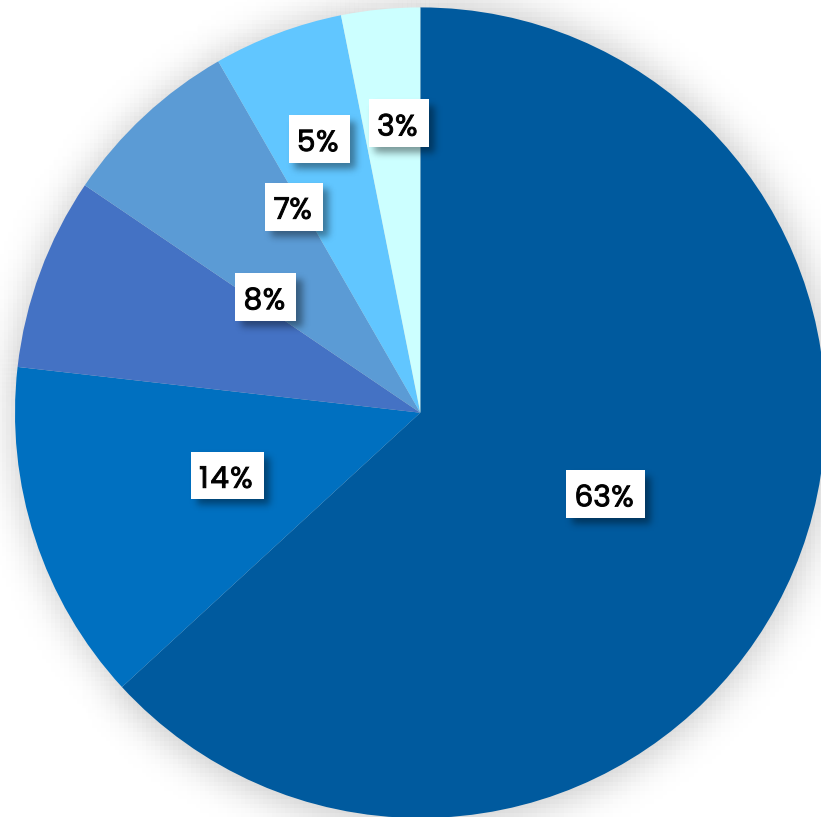
# WHY JOIN THE COALITION?

The Coalition:

- Enables systemic reform by empowering organisations in their process of research assessment reform.
- Allows building a critical mass of stakeholders to interact with national and regional authorities, incl. ERA Forum, to tackle any legal or administrative barriers that limit the implementation of changes to research assessment by research organisations.
- Seeks to avoid potential contradictions between different research assessment practices and frameworks, for the benefit of the broader research and academic community, and especially young researchers.



# CoARA MEMBERSHIP BY TYPE OF ORGANISATION



In descending order of total share:

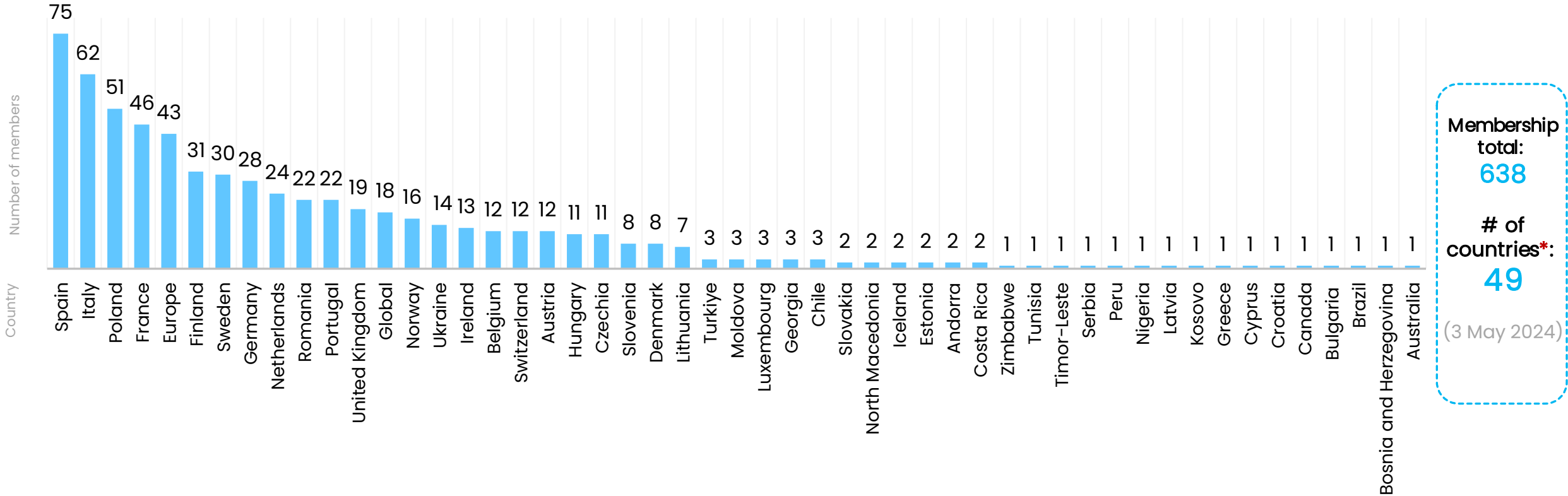
- Universities and their associations
- Research centres, research infrastructures, and their associations
- Academies, learned societies, and their associations, and associations of researchers
- Public or private research funding organisations and their associations
- Other relevant non-for-profit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

**638 member organisations**

**724 signatories**

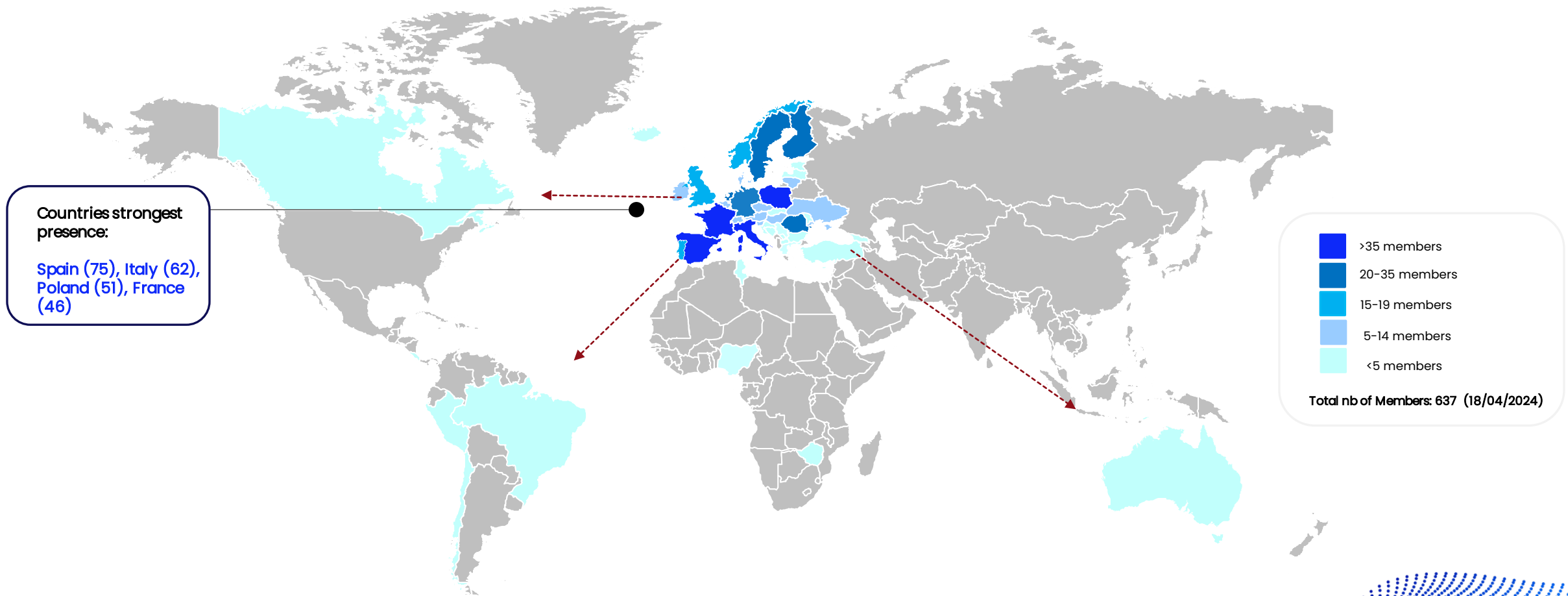
[3 May 2024]

# CoARA MEMBERSHIP BY COUNTRY



\*excl. pan-European and global organisations

# CoARA membership 21<sup>st</sup> May 2024 International outreach goals



# STEERING BOARD



**Prof. Rianne  
Letschert**  
Chair



**Dr. Elizabeth  
Gadd**  
Vice-Chair



**Dr. Karen  
Stroobants**  
Vice-Chair



**Dr. Lidia Borrell  
Damián**



**Prof. Paul  
Boyle**



**Janne Pölönen**



**Dr. Luciana  
Balboa**



**Dr. Eva  
Méndez**



**Prof. Menico  
Rizzi**



**Dr. Sylvie  
Rousset**



**Prof. Toma  
Susi**

# OVERVIEW OF THE COARA WORKING GROUPS



**Towards Open Infrastructures for Responsible Research Assessment**



**Multilingualism and language biases in research assessment**



**Recognizing and Rewarding Peer Review**



**Experiments in Assessment – Idea generation, co-creation, and piloting**



**Reforming Academic Career Assessment**



**Towards Transformations: Transdisciplinarity, Applied/Practice-Based Research, and Impacts**



**Early- and mid-Career Researchers (EMCRs) – Assessment and Research Culture**



1<sup>st</sup> WGs Co-Chair meeting 17 November 2023



**Global framework for research evaluation in the social sciences and the humanities (SSH)**



**TIER – Towards an Inclusive Evaluation of Research**



**Ethics and Research Integrity Policy in Responsible Research Assessment for Data and Artificial Intelligence (ERIP)**



**Improving practices in the assessment of research proposals**



**Supporting the alignment of research assessment systems with CoARA in biomedical disciplines through administrative reforms and governance**



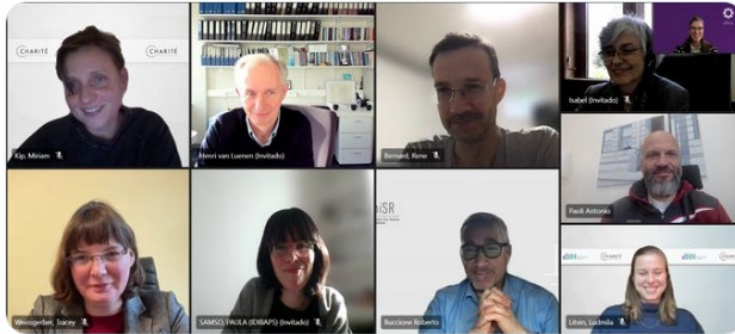
**Responsible metrics and indicators**

# WORKING GROUPS – HIGHLIGHTS



@EULIFEnews @EULIFE\_news · Nov 8, 2023

👏 We are thrilled to announce that the **#CoARA Working Group** on 'Supporting the alignment of **#ResearchAssessment** systems with **CoARA** in biomedical disciplines through administrative reforms & **#governance**' had its kick-off meeting last Friday and is now working on its action plan!



Marie Curie Alumni Association (MCAA) @Mariecurie\_alum · Mar 13

How does linguistic diversity affect research assessment?

Join us tomorrow for this satellite event of the **CoARA Working Group** on multilingualism and language bias in research assessment!

Tune in to the event online at 13-17:00 CET: [player.clevercast.com/?account\\_id=AQ...](https://player.clevercast.com/?account_id=AQ...)



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OpenCitations @opencitations · Aug 1, 2023

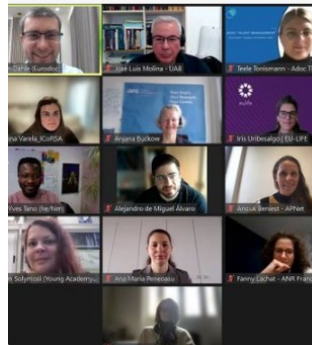
In the next months, the **@CoARAssessment Working Group** Towards Open Infrastructures for Responsible Research Assessment **#OI4RRA** will start its activities, focusing on having open infras for making **#researchassessment** more transparent and responsible:



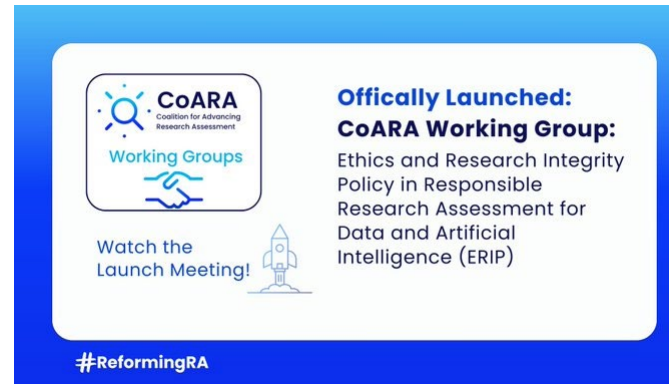
[opencitations.hypotheses.org](https://opencitations.hypotheses.org)  
OpenCitations is part of the CoARA Working Group Towards Open Infrastructures for Responsible Research Assessment (CoARA) launched its call for members...

Eurodoc @Eurodoc · Dec 5, 2023

👉 Finally kick-started our @CoARAssessment WG for #ECRs on a career researchers last Wednesday! Stay tuned for more outputs #ResearchAssessment and more in the coming months!



MEETING OF THE COARA WORKING GROUP ON EARLY- AND MID-CAREER RESEARCH – ASSESSMENT AND RESEARCH



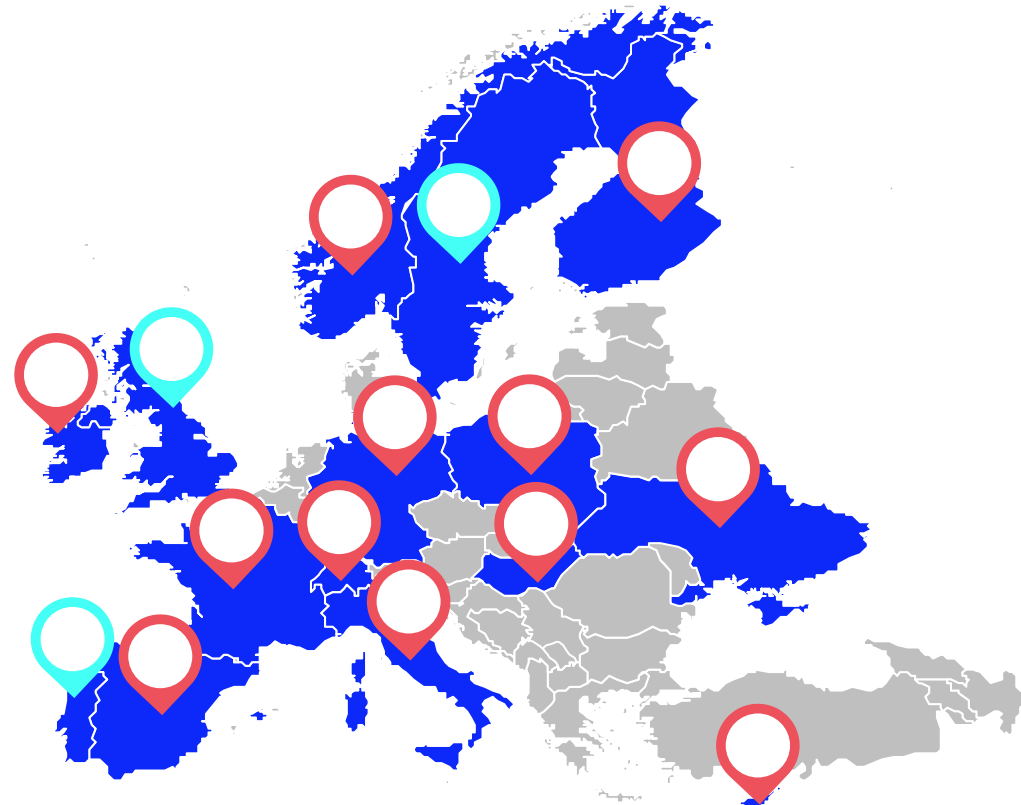


# NATIONAL CHAPTERS

CoARA  
implementation  
communities in a  
given country

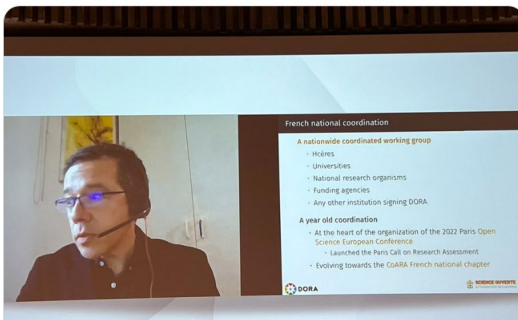
National-level  
outreach,  
contextualization  
Building a critical  
mass, harmonizing  
efforts

No cut-off date :  
monthly submission  
review



- Andorra
- Cyprus
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Hungary
- Ireland
- Italy
- Norway
- Poland
- Portugal
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Ukraine
- United Kingdom

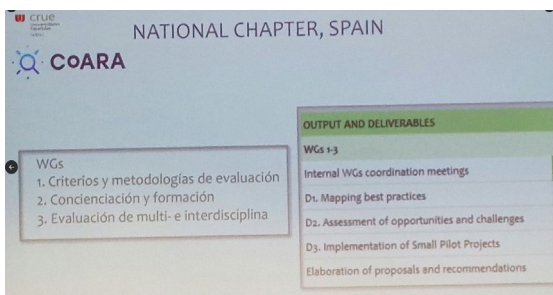
Nicolas Fressengeas @fresseng: coordinated discussion of research assessment in France, evolving towards a **@CoARAssessment national chapter #eu2023se #OpenScience**



Janne Pölonen @jannepolonen@mstdn.social @PolonenJanne · Nov  
Great news! Federation of Finnish Learned Societies (@tsv\_media) submitted today to **@CoARAssessment** the complete proposal for **National Chapter** on behalf of 27 CoARA members and 2 agreement signatories from Finland.



**National Open Research Forum (NORF) Ireland** Following 1,308 posts. Thank you to @RAdawson President, Pat Gully for welcoming participants to today's workshop on #researchassessment, to @anita\_maguire, @enigmaticocean, and to visual artist and illustrator @MccomishBeth for her amazing artistic interpretation of our discussion @norfireland



CSIC @CSIC · Jul 18  
La Coalición para el Avance de la Evaluación de la Investigación **@CoARAssessment** aprueba la propuesta de 'National Chapter Spain' d' **#Crue @ANECAinfo @CSIC**  
Paso significativo en línea con la comunidad investigadora internacional  
[csic.es/es/actualidad...](https://csic.es/es/actualidad...)



# NOW OPEN: CALL FOR CASCADE FUNDING

- Facilitate the exchange, transfer and adaptation of proven good practices and their adoption in research organisations.
- Catalyse the set-up or transformation of research assessment practices and tools in line with the commitments of the Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment.
- Support the development and testing of new and innovative research assessment approaches, models and procedures.

... to facilitate institutional change:



The poster features the CoARA logo (Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment) and CoARA Boost logo 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 'Funded by the European Union' logo. The background has a decorative pattern of blue dots.

# TYPES OF PROJECTS: CASCADE FUNDING



**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€).

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**Institutional change projects:** provide the means to accelerate change in procedures and processes in an organisation (up to 60 k€).

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**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€).

# WAYS IN WHICH MEMBERS CAN ENGAGE WITH CoARA



Members and signatories commit to implement the 10 core principles via an [action plan](#)



Members participate in the decision-making processes of the coalition at the General Assembly



Members can join or [propose](#) Working Groups

Members can contribute to [National Chapters](#)



Members are invited to apply for the cascade funding program



Members are invited to engage in knowledge sharing opportunities – **stay tuned!**

# BECOME A COARA SUPPORTER

We support



Supporter badges available: [Advocacy Materials - CoARA](#)

# 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](#)



CoARA Membership Newsletter – Sign Up

## A question?

Contact us at [secretariat@coara.eu](mailto:secretariat@coara.eu)