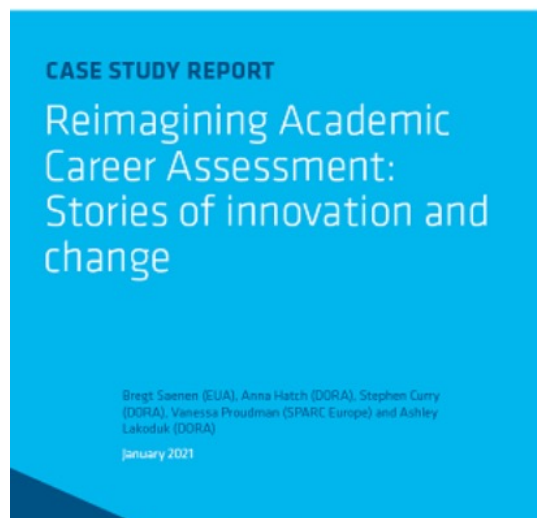


Reform of Research Assessment Agreement & CoARA Coalition

Rita Morais, Vinciane Gaillard and Stephane Berghmans
EUA, Reseach & Innovation Unit

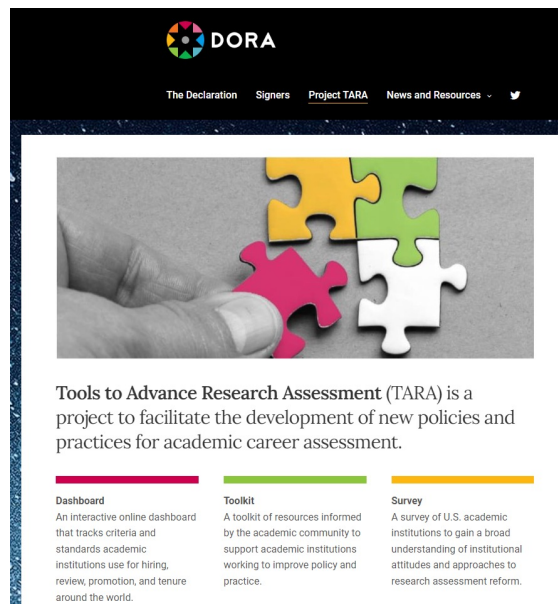
CZARMA – REGON April 2023:
Research Assessment

Change is happening



[Link Report](#)

[Link Repository](#)

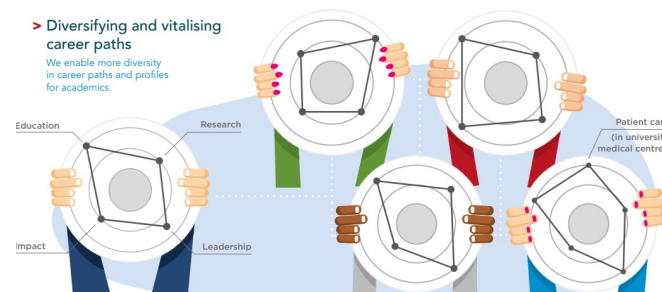


Room for everyone's talent

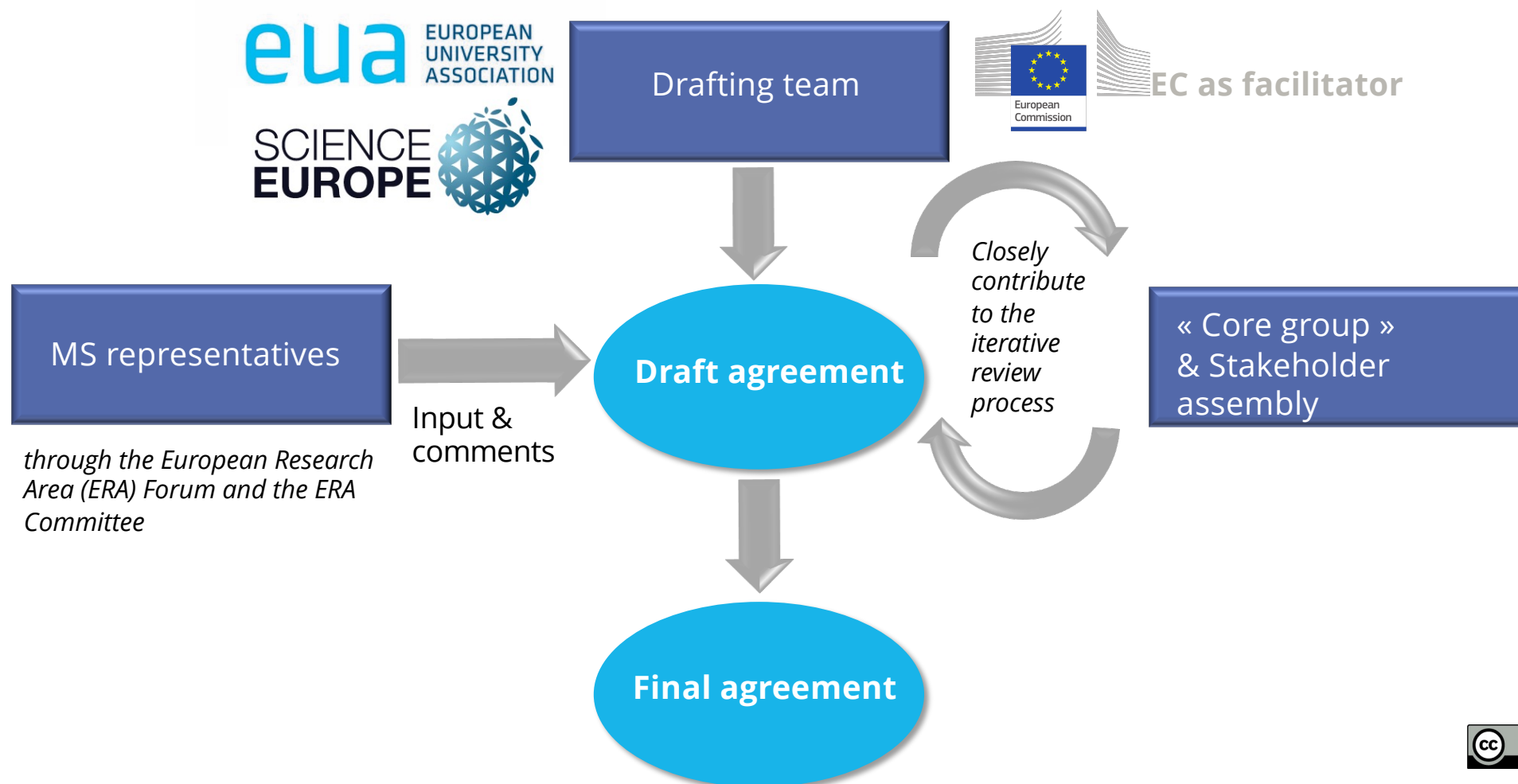
towards a new balance in the recognition and rewards of academics

> Diversifying and vitalising career paths

We enable more diversity in career paths and profiles for academics.



Drafting an Agreement, a co-creation exercise



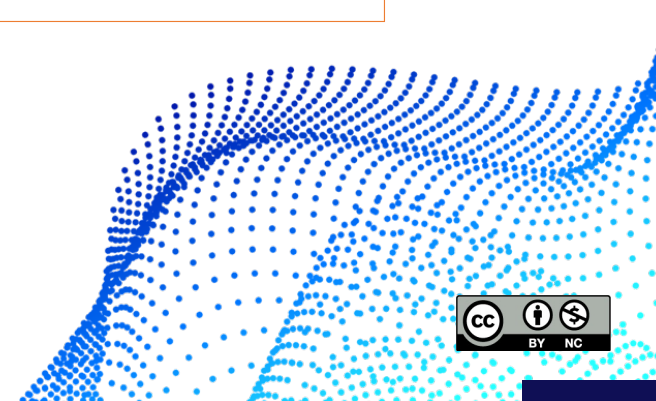
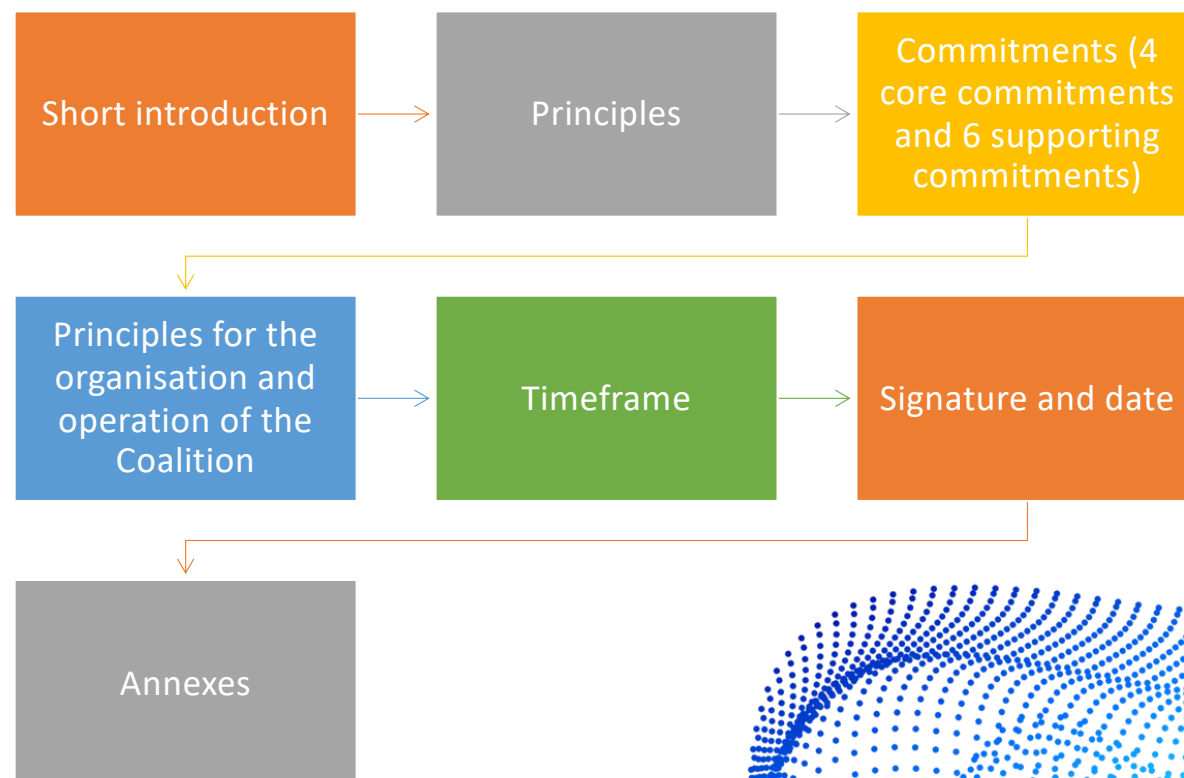
PUBLICATION OF THE AGREEMENT ON 20 JULY



<https://coara.eu/agreement/the-agreement-full-text/>



<https://coara.eu/agreement/the-agreement-full-text/>



Introduction

As signatories of this Agreement, we agree on the need for reform of research assessment practices.

Vision: The assessment of research, researchers and research organisations recognises the diverse outputs, practices and activities that maximise the quality and impact of research. [...]

Scope: RPOs and research units, research projects, individual researchers and research teams. [...]

This Agreement establishes a **common direction** for research assessment reform practices, while respecting organisations' **autonomy**.

We commit to realise reform through a **coalition** of RFOs, RPOs, national/regional assessment authorities and agencies, as well as associations of the above organisations, learned societies and other relevant organisations, that is **global in scope**.

We will **work together** to enable **systemic reform** on the basis of **common principles** within an **agreed timeframe**, and to facilitate **exchanges of information and mutual learning** between all those willing to improve research assessment practices.



Core commitments

1. Recognise the diversity of contributions to, and careers in, research in accordance with the needs and 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 inappropriate uses in research assessment of journal- and publication-based metrics, in particular inappropriate uses of Journal Impact Factor (JIF) and h-index
4. Avoid the use of rankings of research organisations in research assessment



Supporting commitments (1)

- 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

6.1 Criteria for units and institutions

With the direct involvement of research organisations and researchers at all career stages, review and develop criteria for assessing research units and research performing organisations, while promoting interoperability

6.2 Criteria for projects and researchers

With the direct involvement of researchers at all career stages, review and develop criteria, tools and processes for the assessment of research projects, research teams and researchers that are adapted to their context of application



Supporting commitments (2)

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



Timeframe

Year 0 (2022)

Signature

Year 5 (2027)

At least one cycle of review
and development of own
assessment criteria, tools
and processes

Year 1 (2023)

Start the process of
reviewing or developing
criteria, tools and processes

NB: Organisations can sign the Agreement at any point in time beyond 2022.
The timeline for organisations signing after 2022 will be adjusted accordingly.



Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment

Our vision is that the assessment of research, researchers and research organisations recognises the diverse outputs, practices and activities that maximise the quality and impact of research. This requires basing assessment primarily on qualitative judgement, for which peer review is central, supported by responsible use of quantitative indicators.

Signing the agreement...

What does it mean for my institution?

Is this Agreement legally binding?

- Not legally binding, but...
- It is an Agreement, with clear commitments.
- Signing the Agreement is a precondition for joining the Coalition.
- Participation on a voluntary basis.
- Full autonomy of organisations, full control on the steps towards the implementation of the Agreement and the speed of the reform journey.
- More of a morally binding signature, towards peer organisations and own community.
- Organisations and their staff can leave the Coalition at any time.

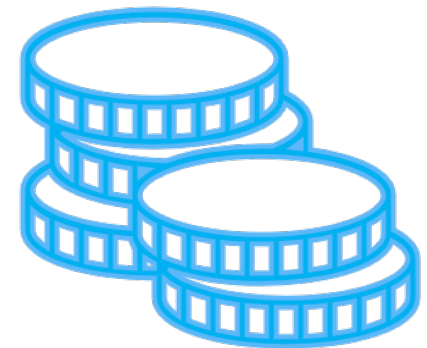


Signing the agreement...

What does it mean for my institution?

A word on coalition funding

- **The preliminary work plan and budget of the CoARA were endorsed by the Constitutive Assembly.**
- The document describes the tasks foreseen for the CoARA during the period 1st December 2022 to 31st December 2023, the corresponding budget necessary and available, and the fundraising strategy.
- **No membership fee will be applied to CoARA members.**
- The Secretariat has been tasked with fundraising. It will engage with public funding organisations, philanthropies, and other organisations within and outside the Coalition. It will also apply to relevant calls for proposals.



Signing the agreement...

What does it mean for my institution?

Resource allocation

Commitment 5: Commit resources to reforming research assessment as is needed to achieve the organisational changes committed to

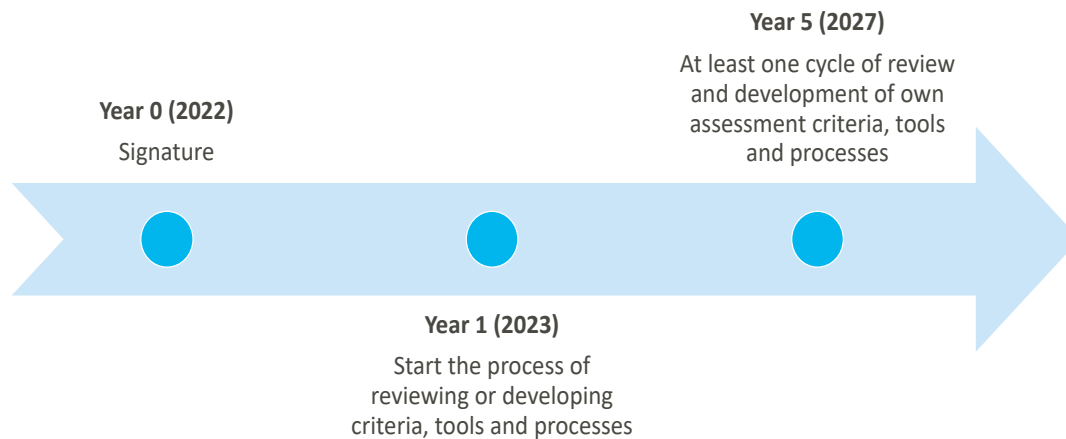
Purpose: “This commitment will ensure that organisations allocate the necessary resources, whether in the form of budget or staff capacity, to improve research assessment practices within their agreed timeframe.”

“Resources should be allocated as is needed for each organisation to achieve the changes that will enable adherence to the Principles and to implement the Commitments.”

Each institution will be autonomous in deciding the type and amount of resources they will commit to implement the Agreement. There is no minimum requirement.

Signing the agreement...

What does it mean for my institution?



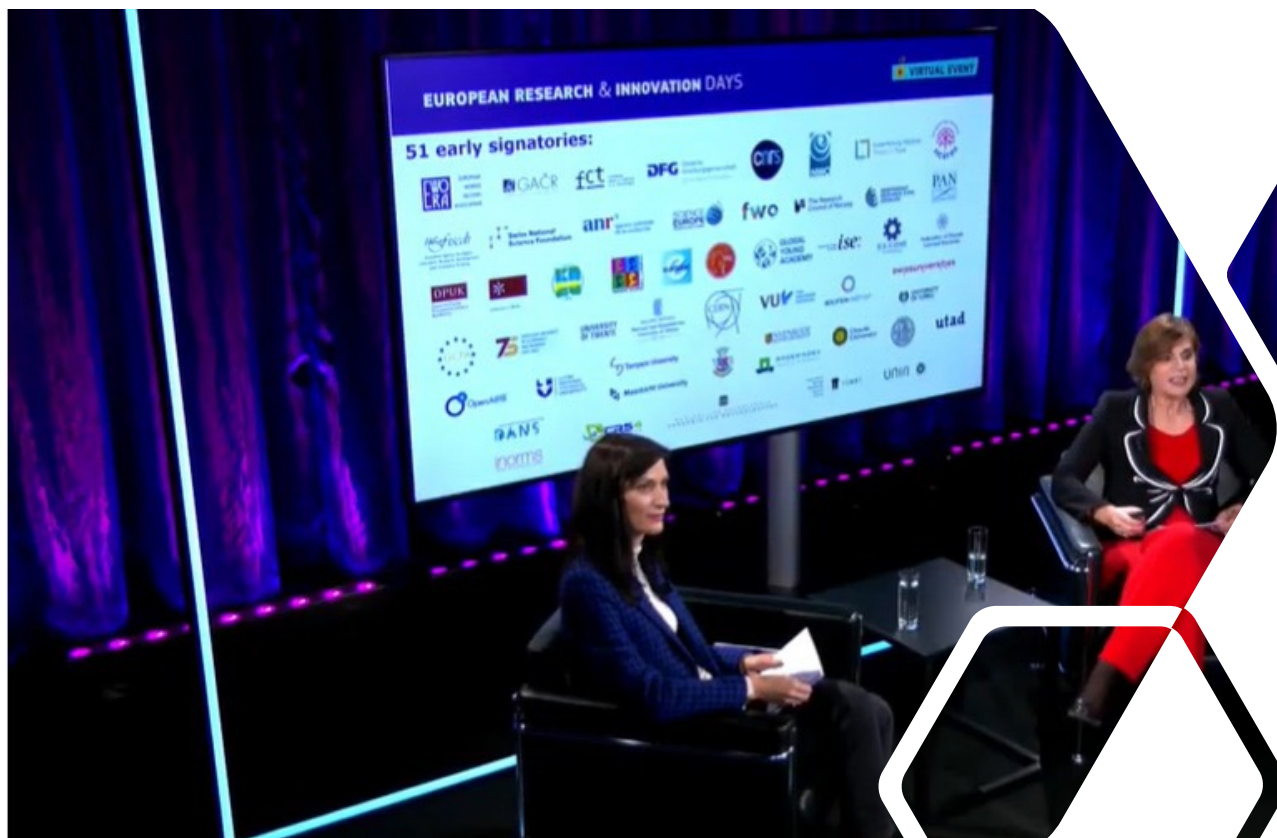
- Concrete steps and activities to be developed in Year 1 and up to Year 5 will be decided by each institution.
- Each institution will develop its own path in the implementation of the Agreement.
- No benchmarking with other institutions.

Participants will keep full control on the steps they make to implement the Agreement and the speed of their reform journey, which can vary from one organisation to another depending on many factors (...)

*Organisations commit to share information on the progress made and lessons learnt in their reform journey, according to the timeframe included in the agreement. Sharing of information shall be done on the basis of **self-assessment and by no means the progress of individual organisations will be validated by the Coalition.***

(cf. [FAQ](#))

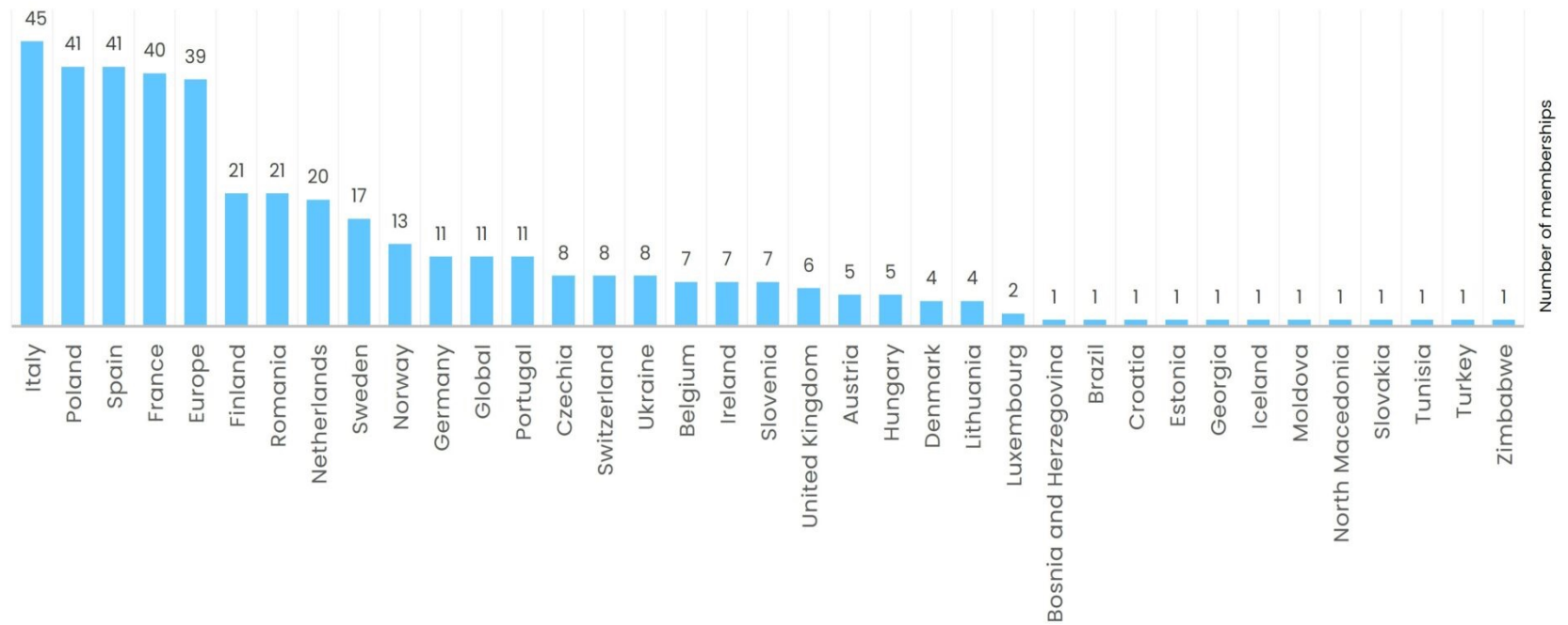
OPENING OF THE AGREEMENT FOR SIGNATURES



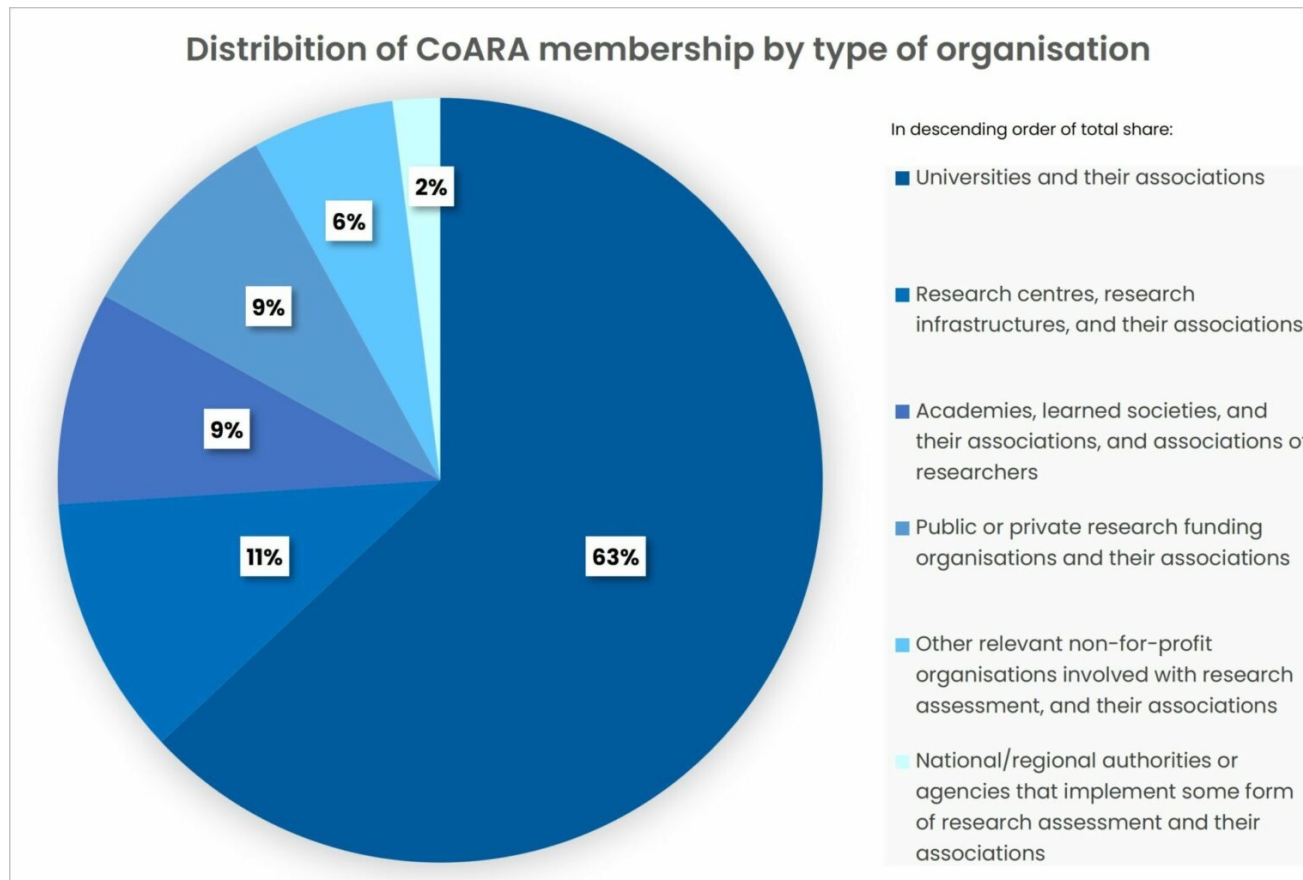
COALITION MEMBERS UPDATE

423 CoARA
members
(35
countries)

Distribution of CoARA membership by country



COARA MEMBERS BY TYPE OF ORGANISATION



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

COARA CHAIR AND STEERING BOARD

- Rianne Letschert (**Maastricht University, UNL, YERUN**) – **Chair**
- Elizabeth Gadd (INORMS Research Evaluation Group) – **Vice-Chair**
- Karen Stroobants (Marie Curie Alumni Association; EuroScience) – **Vice-Chair**
- Lidia Borrell-Damián (Science Europe)
- **Paul Boyle (European University Association)**
- Yensi Alejandra Flores Bueso (Global Young Academy)
- Matthias Koenig (German Research Foundation – DFG)
- Eva Mendéz (**Universidad Carlos III de Madrid**)
- Menico Rizzi (Italian National Agency for the Evaluation of Universities and Research Institutes – ANVUR)
- Sylvie Rousset (French National Centre for Scientific Research – CNRS)
- Toma Susi (Initiative for Science in Europe – ISE)

WORKING GROUPS

- Members are to be invited to submit and/or participate in thematic Working Groups.
- Working Groups aim to **exchange** knowledge, **learn** mutually, **discuss and develop** outputs to advance research assessment and **help** implement members' commitments.
- They operate as '**communities of practice**', providing mutual learning and collaboration. Working Groups are identified and proposed **bottom-up** by members
 - Three types: **Interest**, **Discipline**, and **Institution** Communities.
- The procedures and criteria for working groups are developed by the Steering Board.
- **First call for WG Launched in March 2023**, announcement to be sent to Coalition members.
 - Initially 8-10 Working Groups to be launched.

Expressions of Interest by April 27
Full proposals by June 06



NATIONAL CHAPTERS

- Members are also invited to form/participate in **National Chapters** (NCs).
- 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 group of countries**.
- 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.
- **First call for NCs launched 28 March 2023**, announcement sent to Coalition members.
 - No limit on the number of National Chapters that can be approved.
 - No more than one National Chapter approved per country/group.



Sign the Agreement

While acknowledging that this Agreement does not have any legally binding effect, it represents a public commitment to contribute actively and constructively to reforming research assessment. The Agreement is open for signature by organisations from across the world, including organisations without legal personality. However the Agreement is not open for signature by individual persons.

First Name *

Last Name *

Full name of organisation *

Position with organisation *

www.coara.eu/sign

Thank you for your attention

More questions?

researchassessment@eua.eu

