

COALITION FOR ADVANCING RESEARCH ASSESSMENT

COFFEE LECTURE SERIES LIB4RI

**OLIVIA DENK, CO-COORDINATOR COARA SWISS NATIONAL CHAPTER (SWISS ACADEMIES
OF ARTS AND SCIENCES)**

4 NOVEMBER 2025



Funded by
the European Union



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**.



From Agreement to action



The Agreement

The Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment sets a **shared direction for changes in assessment practices for research, researchers and research performing organisations.**



Overarching goal

Maximise the **quality and impact of research** by setting a common direction



Scope

The Agreement includes **the principles, commitments and timeframe for reforms** and lays out the **principles for a Coalition of organisations willing to work together in implementing the changes.**

CoARA: a shared direction and harmonised lines of action



Brings together all actor groups relevant to the reform, acting as a coalition of doers



Implement the ARRA commitment within an agreed time frame and share progress



Signatories of the Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment (ARRA) do not only advocate for change, they also commit to actively drive reform in research assessment.



889 signatories
773 members



3rd birthday
Early impact, policy changes on EU. National, institutional levels



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**

4



Avoid the use of **rankings of research organisations** in research assessment

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.**



Action Plans: building blocks for advancing the reform

- Action Plans play a vital role in fulfilling the core commitments of the CoARA Agreement, helping signatories and members outline key milestones for implementing research assessment reform
- Upon signing the Agreement, organisations commit to developing an Action Plan within one year



Signatory vs. Membership



SIGNATORY

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



Optional membership



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



MEMBER

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



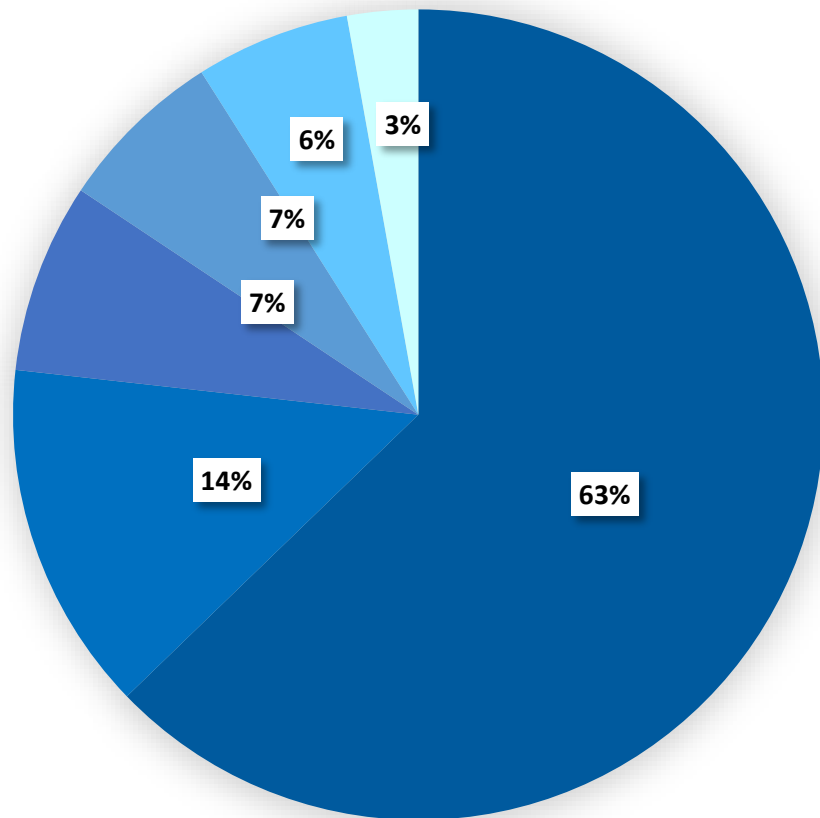
NETWORK AND LEARN

Interact and share best practices with the CoARA network of members



CoARA membership per organisation type

As of October 17th, 2025



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

779 member organisations

895 signatories

[17 October 2025]

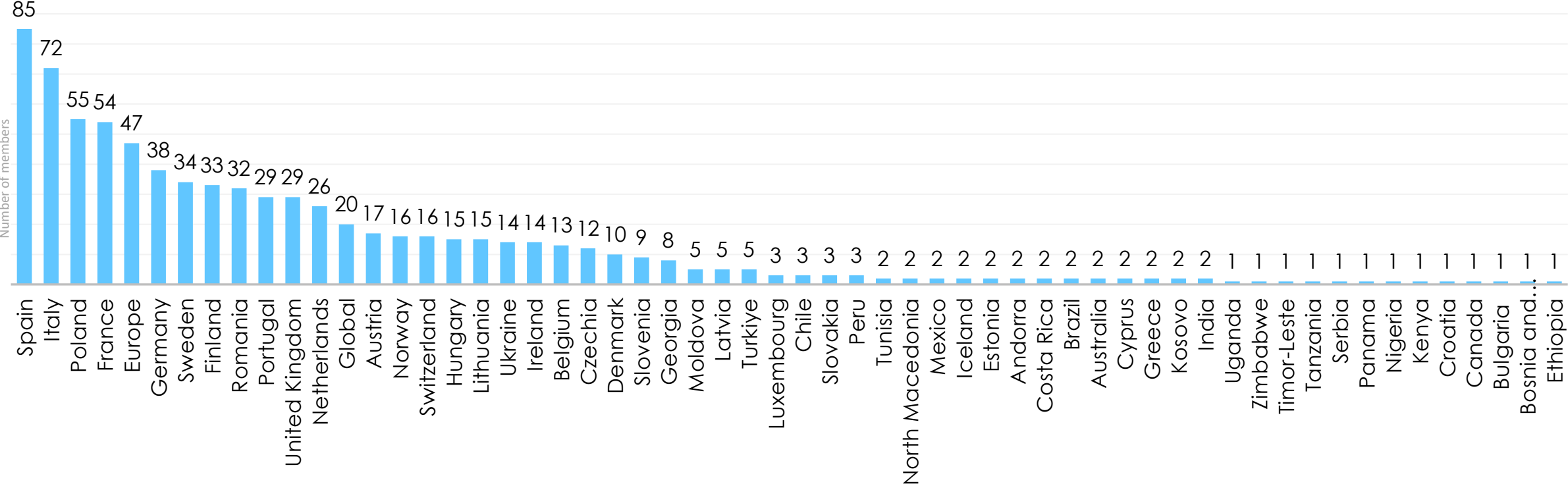
CoARA membership per country

As of October 17th, 2025

Membership total:
779

of countries*:
58

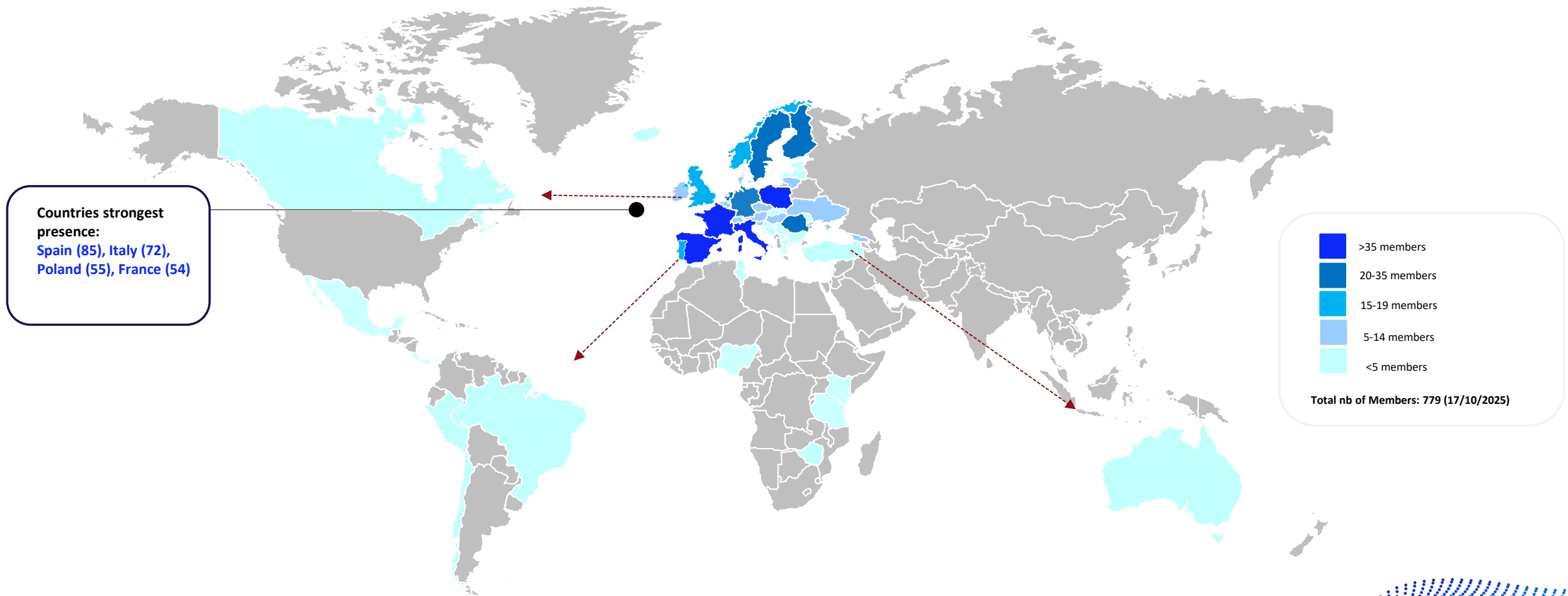
(17 October 2025)



*excl. pan-European and global organisations

CoARA membership: international outreach goals

As of October 17th, 2025



Overview of the CoARA Working Groups



Reforming Academic Career Assessment



Multilingualism and Language Biases in Research Assessment



Towards Open Infrastructure for Responsible Research Assessment



Global Framework for Research Evaluation in the Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH)



Responsible Metrics and Indicators



Towards Transformation, Transdisciplinarity, Applied/Practice-Based Research, and Impacts



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



Supporting the Alignment of Research Assessment Systems with CoARA in Biomedical Disciplines Through Administrative Reforms and Governance



Recognizing and Rewarding Peer Review



Experiments in Assessment – Idea Generation, Co-Creation, and Piloting



Improving Practices in the Assessment of Research Proposals



Ethics and Research Integrity Policy in Responsible Research Assessment for Data and Artificial Intelligence



TIER – Towards an Inclusive Evaluation of Research



1st WGs Co-Chair meeting
17 November 2023

Working Group highlights

- 1st wave of WGs are nearing the end of their operations, early outputs
- [WG Publication and Dissemination Guidelines](#) on Zenodo
- Outputs Endorsement framework
- **Surveys, workshops, reports**
- See a progress overview here: [CoARA Boost D4.3: First progress report of WGs, including \(Co-\) Chairs Forum](#)
- Find pre-endorsed outputs in the CoARA Working Group Zenodo community: [CoARA Working Groups](#)
- Events, outputs resources... available on the CoARA website



Upcoming event:

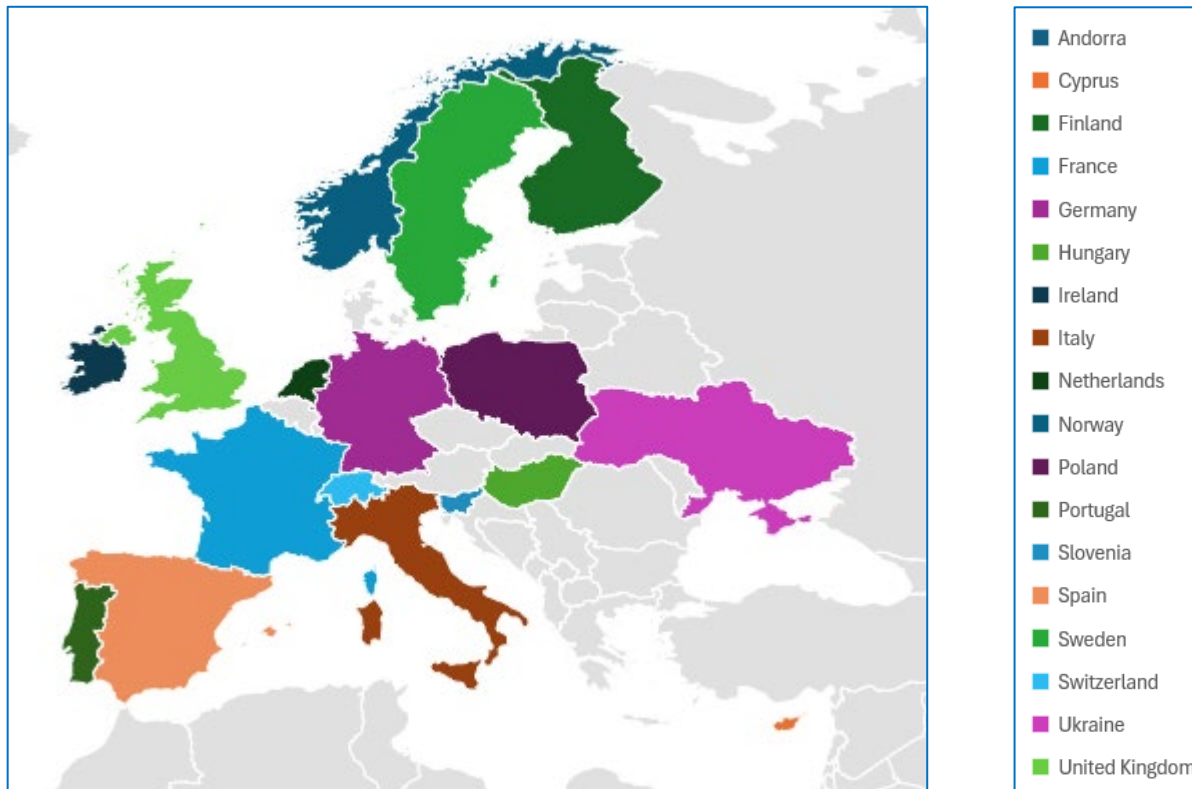


National Chapters are central for a coherent and diverse CoARA



No cut-off dates!
Monthly submission review

18 National Chapters in 2025



National Chapters are central for a coherent and diverse CoARA

- 2nd National Chapters Exchange Forum: “Defining Success,” at the DFG headquarters in Bonn, Germany on 13-14 March 2025
- Support framework to and a multidimensional typology of National Chapters under definition
- Overview of NCs available on Zenodo: [Overview of the CoARA National Chapters - printable booklet](#)
- [Video interviews with the NC Co-Chairs, available on the CoARA Youtube channel](#)

Upcoming:

- 3rd National Chapters Exchange Forum: March 2026 in Spain, co-organised by CSIC



Swiss National Chapter

- National Chapter since September 2023 – start with successful kick-off event
- Co-Chaired by the main research funder of Switzerland (SNF) and Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences (Swiss Academies among the first signatories in Switzerland)
- Small, but diverse chapter (10 members) reflecting the diversity of the Swiss research landscape: cantonal and federal universities, universities of applied sciences, universities of teachers education, national funding agencies and learned societies
- Multiple institutions are involved in CoARA Working Groups and are engaged in individual initiatives like Open Science Programme Switzerland
- **Goal: the Swiss National Chapter will ensure a more coordinated and systematic approach towards reforming research assessment on a national level, in line with European and international developments**

Challenges & Activities

Challenges

- Grow as a chapter to have all national authorities on board to be representative as possible > seek dialogue & convince non-believers
- Current situation: 21 Signatories, 16 Coalition member, 10 chapter member: SNF, a+, SwissRN, ZHAW, BfH, HES-SO, Universität Fribourg, EPFL, ZHDK, PHSG)

Activities

- Regular Meetings where also non-members can participate: activities e.g. members presenting Action Plans, exchange & mutual learning
- Thematic webinar series with topics like narrative CV or recruitment processes
- Consultation workshop with members of Swiss Young Academies, because early-career-researchers represent a target group within the reform and should be involved

Cascade Funding: facilitating institutional change

- Support for organisations to **carry out concrete, tangible changes** in research assessment in relevant institutions
- To **implement the ARRA commitments**
- To **exchange, pilot, and implement new practices, processes and tools**



Early Impact on European and National Policies

- An increasing number of policy documents refer to CoARA, at the EU and international levels
- 160+ documents indexed by the [Overture](#) database refer to CoARA in documents from 20+ countries and 15 gov. organisations.

The European Research Council has changed how it evaluates applicants. Here's why

29 Feb 2024 | News



REF 2029
Research Excellence Framework

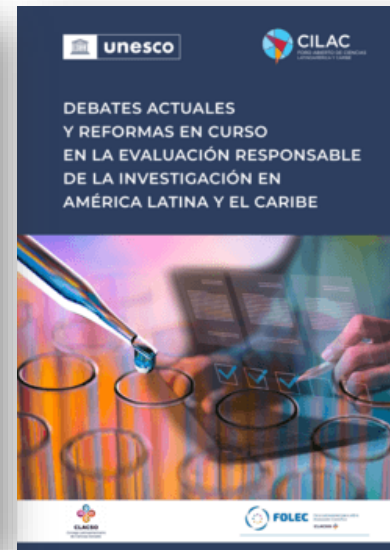
CoARA in recently published policy documents (highlights)



[OECD - source](#)



[Swiss Position Paper- source](#)



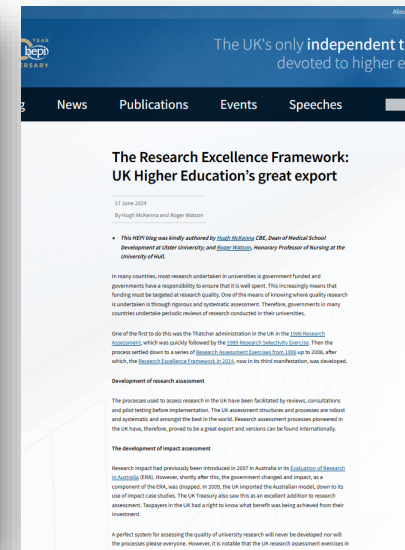
[UNESCO - source](#)



[Market Research & Consulting - source](#)



[European Commission - source](#)

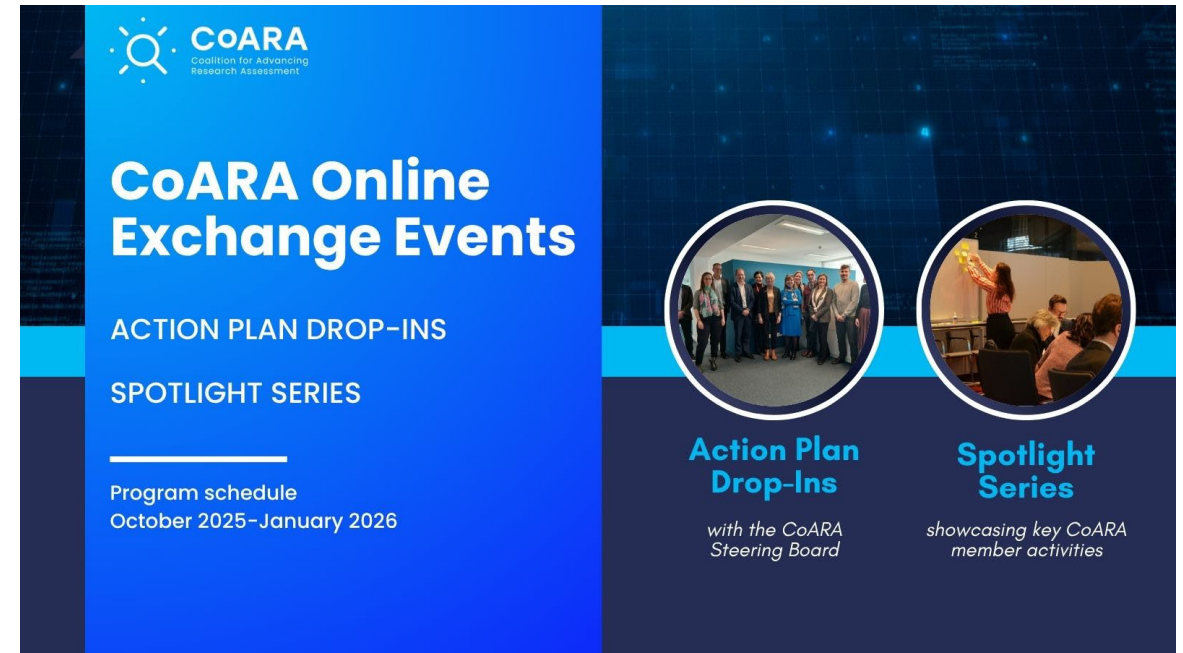


[HEPI - source](#)

Rich pool of reflections on CoARA in policy documents globally

Upcoming events: online exchange series

- To further enhance mutual exchange across the coalition and with an aim to provide more inclusive peer exchange mechanisms, CoARA has launched a series of online exchange events.
- The first events will focus on two dedicated series: **Action Plan Drop-In sessions** and a **CoARA Spotlight series**.
 - Action Plan Drop-In Sessions: Monthly online sessions on the 3rd Friday of each month for informal discussions with CoARA Steering Board members to discuss all things related to Action Plan development.
 - CoARA Spotlight Series: Presentations featuring key spotlights from CoARA members driving research assessment.



[Click here for the program schedule](#)

Upcoming in December 2025: CoARA Library

Details on filter categories

Search and Filter

Keywords

Output type:

- ☐ CoARA Toolbox
- ☐ Contextual Support Documents

Creator group:

- ☐ Working Group
- ☐ National Chapter
- ☐ Cascade Funding Projects
- ☐ 3rd Party

Related Commitments*:

- ☐ 1. Diverse contributions
- ☐ 2. Qualitative evaluation
- ☐ 3. Avoid metric-based evaluation
- ☐ 4. Avoid use of rankings
- ☐ 5. Commit resources to RRA
- ☐ 6. RA criteria, tools, and processes
- ☐ 7. Raise awareness of RRA
- ☐ 8. Mutual learning
- ☐ 9. Communicate progress
- ☐ 10. Accessible data & RoR

AboutNewsFAQResourcesContact

Sign the AgreementSubscribe to our Newsletter

AgreementAction PlansCoalitionWorking Groups & National ChaptersCoARA Boost & Cascade Funding

Search and Filter

Keywords

Short introduction description of how to navigate the CoARA Library

Select output typeSelect creator groupSelect related Commitments

**CoARA Working Group**
OIARRA: Towards Open Infrastructures for Responsible Research Assessment
Conceptual Architecture for the Implementation of a Responsible Research Assessment Framework Built on Open Infrastructures
Working Group OIARRA
September 9th, 2025

Read more

**CoARA Working Group**
Reforming Academic Career Assessment (ACA)
Rethinking academic career assessment - Lessons and tools for reform (CoARA Working Group ACA)
Working Group ACA
September 9th, 2025

Read more

**CoARA Working Group**
Reforming Academic Career Assessment (ACA)
Rethinking academic career assessment - Lessons and tools for reform (CoARA Working Group ACA)
Working Group ACA
September 9th, 2025

Read more

3 columns
Banner image
Publication title
Creator group
Publication date
Endorsement Type A badge: Endorsed by CoARA Steering Board image
Link to read more

- CoARA Library currently in development, with an expected launch in December 2025
- Streamline resources endorsed by the CoARA community and/or the Steering Board, to be hosted on www.coara.org
- Searchable database to make endorsed tools for implementation readily accessible to the coalition

To be hosted on the new coara.org website CoARA Library
with outputs linked via Zenodo

 **CoARA**

22

Communication toolkit

- [Advocacy materials](#) on the coara.org website
 - CoARA support badge
 - Zoom backgrounds for webinars and CoARA online events
 - Generic presentations with CoARA branding
 - National Chapters printable booklet
- Dissemination channels to streamline activities and amplify your messages
 - [CoARA Newsletter](#): bi-monthly distribution with 2.5k+ subscribers to date
 - [CoARA LinkedIn](#): 4.3k+ followers to date to amplify your activities and keep you up to date on all coalition-related news
 - [CoARA News blog](#): spotlight upcoming activities, publications, or events
 - [CoARA Youtube channel](#): hosting webinars and helpful resources for coalition members
 - [CoARA transitions to Bluesky → follow us!](#)



Contact communication@coara.org for inquiries and dissemination requests

Key dissemination channels:

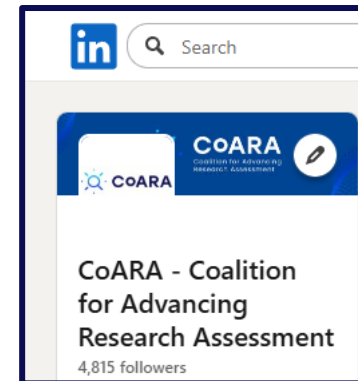


Streamlining activities across the coalition



2.5k+

newsletter subscribers to date



Facilitating connectivity across the growing coalition

4.7k
followers on
LinkedIn to
date



2.3k
followers gained
in the past year

