



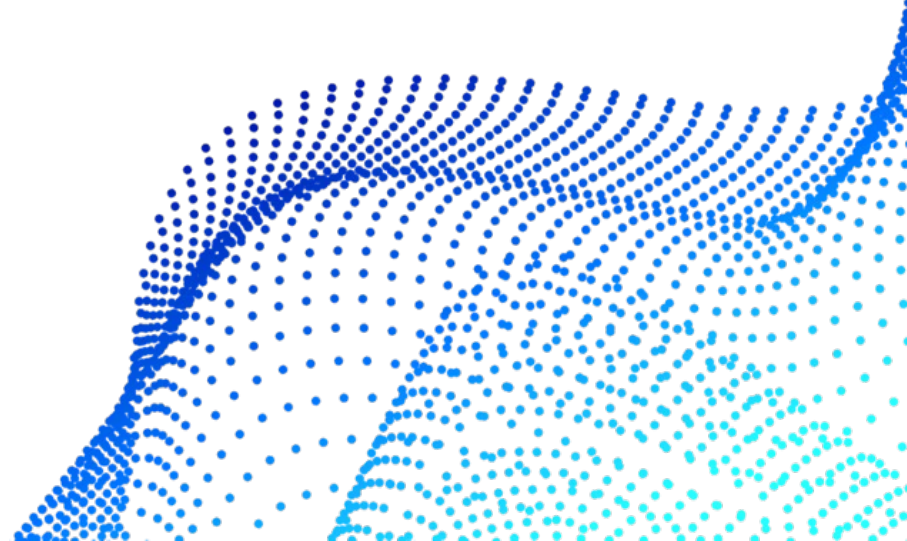
CoARA

COALITION FOR ADVANCING RESEARCH ASSESSMENT

20 April 2023

Helsinki – Responsible Assessment Day

Karen Stroobants



AGENDA



1. Agreement on reforming research assessment
2. Coalition for advancing research assessment
3. Join the first working groups

AGREEMENT ON REFORMING RESEARCH ASSESSMENT

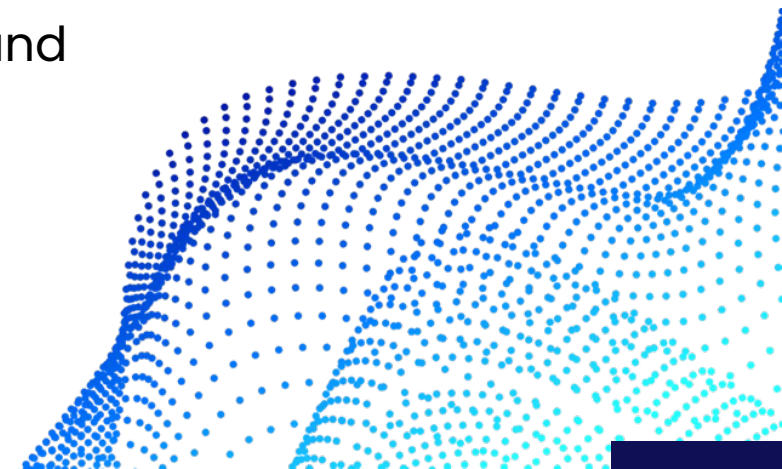


<https://coara.eu/agreement/>



NEED FOR ASSESSMENT REFORM

- There is broad agreement from the research community on the **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.
- 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 reform.
- Agreement published on 20 July 2022.



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

THE
ROYAL
SOCIETY



Early Career Progression/Concerns

BROADENING DEFINITIONS OF SUCCESS

THE
ROYAL
SOCIETY

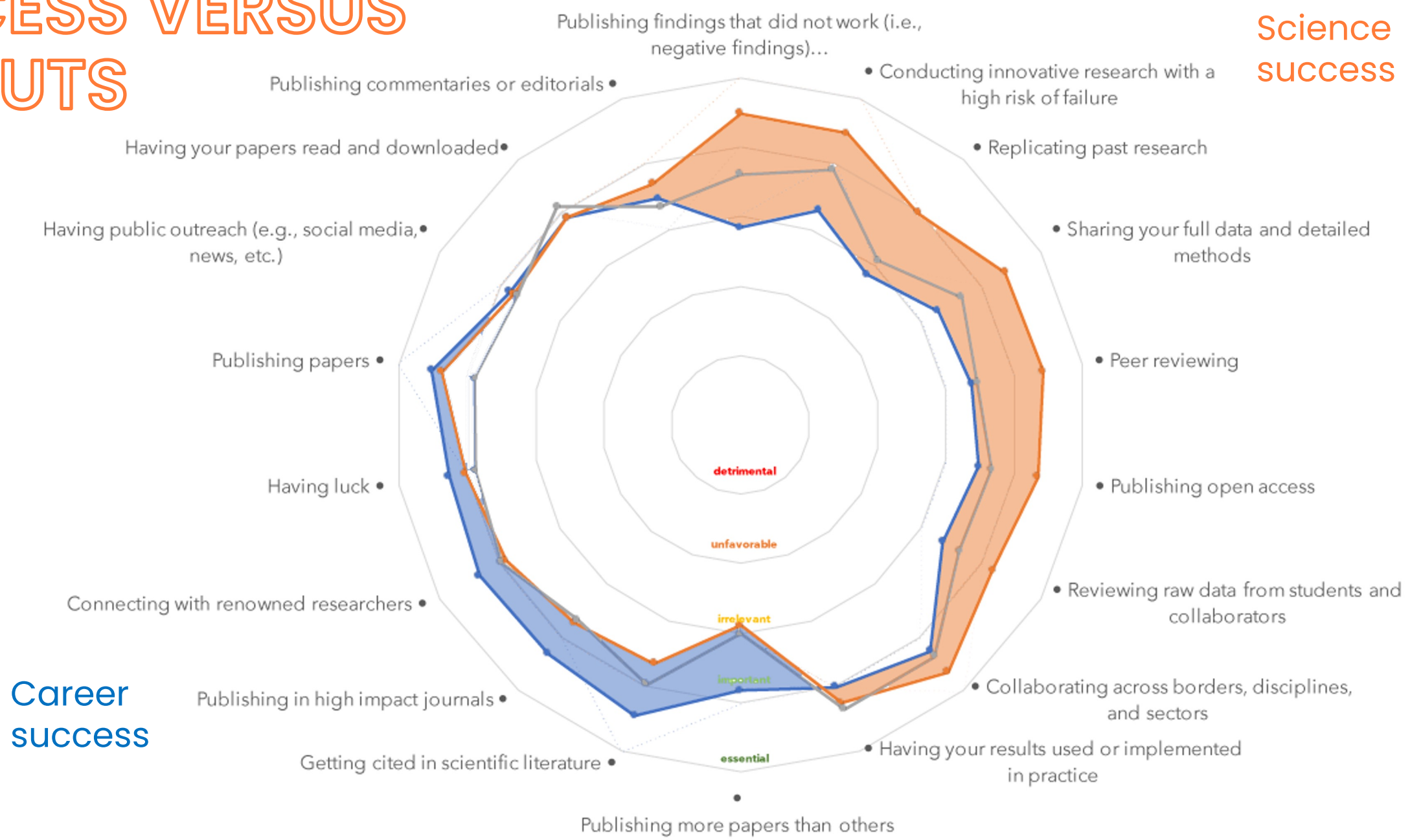
*'Highly competitive environment
combined with the very narrow
definitions of success'*



THE
ROYAL
SOCIETY

PROCESS VERSUS OUTPUTS

Science
success



Career
success

IMPROVING RESEARCH QUALITY

Broad agreement among the research community that to further support the quality of research and the attractiveness of research environments, research assessment practices need to be reformed

Due to a **variety of interconnected underlying reasons**:

- i) to allow research assessment to **support positive research cultures**;
- ii) to **ensure assessment practices stay relevant** as research processes and the expectations of research evolve; and
- iii) to **live up to the increasing demands placed on research** by the many societal, environmental, democratic, and economic challenges we face

Shared direction; reform is needed to **support the quality of research**

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



KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- **Flexible and evolutive**: assessment practices can vary according to the context, type and purpose of the evaluation
- **Respectful of the autonomy** of organisations and of their respective missions
- **Responsible use of quantitative indicators**, not abandoning them
- Special attention to and involvement of **young researchers**
- **Timeframe: Touch-base points in years 1 and 5 after signature** to communicate progress, based on **self-assessment**
- The agreement is **only the starting point**: changes to be developed and implemented by the Coalition

COALITION FOR ADVANCING RESEARCH ASSESSMENT (CoARA)



<https://coara.eu/coalition>

VISION AND MISSION



- **Vision:** In line with the Agreement, CoARA's vision is that the **assessment of research, researchers and research organisations** recognises the diverse outputs, practices and activities that maximize the quality and impact of research.
- **Mission:** **Enable systemic reform of research assessment** on the basis of common principles and commitments within an agreed timeframe, as set in the Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment. Through exchange of information and mutual learning between all those willing to improve research assessment practices.
- To effectively facilitate the achievement of this goal, member organisations of the CoARA **subscribe to the Guiding Principles** that underlie and steer the conduct and evolution of the initiative.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- **Openness** – to signatories of agreement; globally; accessible outputs
- **Responsibility** – general assembly responsible for rules and procedures of operation
- **Collaboration and mutual support** – supportive environment; mutual learning and collaboration; also with other initiatives
- **Inspiration** – inspire organisations inside and outside the Coalition
- **Commitment and autonomy** – supports implementation; respect autonomy
- **Voluntary and community-driven** – volunteer members; driving force
- **Dialogue** – in research and academic communities and beyond; representation
- **Inclusiveness** – global; different levels of progress
- **Trust** – self-assessment shared publicly
- **Funding** – voluntary in-kind; potential contributions from members
- **Non-profit** – no commercial activities; open and re-usable outputs

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

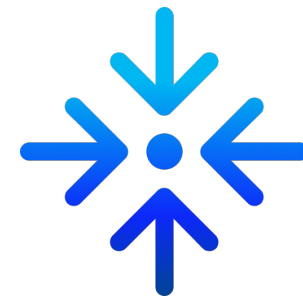
437 member organisations
as of 6 April 2023

**JOIN THE FIRST
COARA WORKING GROUPS**

WORKING GROUPS

- Members have been 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 were developed by the Steering Board.
- **First call for WG launched in March 2023**, open currently.
 - 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 in March 2023**, open currently.
 - No limit on the number of National Chapters that can be approved.
 - No more than one National Chapter approved per country/group.

CALL PROCESS

Focus on the first batch

- **Step 0: Appointment and registration of Points of Contact for WG call matters in each CoARA Member**
 - 1 (+ an alternate)/CoARA Member
 - Streamlines information exchange with organisations and within organisations
 - Only PoC can submit Expressions of Interest and Full Proposals on behalf of their organisation
 - Facilitates identification of potential partners
 - 111 Members from 23 countries already registered a PoC

CALL PROCESS

- **Step 1: PoCs submit Expressions of Interest**

- PoCs designate *Lead Science Proposers* who are in charge of the content of Expression of Interest
- Online process, no document upload – MS Word template available for preparation
- Approx 1-1.5 page
- Deadline: **27 April 2023** (Midnight CEST / Brussels time)

CALL PROCESS

- **Step 2: Knowledge sharing, interactions and maturation**
 - Eols submitted will be accessible on an online **knowledge sharing platform**
 - Online discussion and exchange strengthening Eols concepts towards full WG proposals
 - **Online workshop** on 5 May PM to discuss Eols – Lead Science Proposers (ideally) to present Eols

CALL PROCESS

- **Step 3: Full proposals submission**
 - FPs address all sections of the template
 - Full proposals have to be an adaptation of an Eol or result from the merging of several Eols
 - submitted online on the CoARA website **by 6 June 2023** (Midnight CEST / Brussels time) – MS Word template available for preparation.
- After the first cut-off-date, it will be still possible to submit Expressions of Interest and full proposals (considered for the second cut off date in the autumn)

POINTS TO BE CONSIDERED

- Expressions of Interest should be considered as '**starting points**' to feed WG elaboration process
- WGs are expected to **be balanced** in terms of:
 - Types of organisations, inc. experience levels
 - Geographical areas
 - Career stage of members
- Need for a **convincing membership structure**, including co-chairs, and a robust plan and convincing mechanisms to ensure that other CoARA member organisations interested in the topic and the work of the WG can contribute to and benefit from its work (e. g. through surveys, dedicated consultation, webinars)

POINTS TO BE CONSIDERED

- Check eligibility criteria and note the maximum number of characters in online form
- The Working Groups should define their **duration according to the nature of their outputs/deliverables** – maximum allowed duration for Working Groups is two years.
- Online Eol workshop programme known by May 3rd, presenters expected to ‘hold the date’ for that afternoon
- All information, including FAQ available on CoARA website <https://coara.eu/coalition/working-groups/>
- CoARA [Rules of Procedure for Working Groups](#) available for details on WG
- Contact: workinggroupcall@coara.eu

CALL PROCESS

Call Opens

28-03-2023



Point of Contact (PoC) to fill out online form to share contact details and circulate information of Call within own organisation

Directory of Points of Contact available

06-04-2023; Update: 14-04-2023;
Update: 22-04-2023



CoARA Secretariat to share Directory with Points of Contact. First sendout by 06.04. Please Sign up as early as possible the PoC!

Submission form for Eols is online

06-04-2023 – 27-04-2023



CoARA Secretariat to inform PoC on availability of Eol submission form; PoC to submit Eol within the timeframe

Eols collaboration

preparation of full proposal
28-04-2023 – 06-06-2023



CoARA Secretariat makes Eol submissions available to PoC; collaboration on full proposal to begin

Presentation full day webinar

05-05-2023



Full day webinar open to all those who have submitted an Eol and to all CoARA members. Time slots will be made available to present proposal

Deadline for submission of full proposal

06-06-2023



Last Day to submit full CoARA working group proposal: 06.06.



NEXT STEPS & USEFUL LINKS

NEXT STEPS

- **Selection of working groups** (Summer 2023)
- **Synergies and dialogue** between the Coalition and relevant initiatives, projects and communities of practice in Europe and beyond
- **Provision of resource** to support Coalition members with development of action plan with milestones (due 1 year after signing)
- **General assemblies** (**23 June 2023** and late Autumn 2023)
- **Organisation of further CoARA activities** (webinars, conference...)

JOIN AND ENGAGE!

Useful links:

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

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A question?

Contact us at
secretariat@coara.eu