ERA Action 3: Advance towards the reform of research assessment
Need for reform of research assessment

• To reflect evolving research processes
  ✔ Digital transition; Iterative and recursive; Collaborative and open

• To reflect increasing demands on research
  ✔ Societal, environmental, economic challenges; Diversity of outputs

• To move away from inappropriate uses of journal- and publication-based metrics
  ✔ Rewards quantity and publication venue rather than quality; does not reward sharing, collaboration and outputs other than publications

• To further support the quality of research and the attractiveness of research environments
  ✔ Requires a system and cultural change, involving institutions, funders and researchers
The Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA) will bring support to the reform of research assessment. It will offer member organisations the possibility to exchange knowledge, work together, test and pilot, and be supported by peers, for advancing in the process of research assessment reform.
Agreement and Coalition - State of play

Published on 20 July 2022

Opening of signature on 28 September 2022

EC signs the Agreement and DORA declaration on 8 November 2022

Constitutive Assembly on 1 December 2022

Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment
Agreement and Coalition – State of play

206 signatures to date

https://coara.eu/agreement/signatories/
Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment

4 Core commitments:
1. Recognise the diversity of contributions to, and careers in research according to 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 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

6 Support commitments:
• Three commitments to enable the move towards new criteria, tools and processes for research assessment
• Three commitments to facilitate mutual learning, communicate progress and ensure that new approaches are evidence-informed
The reform process is an enabler for collaborative and **Open Science** (but not only!).

European initiative; **global in scope**: organisations involved with research assessment from **across the world** welcome to join.

Respectful of **autonomy** of organisations, which keep full control of their reform journey.

**Flexible and evolutive**: assessment practices can vary according to the context, type and purpose of the evaluation.

**Quantitative indicators**: responsible use, not abandoning them.

**Timeframe**: Touch-base points in years 1 and 5 after signature to communicate progress, based on self-assessment.

Special attention to and involvement of **young researchers**.

CoARA operating as ’communities of practice’ and offering space for **mutual learning** and **collaboration**.

Working Groups identified and proposed **bottom-up** by members.
ERA Action 3 – Support from Member States

- 22 Member States, 3 Associated Countries and 13 stakeholders in the ERA Forum have given support to ERA Action 3 to:
  - Perform analysis of legal and administrative barriers for the reform process.
  - Support the establishment of national framework conditions conducive to changes.
  - The Commission will provide the link between the Coalition and national authorities, via the ERA Forum.
Thank you!

www.coara.eu/sign

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 *

Your first name

Last Name *

Your last name

Full name of organisation *

Full name of organisation

Position with organisation *

Position with organisation