



ERA Action 3: Advance towards the reform of research assessment

#EURResearchArea

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

Towards the Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA)

Scoping report

Agreement on principles and way forward
November 2021



Agreement

Commits signatories to act on the basis on commonly agreed principles and commitments, within an agreed timeframe
July 2022

Coalition

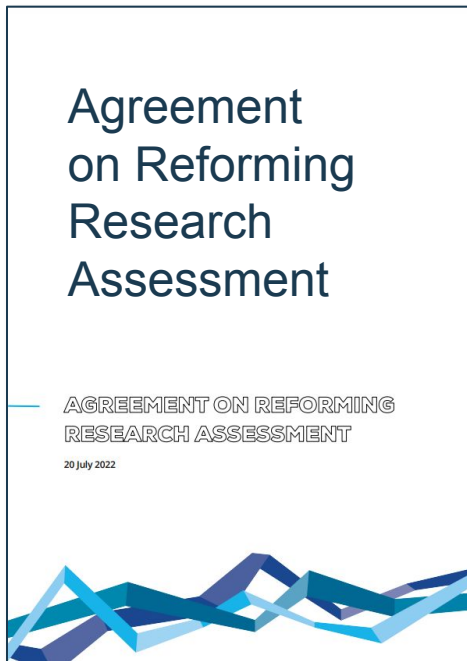
Facilitates exchange of information and mutual learning
December 2022



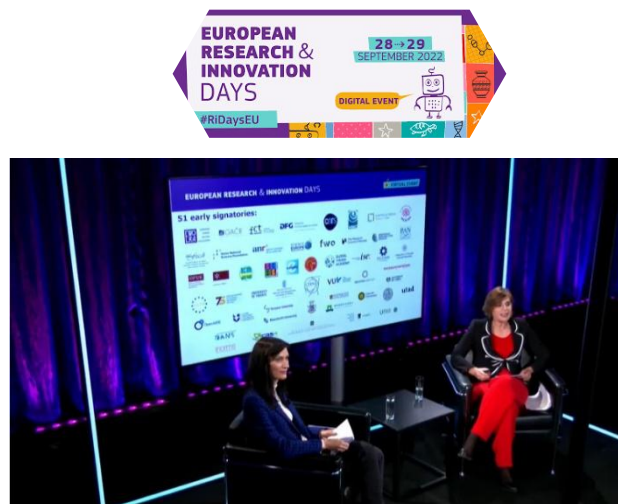
The Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA) will bring support to the reform of research assessment. It will offer member organisations the possibility to exchange knowledge, work together, test and pilot, and be supported by peers, for advancing in the process of research assessment reform.



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 8 November 2022



Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment

Constitutive Assembly on 1 December 2022

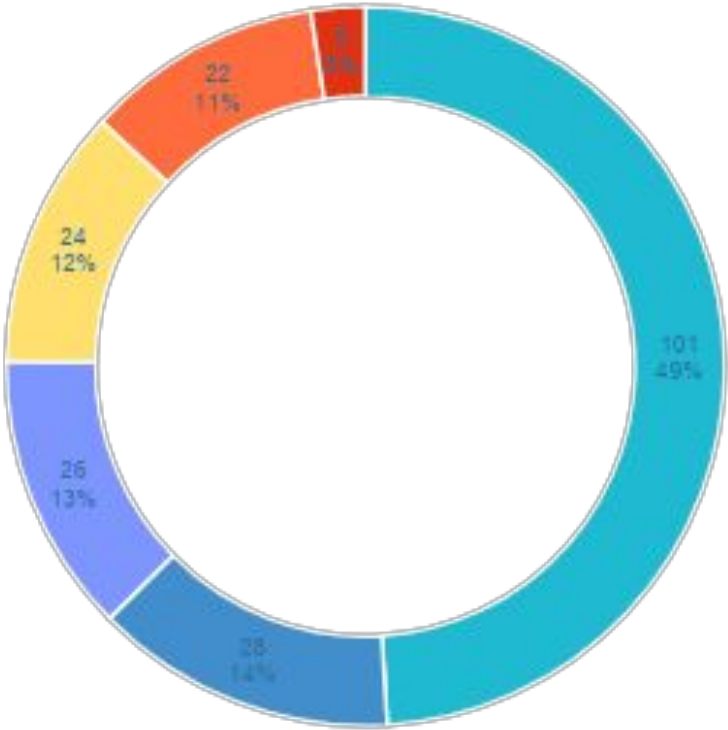


Agreement and Coalition – State of play



206 signatures to date

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



- Universities and their associations
- Research centres, research infrastructures, and their associations
- Public or private research funding organisations and their associations
- Academies, learned societies, and their associations, and associations of researchers
- 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



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:

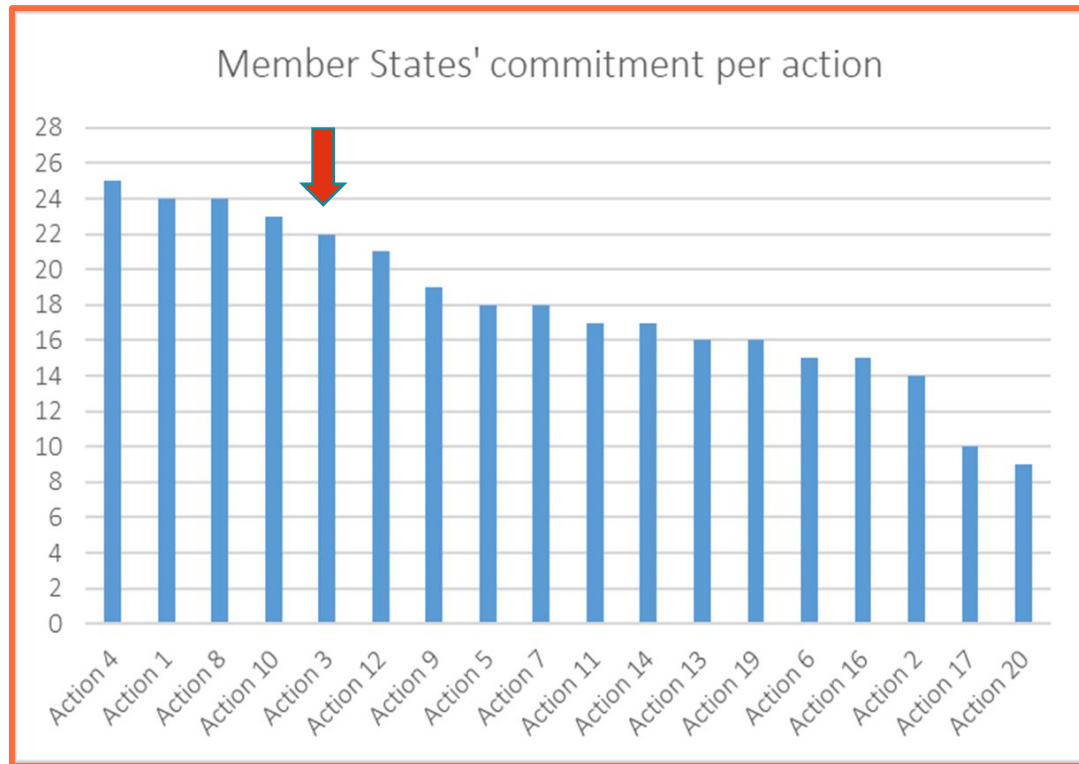
- Three commitments to enable the move towards **new criteria, tools and processes** for research assessment
- Three commitments to facilitate **mutual learning, communicate progress** and ensure that new approaches are **evidence-informed**

Agreement & Coalition: key considerations

- 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 *

Last Name *

Full name of organisation *

Position with organisation *