



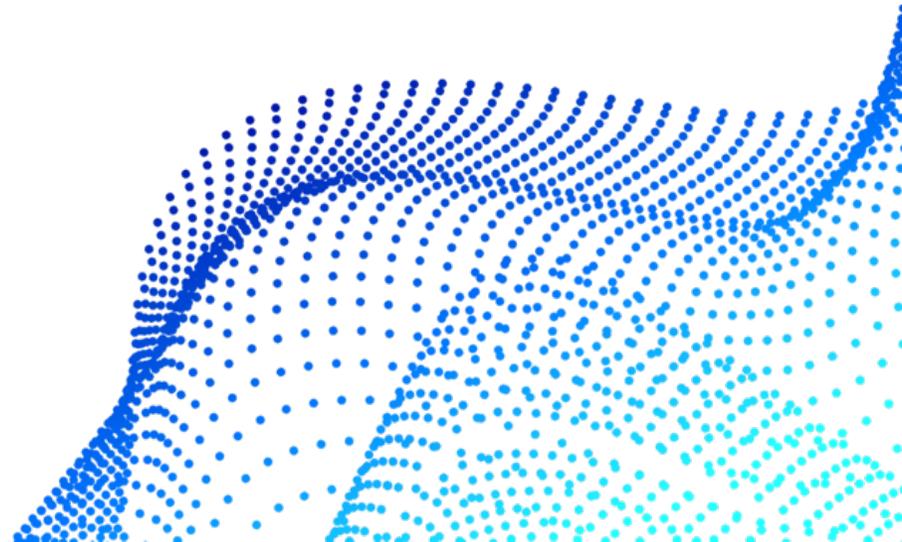
CoARA

COALITION FOR ADVANCING RESEARCH ASSESSMENT

June, 14, 2023

Meeting EOSC France, Montpellier

Sylvie Rousset, head of DDOR at CNRS, member
of the Steering Board of CoARA

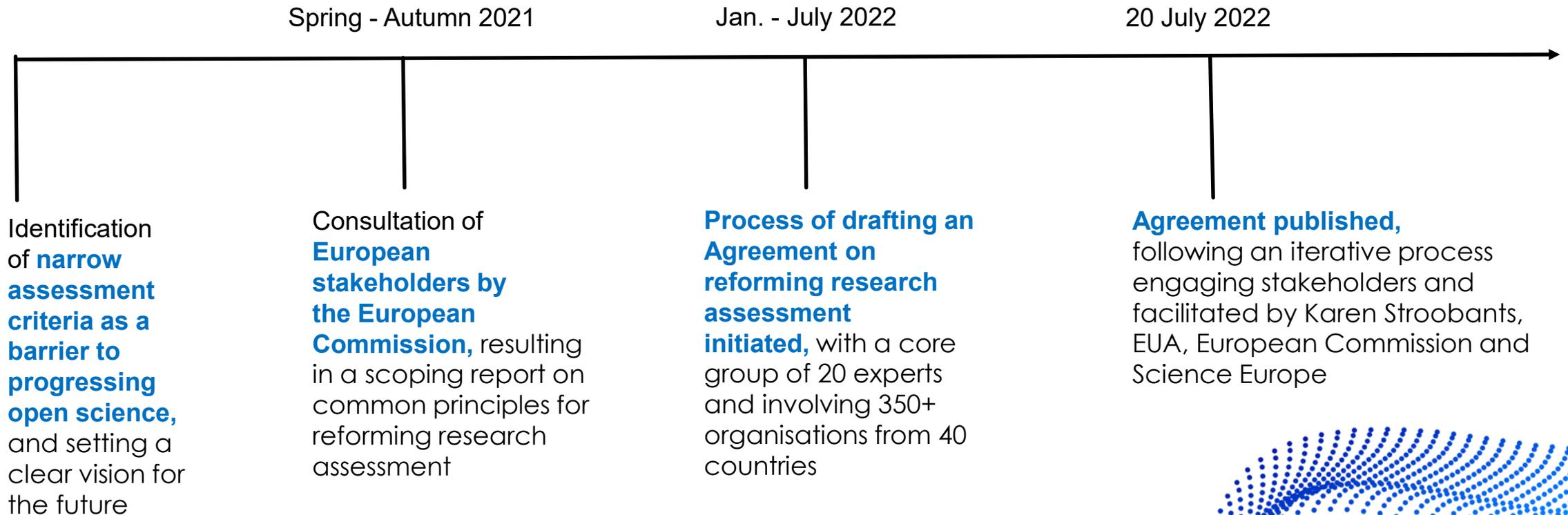


AGREEMENT ON REFORMING RESEARCH ASSESSMENT

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



AGREEMENT DRAFTING PROCESS



4 CORE COMMITMENTS (WHAT)



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.

TIMEFRAME

Agreement includes touch-base points in years 1 and 5 after signature to communicate progress, based on **self-assessment**.

- **By year 1** signatories share how their organisation **has started the process of reviewing or developing criteria, tools and processes**.
- **By year 5** signatories have regularly **demonstrated progress towards reviewing, developing and evaluating criteria, tools and processes** that fulfil the core commitments.



The Agreement is **only the starting point!**
Changes to be developed and implemented by the Coalition.

WHO CAN SIGN THE AGREEMENT?



The Agreement is open for signature to **organisations from across the world**:

- 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;
- National/regional authorities or agencies that implement some form of research assessment and their associations;
- Other relevant non-for-profit organisations involved with research assessment, and associations.

Organisations without legal personality can also sign and join the Coalition.

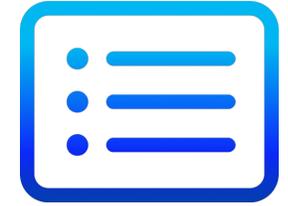
539 validated signatories as of
04 May 2023

COALITION FOR ADVANCING RESEARCH ASSESSMENT (CoARA)



<https://coara.eu/coalition>

THE COALITION IN A NUTSHELL



- **The Coalition offers a space for its members to learn from others' experiences**, to advance the process of research assessment reform in Europe and beyond.
- **Signatory organisations**, having subscribed to the Overarching Principles and Code of Conduct, are invited to become members of the Coalition.
- The **Constitutive Assembly**, the first meeting of the General Assembly of members of the Coalition, took place on 1 December 2022.
- Coalition members are invited to be involved in **Working Groups** and other Coalition activities.
 - First call for Working Groups launched on March 28, 2023!

VISION & MISSION

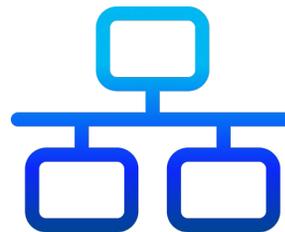
- **Vision:** In line with the Agreement, CoARA's vision is that the **assessment of research, researchers and research organisations** recognises the diverse outputs, practices and activities that maximize the quality and impact of research.
- **Mission:** **Enable systemic reform of research assessment** 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.

CORE PRINCIPLES

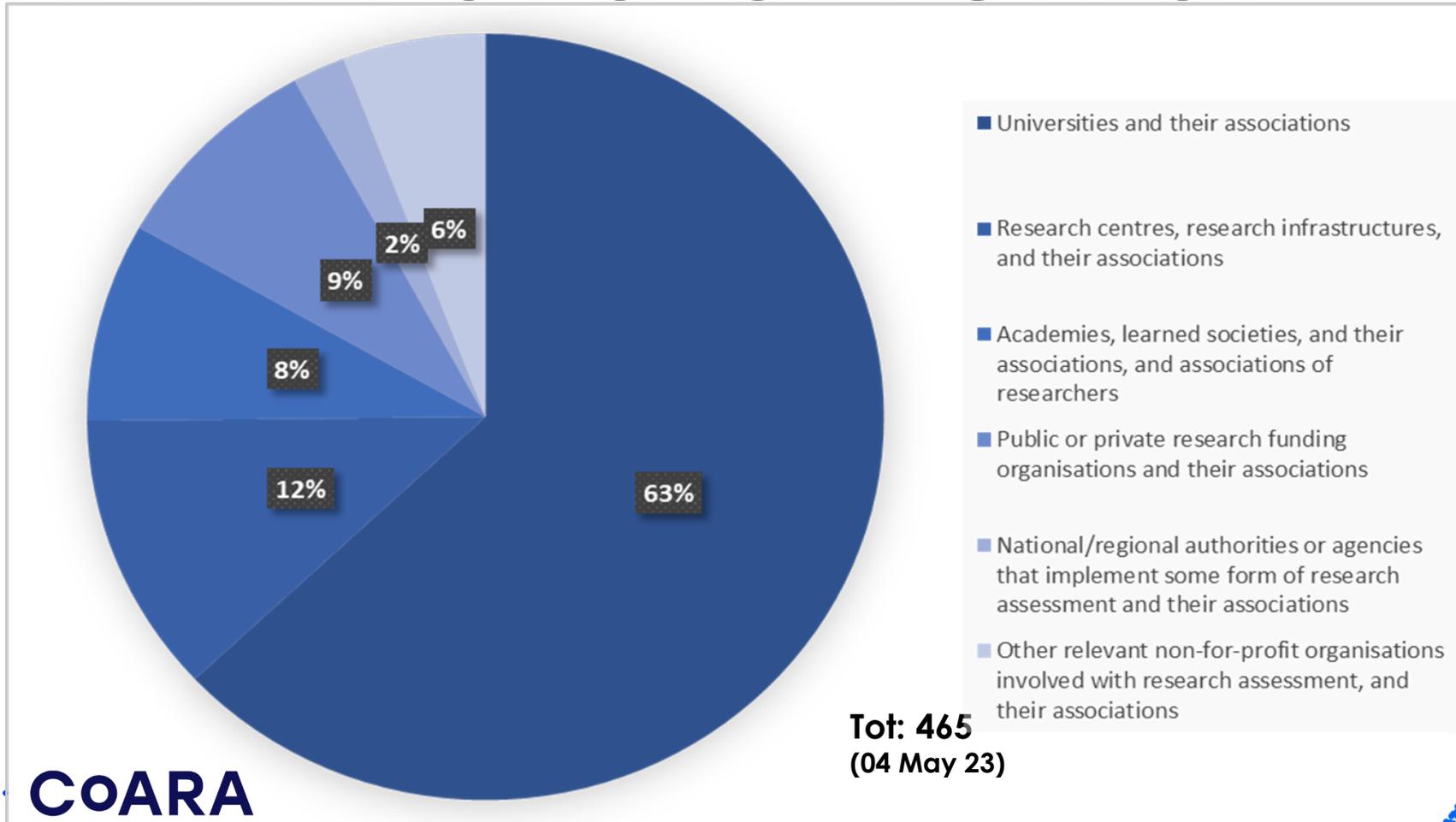
- **Openness** – to signatories of agreement; globally; accessible outputs
- **Responsibility** – general assembly responsible for rules and procedures of operation
- **Collaboration and mutual support** – supportive environment; mutual learning and collaboration; also with other initiatives
- **Inspiration** – 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

CoARA GOVERNING BODIES

- **General Assembly of Members - All Members.** Represents all members of the Coalition. The highest-level decision-making body, meets annually.
 - The **Constitutive Assembly**, the first meeting of the General Assembly of members of the Coalition, took place on 1 December 2022.
- **Steering Board – Elected.** Responsible for the overall oversight, success, strategy, business plan and sustainability of the Coalition.
 - The first elections for the Steering Board were held at the Constitutive Assembly.

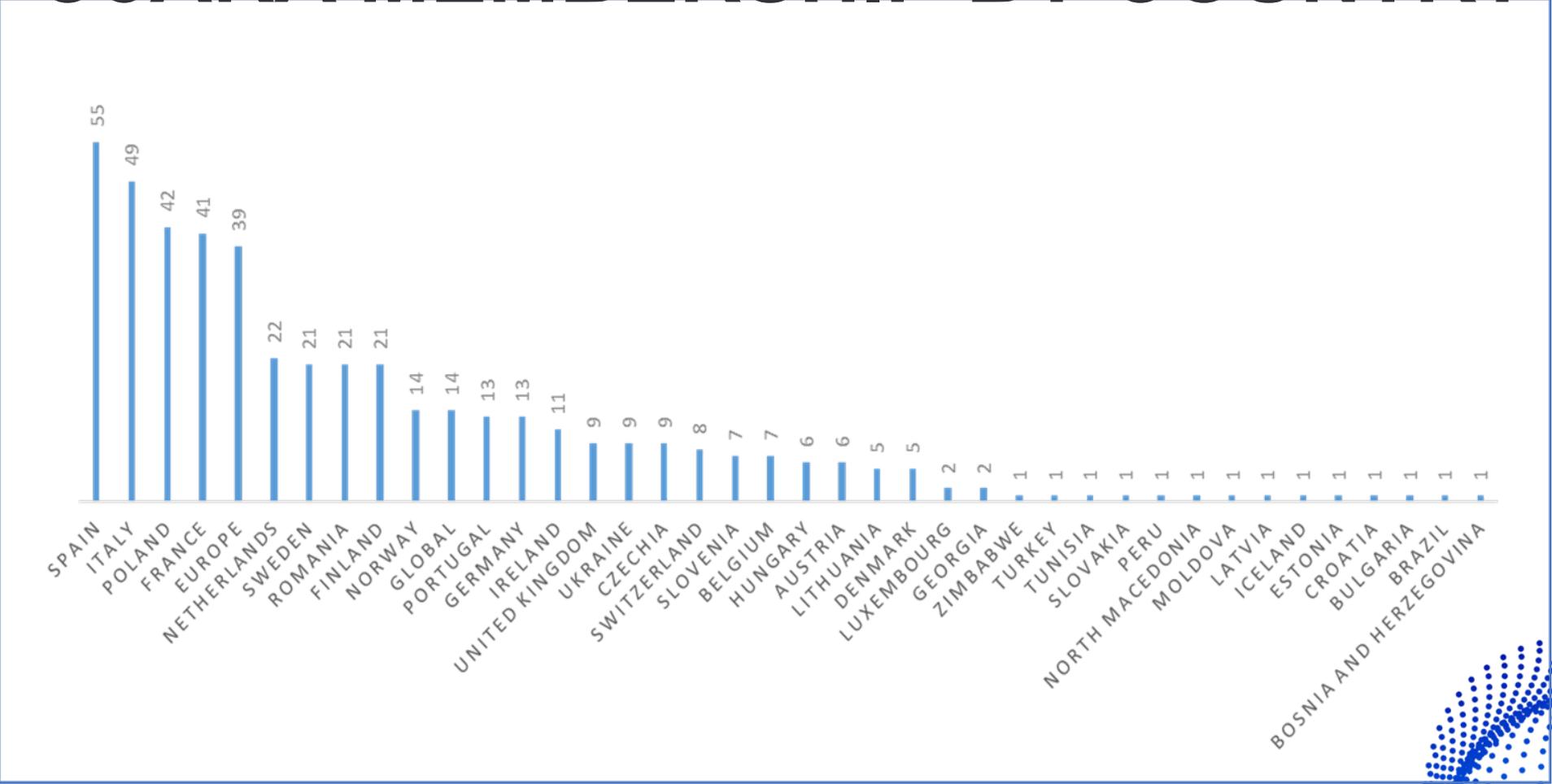


CoARA MEMBERSHIP BY TYPE OF ORGANISATION



465 member organisations
as of 04 May 2023

CoARA MEMBERSHIP BY COUNTRY



Tot: 465
(04 May 23)

STEERING BOARD



**Prof. Rianne
Letschert**
NL, Chair



**Dr. Elizabeth
Gadd**
UK, Vice-Chair



**Dr. Karen
Stroobants**
BE, Vice-Chair



**Dr. Lidia Borrell
Damián**
BE



**Prof. Paul
Boyle**
UK



**Dr. Yensi
Bueso**
IE



**Prof. Matthias
Koenig**
DE



**Dr. Eva
Méndez**
ES



**Prof. Menico
Rizzi**
IT



**Dr. Sylvie
Rousset**
FR



**Prof. Toma
Susi**
AT

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 sent to Coalition members.
 - Initially 8-10 Working Groups to be launched.



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.

FIRST BATCH OF EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

- Call process discussed and defined by the **CoARA Steering Board** with support from the 'Extended Secretariat'
- **First call** – We learn by doing and flexibility
- **32 Expressions of interests for WG**
 - 21 Countries represented + international/umbrella organisations
- **6 Expressions of interests for National Chapters**
 - Finland, France, Ireland, Norway, Poland, Spain
 - Eols not mandatory for NCs

BROKERAGE EVENT

- **Objective:** disseminate information about Expressions of Interest submitted, initiate exchange and discussion towards **full proposals**
- Addressed to the wider CoARA community, not only to EoI proposers
- National Chapters discussed earlier
- 30 EoIs presented around four sessions – one plenary meeting to allow information sharing – Soft clustering for the event

WHY JOIN THE COALITION?

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP



- **Support the reform** of research assessment
- **Exchange knowledge**, test and pilot ideas, find support from peers, and work together to advance reforming research assessment through **participation in working groups**
- **Initiate and benefit** from communities of practice on subjects of your choice
- Help members less advanced in the reform, or at an early stage in this process, to **identify and learn** from successful ideas and practices in organisations that are further advanced
- **Give a platform** those with more advanced assessment practices to share their expertise
- Support the development of a **coherent assessment ecosystem** and **keep improving evaluation methods**

WHY JOIN THE COALITION?

The Coalition:

- **Enables systemic reform by empowering organisations** in their process of research assessment reform.
- Allows building a **critical mass of stakeholders** to interact with national and regional authorities, incl. ERA Forum, to tackle any legal or administrative barriers that limit the implementation of changes to research assessment by research organisations.
- Seeks to **avoid potential contradictions** between different research assessment practices and frameworks, for the benefit of the broader research and academic community, and especially young researchers.





MEMBERSHIP PROCESS

- Organisations **first sign the Agreement** through an authorised representative and can explicitly express interest to become a member.
- Expression of interest to join CoARA can also be made after signature by request to the Secretariat by authorised representative.
- Membership requests are subject to **approval by the Steering Board**.
- All member organisations will be invited to **participate in Working Groups**, attend **General Assembly meetings** according to when they signed the Agreement, as well as other **events and activities**. Their logo will be displayed on CoARA's website.
- Members may leave the Coalition **at any time**.

NEXT STEPS & USEFUL LINKS

NEXT STEPS

- **Call for Working Groups : deadline of full proposal** June 6, 2023
- **Synergies and dialogue are established** between the Coalition and relevant initiatives and community of practices in Europe and beyond
- **Provision of guidance and templates** to support Coalition members' year 1 self-reporting (Summer 2023)
- **Next General assembly** (June 23, 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

Follow us!



@CoARAssessment



A question?

Contact us at
secretariat@coara.eu

