Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment

Status, Achievements and Perspectives

Stanisław Kistryn

CoARA Steering Board member
National Chapter Poland coordinator
26.06.2026.

ERA STRUCTURAL POLICIES 2025-2027

European Commission

European Research Area Platform

- Enabling open science via sharing and re-use of data, including through the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC)
- Strengthening sustainability, accessibility and resilience of research infrastructures in the ERA
- Strengthening gender equality and inclusiveness in the ERA, notably with an intersectional approach
- Making research careers more attractive and sustainable, and support mobility
- **Reforming research assessment**
- Upscaling knowledge valorisation capacities and activities
- Implementing the Global Approach to R&I
- Making the strategic energy technology (SET) plan a key thematic component of the ERA
- Improving the articulation between R&I and higher education within the ERA and unleashing the full potential of European R&I ecosystems
- Enhancing trust in science through citizen participation, engagement and science communication
- Improve EU access to excellence

Between 2022 and 2024, **ERA Action 3** already achieved **three main successes**: an agreement on reforming research assessment in July 2022, the establishment of Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA) , its **working groups** and **national chapters**. A **critical issue** in the coming years will be to **provide adequate support to reforms** and understand how much change in relation to research assessment systems will effectively have been implemented.

CoARA

COARA COMMITMENTS

CORE

1. **Recognize the diversity** of contributions to, and careers in, research …
2. Base research assessment primarily on **qualitative evaluation** … supported by **responsible use** of quantitative indicators
3. Abandon inappropriate uses … of journal- and publication-based metrics …
4. Avoid the use of rankings of research organizations in research assessment

SUPPORT

5. Commit resources …
6. Review and **develop research assessment criteria**, tools and processes
   - 6.1 Criteria for units and institutions
   - 6.2 Criteria for projects and researchers
7.-10. Raise awareness …; Exchange practices …; Communicate progress …; Self-evaluate and make data openly available …

CoARA

COARA TIMEFRAME – 11-TH COMMITMENT

Signatories of the Agreement **commit to actively drive** reform in research assessment

Year 0 (2022)

Signature

Year 1 (2023)

Start the process of reviewing or developing criteria, tools and processes

GA decided to prolong for first signatories and members the deadline for preparing and making public the action plans by 6 months.

Year 5 (2027)

At least one cycle of review and development of own assessment criteria, tools and processes

Action plan open for peers

CoARA

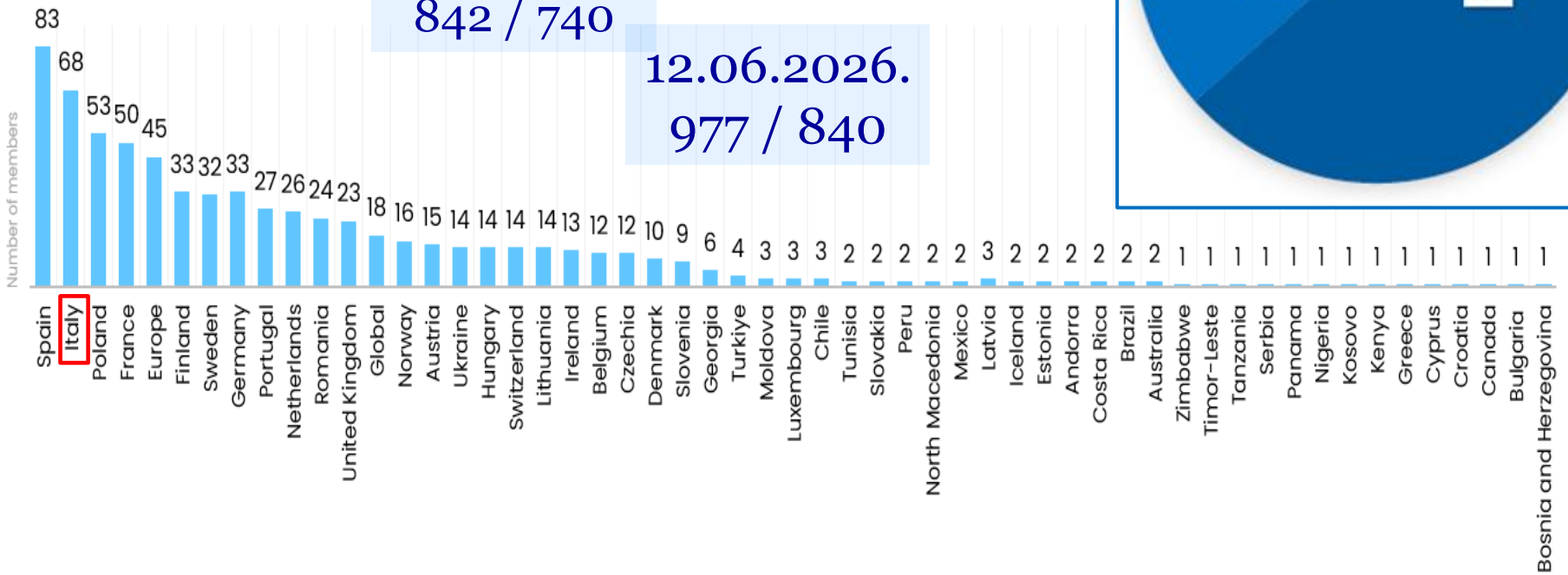
GROWING COMMUNITY

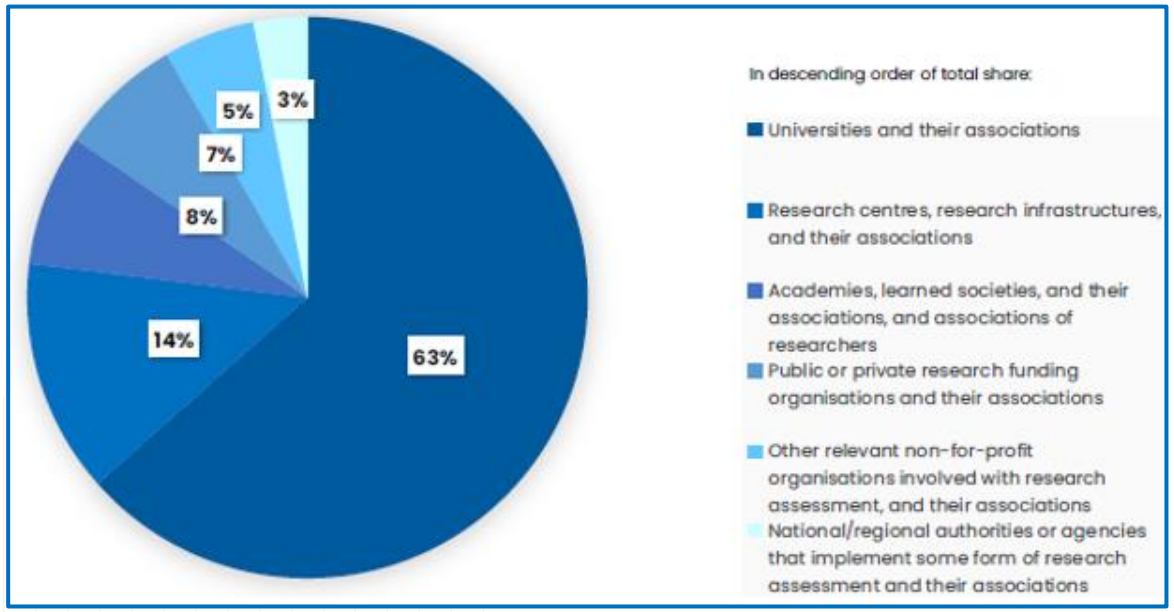
signatories / members

12.06.2024.
735 / 646

05.06.2025.
842 / 740

12.06.2026.
977 / 840



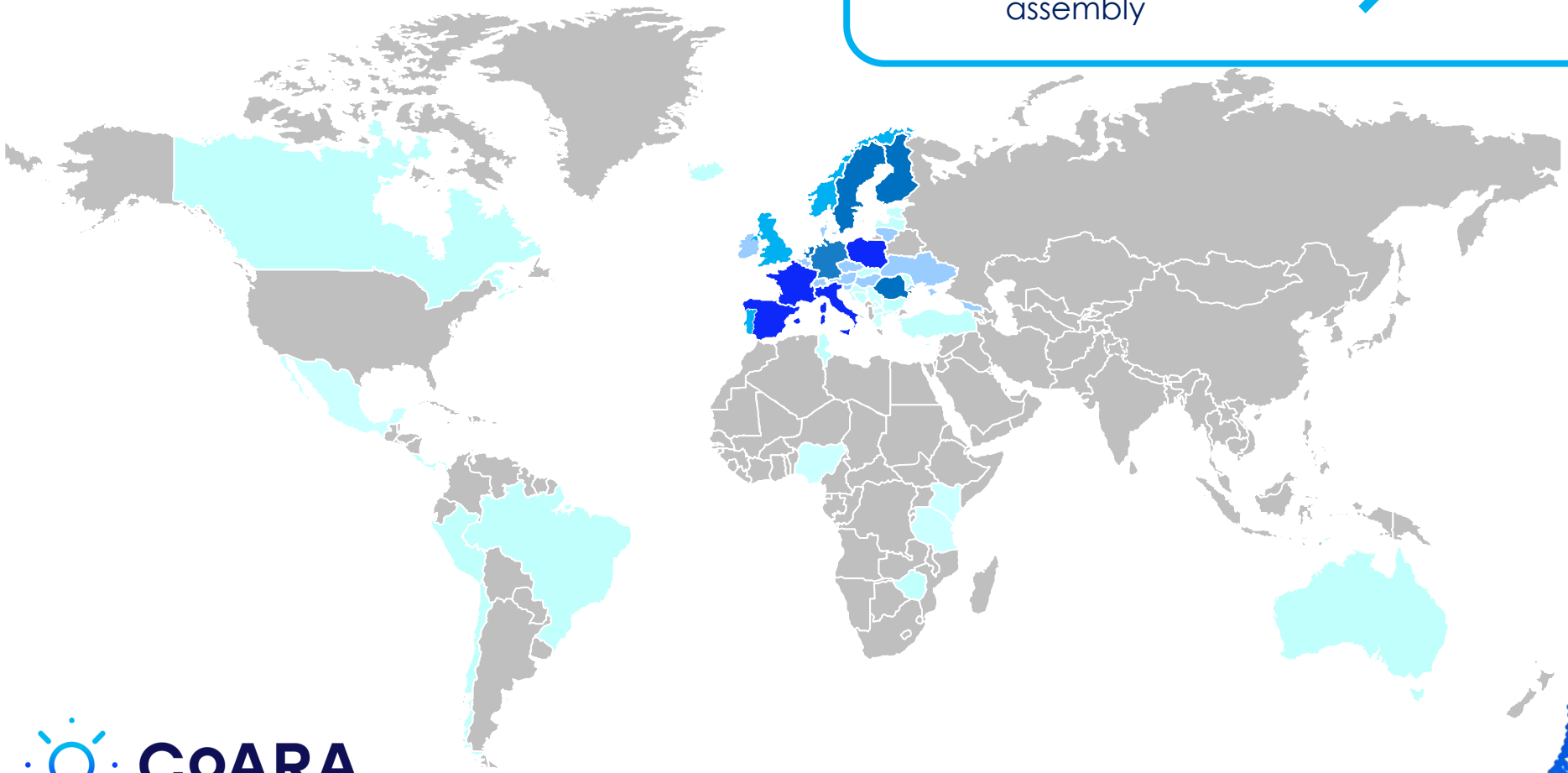


CoARA

EXPANDING COMMUNITY

344 European members in 2022 at the constituting assembly

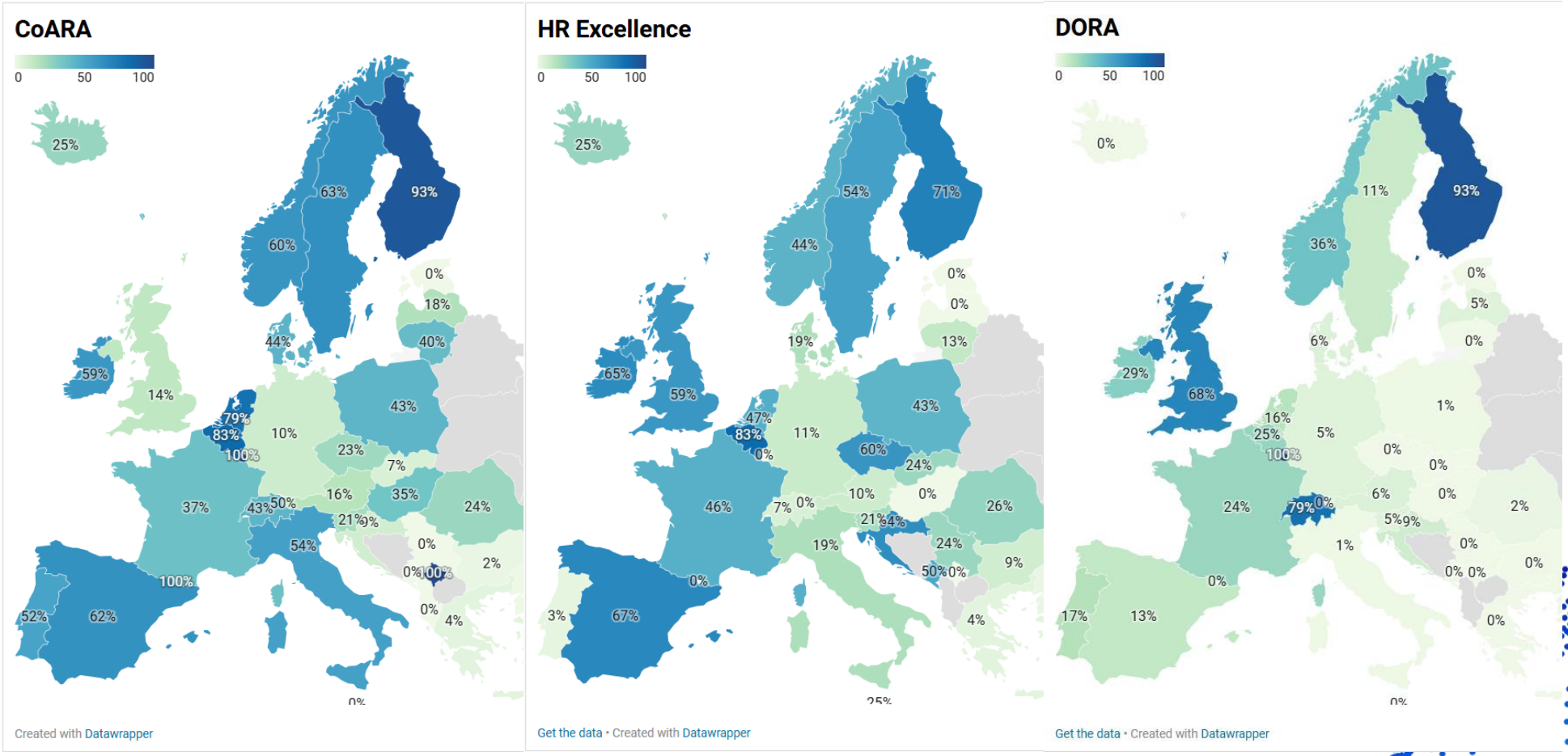
840 global members & 977 signatories
as of 12 June 2026



CoARA

RRA INITIATIVES UPTAKE IN EUROPE

European PhD-Awarding HEIs



CoARA

HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

DORA

CoARA

COARA ACTION PLANS – STATUS

289 Action Plans submitted (a few days ago) on the CoARA Action Plan Zenodo community

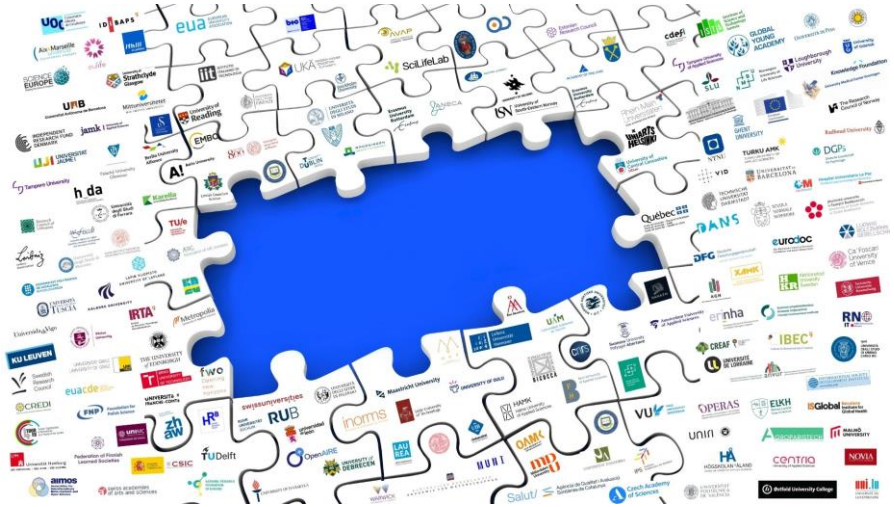
- Action Plans play a vital role in fulfilling the core commitments of the CoARA Agreement, helping signatories and members outline **key milestones for implementing research assessment reform**
- While organisations have full freedom in the development of their Action Plans, **we understand that the one-year timeframe may be challenging for some to achieve.**
- **Resources currently available:** FAQs, guidelines, webinars, Zenodo community, 3 drop-in sessions with the CoARA Steering Board (launched in 2025)
- **More support to come in 2026:** Searchable database currently in development by CoARA Boost partner, CNRS

Whereas a year ago we counted 842 signatories and 740 members

CoARA

COARA ACTION PLANS – HALL OF FAME/SHAME

Poznań University of Economics and Business	Universities and their associations	Poland	**Pending**	15/11/2022	**15/11/2023**
Poznan University of Technology	Universities and their associations	Poland	**Pending**	15/11/2022	**15/11/2023**
Jagiellonian University in Krakow	Universities and their associations	Poland	10.5281/zenodo.13379877	09/11/2022	09/11/2023
Wroclaw University of Environmental and Life Sciences	Universities and their associations	Poland	**Pending**	15/11/2022	**15/11/2023**
Alma Mater Studiorum – University of Bologna	Universities and their associations	Italy	10.5281/zenodo.12582081	16/11/2022	16/11/2023
University of Turin	Universities and their associations	Italy	**Pending**	16/11/2022	**16/11/2023**
University of Trieste	Universities and their associations	Italy	**Pending**	16/11/2022	**16/11/2023**



List with Action Plans due dates:

https://coara.eu/agreement/action-plans-submitted-pending-to-date/

Pending APs from many (!) institutions / organizations

CoARA

COARA ACTION PLANS – FRAMEWORK

CoARA members are best positioned to know what changes are needed for them to meet the commitments.

No one size fits all: action plans are to be customized to individual members' context and mission; no template !

Sharing Action Plans enables CoARA members to signal their practical implementation of the reform and provide mutual inspiration.

Limited involvement of the CoARA Steering Board: members' progress in implementing commitments is communicated through an open access publication of their action plan; they then engage in self-assessment.

CoARA

WORKING GROUPS – A TRUE CORE OF CoARA

Mandates ended in **October 2025** – currently building the foundation for CoARA-endorsed tools and outputs

Mandates ended in **February 2026**

Mandates end in **September 2026**

WG launched in December 2025

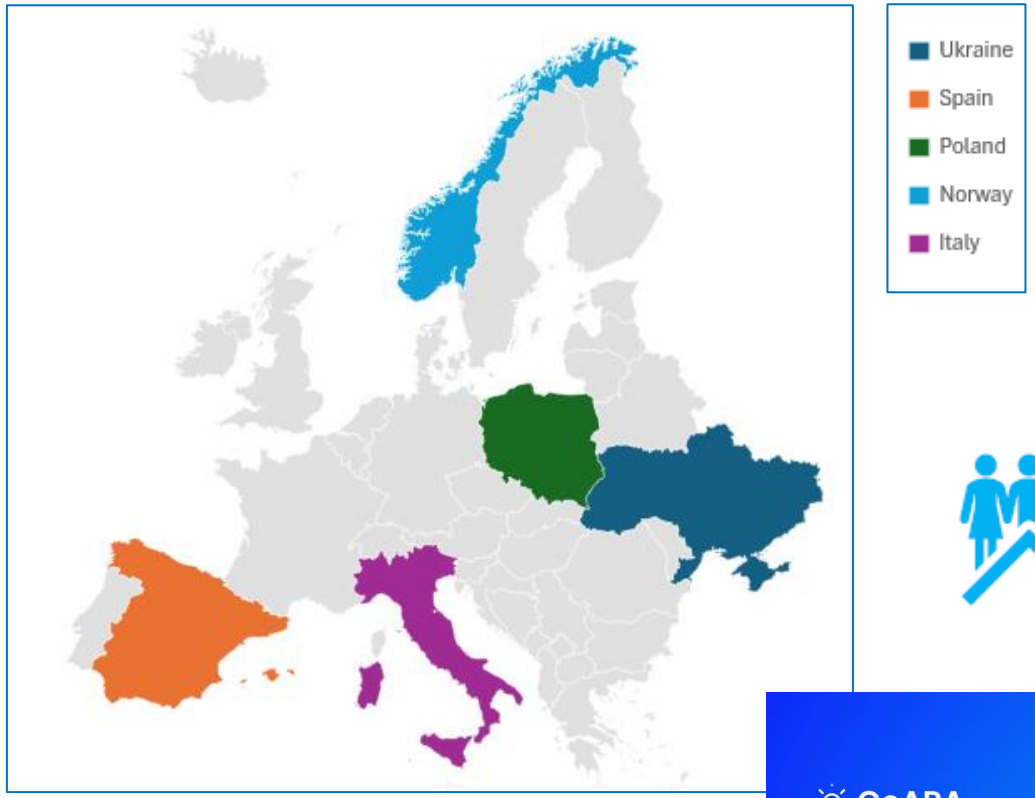
CoARA

WORKING GROUP HIGHLIGHTS

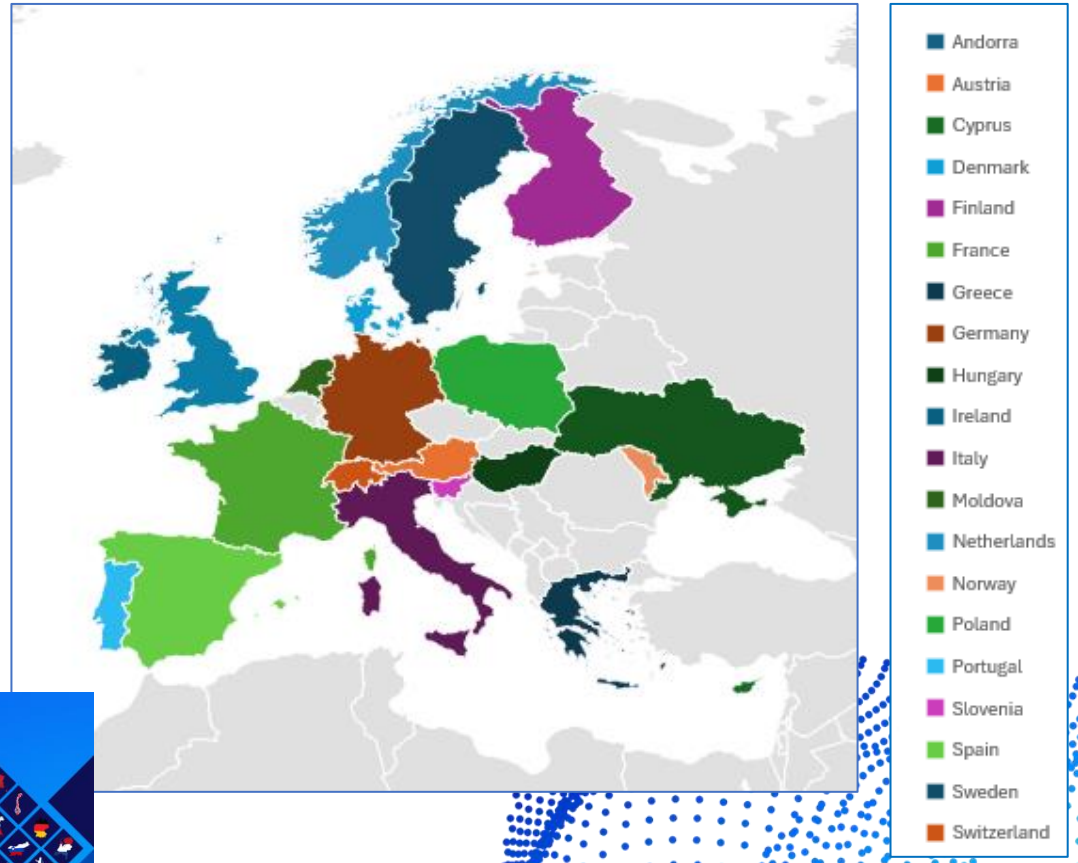
- 1st wave of WGs have completed their operations, providing some early outputs
- WG Publication and Dissemination Guidelines on Zenodo
- **Surveys, reports, papers, toolboxes & toolkit, recommendations**
- Progress overview: CoARA Boost D4.3: First progress report of WGs, including (Co-) Chairs Forum
- Outputs in the CoARA Working Group Zenodo community: CoARA Working Groups
- Events, outputs resources, … available on the CoARA website

NATIONAL CHAPTERS – EXTENDING GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

5 National Chapters in 2023



22 National Chapters in 2026



CoARA

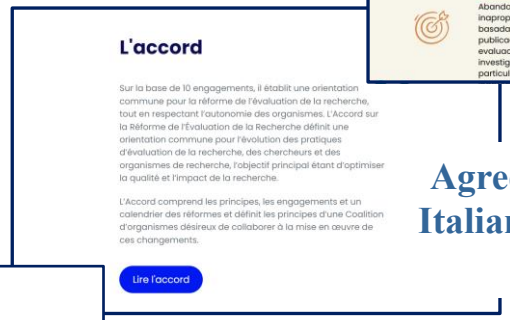
NATIONAL CHAPTERS – LOCAL HUBS TO COARA

- Strengthening the discourse on the reform in languages other than English
- Contextualized outreach work, support with action plans
- Overview of the CoARA National Chapters – printable booklet (DOI:10.5281/zenodo.1394141)

  https://zenodo.18745217

Booklet March 2026

- Yearly NC Exchange Forum – March 2027 in Krakow



Agreement translated into Italian, Spanish and French

…

…

and into Polish !

CoARA

ACCELERATING COALITION'S OPERATIONAL CAPACITY

CoARA Boost factsheet:

CoARA Boost

Funded by the European Union

Duration	36 months
Resource volume	5.000.000 EUR
Funded under	HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ERA-01 (enhancing the European Research & Innovation system)
Coordinated by	European Science Foundation (host of the CoARA secretariat)

The project strengthens the operational capacity of CoARA. It provides means to develop a critical mass for investigating and implementing new models for research assessment.

Cascading grant mechanism - at least 50 projects will be funded with a total budget of 2.75 million €.

Diverse starting points to the reform are welcome

Three types of projects

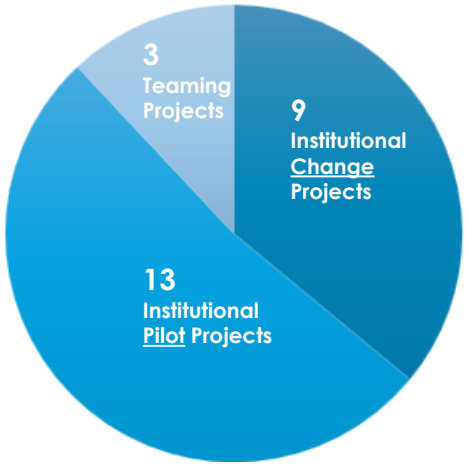
1-st call summary:	2-nd call summary:
80 applications submitted	133 applications submitted
66 eligible and evaluated	120 eligible and evaluated
25 projects granted	28 projects granted

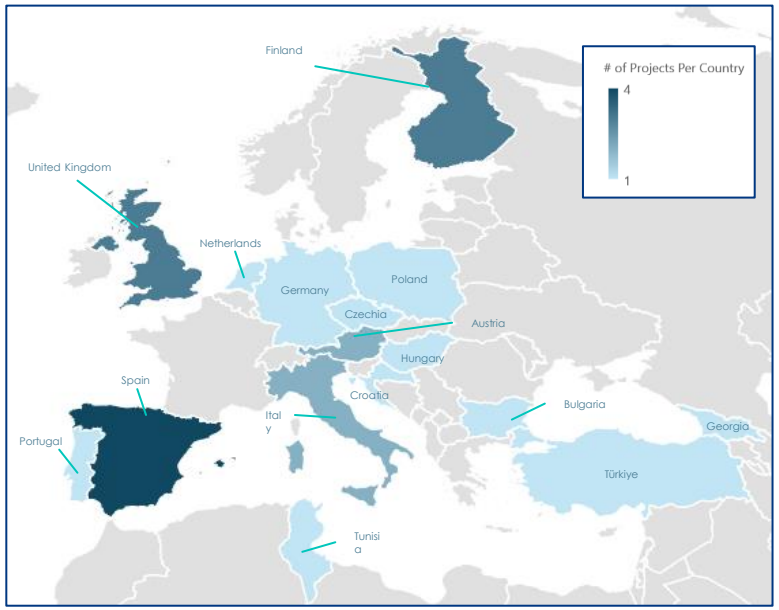
CoARA

BOOST PROJECTS – GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION

Call 1

Types of Projects Selected

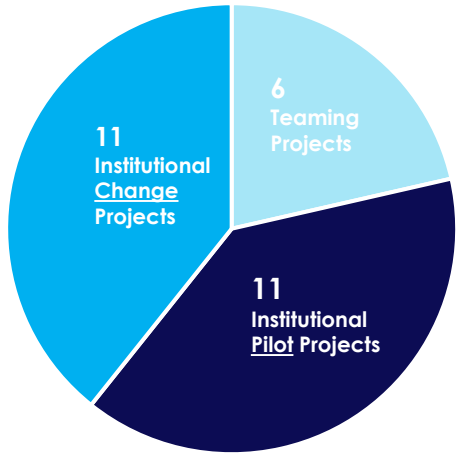


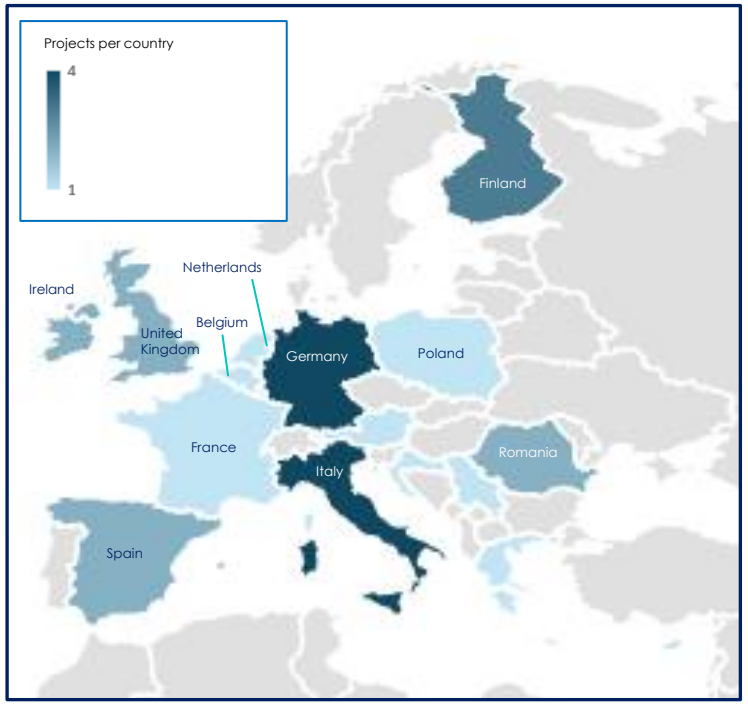


Geographical Diversity of Projects Per Country

Call 2

Types of Projects Selected





Geographical Diversity of Projects Per Country

CoARA

CoARA Boost

Funded by the European Union

ENDORSEMENT FRAMEWORK

Provide a mechanism for community and Steering Board review of outputs produced by CoARA WGs, NCs, CF projects

Type A:
Actionable Policy Resources

Examples of Actionable Policy Resources

- Frameworks
- Guidelines
- Tools and toolkits
- Policy recommendations
- Initiatives
- Declarations
- Games and interactive tools

Endorsement Route

1. CoARA **community review** by CoARA members and/or relevant WGs and NCs and/or invited experts
2. Review and endorsement by the **Steering Board**
3. Inclusion in **ARRA Toolbox**

Type B:
Evidence Review Documents

Examples of Evidence Review Documents

- Reports from pilots
- Literature reviews
- Collections of good practice
- Conference reports
- Research results, incl. survey findings
- Workshop / focus group summaries

Endorsement Route

1. CoARA **community review** by CoARA members and/or relevant WGs and NCs and/or invited experts

CoARA

COARA COLLECTION

A community-owned library of tools for reform

- Consolidate outputs and tools produced by CoARA communities (including WGs, NCs, CF projects) to transform principles into practice
- Streamline tools to support broader implementation of CoARA Commitments for the wider research community
- Video series from CF project University Oulu under review
- More tools to come

https://www.coara.org/collection/

CoARA

COARA DEVELOPMENT – LOOKING AHEAD

- **Continued funding secured for 2027-2030 for CoARA and for additional Cascade Funding**
- **Focus on implementation and Action Plans to bridge the gap between commitment and lasting change**
- **Develop the evolving role of National Chapters as drivers of change**

Three transitions shaping CoARA's future:

1. From **commitment** → to **implementation**
2. From **mobilisation** → to **impact**
3. From **initiative** → to **long-term platform**

CoARA

COARA DEVELOPMENT – STRATEGY 2027-2030

Outline by Steering Board presented at General Assembly on June 25; to be finalized !

Main pillars and expected (by 2030) outcomes:

1. Implementing the Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment Principles
   The ARRA principles are increasingly embedded in institutional policies, practices and assessment frameworks across the research ecosystem.
2. Strengthening the CoARA Community
   A diverse and engaged community that advances the implementation of the ARRA principles through collaboration, mutual learning and collective action. CoARA is recognized as a leading European platform for responsible research assessment and a trusted partner in fostering alignment and dialogue between international reform initiatives.
3. Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
   A robust evidence base that demonstrates progress in implementing the ARRA principles, supports learning and informs the continued development of responsible research assessment practices.
4. Ensuring Long-term Sustainability
   A sustainable independent organization with the governance, resources and capacities required to support the implementation of the ARRA principles over the long term.

CoARA

COARA DEVELOPMENT – STRATEGY 2027-2030

Building on the achievements of its first years, the coalition will focus on supporting implementation of the ARRA principles, strengthening its community, providing strategic leadership and ensuring long-term sustainability.

In pursuing these strategic priorities, CoARA will:

- Remain member-driven and community owned.
- Promote diversity of approaches while upholding shared principles.
- Build on evidence, experience and mutual learning.
- Foster collaboration and avoid duplication of effort.
- Balance European focus with global engagement.

Fostering implementation of the ARRA principles

- Support members in development and implementation of institutional Action Plans.
- Strengthening the role of National Chapters as drivers of implementation and engagement at national level.
- Develop community structures (WGs, CoPs, other formats) to support coordination and address practical challenges.
- Seeking implementation synergies and integration of efforts with other reform processes (e.g. HR, DORA).and related agendas (e.g open science).
- Promoting dissemination and uptake of tools, resources and implementation experiences across the coalition.

CoARA

COARA FUTURE – THE ROLE OF NATIONAL CHAPTERS

Reform becomes real in national contexts. National Chapters are:

- **Connecting** institutional reform with national research systems
- **Engaging** universities, RPOs, funders and ministries
- **Translating** shared principles into national action
- **Identifying** obstacles and opportunities on the ground
- **Providing** a safe space for mutual learning and exchange

If CoARA provides the framework, National Chapters provide the traction.

The next phase of CoARA will be built through collaboration, implementation and shared leadership.

CoARA

NATIONAL CHAPTER POLAND

- **Mission:** **i)** to assess coherence of the proposed solutions with the national legislation; **ii)** to propose changes in national regulations necessary to implement elements of the reform.
- **Issues:** **i)** how to use qualitative metrics in the assessment of institutions by national evaluation agencies; **ii)** how to include non-research academic activities in the evaluation criteria; **iii)** how to promote sustainability of research and support frontier studies conducted in a long-term perspective.
- **Added value:** **i)** consolidation of stakeholder groups (universities, research funding agencies, ministerial advisers) around a discussion on the principles of qualitative assessment; **ii)** spreading and promoting the idea of the reform among a large part of the academic community.
- **Impact:** **i)** avoiding inconsistencies in proposed approaches; **ii)** recommending fair career paths for scientists to reduce precarity; **iii)** putting pressure on central level decision-makers to initiate changes in the research evaluation culture.

Currently at CoARA:

63 Polish signatories

53 Coalition members

48 NC-PL contributors

CRASP Conference of Rectors of Academic Schools in Poland

PAN Polish Academy of Sciences

CoARA

EXAMPLE OF NC-PL INFLUENCE

NC-PL

NOWY MODEL EWALUACJI DZIAŁANOŚCI NAUKOWEJ.

New model of research institution evaluation

Ministerstwo Nauki i Szkolnictwa Wyższego

Założenia ogólne

General assumptions

- 5 letni okres ewaluacji
- Rektor może złożyć wniosek o rezygnację z ewaluacji niektórych dyscyplin
- zmniejszenie liczby zgłaszanych osiągnięć dla pracownika i dyscypliny
- brak slotów (podział udziałów w publikacji)
- utrzymane listy czasopism i wydawnictw
- większe znaczenie wpływu transferu technologii na gospodarkę
- zwiększona rola popularyzacji nauki w działalności instytucjonalnej
- zwrócenie uwagi na dobre warunki pracy naukowców i rozwój kadry
- zaproszenie ekspertów z obszaru biznesowo-naukowego do oceny transferu, popularyzacji oraz udział ekspertów zagranicznych w zespołach oceniających na każdym etapie
- przepis zabraniający bezpośredniego przekładania oceny podmiotu w dyscyplinie i potencjału jednostki na ocenę pracowniczą
- zgłaszanie osiągnieć zróżnicowane pod względem dziedzin i typów stanowisk
- a rule forbidding direct translation of institutional assessment on the evaluation of individual researchers
- formuła wyznaczania wartości referencyjnych względnie prosta i uniwersalna dla wszystkich dyscyplin

CoARA

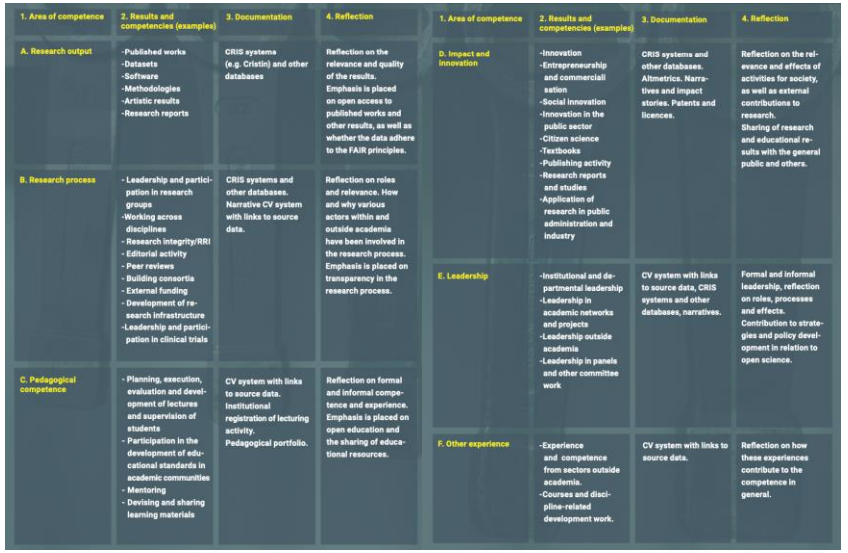
EXAMPLE OF (INTER-)NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

NC-PL

2nd Congress of Internationalization of polish HEIs

Participation in the congress organized by the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange (with the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, the National Science Center and the University of Warsaw) to discuss how to include support for international research cooperation and the internationalization of universities in the assessment reform.

Organization of a discussion panel on the goals of the CoARA and examples of successful solutions: presentation of NOR-CAM (the Norwegian model for reforming academic assessment) by Ragnar Lie.



1. Area of competence	2. Results and competencies (examples)	3. Documentation	4. Reflection
A. Research output	-Published works -Datasets -Software -Methodologies -Artistic results -Research reports	CRIS systems (e.g. Cristin) and other databases	Reflection on the relevance and quality of the results. Emphasis is placed on open access to published works and other results, as well as whether the data adhere to the FAIR principles.
B. Research process	- Leadership and participation in research groups -Working across disciplines - Research integrity/RRI - Editorial activity - Peer reviews - Building consortia - External funding - Development of research infrastructure -Leadership and participation in clinical trials	CRIS systems and other databases. Narrative CV system with links to source data.	Reflection on roles and relevance. How and why various actors within and outside academia have been involved in the research process. Emphasis is placed on transparency in the research process.
C. Pedagogical competence	- Planning, execution, evaluation and development of lectures and supervision of students - Participation in the development of educational standards in academic communities - Mentoring - Devising and sharing learning materials	CV system with links to source data. Institutional registration of lecturing activity. Pedagogical portfolio.	Reflection on formal and informal competence and experience. Emphasis is placed on open education and the sharing of educational resources.

1. Area of competence	2. Results and competencies (examples)	3. Documentation	4. Reflection
D. Impact and innovation	-Innovation -Entrepreneurship and commercialisation -Social innovation -Innovation in the public sector -Citizen science -Textbooks -Publishing activity -Research reports and studies -Application of research in public administration and industry	CRIS systems and other databases. Altmetrics. Narratives and impact stories. Patents and licences.	Reflection on the relevance and effects of activities for society, as well as external contributions to research. Sharing of research and educational results with the general public and others.
E. Leadership	-Institutional and departmental leadership -Leadership in academic networks and projects -Leadership outside academia -Leadership in panels and other committee work	CV system with links to source data, CRIS systems and other databases, narratives.	Formal and informal leadership, reflection on roles, processes and effects. Contribution to strategies and policy development in relation to open science.
F. Other experience	-Experience and competence from sectors outside academia. -Courses and discipline-related development work.	CV system with links to source data.	Reflection on how these experiences contribute to the competence in general.

CoARA

NC-PL & CoARA (FAR) OUTLOOK ?

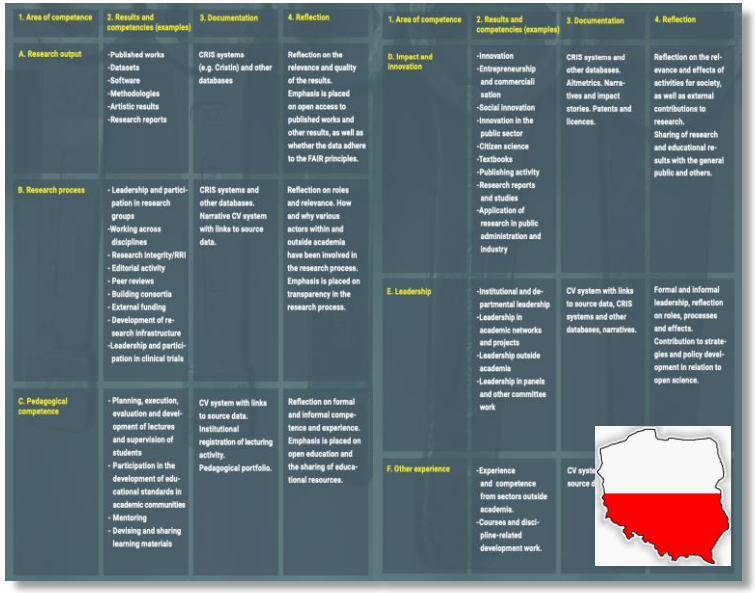
NC-PL

NOR-CAM

1. Area of competence	2. Results and competencies (examples)	3. Documentation	4. Reflection
A. Research output	-Published works -Datasets -Software -Methodologies -Artistic results -Research reports	CRIS systems (e.g. Cristin) and other databases	Reflection on the relevance and quality of the results. Emphasis is placed on open access to published works and other results, as well as whether the data adhere to the FAIR principles.
B. Research process	- Leadership and participation in research groups -Working across disciplines - Research integrity/RRI - Editorial activity - Peer reviews - Building consortia - External funding - Development of research infrastructure -Leadership and participation in clinical trials	CRIS systems and other databases. Narrative CV system with links to source data.	Reflection on roles and relevance. How and why various actors within and outside academia have been involved in the research process. Emphasis is placed on transparency in the research process.
C. Pedagogical competence	- Planning, execution, evaluation and development of lectures and supervision of students - Participation in the development of educational standards in academic communities - Mentoring - Devising and sharing learning materials	CV system with links to source data. Institutional registration of lecturing activity. Pedagogical portfolio.	Reflection on formal and informal competence and experience. Emphasis is placed on open education and the sharing of educational resources.

1. Area of competence	2. Results and competencies (examples)	3. Documentation	4. Reflection
D. Impact and innovation	-Innovation -Entrepreneurship and commercialisation -Social innovation -Innovation in the public sector -Citizen science -Textbooks -Publishing activity -Research reports and studies -Application of research in public administration and industry	CRIS systems and other databases. Altmetrics. Narratives and impact stories. Patents and licences.	Reflection on the relevance and effects of activities for society, as well as external contributions to research. Sharing of research and educational results with the general public and others.
E. Leadership	-Institutional and departmental leadership -Leadership in academic networks and projects -Leadership outside academia -Leadership in panels and other committee work	CV system with links to source data, CRIS systems and other databases, narratives.	Formal and informal leadership, reflection on roles, processes and effects. Contribution to strategies and policy development in relation to open science.
F. Other experience	-Experience and competence from sectors outside academia. -Courses and discipline-related development work.	CV system	

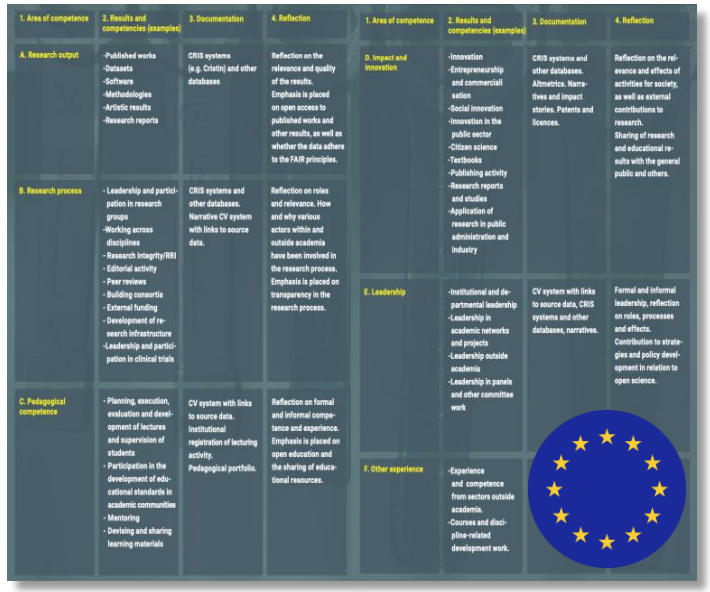
POL-CAM



1. Area of competence	2. Results and competencies (examples)	3. Documentation	4. Reflection
A. Research output	-Published works -Datasets -Software -Methodologies -Artistic results -Research reports	CRIS systems (e.g. Cristin) and other databases	Reflection on the relevance and quality of the results. Emphasis is placed on open access to published works and other results, as well as whether the data adhere to the FAIR principles.
B. Research process	- Leadership and participation in research groups -Working across disciplines - Research integrity/RRI - Editorial activity - Peer reviews - Building consortia - External funding - Development of research infrastructure -Leadership and participation in clinical trials	CRIS systems and other databases. Narrative CV system with links to source data.	Reflection on roles and relevance. How and why various actors within and outside academia have been involved in the research process. Emphasis is placed on transparency in the research process.
C. Pedagogical competence	- Planning, execution, evaluation and development of lectures and supervision of students - Participation in the development of educational standards in academic communities - Mentoring - Devising and sharing learning materials	CV system with links to source data. Institutional registration of lecturing activity. Pedagogical portfolio.	Reflection on formal and informal competence and experience. Emphasis is placed on open education and the sharing of educational resources.

1. Area of competence	2. Results and competencies (examples)	3. Documentation	4. Reflection
D. Impact and innovation	-Innovation -Entrepreneurship and commercialisation -Social innovation -Innovation in the public sector -Citizen science -Textbooks -Publishing activity -Research reports and studies -Application of research in public administration and industry	CRIS systems and other databases. Altmetrics. Narratives and impact stories. Patents and licences.	Reflection on the relevance and effects of activities for society, as well as external contributions to research. Sharing of research and educational results with the general public and others.
E. Leadership	-Institutional and departmental leadership -Leadership in academic networks and projects -Leadership outside academia -Leadership in panels and other committee work	CV system with links to source data, CRIS systems and other databases, narratives.	Formal and informal leadership, reflection on roles, processes and effects. Contribution to strategies and policy development in relation to open science.
F. Other experience	-Experience and competence from sectors outside academia. -Courses and discipline-related development work.	CV system	

EURO-CAM



1. Area of competence	2. Results and competencies (examples)	3. Documentation	4. Reflection
A. Research output	-Published works -Datasets -Software -Methodologies -Artistic results -Research reports	CRIS systems (e.g. Cristin) and other databases	Reflection on the relevance and quality of the results. Emphasis is placed on open access to published works and other results, as well as whether the data adhere to the FAIR principles.
B. Research process	- Leadership and participation in research groups -Working across disciplines - Research integrity/RRI - Editorial activity - Peer reviews - Building consortia - External funding - Development of research infrastructure -Leadership and participation in clinical trials	CRIS systems and other databases. Narrative CV system with links to source data.	Reflection on roles and relevance. How and why various actors within and outside academia have been involved in the research process. Emphasis is placed on transparency in the research process.
C. Pedagogical competence	- Planning, execution, evaluation and development of lectures and supervision of students - Participation in the development of educational standards in academic communities - Mentoring - Devising and sharing learning materials	CV system with links to source data. Institutional registration of lecturing activity. Pedagogical portfolio.	Reflection on formal and informal competence and experience. Emphasis is placed on open education and the sharing of educational resources.

1. Area of competence	2. Results and competencies (examples)	3. Documentation	4. Reflection
D. Impact and innovation	-Innovation -Entrepreneurship and commercialisation -Social innovation -Innovation in the public sector -Citizen science -Textbooks -Publishing activity -Research reports and studies -Application of research in public administration and industry	CRIS systems and other databases. Altmetrics. Narratives and impact stories. Patents and licences.	Reflection on the relevance and effects of activities for society, as well as external contributions to research. Sharing of research and educational results with the general public and others.
E. Leadership	-Institutional and departmental leadership -Leadership in academic networks and projects -Leadership outside academia -Leadership in panels and other committee work	CV system with links to source data, CRIS systems and other databases, narratives.	Formal and informal leadership, reflection on roles, processes and effects. Contribution to strategies and policy development in relation to open science.
F. Other experience	-Experience and competence from sectors outside academia. -Courses and discipline-related development work.		

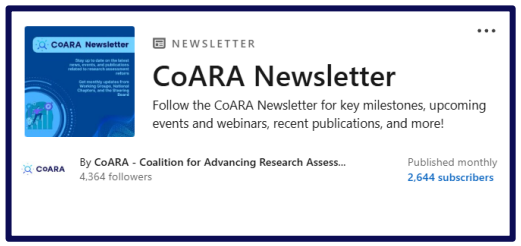
CoARA

COMMUNICATION

https://coara.eu

Contact: secretariat@coara.org

- Zenodo Community



- CoARA Members' Newsletter
- **CoARA Blog – the latest news: https://coara.org/news/**

Please be active!

#ReformingRA

- Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment
- CoARA Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment
- Advocacy Materials

Streamlining activities across the coalition

2.5k+
newsletter subscribers

Facilitating connectivity across the growing coalition

4.7k
followers on LinkedIn

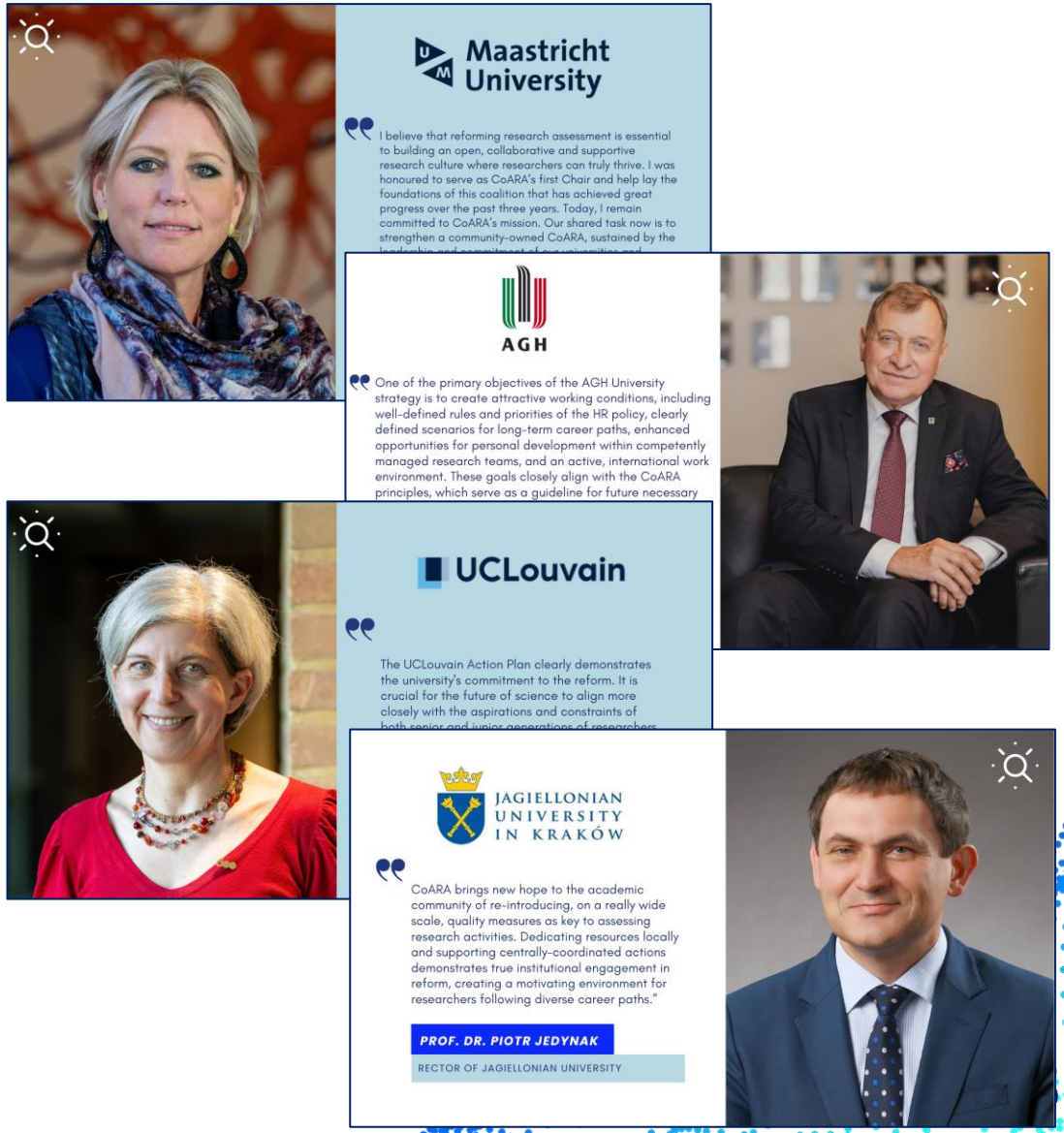
2.3k
followers gained in the past year

CoARA

VOLUNTARY SPONSORSHIP CAMPAIGN

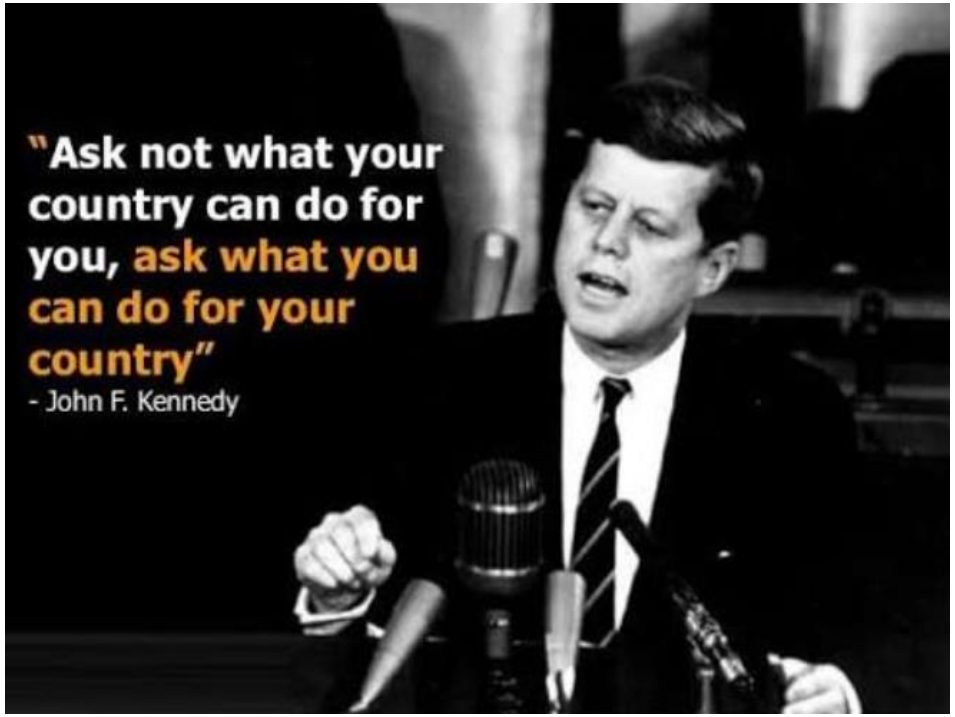
Objectives

- Reinforce community ownership without creating differences
- Expand ongoing activities and impact
- Enhanced responsiveness to the Coalition's needs
- Increased impact in the short term
- Sustainability



CoARA

COARA IS IN YOUR HANDS – THANK YOU !



Ask not

what CoARA can give you,

ask yourself

how YOU can contribute to CoARA

CoARA