



# Progress with reforming research assessment

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# 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

# Political context

- **Sep 2020** - **Commission Communication on ERA** proposed to improve the research assessment system
- **Council Conclusions on ERA - Dec 2020** - and on research careers - **May 2021** - invited the Commission to work with stakeholders to effect change
- **Nov 2021** - **Council Conclusions** on the Future Governance of the ERA and the **ERA Policy Agenda 2022-24** include a priority action (Action 3) on reforming research assessment
- **Feb 2022** - **EU Presidency conference on open science** and **Paris Call on Research Assessment**
- **June 2022** - **Council Conclusions on Research Assessment and Implementation of Open Science**

# Timeline of progress

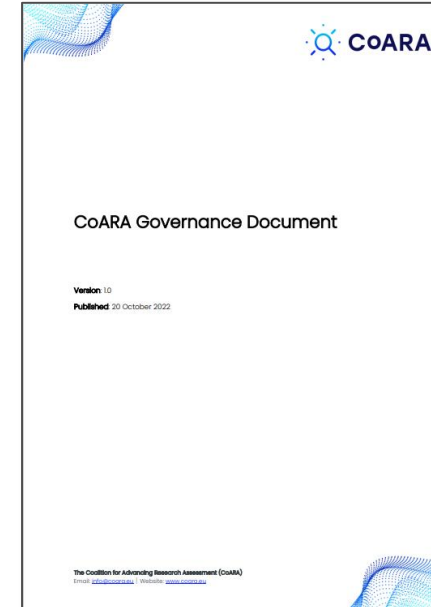
Commission  
Scoping Report  
November 2021



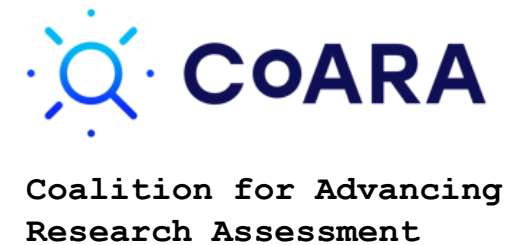
Agreement on Reforming  
Research Assessment  
20 July 2022



Coalition governance  
documents  
20 October 2022



Coalition Constitutive  
Assembly  
1 December 2022



# Common vision & commitments

Assessment of research, researchers, and research organisations **recognises the diverse outputs, practices and activities** that maximise the quality of research and resulting impacts.

This requires basing assessments primarily on **qualitative judgement**, supported by **responsible use of quantitative indicators**.

## Signatories agree to:

- Base actions on common **Principles** (from scoping report)
- Implement **10 Commitments** for change, incl. **timeframe** for implementation
- Organise and operate a **Coalition**

# 10 commitments

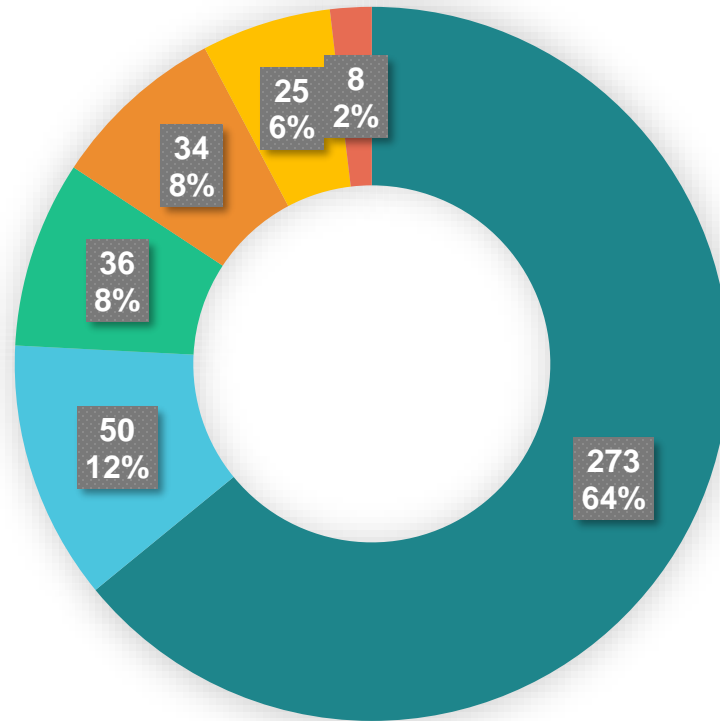
## Core commitments:

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**

## Support commitments:

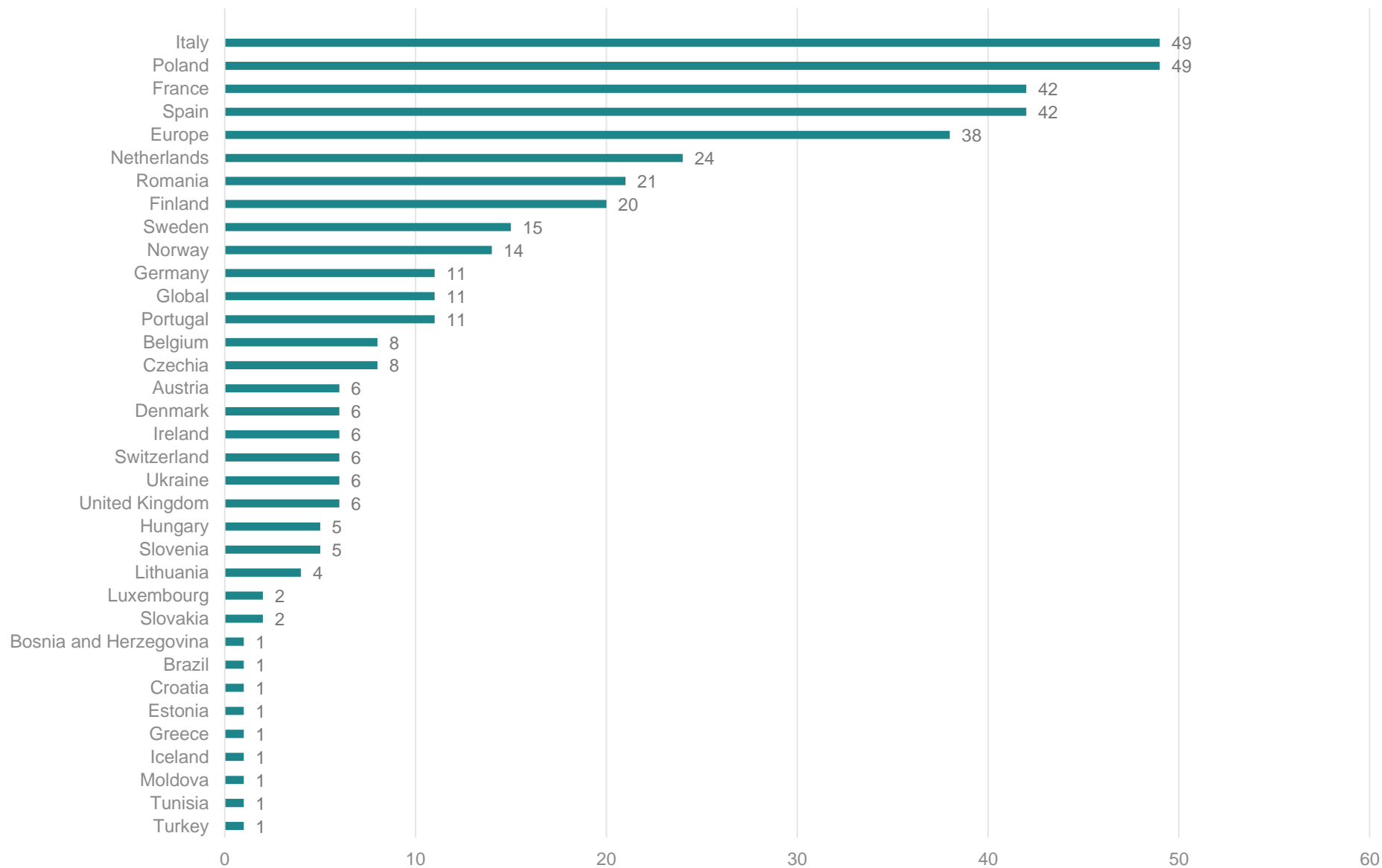
- Three commitments to enable the move towards **new criteria, tools and processes** for research assessment
- Three commitments to facilitate **mutual learning, communicate progress** and ensure that new approaches are **evidence-informed**

# 426 Signatories (7 Dec. 2022)



- 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

# 426 Signatories – country distribution (7 Dec. 2022)





# CoARA - Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment

- CoARA offers a space for **mutual learning and collaboration** between the signatories of the Agreement
- **Lean structure:** General Assembly, Steering Board, Secretariat and Working Groups
- Working Groups due to operate as '**communities of practice**', e.g.:
  - ✓ **“Interest communities”**, on ad-hoc horizontal topics
  - ✓ **“Discipline communities”**, on approaches to tailor criteria and processes by discipline, inter-disciplinary field, thematic area
  - ✓ **“Institution communities”**, on topics specific to a given type of organisation
  - ✓ **“National communities”**, on issues specific to different types of organisations of a given country or group of countries
- **Coalition launched on 1 Dec 2022** (Constitutive Assembly)

# Tackling national barriers to reform

- A first preliminary survey of ERA Forum members revealed that **existing barriers are very heterogeneous** and specific to the national context
  - Solutions for their removal will therefore have to be identified at national level
- Discussion with ERA Forum on how to **facilitate the identification of barriers, and solutions for their removal**
  - Activities already ongoing in several Member States: Workshops, working groups, task forces, etc.
  - Stimulate further national dialogues between national stakeholders and their authorities
  - Lessons learned through these national dialogues to be shared between countries and with the ERA Forum

# Next steps

- **Start of CoARA operations**
  - ✓ Call for proposals of Working Groups by the members to support exchange of knowledge and the piloting of new criteria, tools and processes
  - ✓ Secure funding for the coalition operations
- **Implementation of changes** by signatories of the Agreement
  - ✓ Process started by the end of 2023
  - ✓ At least one cycle of changes by end of 2027
- **National activities** helping the identification of national barriers to reform
- **Further global alignment and cooperation**
  - ✓ Attract non-European research organisations to sign the Agreement and join CoARA
  - ✓ Stimulate dialogue to facilitate alignment of approaches in various regions
- **Development of synergies** with other initiatives
  - ✓ DORA, EOSC, European Universities Alliances, etc.

# Commission's support

- The Commission **signed the Agreement** (and endorsed DORA) on 8 November 2022
- The Commission remains committed to **support the CoARA notably by:**
  - ✓ Being an active **member of the Coalition**, mainly in its quality as a research funder, and participating in relevant working groups and activities
  - ✓ Providing policy **support in liaising the Coalition with Member States and Associated Countries** in the framework of the ERA Forum; this will facilitate the setting up of national/regional framework conditions conducive to reforms
  - ✓ Providing **financial support to the CoARA activities** through Horizon Europe
  - ✓ **Fostering global alignment and cooperation** with other regions worldwide & **synergies with other European initiatives**

# Thank you



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