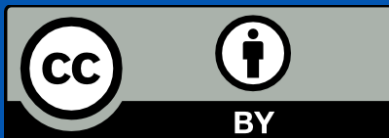




Reforming research assessment: Rationale, progress made and role of the European Commission

KRECon 2023, Prague, 9 November 2023

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Rationale and ambition

- 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

Initiative for reforming research assessment (ERA Action 3)

Commission
Scoping Report
November 2021



Agreement on Reforming
Research Assessment
20 July 2022



644 signatories
(7 Nov 2023)

Coalition Constitutive
Assembly
1 December 2022



565 members of CoARA
(7 Nov 2023)

Next steps

- **CoARA Working Groups** are being established
- Signatories start the process of **reviewing or developing criteria, tools and processes** in line with the Agreement principles and commitments

Common vision

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**.

4 core commitments:

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 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

Expected benefits and challenges

- **Commitments** for changes and space for **mutual learning and collaboration**
 - ✓ Previous recommendations and declarations: not successful enough in triggering changes
 - ✓ CoARA supports and facilitates the implementation of the commitments by the members
- Driven by **stakeholders**
 - ✓ Respects the autonomy of research organisations and allows for differences in implementation
- **Critical mass** of stakeholders
 - ✓ To achieve the required system and culture changes
 - ✓ Avoids disadvantage of first mover
 - ✓ Coherence across the various assessment systems (various types of research organisations involved)
- **Transition** period
 - ✓ May bring some uncertainties for the assessors and those assessed
- **Resources** needed
 - ✓ More qualitative assessment may require additional resources for peer-review

Role of the European Commission

- Liaison with Member States / Associated Countries
- Facilitate the setting up of national/regional framework conditions

**ERA
Forum**

- Signed the Agreement end of 2022, member of CoARA (as research funder)
- Evolution of assessment practices for EC funding on R&I
- Co-chair CoARA Working Group on “Improving practices in the assessment of research proposals”

 **CoARA**

- Observer in CoARA Steering Board
- Financial support to the CoARA activities through Horizon Europe
- Synergies with other EU policy initiatives (e.g. ORE, EOSC, Open Science, European Universities Alliances, Researchers)



- Foster global alignment and cooperation with other regions worldwide

Thank you



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