



Europejska inicjatywa reformy sytemu ocen w nauce Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment

Stanisław Kistryn - Uniwersytet Jagielloński, RGNiSW, NC-PL

Otwarta nauka i niebibliometryczne aspekty oceny działalności naukowej i ewaluacji





15. Seminarium Open Access
UŁ, Łódź, 22.10.2024.

BACKGROUND – RESEARCH CAREER

Career (in research) \rightarrow to be understood as personal development!

Drivers:

Ambition



needs supportive environment



Incentives



both imply assessment



Assessment to be motivating must be fair and wise!

Restrictions





EC DG-RTD PERSPECTIVE

Action 4 - Promoting attractive research careers

The European Research Area



Introducing the Research and Innovation Careers Observatory

Brussels, 28 May 2021 (OR. en)

9138/21

9138/2

RECH 267

COMPET 424 EDUC 215 SOC 352 EMPL 261

Setting voluntary standards

European Framework for attractive Research Careers (incl. new Charter for Researchers)

Supporting implementation

ResearchComp, ERA Talent Platform one-stop-shop, R&I Careers Observatory with OECD, ...

Promoting cultural change

Reform of research and researcher assessment (COARA.eu; ERA Action 3)

Coordinating investments

Pilot in Horizon Europe 2024 supporting organisational change – possible upscaling 2026-2027



From: General Secretariat of the Council

 On:
 28 May 2021

 To:
 Delegations

No. prev. doc.: 9009/21

Subject: Deepening the European Research Area: Providing researchers with attractive and sustainable careers and working conditions and making

brain circulation a reality

- Council conclusions (adopted on 28/05/2021)

Workshop on national activities supporting research assessment reforms

17 October 2024





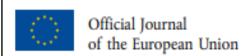


RECENT DOCUMENTS ON CAREERS



EN

C series



C/2023/1640

29.12.2023

Brussels, 27.3.2024 COM(2024) 145 final

2024/0078 (NLE)

ANNEX II

European Charter for Researchers

COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION

of 18 December 2023

on a European framework to attract and retain research, innovation and entrepreneurial talents in Europe

Proposal for a

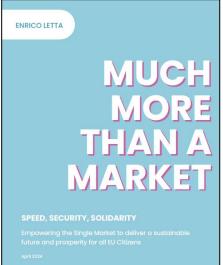
COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION

on attractive and sustainable careers in higher education

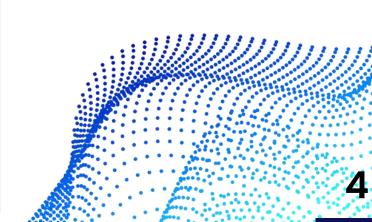










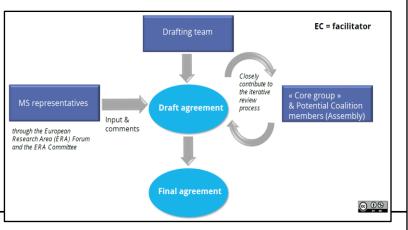


TOWARDS THE AGREEMENT

PRINCIPLES FOR A REFORMED RESEARCH ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

- Council Recommendation on a Pact for Research and Innovation in Europe
- Magna Charta Universitatum
- European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity
- San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA)
- Leiden Manifesto for research metrics







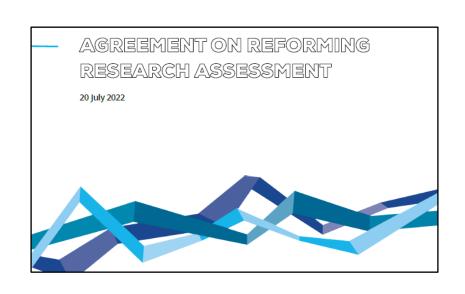
AGREEMENT ON REFORMING RESEARCH ASSESSMENT

20 July 2022

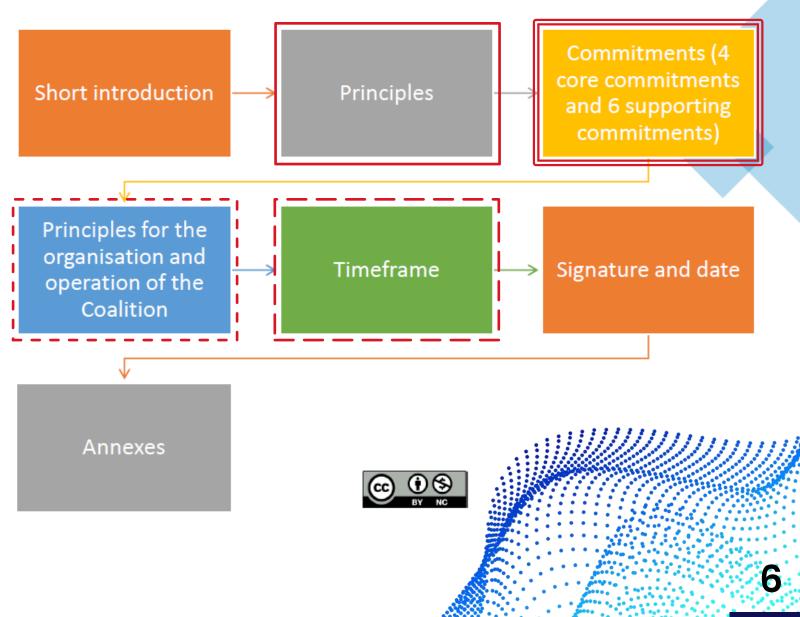




AGREEMENT STRUCTURE



https://coara.eu/agreement/the-agreement-full-text/





OVERARCHING PRINCIPLES

- Ethics and integrity never compromised by any counter-incentives; methodological rigor
- Scientific freedom frameworks not limiting researchers in their work; only those necessary
- Institutional autonomy freedom of the ways of implementing commitments; coherence important
- Transparency control of community over data, algorithms, indicators, infrastructure and methods
- Focus on quality rewarding original ideas and professional research conduct; recognizing variety of missions, early sharing of data, openness of collaboration; central role of peer-review
- Diversity properly treating various disciplines, roles in community, career stages, etc.
- Inclusiveness gender balance; care for differences as values; trust
- Sharing experiences



Core commitments

- 1. Recognise the diversity of contributions to, and careers in, research in accordance with the needs and nature of the research
- 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



Supporting commitments (1)

- 5. Commit resources to reforming research assessment as is needed to achieve the organisational changes committed to
- 6. Review and <u>develop research assessment criteria</u>, tools and processes
 - 6.1 Criteria for units and institutions

With the direct involvement of research organisations and researchers at all career stages, review and develop criteria for assessing research units and research performing organisations, while promoting interoperability

6.2 Criteria for projects and researchers

With the direct involvement of researchers at all career stages, review and develop criteria, tools and processes for the assessment of research projects, research teams and researchers that are adapted to their context of application







Supporting commitments (2)

- 7. Raise awareness of research assessment reform and provide transparent communication, guidance, and training on assessment criteria and processes as well as their use
- 8. Exchange practices and experiences to enable mutual learning within and beyond the Coalition
- 9. Communicate progress made on adherence to the Principles and implementation of the Commitments
- 10. Evaluate practices, criteria and tools based on solid evidence and the state-of-the-art in research on research, and make data openly available for evidence gathering and research





COALITION BODIES

- **General Assembly of Members –** All Members. The organ representing all the members of the Coalition. The highest-level decision-making body, that meets at least once a year (at least three times during the first year)
- Steering Board Elected. A collegial body, responsible for the overall oversight, strategy, business plan and sustainability of the Coalition. Taking decisions by mutual agreement
- Coalition Secretariat Supports the administrative, managerial, logistical, communication, engagement, networking, outreach, leadership and other activities of the Coalition
- Working Groups Voluntary participation. To exchange knowledge, learn mutually, discuss and investigate any topic to advance research assessment and help with the implementation of the Members commitments
- National Chapters platform for contacts of single-country members



GENERAL ASSEMBLY



- Approves the Governance and Rules of Procedure of the CoARA
- Elects a Chair and Vice-Chair(s), and Steering Board members
- Approves the annual work-plan and budget of the CoARA
- Appoints the organization(s) that host the Coalition Secretariat by simple majority vote
- Approves the strategy guiding the operations and activities of the Coalition as a whole and the strategy for the outreach (including at global level)
- Approves the procedures and criteria for the establishment of the Working Groups, for their follow up and coordination, and for the endorsement and publication of their outputs

STEERING BOARD

Chair: Rianne Letschert

Vice-chairs: Elizabeth Gadd (INORMS)

Karen Stroobants (EuroScience)

Members: Lidia Borrell-Damián (Science Europe)

Paul Boyle (EUA), Yensi Flores Bueso, Matthias Koenig,

Eva Mendéz, Menico Rizzi, Sylvie Rousset, Toma Susi

5 members
(incl. 1 vice-chair)
new elected
at GA on 15.12.2023.;
next election (7 members,
incl. chair and 1 vice-chair)
at GA on 09.12.2024.

WORKING GROUPS



- Operate as 'communities of practice' and offer space for mutual learning and collaboration Examples:
 - "Interest communities", on ad-hoc horizontal topics
 - "Discipline communities", on approaches to tailor criteria and processes by discipline, interdisciplinary field, thematic area
 - "Institution communities", on topics specific to a given type of organization
 - "National communities", on issues specific to different types of organizations of a given country or group of countries
- National Chapters platforms for exchange within a given country
- Other complementary means:
 workshops, webinars, (annual) conferences, seminars, trainings, etc.

Timeframe

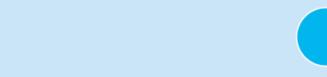


Year 5 (2027)

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



Signature



Year 1 (2023)

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



GA decided to prolong the deadline for preparing and making public the action plans by 6 months (for first signatories and members). On Oct. 20-th - **118** AP's published (2 from PL members ...).

NB: Organisations can sign the Agreement at any point in time beyond 2022. The timeline for organisations signing after 2022 will be adjusted accordingly.



Annexes

- Do not form an integral part of the Agreement.
- Annex 1 outlines the need for reform.
- Annex 2 clarifies the terminology used.
- Annex 3 suggests a reform journey.
- Annex 4 provides an initial toolbox.





MEANING FOR SIGNATORIES

- Not legally binding, but...
- It is an Agreement, with clear commitments.
- Signing the Agreement is a precondition for joining the Coalition.
- Participation on a voluntary basis.
- Full autonomy of organisations, full control on the steps towards the implementation of the Agreement and the speed of the reform journey.
- More of a morally binding signature, towards peer organisations and own community.
- Organisations and their staff can leave the Coalition at any time.

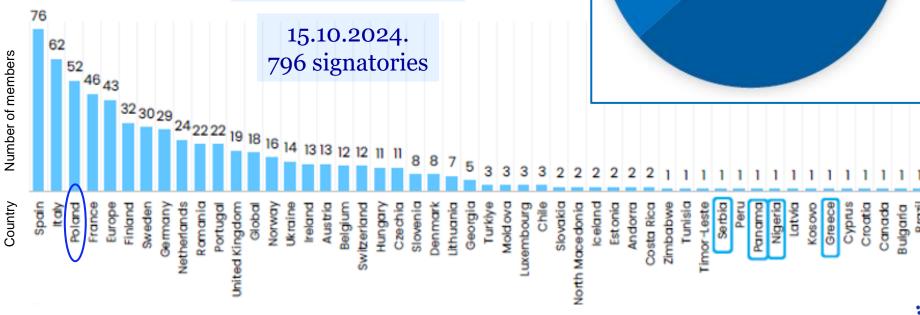






STATUS

General Assembly 12.06.2024. 50 countries 735 / 646



In descending order of total share: 5% Universities and their associations 8% Research centres, research infrastructures. and their associations Academies, learned societies, and their associations, and associations of 14% researchers 63% Public or private research funding organisations and their associations 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



Action Plans (20.10.2024. ⇒ 118): https://zenodo.org/records/13941419

13 WORKING GROUPS



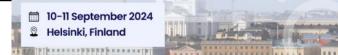
윪	Towards Open Infrastructures for Responsible Research Assessment	Multilingualism and Language Biases in Research Assessment [UAM]	
윰	Improving Practices in the Assessment of Research Proposals [FNP]	Responsible Metrics and Indicators (PAN)	
윰	Reforming Academic Career Assessment (ACA) [KRASP, UMK]	Towards Transformations: Transdisciplinarity, Applied/Practice-Based Research, and Impacts [FNP, UJ]	
윪	Early-and-mid-Career Researchers (EMCRs) – Assessment and Research Culture	TIER - Towards an Inclusive Evaluation of Research	
윰	Experiments in Assessment – Idea Generation, Cocreation, and Piloting	Ethics and Research Integrity Policy in Responsible Research Assessment for Data and Al	
윰	Recognizing and Rewarding Peer Review	Global Framework for Research Evaluation in the Social Sciences and the Humanities (SSH)	

Supporting the Alignment of Research Assessment Systems with CoARA

in Biomedical Disciplines through Administrative Reforms and Governance



COARA WG Co-Chair Forum: CONNECTING EFFORTS



NATIONAL COMMUNITIES

National Chapters

Current inventory of NCs:

- 5 from first round:
 - Italy, Norway, **Poland**, Spain, Ukraine
- 6 joining later:
 - Cyprus, Finland, France,
 - Hungary, Irland, Switzerland
- 5 most recently accepted:
 - Germany, Portugal, UK, Sweden, Andorra



- Andorra
- Cyprus
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Hungary
- Ireland
- Italy
- Norway
- Poland
- Portugal
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Ukraine
- United Kingdom

First live meeting:

NCs Exchange Forum 22-23 February 2024, Porto



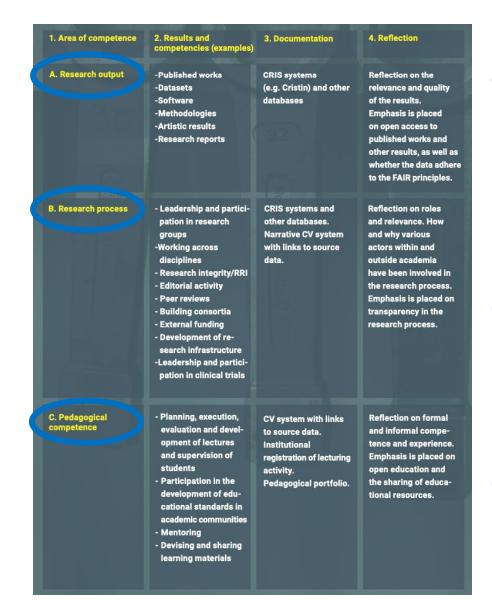
Booklet on NC's (16.10.2024.): https://zenodo.org/records/13941419

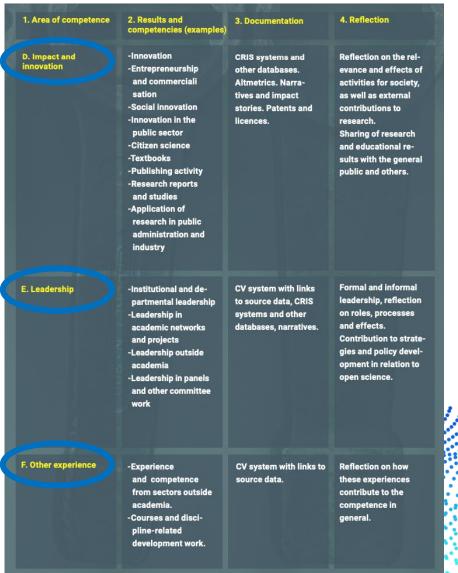


SHARING EXPERIENCES – NOR-CAM

Norwegian Career Assessment Matrix

Six competence areas







ACCELERATING COALITION'S OPERATIONAL CAPACITY

The Horizon Europe Coara Boost project strengthens the operational capacity of CoARA. It provides a means to develop a critical mass for reforming research assessment, to generate gravitas for new members as well as to investigate and implement new models for research assessment.



- Cascading grant mechanism at least 50 projects will be funded with a total budget of 2.75 million €.
- Contributing to the implementation institutional changes for reforming research assessment.
- Providing assistance to Working Groups.
- Expanding the outreach of European efforts to reform research assessment by growing the





BOOST CASCADE FUNDING GRANTS – 3 TYPES OF PROJECTS

- More than half of the overall budget of the CoARA Boost project is redistributed
- Carry out concrete, tangible changes in research assessment in relevant institutions
- Implement the <u>ARRA</u> commitments
- Exchange, pilot, and implement new practices, processes and tools
- Diverse starting points



80 applications submitted 66 eligible – in evaluation



NATIONAL CHAPTER POLAND

- **Mission:** i) to assess coherence of the proposed solutions with the national legislation; ii) to propose <u>changes</u> in <u>national regulations</u> 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.



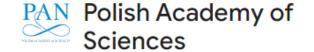
Currently at CoARA:

60 Polish signatories

53 Coalition members

48 NC-PL contributors







NC-PL TASK FORCES



- 1. Data Collection and Analysis TF collecting information from Polish signatories on action plans and their implementation [10 members; coordinator UE Poznań]
- 2. Research Career Pathways TF comparison of current HR procedures, e.g. tenure track paths; proposing criteria of stable employment of group leaders and research team members [17; Uni Gdańsk]
- 3. Academic Career Diversity TF ideas of including broadly understood diversity in research (academic) career [16; A.Budzanowska]
- **4. Institutional Evaluation TF** platform for discussing national evaluation system, joining forces with KRASP/PAN/KEN [16; PK/AGH]
- 5. Project Assessment TF reflection on grant assessment [14 ; FNP]
- **6.** CoARA Monitoring TF information exchange NC-PL ↔ WGs, NCs [7; UE Poznań]







NC-PL STRUCTURE



Participation in NC-PL:

- 1. **Institutions-signatories** and/or members of CoARA;
- 2. **Institutions-collaborators**, interested in common activities;

General Assembly: Representative(s) of each #1 institution (with voting rights) and representative(s) of each #2 institution (observer status);

General NC-PL coordination: Coordinator and Deputy-coordinator (NC-PL Coordinators) – acting for coordinating institutions (now: JU and KUT)

Each NC-PL Task Force: TF Leader and 1-2 deputies (depending on TF size and scope);

NC-PL Managing Board: NC-PL Coordinators and all TF Leaders.

Coordination:

Jagiellonian Univ. Kraków St. Kistryn, A. Józkowicz Technical Univ. Koszalin D. Zawadzka, M. Kruzel

Steering Committee

The Guild's Research
Career and Assessment
Working Group
The Guild



NC-PL EXPERIENCES



- i. Establishing of the NC in the national community; **interaction** with decision-makers, rector conferences and representative research sector organizations
- ii. Engaging institutions/organizations in the process of assessment reform; distribution of **information** on Coalition goals and activities
- iii. Reflection on the **diversity** of academic missions and manyfaceted **goals** of institutional evaluation based on changes in the regulations defining Polish system
- iv. Gaining **support** for NC activities on the ministerial level (recognition and cooperation)
- v. Implementing **structure** of the national coalition and setting up **formats** for activities and exchange of experiences

Dissemination

- UKN June 2023, September 2024
- CRASP October 2023
- Senate JU November 2023
- CoARA GA December 2023
- NC Exchange Forum February 2024
- KEN March 2024
- Senate UWr April 2024
- ESOF June 2024
- Intern. Congress September 2024
- Forum "Together in EU" October 2024
- ERA Act.3 Workshop October 2024



NC-PL CURRENT TOPICS



- i. The general debate concerns two aspects of the evaluation reform:
- <u>Evaluation of researchers</u> (desirably based on peer revision to promote the quality of achievements). The choice of the evaluation method is an <u>internal decission</u> of the university.
- <u>Evaluation of institutions</u> (currently based in Poland exclusively on quantitative indicators), <u>regulated externally</u> by national legislation.

NC-PL mission: i) To help avoid contradictions in the criteria and the goals of these two aspects of assessment.ii) To help harmonize the diverse (sometimes divergent) opinions comming from the scientific community.

- **ii. The specific topis** of current discussions:
- <u>Evaluation of researchers</u>: exchange of experiences on how to develop and (above all) implement <u>Action Plans</u>, and how to combine the assessment reform with changes in <u>employment policy</u>.
- <u>Evaluation of institutions</u>: discussion within the task forces to what extent the solutions like NOR-CAM can be adapted in Poland, and which elements would require (what) modification.

(top-down driven topics, but influenced by bottom-up ideas)

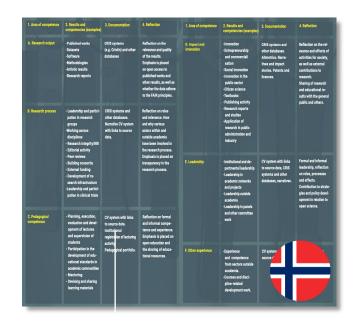


Staying in close contact with KEN, RGNSW, KRASP, PAN, ...

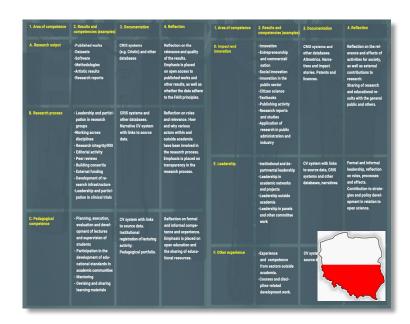
NC-PL & CoARA (FAR) OUTLOOK?



NOR-CAM



POL-CAM



EURO-CAM





PRIVILEGES OF THE COARA MEMBERS











Members and signatories commit to implement the 10 core principles via an action plan

Members
participate in the
decision-making
processes of the
coalition at the
General Assembly

Members can join or propose Working Groups

Members can contribute to National Chapters Members are invited to apply for the cascade funding program .

Members are invited to engage in knowledge sharing activities



CoARA Membership Newsletter - Sign Up

FINAL REMARKS

Possible fields of activities

- Following developments
- Representing institutions in WG(s) of interest
- Joining Task Forces of NC-PL
- All activities concerning assessment reform

Links

- CoARA
 - https://coara.eu/
- o NC-PL:
 - alicja.jozkowicz@uj.edu.pl
 - stanislaw.kistryn@uj.edu.pl
 - marcin.kruzel@tu.koszalin.pl
 - danuta.zawadzka@tu.koszalin.pl





