The initiative on reforming research assessment

Silvia Bottaro

European Commission, Directorate-General for Research & Innovation, Unit A.4 'Open Science'

ReMO COST Action

Turkish Stakeholder Meeting

17 April 2023

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

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International initiatives

- San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment, DORA (2013)
  - ✓ Recommendation to not use journal-based metrics, such as Journal Impact Factors, as a surrogate measure of the quality of individual research articles

- The Leiden Manifesto for research metrics (2015)
  - ✓ Best practice in metrics-based research assessment

- Hong Kong Principles for research assessment (2019)
  - ✓ Principles to strengthen research integrity

- Dutch initiative « Room for everyone's talent » (2019)
  - ✓ Specific actions taken by Dutch public knowledge institutions and research funders

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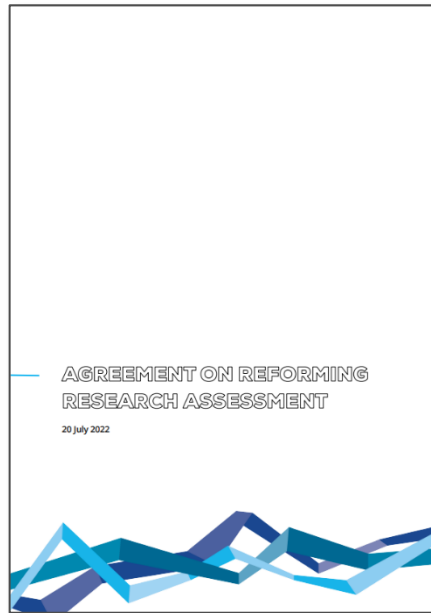
Political context

- **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 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**

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Timeline of progress

Commission Scoping Report
November 2021

Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment
20 July 2022

Coalition Constitutive Assembly
1 December 2022

Next steps

Towards a reform of the research assessment system

Scoping Report

November - 2021

AGREEMENT ON REFORMING RESEARCH ASSESSMENT

20 July 2022

CoARA

Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment

Signatories start the process of **reviewing or developing criteria, tools and processes** in line with the Agreement principles and commitments

513 signatories (14 April 2023)

437 members of CoARA (14 April 2023)

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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.**

Signatories agree to:

✓ Base actions on **10 Principles**

✓ Implement **10 Commitments** for change

✓ Follow a common **timeframe** for implementation

✓ Organise and operate the **Coalition** as a space for **mutual learning and collaboration** that supports and facilitates the implementation of the Commitments by the members, while respecting their autonomy

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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 international rankings of research organisations in research assessment**

Support commitments:

- Three commitments to **pilot** and 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**

Timeframe

Agreement includes touch-base points in years 1 and 5 after signature to communicate progress, based on **self-assessment**.
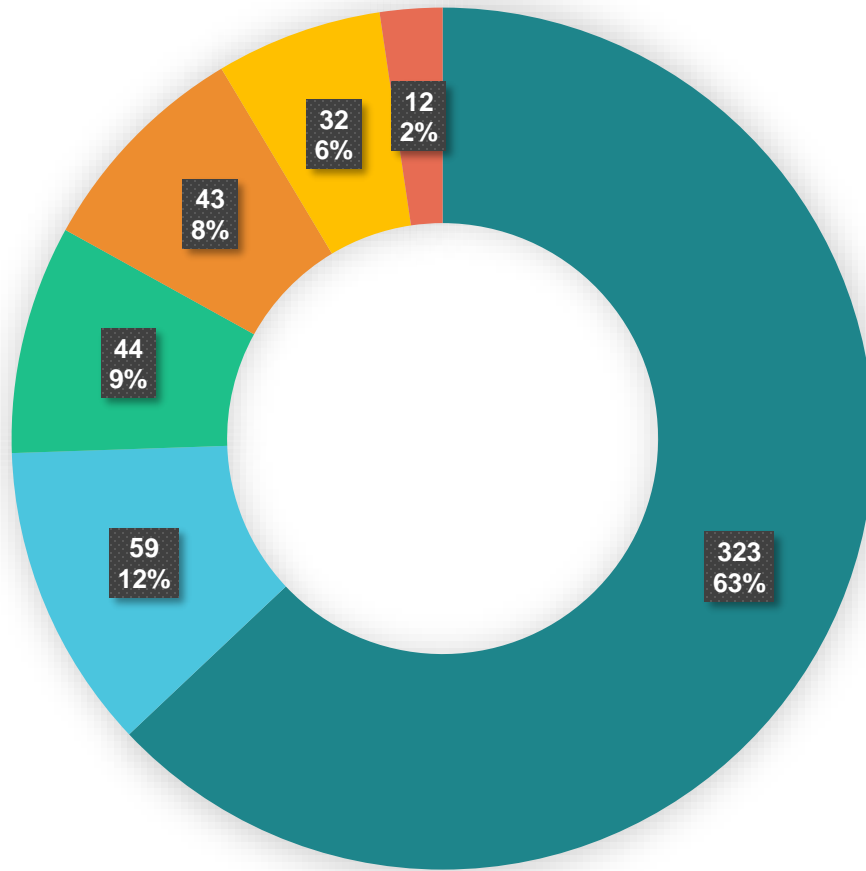
- **By year 1** signatories will have shared how their organisation **has started the process of reviewing or developing criteria, tools and processes** in line with the core Commitments and **according to an action plan with defined milestones.**

- **By year 5** signatories will have worked through **at least one cycle of review and development of their assessment criteria, tools and processes**

Key considerations

- **Flexible and evolutive**: assessment practices can vary according to the context, type and purpose of the evaluation

- Respectful of the **autonomy** of organisations and of their respective missions.

- Quantitative indicators: **responsible use**, not abandoning them

- Special attention to and involvement of **early career researchers**

- The agreement is only the starting point: changes to be developed and implemented by CoARA members

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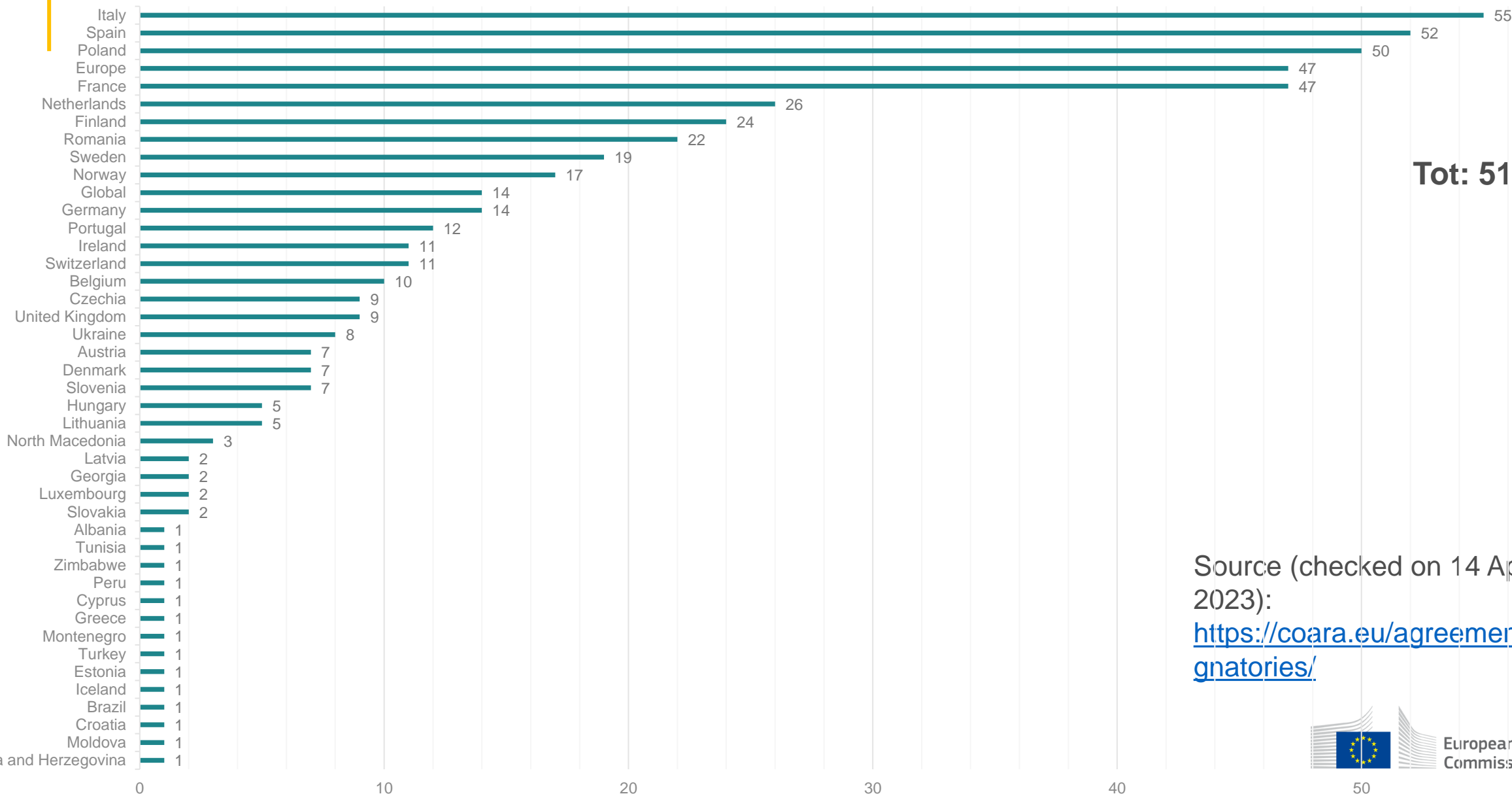# Agreement signatories – Type of organisation

Tot: 513

Legend:
- 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
- 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

Chart values:
- 323 / 63%
- 59 / 12%
- 44 / 9%
- 43 / 8%
- 32 / 6%
- 12 / 2%

Source (checked on 14 April 2023): https://coara.eu/agreement/signatories/

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Agreement signatories – Per country

Country	Signatories
Italy	55
Spain	52
Poland	50
Europe	47
France	47
Netherlands	26
Finland	24
Romania	22
Sweden	19
Norway	17
Global	14
Germany	14
Portugal	12
Ireland	11
Switzerland	11
Belgium	10
Czechia	9
United Kingdom	9
Ukraine	8
Austria	7
Denmark	7
Slovenia	7
Hungary	5
Lithuania	5
North Macedonia	3
Latvia	2
Georgia	2
Luxembourg	2
Slovakia	2
Albania	1
Tunisia	1
Zimbabwe	1
Peru	1
Cyprus	1
Greece	1
Montenegro	1
Turkey	1
Estonia	1
Iceland	1
Brazil	1
Croatia	1
Moldova	1
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1

Tot: 513

Source (checked on 14 April 2023):
https://coara.eu/agreement/signatories/

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Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA)

- Launched at the Constitutive Assembly on 1 December 2022

- Offering a space for **mutual learning and collaboration** that supports and facilitates the implementation of the Commitments by the members, while respecting their autonomy

- **Working groups** to be established on specific topics as '**Communities of practice**' e.g. "Interest communities", Discipline communities", "Institution communities", as well as **National Chapters**

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First Call launched for Working Groups and National Chapters

– 03/28/2023

First Call for Working Groups and National Chapters

For the first time CoARA is asking its members to propose Working Groups and National Chapters.

- **Opening:** 28 March 2023

- **Deadline:** 6 June 2023 (⚠ but mandatory intermediate deadline to submit an « Expression of Interest » until 27 April)

- Open to **CoARA member organisations**

- Topics to be proposed **bottom-up** by members

- WGs to be **inclusive**: different types and sizes of organisations, geographical areas, and wide range of experience levels

- More info: https://coara.eu/coalition/working-groups/

Commission's support to the reform

ERA Forum

- Liaison with MS/AC
- Facilitate the setting up of national/regional framework conditions

CoARA

- Financial (Horizon Europe) and in-kind support to CoARA operations
- Active member as research funder & DORA signatories
- CoARA Steering Board observer and operational support to the Secretariat

- Synergies with other EU policy initiatives (University Alliances, EOSC, ORE… others)
- Evolution of assessment practices for EC funding on R&I

- Foster global alignment and cooperation

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Thank you

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