

Strasbourg, 8 November 2023

## CoARA Boost Project to Accelerate the Coalition's Operational Capacity

**The Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA) is pleased to announce the launch of the CoARA Boost project, effective in retrospect from the 1st of October 2023 and set for a duration of three years. The EU funded project comprises about 5 million €, more than half of it to be further distributed in cascaded funding. CoARA Boost manifests a catalyser in enhancing the operational capacity of CoARA. It is therefore decisive in the global growth of the reform dedicated community, the further amplification of collaboration and the enhancement of knowledge exchange and mutual learning across the coalition.**

Embedded in the operational structure of the coalition, the CoARA Boost project is set to play a pivotal role in advancing CoARA's mission in the worldwide reform of assessment of research, researchers, and research organisations with the intent to recognise diverse outputs, practices and activities that will maximise the overall quality and impact of research. The initiative provides critical means in bolstering CoARA's ramp-up and is opening new pathways for fostering effective, diverse communities of practice under the umbrella of a global, concerted effort in the reform of research assessment.

### CoARA Boost factsheet:

<i>Duration</i>	36 months
<i>Resource volume</i>	5.000.000 EUR
<i>Funded under</i>	HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ERA-01 grant agreement 101131826 (enhancing the European Research & Innovation system)
<i>Coordinated by</i>	European Science Foundation (host of the CoARA secretariat)

### Key Objectives of CoARA Boost

CoARA Boost represents a vigorous effort in strengthening the coalition's operational capacity, the development of knowledge, policy evolution and institutional change in research assessment. Central is the building of robust communities of practice which will examine multiple pathways contributing to a systemic reform of the research assessment culture.

Main actions carried out by the CoARA Boost project will include:

- Catalysing change via the CoARA Boost cascade funding program that will be facilitating institutional reform pathways to a significant number of organisations of different types and across geographical areas as well as solutions and resources that members of the coalition can rely on in their efforts in implementing core commitments of CoARA. At least 50 projects will be funded from a total budget of 2.75 million €
- Expanding the operational support to the coalition, including enabling multiple approaches of knowledge sharing among the coalition members
- Supporting signatories in compiling and executing on their action plans towards the achievement of the agreed 10 commitments. As well as based on the action plans establishing an observatory of responsible research assessment practices reaching well beyond the realm of European stakeholders
- Providing operational assistance to Working Groups in their exploration of new models of research assessment
- Expanding the outreach of European efforts to reform research assessment by growing the membership of CoARA globally and fostering international cooperation on evolutions in research assessment

## Network of Partners

The European Science Foundation (ESF) serves as the coordinator of the CoARA Boost initiative. ESF, along with a strong network of partners (henceforth listed), will collaborate closely in advancing the coalition’s objectives and accomplishing the CoARA Boost project.

- Agenzia Nazionale di Valutazione del Sistema Universitario e della Ricerca (AVENUR)
- All European Academies (ALLEA)
- Careers Research and Advisory Centre (CRAC)
- Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS)
- European Science Foundation (ESF)
- Hungarian Research Network (HUN-REN)
- Marie Curie Alumni Association (MCAA)
- Science Europe
- Young European Research Universities Network (YERUN)

## Further information

- CoARA Boost information available on the CoARA website: <https://coara.eu/coalition/coara-boost-project/>
- CoARA’s 10 commitments: <https://coara.eu/agreement/the-commitments/>
- CoARA members: <https://coara.eu/coalition/membership/>
- Joining the Coalition: <https://coara.eu/sign/>
- Information on the European Science Foundation: <https://www.esf.org/>

## Notes to editors

The Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA) was founded in December 2022. It brings together more than 550 members to date including research performing organisations, research funders, policy actors and research infrastructures from over 40 countries who join forces to implement the timely reform of research assessment across Europe and beyond. CoARA’s vision is to enable a systemic reform of assessment of research, researchers and research organisations that recognises the diverse outputs, practices and activities that maximise the quality and impact of research. This requires basing assessment primarily on qualitative judgement, for which peer review is central, supported by responsible use of quantitative indicators.

Signatories of the Agreement work together to enable systemic reform on the basis of shared principles, 10 commitments, and a timeframe for reform. The goal of the coalition is to facilitate exchanges of information and mutual learning between all those willing to improve research assessment practices. As such, the coalition offers a space for its members to learn from others’ experiences, to advance the process of research assessment reform in Europe and beyond.

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*For further information please contact:*

*Charlotte Druwe, Communication Officer at the European Science Foundation, host of the CoARA Secretariat email: [communication@coara.eu](mailto:communication@coara.eu)*