

PRESS RELEASE

Strasbourg, 26 April 2024

## CoARA Boost launching First Call for Cascade Funding

**Turning agreement into action, the EU-funded CoARA Boost project is allocating 2.75M EUR for institutions to implement reform of research assessment. First call for applications is open from 26 April until 26 June 2024.**

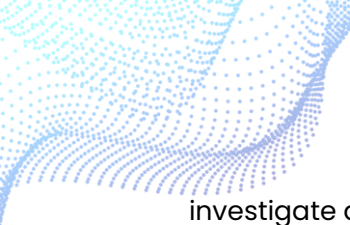
Over 700 research organisations, funders, assessment authorities, professional societies, and their associations have agreed on a common direction and principles for reforming the assessment of research, researchers and research organisations, outlined in the [Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment](#). They have also committed to implementing changes within their organisations.

CoARA, the [Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment](#), supports its members in their efforts towards institutional change by offering a platform for collaboration and mutual learning. However, given the complexity of the reform process, financial support is also necessary to test, design, and carry out in-depth institutional changes aimed at reforming research assessment. The first CoARA Boost Cascade Funding Call invites proposals from across the European Research Area to carry out institutional changes in research assessment.

The [CoARA Boost project](#), funded by the European Union, strengthens CoARA's operational capacity. Providing the means to investigate and implement new models for reform of research assessment, its Cascade Funding Programme represents more than half of the project's overall budget. This programme will support a minimum of 50 organisations from across the European Research Area (ERA) – including non-members of CoARA – in tackling specific challenges related to reforming research assessment and implementing the Agreement commitments. The programme consists of two open calls: the first one running from 26 April to 26 June 2024 and the second one to be launched in December 2024.

### **Enhancing institutional change and targeting institutional pilot and exchange-of-knowledge initiatives.**

This first call for Cascade Funding will allocate up to 1.1M EUR to fund +20 projects facilitating knowledge-exchange, piloting new initiatives within institutions, and enabling lasting institutional change. As such, it encourages and supports research organisations to



investigate and test what will efficiently work 'in real life'. More specifically, the first call aims to:

- Facilitate the exchange, transfer and adaptation of proven good practices and their adoption in research organisations.
- Catalyse the set-up or transformation of research assessment practices and tools in line with the commitments of the Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment.
- Support the development and testing of new and innovative research assessment approaches, models and procedures.

As the call is meant to support institutions from across the European Research Area (ERA), eligible applications are limited to legal entities based in the EU Member States and [countries associated with the Horizon Europe Framework Programme for Research and Innovation](#). The types of organisations eligible for funding are detailed in the call text.

By the end of the programme, it is expected to have a diverse portfolio of projects available that will translate the shared vision outlined in the Agreement into tangible, lasting institutional changes in research assessment practices.

## Further information

**Details of the call:** <https://coara.eu/first-call-cascade-funding/>

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## Notes to editors

The Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment is a global coalition of research funding organisations, research performing organisations, national/regional assessment authorities and agencies, as well as associations of the above organisations, learned societies and other relevant organisations, signatories of the agreement working together to enable systemic reform on the basis of common principles within an agreed timeframe, and to facilitate exchanges of information and mutual learning between all those willing to improve research assessment practices. More information: <https://coara.eu>