

Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment

CoARA Boost Cascade Funding Programme

FAQ – First Round

Opening: 26 April 2024

Closing: 26 June 2024 at 17:00 CEST

Funding Call information, documents and templates:

<https://coara.eu/first-call-cascade-funding/>

Funding Call Application Platform:

https://esf.smartsimple.ie/s_signup.jsp?token=XVtQC1oGYV5ZSxtZXxJXR1JWYUIIH3Rt



Annex 1 – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

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1. General questions about CoARA Boost.

What is CoARA Boost?

The Horizon Europe CoARA Boost 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. The project started in October 2023 and is 36 months long. More information about CoARA Boost is available at: [CoARA Boost Project - CoARA](#).

How many Calls are planned for Cascade Funding?

Two Calls are planned, the first one launched on 26 April 2024 and the second one to be launched in December 2024. Both Calls stay open for 60 days.

How much funding will be distributed?

Cascading grant mechanism will contribute to institutional changes to a significant number of organisations of different types and across geographical areas: at least 50 projects will be funded from a total budget of 2.75 million €.

For the first round, 40% of the budget will be released (1.1M EUR).

With funding between €30,000 to €60,000 per project (lump sum, depending on the type of project), CoARA Boost can potentially cascade funding a maximum of 50 in total (20-25 projects in the first round).

Where can we find the presentation and recording from the information session held on the 3rd of June 2023?

You can find the recording on the CoARA YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1hay9BD6Otw>

The presentation materials are available on the CoARA Zenodo repository: <https://zenodo.org/records/11473966>

2. General questions about CoARA Boost Cascade Funding Call – Round 1.

Do you still accept applications for this first Call? What is the deadline for the application submission?

The CoARA Secretariat accepts applications until the 26th of June.

Who can apply to this Call?

The primary targets of the CoARA Boost Cascade Funding Programme are legal entities of the following types:

- Academies, learned societies that implement some form of research assessment;
- National/regional authorities or agencies that implement some form of research assessment;
- Public or private research funding organisations;
- Research centres, research infrastructures;
- Universities;
- Other relevant non-for-profit organisations that implement some form of research assessment.

Applications from faculties of universities are also eligible. However, the university needs to be formally the applicant.

Can CoARA Non-Member apply to this Call?

Institutions that are not (or not yet) members of CoARA or not (or not yet) signatories of the [ARRA](#) are also eligible to apply.

Are Beneficiaries of the CoARA Boost Project eligible for this Call?

Beneficiaries of the CoARA Boost project are not eligible to participate in the call. In the case of beneficiaries that are umbrella organisations, their member organisations are eligible. Nominating organisations of the CoARA Steering Board members are also eligible, as the Steering Board does not directly participate in the evaluation of the proposals. The Steering Board will not have any role in both the evaluation and selection of winning applications

Can CoARA Working Groups apply for the call? Is the call open for research teams?

Only legal entities can apply. CoARA Working Groups are supported through Work Package 4 of the CoARA Boost project.

Are organisations outside the European Research Area eligible?

As the call is meant to support institutions from across the European Research Area (ERA), only legal entities based in the EU Member States and [countries associated to the Horizon Europe Framework Programme for Research and Innovation](#) are eligible to apply.

Can a Hungarian entity apply to this Call?

Hungarian entities can apply to this Call. For successfully evaluated applications if these measures set out in the [Council Implementing Decision \(EU\) 2022/2506](#) are not lifted at the time of the decision on the grant award, the concerned Hungarian entities would be found ineligible to receive Union funding. For more information, please refer to the [Funding and Tenders Portal FAQ](#) on Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/2506.



What types of projects is the Call looking for?

As part of the first call, three types of projects will be supported. These reflect different stages of an institution's reform journey, namely: 1. knowledge exchange (teaming projects), 2. piloting (institutional pilot projects), 3. paving the way for a lasting change (institutional change projects). Their description is provided in the Call text along with examples.

What is the upper limit of co-applicants for teaming calls?

A maximum of three applicants can team up for Teaming Projects.

A budget must be assigned to each co-applicants of the project to avoid further cascading the grant. It means that all co-applicants will sign the Sub-Grant Agreement (Template Sub-Grant Agreement available [here](#)). The budget for the Teaming Project will be shared between the co-applicants. Applicants enjoy full autonomy in deciding on details of budget distribution across partners.

Apart from the Teaming Projects, are the institutional pilot projects and institutional change projects mono-beneficiary?

Yes, institutional pilot projects and institutional change projects are mono-beneficiary and to be conducted by a single organisation.

What is the optimal granularity in the applicant profiles?

Institutions. Faculty-level institutional pilot calls are possible but, in such cases, the institution needs to be formally the applicant.



Can University Alliances apply to this Call and are they eligible for Teaming Projects?

This Call is designed to fund projects that are deeply anchored in the context of a specific institution. However, if the organisation is compliant with the eligibility type of organisation, namely the last type "*Other relevant non-for-profit organisations that implement some form of research assessment*", and have a legal entity, then they can apply for instance as part of teaming projects. In such cases, applicants will have to specify how their contributions will be implemented in a concrete university.

Are Working Groups or National Chapters entitled to apply?

The CoARA Boost cascade funding is not a funding schema designed for Working Groups and National Chapters. Individuals who are contributors or Co-chairs of a Working Group are encouraged to apply in their organisational capacity and institutional affiliation. Instead of Working Groups preparing joint applications in the capacity of the WG, our recommendation is to implement or pilot their outputs(s) in the context of a specific organisation.

How can an institution apply to this Call?

Via the SmartSimple Platform. More details are available in the guidelines for applicants in the Technical Guidelines section.

3. Questions on the proposals and the application process.

How long should the proposal be?

See Annex 2 – maximum 5 pages all included, (i.e., figures, tables, charts, etc.), font-size Arial 11.



Who can set up the project proposal in the online submission system? Do project coordinators need to be scientists, or can they be technical or administrative workers?

Technical, administrative and professional services are welcome to submit a proposal provided that their activities and outputs are to be realised within the context of a specific institution. Please note that by applying to this Call, you have to make sure that the leadership of the organisation or the academic staff in charge of reforming assessment processes have guaranteed and demonstrated the willingness to concur with that project or to commit to it in the longer term.

What are the expected deliverables?

Successful applicants will implement research assessment reform efforts within their own institutions. Besides, successful applicants are expected to produce a final report on how institutional changes had been implemented and what are the lessons learned. They are also expected to participate in two knowledge-sharing events organised specifically for them. Example activities are listed in the call text. Successful applications will be benchmarked against their work plans.

Will applicants be able to modify their application after the submission?

No.

Can an institution submit more than one application?

No, we will accept only one application per institution.



Can a successful project for the first Call reapply for the second Call, for example with a pilot project in phase 1, could we be part of a team application in phase 2?

To ensure a rich and diverse pool of funded projects and organisations involved, successful applicants from the first Call cannot apply for the second Call. So, a successful project selected in the First Call cannot be part of a Teaming project for the second Call.

4. Questions related to the evaluation process.

What happens after proposals are submitted?

All applications will be assessed by a review panel composed of experts in research assessment, set up by the CoARA Secretariat. The review panels will assess applications submitted to the type of project that falls within their policy and/or research expertise.

What are the criteria for evaluating proposals?

See Annex 3.

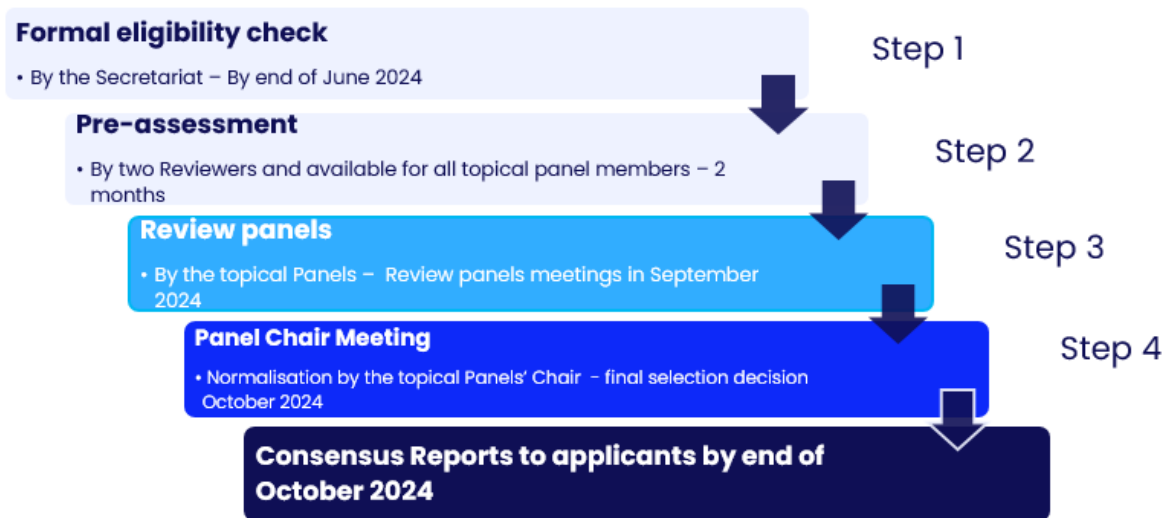
Three criteria:

- Alignment with the vision of the [Agreement](#)
- Expected impact and sustainability of the reform process, how it leads to institutional change
- Feasibility and quality of the proposed work plan and outcomes/deliverables within the indicated timeframe and proposed budget.
-

How much time does it take for the evaluation process?

The Evaluation process will be open from the cut-off date on the 26th of June 2024 to the announcement of results by the end of October 2024. For more details, please refer to the evaluation timeline below:





How the feedback to applicants will be communicated?

The panel members will produce a consensus report for each application, summarising the panel discussions. Narrative comments (not scores) from the consensus reports will be communicated to the applicants.

5. Questions related to the funding.

What is the maximum Grant amount?

The maximum grant amount depends on the type of Project you are applying for:

Types of projects	Maximum grant amount	Maximum project duration
1. Teaming projects	40 k€	1 year
2. Institutional pilot projects	30 k€	1 year
3. Institutional change projects	60 k€	1 year

For the Teaming Projects, is the maximum grant to be allocated per institution or will this amount be divided by the number of institutions in the proposal?

For the Teaming Projects, the 40k€ grant is the total maximum grant amount per project. Each of the co-applicants will have to claim a proportion of that total budget. The budget distribution between the co-applicants is to be defined within the application.

When do selected projects receive the funding?

After the signature of the Sub Grant Agreement by both Parties (ESF and successful applicants), the successful applicants will receive 70% of the total Project budget within a month.

The remaining budget will be distributed once the Final report has been validated by the Secretariat, within a month. More information on the Distributing budget can be found in the Sub-Grant Agreement (Article 5.2).

Grant management Timeline :



Can we use the grant for subcontracting?

Subcontracting is strictly prohibited for core/essential tasks of the projects. If the main tasks of your project are software development or video production outsources these costs are not eligible.

How much time does my organisation have to sign the sub-grant agreement?

Once your project is selected, your organisation will have a month to sign the Sub-Grant Agreement. Please note that the Sub Grant Agreement cannot be amended, the project timing and deadlines will be the same for all the selected projects.

Who should sign the Sub Grant Agreement?

The Sub Grant Agreement shall be signed by the official signatory of your institution, the Dean, the Director or the person legally competent to sign on behalf of the organisation.

What are the Knowledge Exchange events?

These online events are organised for the Projects selected. All successful applicants of this first round of Cascade funding will be invited to explore synergies, to discuss possibly overreaching matters in order to help them in their implementation. The Second Knowledge Exchange event will be more focused on the Lessons Learned. Participation in both Knowledge Exchange events is expected as part of the milestones defined in the Sub Grant Agreement.

