

EUA WORKSHOP SERIES: NATIONAL PERSPECTIVES ON
REFORMING RESEARCH ASSESSMENT

Irish perspective on reforming research assessment

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Organised by the Irish Universities Association, 17 November 2022



Outline



Welcome and introduction



The Agreement and CoARA

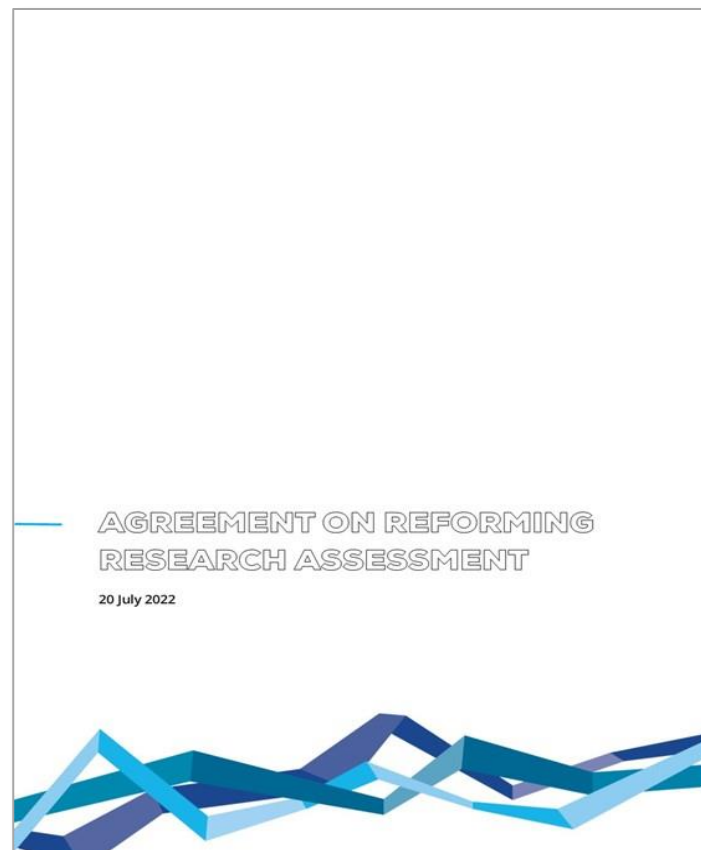


What is in it for universities and research institutes?



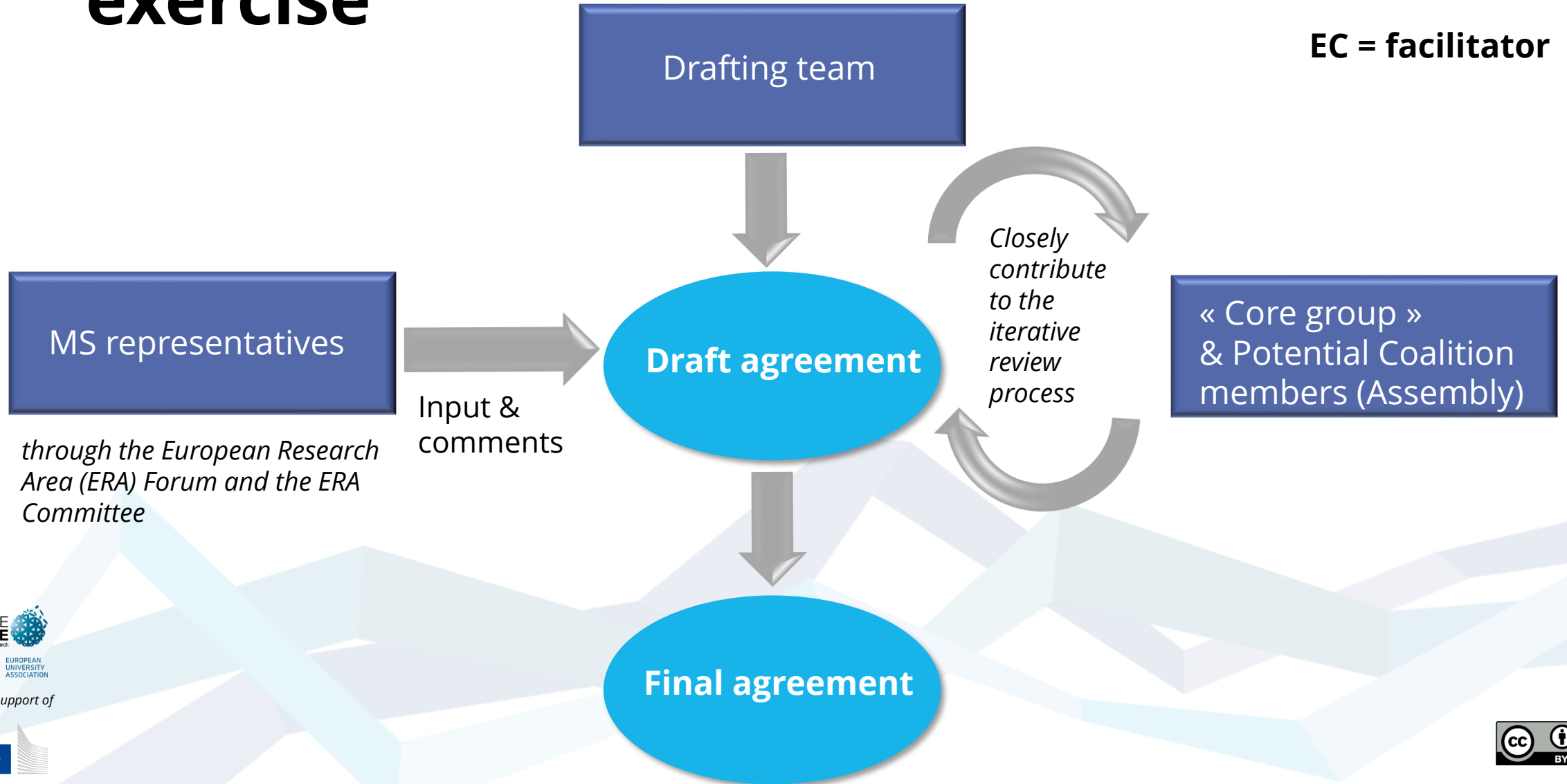
Closing remarks

PUBLICATION OF THE AGREEMENT ON 20 JULY



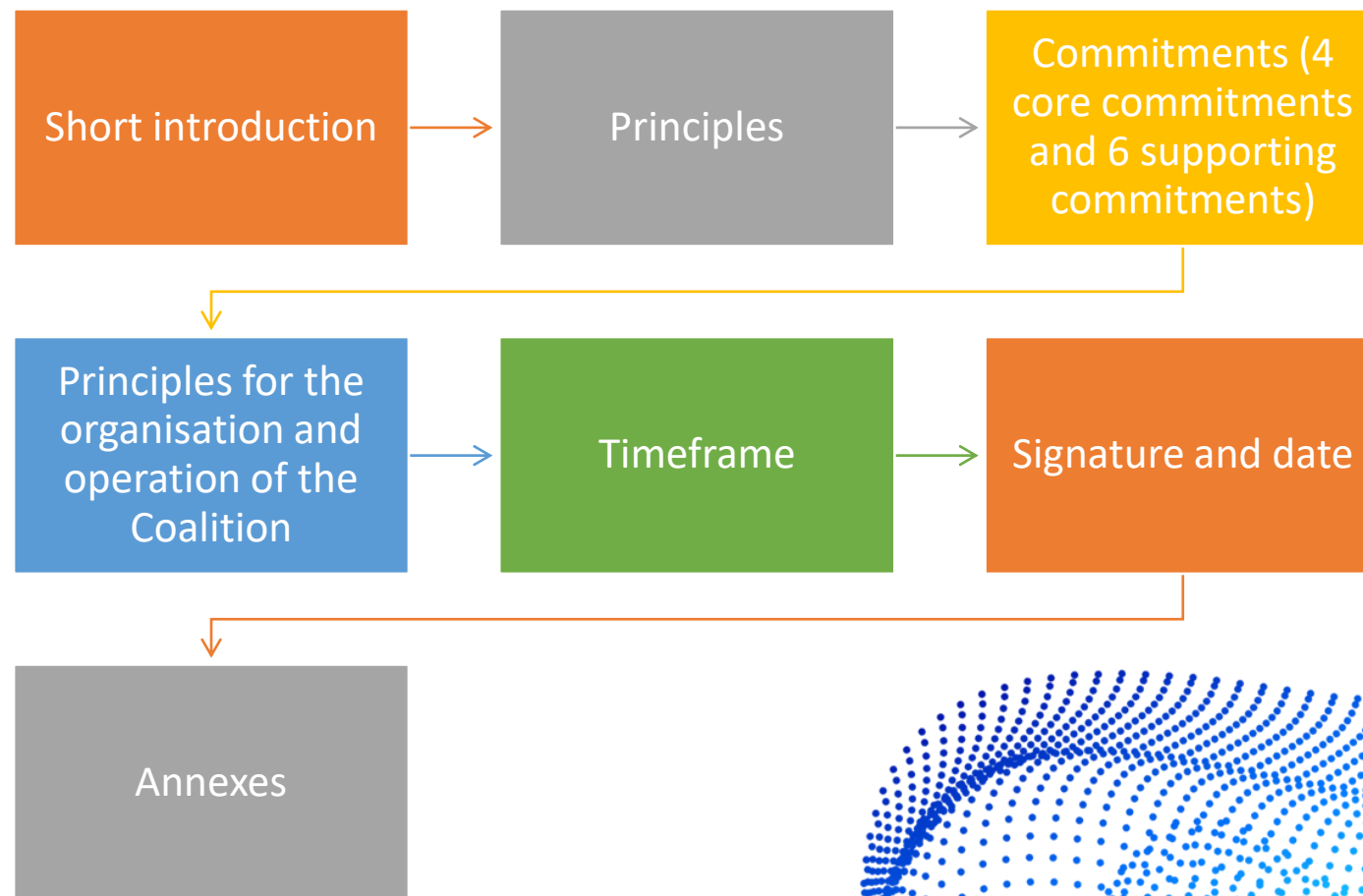
<https://coara.eu/agreement/the-agreement-full-text/>

Drafting an Agreement, a co-creation exercise





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



Introduction

As signatories of this Agreement, we agree on the need for reform of research assessment practices.

Vision: The assessment of research, researchers and research organisations recognises the diverse outputs, practices and activities that maximise the quality and impact of research. [...]

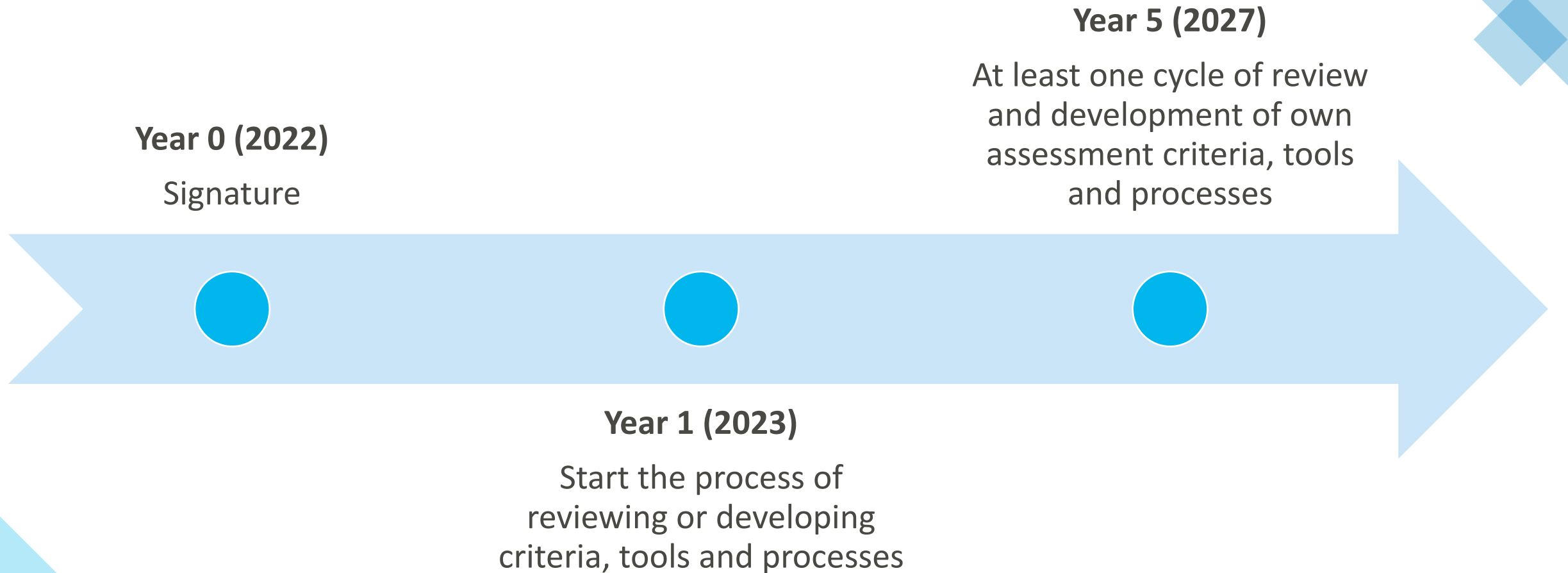
Scope: RPOs and research units, research projects, individual researchers and research teams. [...]

This Agreement establishes a **common direction** for research assessment reform practices, while respecting organisations' **autonomy**.

We commit to realise reform through a **coalition** of RFOs, RPOs, national/regional assessment authorities and agencies, as well as associations of the above organisations, learned societies and other relevant organisations, that is **global in scope**.

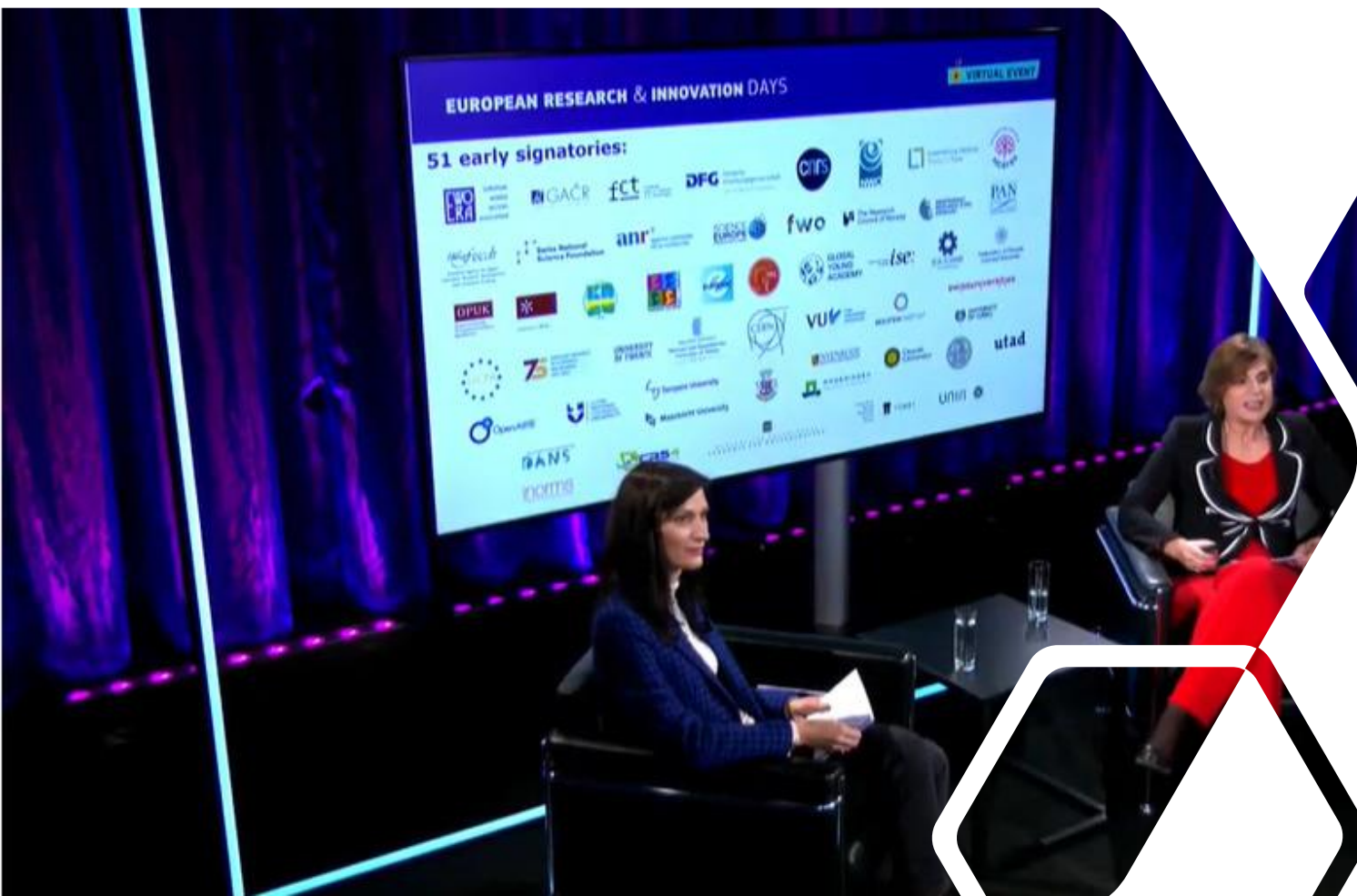
We will **work together** to enable **systemic reform** on the basis of **common principles** within an **agreed timeframe**, and to facilitate **exchanges of information and mutual learning** between all those willing to improve research assessment practices.

Timeframe



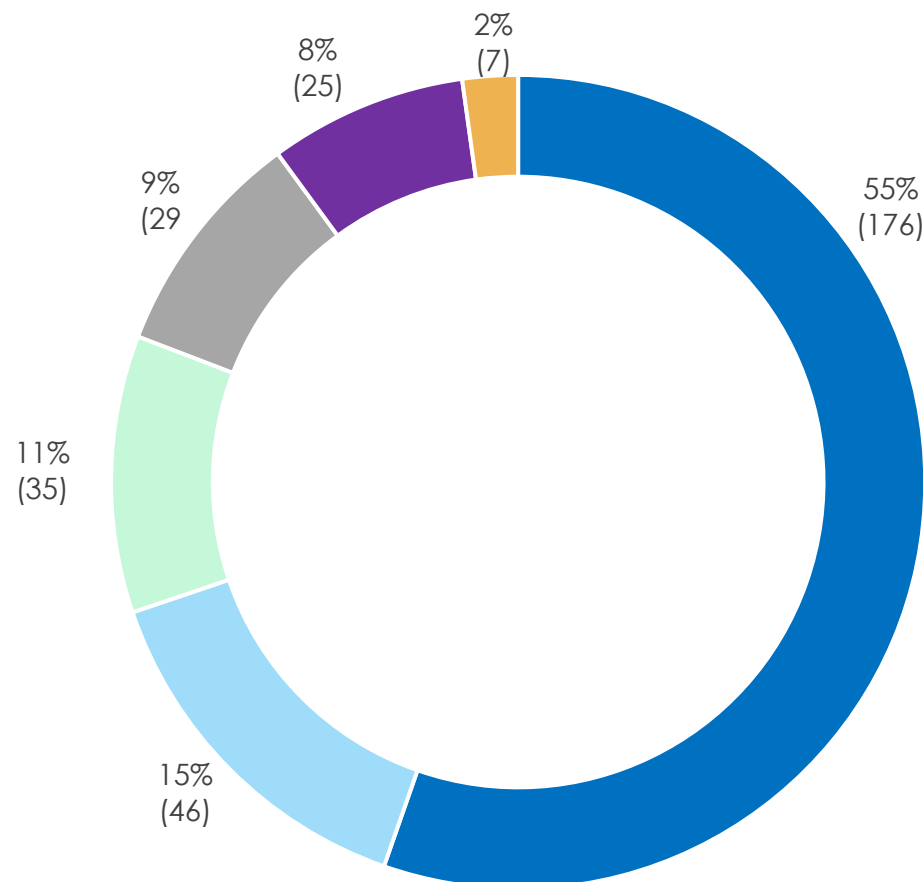
NB: Organisations can sign the Agreement at any point in time beyond 2022. The timeline for organisations signing after 2022 will be adjusted accordingly.

OPENING OF THE AGREEMENT FOR SIGNATURES



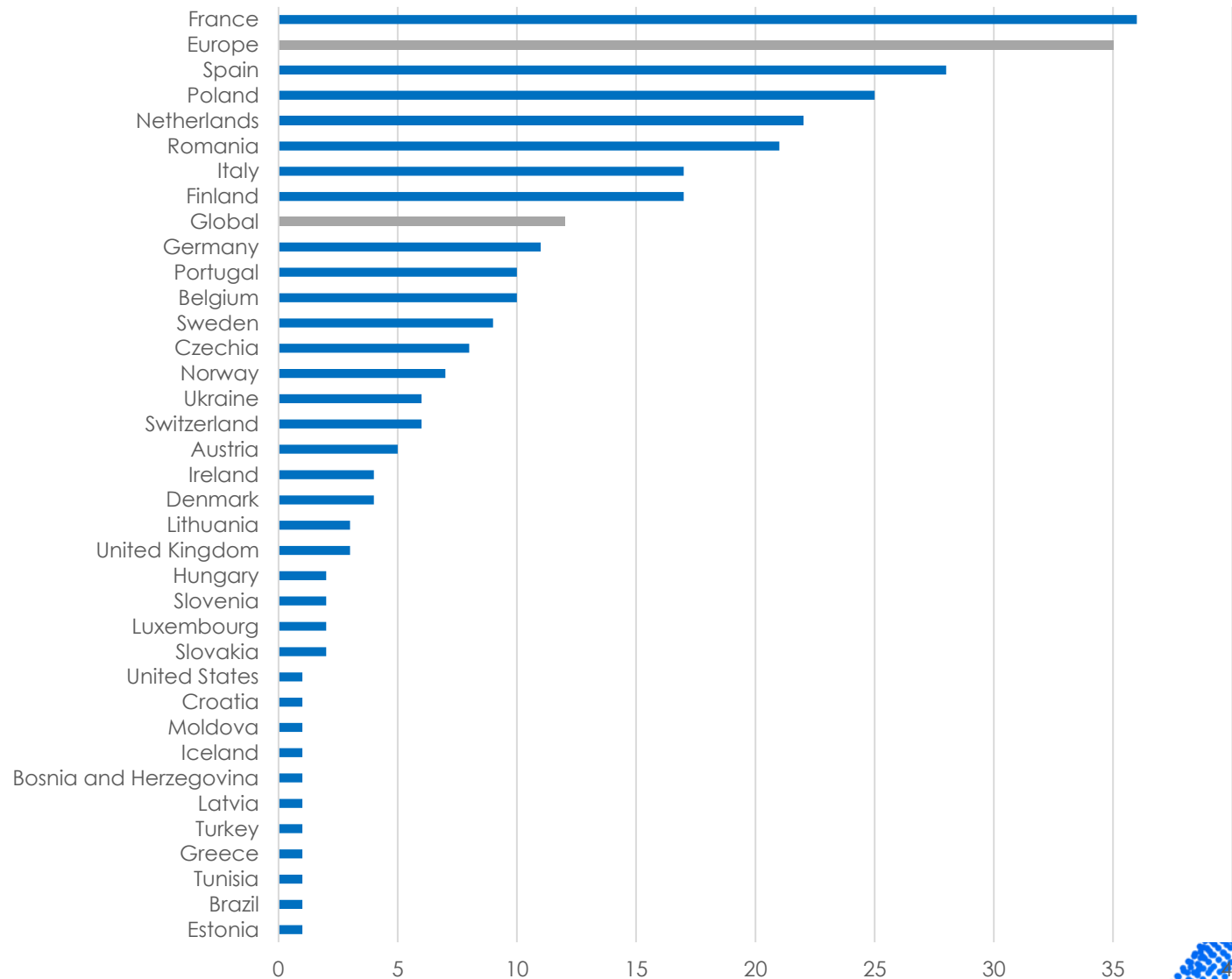
SIGNATORIES UPDATE

318
signatories



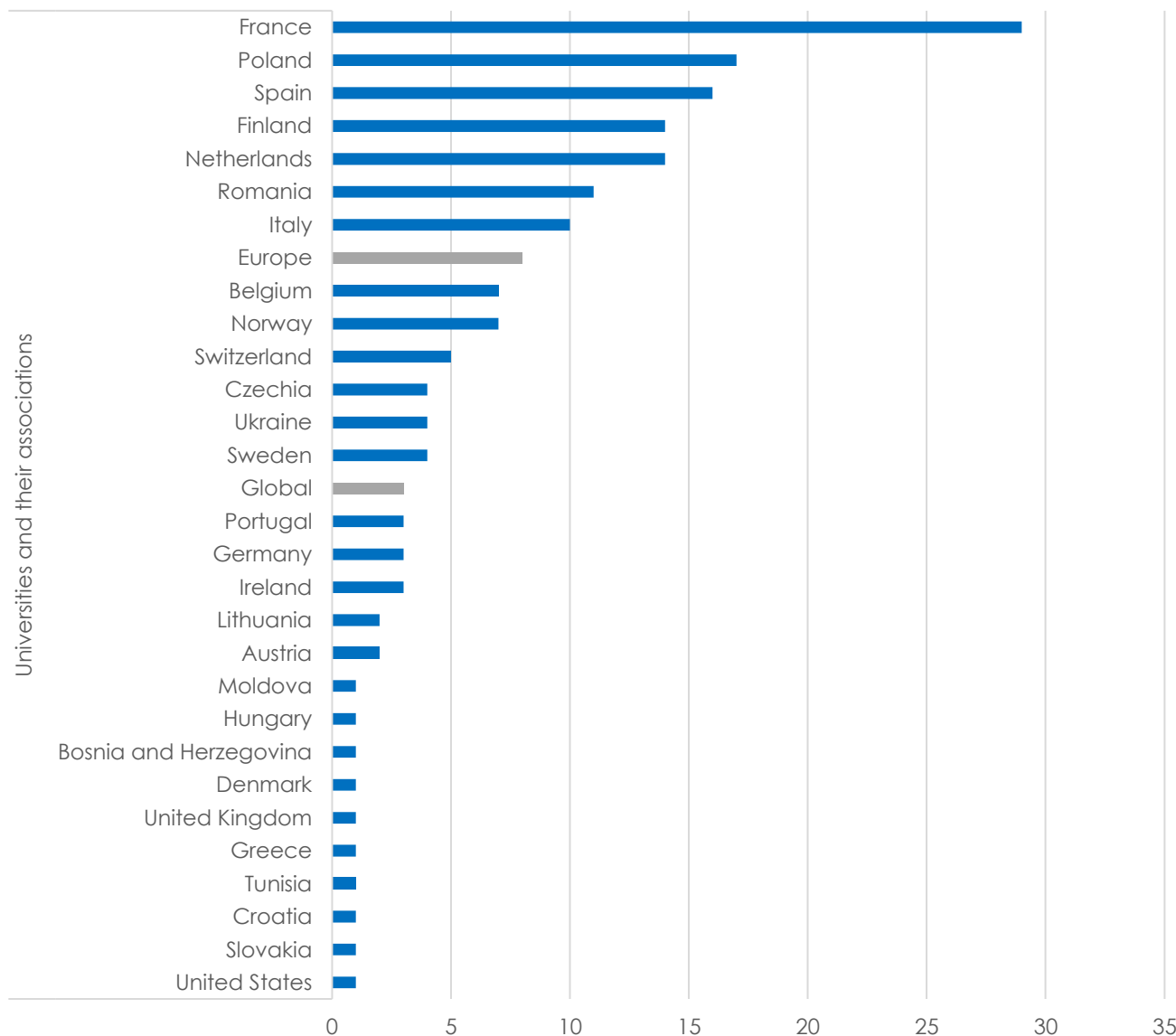
- Universities and their associations
- Research centres, research infrastructures, and their associations
- Public or private research funding organisations and their associations
- Academies, learned societies, and their associations, and associations of researchers
- Other relevant non-for-profit organisations involved with research assessment, and their associations
- National/regional authorities or agencies that implement some form of research assessment and their associations

SIGNATORIES – COUNTRY DISTRIBUTION



SIGNATORIES – UNIVERSITIES AND THEIR ASSOCIATIONS

156 universities
10 NRCs
10 other univ networks
(176 in total)



THE COALITION GOVERNANCE AND NEXT STEPS

Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment

Our vision is that the assessment of research, researchers and research organisations 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.

PRINCIPLES GUIDING THE CONDUCT AND EVOLUTION OF THE COALITION

- **Openness** – to signatories of agreement; globally; accessible outputs
- **Responsibility** – general assembly responsible for rules and procedures of operation
- **Collaboration and mutual support** – supportive environment; mutual learning and collaboration; also with other initiatives
- **Inspiration** – inspire organisations inside and outside the Coalition
- **Commitment and autonomy** – supports implementation of commitments; respect autonomy
- **Voluntary and community-driven** – volunteer members; driving force
- **Dialogue** – in research and academic communities and beyond; representation
- **Inclusiveness** – global; different levels of progress
- **Trust** – self-assessment shared publicly
- **Funding** – voluntary in-kind; potential cash contributions from members
- **Non-profit** – no commercial activities; open and re-usable outputs

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)
- **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
- **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

All documents available at coara.eu/resources/

[Call for candidacies](#) for SB, Chair and Vice-Chair(s) available

MEMBERSHIP

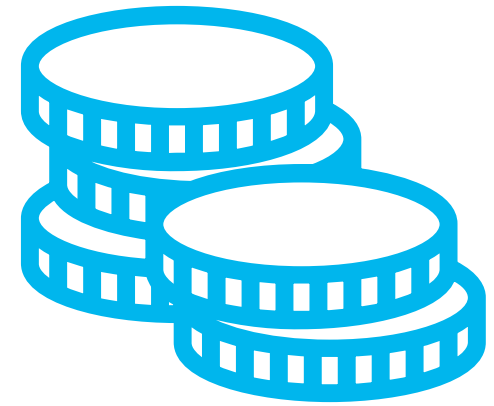
- Organisations that have **signed the Agreement** on Reforming Research Assessment, and that are:
 - Universities, and their associations;
 - Research centres, research infrastructures, and their associations;
 - Academies, learned societies, and their associations, and associations of researchers;
 - Public or private research funding organisations and their associations;
 - National/regional authorities or agencies that implement some form of research assessment and their associations; and
 - Other relevant **not-for-profit** organisations involved with research assessment, and their associations.
- Membership **approved by the Steering Board** (Interim Chairs before the Constitutive Assembly)
- Members **may leave** the Coalition at any time

WORK OF THE COALITION

- **Working Groups** operating as '**communities of practice**' and offering 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, inter-disciplinary field, thematic area
 - "**Institution communities**", on topics specific to a given type of organisation
 - "**National communities**", on issues specific to different types of organisations of a given country or group of countries
- **Other complementary means** like workshops, webinars, (annual) conferences, seminars, trainings, etc.

A word on coalition funding

- *Support to the operation of the Coalition will consist primarily of **voluntary in-kind contributions** from its members, as well as **funding obtained from research funding organisations and/or cash contributions from members** (cf. FAQ).*
- Options for more detailed funding models are currently being prepared .
- **Initial discussion** on funding model for the coalition took place during the 4th Stakeholder Assembly.
- Specific options for funding models will be submitted for approval during the Constitutive Assembly.



Is this Agreement legally binding?

- 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.



TIMELINE

- **20 July** – Publication of the Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment
- **20 October** – Publication on the CoARA website of finalised Governance Document, Rules of Procedure and Code of Conduct
- **20 October** – Publication on the CoARA website of call for candidacies for Chair, Vice-Chairs and Steering Board members
- **17 November** – Deadline for signature of the Agreement in order to be invited to participate in the Constitutive Assembly
- **17 November** – Deadline for candidacies for Chair, Vice-Chairs and Steering Board members
- **24 November** – Sharing of information on candidates, by the Interim Secretariat
- **1 December** – Constitutive Assembly meeting (online), chaired by the Interim Chairs until the Chair is elected

Universities needed to bring about change



It is crucial that universities are actively involved in the reform of research assessment



Universities should make an informed decision on this process



Universities should be properly represented in the future coalition and its governing bodies



Only a substantial number of universities joining the coalition will guarantee that the interests of the sector are taken into account in the reform process

Thank you for your attention

