



INAF

ISTITUTO NAZIONALE
DI ASTROFISICA

INAF & CoARA

Open Science Working Group



Outline

CoARA – Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment

ARRA – Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment

Italia – participation & status

INAF – steps to perform



CoARA



The **Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA)** is a collective of organisations committed to **reforming the methods and processes** by which research, researchers, and research organisations are evaluated. Current research assessment methods **rely heavily on publication-based metrics** such as citation counts, and **often fail to recognise the wide array of contributions** made by researchers.



CoARA vision



The vision of **CoARA** is to recognise the diverse outputs, practices, and activities that maximise the quality and impact of research through an **emphasis on qualitative judgement in assessment, for which peer review is essential, supported by the responsible use of quantitative indicators.**



The Agreement

CoARA vision builds on the Agreement (**Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment - ARRA**), where **research assessment** encompasses:

- the assessment of research performing organisations and research units
- the assessment of research projects
- the assessment of individual researchers and research teams

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





Principles

- overarching conditions
 - comply with ethics and integrity rules and practices
 - safeguard freedom of scientific research
 - respect the autonomy of research organisations
 - ensure independence and transparency of
 - data
 - infrastructure
 - criterianecessary for research assessment
- assessment criteria and processes
 - quality and impact
 - diversity, inclusiveness and collaboration





Core commitments

1. **Recognise the diversity of contributions** to, and careers in, research in accordance with the needs and 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 rankings** of research organisations in research assessment





Supporting commitments

5. **Commit resources to reforming research assessment** as is needed to achieve the organisational changes
6. **Review and develop research assessment criteria, tools and processes** (with the direct involvement of researchers at all career stages, review and develop criteria, tools and processes for the assessment of research projects, research teams and researchers that are adapted to their context of application)
7. **Raise awareness of research assessment reform** and provide transparent communication, guidance, and training on assessment criteria and processes as well as their use
8. **Exchange practices and experiences** to enable mutual learning within and beyond the Coalition
9. **Communicate progress made** on adherence to the Principles and implementation of the Commitments
10. **Evaluate practices, criteria and tools** based on solid evidence and the state-of-the-art in research on research, and make data openly available for evidence gathering and research





CoARA in Italy

- 72 members of the Coalition (out of 824)
- 76 signatories of the Agreement (out of 953)
- 58 interested in engaging the work of the National Chapter

Among them, besides Universities, other institutes and research organisations, the more similar to INAF that are part of all of the above sets are:

- CNR
- INFN
- INGV
- OGS

Plus ANVUR, as a special case.

INAF just joined CoARA (signatory & member role) but hasn't (yet?) engaged with the National Chapter. Agreement signature on 28 November 2025.



Timeframe

Within **ONE YEAR** of signing, CoARA members prepare and publish a roadmap with an accompanying action plan for their reform agenda.

CoARA members periodically publish their progress and are invited to actively participate in the activities of the Working Groups and in the establishment of National Chapters.

Within **five years**, CoARA members commit to completing at least one monitoring cycle of the new assessment criteria, processes and/or tools they have developed.





Suggested step process

1. Allocate **resources** (capacity/budget) to actively engage in the reform journey
2. Explain **how you have started the process of reviewing or developing** criteria, tools and processes in line with the core commitments
3. **Evaluate current assessment practices** in terms of alignment with the Principles and Commitments and re-evaluate at fixed intervals
4. **Engage those being assessed** in the development and design of assessment criteria and processes
5. **Develop existing and design new assessment** criteria, tools, and processes with assessors and those that are assessed including:
 - A. ***diverse outputs beyond journal publications and in different languages***
 - B. ***diverse practices*** (robustness, openness, transparency, and inclusiveness of research)
 - C. ***diverse activities*** (teaching, leadership, supervision, training, and mentoring)



Suggested step process

6. **Interrogate developed and new approaches** by working with assessors and those that are assessed
7. **Implement developed and new assessment** criteria, tools, and processes according to the Principles and Commitments
8. **Evaluate developed and new assessment** criteria, tools, and processes
9. **Share data / information** within and beyond the Coalition
10. **Coordinate with other organisations** at national and international level
11. **Continue to evolve assessment** criteria, tools, and processes based on learning from own evaluations and those of others



INAF Open Science Working Group

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References & links

CoARA website: <https://www.coara.org/>

CoARA Italia website: <https://www.coara-italia.it/>

CoARA-National Chapter Italy: <https://www.coara.org/national-chapters/coara-national-chapter-italy/>

CoARA Collection: <https://www.coara.org/collection/>

The Action Plans of Italian Organizations and Institutions: <https://www.coara-italia.it/risultati/piani-dazione/>

