Reforming research assessment – perspectives from the RCN

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ARRA addresses aspects that the RCN has been working with for many years e.g., research integrity, ethics and valuing open science practice.

Ongoing work and initiatives that the RCN is involved in is in line with NOR-CAM and the Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment (e.g., The DORA, Plan S and cOAlition S, Science Europe and the Global Research Council).

Reforming research assessment – national and international alignment
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• We need principles and procedures for research assessment that are aligned with the realities and practices of research activity today

• Research funders will have different needs in assessment processes than e.g., a research institutions

• The Agreement emphasizes the autonomy of research institutions, but it is important to ensure that we are well aligned
What has the RCN done so far?

• Panel assessment

➢ panels are asked to assess the project itself first and foremost. The CV and merits of the PI are only a part of the evaluation
➢ panels not to put weight on the quantity of publications, but the look at the list of the 10 publications the researchers themselves list to be the best ones
➢ JIF is not to be used!
➢ other research outputs than publications can be included in the CVs
What has the RCN done so far?

From 2023 – open science practices are included in the Impact criteria –

➢ Academic impact
“The extent to which the planned outputs of the project are openly accessible to ensure reusability of the research outputs, enhance reproducibility and address important present and/or future scientific challenges.”

➢ And communication and exploitation:
“Appropriate open science practices are implemented as an integral part of the proposed project to ensure open sharing and wide distribution of research outputs.”
We need to work on the “tools” together – nationally and internationally

The RCN is considering e.g.

- More automated CV formats
- Narrative CVs to allow applicants to emphasize important research outputs and competence rather than the venue of publication
- Go through how we undertake evaluations of institutions and disciplines with responsible use of metrics

But need to address:

- How to find good ways to make more qualitative assessments without making them too time-consuming and resource-intensive?
- Important to ensure comprehensible and predictable assessment criteria, especially for young researchers
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