



Reforming research assessment

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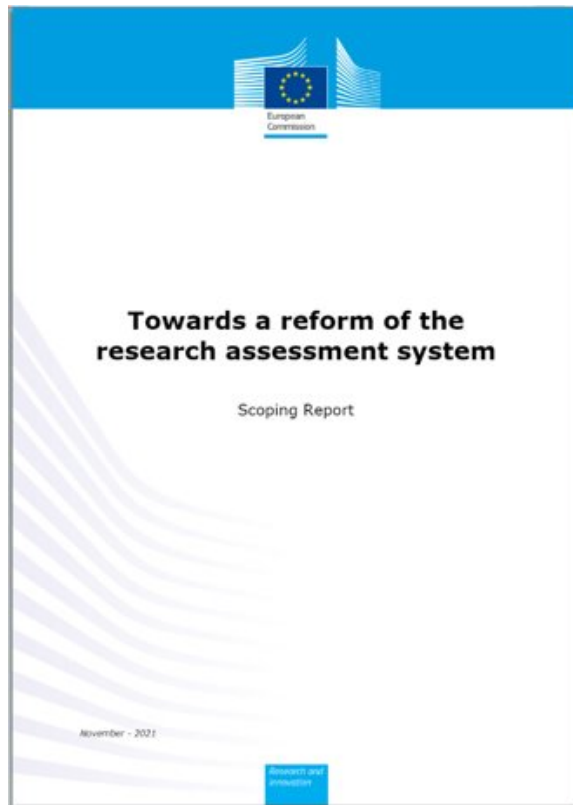
Why do we need to reform research assessment?

- The research process is in (digital) transition
 - Less linear, more collaborative and open, diversity of outputs; team science
- The system currently used to assess research and researchers is not fit for this new reality
 - Rewards quantity and publication venue rather than quality; does not reward sharing, collaboration and outputs other than publications
- A reform is needed to increase the efficiency, impact and social responsibility of research
 - Requires a system and cultural change, involving institutions, funders and researchers

Objectives

- Reform the assessment system of research proposals, researchers, research units and research institutions to **increase the quality, performance, and impact** of research.
- Towards a research assessment system that:
 - Promotes **qualitative judgement with peer-review**, supported by a more responsible use of quantitative indicators;
 - Considers the value and impact of a **diversity of research outputs**, beyond just publications: datasets, software, protocols, patents etc.
 - Rewards the **diversity of tasks and roles of researchers**: data curation and management, peer-review, mentoring and supervision, leadership, science communication and citizen engagement etc.
 - Supports **team science** and incentivizes **open collaboration** and early knowledge and **data sharing**.

Report published in November 2021



- **Summary of consultations** with a large group of stakeholders
- **Objectives, principles and actions** that could be agreed between the organisations responsible for the assessment of research projects, researchers, research units and research institutions
- **Way forward** for implementation

<https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2777/707440>

A way forward - A stakeholder-owned initiative

A **Coalition** of funders, research performing organisations (including universities) and their associations, national/regional assessment authorities and agencies, as well as learned societies, and other organisations all willing to take the lead in reforming the current research assessment system. **2 steps:**

- **Agreement** on **principles, commitments** guiding changes and **timeline** for implementation (**we're almost there!**)
- **Coalition**: **Joint ownership and implementation** of the initiative by the participating organisations (**Fall 2022**).
- Clear political support: priority action in the ERA 2022-24 agenda and Council Conclusions 10th June. **The EC acting as facilitator.**
- **Respect to the autonomy of involved organisations is a key element.**

Call for interest: a growing response

- Published on 16 December 2021
- As of today, **over 330 organisations** declared they are committed to the principles in the Scoping Report and have expressed interest.

These include:

- 121 Universities, 22 Universities associations and 10 European Universities Alliances;
- 42 Research centers/institutes, 4 Research infrastructures;
- 23 Public funders, 4 Private funders, 2 Funders associations;
- 5 National/regional evaluation agencies, 3 Ministries, and 2 Regional authorities;
- 20 Academies, learned societies, researchers associations;
- 8 National reproducibility networks;
- 64 other organisations (research management, standardisation, consultancy, etc.).

The call remains open for organisations to join: [europa.eu/!gy8BU3](https://europea.eu/!gy8BU3)

Draft Agreement (version of 13 May 2022)

- **Introduction:** sets the common vision and the means to realise it (a stakeholder-driven Coalition)
- **Signatories agree to:**
 - Base actions on common **Principles** (from Scoping Report)
 - Implement **Commitments** for change, incl. timeframe for implementation
 - **Operate and organise the Coalition along some common principles**
- **Annexes (supporting materials, non prescriptive):**
 - Preamble (rationale and motivation for reform)
 - Glossary
 - Reform journey
 - Toolbox

Global dimension

- Initiated as an European initiative, it has a clear global scope:
 - Crucial to avoid creating incompatibilities and to facilitate mobility and scientific exchange
 - Strong support to the uptake of Open Science practices.
 - Many international or non Europe-based organisations have already joined.
 - The future coalition aims at cooperating with like-minded initiatives and organisations worldwide (e.g. DORA). Related discussions already happening with global partners (GRC, UNESCO ...)
 - Preliminary governance model largely inspired by RDA: community driven, inclusive, work-oriented and light on bureaucracy / reporting.

Thank you



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