

From self-evaluation to institutional change

checklists, case studies, and survey design for responsible research assessment in
the Age of AI

Webinar

Wednesday 15 April 2026; 12:00 to 13:30 UTC

14:00 to 15:30 CEST (Brussels time); 13:00 to 14:30 Lisbon; 15:00 to 16:30 Ankara; 15:00 to 16:30 Nairobi;

12:00 to 13:30 Dakar; 14:00 to 15:30 Pretoria

[Register here to participate](#)

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Title

From self-evaluation to institutional change: checklists, case studies, and survey design for responsible research assessment in the Age of AI

Agenda

- *Welcome and framing of the workshop* – Ryan O'Connor [5 minutes]
- *Why self-evaluations now? Role of CoARA ERIP* [CoARA-ERIP Checklist for self-evaluation in research assessment](#) & [CoARA-ERIP Position Paper on 'Advancing the ethical arc: integrating research assessment into the university curriculum'](#) – Francis P. Crawley [10 minutes]
- *Perspectives on implementing self-evaluation* [5-8 minutes each]
 - TOBB ETÜ – Prof Elif Ekmekçi
 - UCP – Assoc. Prof Mara De Souza Freitas
 - *Other speakers to be confirmed*
 - *Case Study template* – Ryan O'Connor [5 minutes]
- *Moderated discussion with participants* – Francis P. Crawley [30+ minutes]
- Questions from organisers to participants
- Open discussion with participants
- *Closing remarks and next steps* - Alexandra Delipalta and Elif Ekmekçi [5 minutes]

Objectives

Principal objective

To advance the implementation of the CoARA-ERIP and CoARA BOOST SE4RA initiatives by convening an international exchange focused on three practical instruments of reform in responsible research assessment, namely the use of self-evaluation checklists, the development of case studies, and the design and piloting of a bilingual survey, in order to strengthen ethics, research integrity, transparency, and institutional learning across researchers, research units, and institutions.

Supporting objectives

1. To operationalise the CoARA-ERIP self-evaluation framework through SE4RA across four levels of research activity in support of responsible, qualitative, and context-sensitive research evaluation in data-intensive and AI-enabled environments:
 - individual researchers
 - research projects

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- research units
 - institutions
2. To facilitate peer learning and institutional exchange on how self-evaluation checklists can be applied in practice by students, researchers, faculty members, and institutional leadership as part of responsible research assessment reform.
 3. To develop and share structured case studies that document real-world experiences in implementing self-evaluation approaches to research assessment across disciplines, institutional settings, and career stages.
 4. To introduce and refine the design of a bilingual survey on self-evaluation practices, including discussion of methodological considerations, ethical review requirements, and potential international adaptation.
 5. To expand the SE4RA and CoARA-ERIP community of practice by connecting institutional pilots, peer learning, and international dialogue in preparation for the Brussels conference in June 2026 and the upcoming SE4RA workshops at TOBB ETÜ Ankara and UCP in Lisbon.

Abstract

Research assessment is undergoing a period of significant transformation. The increasing use of AI, data intensive research methods, digital research objects, and open science infrastructures is challenging older models of evaluation that rely heavily on narrow quantitative indicators and insufficient ethical reflection. At the same time, research institutions are under growing pressure to align their assessment practices with the commitments of the Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment and with broader expectations regarding research integrity, transparency, accountability, fairness, and societal value.

The CoARA Working Group on Ethics and Research Integrity Policy in Responsible Research Assessment for Data and Artificial Intelligence (ERIP) has been established to address these challenges by developing practical frameworks and tools that embed ethics and research integrity within emerging models of research evaluation. The working group has been advancing a comprehensive programme of work that includes an ethics centred self-evaluation framework for research assessment across four levels of activity, namely individual researchers, research projects, research units, and institutions. In parallel, the group has been developing complementary outputs including an ethics self-evaluation tool, a policy framework for ethical research assessment in the digital age, a glossary of key concepts, a digital tool, and educational materials that integrate responsible research assessment into university curricula.

Within this broader framework, the CoARA Boost SE4RA initiative provides a practical implementation pathway for testing and refining these approaches through institutional pilots and collaborative learning. The initiative brings together the Research Data Alliance Europe, the Universidade Católica Portuguesa (UCP), and TOBB University of Economics and Technology (TOBB ETÜ) to co-develop and pilot structured approaches to ethics-centred self-evaluation in research assessment. These activities focus on translating the CoARA-ERIP framework into operational tools that institutions can apply in their own governance, evaluation, and organisational learning processes.

This 90-minute webinar is organised as part of the CoARA-ERIP webinar series on the ethics of data and AI in research assessment and forms a central milestone in the SE4RA implementation phase. Building on the successful SE4RA kick off webinar held in November 2025, which attracted close to 300 registrations, the session will move the initiative from conceptual discussion towards practical application and institutional engagement.

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The webinar will focus on three concrete instruments that are currently being developed by CoARA-ERIP and tested within the SE4RA framework. These include the [CoARA-ERIP Checklist for self-evaluation in research assessment](#) designed for different actors in the research ecosystem, the preparation of structured case studies documenting institutional experiences with responsible research assessment reform, and the design and piloting of a bilingual survey intended initially for use in Türkiye and subsequently for broader international adaptation.

In doing so, the session will provide a platform for participants to explore how ethics-centred self-evaluation can support cultural and organisational change rather than simply functioning as a compliance exercise. It will present progress from TOBB ETÜ, including the development of guidance for students and faculty members, reflections on responsible use of AI in academic work, and the design and ethical review of the survey. It will also situate the planned focus groups and institutional engagement activities at the UCP within a broader comparative and international learning framework. This is further framed in the [CoARA-ERIP Position Paper on 'Advancing the ethical arc: integrating research assessment into the university curriculum'](#).

The webinar will also discuss the recent 'Workshop on Ethics and research integrity in AI research and research assessment' held online at the Hafr Al-Batin University, Saudi Arabia, Monday 6 April 2026 and steps toward the establishment of the Middle East Research Assessment Forum (MERAf). Also upcoming activities in Kenya, Uganda, Sudan, and Indonesia as well as the upcoming hybrid event 'Strengthening African science systems for sustainable development: responsible research assessment for AI-enabled open science, innovation, and partnerships' as part of 12th Session of the African Regional Forum for Sustainable Development (ARFSD 12); 28-30 April 2026, at the UNECA/UN Conference Centre adjacent to the African Union's Headquarters in central Addis Ababa <https://www.uneca.org/eca-events/arfsd2026>. It also contributes to the development of the 'Center for AI Capacity Building in Responsible Research, Responsible Assessment, and Responsible Publication in Science (CAI3R-science)', as part of the 'Global Network of Centres for Exchange and Cooperation on AI Capacity Building (AICBC)' supported by the United Nations Office for Digital and Emerging Technologies (UN-ODET).

A central aim of the webinar is to create convergence of the work of CoARA-ERIP, the SE4RA initiative, and SHARC across the RDA and together with the wider international community engaged in research assessment reform. Participants will examine how self-evaluation tools can be implemented across different organisational levels, how case studies can capture disciplinary and institutional diversity, and how survey evidence can inform evidence-based improvements in research evaluation practices.

In this sense, the webinar serves both as a practical working session and as a strategic bridge between the normative frameworks being developed within CoARA-ERIP and the institutional implementation efforts of SE4RA. It also contributes to the broader international agenda on responsible research assessment in the Age of AI by linking ethics, research integrity, and institutional self-reflection with concrete mechanisms for policy learning and organisational change. The discussion will also help prepare the ground for the next milestones of the initiative, including the Brussels conference on 16 June 2026 and the SE4RA workshops planned at TOBB ETÜ in Ankara and the UCP in Lisbon.

Expected audience

This webinar is intended for researchers and PhD candidates at all career stages, university leadership, deans, department heads, research managers, research offices, ethics committee members, librarians, funders, policymakers, and members of CoARA, RDA, and related communities working on research assessment reform, open science, data governance, ethics, and responsible AI. It also suits institutions interested in piloting or adapting self-evaluation

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tools and survey instruments in multilingual and cross-national contexts. This audience profile is consistent with the SE4RA launch webinar and the project's engagement strategy across researchers, projects, units, and institutions.

Expected outcomes

The webinar is expected to produce five main outcomes:

1. Participants will gain a clear and up-to-date understanding of how the SE4RA initiative is moving from conceptual framing to practical implementation through the coordinated use of checklists, case studies, and survey instruments.
2. The session will generate substantive feedback on the current and planned use of the self-evaluation tools, including their relevance for students, faculty members, research units, and institutional leadership, and their connection to the governance of AI in academic and scientific work.
3. The webinar will help establish a shared approach for documenting case studies that capture the real-world application of the checklist across different disciplines, levels of seniority, and institutional settings, with RDA Europe coordinating further development.
4. It will support the refinement of the bilingual survey by inviting comments from international participants on design, relevance, and transferability, while reinforcing the need for ethics committee review and responsible evidence gathering before broader deployment.
5. The webinar will strengthen the SE4RA and CoARA-ERIP community of practice and prepare the ground for the subsequent milestones of the project, notably the Brussels conference on 16 June 2026 and the workshops at TOBB ETÜ in Ankara and UCP in Lisbon.
6. The webinar also helps to prepare the RDA Community Webinar Meeting on 'Engaging the RDA Community following the EOSC-Future/RDA AIDV & SE4RA Joint Birds of a Feather Session at the RDA Plenary 26', Engaging UNESCO, the UN, and UN-ODET in advancing responsible research assessment across the RDA community, Friday 19 June 2026 13:00 to 14:30 UTC (14:00 to 15:30 CEST).