

# COALITION FOR ADVANCING RESEARCH ASSESSMENT

**CELEBRATING 3 YEARS OF COARA: COLLECTIVELY  
SHAPING THE FUTURE OF RESEARCH ASSESSMENT**

**COARA PROGRAMME MANGER MATTHIAS GIROD**

**5.12.2025**



Funded by  
the European Union



# CoARA: a shared direction and harmonised lines of action



Brings together all actor groups relevant to the reform, acting as a coalition of doers



Implement the ARRA commitment within an agreed time frame and share progress



Signatories of the Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment (ARRA) do not only advocate for change, they also commit to actively drive reform in research assessment.



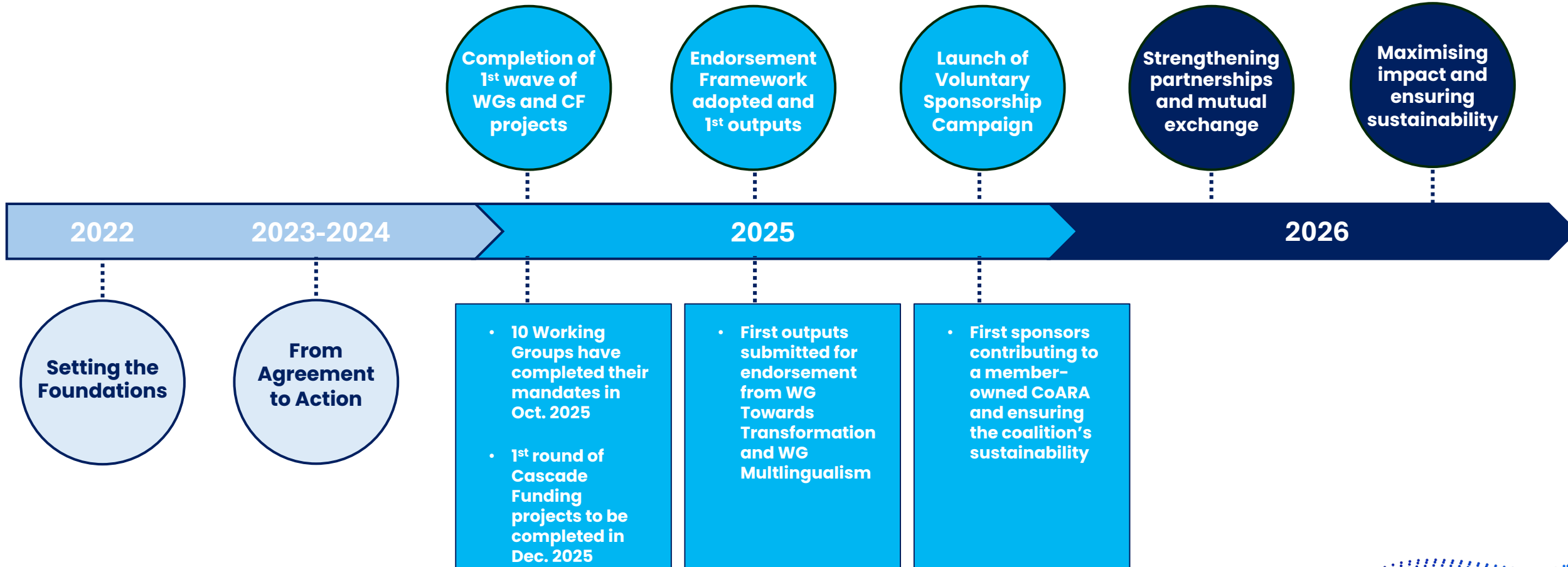
908 signatories  
787 members



3rd birthday  
Early impact, policy changes on EU, National, institutional levels



# Celebrating 3 years of CoARA: from setting the foundation to implementation



# CoARA communities implementing RRA



# Marking 3 years of CoARA: our mechanisms

## Member organisations' individual commitments



- **787 members to date and growing coalition** with a corpus of Action plans
- Halfway towards the 5-year landmark
- Knowledge exchange events to make progress visible and foster synergies

## National Chapters for a diverse & coherent CoARA



- **19 and growing – welcome Slovenia, The Netherlands and Denmark in 2026**
- First report from Spanish NC published
- Platforms for establishing synergies & taking ownership of national reforms beyond institutional change

## Working Groups address topics central to reform and develop tools for RRA



- **First 10 WGs completed their mandates**
- Second wave of WGs launched in Sep. 2025
- Consensus-building around outputs via endorsement (first Type B output endorsed and first Type A output under review)
- Streamlining tools and showcasing for broad dissemination

## Cascade Funding projects catalyse reform & institutional change



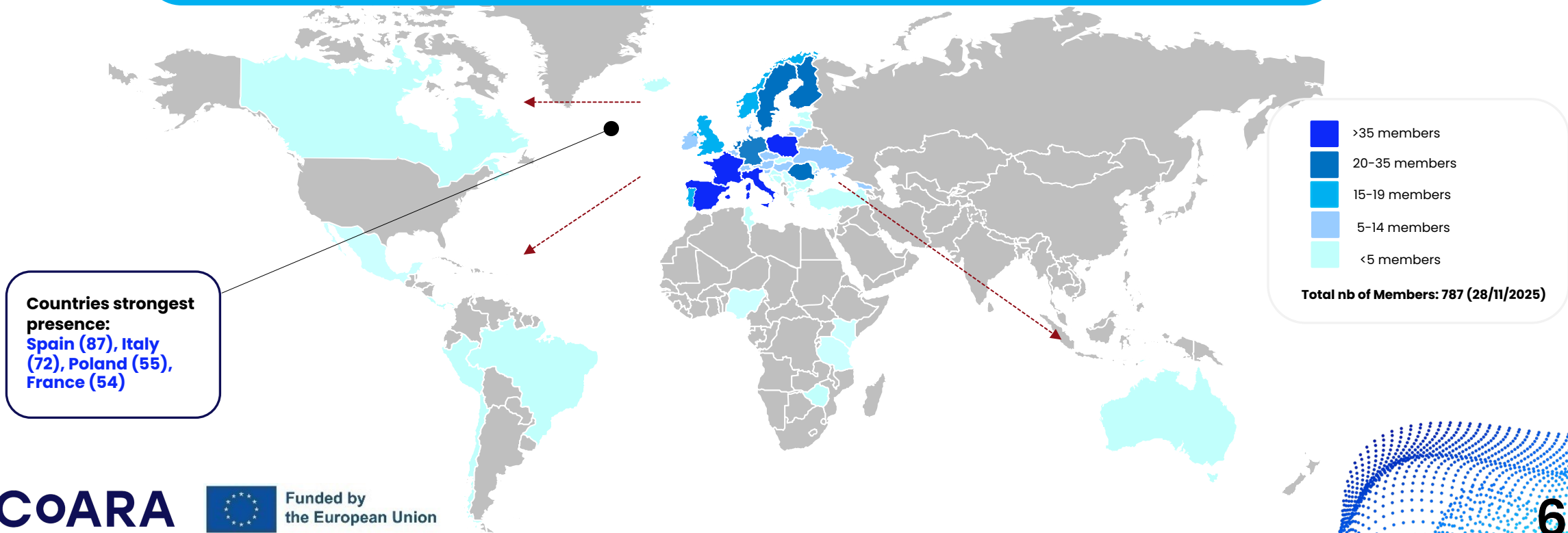
- 1<sup>st</sup> wave of CF project to be completed in Dec. 2025
- **53 projects** in total funded to implement the ARRA in a diverse range of geographical and institutional contexts

# CoARA membership: a growing global coalition

**344** European  
members in 2022 at  
the constituting  
assembly



**787** global  
members to date &  
**908** signatories





# Action Plans: building blocks for advancing reform

- Action Plans play a vital role in fulfilling the core commitments of the CoARA Agreement, helping signatories and members outline **key milestones for implementing research assessment reform**
- Upon signing the Agreement, organisations commit to **developing an Action Plan within one year**.
- While organisations have full freedom in the development of their Action Plans, **we understand that the one-year timeframe may be challenging for some to achieve**.
- **Resources currently available:** [FAQs](#), [guidelines](#), [webinars](#), [Zenodo community](#), [drop-in sessions with the CoARA Steering Board](#) (launched in 2025)
- **More support to come in 2026:** guidance based on AP drop-in sessions, searchable database currently in development, and more...



**256 Action Plans submitted to date on the CoARA Action Plan Zenodo community**

# An expanding network of National Chapters

5x

## National Chapters in 2023

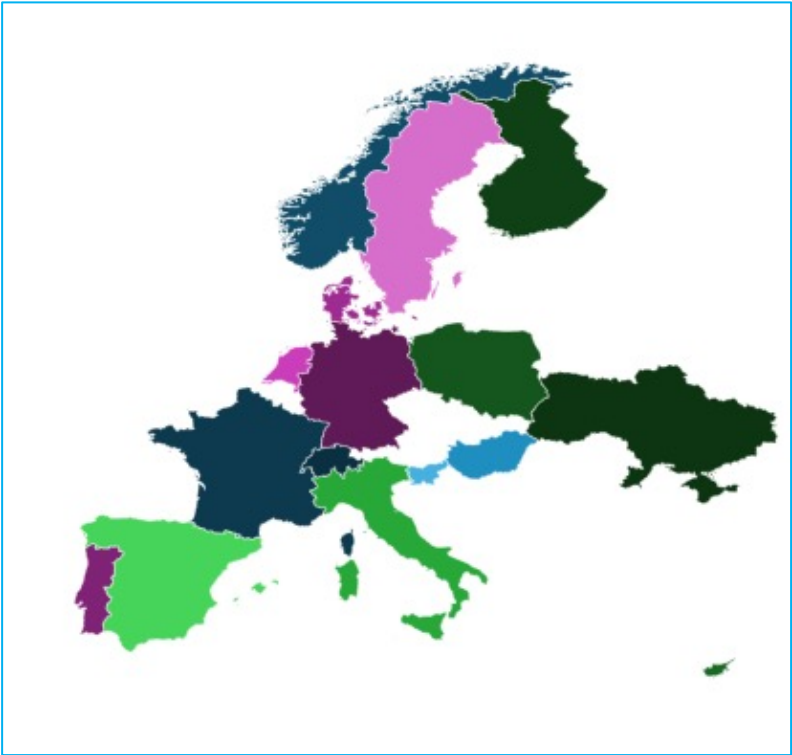
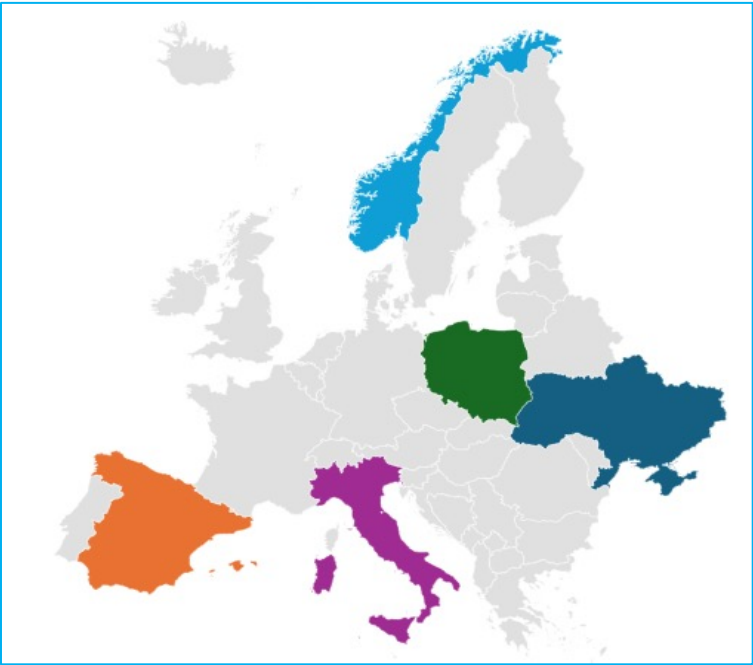
Ukraine, Spain, Poland, Norway, Italy



19x

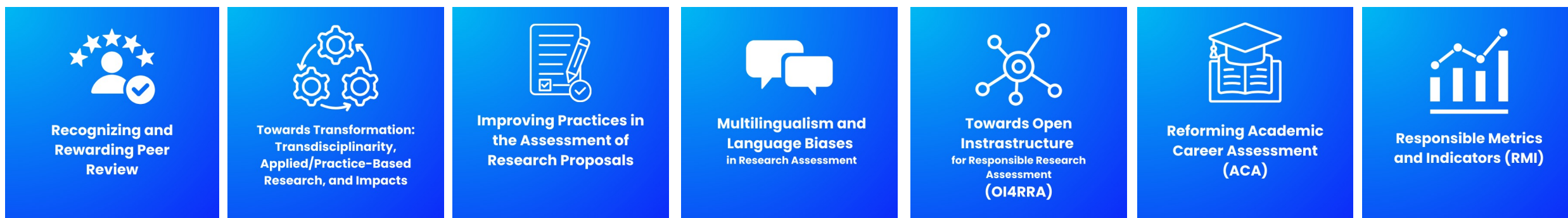
## National Chapters in 2025

+3 in 2025, including Slovenia, Netherlands, and Denmark!





# Working Groups address key topics central to responsible research assessment



Mandates ended in Oct. 2025 – currently building the foundation for CoARA-endorsed tools and outputs



Mandates end in  
February 2026

Mandates end in  
Sep. 2026

# Cascade Funding: facilitating institutional change

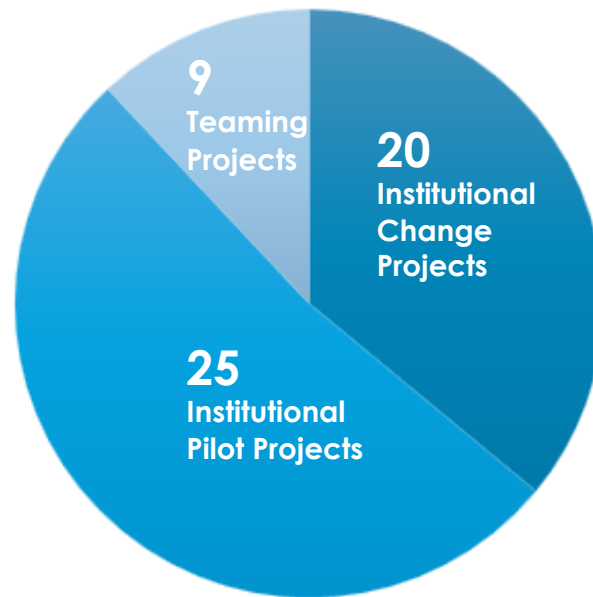
- Support for organisations to **carry out concrete, tangible changes** in research assessment in relevant institutions
- To **implement the ARRA commitments**
- To **exchange, pilot, and implement new practices, processes and tools**



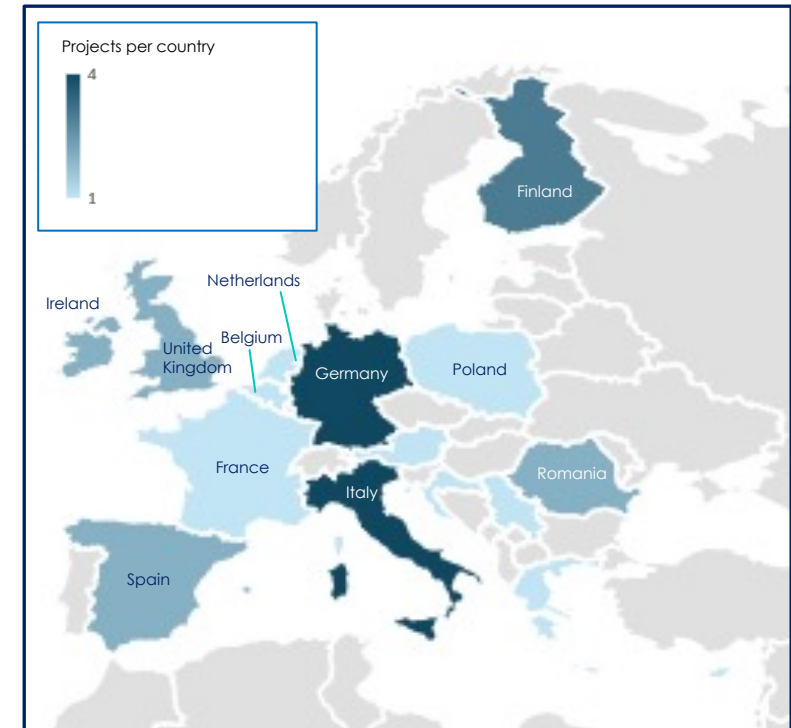
# Cascade Funding Call

- **54 projects** were selected for the 1<sup>st</sup> round of Cascade Funding, with projects that started between December 2024 and January 2025
- **A huge thank you to the dedicated reviewers!** Without your efforts, this milestone would have not been possible!
- [Read more about the selected projects here](#)

**Types** of Projects Selected:



**Geographical Diversity** of Projects Per Country:



# Outreach & impact





# CoARA global outreach

Linking policy priorities:



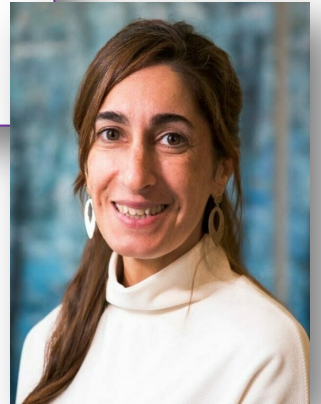
Indo-French Seminar in Delhi, India  
March 2025

Lidia Borrell-Damián (Science Europe)  
presenting links between CoARA and  
**Open Science**



CoARA Steering Board Member, Luciana Balboa,  
discusses inclusive research assessment reform.

**Hyderabad, India. June 2025.**



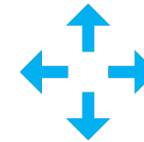


# Strengthening partnerships: CoARA x DORA

*“Our shared goals and the need for urgent reform of research assessment mean that CoARA and DORA are increasingly working closely together to ensure that our efforts align where appropriate and complement wherever possible, to maximise momentum and to support each others’ activities.”*



United for a better research system



Increasing momentum for change



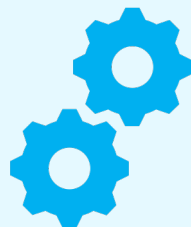
Working together: communicating and complementing

# Looking Ahead



# Strategic priorities in 2026

**Deepening impact  
through tools and  
tangible change**



**Evolving CoARA  
communities  
(WGs & NCs)**



**Assessing gaps  
and seeking  
opportunities**





# Ensuring sustainability for CoARA: voluntary sponsorship campaign

- In 2025, CoARA launched a voluntary financial support campaign to build on our collective achievements, enhance impact, ensure long-term sustainability and community ownership

**Thank you to our first sponsors funding a community-owned CoARA**



***“CoARA brings new hope to the academic community of re-introducing, on a really wide scale, quality measures as key to assessing research activities. Dedicating resources locally and supporting centrally-coordinated actions demonstrates true institutional engagement in reform, creating a motivating environment for researchers following diverse career paths.”***

***– Prof. Dr. Piotr Jedynak, Rector of Jagiellonian University***



# See you also at the General Assembly!

We invite CoARA members to join us on  
**10 December 2025** to vote for 3x new Steering  
Board members, including Vice Chair role, and  
collectively shape the coalition together!



