

# Working Group 1

“Research applications at national level”



# Who are we?



Anna Bergstrand,  
Vinnova



Thomas Wågberg UMU



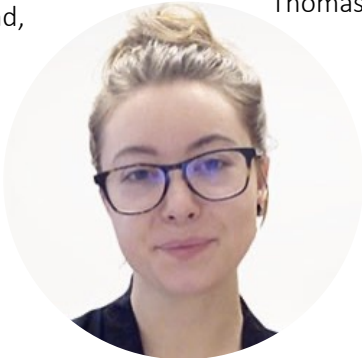
Lovisa Stedt, KAU



Lissa Nordin, Formas



Katarina Ojefors-Stark,  
SciLifeLab



Lisa Berglund, HKR



Coco Norén, UU-  
WG chair



Yvonne Fors, KKS-  
WG vice-chair



Teresa Ottinger, VR



Sebastian Baum, MIUN



Marianne C.E. Gillion,  
SLU



Gabriela Voglio, SH



Emma Olsson, KTH



Marta Cocos, UU

# Scope and aims

## Scope

Practices considered by the group include:

- criteria for the selection of research projects and innovative approaches to review processes
- selection of reviewers for responsible research assessment practices, and adequate guidance
- information requested from the applicants
- management of biases in assessment
- use of AI in the context of research applications.

## Aims

- enhance understanding of policy reforms
- consider the interests and views of the research community
- discuss the assessment of applications across academic disciplines and levels, respecting the funders' different missions
- understand how evaluation practices can be practically implemented through efficient and fair procedures.



# Report from the past year

Date	Presentations & discussions about	Speakers
21/3	International CoARA WGs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Josefin Wangel (Formas): Coara WG Towards Transformations</li> <li>•Yvonne Fors (KK Sweden): Coara WG Improving practices in the assessment of research proposals</li> </ul>
16/4	Research funder's work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Teresa Ottinger (VR)</li> <li>•Josefin Wangel (Formas)</li> </ul>
28/5	Other national chapters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Lea Ryyanen-Karjalainen &amp; Mira Söderman (Federation of Finnish Learned Societies)</li> <li>•Matthias Kiesselbach (German Research Foundation), Mathijs Vleugel (Helmholtz Association Open Science Office)</li> </ul>
28/8	Other WGs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Adina Feldman (KI), Chair of the WG2</li> <li>•Johan Blaus (KTH): Co-chair of the WG5</li> </ul>
26/9	Internal practices for screening and selecting	WG1 members (Research support officers from UU, SU, KAU, MiU, SdH, KTH, UmU, SLU, SciLifeLab, HiK)
23/10	Research funder's work	Anna Bergstrand (Vinnova)
20/11	CoARA steering board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Cameron Neylon (Curtin University, Australia)</li> <li>•Janne Polonen (Cambridge University, Federation of Finnish Learned Societies)</li> </ul>



## Main learnings and take-aways so far: **Research Funders' Perspective**

- Public funders, as CoARA signatories, are adopting its principles to varying extents; many private funders show interest but lack resources.
- Many await outcomes from “big-CoARA.”
- Some funders are cautious, seeing CoARA as a grassroots HEI and researcher initiative.
- How can we harmoniously advance CoARA nationally? Contributions from all stakeholders are vital.
- During this transition, how do we create systems that promote CoARA principles and coordinate evaluation?



Main learnings and take-aways so far:

# Research Community's Perspective

- Overall support for the Coara's principles and ambition, such as reduced reliance on metrics, Open Science, fairness across disciplines
- Yet some concerns: resource and time consuming to make, risk of subjectivity, effects of broader contribution recognition
- Cultural Inertia and conflict of goals between incentive systems
- Gaps: a) between global level and funders on the one side and the research community.



# Plan for the 2026

## **Webinar 1: Swedish research funders & CoARA principles**

**Date:** 06.February.2026 10:00-11:30

**Place:** <https://uu-se.zoom.us/j/69817807373?from=addon>

### **Short synopsis:**

Welcome to this webinar where we will have pleasure to hear Swedish funding agencies sharing how they work with CoARA principles. What is “breddad meritering”, responsible research assessment, and what does that mean for the researcher? What matters when? The first part of the webinar will include presentations from the financiers, after which we will have Q&A session moderated by Coco Norén, Deputy Vice-Chancellor at Uppsala University.

### **Speakers:**

Lucas Du Priest (Research Officer working with call for Career Grants for Early-career Researchers at Formas),

Teresa Ottinger (Head of unit at Swedish Research Council)

Yvonne Fors (Project manager at The Knowledge Foundation → Head of Grant office at vid Mälardalens university)

Anna Bergstrand (Strategic Area Leader Emerging Technologies and Businesses at Vinnova)

# Plan for 2026

Date	Presentations & discussions about	Speakers
27/3	International CoARA WGs	Yvonne Fors (KKS) presents work from CoARA working group on “Improving the practices in the assessment of research proposals”
7/5	National Chapter Sweden	From the steering board (chair?, vice chair?)
28/8	Global Outlook	South Korea, Canada, Netherlands, UK
28/9	Other WGs	Panel discussion
20/11	Webinar 2	Swedish research funders & Established researcher



## Voting questions

When do you think that CoARA will be fully implemented?

- *1 year*
- *5 years*
- *Never*

Who can be the driving actors of CoARA implementation?

- *Funders*
- *University management*
- *UKÄ*
- *The research community*
- *All of the above*

# Menti questions

## Open question:

Please share your comments on the achievements and plans from WG1!

