

EUA WORKSHOP SERIES: NATIONAL PERSPECTIVES ON  
REFORMING RESEARCH ASSESSMENT

# National perspectives on reforming research assessment - Slovakia

Stephane Berghmans, Vinciane Gaillard

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# Outline

Welcome and introduction



The Agreement and CoARA



What is in it for universities and research institutes?



Closing remarks

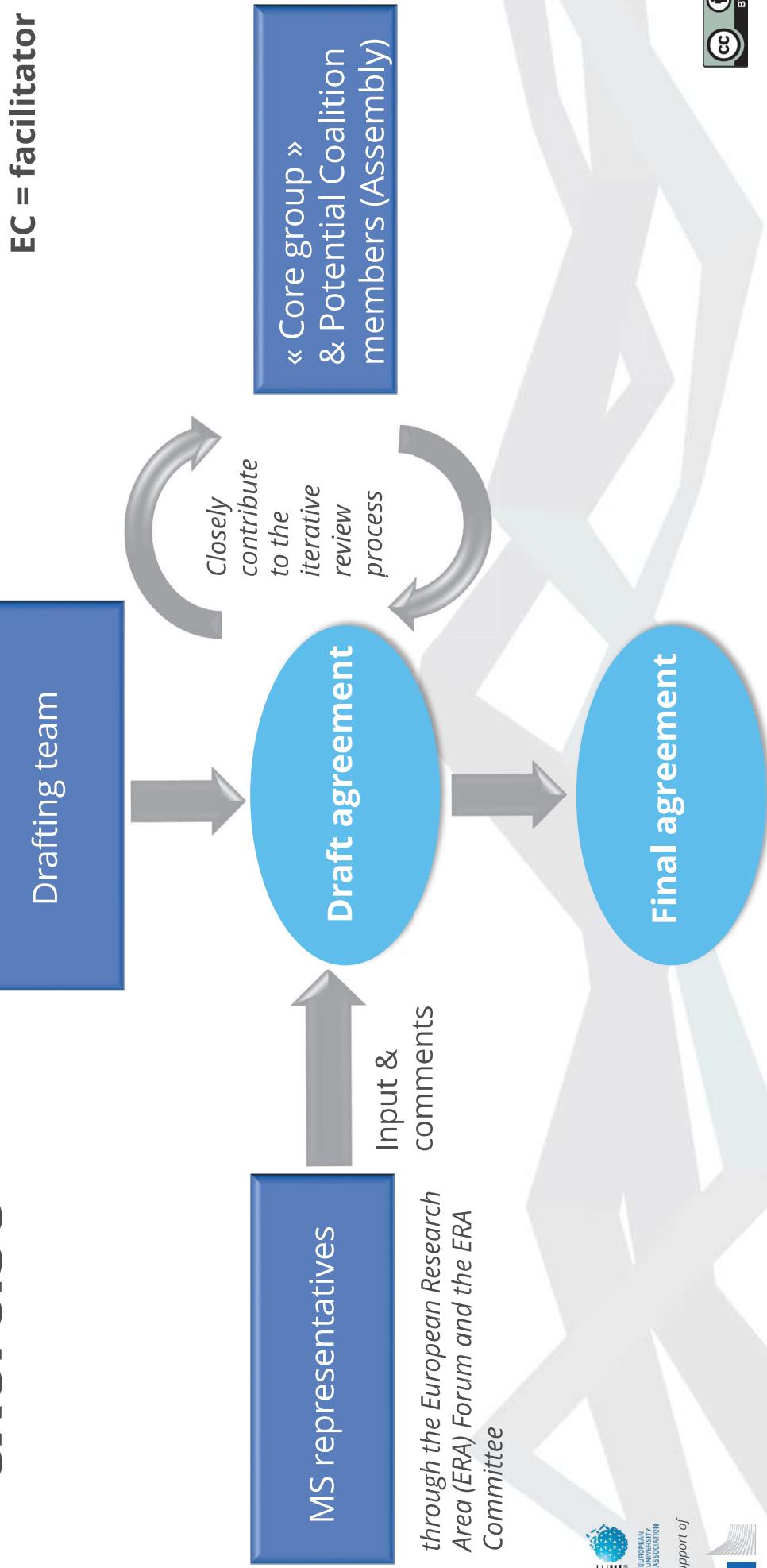


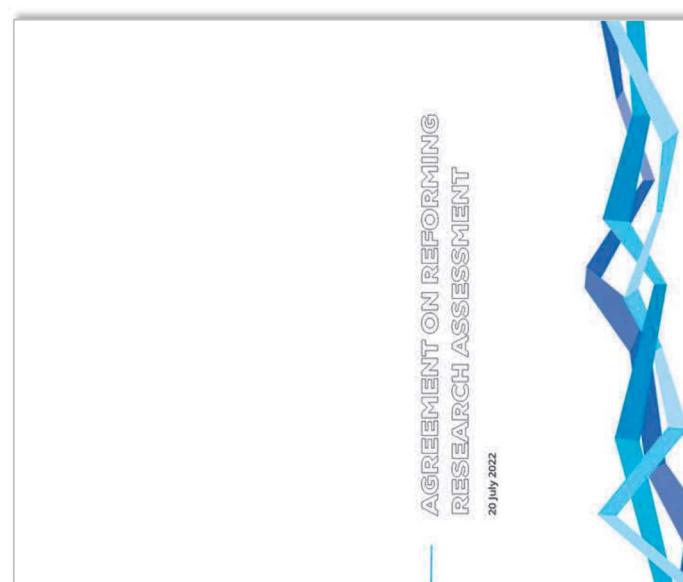
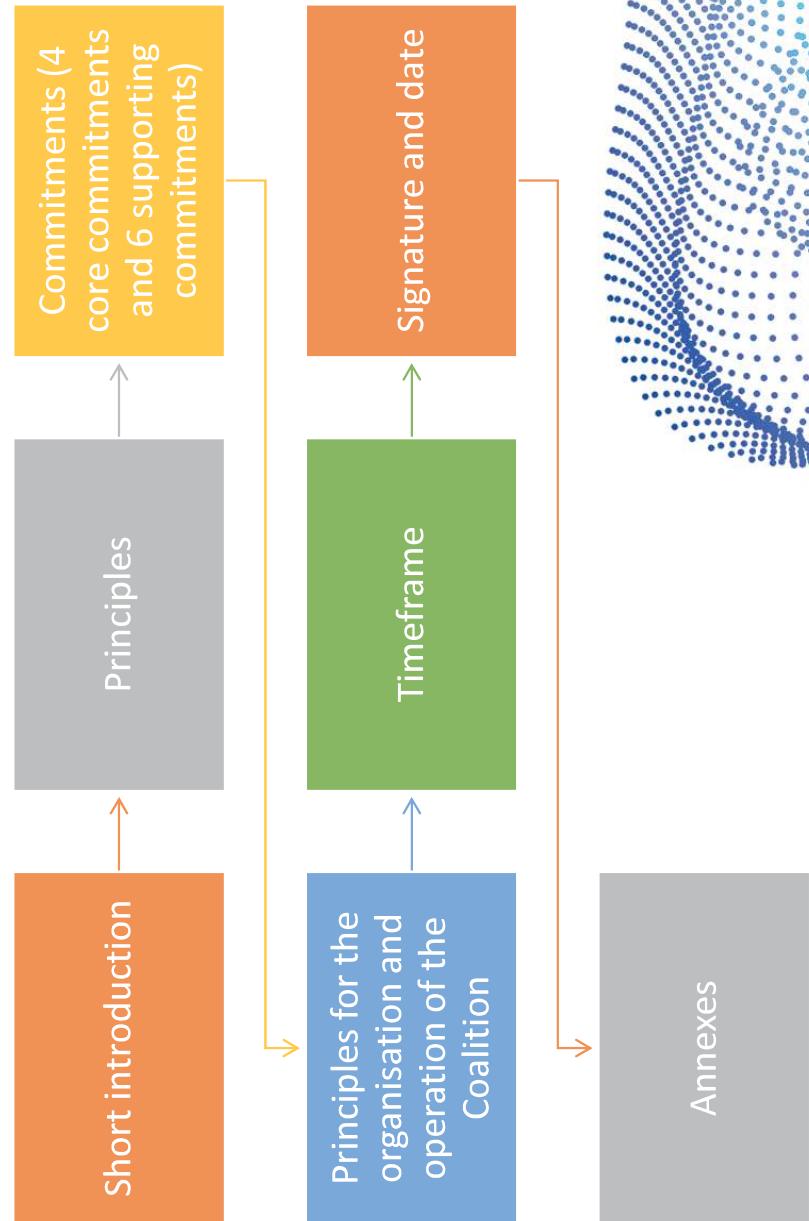
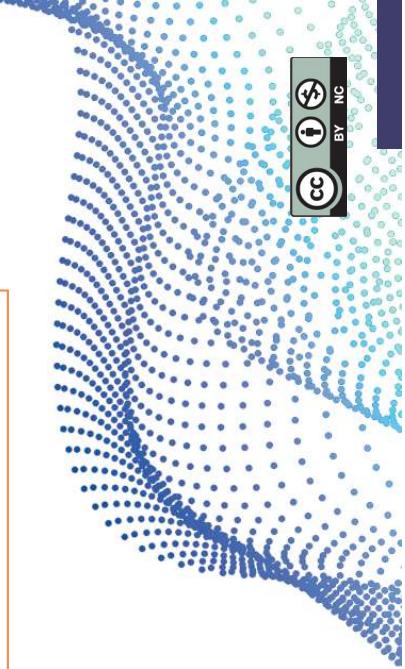
# PUBLICATION OF THE AGREEMENT ON 20 JULY



<https://coara.eu/agreement/the-agreement-full-text/>

# Drafting an Agreement, a co-creation exercise





<https://coara.eu/agreement/the-agreement-full-text/>

# Introduction

As signatories of this Agreement, we agree on the need for reform of research assessment practices.

**Vision:** The assessment of research, researchers and research organisations recognises the diverse outputs, practices and activities that maximise the quality and impact of research. [...]

**Scope:** RPOs and research units, research projects, individual researchers and research teams. [...]

This Agreement establishes a **common direction** for research assessment reform practices, while respecting organisations' **autonomy**.

We commit to realise reform through a **coalition** of RFOs, RPOs, national/regional assessment authorities and agencies, as well as associations of the above organisations, learned societies and other relevant organisations, that is **global in scope**.

We will **work together** to enable **systemic reform** on the basis of **common principles** within an **agreed timeframe**, and to facilitate **exchanges of information** and **mutual learning** between all those willing to improve research assessment practices.



# Core commitments

1. Recognise the diversity of contributions to, and careers in, research in accordance with the needs and nature of the research
2. Base research assessment primarily on qualitative evaluation for which peer review is central, supported by responsible use of quantitative indicators
3. Abandon inappropriate uses in research assessment of journal- and publication-based metrics, in particular inappropriate uses of Journal Impact Factor (JIF) and h-index
4. Avoid the use of rankings of research organisations in research assessment



# Supporting commitments (1)

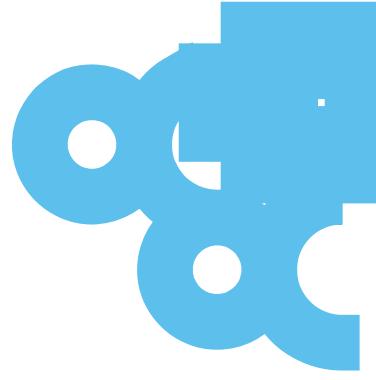
5. Commit resources to reforming research assessment as is needed to achieve the organisational changes committed to
6. Review and develop research assessment criteria, tools and processes

## 6.1 Criteria for units and institutions

With the direct involvement of research organisations and researchers at all career stages, review and develop criteria for assessing research units and research performing organisations, while promoting interoperability

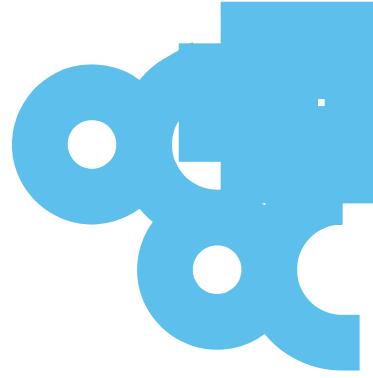
## 6.2 Criteria for projects and researchers

With the direct involvement of researchers at all career stages, review and develop criteria, tools and processes for the assessment of research projects, research teams and researchers that are adapted to their context of application

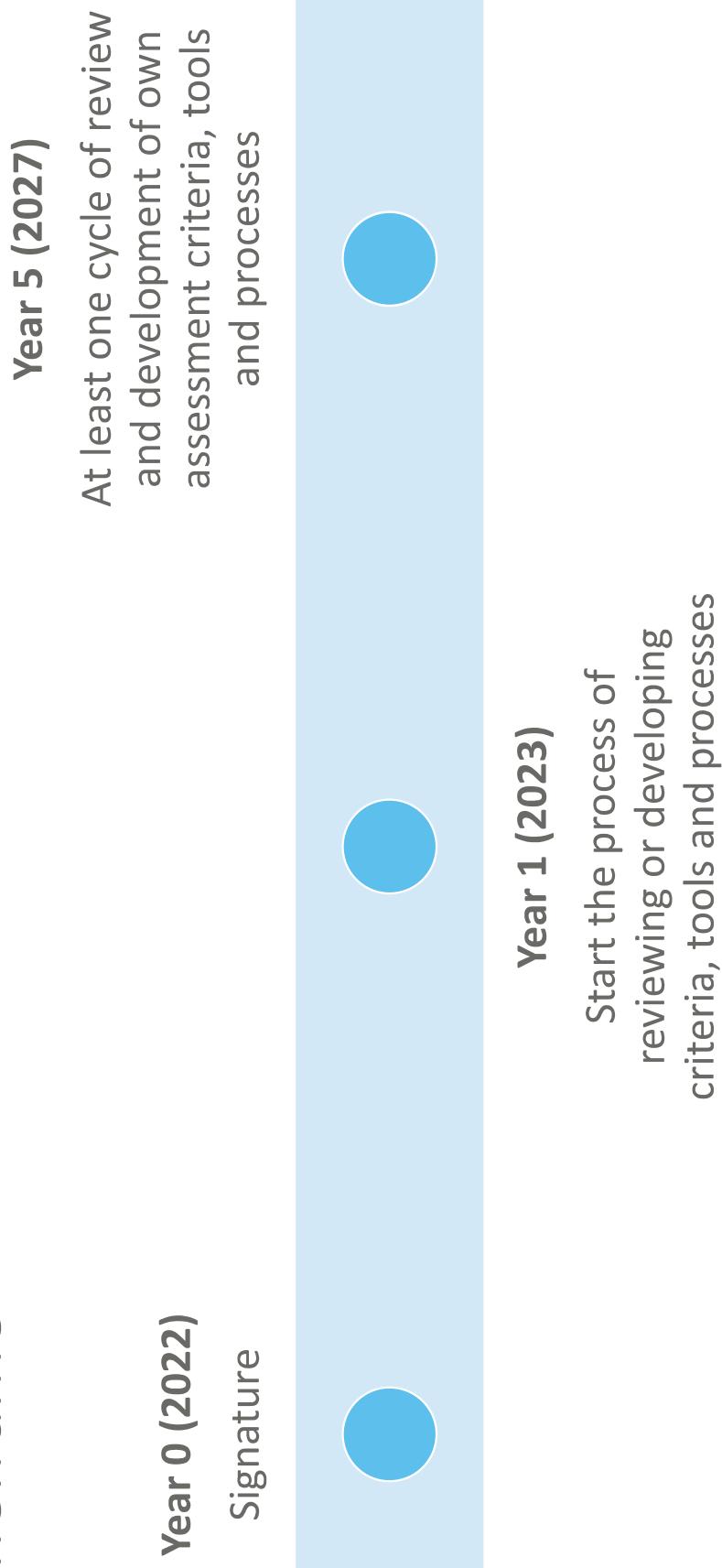


## Supporting commitments (2)

7. Raise awareness of research assessment reform and provide transparent communication, guidance, and training on assessment criteria and processes as well as their use
8. Exchange practices and experiences to enable mutual learning within and beyond the Coalition
9. Communicate progress made on adherence to the Principles and implementation of the Commitments
10. Evaluate practices, criteria and tools based on solid evidence and the state-of-the-art in research on research, and make data openly available for evidence gathering and research



# Timeline



NB: Organisations can sign the Agreement at any point in time beyond 2022.  
The timeline for organisations signing after 2022 will be adjusted accordingly.



## Annexes

- Do not form an integral part of the Agreement.
- Annex 1 outlines the need for reform.
- Annex 2 clarifies the terminology used.
- Annex 3 suggests a reform journey.
- Annex 4 provides an initial toolbox.



# Signing the agreement

## *What does it mean for my institution? (1)*

### **Year 0 (2022)**

Signature  
  
At least one cycle of review and development of own assessment criteria, tools and processes

*Participants will keep full control on the steps they make to implement the Agreement and the speed of their reform journey, which can vary from one organisation to another depending on many factors (...)*

### **Year 1 (2023)**

Start the process of reviewing or developing criteria, tools and processes

- Concrete steps and activities to be developed in Year 1 and up to Year 5 will be decided by each institution.
- Each institution will develop its own path in the implementation of the Agreement.
- No benchmarking with other institutions.

*Organisations commit to share information on the progress made and lessons learnt in their reform journey, according to the timeframe included in the agreement. Sharing of information shall be done on the basis of **self-assessment and by no means the progress of individual organisations will be validated by the Coalition.***

(cf. [FAQ](#))



# Signing the agreement

## *What does it mean for my institution? (2)*

### POSSIBILITY TO BECOME MEMBER OF COARA

#### RESOURCE ALLOCATION:

**Commitment 5:** Commit resources to reforming research assessment as is needed to achieve the organisational changes committed to

**Purpose:** “This commitment will ensure that organisations allocate the necessary resources, whether in the form of budget or staff capacity, to improve research assessment practices within their agreed timeframe.”

“Resources should be allocated as is needed for each organisation to achieve the changes that will enable adherence to the Principles and to implement the Commitments.”

**Each institution will be autonomous in deciding the type and amount of resources they will commit to implement the Agreement. There is no minimum requirement.**



## Is this Agreement legally binding?

- Not legally binding, but...
- It is an *Agreement*, with clear commitments.
- Signing the *Agreement* is a precondition for joining the Coalition.
- Participation on a voluntary basis.
- Full autonomy of organisations, full control on the steps towards the implementation of the *Agreement* and the speed of the reform journey.
- More of a morally binding signature, towards peer organisations and own community.
- Organisations and their staff can leave the Coalition at any time.

