

Full Proposal : Entry # 2238

### Your Organisation and Contact Details

**Your organisation's country (or europe, global)\***

Ireland

**Your organisation's name\***

University College Cork

David O'CONNELL

**Your email address (designated Point of Contact)\***

[d.oconnell@ucc.ie](mailto:d.oconnell@ucc.ie)

### Consent Agreement

**Authorisation to submit the Proposal on behalf of organisations\***

By ticking this box, I confirm that my organisation is a member of CoARA and that I have the authority to submit the Proposal on behalf of my organisation and on behalf of the organisations mentioned here.

**Please indicate if you are submitting a proposal for a Working Group or a National Chapter?\***

National Chapter

### Lead Proposer

**Lead Proposer name\***

David O'CONNELL

**Lead Proposer email\***

[d.oconnell@ucc.ie](mailto:d.oconnell@ucc.ie)

**Details on other CoARA member organisations involved****What country is this National Chapter submitted for?\***

IRELAND

**Please list other CoARA member organisations from your country endorsing this National Chapter. Please note: Listed organisations should represent at least half of the country's overall CoARA member organisations\***

University College Cork

Dublin City University

Technological University Dublin

University College Dublin

University of Galway

University of Limerick

Trinity College Dublin

Southeast Technological University

Technological University of the Shannon

Health Research Board

Science Foundation Ireland

Irish Research Council

All current CoARA member organizations in Ireland have endorsed this National Chapter proposal

**Short description of the mission and objectives of the group, and of how it fits with the overall CoARA vision (200 words max)\***

The National Chapter will bring together nine Higher Education Institutions and three research funding organisations, encompassing all current CoARA signatories in Ireland, and will proactively seek to include other institutes as they join the initiative.

The Chapter will provide a platform for Irish members of CoARA to exchange knowledge, mutual learning on issues that are specific to Ireland (peer review processes, revision of promotion criteria, Irish funding agency adoption of DORA and/or other statements on the responsible use of research metrics). Key objectives of the Chapter include:

- Building a network of diverse stakeholders from across the Irish research ecosystem.
- Raising awareness and promote understanding of Responsible Research Assessment (RRA) amongst the research community, and taking on board the insights from this community on challenges faced across disciplines and career stages.
- Supporting members to broaden what they value in research, while respecting that this may vary across organizations and disciplines.
- Sharing information on policies and practices to help develop national-level policies and best practice guidelines that align with the principles of RRA.
- Advocating for appropriate funding to enable implementation of RRA.
- Facilitating collaboration across Ireland and the CoARA network to further drive the RRA agenda.

**Expected impact (notably expected adoption and implementation scenarios) (300 words max)\***

*The formation of a multi-stakeholder National Chapter for Ireland will deliver consensus for a commitment to broaden Ireland's recognition of diverse research outputs, outcomes, and careers in research. This mechanism for change will support the implementation of an agreed reform process within five years of signing the Agreement.*

*The longer-term impact will be culture-change, achieved through open, transparent communication, leading to trusted partnership and collaboration between different organization types, roles, and responsibilities that, when combined, will deliver systemic change.*

*National Chapter outputs will include 'buy-in' to a set of core Principals for Research Assessment, including recruitment, promotion, rewards, and awards. This will lead to ubiquitous reform of Research Assessment processes, greater recognition of diverse research outputs driving excellence, new and/or improved services, products, tools, capacity-building programmes, processes, and practice-change supporting impactful research that addresses complex economic, environmental, and societal challenges. In addition, the Chapter will support the local implementation of an appropriate framework and guidance for excellence in peer review processes for Research Assessment, and the responsible use of quantitative indicators.*

*The Irish National Chapter will seek to implement these outputs across member organizations so all are equipped with the necessary skills and competencies across Research Assessment, including diverse outputs, practices, and activities.*

**Added value of the National Chapter over and above what is currently being done within the country (300 words max)\***

*2022 and 2023 witnessed major policy developments to enhance how we both manage and demonstrate the impact of research in Ireland. This is embedded in Ireland's new Research & Innovation Strategy, Impact 2030, and is supported by the establishment of a new Research Evidence for Policy Unit in the Ireland's Department of Further & Higher Education, research, Innovation & Science (DFHERIS), and a National Open Research Forum (NORF).*

*Irish National Chapter members working together will facilitate greater trust building, increased knowledge sharing, and advocacy for the implementation of Responsible Research Assessment (RRA). However, this work will also facilitate delivery of the objectives of Impact 2030, NORF, and the Research for Public Policy Unit - delivering research impact that addresses national and international societal challenges.*

*To evidence these impacts and ensure a return on the investment supporting research in Ireland, it is necessary to move beyond counting h-index metrics, licences, and patents. We need to create a system that can manage and measure the longer-term qualitative impact of research across public policy, services, practice, capacity building, equality, diversity etc.*

*The Chapter will accelerate the move towards Research Assessment principles that are flexible, fit for purpose, and which focus primarily on quality, while respecting that organizations and disciplines value a variety of research outputs, including the responsible use of quantitative indicators.*

*The Coalition will be a mechanism to mobilize multiple stakeholders to work together, negotiate pathways, and ensure a systems-wide 'buy-in' for change. This collective approach will add a multiplier effect to build awareness for the promotion and adoption of a new RRA framework, incorporating guidelines and capacity building across diverse audiences.*

*In summary, the Irish National Chapter will proactively contribute to the implementation of a collective CoARA vision that promotes RRA practices, nationally and worldwide.*

**Work plan and outputs / deliverables, that can be accomplished within the timeline proposed (600 words max)\***

*In summary, the National Chapter will focus on 4 key objectives over the next two-year period:*

- *Raise national awareness of research assessment (RA) reform.*
- *Support members to undertake internal culture-change, reaching agreement on key principles, sharing best practice, and providing a forum for discussions of challenges and opportunities.*

- *Provide national leadership on the development of sector-level policies and advocate for funding to support the implementation of responsible research assessment (RRA).*

*Act as the central national body for coordinating the wide range of relevant national and international initiatives including those funded by the National Open Research Forum (NORF) (in particular, the funded Priority Action Project on open research incentivisation and assessment), the Wellcome Trust, and CoARA Working Groups.*

*High-level deliverables will include:*

- *National communication initiatives to increase awareness among policymakers and researchers of the RRA agenda.*
- *Following engagement with key stakeholder groups, delivery of an agreed National Statement on the core principles for RA which will include: for research-performing organisations (RPOs), principles related to recruitment and promotion, internal funding incentives and internal recognition initiatives and; for research-funding organisations (RFOs): principles associated with funding application assessment (including narrative CVs) and project-monitoring – this Agreement will also define the delivery of:
  - (I). *A Roadmap that sets out prioritised, concrete, and scheduled implementation steps for each stakeholder group to ensure that the implementation of RRA is supported.*
  - (II) *Leveraging the participation of DFHERIS and the Higher Education Authority (HEA) in the funded NORF project, the National Chapter will engage with these entities to advocate for funding to support RRA initiatives and for appropriate RRA measures to be put in place in national monitoring contexts.**
- *An agreed process and timetable will be put in place to ensure the National Chapter proactively engages with national and international related initiatives and that key messages and intelligence are disseminated accordingly. CoARA brokerage events, and other linkage mechanisms will be particularly useful in this regard, as will the support of the CoARA Secretariat.*

*In more detail, and focusing on the first two years, it is proposed that the Workplan will consist of the following Tasks (T) and Work Packages (WP):*

- *WP 1: Development of a Report on International Exemplars and Best Practice in the RRA Space
  - *T1.1 - Determine report scope.*
  - *T1.2 - Desktop research on international and best practice exemplars - the SCOPE Framework for Research Evaluation, developed by the International Network of Research Management Societies (INORMS) is an example of one widely used model.*
  - *T1.3 - Discussion with CoARA organisational contact points for additional content as appropriate.*
  - *Deliverable 1 – Scoping Report.**
- *WP 2: Communication with Key Stakeholder Groups and Consultation Using a Self-Assessment Template (SAT)*

- T2.1 - *Communication with key stakeholder groups using the NORF project apparatus and standard communication methodologies.*
- T2.2 - *Draft and disseminate SAT.*
- T2.3 - *Follow-up online interviews as required.*
- T2.4 - *Summarise SAT and interview data per stakeholder group.*
- *Deliverable 2 – Harvesting of SAT information from a minimum number of respondents across all stakeholder groups.*
- **WP 3: Stakeholder Workshops.**
  - T3.1 - *Preparation of contextual information pack for workshop participants.*
  - T3.2 - *STEM-focused Workshop.*
  - T3.3 - *AHSS-focused Workshop.*
  - T3.4 - *Early Career Researcher (ECR) Workshop.*
  - T3.5 - *Funders & Policymaker Workshop.*
  - T3.6 - *RPO Leadership Workshop.*
  - *Deliverable 3 – Delivery of Workshops.*
- **WP 4: Development of National Statement, incorporating an RRA Roadmap, Actions & Recommendations.**
  - T4.1 - *Formation of task and finish group.*
  - T4.2 - *Building on the consultation process (WP2 &3), development and completion of National Statement and Roadmap.*
  - T4.3 - *Development and completion of recommendations on sectoral structures.*
  - T4.4 - *Development and agreement on recommendations regarding metrics/indicators.*
  - T4.5 - *Launch event.*
  - *Deliverable 4 – Production of an agreed National Statement.*
  - *Deliverable 5 – Recommendations on appropriate metrics/indicators.*
  - *Deliverable 6 – Launch event.*
- **WP 5: Communication and Dissemination**
  - T5.1 - *Production and maintenance of project website (in collaboration with NORF project).*
  - T5.2 - *Appropriate social media engagement.*
  - T5.3 - *Engagement with NORF Action Plan initiatives, and other relevant initiatives, to ensure a joined-up approach at national level.*
  - *Engagement with international initiatives will also be supported, facilitated by CoARA brokerage events.*

**Envisaged co-chairs leading the National Chapter, representing different types of organisation and countries / regions\***

Dr David O’Connell, Director of Research Support & Policy, University College Cork

Dr Sally Smith, Head of Research, Trinity College Dublin

**Mechanisms to ensure that a broader range of organisations, including from outside CoARA, contribute to and benefit from the National Chapter (300 words max)\***

*The proposed co-chairs of the National Chapter are also co-PIs of a Priority Action Project funded under the Irish National Open Research Forum (NORF) Open Research Fund 2023 – this project is commencing in October 2023 and will provide resources and support to advance the work of the National Chapter.*

*Project Title: RoAdmap to EmBedding Open ReseArch Practices in IRelanD (ABOARD)*

*In addition to having a strong RRA focus, this project also benefits from the participation of a wide range of key stakeholders across different sectors including organisations that are not currently CoARA signatories. Example organisations include HEA and DFHERIS, which have system-level roles in Ireland and whose engagement will be vital in developing national-level policies, best practice guidelines, and also in the context of national monitoring aligning with the principles of RRA.*

*The shared leadership of both initiatives will ensure that effective linkages are facilitated so that all relevant actors in Ireland's research ecosystem benefit from the work of the National Chapter and, ultimately, in the reform of research assessment practices.*

*Additional mechanisms include the involvement of a co-chair (Sally Smith) as a member of the UKRI 'alternative uses' group which focusses on the roll-out of narrative CVs in non-funder contexts (and which also intends to submit a CoARA Working Group application). This participation will facilitate linkages to the broader context in this important implementation area.*

*The co-Chairs are also partners in the NORF-funded RURM project, which will deliver a pilot training mechanism on the use of responsible research metrics.*

*In conclusion, the above initiatives have enabled the establishment of a comprehensive consortium encompassing all relevant stakeholders that has a coherent focus, and which now can be harnessed to support Ireland's National Chapter and, ultimately, delivery of the commitments as set out in the Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment.*

**Envisaged support needed from the Secretariat and resources expected to be provided in-kind by National Chapter members. Please note: this will be provided for information only and will not be evaluated by the CoARA Steering Board. Please also have a look at section 2.6 in the**

**Call Document for an overview of the possible support that can be offered to National Chapters.**

*The support of the Secretariat in building linkages and enabling collaborations with other National Chapters and relevant CoARA Working Groups will be very valuable.*

*In particular, we anticipate significant value in the Secretariat facilitating dialogue between National Chapters, especially in terms of advancing effective arguments to colleagues and sectoral stakeholders who may hold perhaps more conservative views on the merits of research assessment reform. As such, we are interested in the proposal that the Secretariat may set up a Working Group to facilitate relevant conversations between National Chapters.*

*The support of the Secretariat in organising and hosting a pan-European National Chapter Workshop, in which all of the Chairs meet to discuss best practice and provide peer support in collectively achieving the CoARA Principles would be beneficial.*