

Application: National Chapter for Germany

Draft 3.0 (final) (24 January 2024)

1. Country*:	Germany
2. Contact details of the main National Chapter proposer*:	Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German Research Foundation, DFG) e.V. Anna Christa and Matthias Kiesselbach coara@dfg.de
3. List member organisations proposing the National Chapter*:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Berlin Institute of Health at Charité • Berlin University Alliance • Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin • Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences • Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German Research Foundation, DFG) e.V. • German Association for Psychiatry, Psychotherapy and Psychosomatics • German Psychological Society (DGPs) • Hochschulallianz für den Mittelstand (HAFM) e.V. • Hochschullehrerbund Bundesvereinigung • Leibniz Association • Leibniz Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Development • Leibniz University Hannover • Mainz University of Applied Sciences • Max-Delbrück-Centrum für Molekulare Medizin in der Helmholtz-Gemeinschaft • Ruhr University Bochum (RUB) • Technical University of Applied Sciences Amberg-Weiden • Technische Universität Braunschweig • TU Darmstadt • Universität Hamburg <p>Signatories of the <i>Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment</i> (but not CoARA members):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beilstein-Institut • German Science and Humanities Council

<p>4. Short description of the mission and objectives of the group, and of how it fits with the overall CoARA vision*: 1300 characters max.</p>	<p>The listed German CoARA members and signatories of the Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment propose the creation of a CoARA National Chapter (NC) for Germany.</p> <p>The NC would serve three main purposes.</p> <p><i>Firstly</i>, it would function as a forum for the discussion and coordination of CoARA matters specific to the German research landscape. These topics could include assessment-relevant aspects of financial incentive structures inscribed in German (state or federal) law or statutes of universities / higher education institutions or associations, legislative developments or novel funding schemes of national importance.</p> <p><i>Secondly</i>, the NC could support the reform of research assessment practices and culture in practical ways. The NC would likely be regarded (by political authorities at all levels, research funding and performing institutions, reviewers and applicants) as a relevant player in the research landscape, which could in itself strengthen the cultural change (via assessment, administrative or governance and other reforms as well as changes of individual behaviour), and allow the NC to advocate for specific goals. It could also enhance the reach of ideas developed in the CoARA working groups in which various NC members are active. Furthermore, the NC could help members in their CoARA-related reporting duties by exchanging experiences, positions and (open) questions.</p> <p><i>Thirdly</i>, the NC would serve as a point of contact for German organisations that are interested in the topic of research assessment reform but are not – or not yet – signatories of ARRA or members of CoARA. On the one hand, this could assist organisations that consider joining CoARA. On the other hand, German organisations which have voiced concerns over certain details of CoARA could be involved in the discussion on research assessment reform without requiring membership.</p> <p>The overarching aim is to support the implementation of research assessment reform in Germany.</p>
<p>5. Expected impact notably expected adoption and</p>	<p>An NC along the lines described above would</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - provide a joint forum for CoARA-based, reform-minded

<p>implementation scenarios*: <i>2000 characters max.</i></p>	<p>organisations in Germany which currently does not exist,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - help identify common reform goals, work jointly on identified topics and specific obstacles to reform-oriented research assessment, - improve the (joint) understanding of the CoARA commitments among key players in the German research landscape, including those currently refraining from joining CoARA, - constitute a signal to all stakeholders within the German research system, from individuals to government agencies, that the German research community is serious about assessment reform, - form a body whose voice is taken seriously in matters of research assessment - help organisations on their path towards signing ARRA or joining CoARA.
<p>6. Added value of the National Chapter over and above what is currently being done within the country*: <i>2000 characters max.</i></p>	<p>An NC along the lines described above would</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - give formal structure and greater reach to discussions currently going on informally and scattered, - tie together already existing discussion circles or working groups which are currently not connected. <p>See also (5)</p>
<p>7. Work plan and outputs / deliverables, that can be accomplished within two years: <i>4000 characters max.</i></p>	<p>Field of activity (1): discussion and coordination of topics specific to Germany</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exchange on best practice and hurdles related to the reform process: no specific deliverables aimed-for - Aim: Jointly translate CoARA goals into terms specific to and understandable for specific organisations or communities <p>Field of activity (2): support reform in practical ways</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Become a recognized agent in the research community - Take part in relevant public debates - Inform about ideas/progress from Working Groups among members - Provide guidance with respect to CoARA reporting

	<p>promote specific reform ideas or steps for adoption through its members Field of activity (3): point of contact for non-members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Deliverable: if possible, further institutions join CoARA or sign Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment
<p>8. List of at least half of the CoARA member organisations from the country concerned that are interested in joining the group:</p>	<p>See (3)</p> <p>12 supporters needed to form NC, currently 19 German CoARA members figure as supporters of this application.</p>
<p>9. Envisaged co-chairs leading the National Chapter:</p>	<p>Interim chairs: DFG colleagues, Coordinator (chair) of NC will be elected at first NC meeting</p>
<p>10. Mechanisms to ensure that a broader range of organisations, including from outside CoARA, contribute to and benefit from the National Chapter: <i>1650 characters max.</i></p>	<p>The NC would institute two fora:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) A core group consisting of CoARA members and ARRA signatories, in which the “membership only” discussions take place and activities are planned. This group will meet online at least quarterly. One optional physical meeting is envisaged. 2) An extended group which also includes interested as well as critical non-signatories of ARRA. The latter group will not be present for every NC meeting (or for the full length of meetings), but sufficient time will be reserved for it. The NC would maintain a standing invitation to join meetings. <p>The NC members would determine a chair or group of chairs for the meetings.</p> <p>In addition, the NC would maintain a lean website and a point of contact.</p>
<p>11. Envisaged support needed from the Secretariat: <i>Please note: this will be provided for information only and will <u>not</u> be evaluated by the CoARA Steering Board. Please also have a look at section 2.6 above for an overview of the possible support that can be offered to National Chapters.</i></p>	<p>The NC would keep the secretariat updated on its activities and topics, therewith, if deemed useful, the secretariat could link other discussions, people, institutions or nations within CoARA with the German NC.</p>