

Annex III - Application template – Call for National Chapters

1 Country*:	SWEDEN
2. Contact details of the main National Chapter proposer*:	<p>Name: Jan-Ingvar Jönsson, professor, vice-chancellor Linköping University</p> <p>The Association of Swedish Higher Education Institutions, SUHF</p> <p>Tryckerigatan 8, 111 28 Stockholm, Sweden</p> <p>E-mail: rektor@liu.se</p>
3. List member organisations proposing the National Chapter*:	<p>The Association of Swedish Higher Education Institutions, SUHF</p> <p>Affiliated Universities as signatories of COARA (see below, item 8)</p> <p>National research councils as listed below</p>
<p>4. Short description of the mission and objectives of the group, and of how it fits with the overall CoARA vision*:</p> <p><i>300 characters max.</i></p>	<p>This proposal is a major effort between SUHF, the Association of Swedish Higher Education Institutions, and national research funders in Sweden to work together to find common grounds on the definitions and criteria how to assess research in the future. While SUHF and the Swedish Research Council (SRC) have since 2021 arranged annual workshops where the whole sector have been involved in discussions on defining the major obstacles, there is now an emergent need to move forward.</p> <p>In 2022, SUHF appointed a working group with the task of developing a national framework for merit assessment at Swedish higher education institutions, triggered also by the call for an updated Open Science strategy. Since this work is not only focusing on research merits but university teachers and researchers' full-ranged achievements, major funders are not actively participating in this work. Thus, there is a need for parallel work focusing more clearly on research merits and promoting the exchange of experiences and models for successful management and implementation of new standards between universities and funders. Therefore, Swedish signatories of CoARA have agreed to work at the national level to identifying common standards for assessment of research. We see advantages in gathering the overall national work together with the National chapter, and we intend to actively contribute our on-going work and implemented “good examples” with the whole CoARA family.</p>
<p>5. Expected impact notably expected adoption and implementation scenarios*:</p> <p><i>2000 characters max.</i></p>	<p>There is an increasing awareness among Swedish higher education institutions and major funders that current standards for assessing research merits have major limitations and is not fully reflecting how science is performed today and how research output is disseminated. By gathering universities and funders together with other stakeholders within the Swedish National Chapter, the whole research sector will benefit by finding common understanding and grounds on how to assess research merits in the future.</p> <p>The progress of the national work will be reported and shared openly with the CoARA community. While we clearly respect the work of individual organisations as well as the autonomy between higher education institutions, it is expected that participating Swedish actors will during 2024 start planning, promoting, and sharing ideas and work towards the implementation of new standards and models. The overall goal is that most, if not all, participants have agreed on some future standards of useful criteria for assessing researchers' full competences and more complete range of academic and societal contributions within a period of three years from now.</p>

<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>Most higher education institutions in Sweden are working with their merit assessment system; however, there is a lack of working together and in a systematic way. From a recent report by the Swedish Higher Education Authority (UKÄ) to follow up the universities' strategic work with career paths and merit systems, it was clear that some higher education institutions have implemented major changes to the merit system, but most have largely the same basic structure as ten years ago.</p> <p>In parallel, national research funders are reconsidering their current instructions to applicants and expert reviewers, and some funders have already updated their guidelines. SRC initiated in 2022 a project with the aim of reviewing the assessment of researchers' merits. As part of the project, a global survey was carried out to gather knowledge on how research funders in other countries work with the issue. The report has been shared with the working group at SUHF on merit assessments which has initiated a promising arena for future alignment and to avoid work in separate silos.</p> <p>Thus, while work is in progress at most individual organisations, there is an increasing understanding to take advantage of the global movement of CoARA. As Sweden has not yet formed a national platform for exchanging the work on research assessment, we clearly see added value to be part of the CoARA community. It will be a key for us to be successful, not only by sharing common practice within Sweden but also to share and report different ideas, solutions, and implementation models openly between other national chapters. As several Swedish signatories are part of some of the working groups within CoARA, the National Chapter will form an arena for further interactions on more specific issues. We also believe that the interest at institutions that have not yet signed the CoARA agreement will increase if the national work is progressing as part of the European work.</p>
<p>7. Work plan and outputs / deliverables, that can be accomplished within two years: <i>4000 characters max.</i></p>	<p>The current work of the SUHF working group with the task of developing a national framework for merit assessment at Swedish higher education institutions will finish their work at the end of 2024. It is expected that the working group suggests a framework on how the future work could progress and be aligned between different institutions. However, since this work is not only focusing on research merits but the full range of academic achievements, a future SUHF network cannot momentarily be regarded as the sole arena for stakeholders within research to work to exchange ideas, solutions, and possibly common models on how to assess research merits in the future. Therefore, establishing a Swedish National Chapter of CoARA will be able to consolidate all different initiatives as a national hub for discussions and sharing of best practice between all interested stakeholders.</p> <p>The planned work is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One annual face-to-face meeting for members of the National Chapter, first meeting planned beginning of 2024; - Formation of working groups with specific tasks (to be defined and agreed on by members at the first meeting in 2024); - Digital meetings at a regular basis in the working groups; - Formation of CoARA mirror groups to stimulate work and progress at individual member organisations and with the possibility for smaller organisations to arrange the work as networks; - Establishment of a digital platform for sharing information and news to the whole Swedish research community; - Sharing the Swedish work and experiences with the whole European CoARA community.

<p>4000 List of at least half of the CoARA member organisations from the country concerned that are interested in joining the group:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Association of Swedish Higher Education Institutions, SUHF 2. Swedish Research Council, SRC (Vetenskapsrådet) 3. The Swedish Research Council for the Environment, Agricultural Science and Spatial Planning (Formas) 4. Swedish Governmental Agency for Innovative Systems (Vinnova) 5. Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and Welfare (Forte) 6. Dalarna University 7. Karlstad University 8. Kristianstad University 9. Linköping University 10. Linnaeus University 11. Lund University 12. Mid Sweden University 13. Malmö University 14. Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) 15. Stockholm University 16. Södertörn University 17. Umeå University 18. University of Gävle 19. Knowledge Foundation (KK-stiftelsen) 20. The Young Academy of Sweden 21. Open Science Community Sweden 22. Research Sweden 23. Swedish Reproducibility Network 24. Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) 25. Karolinska Institutet (KI) <p>- Swedish Higher Education Authority (UKÄ) (observer)</p>
<p>4001 Envisaged co-chairs leading the National Chapter:</p>	<p>The National chapter will at the first constitutive meeting agree on and appoint two vice-chairs with the ambition to have a broad participation from different stakeholder (academia, funders and other organisations) at its leadership.</p>
<p>4002 Mechanisms to ensure that a broader range of organisations, including from outside CoARA, contribute to and benefit from the National Chapter:</p> <p>1650 <i>racters max.</i></p>	<p>As indicated above, the progress of the national work within the Swedish National Chapter and its CoARA members will be openly shared with the whole research community. The on-going work by SUHF on the assessment of research, education, teaching and learning, innovation, collaboration within and outside academia, academic leadership and citizenship, as well as research communication and societal impact/benefits will ensure that all higher education institutions will be informed on the progress and implementation of new models and standards. Such issues will regularly be discussed at the General Assembly of SUHF (twice a year) and at the annual dialogue forum/workshop organized by SUHF and SRC together.</p> <p>To enable that other organisations who are not yet signatories of CoARA will benefit from the national work and receive information on work in progress, the National Chapter will form working groups in specific issues with the possibility for non-members to participate as observers. In addition, the planned establishment of a digital platform for sharing news and best practice on research assessment will operate without any restrictions to both members and non-members of CoARA.</p>
<p>1651 Envisaged support needed from the Secretariat:</p>	<p>No need for support from the CoARA secretariat.</p>