# CoARA WG MULTILINGUALISM

PUBLIC WEBINAR:

Multilingualism and Language Biases in Research Assessment

Thursday 26 September
15:00-16:30 CEST

Webinar is recorded, slides will be shared on the CoARA WG website
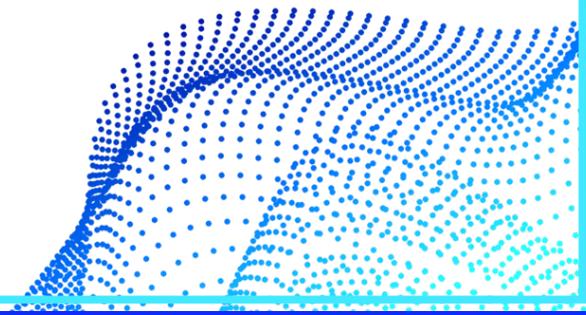
PROGRAMME

- **Opening**: Emmanuelle Gardan (Coimbra Group)

- **WG presentation**: Janne Pölönen (Federation of Finnish Learned societies - TSV)

- **Results of surveys to researchers**
  - **National Research Council of Italy**: Ginevra Peruginelli (Institute of Legal Informatics and Judicial Systems/CNR)
  - **Marie Curie Alumni Association**: Tereza Šímová (MCAA)
  - **European Civil Society Platform for Multilingualism**: Theo Marinis (University of Konstanz/ECSPM)

- **Bibliometric analyses**: André Brasil (CWTS/Leiden University)

- **Focus groups on policy advice and implementation**: Monica Dietl (Initiative for Science in Europe - ISE)

- **Engaging with WG activities and closing of the webinar**

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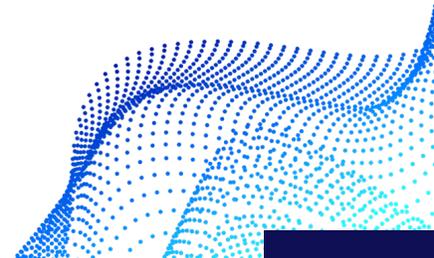
VIEWS FROM THE WEBINAR AUDIENCE: REGISTRATION QUESTIONS

How often have you used your native/first language in research, communication beyond academia, or applications?
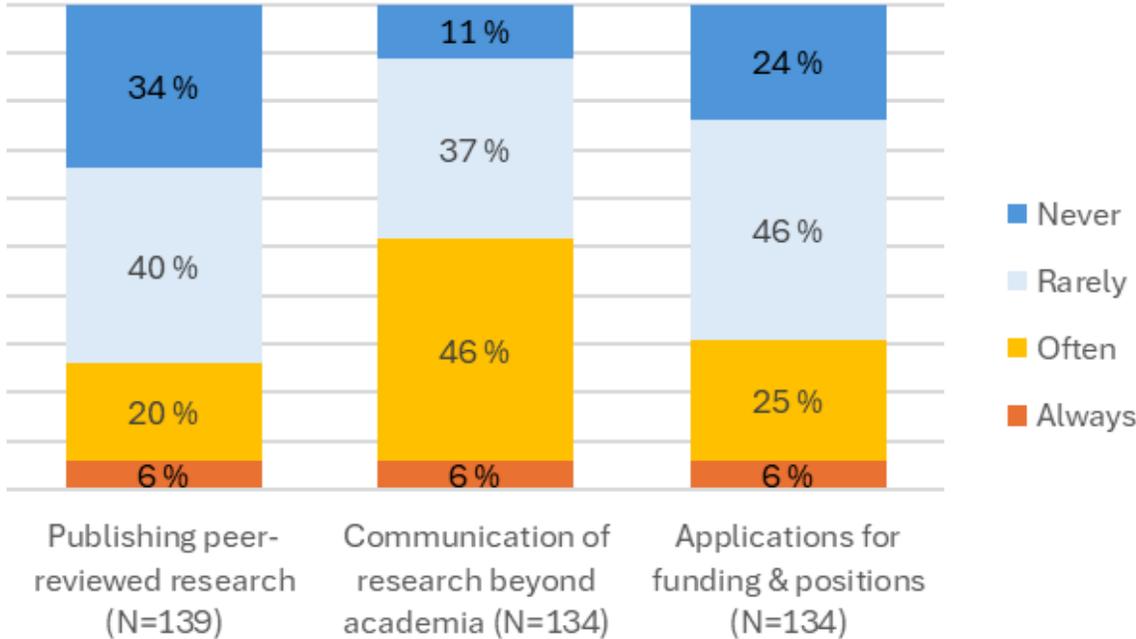
Are researchers advantaged/disadvantaged in research assessments because of their language skills and preferences?
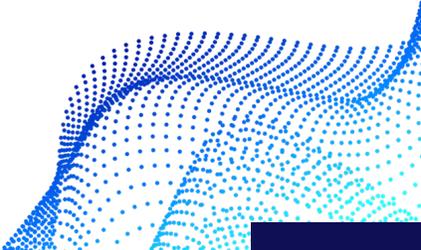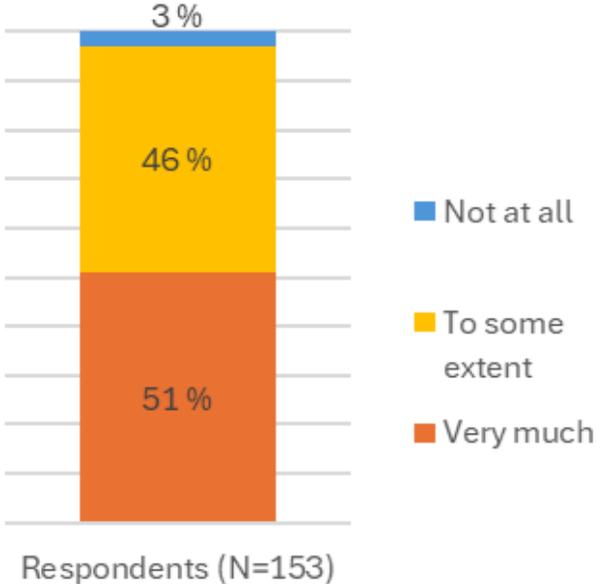
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WG ON MULTILINGUALISM AND LANGUAGE BIASES IN RESEARCH ASSESSMENT

26 September 2024

Janne Pölönen
**Federation of Finnish Learned Societies (TSV)**

REFORM MOVEMENT
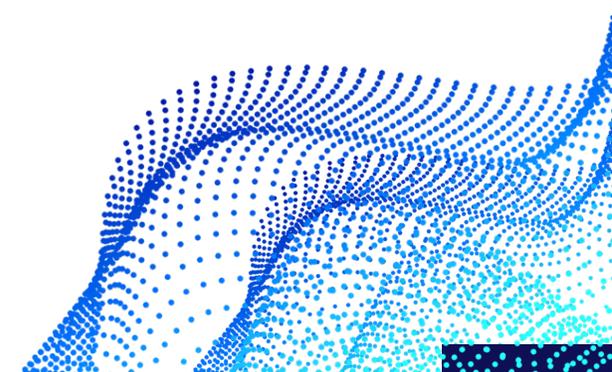
"**[R]esponsible research assessment (RRA)** ... is an umbrella term for approaches to assessment which incentivise, reflect and reward the **plural characteristics of high-quality research**, in support of **diverse and inclusive research cultures**. (Curry et al. The changing role of funders in responsible research assessment (2020)
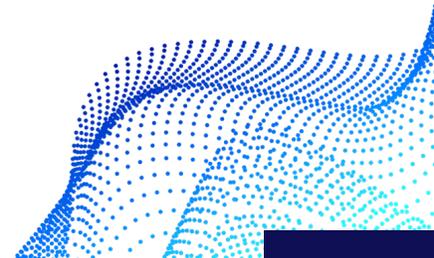
THE REFORM AGREEMENT AND COARA

- The Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment published in 2022 has **over 750 signatory organisations from over 50 countries** (Europe and beyond)

- The Agreement includes principles, **10 commitments and 5 year timeframe** for reforms with action plan

- Agreement does not have any legally binding effect but it **represents a public commitment** to contribute actively and constructively to reforming research assessment

- **CoARA (Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment) is a community of signatories** for advancing research assessment, for sharing and developing practices

- Coalition members are involved in **National Chapters** (currently 16) and **Working Groups** (currently 13) and other Coalition activities.

AGREEMENT ON REFORMING RESEARCH ASSESSMENT

20 July 2022

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RESEARCH ASSESSMENT IN COARA
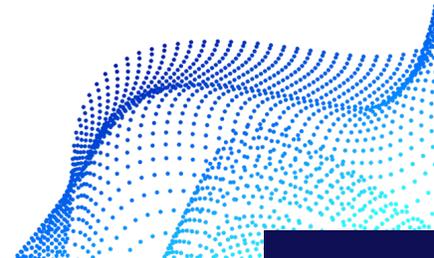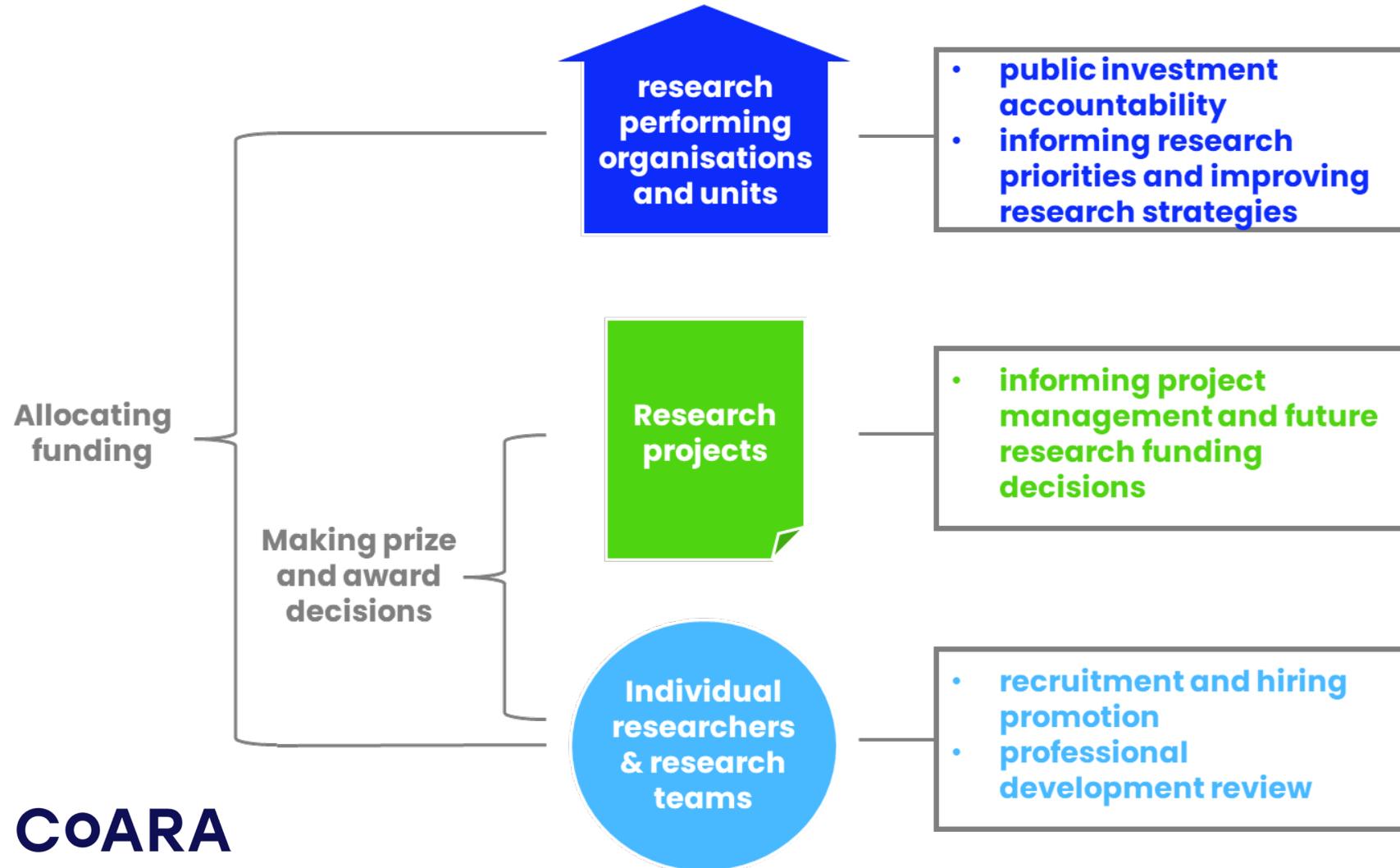
COARA CORE COMMITMENTS

1. Recognise the diversity of contributions to, and careers in, research in accordance with the needs and nature of the research

   o Scope: recognition of the broad diversity of valuable contributions that researchers make to science and for the benefit of society, including diverse outputs beyond journal publications and **irrespective of the language in which they are communicated**;

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

   o Scope: 'Inappropriate uses' include... **assessing outputs based on metrics relating to** publication venue, format or **language**

4. Avoid the use of rankings of research organisations in research assessment

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13 WORKING GROUPS

Towards Open Infrastructures for Responsible Research Assessment

TIER - Towards an Inclusive Evaluation of Research

Multilingualism and language biases in research assessment

Reforming Academic Career Assessment

Ethics and Research Integrity Policy in Responsible Research Assessment for Data and Artificial Intelligence (ERIP)

Early-and-mid-Career Researchers (EMCRs) – Assessment and Research Culture

Experiments in Assessment – Idea generation, co-creation, and piloting

Global framework for research evaluation in the social sciences and the humanities (SSH)

Responsible metrics and indicators

Recognizing and Rewarding Peer Review

Supporting the alignment of research assessment systems with CoARA in biomedical disciplines through administrative reforms and governance

Towards Transformations: Transdisciplinarity, Applied/Practice-Based Research, and Impacts

Improving practices in the assessment of research proposals

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COARA WG ON MULTILINGUALISM

- **18 Universities/Univ networks:** Coimbra Group, TOUR4EU, ERUA, Universities Norway, AMU Poznan, Antwerp, Hanken, Leiden, SU, Jyväskylä, Lusófona, Milano, Milani-Bococca, Nanterre, Sorbonne, Tampere, Turku, UABarcelona

- **5 Research centres and infrastructures:** OPERAS, CNR, CSIC, CNRS, NIFU

- **7 Academies, societies and association of researchers:** TSV, MCAA, ECSPM, Eurodoc, EuroScience, ENRESSH, GYA

- **4 Public or private research funding organisations:** AKA, ANR, FWO, cOAlition S

- **1 Evaluation authorities/agencies:** ANVUR

- **2 Not-for-profit organisations:** EASSH, ISE

- **4 Organisations outside Europe:** CLACSO-FOLEC (Argentina), translatE (Australia), UNESCO Chair on Open Science (Canada), Fonds de recherche du Québec (Canada)

CO-CHAIRS

- **Emanuel Kulczycki** (Adam Mickiewicz University Poznan)

- **Monica Dietl** (ISE)

- **Gian Maria Greco** (MCAA)

COORDINATION

- **Janne Pölönen** (TSV)

41 member organisations / 78 experts
as of September 2024

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WG MISSION

- By addressing language diversity and biases in assessment, **WG supports the EU (and other) institutions in fulfilling their duty** to enhance, promote and uphold linguistic equity, diversity and non-discrimination in Europe and globally.

- This requires fostering an **academic culture** that values diverse competencies, interactions and communications in all languages without exclusions or priorities.
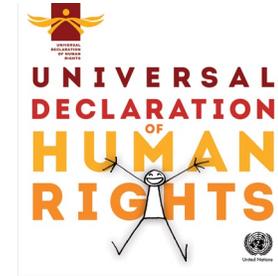
The United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights article 27 states that "**everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits**", and this according to Article 2 "**without distinction of any kind, such as… language**"

The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU also places an obligation on the Union to **respect linguistic diversity** (Article 22) **and prohibits discrimination on grounds of language** (Article 21).

WG MAIN OBJECTIVES

1. to **raise awareness** across all fields about the importance of "multilingualism in practice of science, in scientific publications and in academic communications" (UNESCO)

2. to provide institutions with **policy advice, guidelines, and implementation proposals** for recognizing, rewarding and incentivizing research carried out and communicated in all languages, and for addressing language biases in metrics, expert-assessment and rankings

Task Forces (TF)

1. TF1: Coordination
2. TF2: Landscape analysis
3. TF3: Policy advice and implementation
4. TF4: Communication

Interest Groups (IG)

1. Early career researchers
2. Civil society
3. Intersectionality
4. Language learning and skills
5. Open Scholarly communication

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WG ACTION PLAN

| Task-Forces (TF) and Interest Groups (IG)	Activities (A) and Deliverables (D)	M1 2023 11	M2 2023 12	M3 2024 1	M4 2024 2	M5 2024 3	M6 2024 4	M7 2024 5	M8 2024 6	M9 2024 7	M10 2024 8	M11 2024 9	M12 2024 10	M13 2024 11	M14 2024 12	M15 2025 1	M16 2025 2	M17 2025 3	M18 2025 4	M19 2025 5	M20 2025 6	M21 2025 7	M22 2025 8	M23 2025 9	M24 2025 10
TF 1: Coordination	A1. Drafting an Action Plan																								
	A9. Development of an implementation proposal for CoARA on language aware assessments																								
	D6. Implementation proposal																								D6
TF2: Landscape Analysis	A4. Landscape analysis on the current state of multilingualism																								
	- A4.1 Literature review																								
	- A4.2 Survey to researchers																								
	- A4.3 Case-studies																								
	- A4.4 Bibliometric analyses												Report		Dashboards										
	D1: Landscape report on the current state of multilingualism												D1												
	A5. Landscape analysis on best practices																								
	- A5.1 Literature review																								
	- A5.2 Survey to organisations																								
	D2 Landscape report on best practices in language-aware assessment												D2												
	D3: White Paper on the importance and issues of multilingualism in relation to assessment reform												D3												
TF3: Policy Advice and Implementation	A6. Development of Language policy advice																								
	D4: Policy advice to (a) HEI and RPO and (b) RFO and Evaluation agencies																								D4
	A7+A8 Devising and testing tools, guidelines and models for recognizing, monitoring and supporting multilingual work																								
	D5: Toolbox for language aware-assessments																								D5
TF4: Communication	A2+A3 Drafting a Communication and Interaction Plan																								
	A10. Activities to communicate and disseminate the WG early, mid-term and final results																								
	D7: Workshops and webinars recordings																								D7
	D8: Position paper on multilingualism in research assessment																								D8
	D9: Different language versions of D4-8																								D9
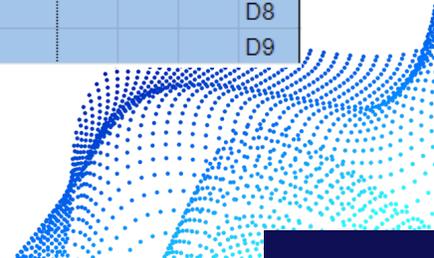
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FOCUS GROUPS ON POLICY ADVICE AND IMPLEMENTATION

26 September 2024

Monica Dietl
Initiative for Science in Europe (ISE)
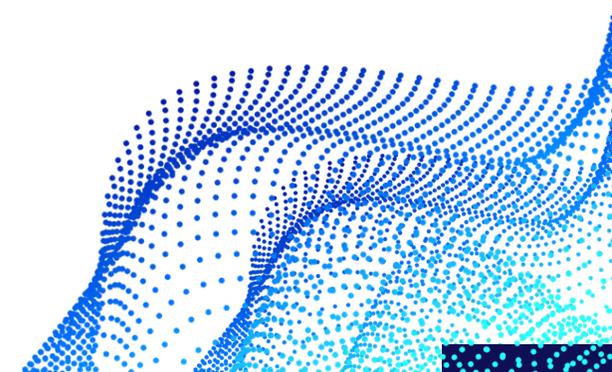
TF3: Policy advice and implementation

Our **Task Force 3 (TF3)** focuses on two **objectives**:

– the preparation of language elements and recommendations for policy makers at the level of EU institutions, international organisations, countries, and for research actors/stakeholders,

– the identification of relevant approaches, solutions, methods and models for addressing language biases in assessment and supporting language skills of non-fluent speakers in concrete situations.

By developing these two objectives, many questions arise which need concrete responses.

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TF3: Policy advice and implementation

- Our TF3 is co-chaired by Monica (ISE), Emmanuelle (Coimbra Group) and Martine (ANR) and supported by a core group composed of Johan (cOAlitionS) and Fotis (OPERAS) (and Vidar (UHR), Gunar (NIFU))

- more than 30 CoARA experts expressed their interest and have been participating

- more and active experts needed

- Our aim is to jointly reflect and explore possible options taking an "ideal scenario" as reference.

- To reach that aim we need the support of a Focus Group of experienced people.
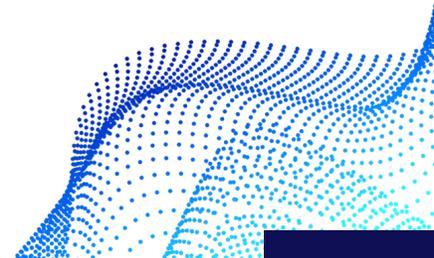
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TF3 FOCUS GROUP

- We are looking for members of organisations who already started implementation of CoARA commitments to establish a Focus Group.
- It will work with us in testing our ideas and recommendations on practical solutions of implementation aiming to reduce or even avoid language bias.
- Our wish is to create a collaborative, mutual benefit, relation:

  - o Support research stakeholders in fulfilling their commitment to enhance, promote and uphold linguistic equity, diversity and non-discrimination in Europe and beyond

  - o Help the organisations of the Focus Group members in evaluating the state of play of their commitment to CoARA in general and multilingualism in particular

  - o The Focus Group to help the TF3 to improve the formulation of its recommendations and implementation ideas with practical solutions.

- The main goal is to gather concrete experience and contribute to the development of policy advice, guidelines and good practices to be able to then help other organisation taking up the challenge.

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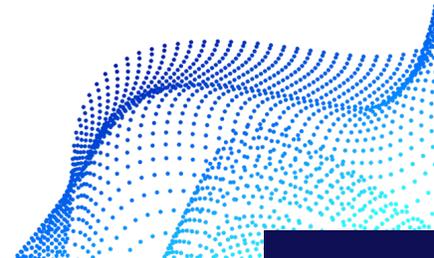
TF3 FOCUS GROUP MEMBERS

- We target different stakeholders such as research funding bodies, research performing organisations, including universities, as well as national, European and international associations of researchers and scientists.
- We would like members of the Focus Group to:

  o share with us the challenges that their research organisation may face when supporting multilingualism in their research assessment procedures (including the researchers' perspective),

  o provide us with concrete feedback on the feasibility of our ideas and recommendations,

  o Suggest solutions to support the processes and activities (including how to use the best translation tools) and make progress in this area.

- To help decision taking we have prepared an invitation letter, an explanatory Annex and a short questionnaire.
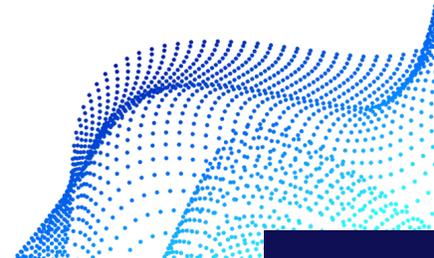
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ENGAGEMENT AND CLOSING

26 September 2024

**Emmanuelle Gardan
Coimbra Group**
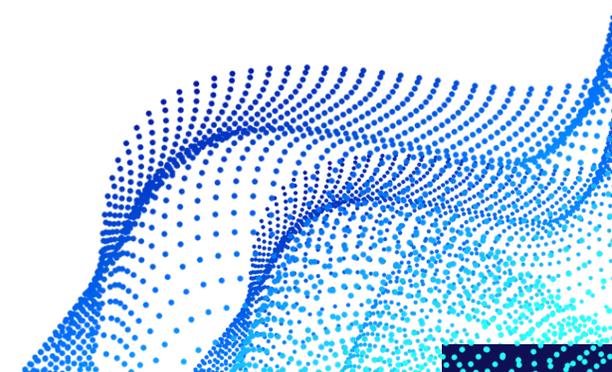
POTENTIAL WG IMPACTS

- Promoting international excellence in research while ensuring equity, diversity and societal interaction across STEM and SSH fields

- Ensuring availability of high-quality, diverse, locally relevant research, knowledge transfer beyond academia and co-creation between researchers and other stakeholders

- Implementation of Open Science and RRI policies by fostering inclusive and diverse communities, broadening participation in scientific endeavours, and strengthening democratic culture.

- Provide equal opportunities to researchers and institutions irrespective of research orientation and mission, or language competencies
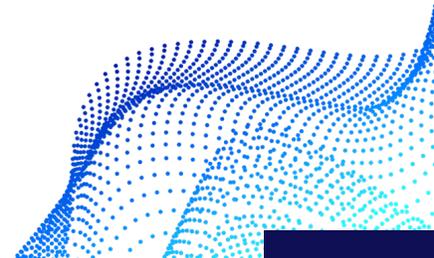
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HOW TO CONTRIBUTE

- **Organisations and experts** can benefit of
  - Online workshops and webinars to share, present and discuss WG outputs
- Experts from CoARA member organisations may still actively join the WG but are required to **indicate willingness to contribute to specific WG activities and deliverables**
  - Send email to coordinator Janne Pölönen (janne.polonen@tsv.fi)
- **CoARA member organisations** will be invited to
  - Contribute data, respond to and distribute surveys and participate in case studies
  - Participate in focus group
  - Comment through open consultations on core WG outputs
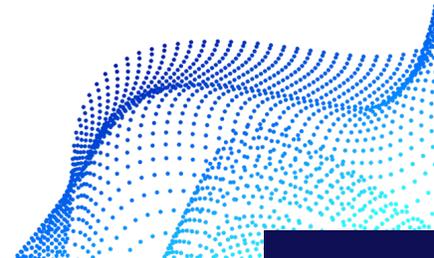
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SURVEY TO ORGANISATIONS

- The CoARA working groups on Multilingualism and TIER (Towards an Inclusive Evaluation of Research) jointly organize a survey targeted to CoARA member organizations on multilingualism and gender in research assessment.
    - also organisations that are not CoARA members are welcome to answer the survey

- The main goal of the survey is to map how CoARA members are currently dealing with multilingualism and language and other biases in view of reforming research assessment (TF2). The data gathered will also contribute to the development of policy advice, guidelines and good practices (TF3).

- The survey is anonymous and follows the structure of the commitments included in the CoARA agreement on reforming research assessment.

- Link to the survey: https://survey.tsv.fi/index.php/221646?lang=en

- **We kindly invite organisations to answer the survey by 14 October 2024**
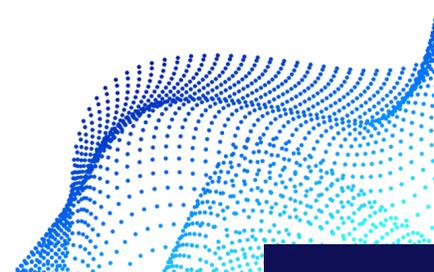
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CoARA WG MULTILINGUALISM

THANK YOU!

WG AT COARA WEBSITE:

https://coara.eu/coalition/working-groups/wg-multilingualism-and-language-biases-in-research-assessment/

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