

Proposal for de-RSE to become a CoARA member

This is voted upon during the de-RSE Mitgliederversammlung on 2025-11-11.

About CoARA

The *Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA)* wants to achieve a global movement implementing a better research evaluation. That includes **less reliance on “[text] publication-based metrics such as citation counts”** (Examples: Journal Impact Factor (JIF), H-index, ...) and **more qualitative judgement** (Example: peer review). This is in line with **Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA)** and related to the **Barcelona Declaration on Open Research Information**.

Members sign the **Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment (ARRA)**. As a consequence, the new member has to publish an **Action Plan** within a year on how to align their strategy with CoARA’s **10 Commitments**. See the CoARA explainer **slide deck** for more information.

The **National Chapter for Germany (NC)** is currently led by Helmholtz Open Science Office which welcomes our membership idea. The NC coordinates national effort, organizes regular meetings and hopes to

be regarded (by political authorities at all levels, research funding and performing institutions, reviewers and applicants) as a relevant player in the research [assessment] landscape, which could in itself strengthen the cultural change

Why should we become a member

de-RSE and **CoARA** share the **ARRA goals** of:

- including research software as a valuable publication in research evaluations (page 4)
- recognizing roles such as (research) software engineers (page 5)
- “value output associated with openness (... open software, open code ...)” (page 21)

We would be in the company of ReSA, SSI, UKRN, ... and 700+ other international research-related organizations that want to make a change.

As a CoARA member de-RSE could propose a WG on the topic of recognizing Research Software Engineers and Engineering. Their steering board would have to approve that. The current CoARA **working groups (WG)** lack lobbying for RSE.

How

1. de-RSE Mitgliederversammlung approves the proposed membership

2. the chairman of the de-RSE board signs the [membership form](#)
 - 2a. optional: a 2nd legal representative could be designated – see de-RSE WG below
 - 2b. optional: the chairman consents to publicly display the de-RSE name, logo and website as being a CoARA member
3. de-RSE forms another working group (WG) that creates and publishes an action plan

de-RSE Working Group

Alexander Struck suggests to create and lead a new [de-RSE WG](#). The *achievable goal* is to

1. become a member and
2. create an action plan and publish it in the [CoARA Zenodo community](#)
3. propose an international CoARA working group on RSE (together with ReSA, SSI, Netherlands eScience Center).

This de-RSE WG has overlap and will collaborate with the WG “RSE Advocacy Strategy” – led by Bernadette Fritzsch, who is part of the Helmholtz Task Force “Research Assessment”. The proposed de-RSE WG may draw on previous work about assessment of and metrics for RSEngineering.

Example Action Plans:

- DFG
- Berlin University Alliance (BUA)
- Swedish Higher Education Authority
- Leibniz Association

The action plans of the Netherlands eScience Center, the Research Software Alliance (ReSA) and the Software Sustainability Institute (SSI) are [still pending](#). This de-RSE WG should make contact with other RSE-related organizations to collaborate on action plans and initiate a CoARA WG on RSE assessment.

The required action plan will be an output of the newly proposed de-RSE WG and needs to be approved by the de-RSE board. (Optional: This action plan could also undergo community review and become a position paper.) CoARA wants action plans to be published on Zenodo.

Risk Assessment

- Membership does not cost money.
- Board members need to be involved for the application and read email communication from CoARA.

- A de-RSE WG would be investing resources for lobbying but without measurable outcomes in the near future.
- A CoARA WG on RSE *cannot be founded but needs to be approved* by the CoARA Steering Board.

Who is suggesting

Alexander Struck published a thesis on citation-based research assessment. He co-designed a Current Research Information System (CRIS) in order to reflect RSEEngineering as a research activity and software publications as a research result.

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