CoARA

CoARA-ERIP

Serving the European & Global Science and Academic Communities for Research Assessment in Ethics and the Digital Space

CoARA WG Co-Chairs Forum 2025

Serving the CoARA Community: Working Groups Mission, Impact, and Legacy
Graz, Austria
13-14 November 2025

Francis P. Crawley
Co-chair & Coordinator, CoARA ERIP
Ethics and Research Integrity Policy for Responsible Research Assessment in Data and Artificial Intelligence Working Group
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It would be nice if all of the data which sociologists require could be enumerated because then we could run them through IBM machines and draw charts as the economists do; however, not everything that can be counted counts, and not everything that counts can be counted.

(William Bruce Cameron (1963), Informal Sociology)

CoARA-ERIP

An overview

CoARA-ERIP Mission & Vision

Mission

The CoARA-ERIP's mission to develop policy, guidance, and tools for advancing research assessment that promote the role of, and define the ethical and integrity characteristics of, a responsible culture for the assessment of data and AI in research, fostering reliability, transparency, and societal benefit.

Vision

The CoARA-ERIP vision is of a global research ecosystem where a responsible and equitable framework for research assessment ensures that data and artificial intelligence research outputs are developed, assessed, and applied with foundational ethics and integrity. By integrating ethical reflection, open science principles, and digital innovation, we aim to transform research evaluation into a human-centred, evidence-based, and forward-looking practice that empowers researchers, institutions, and societies to harness data and AI responsibly for the collective advancement of knowledge and well-being.

Objectives

1. To develop ethics and research integrity guidance for research assessment involving data and AI;
2. To promote the adoption of responsible assessment practices that prioritize integrity, responsibility, and societal benefit, while advancing the benefits and mitigating the potential risks and harms associated with data and AI-driven research;
3. To foster stakeholder engagement through facilitated dialogue and collaboration among researchers, policymakers, funding agencies, and other stakeholders to ensure diverse perspectives are considered in the development and implementation of ethical research assessment policies;
4. To provide a toolkit of educational resources to raise awareness help implement best practices in research assessment for data and AI; and
5. To engage in outreach that shapes policy and institutional change, promoting a culture of responsible data and AI research conduct.

CoARA-ERIP Co-Chairs

Co-Chairs

- **Francis P. Crawley**
  Good Clinical Practice Alliance – Europe (GCPA) (Senior researcher, Belgium)
- **Mara de Sousa Freitas**
  Catholic University of Portugal (Senior researcher, Portugal)
- **Kris Dierickx**
  KU Leuven (Senior researcher, Belgium)
- **Perihan Elif Ekmekçi**
  TOBB University of Economics and Technology (Senior researcher, Turkey)

Co-Chairs

- **Chiedozie Ike**
  Ambrose Alli University (Early career researcher, Nigeria)
- **Pil Maria Saugmann**
  The European Council for Doctoral Candidates and Junior Researchers (EuroDoc) (Early career researcher, Belgium)
- **Cyrus Walther**
  International Union of Pure and Applied Physics, Dortmund, North Rhine-Westphalia (PhD student, Germany)
- **Gitanjali Yadav**
  National Institute of Plant Genome Research (NIPGR), (Senior researcher, India)

CoARA-ERIP Membership

168 Global Membership

- **Participation for all continents**
  - **Europe**
    Strong representation from EU and non-EU countries (e.g., Germany, UK, Italy, Netherlands, Finland, Belgium).
  - **Africa**
    Highly represented, with strong participation from Nigeria, Kenya, South Africa, Ghana, Uganda, and others.
  - **Asia**
    Solid participation from India, China, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, and others
  - **North America:** Good representation from the USA and Canada
  - **South America:** Participants from Argentina, Brazil, and Chile
- **Significance:** This global diversity is crucial for developing science, academic, and ethics frameworks that are not solely Western-centric and are applicable across different cultural, legal, and research contexts.
- **Gender**
  - **Male:** ~52%
  - **Female:** ~47%
  - **Prefer not to say:** ~1%
- **Workstreams**
  - **Workstream 1 (Outreach & Awareness)**
    ~65% of participants expressed interest.
  - **Workstream 2 (Policy, Methods & Tools)**
    ~80% of participants expressed interest.
  - **Workstream 3 (Implementation Toolkit)**
    ~65% of participants expressed interest.

Representativeness

- **Institutional Affiliation:**
  - **Universities and Research Institutes**
    (e.g., University of Oslo, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, University of Ibadan, University of Hamburg)
  - **Research Funding Bodies**
    (e.g., Research Council of Finland, National Institutes of Health – NIH)
  - **International Organizations & Infrastructures**
    (e.g., European Commission, ELIXIR, DARIAH-EU, CODATA)
  - **Healthcare Institutions**
    (e.g., Medical Research Council of Zimbabwe, Aga Khan University)
  - **NGOs**
    (e.g., NetMission.Asia, The Ethical Data Initiative)
- **Expertise and Roles**
  - **Data and AI Science:** Data Science, Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Data Management (FAIR, RDM), Bioinformatics, Data Governance, Cybersecurity.
  - **Open Science and Scholarly Communication:** Open Science, Open Access, Preprints, Responsible Research Assessment (RRA), Bibliometrics, Scientometrics.
  - **Ethics and Integrity:** Research Ethics, Bioethics, AI Ethics, Neuroethics, Research Integrity, Publication Ethics.
  - **Policy and Governance:** Science Policy, Research Policy, Data Policy, AI Regulation (e.g., EU AI Act), Research Management, Project Management.
  - **Domain-specific Research:** Clinical Research, Global Health, Public Health, Digital Humanities, Environmental Science, Linguistics, Robotics.

The mind is not a vessel to be filled but a fire to be kindled.

(*Plutarch, Moralia, De Auditu, 46A–B*)

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Workstreams update

Workstream 1

Outreach & Awareness

1. Responsible AI in Research Assessment: A Landscape Analysis
   A Report By The CoARA Working Group On Ethics and Research Integrity Policy in Responsible Research Assessment for Data and Artificial Intelligence (CoARA-ERIP)
   Susanne Van Den Hooff, Matt Coler, Francis P. Crawley, Millicent Mboya, Emile R. Chimusa
2. Ethical Implications of AI Integration in Research Assessment
   Susanne van den Hooff, Department of Care Ethics, University of Humanistic Studies, Utrecht, NL
   Matt Coler, Technology, Governance & Innovation Department, Faculty Campus Fryslân, University of Groningen, NL
   CoARA-ERIP
3. Meetings and webinars (see Events at the end of this presentation)

Workstream 2 (&3)

Policy, Methods, & Tools

1. CoARA-ERIP Checklist for self-evaluation in research assessment: designed for individual researchers and institutions
2. Advancing the ethical arc: integrating research assessment into the university curriculum - A position paper
3. Kirbas, Z. S., Arpaci, S., Ekmekci, P. E., Crawley, F. P., Karaman, B. B., De Sousa Freitas, M. C., Stoka, V., Walther, C., & Tzouganatou, A. (2025). A whitepaper on reforming research assessment for a digital and AI-driven science future (Final 1.0). Zenodo. https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17308056

Workstream 2 (&3)

Policy, Methods & Tools

1. CoARA-ERIP Checklist for self-evaluation in research assessment: designed for individual researchers and institutions
2. Advancing the ethical arc: integrating research assessment into the university curriculum - A position paper
3. Whitepaper on 'From peoples to platforms: reclaiming sovereignty in data and AI governance through revisiting the UN Charter and human rights law'
4. Framing paper: 'The ENVISAGE Principles & PILOT Principles: A Layered Framework for Ethical and Operational AI'
   subtitle: 'AI Governance: Grounding AI governance in shared human values and implementing them through robust policy and engineering'
5. Developing policies to advance ethics and human rights in general-purpose AI models (GPAIMs)

Morality is the basis of things and truth is the substance of all morality.

(Mahatma Gandhi, Young India, 8 December 1921)

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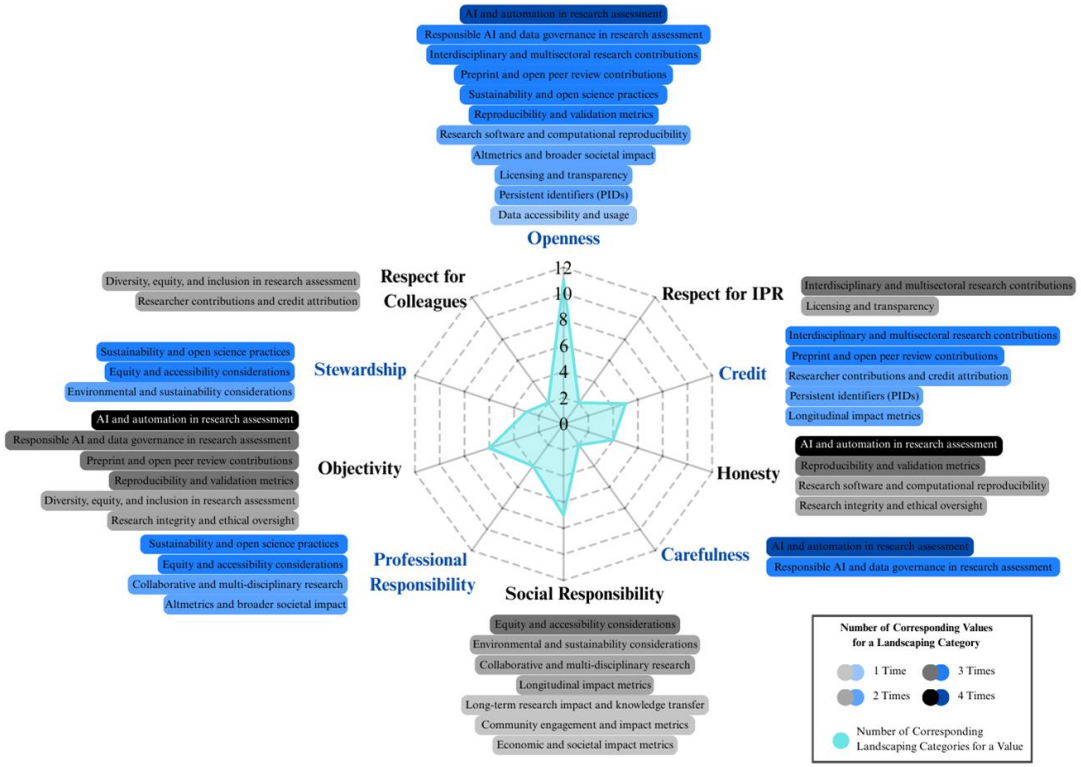
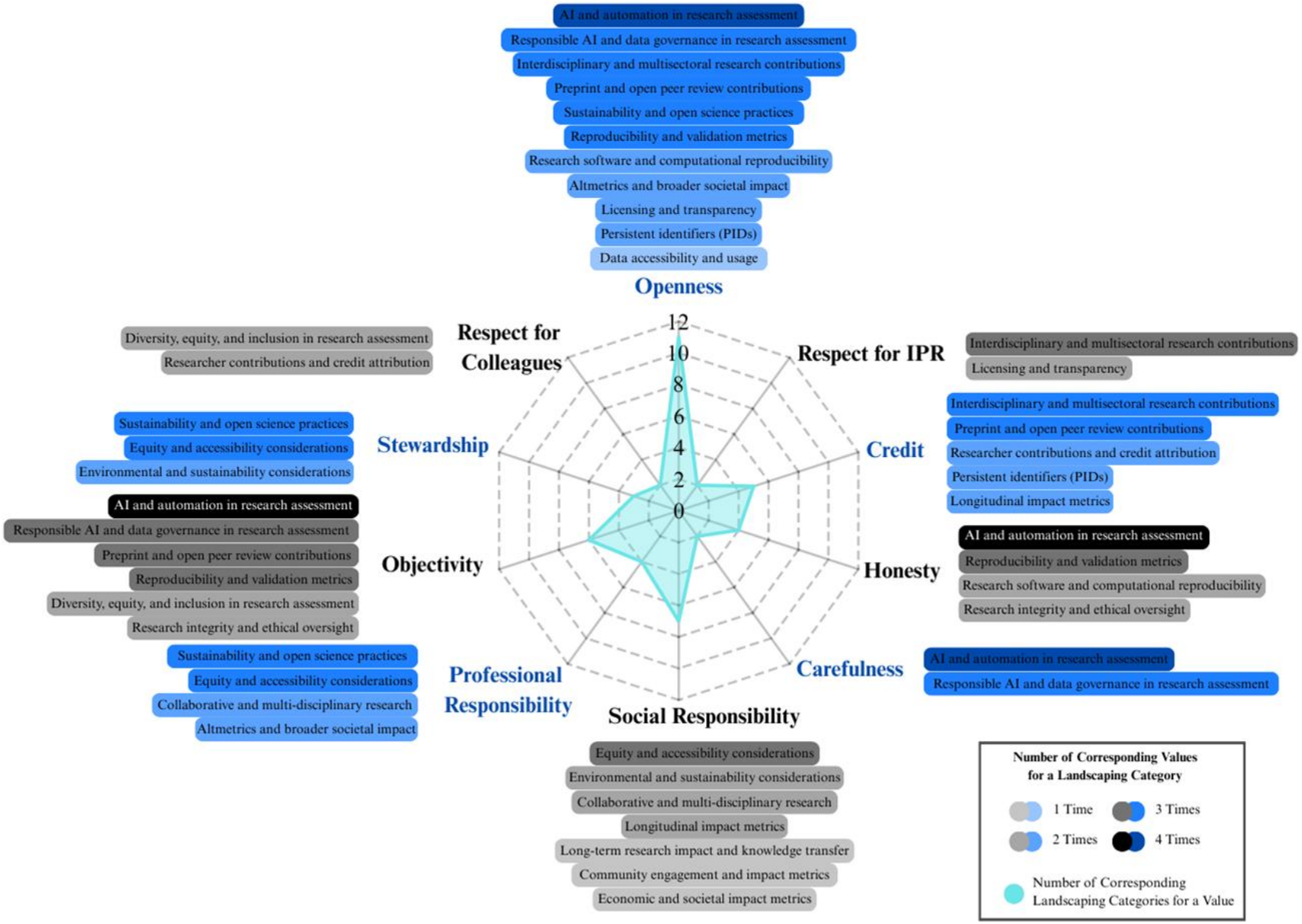
Workstream 2 (&3)

Implementation Toolkit

The Ethics Assessment Alignment Matrix (EAAM)
bridging normative values with assessable research domains integrated in the MAC



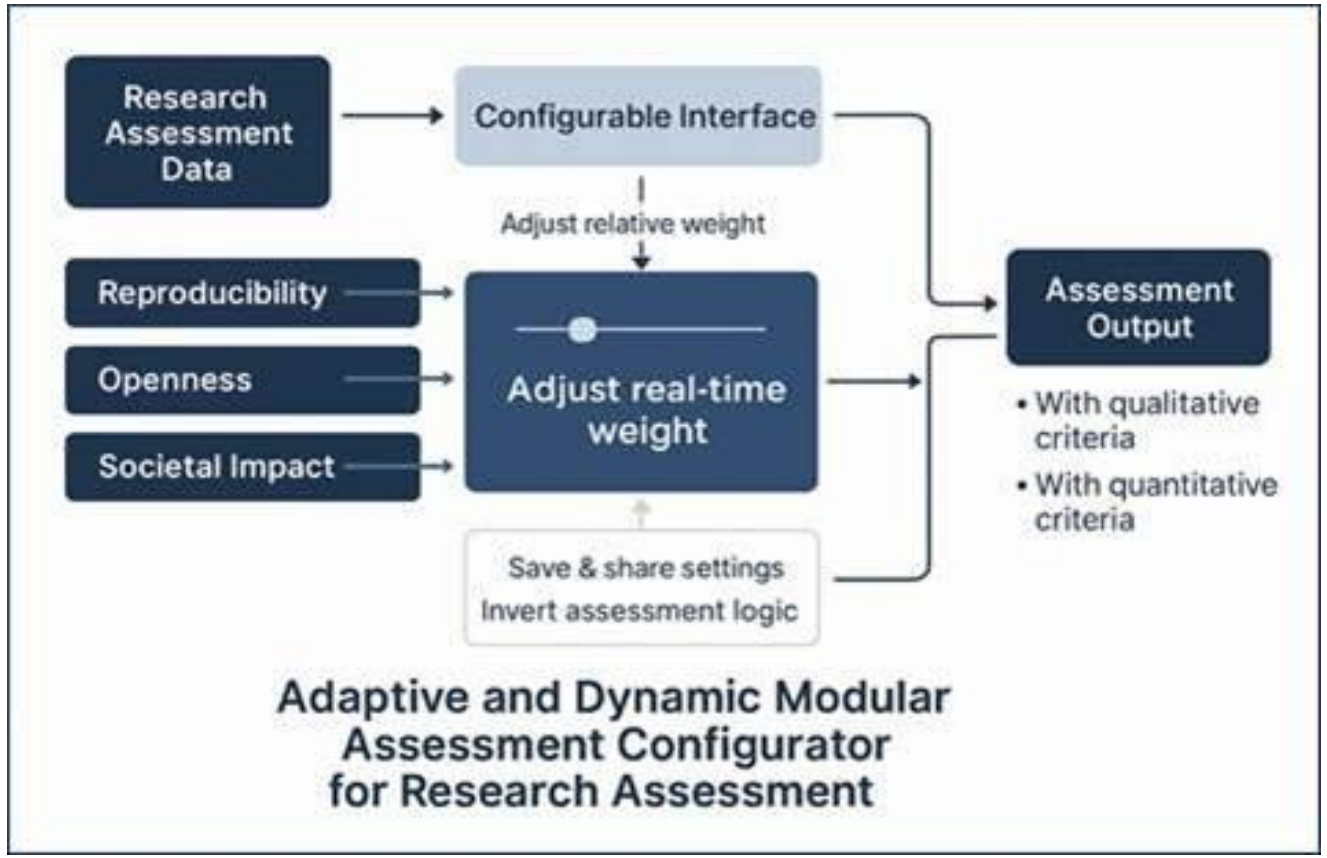

AI and automation in research assessment
Responsible AI and data governance in research assessment
Interdisciplinary and multisectoral research contributions
Preprint and open peer review contributions
Sustainability and open science practices
Reproducibility and validation metrics
Research software and computational reproducibility
Altmetrics and broader societal impact
Licensing and transparency
Persistent identifiers (PIDs)
Data accessibility and usage
Openness
Respect for IPR
Interdisciplinary and multisectoral research contributions
Licensing and transparency
Credit
Interdisciplinary and multisectoral research contributions
Preprint and open peer review contributions
Researcher contributions and credit attribution
Persistent identifiers (PIDs)
Longitudinal impact metrics
Honesty
AI and automation in research assessment
Reproducibility and validation metrics
Research software and computational reproducibility
Research integrity and ethical oversight
Carefulness
AI and automation in research assessment
Responsible AI and data governance in research assessment
Social Responsibility
Equity and accessibility considerations
Environmental and sustainability considerations
Collaborative and multi-disciplinary research
Longitudinal impact metrics
Long-term research impact and knowledge transfer
Community engagement and impact metrics
Economic and societal impact metrics
Professional Responsibility
Sustainability and open science practices
Equity and accessibility considerations
Collaborative and multi-disciplinary research
Altmetrics and broader societal impact
Objectivity
AI and automation in research assessment
Responsible AI and data governance in research assessment
Preprint and open peer review contributions
Reproducibility and validation metrics
Diversity, equity, and inclusion in research assessment
Research integrity and ethical oversight
Stewardship
Sustainability and open science practices
Equity and accessibility considerations
Environmental and sustainability considerations
Respect for Colleagues
Diversity, equity, and inclusion in research assessment
Researcher contributions and credit attribution
12
10
8
6
4
2
0
Number of Corresponding Values for a Landscaping Category
1 Time
2 Times
3 Times
4 Times
Number of Corresponding Landscaping Categories for a Value

Workstream 3

Implementation Toolkit

The Modular Assessment Configurator (MAC)

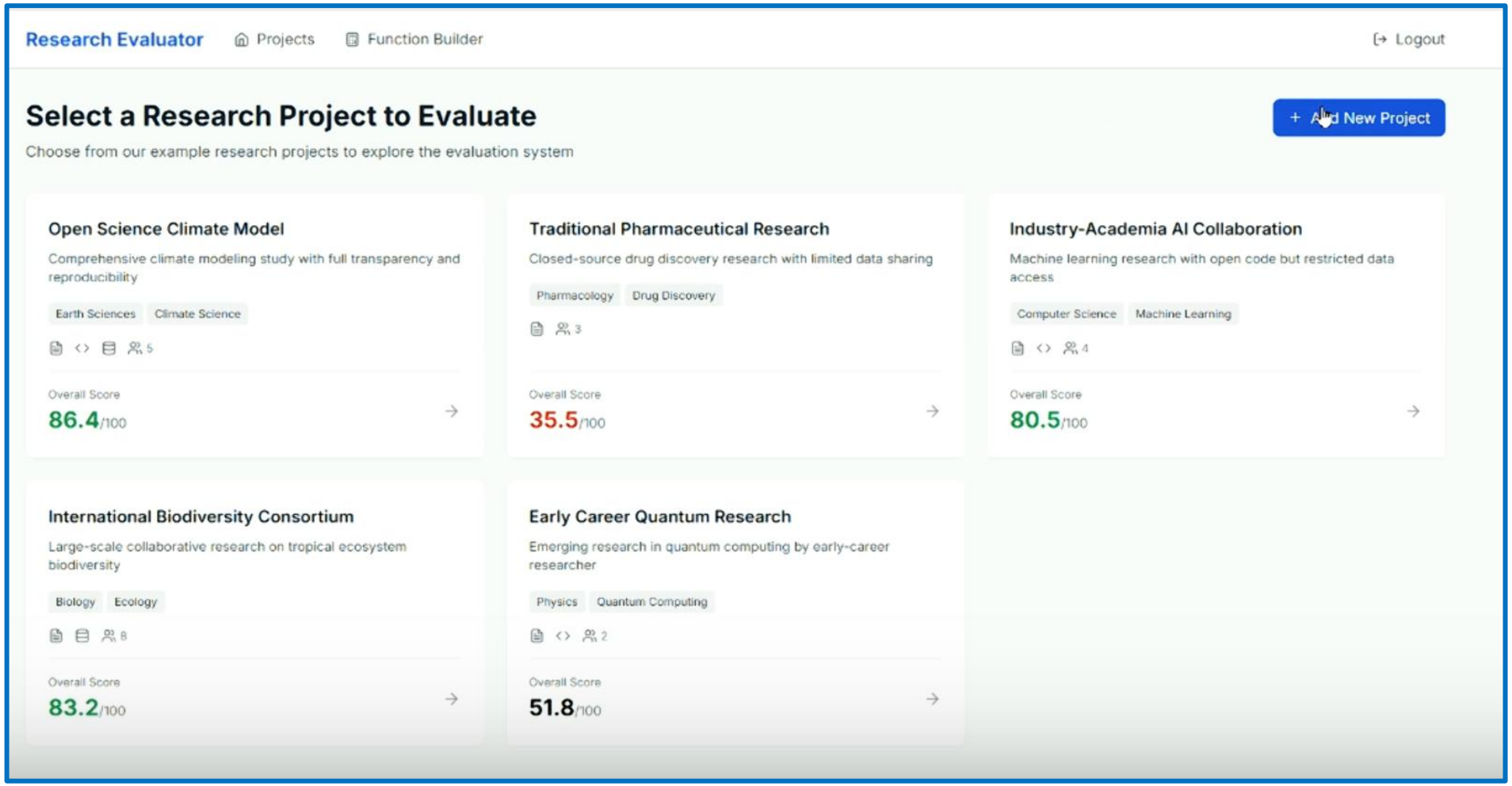
A digital tool that enables institutions (RPOs)and funders (RFOs)
to (co-)create configurable, explicable, and value-aligned assessment workflows



Workstream 3

Implementation Toolkit

The Modular Assessment Configurator (MAC)



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The Impact of the MAC

1. Adoptable and adaptable: EU-wide and globally relevant
2. Allows for the inclusion of all scientific and academic research outputs/objects and contributions – CCOs and LLDOs
3. Allows for the custom selection and weighing of Assessment Relevant Contributions (ARCs)
4. Integrates a system for alignment with research ethics and research integrity
5. Creates transparency for assessors, those assessed, and those viewing the results of the assessment – a fair, equitable, and transparent 'credit' system
6. Allows for the sharing of assessment standards within institutions, across institutions or domains – locally, nationally, regionally
7. Creates a sound mechanism for promoting/driving open science
8. Fosters scholarly communication and sharing

The highest education is that which does not merely give us information but makes our life in harmony with all existence.

(*Tagore, Rabindranath. 'Sādhanā: The Realisation of Life.' Macmillan, London, 1913*)

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Serving the Community

Impact & Legacy

- Completion of ongoing work across the three workstreams
- Publication of WS1 and WS2 outputs
- Further develop of
- The CoARA-ERIP The Ethics Assessment Alignment Matrix (EAAM)
- Networking outputs across CoARA Working Groups and National Committees
- Endorsement of CoARA-ERIP's outputs
- Adoption of CoARA-ERIP's outputs into the CoARA Toolkit
- Communication and dissemination of the CoARA-ERIP outputs
- Transitioning into a sustainable community of practice

Comprehensive Excellence & Implementation

1. WS-1: Expansion of the landscaping
   Further meetings and webinars
2. WS-2: Further development of policy and methodologies
3. WS-3: Integrating further the EAAM and the MAC
   Building the backend and refining the frontend of the MAC
   Hackathons

The earth is not a gift from our parents,
it is a loan from our children.

(*Kenyan Proverb*)

We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors;
we borrow it from our children.

(*Native American Proverb*)

A person is a person through other persons.

(Ubuntu *Proverb*)

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Events

CoARA-ERIP Events

Technical University of Munich Think Tank: Shaping the Future of Ethics
Presentation on 'Reconciling Socrates and Plato in the ethics of today's digital landscape supporting science and higher education'
Munich, Germany; 31 March 2025

Contributions European Commission's 'Call for Evidence on developing a European Strategy for AI in Science':

- 'A coherent strategy to enable trustworthy, explainable, and responsible research assessment in an AI-driven and Open Science-aligned European Research Area (ERA)'
  Submitted on behalf of CoARA-ERIP, CoARA-OI4RRA, EDI, TUM Think Tank, CODATAIDPC
- 'Developing principled approaches for evaluating AI and data-intensive research grounded in integrity, fairness, and accountability, particularly in supporting the creation of a European AI Research Council and the promotion of Open Science'
  Submitted on behalf of CoARA-ERIP

CoARA-ERIP Events

The Future of Research Communications and e-Scholarship (FORCE11) - Scholarly Communication Institute (FSCI) Summer School
Course: 'Science Writing in the Age of AI: Where Have All the Authors Gone?'
Organized by CoARA-ERIP, ESOC-Future/RDA Artificial Intelligence & Data Visitation Working Group; CODATA International Data Policy Committee

Advancing responsible research assessment for funders in the European digital space
A dialogue on ethics, integrity, and open infrastructure
The Royal Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts (KVAB), Brussels, 2 June 2025
Organized with funding support from the European Commission's Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD) and held in cooperation with in cooperation with OpenAIRE, ALLEA, The Barcelona Declaration, UKRI, CODATA, Research Data Alliance (RDA), Ethical Data Initiative (EDI), Universidade Católica Portuguesa (UCP), FAIRsharing, TOBB University, and Eurodoc.

Research AI Summit 2025: Bridging Innovation and AI
Establishment of the Indian Forum on Research Assessment (IFRA)
New Delhi, India; 9 & 10 June 2025
Organized by NIPGR, CODATA India, iBRIC-NII, CoARA-ERIP

CoARA-ERIP Events

13th IAEE International Conference on Ethics Education
'Ethics education and the future of research assessment in the digital age'
Session organized by CoARA-ERIP & Yenepoya Bioethics Centre
Bangaluru, India; 12-14 June 2025

Workshop on 'AI in Health-related Research and Scientific Publications: Digital Technologies, Ethics, and Research Assessment'
Mangalura, India; 19-20 June 2025
Organized by CoARA-ERIP, CODATA IDPC, EOSC-Future/RDA AIDV-WG, and the Centre for Ethics at Yenepova (Deemed to be University)

DH2025 Accessibility & Citizenship: Building access and accessibility, open science to all citizens
Session: 'Building Ethical Bridges: Collaborative Approaches to Research Integrity in the Digital Humanities'
The Alliance of Digital Humanities Organizations (ADHO); Universidade NOVA de Lisboa (NOVA FCSH), Lisbon, Portugal, 14-18 July 2025

CoARA-ERIP Events

Teaming for self-evaluation in research assessment across scales: from researchers to institutions - CoARA Boost Project
With the Research Data Alliance (RDA) – Europe (coordinator), The Catholic University of Portugal (UCP), and TOBB University of Economics

FSCI 2025 Summer Course
'Science writing in the Age of AI: Where have all the authors gone' from Tuesday 22 July to Thursday 24 July 2024.

5th Open Science Fair (OSFair 2025) – Two Sessions
a. 'Ethics first: rethinking research assessment in the age of AI and open science' (Abstract ID #144)
b. 'Data for AI: From Readiness to Ethics'
CERN Science Gateway in Geneva, Switzerland; 15–17 September 2025

CoARA-ERIP Events

29th World Congress of Medical Law (WCML): 'Vulnerability in the 21st Century: Respect and Protection'
Paper presented on 'Enhancing Research Ethics and Addressing Digital Academic Contributions in Research Assessment'
Hilton Istanbul Bosphorus; 5-8 August 2025

The Long-term Data Workflow from Creator to Re-user: : options for the future of the research data ecosystem
Presentation on 'From Preservation to Foresight: Ethical and Policy Pathways for Long-Term Data Re-use'
Hosted by Australia's Ecosystem Observatory (TERN), the Queensland Cyber Infrastructure Foundation (QCIF), and University of Brisbane
International Data Week 2025, Brisbane, Australia; 17 October 2025

CoARA-ERIP Events

Session on 'AI without borders? Navigating data sovereignty and human rights in a fragmented world'
Presentation: 'The ENVISAGE Principle and PILOT Principles for AI Governance'
Organized by the CODATA International Data Policy Committee
International Data Week; Brisbane, Australia; 13-16 October 2025

Session on 'Dataspaces: Enabling Academic and Industrial Research Data Sharing Management at Scale'
Presentation: 'The ENVISAGE Principle and PILOT Principles for AI Governance'
Organized by the Research Data Alliance
International Data Week; Brisbane, Australia; 13-16 October 2025

CoARA-ERIP representation on the Steering Group of the International Science Council (ISC) Forum on Publishing and Research Assessment

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Conclusion

Looking Forward

CoARA ERIP is now poised for the following

- To further refine and expand the work of WS-1, WS-2, and WS-3
- To integrate its outcomes across the CoARA Working Groups and National Committees
- To seek CoARA Endorsement for its outputs
- To collaborate with the following organizations for the implementation of its outputs

OpenAIRE	UNESCO	cOAlitionS
Barcelona Declaration	ISC	GLASCO
DORA	CODATA	FORCE11
SHARC	Global Research Council	RoRI
	OECD	

Dandari baning, binung guruman,
Jinan yangga, Kogor yangga.
Baning mai nandri wanggarba,
‘Ngurra gurumba, muran yagarba.’

The old seed, in the fire,
The bee listens, the Kookaburra
listens.
The ancient river is speaking,
‘The home is good, you belong.’

(*A Jagera Poem, ‘The Seed of Knowledge’, Australia*)