



Council of the
European Union

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RECH 519

NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Council

Subject: Progress with research assessment reforms and actions
- *Information from the Commission*

Delegations will find attached a note from the Commission on the “*Progress with research assessment reforms and actions*” with a view to the AOB items at the meeting of the Competitiveness Council on 8 December 2023.

Progress with research assessment reforms and actions*Information from the Commission*

The research and innovation system undergoes **major transformations** with diversification of research outputs and tasks, and of the required skills. There is a growing need of multi-disciplinary approaches and collaboration to tackle ever more complex scientific questions and societal challenges. We should seek to adapt to the evolutions of the research process, move away from a research culture dominated by a race to secure publications in prestigious journals and best reward what we value, thereby to maximise the quality and impact of research. There is broad agreement on the need for **renewing research assessment** and **strengthening capacities for scholarly communication**.

The 10 June 2022 Council Conclusions on “Research assessment and implementation of Open Science” called on the Commission to inform the Council on progress made by the end of 2023.

Building on a broad consultation of stakeholders, the Commission facilitated the co-design by research organisations of an **Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment**, now signed by close to 650 research organisations from 48 countries. A **coalition of signatories of the Agreement, CoARA**, was established as a platform for mutual learning and collaboration. A first set of ten working groups have started to experiment with improvements to research assessment, and the first five national chapters have started work to ensure that national framework conditions are conducive to reforms. As a signature of the Agreement and a member of CoARA, the Commission co-chairs a Working Group on improving practices in the assessment of research proposals. It has included the principles for improved research assessment in its **proposal for a European Framework for research careers**, and for a **revised Charter for Researchers and Code of Conduct for the recruitment of researchers**. Furthermore, it supports the development of **dialogues at national level** to help identify legal or administrative barriers to reforms and solutions.

The Commission has launched a study to provide further insights and recommendations on how to proceed with additional regulatory and non-regulatory measures to **make the legal framework fit for open science and open scholarly communication**, allowing access to and reuse of publicly funded research results. Further, it has been funding projects to support the capacities of research and other institutions with a public good mission in **coordinating publishing capacities across Europe**. The Commission is exploring with other research funders the possibility of extending the Open Research Europe publishing service into a collective, not-for-profit open access service. Finally, the Commission is funding a study on the **diversity of scientific publishing in Europe and the practices and costs of scholarly publications** to acquire a better understanding of the current situation.

The Commission proposes to **continue reporting to the Council on the progress made**, so that we ensure common ground for further actions needed.

