

# **Election of CoARA Steering Board Members (incl. Vice-Chair) Nominee Profiles**

**CoARA General Assembly**  
December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025

***Voting window opens on November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025***



# Applications' Overview

**About the 2025 CoARA Steering Board Call ..... 3**

**Applications for Steering Board Members and Vice-Chair ..... 4**

Application no. 1: Prof. Oliver GÜNTHER.....5

Application no. 2: Mr. Janne PÖLÖNEN .....8

**Applications for Steering Board positions only..... 11**

Application no. 3: Prof. Björn ANDERSSON.....12

Application no. 4: Dr. Jonas BJÖRCK.....14

Application no. 5: Dr. Matej BRACIC.....17

Application no. 6: Dr. Xavier CASTANER .....21

Application no. 7: Dr. Kalpana CHAUDHARI .....23

Application no. 8: Dr. Eleonora DAGIENE .....25

Application no. 9: Dr. Carina GELDHAUSER .....28

Application no. 10: Prof. David Budtz PEDERSEN .....31

Application no. 11: Mrs. Cristina SKOUBRIDOU .....34

Application no. 12: Dr. Katarzyna SWIERK.....37

Application no. 13: Dr. Mehmet Recai UYGUR.....40

Application no. 14: Dr. Kata-Riina VALOSAARI .....43

## About the 2025 CoARA Steering Board Call

The [CoARA Steering Board \(SB\)](#) is responsible for the overall oversight, strategic vision, work plan, and sustainability of CoARA. The SB provides guidance for member participation and oversees the work of the Working Groups, National Chapters, and the General Assembly, ensuring that the activities of the coalition align with its long-term aims and mission for advancing research assessment.

While a diversity of profiles is valued, Steering Board members are expected to have expertise and a broad overview of research assessment issues. **Candidates’ experience should demonstrate their commitment to CoARA’s values and guiding principles.** Candidates should also be prepared to **publicly represent the coalition** and participate in a variety of **CoARA activities and events**. Desirable candidates will demonstrate **strong leadership** and **communication skills**, a **strategic vision** for the collective future of CoARA, and a commitment to advancing research assessment reform.

This document provides a presentation of the **14 nominee profiles** for the 3 open Steering Board Members positions open:

- **3 Steering Board Members,**
  - **including 1 Vice-Chair.**

The candidates will be elected during the **upcoming CoARA General Assembly on Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025, and for which voting window opens on November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025.** Elected candidates will begin their terms immediately upon the announcement of the voting results.

Please refer to the Voting Guidelines for more details about the decision-making processes at the CoARA General Assembly.

*Note: The order of presentation of the applications in this document is solely based on the type of position applied for (Vice Chair vs. Steering Board Member) and, within each category, arranged in alphabetical order. The sequence does not reflect any ranking, preference, or evaluation of the candidates.*

## **Applications for Steering Board Members and Vice-Chair**

## Application no. 1: Prof. Oliver GÜNTHER

### Candidate's information

<b>Title</b>	Prof.	<b>Affiliation</b>	University of Postdam
<b>First name</b>	Oliver	<b>Current Position</b>	President
<b>Last name</b>	Günther	<b>Country of Location</b>	Germany
<b>Gender</b>	Male		

<b>Apply to</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Steering Board Member
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steering Board Member and Vice-Chair

<b>Nominating Organisation</b>	University of Postdam
<b>Type of Organisation</b>	Universities and their associations

### Motivation Statement of the Nominated Candidate

I have been strongly committed to modern, fair and impact-oriented research evaluation for many years. Consequently, I strongly supported the University of Potsdam's accession to CoARA in early 2024 bringing the discussions about transforming research assessment to a next level within my institution but also within our networks YERUN (Young European Research Universities) and EDUC (European Digital UniverCity, an alliance of eight European universities which the UP leads).

To allow researchers to develop their full potential and to find appropriate measures to evaluate their impact, I initiated structural change processes that promote excellence, openness, and diversity in research and teaching. Whether it comes to open science guidelines, recruitment processes or the implementation of diversity criteria, the engaged scientific and administrative community at my institution supported these fundamental changes and enabled me to develop the University of Potsdam to one of the most dynamic universities in Germany.

With this drive and commitment, I want to take the opportunity to apply as Vice-Chair within the CoARA Steering Board to further enhance open science, digital transformation, and responsible research evaluation in a world-wide context.

My own scientific expertise combined with many years of management experience allowed me to nourish an excellent network within the European higher education landscape, as well as an international perspective. Additionally, it is my strong believe that only while building bridges between science, politics, and society research will remain to play a vital role in social discourse given backward-looking developments worldwide. Given these aspects I would be delighted to enrich CoARA's leading team bringing new visions and future-oriented ideas to the Steering Board.

## Narrative CV of the Nominated Candidate

- BACKGROUND

Being a business information scientist by training, I spent a large part of my academic career, from my master's degree to my Ph.D. studies to my position as an assistant professor at the University of California (Berkeley and Santa Barbara) in the USA.

My visiting professorships at the École Nationale Supérieure des Télécommunications and the Pôle universitaire Léonard-de-Vinci in Paris, the University of California at Berkeley, and the University of Cape Town further enhanced my international perspective, broadening my understanding of the underlining processes of successful research landscapes.

Afterwards my academic career took me from the FAW Ulm to the Humboldt University of Berlin and then in 2012 to the University of Potsdam where I am currently serving my third term as President.

Given my background I am particularly committed to the internationalization of universities and their responsible but reform-oriented advancement. This is one of the reasons why I pushed for the University of Potsdam to join YERUN (Young European Research Universities) and to lead the European Digital UniverCity (EDUC).

- OTHER COMMITMENTS

Beyond my role at the University of Potsdam, I am a member of the board of trustees of numerous non-university research institutions and non-profit organizations, including chairman of the board of trustees of the Moses Mendelssohn Center for European-Jewish Studies. I was also vice president for governance, teaching, and studies at the German Rectors' Conference for many years.

- KEY SKILLS

I have extensive management experience both in scientific leadership roles as well as in scientific management positions.

Leading discussions on equal terms while using analytical foresight and creative terms is one of my core characteristics.

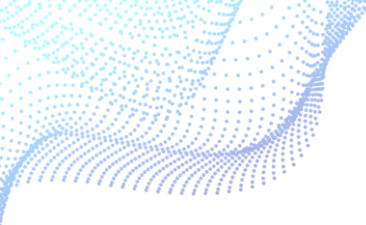
Being a team-player wholeheartedly dedicated to lobby for the "scientific cause", I take over the lead whenever discussions need to be held.

- MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

Letting aside my findings as a researcher, I am extremely proud that in terms of equal opportunities the University of Potsdam became Germany's university with the highest proportion of female professors.

Furthermore, I am the founder and jury chairman of the Voltaire Prize, which is awarded annually to international scientists who champion freedom of research and teaching and the right to freedom of expression.

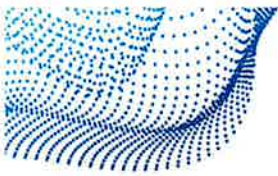
Additionally, during my time in office I could transform the University of Potsdam from a



medium-sized university to a successful and international visible research institution.

- RELEVANT PUBLICATIONS

I recently published my concept of universities as platforms for social discourse and institutions for knowledge transfer in my book “Die diverse Universität: Gefahr für die Demokratie oder Garantin des Gemeinwohls?” (The Diverse University: Threat to Democracy or Guarantor of the Common Good?).



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**Prof. Dr. Barbara Höhle**  
Vice President for Research, Early Career Researchers  
and Equal Opportunities  
vp-forschung@uni-potsdam.de

## **Letter of support for the candidature of Prof. Oliver Günther, Ph.D. to Vice-Chair position**

Dear Selection Committee,

It is with great enthusiasm that **University of Potsdam** nominates and offers our full support for **Prof. Oliver Günther, Ph. D.** in his application for the CoARA Steering Board for the **Vice-Chair**.

As a **Universities and their associations** organisation type, we are committed to **supporting interdisciplinary research in cooperation with a large number of extramural research institutions in the natural sciences, humanities and social sciences**, we are confident that **Prof. Oliver Günther, Ph.D.** is dedicated to the advancement of research assessment, embodying the values of collaboration, transparency, and inclusivity. He is knowledgeable and passionate about the current challenges in methods of research evaluation and the importance of recognising the diverse contributions of researchers. Through his valuable expertise and leadership skills, he will offer a strategic vision in CoARA.

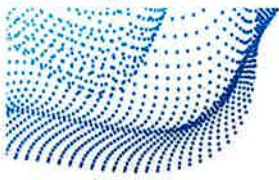
**Prof. Oliver Günther, Ph.D.** has been the **President of the University of Potsdam** since 2012 and is a **vital part of Germany's higher education landscape** since 2005. He combines remarkable scientific expertise with many years of management experience, excellent networking, and an international perspective. During his time with us, he has demonstrated outstanding commitment to implement modern, fair, and impact-oriented research evaluation through emphasizing strong Open Science practices and equal opportunities measures as part of the R&I culture within EDUC (an alliance of eight European universities under the lead of the University of Potsdam) and for the University of Potsdam as a whole, as well as initiating a reform of recruitment strategies through HRS4R (HR Excellence in Research Award 2016, renewal 2022) to name just two examples. His work has had a measurable impact within the University of Potsdam and its European networks.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, **Prof. Oliver Günther, Ph.D.** embodies qualities of being a bridge builder between science, politics, and society far beyond the national borders, a dedicated and compassionate science manager with the drive to pioneer and support change whenever necessary, as well as a visionary of the future role of science within society. His dedication to support equal opportunities (University of Potsdam is Germany's university with the highest proportion of female professors) and recognition of both qualitative and quantitative impact in research and structural development continues to advance goals that align with CoARA.

**University of Potsdam** firmly believes that **Prof. Oliver Günther, Ph.D.** will bring exceptional value, insight, and commitment to the CoARA Steering Board.<sup>7</sup>

We strongly endorse his candidacy and fully support his nomination.





Sincerely,

**Prof. Dr. Barbara Höhle**

## Application no. 2: Mr. Janne PÖLÖNEN

### Candidate's information

<b>Title</b>	Mr.	<b>Affiliation</b>	Federation of Finnish Learned Societies
<b>First name</b>	Janne	<b>Current Position</b>	Secretary General for Publication Forum
<b>Last name</b>	Pölönen	<b>Country of Location</b>	Finland
<b>Gender</b>	Male		

<b>Apply to</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Steering Board Member
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steering Board Member and Vice-Chair

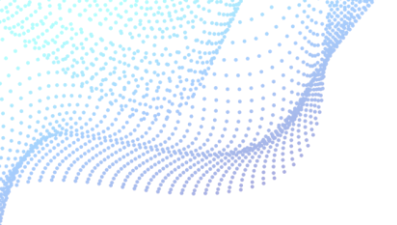
<b>Nominating Organisation</b>	Federation of Finnish Learned Societies
<b>Type of Organisation</b>	Academies, learned societies, and their associations, and associations of researchers

### Motivation Statement of the Nominated Candidate

Systemic reform of research assessment requires coordinated action and sufficient tipping-point scale. In three years, CoARA has succeeded in establishing a large community of organizations committed to reforming research assessments across Europe and beyond. In Europe, 13 % of Higher Education Institutions, 27 % of PhD awarding institutions, and 52 % of major research universities are CoARA signatories. National chapters, working groups and cascade funded projects play an important role in supporting situated implementations of CoARA commitments through experimentation, co-creation, knowledge exchange and mutual learning among CoARA members.

Next years are crucial in determining the direction and success of CoARA as the dynamo of change that converts the community's will, effort and momentum into lasting transformation of assessment practices. While CoARA needs to support context and institution specific local adaptations, it is also crucial to clarify targets and pathways to reaching commonly agreed goals. The first touch point in 2027, when signatories have worked through at least one cycle of review and development of their assessment criteria, tools and processes, provides an important opportunity for CoARA to provide evidence of the community's progress towards fulfilling the Commitments.

My current CoARA Steering Board mandate ends in December 2025. I am now applying as a candidate for Steering Board Member and/or Vice-Chair, and I am willing and motivated to serve the next two years in either capacity. I have gained broad experience and contributed to the



development of CoARA from the diverse perspectives of a member organization, the Finnish national chapter, cascade funded FIN-CAM project, the Working Group on Multilingualism, and the CoARA Steering Board. I have also dedicated considerable time and effort to analyzing and understanding the uptake of CoARA.

The Federation of Finnish Learned Societies (TSV), the organization that formally nominates me as candidate, is a proud member of CoARA and committed to support the entire Finnish research community in its journey towards quality focused assessment culture that recognizes the full diversity of academic work and open science practices. In Finland, Europe and globally, learned societies can and should be more strongly and strategically engaged in the advancement of responsible research and assessment for the full benefit of science and society.

### **Narrative CV of the Nominated Candidate**

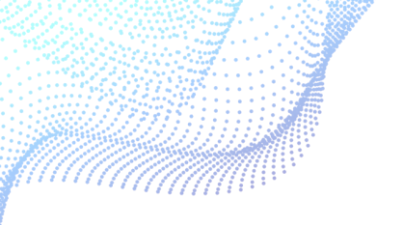
I currently work as the Secretary General for Publication Forum at the Federation of Finnish Learned Societies (TSV), which is a public co-operative body for 300 scholarly associations from all fields. Over the past fifteen years, my experience of responsible research assessment (RRA) issues ranges from indicators for institutional performance-based funding to policies and tools for assessment of individual researchers. I am currently serving the CoARA community as a member of the Steering Board (mandate ends in December 2025).

I have training in history (Lic.Phil., University of Oulu, 2003), specializing in ancient Roman law and society research. In the course of my work at TSV I am experienced with bibliometric research and practices, and my recent work is in the fields of research assessment, scholarly communication, open science and learned societies. I have dedicated time and effort on studying CoARA as a reform initiative from the perspective of legal foundations (<https://doi.org/10.1093/reseval/rvad035>) and uptake among higher education institutions in Europe (<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15727196>).

Between 2017-2020 I represented Finland in the COST-Action ENRESSH, the European Network for Research Evaluation in the Social Sciences and the Humanities (SSH). Within this network, we conducted several cross-country studies of SSH publishing patterns and databases, which highlighted the shortcomings of the standard citation indexes (Web of Science and Scopus) in assessment and recognition of the full diversity of SSH work.

In 2019 I co-founded the Helsinki Initiative - a collaboration between TSV, ENRESSH and Universities Norway - to promote diversity, equity and inclusion through multilingualism in scholarly communication. The initiative encourages sharing research results beyond academia, supports the national publication channels that enable multilingual publication, and promotes multilingualism in the assessment and funding processes of research. Signatories from over 70 countries agree that this is an international, not just national or local concern. Over the past two years, I have coordinated the CoARA WG on Multilingualism and Language Biases in Research Assessment.

I have been able to broaden my perspective on issues related to recognizing and rewarding open



science practices through EU-funded projects and expert groups. I am TSV team lead in GraspOS project (2023-2025) and was PI for EOSC Co-creation project “European overview of merit and incentive systems in relation to FAIR data creation”. The final report “Making FAIRer Assessments Possible” (<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4701374>), co-authored with Henriikka Mustajoki and colleagues., identified the lack of reliable, comprehensive, comparable information on broad range of open science practices as one of the key challenges. Since 2023, I am also members of the advisory group for Open and Responsible Researcher Reward and Recognition (OR4) project by the UK Reproducibility Network. I have also been a member of the EOSC Task-force on Research Careers, Recognition, and Credit.

Much of my work has been devoted to advancing responsible assessment in Finland. In 2018-2020, I co-chaired a broad-based national working-group at TSV for producing a recommendation on the responsible evaluation of a researcher in Finland. This is one of the first national RRA recommendations in Europe. Currently I am a member of the TSV secretariat for the Steering-group for Responsible Researcher Assessment and member of the team developing the Finnish Career Assessment Matrix (FIN-CAM), which recently received CoARA Boost cascade funding. With TSV colleagues I have also contributed to the CoARA WG on Academic Career Assessment. Over the past three years, I contributed also to a TSV project on the assessment of societal impact, investigated from the perspectives of both individual researchers and organizations (comparing universities, universities of applied sciences and state research institutes). I also contribute to the secretariat of the Finnish CoARA National Chapter.

I have fifteen years of experience in developing publication metrics and addressing their inappropriate uses. Since 2010, I have worked with field-specific expert panels, currently including 300 Finnish experts across all fields of arts and sciences, whose task is to evaluate peer-reviewed journals and book publishers. Since 2015, the Ministry of Education and Culture has used this community-curated classification, which is not reliant on the Journal Impact Factor (JIF), to distribute part of core-funding annually to universities considering the full diversity of peer-reviewed publications and languages. A user-guide published by the Publication Forum steering-group recommends that JUFO ratings are not appropriate for assessing or comparing the quality of individual publications or researchers.



Federation of Finnish  
Learned Societies

**Federation of Finnish Learned Societies**  
Kirkkokatu 6, 00170 Helsinki, Finland

**Dr. Lea Ryyänen-Karjalainen**  
Executive Director  
lea.ryynanen-karjalainen@tsv.fi

## Letter of support for the candidature of Mr Janne Pölönen to CoARA Vice-Chair position

Dear Selection Committee,

It is with great enthusiasm that **Federation of Finnish Learned Societies (TSV)** nominates and offers our full support for **Janne Pölönen** in their application for the CoARA Steering Board for the **Vice-Chair**.

As a **Academies, learned societies, and their associations, and associations of researchers** organisation type, we are committed to **responsible research and assessment**, we are confident that **Janne Pölönen** are dedicated to the advancement of research assessment, embodying the values of collaboration, transparency, and inclusivity. They are knowledgeable and passionate about the current challenges in methods of research evaluation and the importance of recognising the diverse contributions of researchers. Through their valuable expertise and leadership skills, they will offer a strategic vision in CoARA.

**Janne Pölönen** has been **with our organisation since 2010**. During their time with us, they have demonstrated outstanding **skills, leadership, commitment, achievements involving research assessment reforms** through **development of community-curated journal evaluation, recommendations on responsible researcher assessment, the Finnish Career-Assessment Matrix, and societal impact assessment**. Their work has had a measurable impact within **the Finnish research community and in the development of responsible assessment internationally**.

Beyond their professional accomplishments, **Janne Pölönen** embodies qualities of **interaction, innovative thinking and broad general knowledge**. Their dedication to **open science, multilingualism, diversity and inclusion** continues to advance goals that align with CoARA.

**Federation of Finnish Learned Societies** firmly believes that **Janne Pölönen** will bring exceptional value, insight, and commitment to the CoARA Steering Board.

We strongly endorse their candidacy and fully support their nomination.

Sincerely,

**Lea Ryyänen-Karjalainen**

## **Applications for Steering Board positions only**

## Application no. 3: Prof. Björn ANDERSSON

### Candidate's information

<b>Title</b>	Prof.	<b>Affiliation</b>	Karolinska Institutet
<b>First name</b>	Björn	<b>Current Position</b>	Professor of Genome Analysis
<b>Last name</b>	Andersson	<b>Country of Location</b>	Sweden
<b>Gender</b>	Male		

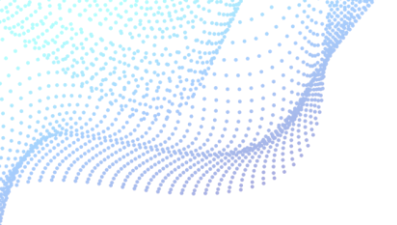
<b>Apply to</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steering Board Member
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Steering Board Member and Vice-Chair

<b>Nominating Organisation</b>	Karolinska Institutet
<b>Type of Organisation</b>	Universities and their associations

### Motivation Statement of the Nominated Candidate

I am a molecular biologist and my career has revolved around basic research, teaching and leadership in the medical field. I first became aware of issues involving open science and other aspects of novel merits through my involvement in the human genome project as a post-doctoral fellow, and through subsequent work in genomics and bioinformatics. In recent years, my involvement in administrative and leadership roles at Karolinska Institutet, a medical university in Sweden, and in national and European organizations has increased. This has given me opportunities to use my experience for helping to develop academia in a changing world. Training, assessment, recruitment and career development are crucial tasks for leaders in academia and it is important that the procedures and methods in this area are as fair and in sync with modern research and teaching as possible. I have therefore gravitated towards leadership activities where I can influence these areas. This includes European organizations, for example EMBL and ELIXIR, as well as work with infrastructures at the Swedish Research Council and committee work at Karolinska Institutet. I am currently the chairman of the Docent board, where we oversee the crucial step of qualifying for higher academic positions by reaching the level of Docent. In the latter role, I am involved in gradually reforming the assessment of research, teaching and leadership merits at my institution. As this ties in directly with our commitment to CoARA, I have become increasingly involved in the work to more broadly begin to adapt Karolinska Institutet to CoARA principles. In summary, I am motivated to contribute to the complex task of modernizing academic processes in a rapidly changing landscape. Reform is important to increase fairness and to strengthen research, teaching and leadership at all levels. The open sharing of data that was ushered in through the field of genomics was a great inspiration, and it was clear that this strategy was greatly beneficial to the development of the





genomics field and later other areas. Biological and medical research has changed fundamentally, as a result of the application of these principles to large data sets. I could also directly observe how shared data and methods were appreciated and beneficial for individual scientists.

### **Narrative CV of the Nominated Candidate**

- Contribution to Knowledge and Research:

Björn Andersson is a Professor of Genome Analysis at Karolinska Institutet, where he leads a research group focused on the genomic analysis of parasites and viruses. His research uses large-scale sequencing and bioinformatics to understand how pathogens evolve, interact with hosts, and develop drug resistance. A major contribution to the field includes his involvement in the first sequencing and analysis of the *Trypanosoma cruzi* genome, published in 2005, which has informed global health efforts related to Chagas disease. His work in metagenomic approaches has advanced understanding of the human virome and microbiome, particularly in relation to inflammatory and immune-mediated diseases.

- Contribution to People and Team Development:

As the leader of a multidisciplinary research group, Prof Andersson has supervised master's students, PhD candidates, and postdoctoral researchers, many of whom have continued into careers in academia, clinical research, and biotechnology. He teaches at both graduate and postgraduate levels at Karolinska Institutet, contributing to courses in molecular genetics, genomics, and bioinformatics. He also participates in doctoral education through course development and involvement in dissertation committees, fostering training environments that emphasize scientific independence and collaborative inquiry.

- Contribution to the Research Community:

Prof Andersson contributes to the wider research community through scientific collaboration, peer review, and committee participation. He has been involved in multi-institutional projects across genomics and infectious disease research, supporting method development and data sharing. He regularly reviews scientific manuscripts and serves on dissertation examination committees, contributing to maintaining scientific standards and promoting research integrity. His committee and board work includes being chairman of the Docent board at KI and the Swedish scientific delegate for the EMBL and ELIXIR boards.

- Contribution to Society and Broader Impact:

Prof Andersson's research supports global and public health by informing diagnostic strategies and disease surveillance for parasitic infections, particularly in regions affected by Chagas disease. He has contributed to collaborations that enhance research capacity in international settings and participates in public engagement efforts to increase understanding of the microbiome and infectious disease biology. His work bridges fundamental research and applied medical science, supporting improved diagnostics and awareness of pathogen-related health challenges.





**Karolinska  
Institutet**

**Karolinska Institutet**

Nobels väg 6, 171 77, Stockholm, Sweden

**Prof. Marie Arsenian-Henriksson**

Academic Vice-President for Research

marie.arsenian.henriksson@ki.se

## **Letter of support for the candidature of Prof. Björn Andersson to Steering Board Member position**

Dear Selection Committee,

It is with great enthusiasm that **Karolinska Institutet** nominates and offers our full support for **Prof. Björn Andersson** in their application for the CoARA Steering Board for the **Steering Board Member**.

As a **Universities and their associations** organisation type, we are committed to **advance knowledge about life and strive towards better health for all**, we are confident that **Björn Andersson** are dedicated to the advancement of research assessment, embodying the values of collaboration, transparency, and inclusivity. They are knowledgeable and passionate about the current challenges in methods of research evaluation and the importance of recognising the diverse contributions of researchers. Through their valuable expertise and leadership skills, they will offer a strategic vision in CoARA.

**Björn Andersson** has been a **valued researcher and academic leader at the institution for two decades**. During their time with us, they have demonstrated outstanding **leadership, commitment and achievements involving research assessment reforms** through **their work as chair of the Docent Board which has included reforming the criteria and process for assessment for qualification to the level of Docent in line with our CoARA commitments**. Their work has had a measurable impact within **the organisation and wider academic field**.

Beyond their professional accomplishments, **Björn Andersson** embodies qualities of **collaboration, leadership and academic collegiality**. Their dedication to **ensure fair, transparent and appropriate processes for academic promotion** continues to advance goals that align with CoARA.

**Karolinska Institutet** firmly believes that **Björn Andersson** will bring exceptional value, insight, and commitment to the CoARA Steering Board.

We strongly endorse their candidacy and fully support their nomination.

Sincerely,

**Marie Arsenian-Henriksson**

## Application no. 4: Dr. Jonas BJÖRCK

### Candidate's information

<b>Title</b>	Dr.	<b>Affiliation</b>	Forte: the Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and Welfare
<b>First name</b>	Jonas	<b>Current Position</b>	Director General
<b>Last name</b>	Björck	<b>Country of Location</b>	Sweden
<b>Gender</b>	Male		

<b>Apply to</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steering Board Member
	<input type="checkbox"/> Steering Board Member and Vice-Chair

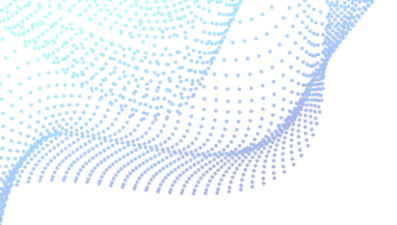
<b>Nominating Organisation</b>	Forte: the Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and Welfare
<b>Type of Organisation</b>	Public or private research funding organisations and their association

### Motivation Statement of the Nominated Candidate

As Director General of Forte the Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and Welfare, I am deeply committed to advancing research assessment reform through leadership, collaboration, and evidence-based practice. My engagement in cOAlition S, where I serve in the Leaders Group, has allowed Forte to contribute actively to shaping the coalition's new strategy for open science. In Sweden, I lead Forte's work on developing sustainable models for open access publishing, including national efforts to reform payment streams. These initiatives have helped position Sweden as a global leader in open access, and reflect my broader commitment to transparency, equity, and innovation in research systems.

I believe that research assessment must be grounded in the quality of the proposed research, not in proxies for prestige or quantitative metrics. This principle guides Forte's approach, where we assess applications based on scientific quality, societal relevance, and feasibility – with a small emphasis on track record and no use of journal-based metrics. I see this as essential to fostering a research culture that values diverse contributions and career paths, in accordance with the nature and needs of the research.

Forte's practices reflect values I strongly support and which align closely with CoARA's commitments. We promote qualitative peer review, consensus-based decision-making, and the inclusion of community representatives in our panels. We encourage applicants to highlight the



experiences most relevant to their proposed research, and we continuously refine our criteria to better capture the diversity of outputs and impacts.

I am particularly engaged in ensuring that our assessment processes are fair, inclusive, and legally secure. Under my leadership, Forte has conducted observational studies to identify bias and improve transparency, and we have launched a multi-year development programme to strengthen our tools and support systems. We also actively participate in national and international networks to exchange practices and contribute to mutual learning.

As a Steering Board member, I would bring strategic leadership, hands-on experience, and a strong commitment to CoARA's mission. I am eager to contribute to the coalition's governance, sustainability, and community-building, and to help ensure that reform efforts remain inclusive, evidence-informed, and impactful.

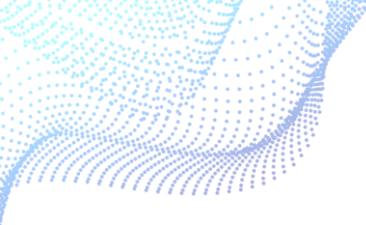
### **Narrative CV of the Nominated Candidate**

I have more than twenty years of experience in research policy and research funding, combining strategic leadership with a strong commitment to advancing open science and reforming research assessment. Since April 2020, I have served as Director General of Forte, the Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and Welfare, where I lead one of Sweden's four governmental research and innovation funding agencies. In this role, I have worked to strengthen qualitative, fair, and inclusive research assessment practices, ensuring that evaluations focus on the quality of research proposals rather than on track records or quantitative indicators. This approach reflects my belief that research systems must recognise diverse contributions and career paths, fully in line with CoARA's principles.

Before joining Forte, I was Director General for the Division for Research Policy at the Swedish Ministry of Education and Research (2015–2020). There, I was responsible for shaping national research policy and representing Sweden in key European and Nordic forums. I served as Sweden's member of the European Research and Innovation Committee (ERAC) and on the steering committee of the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking, and I led bilateral research commission meetings with non-EU countries. I have also represented Sweden at informal EU ministerial councils, replacing the Minister of Higher Education and Research on several occasions. Earlier in my career, I spent over fifteen years at the Swedish Research Council, holding several senior positions and contributing to national strategies for research funding and evaluation.

International collaboration has been a central part of my work. Between 2020 and 2024, I was Sweden's delegate and Chair of the NordForsk Board, promoting Nordic cooperation in research and innovation. I am also a member of the Leaders Group of cOAlition S, where I have played an active role in shaping the coalition's new strategy for open science and sustainable open access publishing. In Sweden, I lead national efforts to develop new payment models for open access that control costs while expanding access, helping position Sweden as a global leader in open science.

In addition to these roles, I was appointed by the Swedish Government as lead auditor for the Nobel Foundation between 2016 and 2020, ensuring compliance and governance at one of the world's most prestigious scientific institutions.



My academic background includes a Bachelor's degree in Geoscience and a Ph.D. in Quaternary Geology from Stockholm University, completed in 1999. This scientific foundation has shaped my understanding of research systems and the importance of rigorous, transparent evaluation practices.

Throughout my career, I have sought to combine policy development with practical implementation, fostering systems that are transparent, equitable, and oriented toward societal impact. These experiences have given me a broad and deep understanding of research assessment issues and the ability to contribute strategically to CoARA's mission.



Swedish Research Council for  
Health, Working Life and Welfare

**Forte Swedish Research Council for Health,  
Working Life and Welfare**  
Magnus Ladulåsgatan 65, 118 27 Stockholm,  
Sweden

**Dr. Cecilia Beskow**  
Head of Research Department  
cecilia.beskow@forte.se

## **Letter of support for the candidature of Dr. Jonas Björck to Steering Board Member position**

Dear Selection Committee,

It is with great enthusiasm that **Forte** nominates and offers our full support for **Jonas Björck** in their application for the CoARA Steering Board for the **Steering Board Member**.

As a **Public or private research funding organisations and their associations** organisation type, we are committed to **promote and support research in the areas of health, working life and welfare**, we are confident that **Jonas Björck** are dedicated to the advancement of research assessment, embodying the values of collaboration, transparency, and inclusivity. They are knowledgeable and passionate about the current challenges in methods of research evaluation and the importance of recognising the diverse contributions of researchers. Through their valuable expertise and leadership skills, they will offer a strategic vision in CoARA.

**Jonas Björck** has been **the Director General of Forte since 2020**. During their time with us, they have demonstrated outstanding **strategic vision, collaborative leadership and a strong commitment to advancing research assessment reform and open science** through their engagement in **cOAlition S** and **NordForsk**, as well as **Forte's own efforts to develop our research assessment practices**. Their work has had a measurable impact within **Forte, the Swedish research funding system, and international networks, positioning Sweden as a global leader in open science**.

Beyond their professional accomplishments, **Jonas Björck** embodies qualities of **integrity, inclusiveness, and evidence-based decision-making**. He is recognised for his ability to **foster collaboration, and for his commitment to transparency and equity in research systems**. Their dedication to **fostering a research culture that values quality over prestige, diversity of contributions, and societal impact** continues to advance goals that align with CoARA.

**Forte** firmly believes that **Jonas Björck** will bring exceptional value, insight, and commitment to the CoARA Steering Board.

We strongly endorse their candidacy and fully support their nomination.

Sincerely,

  
**Cecilia Beskow**

## Application no. 5: Dr. Matej BRACIC

### Candidate's information

<b>Title</b>	Assis. Prof. Dr.	<b>Affiliation</b>	University of Maribor, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Laboratory for Characterisation and Processing of Polymers
<b>First name</b>	Matej	<b>Current Position</b>	Assistant Professor
<b>Last name</b>	Bračič	<b>Country of Location</b>	Slovenia
<b>Gender</b>	Male		

<b>Apply to</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steering Board Member
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Steering Board Member and Vice-Chair

<b>Nominating Organisation</b>	University of Maribor
<b>Type of Organisation</b>	Universities and their associations

### Motivation Statement of the Nominated Candidate

"Dear Members of the Selection Committee,

I am writing to express my interest in serving on the Steering Board of the Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA). As an Assistant Professor and Researcher at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, University of Maribor, I have devoted my career to advancing high-quality science and mentoring early-career researchers. My engagement with the research assessment environment, together with my belief in fairer and more meaningful evaluation practices, aligns strongly with CoARA's mission to enable systemic reform based on shared principles and commitments.

Through my experience, I have seen how evaluation systems overly focused on publication counts and metrics can undervalue true scientific quality. While quantitative indicators can be useful, they must be applied responsibly and supported by qualitative judgement. I support CoARA's vision of recognising diverse research outputs and contributions through a balanced and transparent assessment approach.

Evaluations should reflect merit, context, and societal impact rather than metric-driven output alone. Earlier in my career, I followed the same "point-hunting" culture that dominates much of academia, but this experience led me to appreciate the importance of research integrity, collaboration, and mentorship. I now strive to prioritise quality over quantity, foster transparency and fairness, and encourage responsible, interdisciplinary research. Through

CoARA, I would like to help strengthen assessment cultures that value diversity, integrity, and societal relevance.

What I bring to the Board:

- Interdisciplinary expertise across polymer and material science, biomedical coatings, and heritage conservation, requiring nuanced evaluation of quality and impact.
- Experience supervising Master's and PhD students and mentoring young researchers, offering first-hand insight into how assessment practices influence academic careers.
- Participation in national and international projects where success depends on research quality, openness, and collaboration rather than output volume.
- Commitment to advancing institutional reform and promoting responsible and open research practices.

I would be honoured to contribute my experience and perspective to the Steering Board and to work collaboratively with the CoARA community toward inclusive and meaningful research assessment reform.

Thank you for considering my application.

Yours sincerely,

Matej Bračič

## Narrative CV of the Nominated Candidate

- Overview

Dr. Matej Bračič is an Assistant Professor and Senior Researcher at the Laboratory for Characterisation and Processing of Polymers, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, University of Maribor, Slovenia. His work focuses on developing functional and sustainable materials that connect polymer science with biomedical and cultural-heritage applications. Combining curiosity for material interactions with a collaborative approach to research, he contributes to advancing high-quality, interdisciplinary, and socially relevant science. Alongside his research, he mentors students and early-career researchers, helping to foster responsible and open research practices within his laboratory and the broader academic community

- Contributions to Knowledge

His scientific expertise lies in surface and material science, particularly in the interactions of polymer dispersions with solid surfaces, colloidal systems, and functional coatings for biomedical and heritage preservation applications. He finished his PhD in 2016 and has since then published original scientific and review articles, book chapters, a scientific monograph and shared his research work at national and international conferences. His work is regularly cited by fellow researchers, and he is sharing the knowledge with his BSc, MSc and PhD students.

His research spans polymer chemistry, material engineering, biochemistry, and cultural heritage conservation. Key research areas include:



- Functional coatings (e.g., anti-biofouling, antibacterial, protein-repellent)
- Stabilization of  $\text{CaCO}_3$  and zinc-based colloids
- Quartz Crystal Microbalance with Dissipation (QCM-D)
- Electrospinning and spin-coating of biopolymers
- Surface activation and coating of biomedical implants
- Contributions to People and Research Culture

Dr. Bračič has been actively mentoring young researchers in multidisciplinary environments. He has supervised PhD, Master's and Bachelor's students and postdoctoral researchers. He lectures and leads laboratory courses in:

- Fibers and fibre-based materials
- Technical textiles and textile testing
- Polymers

Through these roles, he supports capacity building in Slovenia's next generation of polymer engineers, medical device developers, and surface chemists. He also promotes good research practices, encouraging careful documentation, collaboration across disciplines and integrity in authorship and supervision.

- Contributions to the Research Community

He is actively involved in the research community as a guest (Frontiers in Nanomaterials) and special issue (MDPI Polymers) editor in research journals, special issue editor. He peer-reviews scientific papers for Carbohydrate Polymers, Scientific Reports (Nature), Soft Matter (RSC), Journal of Hazardous Materials, Textile Research Journal, among others. He is a core member and university coordinator for EPNOE (European Polysaccharide Network of Excellence), contributing to Europe's agenda in biopolymer and sustainable material research.

He also collaborates with key institutions internationally:

- Instituto de Química Avanzada de Cataluña (Spain)
- Friedrich Schiller University and TU Dresden (Germany)
- TU Graz (Austria)
- Petru Poni Institute (Romania)
- NIT Warangal (India)

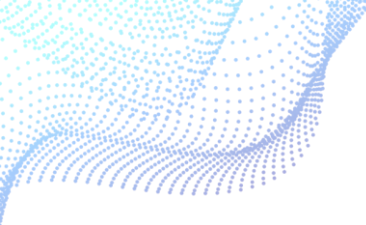
- Contributions to Society and Broader Impact

His research has addressed major societal and industrial challenges in the fields of:

#### 1. Biomedical and Health Impact:

- Bioresorbable zinc alloy implants for orthopedics (BI-IN/22-24-020)
- Protein-repellent coatings for catheters and implants (L2-3163 DemoCat)
- Amoxicillin and fucoidan-based coatings for stainless steel implants



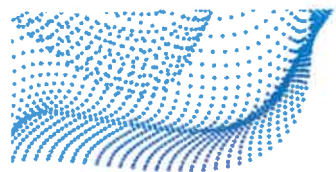


## 2. Cultural Heritage and Sustainability:

- DeacidCellulose (J4-1764): Nanoparticles for paper deacidification
- CELLCYCLE: Valorisation of industrial lignin and circular bioeconomy
- 3D printed scaffolds for cartilage regeneration (J3-2538)

These projects demonstrate his commitment to applying scientific knowledge for societal benefit through interdisciplinary collaboration and sustainable innovation.

He has coordinated or participated in several nationally funded ARRS projects, including as a project leader, researcher or project partner. He contributes to programs in biomedical coatings, green chemistry, circular material use, and heritage conservation technologies.



University of Maribor  
Slomškov trg 15, 2000 Maribor, Slovenia

**Prof. dr. Zdravko Kačič**  
Rector of the University of Maribor  
rektor@um.si

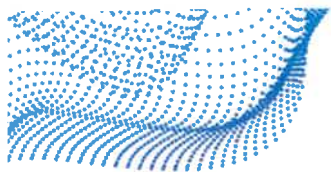
## **Letter of support for the candidature of Assist. Prof. dr. Matej Bračič (Ph.D.) to Steering Board Member position**

Dear Selection Committee,

It is with great enthusiasm that **the University of Maribor** nominates and offers our full support for **dr. Matej Bračič** in their application for the CoARA Steering Board for the **Steering Board Member**.

As a **Universities and their associations** organisation type, we are committed to **promoting openness, integrity and collaboration in research and to fostering a transparent and inclusive academic environment that supports scientific excellence, knowledge sharing and sustainable societal development through responsible research practices**, we are confident that **dr. Matej Bračič** are dedicated to the advancement of research assessment, embodying the values of collaboration, transparency, and inclusivity. They are knowledgeable and passionate about the current challenges in methods of research evaluation and the importance of recognising the diverse contributions of researchers. Through their valuable expertise and leadership skills, they will offer a strategic vision in CoARA.

**Dr. Matej Bračič** has been **an active member of the academic community serving as an Assistant Professor and Senior Researcher at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Laboratory for Characterization and Processing of Polymers. He conducts interdisciplinary research spanning polymer and material science, biomedical coatings, and cultural-heritage conservation – all fields that demand collaboration across disciplines and careful evaluation of diverse research outputs and impacts.** During their time with us, they have demonstrated outstanding **analytical precision, collegial leadership and a consistent commitment to responsible and socially relevant research** through **their participation in international projects and collaboration with partner institutions across Europe, which illustrates their ability to connect scientific expertise with teamwork and cross-border collaboration. Their scientific work and mentoring practices reflect CoARA values through interdisciplinarity, integrity and a focus on research that benefits society.** In his research practice, **dr. Matej Bračič aligns with the principles of responsible science, ensuring transparent documentation, fairness in authorship, and awareness of reproducibility and openness among students and colleagues.** His recent involvement in the **Open Science Ambassadors Network at the University of Maribor further demonstrates his commitment to strengthening a culture of openness and reform from within the academic environment.** Their work has had a measurable impact within **the research community and the broader academic environment of the University of Maribor, contributing**



**to stronger interdisciplinary collaboration, mentoring culture and greater international visibility of Slovenian research.**

Beyond their professional accomplishments, **dr. Matej Bračič** embodies qualities of **integrity, curiosity and collaborative spirit, combined with perseverance and a reflective approach to mentorship**. Their dedication to **responsible and meaningful research, reflecting a fair, inclusive and forward-looking academic culture** continues to advance goals that align with CoARA.

**The University of Maribor** firmly believes that **dr. Matej Bračič** will bring exceptional value, insight, and commitment to the CoARA Steering Board.

We strongly endorse their candidacy and fully support their nomination.

Sincerely,

**Prof. dr. Zdravko Kačič**

**Rector of the University of Maribor**

po podblasku rektorja  
**prorektor za infrastrukturo UM**  
**prof. dr. Miralem Hadžiselimović**



12 -11- 2025

## Application no. 6: Dr. Xavier CASTANER

### Candidate's information

<b>Title</b>	Dr.	<b>Affiliation</b>	Université de Lausanne IFSAM
<b>First name</b>	Xavier	<b>Current Position</b>	Full Professor Chair of the Advisory Council
<b>Last name</b>	Castañer	<b>Country of Location</b>	Switzerland
<b>Gender</b>	Male		

<b>Apply to</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steering Board Member
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Steering Board Member and Vice-Chair

<b>Nominating Organisation</b>	International Federation of Scholarly Associations of Management (IFSAM)
<b>Type of Organisation</b>	Academies, learned societies, and their associations, and associations of researchers

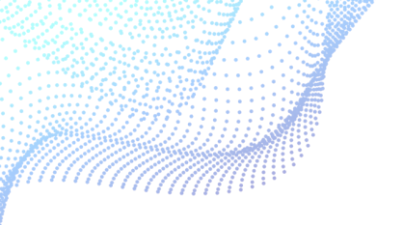
### Motivation Statement of the Nominated Candidate

During my presidency of IFSAM (2021-2022) I launched a ww consultation process on the evaluation of management research which led to the first IFSAM position statement: <https://www.ifsam.org/blog/2021/06/04/ifsam-general-assemblys-position-statement-on-management-research/> I also initiated action for IFSAM to become a COARA signatory. Now, as chair of IFSAM advisory council, I remain very concerned with the future of (management) research integrity in the new era of AI. I believe becoming a COARA board member I can contribute to the fair redefinition of RA criteria in this AI-challenging context.

### Narrative CV of the Nominated Candidate

"BA-MBA by ESADE and PhD in Business Administration by the University of Minnesota, since 2014 Xavier is a full professor of Strategy at the University of Lausanne (Switzerland). He was previously on the faculty of ESADE and HEC Paris where he developed and taught several courses on strategy at all levels, including the Grande Ecole, the MBA, the PhD and Executive Education program. He has also taught at the HEC Geneva, Hebrew University in Jerusalem, London Business School, Technion and the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore. He has been a visiting faculty at ESADE, SCANCOR, Boston College, Tel Aviv University, Toulouse School of Management and VU Amsterdam.

He teaches and does research on corporate governance, strategy and development, as well as innovation and organizational design. He has published in top management journals such as the



Academy of Management Review, Administrative Science Quarterly, Corporate Governance International Review, Journal of Management, Journal of Management Studies, International Journal of Innovation Management and Strategic Management Journal. His 2020 co-authored article in the JoM is one of the most read from the journal and was nominated for the best review JoM article of 2020.

He is very active in the scientific community, having had leadership roles at AOM, EURAM, SMS and IFSAM, where he completed the cycle of president elect, president and past president (2020-2024), pushing for his Vision 2024. He co-chaired and organized the 2020 IFSAM biennial conference, the first online as well as the IFSAM 30 years' anniversary ceremony. Under his leadership, IFSAM approved its first policy statement, in the domain of research evaluation. He served as EURAM vice-president for external relations (2017-2021), being under his tenure that EURAM joined IFSAM. He was the president of IFSAM in 2021-2022 and he is currently the chair of its advisory council. He also has been director of his department at HEC UNIL. He also is invited and participates in many developmental activities for doctoral students in the major conferences as well as in the 35 years old Consortium for Competitiveness and Cooperation, to which he has been invited since 2006. He has served as evaluator for different national research funds (Belgium, Canada, Norway,...) as well as panelist of SH1 of the European Research Council.

Further, Xavier also consults for different organizations and has appeared in major international and national outlets (FT, Forbes, Le temps, and NZZ, among others). He is also active in social media, currently in LinkedIn (more than 10500 followers), after having abandoned the former media Twitter in 2024 after its purchase by E. Musk.



**International Federation of Scholarly  
Associations of Management Organisation**

ASBL - Boulevard Louis Schmidt 24  
1040 Brussels, Brussels-Capital Region, Belgium

**Prof. Nic Beech**

President

President@ifsam.org

## **Letter of support for the candidature of Prof. Xavier Castañer to Steering Board Member position**

Dear Selection Committee,

It is with great enthusiasm that **International Federation of Scholarly Associations of Management Organisation (IFSAM)** nominates and offers our full support for **Professor Xavier Castañer** in their application for the CoARA Steering Board for the **Steering Board member**.

As a **Academies, learned societies, and their associations, and associations of researchers** organisation type, we are committed to **be the world wide policy body in management research, teaching and practice**, we are confident that **Professor Xavier Castañer** are dedicated to the advancement of research assessment, embodying the values of collaboration, transparency, and inclusivity. They are knowledgeable and passionate about the current challenges in methods of research evaluation and the importance of recognising the diverse contributions of researchers. Through their valuable expertise and leadership skills, they will offer a strategic vision in CoARA.

**Professor Xavier Castañer** has been a **Former President of IFSAM and currently serves as Chair of our Advisory Council**. During their time with us, they have demonstrated outstanding **leadership and commitment to scholarly advancement, including active contributions to the IFSAM Research Committee** through **initiatives such as the promotion of IFSAM's Soft Policy on Research**. Their work has had a measurable impact within **IFSAM community, member associations, and broader networks**.

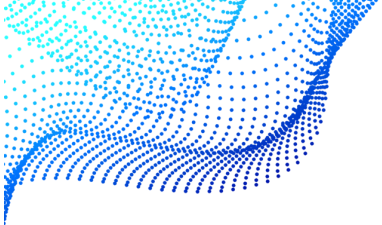
Beyond their professional accomplishments, **Professor Xavier Castañer** embodies qualities of **integrity, humanitarian values, and a deep passion for building a better world**. Their dedication to **strategic vision and sustainable development, combined with a long-standing academic career and publications in leading management journals**, continues to advance goals that align with CoARA.

**IFSAM** firmly believes that **Professor Xavier Castañer** will bring exceptional value, insight, and commitment to the CoARA Steering Board.

We strongly endorse their candidacy and fully support their nomination.

Sincerely,

**Prof. Nic Beech**



**Signature: \_\_**



## Application no. 7: Dr. Kalpana CHAUDHARI

### Candidate's information

<b>Title</b>	Dr.	<b>Affiliation</b>	Institute For Sustainable Development and Research (ISDR)
<b>First name</b>	Kalpana	<b>Current Position</b>	Vice-President
<b>Last name</b>	Chaudhari	<b>Country of Location</b>	India
<b>Gender</b>	Female		

<b>Apply to</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steering Board Member
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Steering Board Member and Vice-Chair

<b>Nominating Organisation</b>	Institute For Sustainable Development and Research (ISDR)
<b>Type of Organisation</b>	Universities and their associations

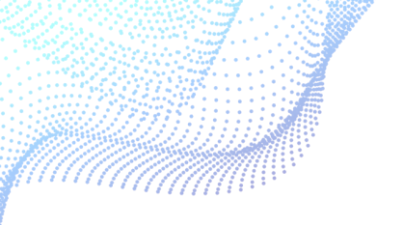
### Motivation Statement of the Nominated Candidate

I am interested in applying for the Steering Board Candidates for CoARA to contribute my skills and experience in research assessment, Knowledge Exchange and innovative solutions for the inclusive and effective assessment practices. I am interested in contributing to creating a more inclusive, impactful, and sustainable research ecosystem through CoARA networks institutions.

### Narrative CV of the Nominated Candidate

Dr. (Mrs) Kalpana Chaudhari is an engineer by training. She has pursued the Ph.D. in Engineering and Technology from RTM Nagpur University, Nagpur, India and Post Graduate Diploma in Urban and Housing Studies from Institute for Urban and Housing Studies, Erasmus University, Rotterdam, The Netherlands. Her research work consists of interdisciplinary subjects includes e-governance and information and communication technologies and its application for Global Environmental Change, socio-economic and sustainable development. She is working as Vice President of Institute for Sustainable Development and Research, ISDR, India, an organization having consultative status with United Nations Economic and Social Council, UN-ECOSOC, UN-Habitat, UN-Environment, UNFCCC, UNCTAD, UN-Ffd, UN-WCDRR, The GEF, UNCCD. She is also working as Assistant Professor, Shah and Anchor Kutchhi Engineering College, Affiliated to University of Mumbai. She has 25 years experience in academic, research and training in information and communication technology and its application for sustainable development; Socio-Economic and Ecological development, Global Environmental Change, internet





governance and how they are empowering both, decision makers and the communities to play a proactive role in managing Ocean and Marine systems, Mountains, climate change, Disaster risk and resilience, disaster mitigation and providing more effective disaster response through risk governance along coastal regions. She has participated in the programs on human dimensions of biodiversity conservation, coastal and ocean governance organized by UNESCO-IOC, WMO, UNESCO-MAB and UNESCO-IHP; International Council of Scientific Unions-ICSU, WCRP, LOICZ, IUGG, International River Foundation, IAPSO and other international organisations in Asia-Pacific, Africa, South America and Europe regions. Her interest includes frontline and multidisciplinary issues of application of information and communication technologies and electronics governance for global environmental changes, natural resources development and management, aquaculture, urban and regional development along coastal region, coastal and marine ecosystems and social- economic and sustainable development. She has contributed and acted as an external reviewer for IPBES, IPCC-AR and several international journals on sustainable development, natural resources management etc. Dr.Kalpana is Member of International Development Peer Review College, The Research Council The UK (RCUK), Global Challenge Research Fund, UK. She is member of the Governing Council of the Future Earth and Member of Ocean Knowledge -Action -Network Development Team (Ocean KAN DT) of the Future earth -Ocean. She is also member of Development Team of Knowledge Action Network on Extreme Events and Emergent Risks. She is Lead Author and Reviewer for the EC-DRMKC flagship report on "Science for Disaster Risk Management 2020-Acting today, Protecting tomorrow" of Disaster Risk Management knowledge Center, European Commission, DG Joint Research Centre – Disaster Risk Management Unit. She is also a member of the External review panel for the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) of the United Nations. She has participated in the series of meeting organized by Committee on food Security; United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change of UNEP and WMO; Convention on Biological Diversity etc.

Institute for Sustainable Development and Research, ISDR,  
08,Rumani Manzil, Pipeline, Barvenagar, Mumbai,  
400084,India

**Dr. (Mrs) Kalpana Chaudhari**  
Vice President  
isdrklc@hotmail.com

## **Letter of support for the candidature of Dr (Mrs),Kalpana, Chaudhari to Steering Board Member position**

Dear Selection Committee,

It is with great enthusiasm that Institute for Sustainable Development and Research, ISDR nominates and offers our full support for **Dr.(Mrs) Kalpana Chaudhari** in their application for the CoARA Steering Board for the **Steering Board Member**.

As a **Other relevant non-profit organisations involved with research assessment, and their associations** organisation type, we are committed to **Research Assessment, Knowledge Exchange nad Innovative Solutions**, we are confident that **Dr.(Mrs) Kalpana Chaudhari** are dedicated to the advancement of research assessment, embodying the values of collaboration, transparency, and inclusivity. They are knowledgeable and passionate about the current challenges in methods of research evaluation and the importance of recognising the diverse contributions of researchers. Through their valuable expertise and leadership skills, they will offer a strategic vision in CoARA.

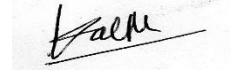
**Dr.(Mrs) Kalpana Chaudhari** has been **Working as Vice Pfresident of this institute**. During their time with us, they have demonstrated outstanding research work consists of interdisciplinary subjects includes e-governance and information and communication technologies through interdisciplinary research programs on Global Environmental Change, socio-economic and sustainable development. Their work has had a measurable impact within **United Nations Environment Program, American Geophysical Union, UN Sustaianble Development Program etc.**

Beyond their professional accomplishments, **Dr.(Mrs) Kalpana Chaudhari** embodies qualities of Research Assesments for International Development Peer Review College, The Research Council The UK (RCUK), Global Challenge Research Fund, UK; Lead Author and Reviewer for the EC-DRMKC flagship report on "Science for Disaster Risk Management 2020–Acting today, Protecting tomorrow" of Disaster Risk Management knowledge Center, European Commission, DG Joint Research Centre etc. Their dedication to **Research Assessment, Knowledge Exchange and Innovative Solutions** continues to advance goals that align with CoARA.

Institute for Sustainable Development and Research, ISDR firmly believes that **Dr.(Mrs) Kalpana Chaudhari** will bring exceptional value, insight, and commitment to the CoARA Steering Board.

We strongly endorse their candidacy and fully support their nomination.

Sincerely,



Dr.(Mrs) Kalpana Chaudhari

## Application no. 8: Dr. Eleonora DAGIENE

### Candidate's information

<b>Title</b>	Dr.	<b>Affiliation</b>	Mykolas Romeris University
<b>First name</b>	Eleonora	<b>Current Position</b>	Research policy advisor to the Vice-Rector for research and innovation
<b>Last name</b>	Dagienė	<b>Country of Location</b>	Lithuania
<b>Gender</b>	Female		

<b>Apply to</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steering Board Member
	<input type="checkbox"/> Steering Board Member and Vice-Chair

<b>Nominating Organisation</b>	Mykolas Romeris University
<b>Type of Organisation</b>	Universities and their association

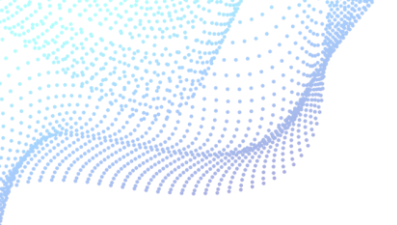
### Motivation Statement of the Nominated Candidate

I present my candidature for the CoARA Steering Board with great enthusiasm. My career, spanning academic research and practical leadership in scholarly communication, has been driven by a single goal – fostering a more responsible, transparent, and impactful research assessment landscape. I am honoured by my nomination from Mykolas Romeris University and eager to contribute my unique perspective to the Coalition's vital work.

My doctoral research, pursued at CWTS and recently defended at Leiden University, demonstrates this commitment. The dissertation, entitled "Quantitative research assessment and its unintended consequences", highlights the policy dynamics and inconsistencies of a metric-heavy research evaluation system. My research demonstrates that a "too wise" quantitative system – even one that is extremely complex in its attempt to be "fair" – can be self-destructive. I argue for a future based on "multigrained metrics", using open data and AI tools to create rich dashboards. Crucially, these scientometric tools must only inform expert judgement, never replace it – the very balance CoARA seeks.

My perspective is also deeply practical. For 12 years, I led a university press, managing the realities of peer review and academic publishing. My service on the Crossref Board, combined with my role as co-founder of the Association of Lithuanian Serials, gave me a governance-level view of the infrastructure underpinning assessment.

This background – researcher, publisher, governor, and my current role as advisor to the vice-rector at Mykolas Romeris University – gives me a unique 360-degree perspective on CoARA's



challenges. Coming from a smaller, widening country, I also bring a crucial perspective on the diverse needs and challenges of transitioning research systems, which is essential for ensuring CoARA's reforms are inclusive and effective. I understand the theoretical pitfalls of metrics, institutional needs, and the governance required for sustainable change. As an active advocate for this reform, I am passionate about helping CoARA move from principles to practice. I wish to contribute my experience to build pragmatic, context-sensitive evaluation frameworks that empower researchers and policymakers.

My research-backed vision and hands-on experience align perfectly with CoARA's strategic direction. I am eager to dedicate my energy to the Steering Board's work and to advancing this coalition, which is so vital for the academic community.

### **Narrative CV of the Nominated Candidate**

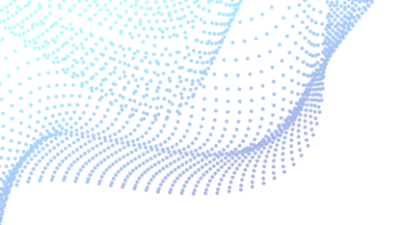
My professional career is dedicated to bridging the critical gap between the science policies and their practical implementation in academia. I combine comprehensive doctoral research on research evaluation with over a decade of practical leadership in scholarly publishing and its core infrastructure. This multigrain perspective allows me to analyse, critique, and – most importantly – help build responsible, context-sensitive, and effective evaluation systems.

Anchoring my scholarly expertise in research assessment is my doctoral work, pursued at Centre for Science and Technology Studies (CWTS), Leiden University and defended on 30 October 2025. In my dissertation, “Quantitative research assessment and its unintended consequences”, I investigate the complex dynamics of Lithuania's transition to an international science system. My thesis provides a critical analysis of how a well-intentioned, metric-heavy push for excellence can lead to systemic dysfunction, offering crucial lessons for other smaller, transitioning nations on developing responsible, context-aware frameworks.

My research highlights how a metric-heavy push for internationalisation, coupled with direct financial incentives, led to significant unintended consequences, demonstrating that the pursuit of a “too wise” quantitative system can become self-destructive. My core contribution is the argument for a future assessment based on “multigrained metrics” – leveraging scientometrics, open data, and AI to create rich, multidimensional dashboards. Crucially, I argue these tools must only inform, not replace, nuanced and transparent expert judgement, and that their implementation must be a bottom-up process, developed in close collaboration with the academic community.

Grounding this theoretical work is 12 years of extensive professional experience in academic publishing. As the former head of a university press (2006–2019), I managed all aspects of publishing peer-reviewed journals and scholarly books. This role gave me direct, practical insight into the challenges of evaluating diverse research outputs and informed my research focus on book evaluation practices, policy dynamics, and the introduction of metric-based research assessment at the national and institutional levels.

This leadership in scholarly communication extended to the national and international levels. In 2010, I initiated and co-founded the Association of Lithuanian Serials (Lietuvos mokslo periodikos asociacija – LMPA) to unite Lithuania's scholarly journal publishers. As the inaugural



chairperson of the council (2010–2013), and later as its president (2013–2019), I steered the association’s mission to help national journals innovate and implement best practices. My recent election to the LMPA Board in 2025 demonstrates my ongoing commitment. This national-level leadership complemented my international service on the Crossref Board. I served an initial term (2014 –2017) and was subsequently reelected for a second term in 2017, demonstrating clear community support for my contributions. This service provided me with a governance-level perspective on the global metadata infrastructure underpinning all research, dissemination, and assessment.

I currently combine these two career streams in my roles at Mykolas Romeris University. My unique position – combining doctoral training from a leading Western university (CWTS) with the on-the-ground experience of a researcher from a smaller, widening country – gives me a crucial dual perspective on the diverse needs of transitioning systems, which is essential for ensuring CoARA’s reforms are inclusive and effective. I apply this perspective directly in my work. As research policy advisor to the vice-rector for research and innovation, I am directly involved in shaping institutional research assessment strategy, helping to translate principles into actionable policy. As a researcher and lecturer at the Institute of Communication, I actively promote open science practices and share insights via my personal blog. This advocacy moves from theory to practice. I have recently organised and led national-level discussions in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, the Research Council of Lithuania, and other Lithuanian universities, working to exchange our experiences and build a grassroots consensus for reform.





**Mykolas Romeris  
University**

**Mykolas Romeris University**  
Ateities g. 20, LT-08303 Vilnius, Lithuania

**Dr. Eglė Malinauskienė**  
Vice-rector for Research and Innovations  
eglemal@mruni.eu

## **Letter of support for the candidature of Dr Eleonora Dagienė to Steering Board Member position**

Dear Selection Committee,

It is with great enthusiasm that **Mykolas Romeris University** nominates and offers our full support for **Eleonora Dagienė** in their application for the CoARA Steering Board for the **Steering Board Member**.

As a **Universities and their associations** organisation type, we are committed to **driving innovation-based societal progress, ensuring high academic quality, and fostering an open academic environment**, we are confident that **Eleonora Dagienė** are dedicated to the advancement of research assessment, embodying the values of collaboration, transparency, and inclusivity. They are knowledgeable and passionate about the current challenges in methods of research evaluation and the importance of recognising the diverse contributions of researchers. Through their valuable expertise and leadership skills, they will offer a strategic vision in CoARA.

**Eleonora Dagienė** has been the **advisor on research policy to the Vice-Rector for Research and Innovation and a researcher and lecturer at the Institute of Communication**. During their time with us, they have demonstrated outstanding **leadership and achievements in research assessment reform** through **leading the development of new research evaluation guidelines at MRU and promoting open science principles at the national level**. Their work has had a measurable impact within **the international research community, influencing scholarly communication, research evaluation, and science policy research**.

Beyond their professional accomplishments, **Eleonora Dagienė** embodies qualities of a **strategic thinker, a collaborative leader, and a meticulous researcher**. Their dedication to **the promotion of responsible research assessment metrics and open science principles** continues to advance goals that align with CoARA.

**Mykolas Romeris University** firmly believes that **Eleonora Dagienė** will bring exceptional value, insight, and commitment to the CoARA Steering Board.

We strongly endorse their candidacy and fully support their nomination.

Sincerely,

*Eglė Malinauskienė*  
Name and signature of the authorised representative



## Application no. 9: Dr. Carina GELDHAUSER

### Candidate's information

<b>Title</b>	Dr.	<b>Affiliation</b>	ETH Zurich
<b>First name</b>	Carina	<b>Current Position</b>	Senior Scientist
<b>Last name</b>	Geldhauser	<b>Country of Location</b>	Switzerland
<b>Gender</b>	Female		

<b>Apply to</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steering Board Member
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Steering Board Member and Vice-Chair

<b>Nominating Organisation</b>	Global Young Academy
<b>Type of Organisation</b>	Academies, learned societies, and their associations, and associations of researchers

### Motivation Statement of the Nominated Candidate

In one sentence: I apply to be nominated to the CoARA steering board because I deeply care about reforming research assessment.

I wish to push the CoARA initiative forward with early and mid-career researchers (EMCRs) in mind. EMCRs are highly affected by research assessment frameworks of all sorts, it decides on their next job, their grant success, their promotion.

Furthermore, I aim to be the voice that checks ideas for their generalisability and adaptivity to a diverse range of disciplines and scholarly endeavors: Often, research assessment, expected research output etc is modeled along the publication style and frequency of the natural sciences, and produces well-meant criteria that do not fit the reality of less powerful disciplines (e.g. often the humanities). Being a 'hybrid creature' myself, I can build bridges here.

Some evidence about my passion and prior experience follows.

- Currently, I serve on the CoARA Working Group "Improving Practices in the Assessment of Research Proposals" (aka "Funders WG", as most participants are from funding agencies).
- As part of the CoARA core team at the Global Young Academy, I implemented activities meant to popularize CoARA and DORA principles, i.e. at the ISC and the IAP conferences.
- At the GYA I worked in a team to develop a reviewer guidance for our membership selection reviewers, where I spelled out CoARA commitments for our contexts
- At the German Association for Junior professors, adequate research assessment was at the core of a fair and transparent decision on career progression



In a similar spirit, i.e. to make a fairer, more transparent and objective funding decisions, I was highly engaged in the contexts of scholarship programmes, in particular at the International Mathematics Masters, Studies Without Borders, and as previous PhD student representative at the Klaus Murmann fellowship programme and the German Ministry of Education and Research, among others.

- At the German Ministry of Education and Research, I advocated for updates in the definition of excellence in order to make their excellence scholarships for students that is more inclusive towards minorities and disadvantaged groups
- As head of North Caucasus scholarship programme at Studies Without Borders, I tried out several strategies to overcome the 'halo effect' of certain information / candidate traits on reviewers of their application portfolio.

### **Narrative CV of the Nominated Candidate**

**Current position:** I am a Senior Scientist within the Department of Mathematics at ETH Zürich. A Senior Scientist, for us, is basically equivalent to Associate Professor at Cantonal universities, i.e. an independent research & teaching position with some attributed resources. My decision to move from Sweden, where I had an associate professor position, to Zurich, was motivated by the great research environment and to allow my child to more regularly see his father and grandparents.

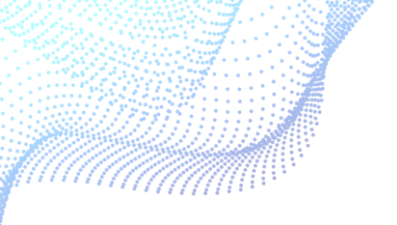
#### **Contextualized career overview**

Trained in mathematics and Protestant theology at the University of Tübingen, Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa and Ecole Polytechnique, I obtained my doctoral degree in mathematics at the University of Bonn in 2016. My academic trajectory spanned leading research institutions across Europe, driven by collaborative projects. In particular, I was honored to contribute to Fields Medallist Stanislav Smirnov's dream to build up an excellent European-style research institute in Saint Petersburg (Russia).

As a first generation academic, I gradually explored the – for my family completely unknown – opportunities of jobs with a mathematics degree, taking leave periods during my PhD and postdoctoral phase to work in academic assessment<sup>1</sup> and outreach<sup>2</sup>, which combined topics that I am passionate about with a 'diversified risk' concept in times of uncertain academic career progression.

The prospect of stability was a reason for me to apply soon to permanent positions, and I took up a lecturer position at The University of Sheffield 3 years after my PhD. Due to redundancy schemes during the first wave of the Covid-19 pandemic, I decided to transfer to a tenure-track professorship at Lund University, Sweden in summer 2020. At Lund University, I conducted research in mathematics and machine learning (see below), taught a variety of courses from first year undergraduate to PhD level, attracted 3rd party funding (financing a postdoc and a PhD student), and heavily engaged in EDI work, serving, for example, as head of diversity for my department, for a huge South-Sweden University alliance called ELLIIT.

Contribution to the generation of knowledge and broader societal aspects of my research



My research addresses pure mathematical research at the intersection of partial differential equations and stochastic analysis, focussing on nonlinear PDEs perturbed by stochastic noise, interacting particle systems, large-scale geophysical flows and mathematical foundations of machine learning. One of my most impactful mathematical results established the existence of solutions and their properties of the gSQG equation – a model used e.g. to describe ocean eddies.

I recently started to engage more intensively in interdisciplinary research and applications. For example, our FORMAS (Swedish Research Council for Sustainable Development) grant combined atmospherical modelling with CO<sub>2</sub>-emission monitoring.

Motivated by research questions of my colleagues in Classics (especially 2nd-6th century Greek), I looked into the problem of named entity recognition in low-resource languages and developed a small NER package to go with the open-source handwritten text recognition software e-scriptorium, developed and deployed on GitHub thanks to a MCML seed fund.

Making use of my additional training in theology and philosophy, I investigate questions of algorithmizability of ethics and the societal implications of technology.

#### **Contribution to the development of individuals**

In the course of my career, I have directly mentored several PhD students, one postdoc on my Crafoord foundation grant (now working for Google DeepMind & founder of an educational AI startup), and Bachelor students at my institutions or networks as part of mentoring schemes. I built up the European Women in Mathematics mentoring programme and have contributed to capacity-building programmes, including the International Mathematics Master (IMM) and “Studies Without Borders”, where I was head of the Northern Caucasus scholarship programme.

#### **Contribution to the wider research community**

My service to the research community is broadly based. As a member of the Global Young Academy I serve on the Executive Committee, advocating for transparent research culture, global young-scientist networks and science diplomacy. I have acted as topic-expert for the United Nations Secretary-General’s Scientific Advisory Board and serve as editor for “Snapshots of Modern Mathematics from Oberwolfach”. I engage in science-communication events, science slams and collaborate with the Non-Profit organisation IMAGINARY to bring mathematical ideas to broader audiences.



**GLOBAL  
YOUNG  
ACADEMY**

**Global Young Academy**

Emil-Abderhalden-Strasse 37, 06108 Halle  
(Saale), Germany

**Dr. Beate Wagner**

**Managing Director,**

**beate.wagner@globalyoungacademy.net**

## **Letter of support for the candidature of Dr. Carina Geldhauser to Steering Board Member position**

Dear Selection Committee,

It is with great enthusiasm that **the Global Young Academy** nominates and offers our full support for **Dr. Carina Geldhauser** in their application for the CoARA Steering Board for the **Steering Board Member**.

As a **Academies, learned societies, and their associations, and associations of researchers** organisation type, we are committed to **giving a voice to early-career researchers around the world**, we are confident that **Carina Geldhauser** are dedicated to the advancement of research assessment, embodying the values of collaboration, transparency, and inclusivity. They are knowledgeable and passionate about the current challenges in methods of research evaluation and the importance of recognising the diverse contributions of researchers. Through their valuable expertise and leadership skills, they will offer a strategic vision in CoARA.

**Carina Geldhauser** has been **a member of the GYA since 2022 and currently serves in the Executive Committee**. During their time with us, they have demonstrated outstanding **skills, leadership, commitment, achievements involving research assessment reforms** through her lead on GYA's engagement in CoARA working groups, promoting CoARA within our network and high-profile meetings of science organisations worldwide. She is an active and highly respected member of the CoARA working group "Improving Practices in the Assessment of Research Proposals". Carina brings in two decades of experience in EDI work, advocating constantly for a wider acceptance of non-linear career paths and aspiring scientists from disadvantaged socio-economic households. Their work has had a measurable impact within **her previous affiliation Lund University in particular, and the assessment of scholarship applications at the Foundation fo German Business, one of the largest provider of state-funded scholarships for undergraduate students in Germany**.

Beyond their professional accomplishments, **Carina Geldhauser** embodies qualities of an intelligent and considerate teamplayer, a strategic mind and passionate advocat. Their dedication to raise awareness for the particular situation of early career researchers, a good definition of excellence and the careful and adequate consideration of **diversity and non-linear career paths** continues to advance goals that align with CoARA.

**The Global Young Academy** firmly believes that **Carina Geldhauser** will bring exceptional value, insight, and commitment to the CoARA Steering Board.

We strongly endorse their candidacy and fully support their nomination.

Sincerely,

**Dr. Beate Wagner**

## Application no. 10: Prof. David Budtz PEDERSEN

### Candidate's information

<b>Title</b>	Prof.	<b>Affiliation</b>	Aalborg University
<b>First name</b>	David Budtz	<b>Current Position</b>	University Full Professor
<b>Last name</b>	Pedersen	<b>Country of Location</b>	Denmark
<b>Gender</b>	Male		

<b>Apply to</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steering Board Member
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Steering Board Member and Vice-Chair

<b>Nominating Organisation</b>	Aalborg University
<b>Type of Organisation</b>	Universities and their association

### Motivation Statement of the Nominated Candidate

Prof. David Budtz Pedersen will be a highly competent addition to the CoARA Steering Board. He has worked on reforming research evaluation for more than a decade in Denmark and worldwide, with shifting positions, board memberships and advisory roles. Noteworthy contributions include his role as Chair of the High-Level EU Presidency Conference on Reforming Research Assessment in Dec 2025, which is organised in collaboration with CoARA Steering Board (Karen and Erzsébet) as well as Science Europe (James and Lidia) and other partners (LERU, EUA, CESEAR, DORA et al.). In this capacity, David has worked tirelessly with funding agencies and universities across EU and globally to create a platform to reassure and support the current Commitments of CoARA and their implementation. David is Member of the Norwegian Research Council and a vivid advocate for reforming research assessment in alignment with CoARA. He has advised vice-chancellors and funders on how to manage cultural change; he has written extensively on the topic, and he is a well-known name at European science policy conferences, with an extensive network across governments, European Commission, European Parliament, member states, universities, and public and private research funders. David brings to the CoARA Steering Board practical and analytical capacities: he will add professional credibility to reports and conversations across the CoARA family of Working Groups, and he will help steer and inform strategy, policy and impact assessment. David is a regular adviser to the European Commission and a grantee of several Horizon projects. In this capacity, he will help place CoARA even stronger in the ERA Structural Policy programme and ERA Act. David is a strong advocate for reform and a firm believer in a more equitable, diverse, fair, open and collaborative research culture. In his research career, he has focused on developing more inclusive models of societal impact incl. integration of social sciences and humanities. David is himself a manifestation of the CoARA principle for diversifying

contributions: having worked extensively on public outreach, scientific publications, teaching, networking, mentorship and community-building.

## **Narrative CV of the Nominated Candidate**

- PERSONAL STATEMENT

I am a full Professor of Science Communication and Impact Studies at the Department of Communication and Psychology at Aalborg University (ORCID: 0000-0001-7861-7068). My main scholarly contributions are placed within the fields of management, evaluation and communication of science and technology, with a multitude of different publications, ranging from research articles, research monographs, edited volumes, policy reports, op-ed columns. I have maintained an international public presence with invited keynotes, lectures and workshops held at various universities across the world. In 2019-2022, I was the Chair of the EU COST Network on Science Communication, which among other things championed stronger incentives and rewards for researchers to engage in communication and knowledge mobilization. For several years, I serve as a Board Member of the International Network of Governmental Science Advice (INGSA) European Chapter. From 2021-2030 I am appointed as a Research Director for Impact for the Algorithms, Data and Democracy (ADD) Project, overseeing research impact planning and assessment for a large group of 32 multi-disciplinary team members.

I am most proud of my work in the fields of research evaluation, science policy, and the sociology of knowledge. I am particularly proud of my contributions to understanding the role of humanities and social sciences in contemporary society, as well as my efforts to bridge the gap between academia, policymaking, and public engagement. I have held various academic positions, including roles at the University of Copenhagen and Aalborg University in Denmark, and guest professorships at Kyoto University and Queen Mary's Institute in Copenhagen. My research focuses on the intersection of science, technology, and society, exploring how knowledge production and dissemination can inform public policy and societal progress. I have been involved in numerous research and advisory projects and initiatives aimed at enhancing the impact of research on societal challenges. In addition to my academic work, I am an active participant in public debates, contributing to discussions on science communication, research funding, and the role of universities in modern society. I have written for both academic and popular audiences, and am often invited to speak at conferences and events related to science policy. Throughout my career I have emphasized the importance of interdisciplinary approaches and the need for team science and collaboration between sectors, disciplines, and communities.

- MAJOR COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS (selected)

2023-2027 Responsible AI for Value Creation (RePAI): Funded by Grundfos Foundation (overseeing research and project management, total 24M DKK) Partners: AAU, KU, AU.

2021-2030 Algorithms Data and Democracy (ADD): Funded by VILLUM FOUNDATION and VELUX FOUNDATION, total 100M DKK) Partners: AAU, KU, AU, CBS, RUC.

2016-2020 Mapping Knowledge Dissemination in Humanities and Social Sciences, Funded by Obel Foundation (total 7M DKK). Role: Principal Investigator.

2016-2021 Mapping the Public Value of Humanities, Funded by VELUX FOUNDATION (total 10M



DKK). Role: Principal Investigator.

- ORGANISATION OF CONFERENCES (selected)

I have organized 100+ academic workshops and conferences, including policy conferences, academic conferences and scientific symposia. For two decades, I have organized workshops and seminars with funding agencies, ministries, think tanks, policy labs, and science communication training courses across European and global universities.

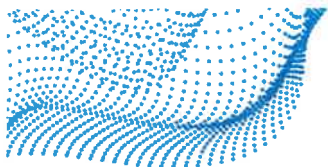
- REVIEWING ACTIVITIES (selected)

I am an advisor to the European Research Executive Agency and reviewer for Horizon Europe and the European Impact Award. In addition, I am a full member of the Norwegian Research Council for Breakthrough Research (budget 3 billion NOK per year). I act as peer reviewer for the Danish Council for Independent Research and reviewer for the journals: Research Evaluation, Science Communication, Nature.

- LEADERSHIP SKILLS

During my career, I have been involved various grants and managed several large-scale research programs with interdisciplinary humanities and social sciences. I have taken a special interest in responsible and inclusive research leadership. Among other things, I am the founder and Principal Instructor of the Interdisciplinary Academic Leadership Program at Aalborg University (enrolled 100 tenured faculty members). I have advised European funding agencies and global universities on research leadership. My own research group is comprised of approx. 10 full time researchers, with a 40-60 ratio of men to women.





**AALBORG UNIVERSITY**  
DENMARK

**Aalborg University**  
Fredrik Bajers Vej 7K  
9220 Aalborg East - Denmark

**Mr. Poul Meier Melchiorson**  
Senior Consultant  
pmm@aub.aau.dk

## **Letter of support for the candidature of Professor David Budtz Pedersen to Steering Board Member position**

Dear Selection Committee,

It is with great enthusiasm that **Aalborg University** nominates and offers our full support for **David Budtz Pedersen** in their application for the CoARA Steering Board for the **Steering Board Member**.

As a **Universities and their associations** organisation type, we are committed to **actively address global challenges and through selected missions, we turn complex problems into tangible goals and actions.**, we are confident that **David Budtz Pedersen** are dedicated to the advancement of research assessment, embodying the values of collaboration, transparency, and inclusivity. They are knowledgeable and passionate about the current challenges in methods of research evaluation and the importance of recognising the diverse contributions of researchers. Through their valuable expertise and leadership skills, they will offer a strategic vision in CoARA.

**David Budtz Pedersen** has been **affiliated with Aalborg University since 2016**. During their time with us, they have demonstrated outstanding **skills, leadership, commitment, achievements involving research assessment reforms** through **being advisor for the European Commission, the Danish Ministry of Higher Education and Science, and a member of the Norwegian Research Council. In 2019 he became Chair of the EU COST CAA Network on Science Communication and in 2025 chair of the Danish EU Presidency Conference on reforming research assessment.** Their work has had a measurable impact within **the university, nationally and in the EU.**

Beyond their professional accomplishments, **David Budtz Pedersen** embodies qualities of **dedication, a high level of energy, and humour.** Their dedication to **open, responsible and collaborative research focused on creating positive impact in society** continues to advance goals that align with CoARA.

**Aalborg University** firmly believes that **David Budtz Pedersen** will bring exceptional value, insight, and commitment to the CoARA Steering Board.

We strongly endorse their candidacy and fully support their nomination.

  
Sincerely,  
**Poul Meier Melchiorson**



## Application no. 11: Mrs. Cristina SKOUBRIDOU

### Candidate's information

<b>Title</b>	Mrs.	<b>Affiliation</b>	Envolve Entrepreneurship
<b>First name</b>	Cristina	<b>Current Position</b>	Director of EU Innovation Department
<b>Last name</b>	Skoubridou	<b>Country of Location</b>	Greece
<b>Gender</b>	Female		

<b>Apply to</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steering Board Member
	<input type="checkbox"/> Steering Board Member and Vice-Chair

<b>Nominating Organisation</b>	Envolve Entrepreneurship
<b>Type of Organisation</b>	Other relevant non-for-profit organisations involved with research assessment, and their associations

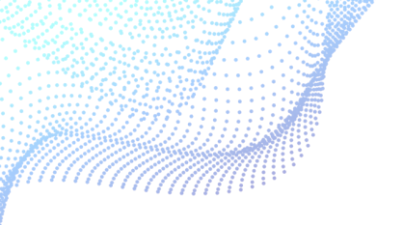
### Motivation Statement of the Nominated Candidate

"My motivation to serve on the CoARA Steering Board stems from a deep belief that the way we assess research defines the way we value knowledge, people, and progress. Having worked for over fifteen years in EU programmes that link research, innovation, and entrepreneurship, I have witnessed both the potential and the limitations of current evaluation systems. Too often, impact is reduced to numbers, while the collaborative and societal dimensions of research remain undervalued.

Through my work at Envolve Entrepreneurship and previous roles in EU-funded initiatives, I have consistently advocated for approaches that recognise the diversity of contributions to knowledge creation — from open innovation and design thinking to capacity building and policy impact. I see CoARA as the key European platform where these ideas can be shaped into lasting reform.

My professional experience combines evaluation, programme design, and stakeholder engagement. I have led cross-sectoral initiatives that integrate qualitative assessment, responsible metrics, and participatory evaluation methods. This work has shown me that lasting change in assessment culture requires dialogue between research institutions, funders, and innovation actors. I believe my background in both research valorisation and impact measurement can help bridge these perspectives within CoARA.

I am motivated by CoARA's values: openness, diversity, collaboration, and integrity. As a Steering



Board member, I would contribute with strategic thinking, practical experience from EU projects, and a strong commitment to transparency and inclusion. I hope to help strengthen CoARA's outreach beyond traditional research actors — engaging innovation intermediaries, SMEs, and social enterprises in the dialogue on responsible assessment but also to support CoARA's participation in EU projects.

My goal is to support a Europe where excellence in research is measured not only by what is published, but by what is shared, improved, and applied for the benefit of society.

### **Narrative CV of the Nominated Candidate**

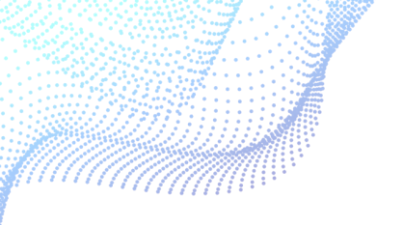
Mrs. Christina Skoubridou is the Director of the EU Innovation Department at Envolve Entrepreneurship, a non-profit organisation supporting innovation, entrepreneurship, and sustainable growth through European and national programmes. In this role, she leads Envolve's EU portfolio, manages international partnerships, and coordinates initiatives that connect research, innovation, and policy. Her work focuses on designing and implementing programmes that apply qualitative evaluation, evidence-based management, and design-driven methodologies to strengthen the impact of research and innovation ecosystems.

She has over fifteen years of experience in EU-funded projects, research valorisation, and evaluation. Before joining Envolve, she served as Programmes Officer at the Business and Cultural Development Centre (KEPA), where she monitored and assessed hundreds of SME investment and innovation proposals under the Operational Programme Competitiveness, Entrepreneurship and Innovation (EPAnEK). There she developed her expertise in impact assessment, performance indicators, and compliance evaluation — skills that now underpin her contribution to research assessment reform.

At Envolve, she has led the design and management of more than twenty major EU-funded initiatives, including Skills2Scale, Evolved-5G, Fu-Tourism, AquaSphere, 6G-Versus, DeepTechSeeds, and SpaceVantage. These projects have built bridges between research institutions, SMEs, and policy bodies, creating frameworks for investment readiness, sustainability evaluation, and capacity building. Under her direction, the department has generated significant income through competitive EU projects, strategic sponsorships, and collaborative innovation initiatives, ensuring the organisation's long-term financial and operational sustainability. She has introduced methods that combine qualitative peer review, responsible use of metrics, and participatory evaluation to measure how research and innovation generate tangible benefits for communities and markets.

Her approach is rooted in design thinking and human-centred innovation. Christina has conducted workshops, training programmes, and mentoring sessions across Europe, empowering researchers and entrepreneurs to understand and communicate their impact. She also contributes to the development of new evaluation tools that reflect CoARA's principles of transparency, diversity, and inclusivity.

Throughout her career, she has represented her organisations in European networks and consortia, contributing to policy discussions on responsible innovation, open science, and impact assessment. Her work has strengthened Envolve's role as a bridge between research,



business, and policy — supporting a more holistic and value-driven approach to measuring outcomes and excellence.

Christina holds a BA in Marketing and Management and professional certifications in Service Design, User-Centred Design, and Social Sector Leadership. She is a member of the Design Thinkers Network and the Marketing Club Greece.

She brings to CoARA a combination of strategic leadership, analytical thinking, and commitment to fairness in assessment. Her motivation is to help shape European research evaluation systems that recognise diverse contributions, foster collaboration, and ensure that knowledge serves society in meaningful ways. Her professional journey exemplifies the integration of research, innovation, and impact evaluation — values that align deeply with CoARA's mission.



**ENVOLVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP**  
**Omirou 54, Athens, Greece, 10672**

**Mr. Alexandros Nousias, Managing Director**  
alexandros.nousias@envolveglobal.org

## **Letter of support for the candidature of Mrs, Christina, Skoubridou to Steering Board Member position**

Dear Selection Committee,

It is with great enthusiasm that **Envolve Entrepreneurship** nominates and offers our full support for **Mrs. Christina Skoubridou** in their application for the CoARA Steering Board for the **Steering Board Member**.

As a **Other relevant non-profit organisations involved with research assessment, and their associations** organisation type, we are committed to **fostering responsible research and innovation practices, strengthening the link between research and societal impact, and advancing capacity building in evidence-based evaluation and knowledge transfer**, we are confident that **Mrs. Chrstina Skoubridou** are dedicated to the advancement of research assessment, embodying the values of collaboration, transparency, and inclusivity. They are knowledgeable and passionate about the current challenges in methods of research evaluation and the importance of recognising the diverse contributions of researchers. Through their valuable expertise and leadership skills, they will offer a strategic vision in CoARA.

**Mrs. Christina Skoubridou** has been **the Director of the EU Innovation Department at Envolve Entrepreneurship for the past five years, where she leads the organisation's EU projects portfolio and partnerships with European research, innovation, and policy stakeholders.** During their time with us, they have demonstrated outstanding **skills, leadership, and commitment through initiatives that strengthen research assessment and valorisation practices across Europe.** through **evidence-based evaluation, impact measurement, and the translation of research results into innovation-driven societal benefits** She has played a key role in projects that foster responsible innovation and capacity building, including the design and management of EU-funded programmes that integrate qualitative evaluation, sustainability metrics, and human-centred design principles. Through these initiatives, she has advanced research assessment reforms by embedding evaluation frameworks within entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystems – ensuring that the impact of research is measured not only by academic outputs but also by its contribution to policy, economy, and society. . Their work has had a measurable impact within **Envolve's community and the wider European innovation landscape, contributing to more inclusive, data-informed, and transparent evaluation methodologies.** Her leadership has enhanced the organisation's role in EU-funded research valorisation initiatives and has strengthened collaboration among academia, industry, and public institutions.

Beyond their professional accomplishments, **Mrs. Christina Skoubridou** embodies qualities of **strategic vision, empathy, collaborative leadership and creativity**. Their dedication to **advancing design-driven innovation, inclusive entrepreneurship, and evidence-based capacity building** continues to advance goals that align with CoARA.


**Envolve Entrepreneurship** firmly believes that **Mrs. Christina Skoubridou** will bring exceptional value, insight, and commitment to the CoARA Steering Board.

We strongly endorse their candidacy and fully support their nomination.

Sincerely,

**Alexandros Nousias, Managing Director**

ENVOLVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP  
ΕΔΡΑ: ΟΜΗΡΟΥ 54 - ΑΘΗΝΑ - 10672  
ΑΦΜ: 997161015 - ΚΕΦΟΔΕ ΑΤΤΙΚΗΣ  
ΑΡΙΘ. Γ.Ε.ΜΗ: 139600401000

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## Application no. 12: Dr. Katarzyna SWIERK

### Candidate's information

<b>Title</b>	Dr.	<b>Affiliation</b>	University of Gdansk
<b>First name</b>	Katarzyna	<b>Current Position</b>	Head of Research Office
<b>Last name</b>	Świerk	<b>Country of Location</b>	Poland
<b>Gender</b>	Female		

<b>Apply to</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steering Board Member
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Steering Board Member and Vice-Chair

<b>Nominating Organisation</b>	University of Gdansk
<b>Type of Organisation</b>	Universities and their association

### Motivation Statement of the Nominated Candidate

I am an experienced research manager, academic leader, and scholar with over twenty years of experience in higher education. My professional journey has evolved from scientific research in chemistry and environmental protection to strategic leadership in research management, evaluation, and institutional reform. Currently, I serve as Director of the Research Office and Rector's Plenipotentiary for Open Access to Scientific Publications at the University of Gdańsk, where I lead initiatives on research assessment, publication strategies, open science, and academic career development.

Throughout my career, I have been driven by a strong belief that research assessment must evolve to reflect the full diversity of academic contributions and to support responsible, inclusive, and transparent systems of recognition. In 2025, I defended my second PhD in Business and Management, focusing on measuring and defining research excellence, a topic that deeply connects with CoARA's mission. This research strengthened my conviction that meaningful reform requires both empirical insight and shared commitment across the academic community.

My professional engagement extends to the European level. As an Expert and Lead Auditor for the European Commission within the HRS4R (HR Excellence in Research) initiative, I have supported numerous institutions in implementing the European Charter for Researchers. I also act as the Polish Ambassador for the RM ROADMAP project, advocating for the recognition and professionalisation of research management, and lead the CoARA Boost project "Reform of Researchers' Assessment at the University of Gdańsk", introducing responsible research assessment principles at institutional level.

I am deeply motivated to contribute to the CoARA Steering Board because I believe in the

transformative potential of diverse voices and shared leadership. My dual background as both a researcher and a manager allows me to connect the lived experience of academics with the strategic realities of institutional governance. I aspire to help CoARA strengthen its implementation agenda, ensuring that reform principles translate into practice — enabling research environments that are fair, open, and focused on collective excellence.

For me, CoARA represents not just a coalition, but a community of trust, learning, and co-creation. I am committed to advancing its vision through collaboration, transparency, and inclusive dialogue.

## **Narrative CV of the Nominated Candidate**

- Personal Statement

Experienced research manager and strategic leader in higher education, with over twenty years of experience in research policy, evaluation, and academic development. Professional focus on strengthening responsible research assessment, open science, and equality in academia through evidence-based institutional reform and international collaboration. Combines strong analytical skills with leadership and policy expertise to advance the professionalisation of research management in Poland and across Europe.

- Current Role and Professional Focus

Serving as Director of the Research Office and Rector's Plenipotentiary for Open Access to Scientific Publications at the University of Gdańsk. Responsible for research evaluation, publication strategy, academic career development, and international collaboration. Leads the university's efforts to implement responsible research assessment and open science practices in alignment with European frameworks such as CoARA and HRS4R (HR Excellence in Research).

- Career Overview

More than two decades of experience in the higher education sector, combining scientific, administrative, and strategic perspectives. Professional path evolved from scientific training in chemistry and environmental protection to leadership in research management, policy development, and institutional reform. Coordinated numerous European and national projects contributing to innovation, open science, and systemic change in Polish and European academia.

- Leadership and European Engagement

Since 2018, serving as expert and auditor for the European Commission within the HRS4R (HR Excellence in Research) initiative, assessing and advising universities across Europe on implementing the principles of the European Charter for Researchers.

Leader of the CoARA Boost project "RAR-UG", introducing a comprehensive institutional reform of research assessment at the University of Gdańsk. Acted as the Polish ambassador for the RM ROADMAP project, promoting the recognition of research management as a profession.

Engagement in shaping responsible and inclusive research culture in Europe, strengthening the role of research managers as key actors in institutional transformation.

- Selected Projects and Initiatives



- Leader – CoARA Boost project “Reform of researchers’ assessment in the University of Gdansk” (2025)
- Expert and Lead Auditor – European Commission, HR Excellence in Research (HRS4R) initiative (since 2018)
- National Ambassador – RM ROADMAP project, promoting the professionalisation of Research Management in Poland
- Coordinator – University of Gdańsk Gender Equality Plan and author of the report “Women in Science: Managing Diversity and Gender Equality within Social Responsibility”
- Member – Research Subcommittee of the SEA-EU European University Alliance, responsible for open science, ethics, and joint research initiatives
  - Expertise and Impact Areas
- Research assessment reform and responsible metrics
- Research policy and governance
- Open science and publication strategies
- Academic career development and HR policy
- Gender equality and diversity in research
- Strategic management and institutional change in higher education
  - Education and Qualifications
- PhD in Business and Management, University of Gdańsk, 2025
- MBA, Gdańsk Foundation for Management Development (GFKM), 2018
- Postgraduate Diploma in Human Resources Management, University of Gdańsk, 2011
- Postgraduate Diploma in Ecological Auditing, University of Gdańsk, 2007
- PhD in Chemistry, University of Gdańsk, 2007
- MSc in Environmental Protection, University of Gdańsk, 2002



## **Letter of support for the candidature of dr Katarzyna Świerk to Steering Board Member position**

Dear Selection Committee,

It is with great enthusiasm that **University of Gdańsk** nominates and offers our full support for **Katarzyna Świerk** in their application for the CoARA Steering Board for the **Steering Board Member**.

As a **Universities and their associations** organisation type, we are committed to **advancing excellence, openness, and social responsibility in research**, we are confident that **Katarzyna Świerk** are dedicated to the advancement of research assessment, embodying the values of collaboration, transparency, and inclusivity. They are knowledgeable and passionate about the current challenges in methods of research evaluation and the importance of recognising the diverse contributions of researchers. Through their valuable expertise and leadership skills, they will offer a strategic vision in CoARA.

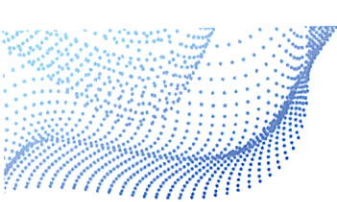
**Katarzyna Świerk** has been closely involved with CoARA and the European reform movement as the leader of the CoARA Boost project "RAR-UG," which piloted institutional reform at the University of Gdańsk. During their time with us, they have demonstrated outstanding leadership, strategic thinking, and commitment to advancing responsible assessment practices through **coordinating initiatives involving comprehensive institutional reforms, stakeholder engagement, and cross-country cooperation and contributed as an expert evaluator and auditor for the European Commission (HRS4R - HR Excellence in Research), assessing over 30 institutions across Europe**. Their work has had a measurable impact within **European research management community, promoting evidence-based policy change and professionalisation of the RMA field**.

Beyond their professional accomplishments, **Katarzyna Świerk** embodies qualities of visionary leadership, integrity, inclusiveness, and dedication to evidence-informed institutional change. Their dedication to **responsible research assessment, open science, and research culture reform** continues to advance goals that align with CoARA.

**University of Gdańsk** firmly believes that **Katarzyna Świerk** will bring exceptional value, insight, and commitment to the CoARA Steering Board.

We strongly endorse their candidacy and fully support their nomination.

Sincerely,



**Prof. Piotr Stepnowski**

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## Application no. 13: Dr. Mehmet Recai UYGUR

### Candidate's information

<b>Title</b>	Dr	<b>Affiliation</b>	Vilnius Business College (Vilniaus verslo kolegija)
<b>First name</b>	Mehmet Recai	<b>Current Position</b>	Associate Professor
<b>Last name</b>	Uygur	<b>Country of Location</b>	Lithuania
<b>Gender</b>	Male		

<b>Apply to</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steering Board Member
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Steering Board Member and Vice-Chair

<b>Nominating Organisation</b>	Vilnius Business College (Vilniaus verslo kolegija)
<b>Type of Organisation</b>	Universities and their association

### Motivation Statement of the Nominated Candidate

I am applying for the position of Steering Board Member at the Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA) to contribute to the development of fair, transparent, and inclusive frameworks for evaluating research and academic performance. As an Associate Professor and researcher working across disciplines, I have consistently emphasized integrity, social responsibility, and methodological rigor as the foundation of quality research.

Throughout my career, I have observed that many valuable academic contributions, particularly those in education, interdisciplinary collaboration, and community engagement, remain undervalued by conventional evaluation systems. I strongly support CoARA's mission to broaden what is recognized as academic excellence and to align assessment with the real impact of research on society.

My motivation to join the Steering Board is driven by a commitment to institutional transformation. I aim to represent higher education institutions from the Baltic region, where smaller universities and colleges often face unique challenges in implementing assessment reforms. My experience in international research and teaching has equipped me with a deep understanding of these institutional contexts and a strong belief in the need for context-sensitive evaluation systems.

If elected, I will work to strengthen the implementation of CoARA principles through practical mechanisms such as narrative CVs, balanced use of indicators, and fair recognition of teaching, mentoring, and civic engagement. I will promote a culture of openness, inclusivity, and evidence-based evaluation while supporting dialogue among institutions, policymakers, and researchers.

I am fully committed to dedicating my time, expertise, and collaborative skills to the Steering

Board and to advancing CoARA's long-term vision of responsible and equitable research assessment across Europe.

### **Narrative CV of the Nominated Candidate**

I am Dr. Mehmet Recai Uygur, an Associate Professor and researcher based in Vilnius, Lithuania. My academic work combines political science, social psychology, and economics, focusing on the relationship between governance, institutions, and human behavior. I hold a PhD in Political Science and International Relations, with research centered on comparative legal and strategic frameworks across Europe and beyond.

At Vilnius Business College, I teach and supervise courses in social research methodology, international law, communication psychology, and political economy. My teaching and research philosophy is guided by ethical integrity, methodological precision, and the pursuit of meaningful societal contribution. I have supervised multiple research projects that emphasize inclusivity, critical thinking, and responsible knowledge production.

My academic and professional experience extends across several European countries. I have served as a visiting scholar in Finland, Czechia, Poland, France, and Latvia, engaging with diverse academic cultures and learning about different approaches to research assessment. These experiences have strengthened my belief that evaluation systems must reflect institutional diversity, disciplinary plurality, and regional context.

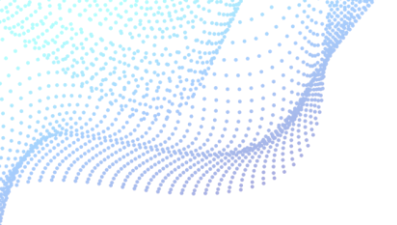
My research explores governance, inclusion, discrimination, and sustainability, integrating both qualitative and quantitative methods. I have contributed to international research collaborations and co-authored several peer-reviewed studies on issues related to social attitudes, institutional behavior, and policy response. My work consistently aims to connect theoretical insights with practical societal relevance.

Beyond research and teaching, I contribute to the academic community through peer review and editorial activities, ensuring fairness and transparency in scholarly evaluation. I regularly participate in international conferences and workshops, engaging with scholars, policymakers, and practitioners in discussions on governance, education, and institutional reform.

As a scholar working in an international and interdisciplinary environment, I bring an understanding of the structural challenges that many higher education institutions face in adapting to evolving assessment standards. I believe that reforming research evaluation requires a balanced combination of principles and pragmatism, recognizing excellence in all its forms while maintaining transparency and accountability.

My vision aligns with CoARA's mission: to redefine the way research is valued and to ensure that academic contributions serve both scientific advancement and the public good. As a member of the Steering Board, I aim to represent the perspectives of smaller institutions and to strengthen CoARA's outreach in the Baltic region. I am fluent in English and Turkish, with working knowledge of French and Kurdish.

My work is guided by three core values: fairness, inclusiveness, and integrity. I believe that responsible research assessment should not only measure what is visible but also recognize what truly matters, the ethical and intellectual contributions that sustain trust in science and



academia. Through my participation in CoARA, I hope to help build an environment where diverse forms of knowledge and impact are equally valued and where assessment supports the long-term vitality of the research community.



## **Letter of support for the candidature of Dr. Mehmet Recai Uygur to Steering Board Member position**

Dear Selection Committee,

It is with great enthusiasm that **Vilnius Business College** nominates and offers our full support for **Dr. Mehmet Recai Uygur** in their application for the CoARA Steering Board for the **Steering Board Member**.

As a **Universities and their associations** organisation type, we are committed to **responsible, transparent, and inclusive research and education practices, promoting innovation and collaboration across disciplines to strengthen the quality and impact of knowledge creation**, we are confident that **Dr. Mehmet Recai Uygur** are dedicated to the advancement of research assessment, embodying the values of collaboration, transparency, and inclusivity. They are knowledgeable and passionate about the current challenges in methods of research evaluation and the importance of recognising the diverse contributions of researchers. Through their valuable expertise and leadership skills, they will offer a strategic vision in CoARA.

**Dr. Mehmet Recai Uygur** has been **a member of the academic community at Vilnius Business College, serving as an Associate Professor and researcher**. During their time with us, they have demonstrated outstanding **analytical skills, academic leadership, commitment to research integrity, and achievements in advancing inclusive and responsible research assessment practices** through **specific initiatives such as the integration of narrative CV formats in academic evaluation, the development of interdisciplinary research projects on governance and inclusion, and the promotion of open, evidence-based assessment criteria in institutional research management**. He has also led student and faculty projects that embed **ethical evaluation methods, transparency in research dissemination, and recognition of teaching and civic engagement as part of the overall academic performance model**. Their work has had a measurable impact within **Vilnius Business College by fostering a culture of accountability, inclusivity, and methodological rigor, aligning the institution's internal assessment processes with the broader goals of CoARA**.

Beyond their professional accomplishments, **Dr. Mehmet Recai Uygur** embodies qualities of **integrity, empathy, open-mindedness, and principled leadership**. Their dedication to **advancement of fair, transparent, and inclusive research assessment – particularly in supporting smaller and interdisciplinary higher education institutions** continues to advance goals that align with CoARA.

**Vilnius Business College** firmly believes that **Dr. Mehmet Recai Uygur** will bring exceptional value, insight, and commitment to the CoARA Steering Board.

We strongly endorse their candidacy and fully support their nomination.

Sincerely,

**Ms. Gabija Skucaite**



## Application no. 14: Dr. Kata-Riina VALOSAARI

### Candidate's information

<b>Title</b>	Dr.	<b>Affiliation</b>	Research Council of Finland
<b>First name</b>	Kata-Riina	<b>Current Position</b>	Head of Scientific Review and Evaluation
<b>Last name</b>	Valosaari	<b>Country of Location</b>	Finland
<b>Gender</b>	Female		

<b>Apply to</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steering Board Member
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Steering Board Member and Vice-Chair

<b>Nominating Organisation</b>	Research Council of Finland
<b>Type of Organisation</b>	Public or private research funding organisations and their association

### Motivation Statement of the Nominated Candidate

The evaluation of research and researchers is linked to many aspects of a research career, profoundly shaping and guiding a researcher's work. My vision for research assessment is one where quality, fairness, and diversity are equally valued, and where assessment systems support researchers and institutions in achieving healthy research culture and meaningful impact. Research funding organisations are uniquely positioned to drive this vision, and I am deeply committed to advancing this goal.

Throughout my career, I have worked to strengthen research funding systems that value excellence, openness, and responsibility. With past eight years at the Research Council of Finland, I have led national efforts to reform research assessment, embedding fairness, transparency, and inclusivity at the core of evaluation and funding decisions.

As Head of Scientific Review and Evaluation, I direct the strategic development of peer review across all funding programmes. I lead a team of experts ensuring that assessment criteria and practices reflect diverse research contributions and foster a healthy, equitable research culture. My work combines policy design, implementation, and leadership — translating principles of responsible research into concrete, scalable systems.

Previously, as Counsellor of Science, I coordinated the Council's evaluation and decision-making frameworks and authored the CoARA Action Plan (2024). I have steered our commitments to DORA, the Finnish national recommendation on responsible researcher evaluation, and the Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment (ARRA). These initiatives have positioned the

Research Council of Finland as a frontrunner in reforming research assessment internationally.

I find CoARA's action and mission important, meaningful, and personally rewarding. I represent the Council in the General Assembly, support the Finnish National Chapter, and contributed to the Working Group on Improving Practices in Research Proposal Assessment. I also serve on Finland's National Steering Board on Responsible Research Assessment, and Science Europe's Working Groups on Research Culture and Careers — ensuring alignment between national and European policy agendas.

I am motivated to contribute my experience to the CoARA Steering Board to advance the Coalition's mission, strengthen its global influence, and drive sustainable reform in how research and researchers are assessed.

### **Narrative CV of the Nominated Candidate**

My professional career has focused on strengthening research funding systems and policies that promote excellence, openness, and responsibility. With over 15 years of experience at the Research Council of Finland, I have developed funding processes and peer review practices that reflect our core values – fairness, transparency, and inclusivity.

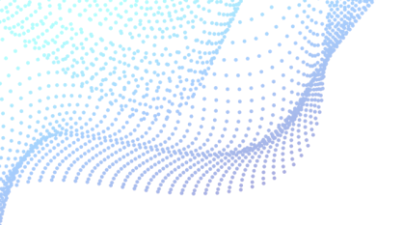
Currently, as Head of Scientific Review and Evaluation, I direct the strategic development of scientific peer review across funding programmes, ensuring that assessment models align with both national and global principles of responsible research. This includes rethinking criteria and processes to better recognise diverse contributions to science and society and to foster healthier research cultures.

I am responsible for designing and organising funding schemes specifically targeted at advancing careers and supporting impactful, high-quality research across all disciplines. I lead a group of 20 experts at the Council.

From 2018 to 2024, as Counsellor of Science, I coordinated the Council's evaluation, decision-making, and reporting systems, translating policy principles—such as reformed responsible research assessment—into practice. The Research Council of Finland has been at the forefront of developing research assessment towards a more responsible and qualitative approach. The aim has been to make the Finnish scientific community a pioneer of responsible science.

In 2020, we defined responsible researcher evaluation as a key element of responsible science, and since then I have coordinated the thorough implementation of these principles across our research funding processes. These principles are supported by the Council's commitments to international and national declarations on responsible research and researcher assessment, such as the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment DORA (in 2019) and Good Practice in Researcher Evaluation: Recommendation for the Responsible Evaluation of a Researcher in Finland (in 2020). The Research Council of Finland signed the Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment (ARRA) and joined the Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA) in November 2022. I am the main author of the Research Council of Finland's CoARA Action Plan, published in 2024.

Since CoARA's launch, I have been involved in several of its key activities:

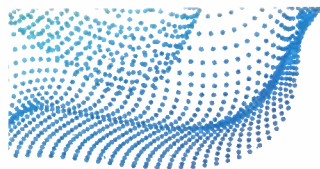
- 
- CoARA General Assembly (2022–present) – representing the Research Council of Finland and contributing to the coalition’s collective governance;
  - CoARA National Chapter Finland (2023–present) – supporting the coordination of national implementation efforts;
  - CoARA Working Group on Improving Practices in Research Proposal Assessment (2023–2025) – co-developing practical guidance for reforming peer review systems.

Beyond CoARA, I serve on the ERA Action on Research Assessment (2023–present) and Finland’s National Steering Board on Responsible Research Assessment (2023–present), ensuring coherence between national policies and the broader European reform agenda.

I also participate in Science Europe’s Working Groups on Research Culture and Research Careers, which aim to develop activities and actions contributing to the evolution of research cultures across Europe, fostering sustainable research ecosystems where both research and researchers can thrive.

Earlier in my career (2008–2018), as Science Adviser and Senior Science Adviser, I worked for over 10 years in close collaboration with several European research funding organisations, developing joint funding principles and practices within the Joint Programming Initiative for Water (JPI Water). These roles have given me a broad perspective on research assessment across international research systems.

I hold a PhD in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from the University of Helsinki (2008). My academic foundation provides a solid grounding in research practice, critical thinking, and evidence-informed decision-making. Over the course of my professional career, I have built complementary expertise in policy design, evaluation, and leadership.



## **Letter of support for the candidature of Dr Kata-Riina Valosaari to Steering Board Member position**

Dear Selection Committee,

It is with great enthusiasm that **Research Council of Finland** nominates and offers our full support for **Kata-Riina Valosaari** in their application for the CoARA Steering Board for the **Steering Board Member**.

As a **Public research funding organisations** organisation type, we are committed to **opening up new avenues for excellent, responsible and high-impact research**, we are confident that **Kata-Riina Valosaari** are dedicated to the advancement of research assessment, embodying the values of collaboration, transparency, and inclusivity. They are knowledgeable and passionate about the current challenges in methods of research evaluation and the importance of recognising the diverse contributions of researchers. Through their valuable expertise and leadership skills, they will offer a strategic vision in CoARA.

**Kata-Riina Valosaari** has been **leading the development of research assessment principles and practices at the Research Council of Finland for the past eight years**. During their time with us, they have demonstrated outstanding **skills, leadership, commitment, achievements involving research assessment reforms** through **translating responsible research values and assessment principles into practice in research funding practices**. Their work has had a measurable impact within **scientific community in Finland**.

Beyond their professional accomplishments, **Kata-Riina Valosaari** embodies qualities of **visionary dedication, integrity, strategic thinking, and communication skills that are both effective and inspiring**. Their dedication to **advance healthy research culture through research funding** continues to advance goals that align with CoARA.

**Research Council of Finland** firmly believes that **Kata-Riina Valosaari** will bring exceptional value, insight, and commitment to the CoARA Steering Board.

We strongly endorse their candidacy and fully support their nomination.

Sincerely,  
  
**Jussi Vauhkonen**