

Conference Programme Schedule

Shaping CoARA's Future: Strengthened Communities Driving Systemic Change in Research Assessment

CoARA is evolving as both a community and a movement. As the coalition approaches its five-year milestone in 2027, this moment of transition provides an opportunity to bring together the coalition's core communities and spotlight how together CoARA members are driving reform forward.

From Working Groups and National Chapters to Cascade Funding beneficiaries and key contributors to the reform, this conference will bring together the coalition's community leaders to showcase actionable outputs, tools to support Action Plan implementation, and emerging practices that are shaping a fairer, more inclusive research culture.

As reform efforts mature across different institutional and national contexts, there is growing demand for practical support, stronger monitoring and evaluating mechanisms, and enhanced alignment with global partner initiatives. The conference will create a platform to explore how CoARA can strengthen its support structures for implementation, build on insights and enhance coordination across the community, and collectively shape a shared vision for a future that drives systemic change.

Overall Event Structure

The hybrid event will take place **7-8 September 2026 in Paris** hosted at the **CNRS Auditorium** ([3 rue Michel-Ange 75016 Paris](#)). The event will be co-organised by CoARA Boost partners: ESF (hosting the CoARA Secretariat), CNRS, ALLEA, and Science Europe.

- Paris, France at the CNRS Auditorium
- September 7-8th, 2026
- 1–1.5-day hybrid conference
 - Day 1: CoARA Communities Driving Change
 - Half-day conference programme beginning in the afternoon
 - Afternoon programme followed by a welcome reception with mocktails and soft drinks
 - Day 2: Advancing Implementation and Alignment for Collective Impact
 - Full-day conference programme
 - Conference followed by a networking coffee
 - CoARA community showcase posters on display throughout the conference with dedicated 'engage' session to ask questions during the networking coffee
- In-person attendance via invite only
- Registered online participants to join via live stream

Agenda: Day 1

7 September 2026 | 12h30–20h00 CEST

Start Time	End Time	Topic	Speakers
12h30	13h00	Welcome coffee & registration	<i>Please bring identification for registration.</i>
13h00	13h10	Opening remarks from CNRS, ALLEA, and CoARA Steering Board	• CNRS Chairman and CEO, Thierry Dauxois • CoARA Chair, Prof. Dr. Henk Kummeling (Utrecht University) • President of ALLEA, Prof. Pawel Rowiński (TBC)
13h10	14h00	Keynote panel: Research Assessment at a Turning Point Theme: Founding members of CoARA will explore the role of CoARA to address emerging challenges in the broader context of the reform movement	• CoARA Vice Chair, Dr. Karen Stroobants • Michael Arentoft (European Commission) • Dr. Lidia Borell-Damián (Science Europe) • Dr. Vinciane Gaillard (EUA) Moderated by Nicolas Walter (ESF)
14h00	15h15	Fireside chats with Working Groups in moderated discussion Theme: Embedding Working Group outputs in practical contexts, in conversation with RFOs and RPOs <i>Including MentiMeter session in parallel to capture questions</i>	Group A: <i>Improving practices in research proposals and recognising peer review in funding contexts</i> • Dr. Matthias Kiesselbach (DFG, WG IPARP) • Tung Tung Chan (Erasmus University Rotterdam, WG Peer Review)

			• Dr. Klemen Miklavič (ARIS, NC Slovenia) <i>Group B: Experimentation and societal impact as core criterion in research performing contexts</i> • Dr. Teresa Sordé Martí (UAB, WG Towards Transformations) • Dr. Noémie Aubert Bonn (Hasselt University, WG Experiments) • Dr. Sylvie Rousset (CNRS, former Steering Board member) Moderated by Silvia Gómez Recio (YERUN) and Mostafa Moonir Shawrav (MCAA)
15h15	16h00	<i>Cascade Funding Projects: Catalysers of institutional change</i> Theme: Lessons learned and pathways for sustainable change	• Iva Melinščak Zlodi (University of Zagreb, Pilot project) • Dr. Stefan Riedel (Ruhr Universität Bochum, Teaming project) • Dr. Miriam Kip (Berlin Institute of Health at Charité Berlin, Institutional change project) Moderated by Prof. Alis Oancea (University of Oxford)
16h00	16h30	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
16h30	17h40	<i>Panel 1: Towards communities of practice</i> Theme: Building new forms of communities to strengthen coordinated action <i>Including 15 min. Q&A</i>	• Dr. Stefan Penders (NC Netherlands, NWO) • Dr. Rita Morais (WG Academic Career Assessment, EUA) • Prof. Stanislaw Kistryn (CoARA SB,

			NC Poland, Jagiellonian University) • Prof. Silvia Penati (WG TIER, University of Milano-Bicocca) Moderated by Krisztina Szepesvári (NC Hungary, HUN-REN)
17h40	18h00	<i>Day 1: Reflections & wrap-up</i>	• Reflections from a CoARA sponsor (TBC) • CoARA Vice Chair, Janne Pölönen (Federation of Finnish Learned Societies)
18h00	20h00	<i>Welcome reception</i>	

Agenda: Day 2

8 September 2026 | 8h30–17h30 CEST

Start Time	End Time	Topic	Speakers
8h30	9h30	Welcome Coffee & Registration	
9h30	9h45	Welcome address Theme: Enabling systemic change	Dr. Yensi Flores Bueso (Global Young Academy, former Steering Board member)
9h45	10h30	Analysing Action Plans with GarganText: What are the Major Trends?	Dr. David Chavalarias (CNRS)
10h30	11h00	Keynote presentation: ARRA Action Plan Analysis Theme: Insights from an analysis of ARRA action plans and interviews with signatories - and what they mean for CoARA	Dr. Karen Stroobants (Culturebase Consulting)
11h00	11h30	Coffee Break	
11h30	12h45	Panel 2: Expanding engagement and reach of the global reform movement <i>Includes parallel MentiMeter session to capture questions</i>	- Giovanna Lima (DORA) - Dr. Daniella Perrotta (FOLEC-CLACSO) - Dr. Frédéric Sgard (OECD) - Kornelia Tzinova (UNESCO) - Noisisa Dube (GRC) - Prof. Cameron Neylon (CoARA SB, Curtin University)
12h45	14h15	Lunch	
14h15	15h30	National Chapters as connectors to bridge the implementation gap Theme: Aligning policy and actionable change in national contexts	- Ragnar Lie (NC Norway, Universities Norway) - Dr. David O'Connell (NC Ireland,

		<i>Includes 15 min. Q&A</i>	University College Cork) • Krisztina Szepesvári (NC Hungary, HUNREN) • Michal Petr (Czech Republic, Masaryk University) Moderated by Prof. Fabien Borget (NC France, Aix Marseille Université)
15h30	16h40	<i>Panel 3: Building a future vision for CoARA's next phase</i> <i>Includes 15 min. Q&A</i>	• CoARA Chair, Prof. Dr. Henk Kummeling • CoARA Vice Chair, Janne Pölönen • Dr. Irene Ramos-Vielba (CoARA SB, ANECA) • Hans de Jonge (CoARA SB, NWO) • Dr. Gabi Lombardo (CoARA SB, EASSH) Moderated by Dr. Erzsébet Tóth-Czifra
16h40	16h50	<i>Conclusion & wrap up</i>	• CoARA Chair, Prof. Dr. Henk Kummeling
16h50	17h30	<i>Engage with CoARA and post-conference coffee networking</i>	<i>CoARA Community poster exhibition</i>