

Call for Candidates

Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA) – Chair, Vice-Chair and Steering Board Members

Call Launch

October 12th, 2026

Call Deadline

November 11th, 2026 (midnight CET)

Submission using the dedicated
online application forms

- [Online Application Form for Chair candidates](#)
- [Online Application Form for SB members candidates \(including Vice-Chair position\)](#)

Letter of Support for Candidate's
Nominating Organisation (required)

- [Template of the Letter](#)

Overview of the Call

The CoARA Secretariat is seeking candidates for the following positions, to be elected at the CoARA General Assembly on **Wednesday, December 9th, 2026**:

- **One (1) CoARA Chair;**
- **Seven (7) Steering Board Members, including one (1) Vice-Chair.**

Elected candidates will begin their terms immediately upon the announcement of the voting results.

The Steering Board (SB) of CoARA is responsible for the overall oversight, strategy, work plan, and sustainability of CoARA. The SB provides guidance for member participation and oversees the work of the National Chapters, and the General Assembly. The SB ensures that CoARA's activities align with its long-term aims and vision for advancing research assessment.

Objective

CoARA's Steering Board is responsible for the overall oversight, strategy, work plan, and sustainability of the Coalition. The Steering Board provides guidance oversees the work of the coalition to ensure that CoARA's activities align with its long-term aims and vision for advancing research assessment.

The Steering Board Chair, Vice-Chairs and members meet for 1,5 hour every month. They can also participate in Task Forces meetings, which focus on specific subjects, and they may be asked to represent CoARA in various events. Additionally, the Chair and Vice-

Chairs form the Executive Committee (ExCom) that functions as the operational arm of the Steering Board. On top of the Steering Board meetings, they meet monthly for 1 hour with the CoARA Secretariat Programme Manager. The ExCom also acts as primary liaison with the CoARA Secretariat's hosting organisation.

The election aims to ensure that the Steering Board is composed of individuals who bring a diverse range of expertise, leadership, and commitment to advancing research assessment reforms, while maintaining balanced representation across member organisations.

This call seeks candidates who can contribute to CoARA's mission and actively engage in its initiatives.

The current composition of Steering Board members who will continue their terms, and are therefore not up for re-election, is listed below:

Name	Gender	Organisation (Type)	Country	Region
Mr Janne Pölönen (Vice-Chair)	Male	Federation of Finnish Learned Societies (ACA)	Finland	B
Prof. Oliver Günther	Male	University of Potsdam (UNI)	Germany	B
Dr. Kalpana Chaudhari	Female	Institute for Sustainable Development and Research (ACA)	India	C

Steering Board members whose mandate ends in December 2026:

Name	Gender	Organisation (Type)	Country	Region
Prof. Henk Kummeling (Chair)	Male	Utrecht University (UNI)	The Netherlands	B
Dr. Karen Stroobants (Vice-Chair)	Female	Marie Curie Alumni Association (ACA)	United Kingdom	B
Prof. Marcin Palys	Male	European University Association (UNI)	Poland	A
Dr. Irene Ramos-Vielba	Female	The Spanish National Agency for Quality Assessment and Accreditation (AUTH)	Spain	B
Dr. Gabi Lombardo	Female	European Alliance for SSH (OTH)	Italy	B
Prof. Cameron Neylon	Male	Curtin Open Knowledge Initiative (RES)	Australia	C
M. Hans de	Male	Dutch Research Council (NWO)	The	B

Jonge		(FUN)	Netherlands	
Prof. Stanislaw Kistryn	Male	Jagiellonian University in Kraków (UNI)	Poland	A

Gender balance: The following gender balance will be applied: 25:25:50 (25% men; 25% women; 50% open) in an effort to attract the best candidates and support diversity.

Type of Organisation: At least one and not more than four Steering Board members should originate from each of the following types of organisations, provided candidacies have been presented for each category:

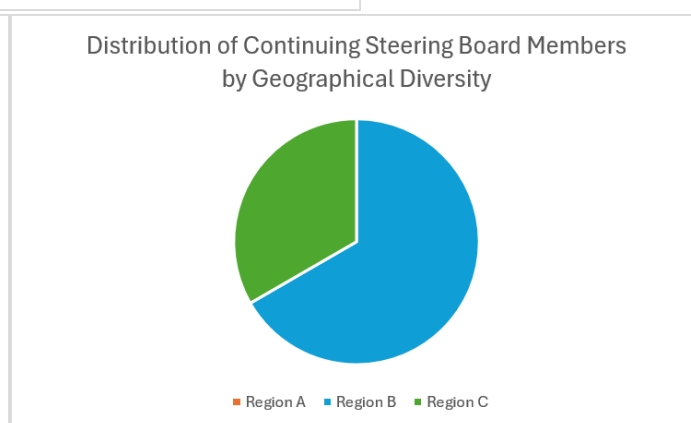
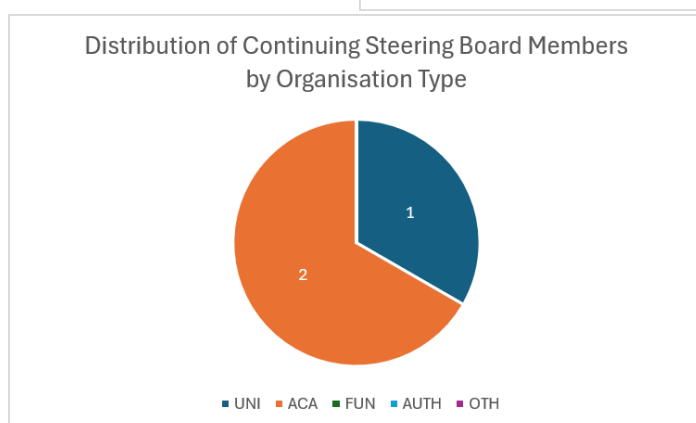
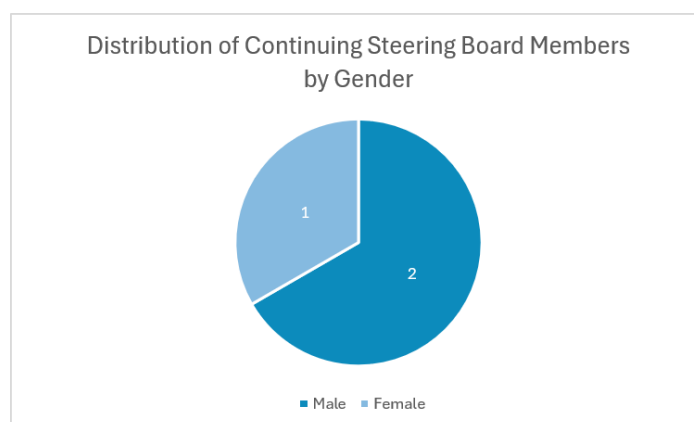
- Universities and their associations (UNI).
- Research centres, research infrastructures, and their associations (RES)
- Academies, learned societies, and their associations, and associations of researchers (ACA).
- Public or private research funding organisations and their associations (FUN).
- National/regional authorities or agencies that implement some form of research assessment and their associations (AUTH)
- Other relevant non-profit organisations involved with research assessment, and their associations (OTH).

Geographical Diversity: Minimum two Steering Board members should be located in each of the following geographical regions, provided candidacies have been presented for each of these regions:

Region A	Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia
Region B	Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Denmark, Faroe Islands, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, the Netherlands, Norway, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, Ukraine
Region C	All other countries.

The number of Steering Board members affiliated in one country cannot exceed two. Thus, candidates located in a country with two existing members on the Steering Board can only be put forward for election in the year that at least one member is stepping down.

The current makeup of the Steering Board (for members whose terms continue) in terms of balancing criteria is the following:



Election Process

The current call is seeking candidates for a (1) Chair and seven (7) new Steering Board members, including one (1) Vice-Chair. The new members will be appointed by the General Assembly, based on the applications received and applying the approved at the previous General Assembly meeting geographical balancing algorithm (see CoARA Core Document "[Rules of Procedure for Chair, Vice-Chair\(s\), and Steering Board](#)").

Detailed explanations of the Functions, Terms, and Responsibilities of the Chair, Vice-Chair(s), and Steering Board Members can be found in the following documents:

- [CoARA Governance Document](#)
- [CoARA Rules of Procedure for Chair, Vice-Chair\(s\), and Steering Board Members](#)

We recommend that applicants also consult the following documents before applying:

- [CoARA Code of Conduct](#)

The Steering Board is composed of a maximum of eleven (11) members, including the Chair and up to two (2) Vice-Chairs. When voting, each General Assembly member organisation will endeavour to ensure balance in the Steering Board membership in terms of types of organisations represented, geographic coverage, gender, and diversity of disciplines and expertise.

Eligibility Criteria

Any CoARA member organisation (i.e. the Nominating Organisation) can nominate one of its employees or other persons affiliated or having a contractual relation with them, as a candidate.

Only nominations from organisations who are CoARA members by October 1st, 2026, will be eligible to nominate a candidate.

CoARA member organisations may nominate one candidate for the role of Chair and one candidate for the Steering Board roles, including Vice Chair.

Organisations that have signed the Agreement and have had their CoARA membership confirmed by the start of the online voting (November 24th, 2026) will be eligible to vote in the election. For more information about the membership at CoARA, please consult the [FAQs "Who can sign the Agreement and join the Coalition?" and "How to join the Coalition?"](#).

The engagement of Steering Board members is made possible through the valuable support of their nominating organisations, which are invited to contribute to the travel and representation expenses linked to their participation in CoARA governance activities.

Expected profiles

While a diversity of profiles is valued, Steering Board members are expected to have expertise and a broad overview of research assessment issues and be committed to participate in CoARA activities. Candidates should demonstrate strong leadership and communication skills, and a commitment to advancing research assessment reforms.

Terms

1. Chair

The election of the Chair is a separate election from that of the other Steering Board members. Two separate online voting ballots will be provided.

Candidates for the Chair position must submit an application template with a brief motivation statement and a narrative CV detailing their background and expertise, including

how they match the profile for the Chair position.

Each CoARA member organisation can vote for one Chair candidate, and the candidate with the most votes will be elected.

As per the “CoARA Rules of Procedure: Chairs, Vice-Chairs and Steering Board” adopted by the General Assembly on December 9th, 2026, the Chair serves for a term of two years, renewable once. The total length of the term therefore cannot exceed 4 years.

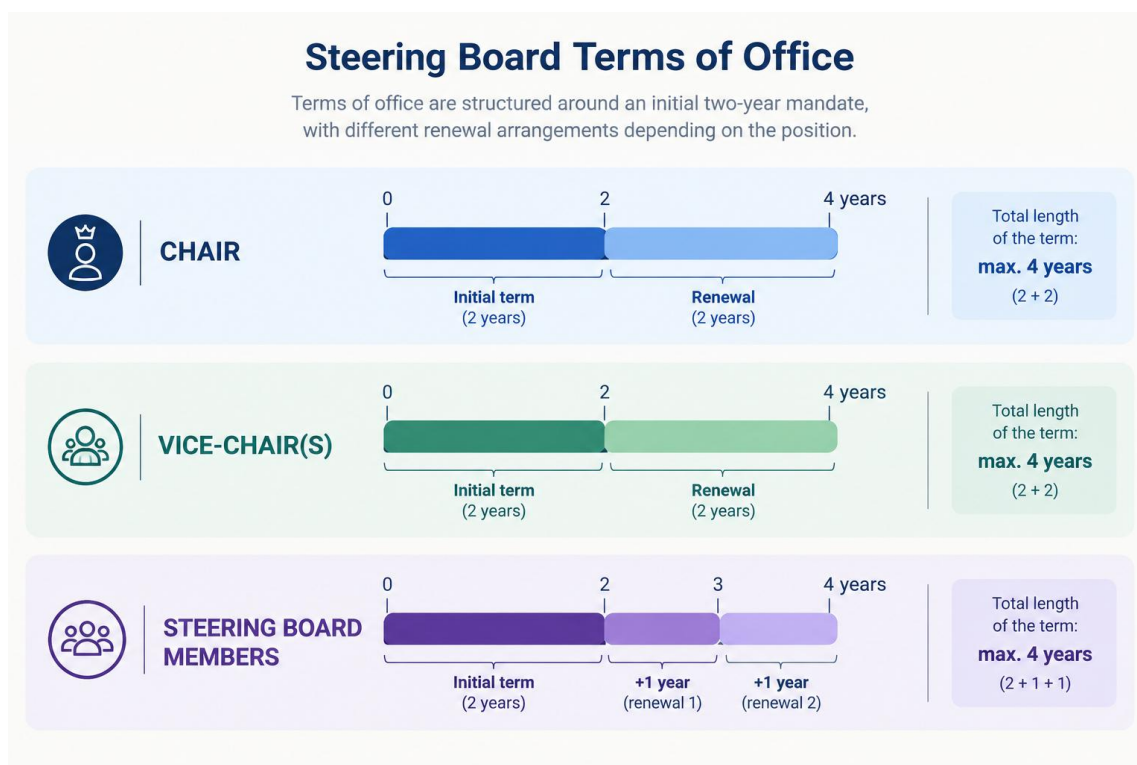
Please note that during the General Assembly taking place on December 9th, 2026, the Chair candidates are expected to give individual short introduction (5 minutes max.)

2. Vice-Chair and Steering Board Members

Candidates for the Steering Board may also declare candidacy for the Vice-Chair position. The candidates who receive the most votes for the Steering Board, and who also declared candidacy for Vice-Chair, will be nominated as Vice-Chairs. Vice-Chairs serve a two-year term, which can be renewed once for an additional year.

Candidates for the Steering Board must apply using the [online form](#), with a brief motivation statement, a narrative CV detailing their background and expertise, and a mandatory [Letter of Support from a Nominating Organisation](#).

Steering Board members are elected for an initial term of two years, with the possibility of renewing their term twice by one-year consecutive periods. The total term cannot exceed four years.



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Application Procedure

Candidates must submit their application using the online form for a Vice-Chair position or Steering Board member position, and must provide a Letter of Support from their Nominating Organisation using the template below:

- [Online Application Form for Chair position](#)
- [Online Application Form for Vice-Chair and Steering Board member position](#)
- [Template of the Nominating Organisation's Support Letter](#)

Call Deadline and Submissions

Applications should be submitted using the online forms by **Tuesday November 11th, 2026, at midnight (CET)**.

For any questions regarding the call or application procedures, please contact the CoARA Secretariat: secretariat@coara.eu.