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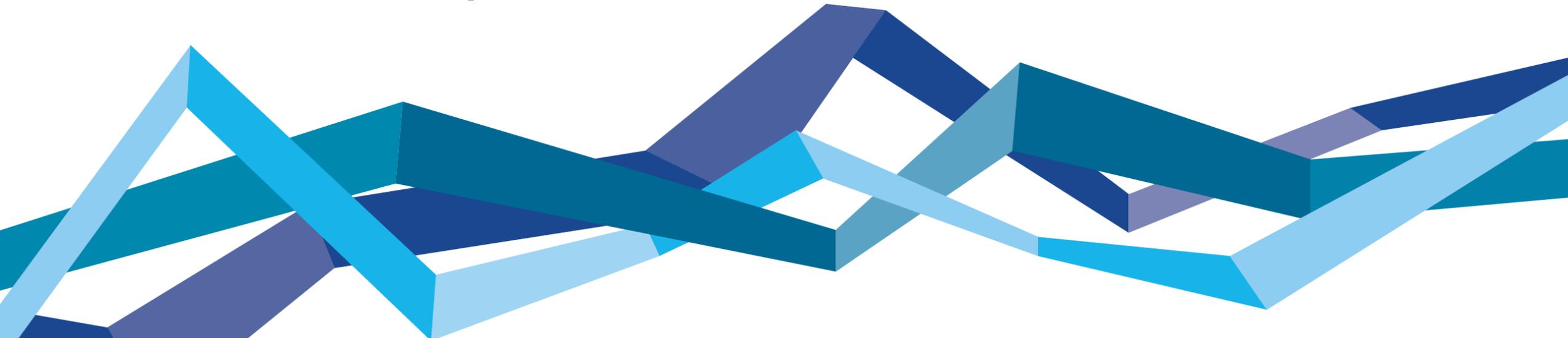


AGREEMENT ON REFORMING RESEARCH ASSESSMENT

Lidia Borrell-Damián

Secretary-General, Science Europe

7 September 2022

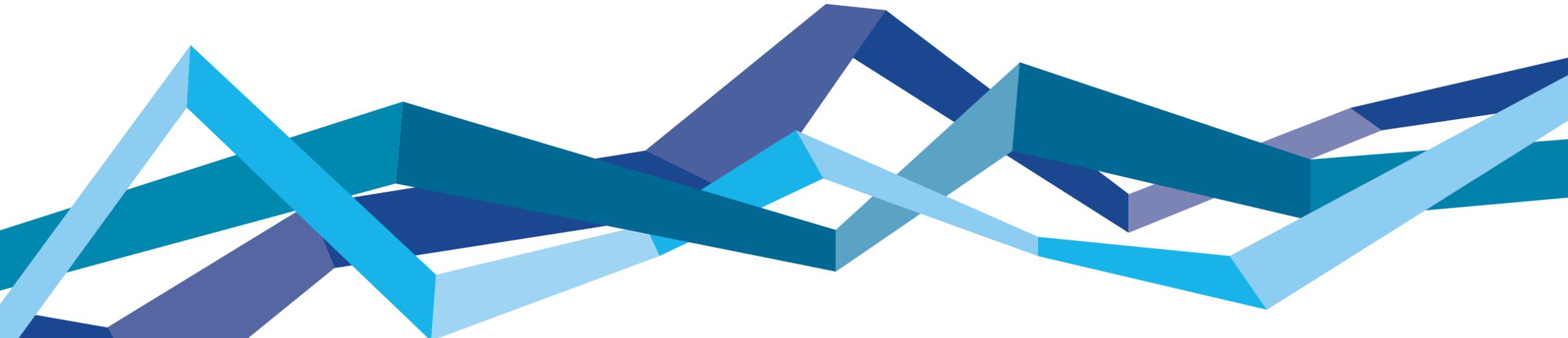




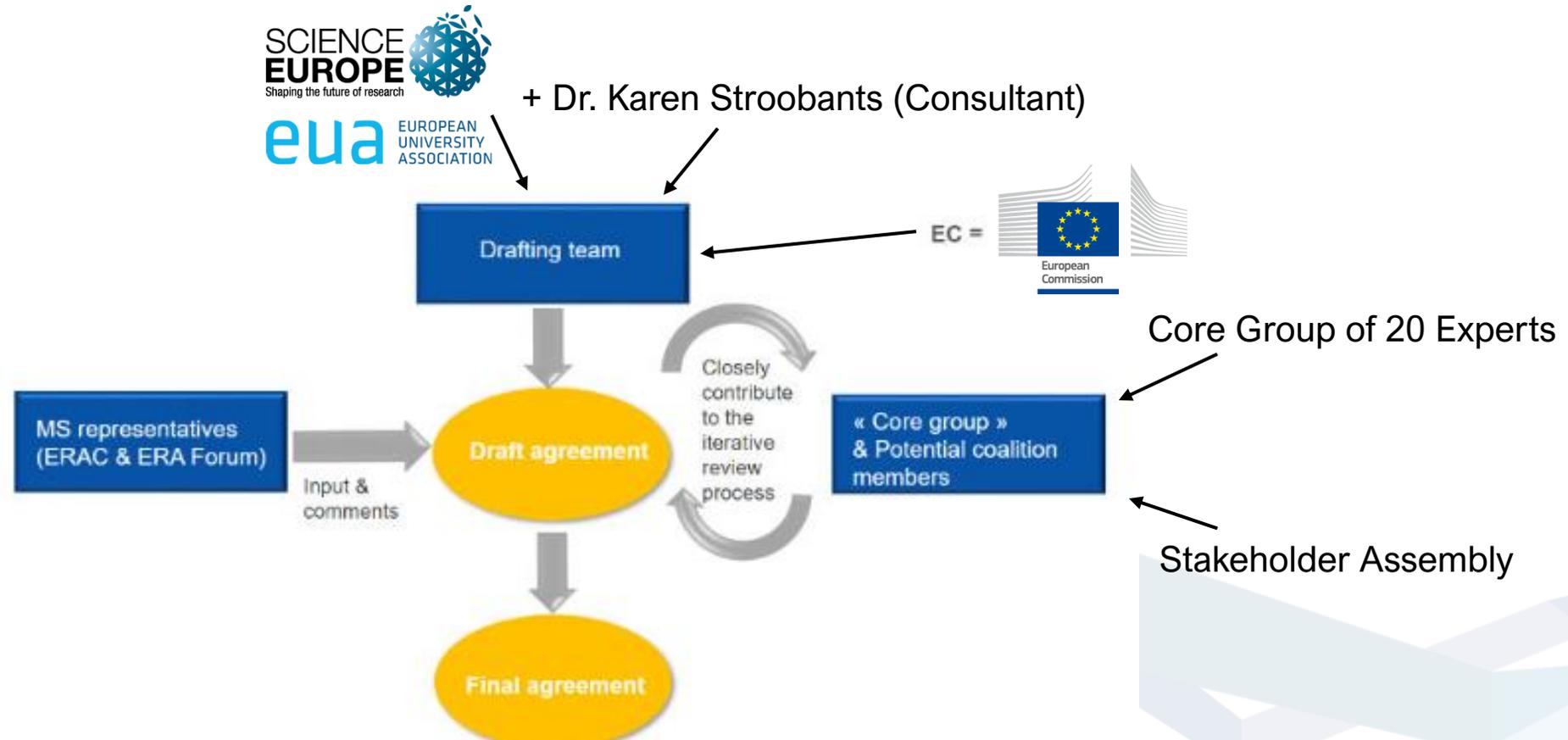
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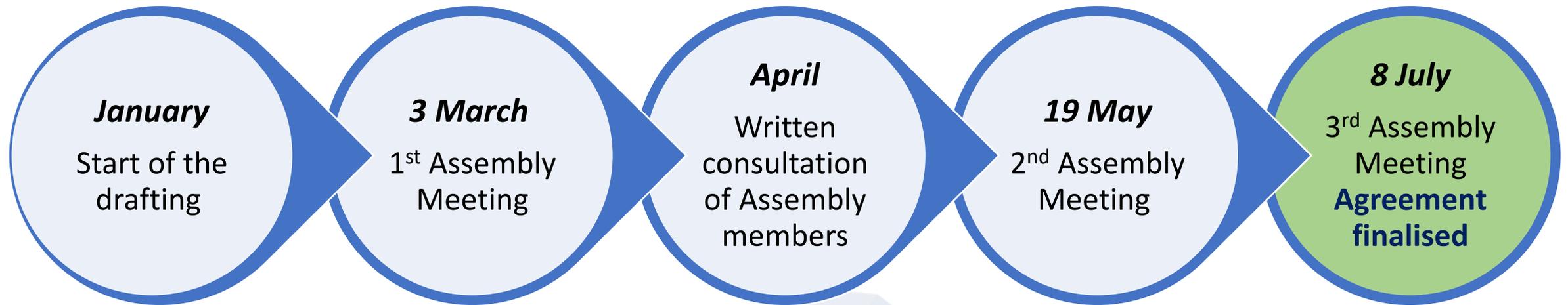
1. THE PROCESS & ACTORS



Co-creating the Agreement



Co-creating the Agreement



- Core Group providing opinions and feedback on evolving drafts
- Feedback also through the European Research Area (ERA) Forum and the ERA Committee

The co-creation process in numbers

24 Drafting Team meetings

6 Core Group meetings

3 Assembly meetings

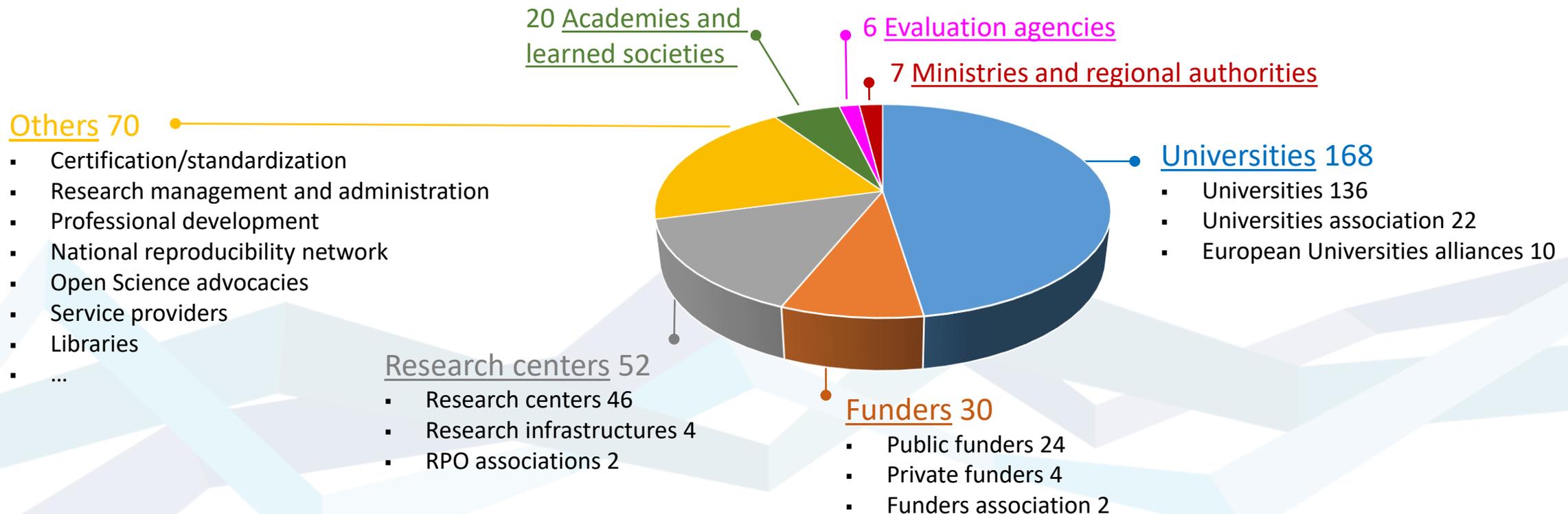
*1 written consultation of Assembly members
133 replies received*

2 meetings and 1 workshop with ERA Forum members

2 discussions at ERAC meetings

Diverse perspectives

- Over 350 organisations have declared they are committed to the principles in the Scoping Report and expressed interest in joining the drafting process



... from across Europe and beyond

70

60

50

40

30

20

10

0

40 countries represented
(of which 25 EU countries)
+ Organisations of
international scope



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NB: International organisations are international organisations, and umbrella organisations with members representing different countries

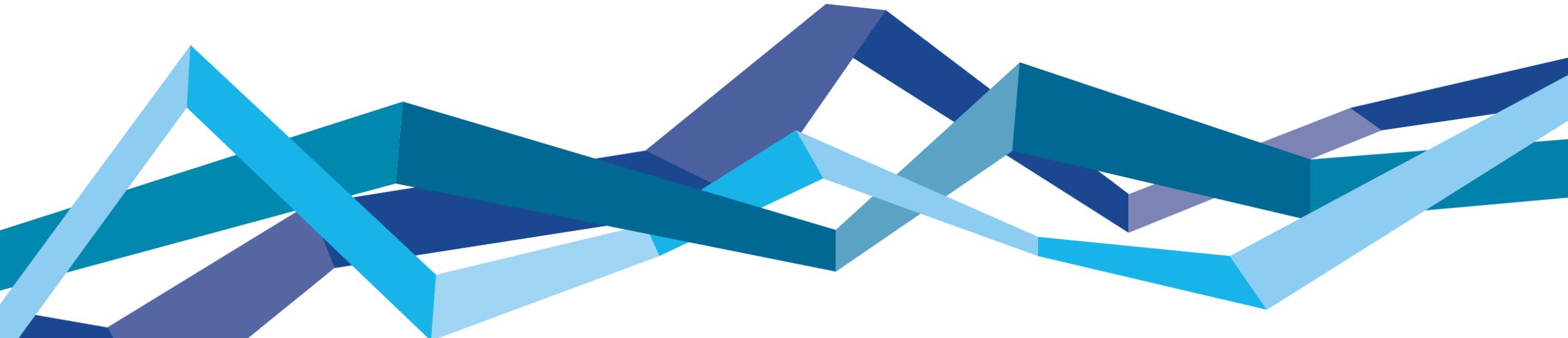




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2. THE AGREEMENT



The Final Agreement

The Agreement sets a shared direction for changes in assessment practices for research, researchers, and research performing organisations, with the goal to maximise the quality and impact of research. It includes principles, commitments, and timeframes for reforms and lays out principles for a Coalition of organisations willing to work together in implementing the changes.



<https://www.scienceeurope.org/news/rra-agreement-final>

Final Agreement

Introduction	
I Principles	
II Commitments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Core (1-4)• Supporting (5-10)
III Principles for the coalition	
IV Timeframe	
	Signature box
Annexes (non-prescriptive)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rationale and Context• Reform journey• Toolbox

There is broad agreement among the research community that research assessment practices need to be reformed.

This is due to a variety of interconnected underlying reasons, including:

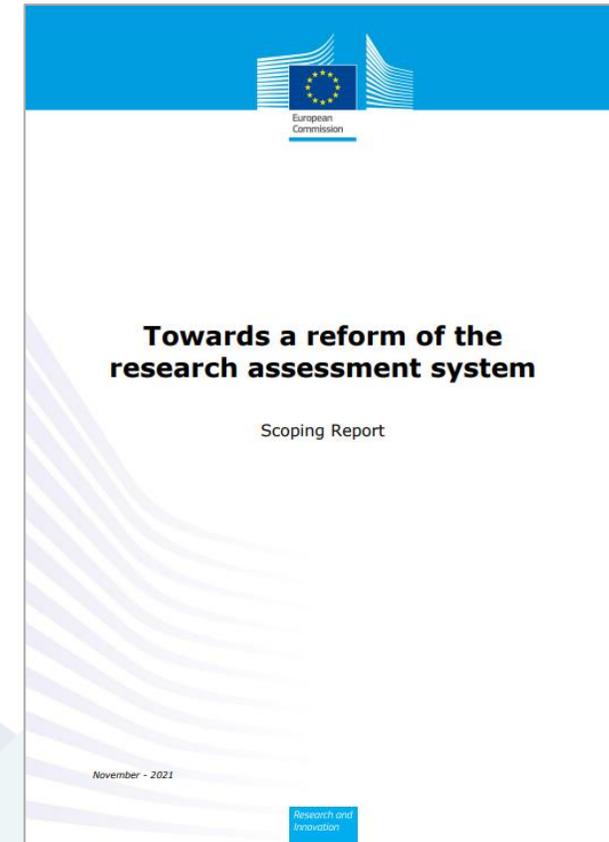
1. to allow research assessment to support positive research cultures.
2. to ensure assessment practices stay relevant as research processes and the expectations of research evolve.
3. to live up to the increasing demands placed on research by the many societal, environmental, democratic, and economic challenges we face.

While the motivations behind this process may differ, they all point in the same direction: **reform is needed, primarily to further support the quality of research.**

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Principles for reform developed by the European Commission through extensive consultations in 2021:



<https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/36ebb96c-50c5-11ec-91ac-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>

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Two commitments to enable **better recognition of the diverse practices and activities** that maximise the quality of research

Two commitments to **enable a move away from the inappropriate uses of metrics**

1. Recognise the diversity of contributions to, and careers in, research in accordance with the needs and the nature of the research
2. Base research assessment primarily on qualitative evaluation for which peer-review is central, supported by responsible use of quantitative indicators
3. Abandon the inappropriate uses in research assessment of journal- and publication-based metrics, in particular the inappropriate uses of journal impact factor (JIF) and h-index
4. Avoid the use of rankings of research organisations in research assessment

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Three commitments **to pilot and enable** the move towards new criteria, tools and processes for research assessment

Three commitments to facilitate **mutual learning, communicate progress** and ensure that new approaches are evidence-informed

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Openness – to signatories of agreement; globally; accessible outputs

Responsibility – general assembly responsible for rules and procedures of operation

Collaboration - mutual learning and collaboration; also with other initiatives

Commitment and autonomy – supports implementation of commitments; autonomy

Community-driven – volunteer members; driving force

Inclusiveness – global; different levels of progress

Trust – self-assessment shared publicly

Funding – voluntary in-kind; potential cash contributions from members

Non-profit – no commercial activities; open and re-usable outputs

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Signatories agree to **share with each other and with their community how their organisation has started the process** of reviewing or developing criteria, tools and processes in line with the core Commitments and according to an action plan with defined milestones, **by the end of 2023 or within one year of signing the Agreement.**

Signatories agree to **regularly demonstrate progress** towards reviewing, developing and evaluating criteria, tools and processes that fulfil the core Commitments, **with a touch point at end of 2027 or within five years of signing the Agreement**, by which time they will have worked through at least one cycle of review and development of their assessment criteria, tools and processes.

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The Agreement also includes a number of non-prescriptive Annexes which provide additional information and guidance:

Further explanation of the rationale(s) for reform and the contexts within which it should be considered by research organisations, i.e.:

“Reform processes should enable the reinforcement of the autonomy, profile and strategic goals of research organisations and allow for differences in implementation”.

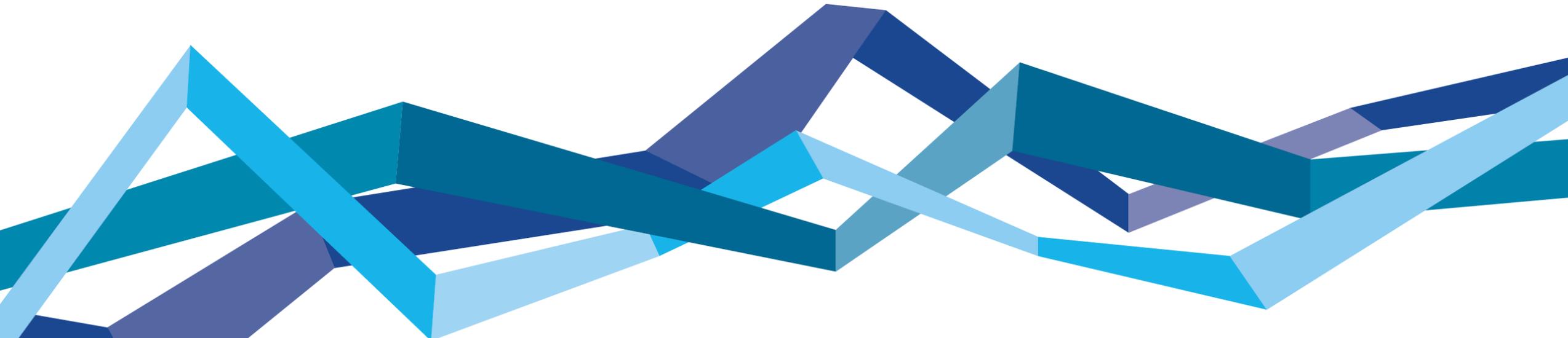
A reform journey and toolbox of existing good practice examples can help research organisations in developing their own reform actions. These will be reviewed and updated in line with the progress of the coalition once launched.



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3. THE NEXT STEPS



The Coalition

- **Coalition on Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA)**
- **Enable systemic reform of research assessment** on the basis of the Agreement; shared commitments and an agreed timeframe
- Through **exchange of information and mutual learning** between all those willing to improve research assessment practices
- Discussions ongoing on the **organisation and operations**
- Work of the Coalition: **Working Groups operating as 'communities of practice'** and offering space for mutual learning and collaboration
- The Coalition will seek for **complementarities, collaborations and synergies** with like-minded initiatives and organisations globally

Next Steps

- Promotion of the **Agreement** and collection of signatures
- Continue to develop and finalise the **Governance Document**, including a Code of Conduct (CoC) & initiate the development of **Rules of Procedure** (RoPs) for working groups, for elections etc.
- **4th Stakeholder Assembly** (discussion of governance documents – on **13 October**)
- **Constitutive Assembly** launching the CoARA (open to eligible organisations who have signed the Agreement by **15 November** – *Tentative date: 1 December*)

Next Steps

The collection of signatures will be launched on **28 September** at the EU Research & Innovation Days

Early indications of signature can already be sent to:

researchassessment@scienceeurope.org & researchassessment@eua.eu

To assist organisations in their decision to sign and join the coalition, a 'Frequently Asked Questions' document has been developed by the Drafting Team:

<https://www.scienceeurope.org/media/ryda3uag/20220719-rra-agreement-coalition-faq.pdf>

For any further assistance, please feel free to contact:

researchassessment@scienceeurope.org & researchassessment@eua.eu

Thank you for your attention

