

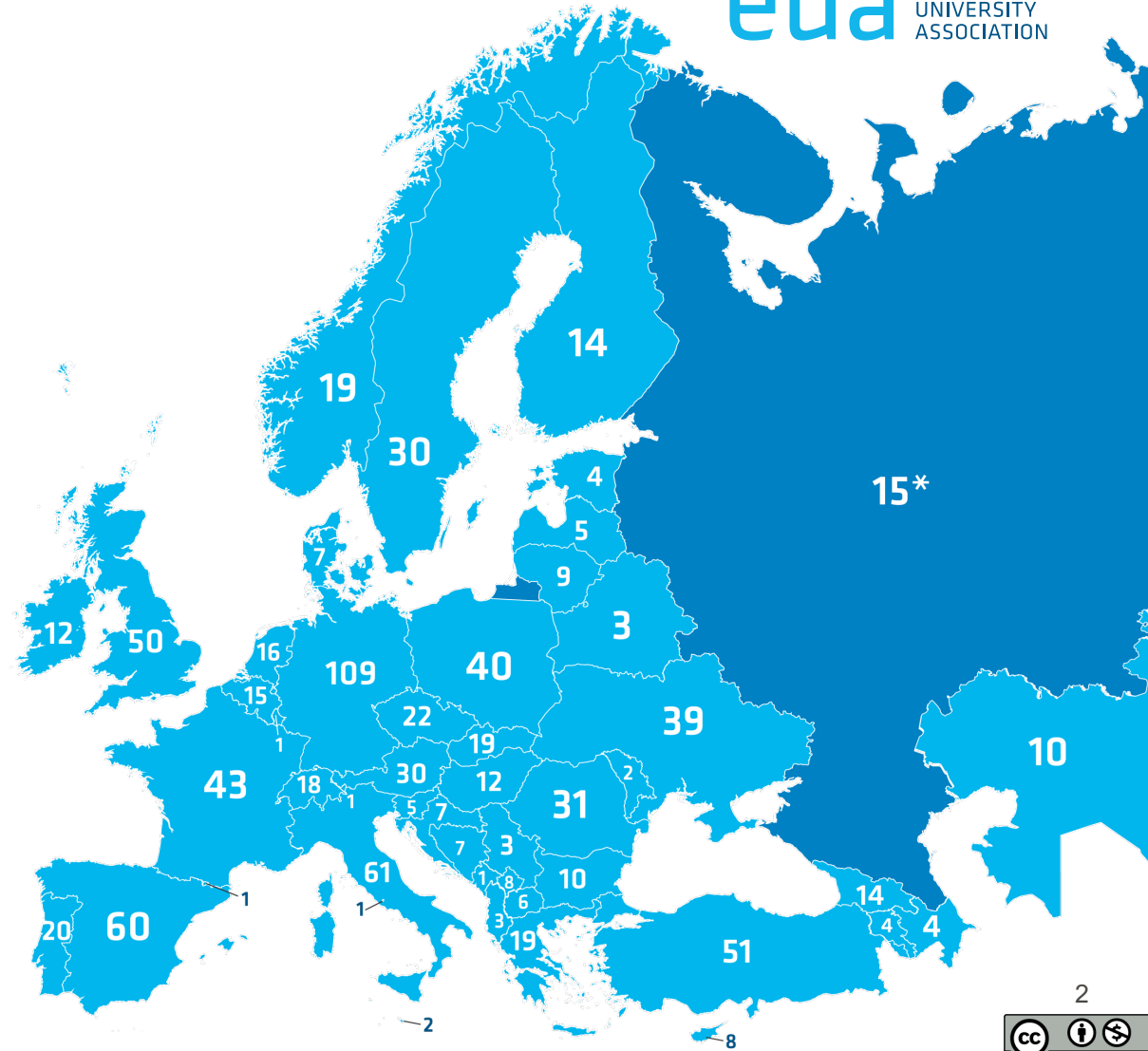
# EUR EU Strategy Days 2024

## *SCIENCE FOR POLICY AND IMPACT*

Stephane Berghmans  
Director for Research & Innovation

Erasmus University Rotterdam  
EU Strategy Days 2024  
21 March  
Brussels

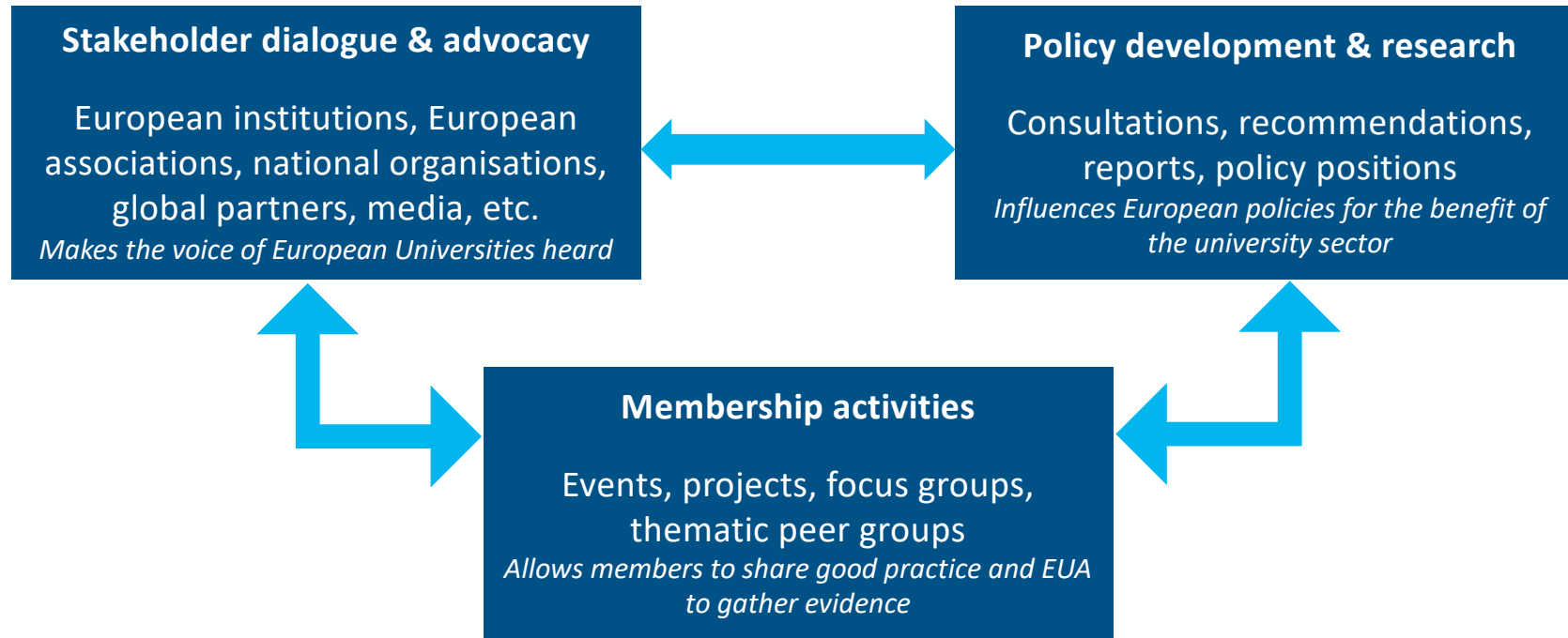
**EUA has 866 members  
based in 51 countries**  
(as of 1 April 2023)



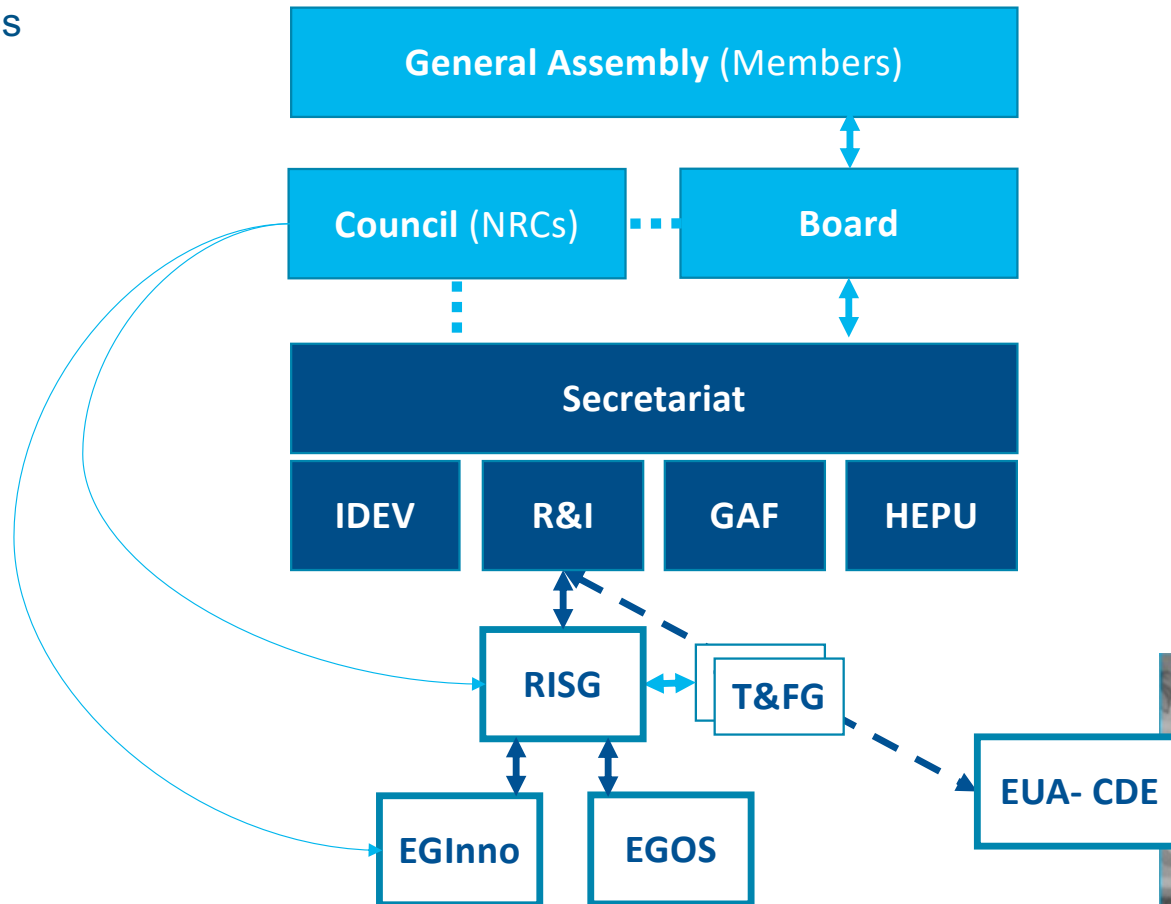
## Main objectives

- **Facilitates dialogue** on higher education and research & innovation
- **Represents the interests** of the higher education sector
- Ensures the voice of universities is heard in **EU policy making & in the ERA/EHEA**
- **Support its members** with a range of **services** (strategy development, thematic peer groups & focus groups, events and publications)

# Main activities



EUA statutory, consultative  
& support bodies



# EUA Research & Innovation Agenda



Published December 2023 - [link](#)

Developed by **EUA R&I Strategy Group** in collaboration with  
EUA Expert Group on Innovation  
EUA Expert Group on Open Science  
National Rectors Conferences

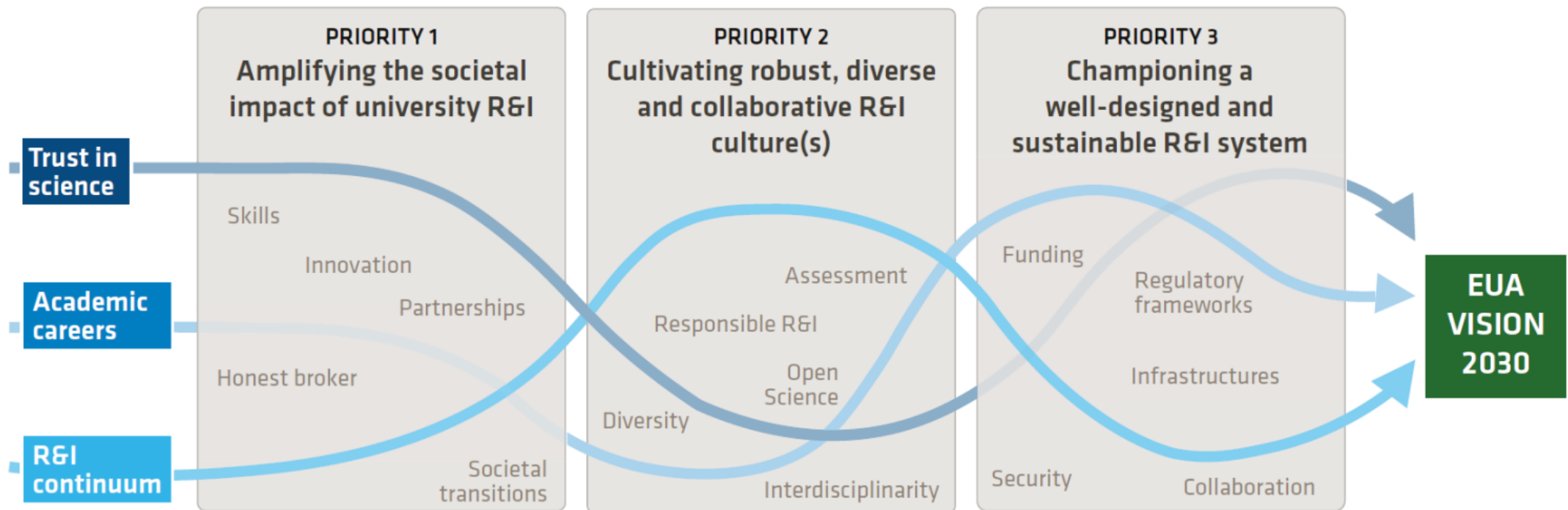
**PRIORITY 1**  
**Amplifying the societal impact of university R&I**

**PRIORITY 2**  
**Cultivating robust, diverse and collaborative R&I culture(s)**

**PRIORITY 3**  
**Championing a well-designed and sustainable R&I system**

*“... universities may outgrow [their] honest broker role to become agents of societal transformation and thus take on a more proactive stance...”*

# EUA Research & Innovation Agenda



## Example 1

### What is ERA?



The European Research Area (ERA) is the ambition to create a **single, borderless market for research, innovation and technology** across the EU.

It helps **countries** be more effective together, by strongly **aligning their research policies and programmes**.

The **free circulation of researchers and knowledge** enables

- better cross-border cooperation
- building of critical mass
- continent-wide competition

ERA was **launched in 2000** and **revitalised in 2020**



## Stakeholders' representation in the ERA Forum?

To: Minister Simona Kustec, Commissioner Mariya Gabriel

Brussels, 4 October 2021

### Open letter on ERA governance

#### Open letter on ERA governance

Honourable Minister Simona Kustec and Commissioner Mariya Gabriel,

With this letter, the undersigned representatives of research and innovation (R&I) organisations



**Council Conclusions**  
*November 2021*

The Commission should foresee that the ERA Forum will ensure representative involvement at its relevant meetings of EU-level umbrella organisations [...] of the following seven types of stakeholders

- universities and other higher education institutions
- ...

**ERA University  
Sector Group**



# ERA Forum (22 meetings)

*Member states*

*Associated countries*

*European Commission*

*Stakeholders*

## ERA Policy Agenda: 20 actions along four priority areas

### DEEPENING A TRULY FUNCTIONING INTERNAL MARKET FOR KNOWLEDGE

1. Open sharing of knowledge, incl. EOSC
2. Data legislation fit for research
3. **Reform of research assessment**
4. Strengthen research careers
5. Gender equality and inclusiveness
6. Protect academic freedom
7. Better knowledge valorisation
8. Research infrastructures
9. International cooperation, reciprocity



### TOGETHER FOR TWIN GREEN AND DIGITAL TRANSITION, AND INCREASING SOCIETY'S PARTICIPATION IN THE ERA

10. R&I Missions and Partnerships for ERA
11. Green energy transformation
12. Transition of industrial ecosystems
13. Empower higher education institutions
14. Bring science closer to society



### AMPLIFYING ACCESS TO RESEARCH AND INNOVATION EXCELLENCE ACROSS THE UNION

15. Regional and national R&I ecosystems
16. EU-wide access to excellence
17. Strategic capacity of public RPOs

### ADVANCING CONCERTED R&I INVESTMENTS AND REFORMS

18. Coordination national support for ERA
19. ERA monitoring mechanism
20. Prioritisation and coordination of R&I investments and reforms



# Next ERA Policy Agenda 2025-2027

## ERA proposals with more than 50% support

- 5. Attractive and sustainable research careers (100.0%)
- 4. Strengthening inclusive and intersectional gender equality (95.2%)
- 30. A New Era in Research Management (95.2%)
- 1. Enabling open science via sharing and re-use of data (90.5%)
- 7. Knowledge Valorisation (90.5%)
- 11. Supporting the uptake of science into policymaking through the establishment of a European Science for Policy (S4P) ecosystem (90.5%)
- 12. Facilitating and accelerating the use of AI in science and research (90.5%)
- 2. Equity in Open and Responsible Research and Innovation (85.7%)
- 3. Research Infrastructures in ERA (85.7%)
- 14. Knowledge Security (85.7%)
- 6. Research Assessment (81.0%)
- 13. Global Approach to R&I (81.0%)
- **23. Unleashing the full R&I potential of Europe's universities (81.0%)**
- 24. Accelerating industrial transformation for Europe's competitive sustainability and strategic autonomy (76.2%)
- 8. Strengthening Freedom of Scientific Research in the EU (71.4%)
- 28. Building trust in science (61.9%)
- 29. Improve EU-wide access to excellence (61.9%)
- 17. Greening Research (57.1%)
- 22. A harmonised framework to support integrity and ethics in R&I (57.1%)
- 15. Revamping the SET-Plan (52.4%)

## ERA proposals with less than 50%

- 9. Fundamental research and scientific leadership (38.1%)
- 31. An R&I foresight community of practice for the ERA (38.1%)
- 19. Non-animal approaches in biomedical research and testing of pharmaceuticals (33.3%)
- 25. Scale-up of the Plastic Pirates (23.8%)
- 20. Strengthening science-policy interfaces for sustainable food systems (19.0%)
- 21. Renewable Energy Valleys (19.0%)
- 26. Borrow a researcher (19.0%)
- 27. MLE on Science Capital (14.3%)
- 10. Societal Impact of research: SSH (9.5%)
- 18. Indigenous plant knowledge revival (4.8%)
- 16. Promoting Sustainable Lifestyles in an Inclusive Manner (ERA-SLIM) (0.0%)

Is there is a ERA **policy gap** ?

**MS 95.2%**; Overall 93.1%

Does it belong in the **ERA Policy Agenda**?

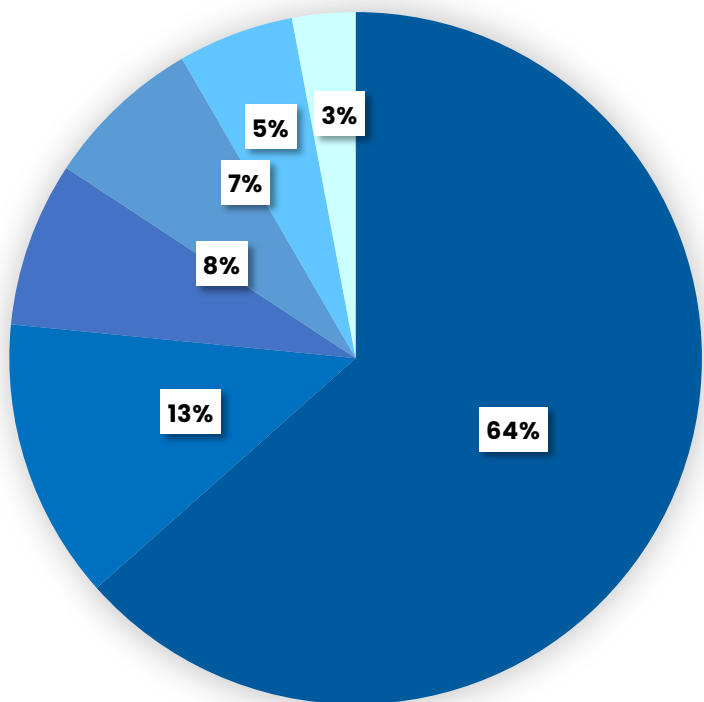
**MS 81.0%**; Overall 77.6%

# Example 2

## Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment

Our vision is that the assessment of research, researchers and research organisations recognises the diverse outputs, practices and activities that maximise the quality and impact of research. This requires basing assessment primarily on qualitative judgement, for which peer review is central, supported by responsible use of quantitative indicators.

# CoARA Membership by type of organisation



In descending order of total share:

- Universities and their associations
- Research centres, research infrastructures, and their associations
- Academies, learned societies, and their associations, and associations of researchers
- Public or private research funding organisations and their associations
- Other relevant non-for-profit organisations involved with research assessment, and their associations
- National/regional authorities or agencies that implement some form of research assessment and their associations

**610 member organisations**  
**692 signatories**  
[February 2024]

# WORKING GROUPS

- Working Groups aim to **exchange** knowledge, **learn** mutually, **discuss and develop** outputs to advance research assessment and **help** implement members' commitments.
- They operate as '**communities of practice**', providing mutual learning and collaboration. Working Groups are identified and proposed **bottom-up** by members
- **13** Working Groups in total



# CoARA ACTIVITIES – WG



## Reforming Academic Career Assessment

Global framework for research evaluation in the social sciences and the humanities (SSH)



## Recognizing and Rewarding Peer Review



## Towards Open Infrastructures for Responsible Research Assessment



## Ethics and Research Integrity Policy in Responsible Research Assessment for Data and Artificial Intelligence (ERIP)



## Supporting the alignment of research assessment systems with CoARA in biomedical disciplines through administrative reforms and governance



## TIER – Towards an Inclusive Evaluation of Research



## Early-and-mid-Career Researchers (EMCRs) – Assessment and Research Culture



## Towards Transformations: Transdisciplinarity, Applied/Practice-Based Research, and Impacts



## Multilingualism and language biases in research assessment



## Experiments in Assessment – Idea generation, co-creation, and piloting



## Responsible metrics and indicators



## Improving practices in the assessment of research proposals



# Thank you for your attention

