

## YERUN statement on the Barcelona Declaration: A step in the right direction

In pursuing our network's commitment to Open Science and our determination to work towards the implementation of CoARA's principles, YERUN joins efforts with other organisations and signs **the [Barcelona Declaration on Open Research Information](#)**, reaffirming our longstanding commitment to the principles of openness and transparency in research.

The research community is overly reliant on closed research data that do not only limit access to metadata and research outputs, but also induce a lack of transparency in research assessment. Since proprietary research publishing infrastructures impose severe limitations on the use and reuse of information, indicators deriving from them (e.g., publication and citation statistics, journal impact factors, university rankings, etc.) lack transparency and reproducibility. This plays a major role for universities, researcher's careers, and their evaluation processes. Addressing the opacity in the research information landscape requires the **widespread adoption of open scholarly infrastructures**.

By endorsing this Declaration, we are also affirming our dedication to **CoARA's 10th Commitment**: 'Evaluate practices, criteria and tools based on solid evidence and the state-of-the-art in research on research and make data openly available for evidence gathering and research'. It is crucial that the information used in research evaluations can be accessible and verified by those being assessed.

YERUN is looking forward to seeing the Declaration's commitments translated into practice, and eager to contribute to **transforming the way research information is used and produced**. We believe that this collective effort can also drive innovation, enhance research integrity and trust, and foster a more inclusive and equitable scientific community.

**Backgrounder note:** Since YERUN's inception, Open Science has been a pivotal aspect of our mission. In 2017 the network launched the network [position on Open Science](#) (stating YERUN's commitments to Open Science in years to come) and started the YERUN Group on Open Science, which remains active ever since. The Group has worked together on a number of initiatives, including an online [event](#) on "Diamond Open Access: How can we make it shine?"; a [page](#) on the YERUN website where all the Open Access resources of members are collected; a best practice sharing meeting series; organising the YERUN Open Science Awards, etc.

YERUN has been at the forefront of efforts at the European level to reform the evaluation of researchers and contribute to making the process more transparent. In December 2021, YERUN was invited to be a member of the [Core Group](#) that supported the drafting of the Agreement on Research Assessment from January until June 2022. YERUN actively contributed to the progressive versions of the agreement.

In addition to the Core Group, in January 2022 the European Commission opened a platform where organisations could indicate their interest in being part of the process. This led to a list of the 'Coalition of the willing' (that by September 2022 counted 330 institutions) and to the establishment of the Stakeholders Assemblies.

The [final agreement](#) was published on 20 July 2022 and included the establishment of an initiative that would support signatories to the agreement to facilitate reforms and changes in research assessment. The initiative was officially launched during the EU Research and Innovation Days (28 September) under the name of [CoARA: the Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment](#). On that day, the official collection of signatories to the agreement and to the CoARA initiative started with a deadline of 15 November 2022. Today, a total of 735 institutions have signed the agreement.

YERUN continues to support CoARA by being part of the Extended Secretariat through [CoARA Boost](#), jointly leading it with MCAA, thus supporting the CoARA Working Groups advance in their action plans towards the reform of research assessment.

### - About YERUN -

YERUN - Young European Research Universities Network - founded in 2015 and based in Brussels, brings together excellence and value-driven young research universities. The network's objective is to strategically represent its members in the decision-making process at EU level, thus shaping their future and promoting their role in European societies. Further to its policy advocacy activity, the network also strengthens cooperation opportunities among its members in areas of mutual interest and raises their visibility via a dedicated communication strategy.

### - YERUN Members -



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