



Reforming research assessment

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Why do we need to reform research assessment?

- The research process is in (digital) transition
 - Less linear, more collaborative and open, diversity of outputs; team science
- The system currently used to assess research and researchers is not fit for this new reality
 - Rewards quantity and publication venue rather than quality; does not reward sharing, collaboration and outputs other than publications
- A reform is needed to increase the efficiency, impact and social responsibility of research
 - Requires a system and cultural change, involving institutions, funders and researchers

Political context

- Council Conclusions on ERA (Dec 2020) and on research careers (May 2021) invite the Commission to work with stakeholders to support changes in assessment practices
- Council Conclusions on the Future Governance of the ERA (Nov 2021) includes an action on reforming research assessment in the ERA Policy Agenda 2022-24

3. Advance towards the reform of the Assessment System for research, researchers and institutions to improve their quality, performance and impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Analysis of legal and administrative barriers at national and trans-national level for a modern research assessment system• Create a coalition of European research funders and research performers who agree on a new approach for research assessment, following wide and inclusive consultations at European and international level• Implementation plan of the coalition to roll-out the new approach, including pilots in different domains
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- Paris Call on Research Assessment (Feb 2022)
- Council Conclusions on Research Assessment and the implementation of Open Science (10 June 2022)

Objectives

- Reform the assessment system of research proposals, researchers, research units and research institutions to **increase the quality, performance, and impact** of research.
- Towards a research assessment system that:
 - Promotes qualitative judgement with peer-review, supported by a more responsible use of quantitative indicators;
 - Considers the value and impact of a diversity of research outputs;
 - Rewards the diversity of tasks of researchers, and supports team science;
 - Incentivizes open collaboration and early knowledge and data sharing.

Report published in November 2021



- **Summary of consultations** with a large group of stakeholders
- **Objectives, principles and actions** that could be agreed between the organisations responsible for the assessment of research projects, researchers, research units and research institutions
- **Way forward** for implementation

<https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2777/707440>

A way forward - A stakeholder-owned initiative

An **alliance/coalition** of funders, research performing organisations (including universities) and their associations, national/regional assessment authorities and agencies, as well as learned societies, and other organisations all willing to take the lead in reforming the current research assessment system

- Agreement on **principles** guiding changes;
- **Committing signatories to act;**
- **Joint ownership** of the initiative by the participating organisations;
- **Role of the Commission:** facilitate the establishment of a coalition, and participate as a R&I funder

Call for interest: a growing response

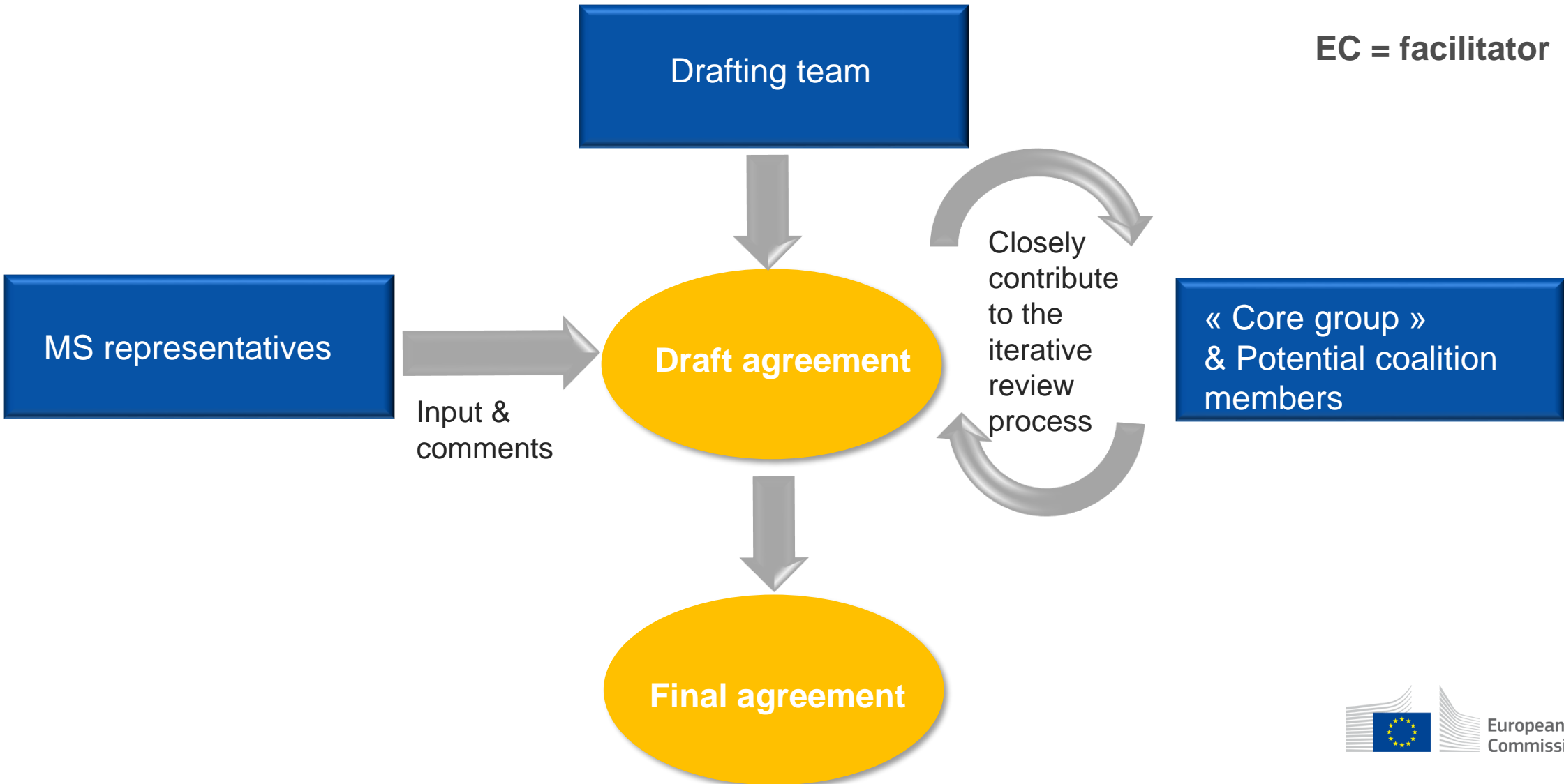
- Published on 16 December 2021
- As of today, 330 organisations declared they are committed to the principles in the Scoping Report and have expressed interest.

These include:

- 121 Universities, 22 Universities associations and 10 European Universities Alliances;
- 42 Research centers/institutes, 4 Research infrastructures;
- 23 Public funders, 4 Private funders, 2 Funders associations;
- 5 National/regional evaluation agencies, 3 Ministries, and 2 Regional authorities;
- 20 Academies, learned societies, researchers associations;
- 8 National reproducibility networks;
- 64 other organisations (research management, standardisation, consultancy, etc.).

The call remains open for organisations to join: [europa.eu/!gy8BU3](https://europea.eu/!gy8BU3)

Drafting process



Key actors involved

Drafting team

- European University Association (EUA)
- Science Europe
- Dr. Karen Stroobants, in her individual capacity as researcher with expertise in research on research
- European Commission, also acting as facilitator

« Core group »

- 20 members, representing the diversity of the research community across Europe. List [here](#)

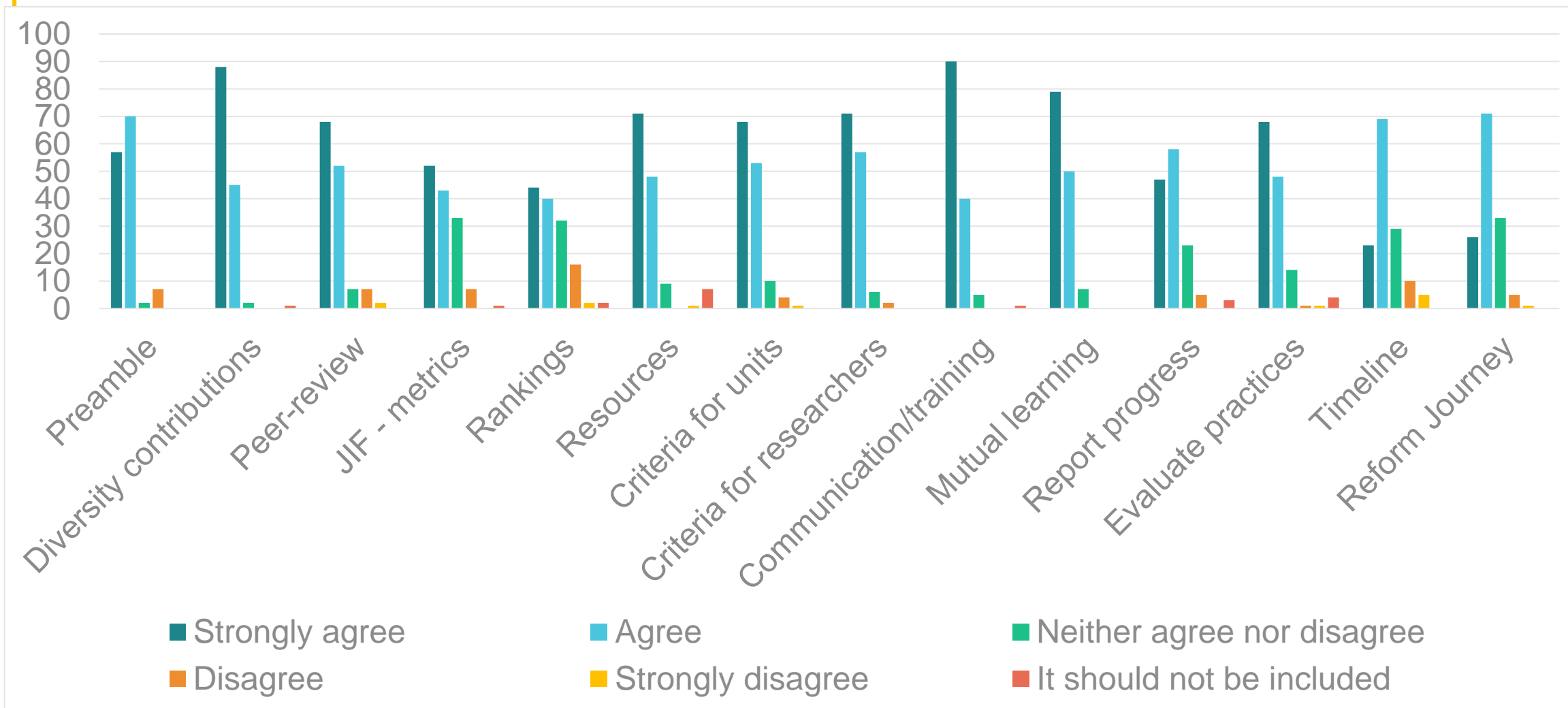
Stakeholder Assembly
(potential coalition members)

- 330 organisations already expressed interest in joining the drafting process. List [here](#)

Member States
representatives

- ERAC and ERA Forum

Consultation of Assembly members (April 2022): broad agreement on commitments. 87% strongly agreed or agreed



Number of replies in each category by question – 133 organisations replied to the questionnaire

Draft Agreement (version of 13 May 2022)

- **Introduction:** sets the common vision and the means to realise it (a stakeholder-driven Coalition)
- **Signatories agree to:**
 - Base actions on common **Principles** (from Scoping Report)
 - Implement **Commitments** for change, incl. timeframe for implementation
 - **Operate and organise the Coalition along some common principles**
- **Annexes (supporting materials, non prescriptive):**
 - Preamble (rationale and motivation for reform)
 - Glossary
 - Reform journey
 - Toolbox

Next steps



Rolling-out the initiative: some key parameters

- **Flexibility** to accommodate **diversity**, and respect **autonomy of research organisations**
- **Piloting** new criteria and processes, **stimulating exchange** between institutions
- **National framework conditions** allowing and supporting changes
- Avoiding contradictions between **different types of assessment**: research, researcher, institution
- Open to **non-European organisations**
- Light **monitoring of progress**, while stimulating implementation of changes

Thank you



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