THE COIMBRA GROUP: A TRADITION OF INNOVATION

CHARM-EU TORCH ANNUAL FORUM

TOWARDS A REFORM OF THE RESEARCH ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

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ROLE OF COIMBRA GROUP

Active participation to the **consultation phase** organised by DG RTD in 2021, leading to a **Scoping report**

Promotion of the **open call** to organisations for being part of the **coalition on reforming research assessment**

Member of Core Group working with the Drafting Team for **draft agreement (already 2 meetings – 07/02/22 & 18/02/22)**

⇨ https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/process-towards-agreement-reforming-research-assessment-2022-jan-18_en

Participation to **Stakeholders Assemblies** (first one: 3 March 2022)

MAIN OPPORTUNITIES

'European agreement & Coalition approach': a **timely initiative** for universities to open the discussion on a possible reform of their research assessment.

Bottom-up, flexible approach, commitment to **CONCRETE actions**.

A much needed change: transition from quantitative to more qualitative assessment of research and researchers.

An opportunity to **address the 'disciplinary injustice'**, which has negative effects on disciplinary 'reputation', distribution of funds, development of recognised research, career opportunities…

An opportunity to **address gender bias** in research (incl. assessment)

A good starting point for **mainstreaming Open Science** through an emphasis on quality and equity.

MAIN CHALLENGES

Setting up an EU framework that respects the **autonomy of institutions** and allows for **differences in implementation**.

Requires a **systemic transformation**, which has to be implemented quickly and co-creatively, with all stakeholders, and with strong interdisciplinary leadership.

The **legal aspects** inherent to any reform of research assessment systems.

There will be **NO CHANGE IF** the reform has a negative impact on funding and careers.

Possible **languages for/of publication** and the **role of English** as a lingua franca are crucial issues to address.

SUGGESTED SOLUTIONS

Recognition of good examples/role models: willingness to sign such an agreement is **led by EXAMPLE**. The more organizations will be signing it and vocally support it, the more will be motivated to join: '**collective sense of belonging'.**

Monitoring mechanism to reflect and elaborate on **how to equip academic communities & researchers with effective tools** to participate, share their experiences and hold their organizations responsible.

Crucial that evidence-base changes be **well-described, effectively communicated and widely accessible**

Dissemination & appropriation should go **BEYOND** signatories. **Public debate**, including early-stage researchers/future senior academics (and all other stakeholders).

SUGGESTED SOLUTIONS

What is needed to ensure visibility and wide participation:
- a **support instrument for the reform**;
- a comprehensive **informative web site**;
- a **platform** where to discuss progress and share experiences.

Structured support : setting up a "**bank of experts**", a knowledge bank of **training materials**; education and training on open science…

Incentives: e.g. target & performance agreements, third-party funding…

Links to other frameworks (e.g. HRS4R, European Competence Framework for Researchers, etc.)

Target **researchers at all career stages** (not just early career) to have a systemic impact (role of trainers and evaluators)

EXPECTATIONS

? **More details on the European agreement**.

? **Some sort of international alignment** with the rest of the world, research being international by nature.

? The agreement should allow signatories to **integrate with previous successful activities**: *e.g. DORA signatories should clearly see the synergies and added value of such additional agreement; HRS4R label; etc.*

41 ALLIANCES OF EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES
(SELECTED IN 2019 & 2020)

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Alliances of European Universities:

- address all missions of the **Knowledge Square**
- are potential **testbeds for systemic change in EHEA and ERA**
- are currently supported by **H2020 SwafS funds**

Via their H2020 SwafS projects, Alliances develop activities incl.:

- new **metrics** in research
- new **peer review** methods
- better recognition of **SSH and artistic research**
- **gender equality** in research
- **career** development
- **Open/Citizen science**

EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES

Thank you for your attention!

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